

The **RECORDER**

March / April 2013
Volume 50, Number 2

Gathering 2013

schedule & registration form

anabaptism
reDIscovered

Ministries:

- ~ Alberta
- ~ Bolivia
- ~ Northern Manitoba

Prayer Opportunities and Coming Events

Dates to Remember

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May 9

Mother's Day
May 12

Pentecost
May 19

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May 23
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May 24 & May 25
Steinbach Bible College
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Glencross Mennonite Church
75th Anniversary Celebration
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Father's Day
June 16

Treasured Foundation 2013
December 28 to January 1, 2014
Crowne Plaza, Minneapolis MN
EMMC-WIDE YOUTH EVENT

Gathering 2015 &
Aylmer EMMC's 50th Anniversary
Aylmer Ontario

Mennonite World Conference
16th Assembly
July 21 to 26, 2015
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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Recorder Deadlines

May 15, 2013
for May / June issue

Send Recorder-related information to
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On the cover:

It was here that Jesus walked on the water and calmed the storm. He called Peter, James and John from their fishing boats to come and follow Him. He taught crowds of people from the shores, and prepared an early morning fish-fry for his disciples.

Imaginations soared as we sailed away from the shore, with the harmonies of "Amazing Grace" rising from the passengers on that wooden boat.

In the Gospels, it is called Kinneret, Lake of Gennesaret, or Lake Tiberias. We know it by a more familiar name. This is the Sea of Galilee in mid-afternoon.

PHOTO: LIL GOERTZEN

Did you know ...

It's been 25 years since Jack Heppner wrote the history book "Search for Renewal", which captures the story of the beginning of the EMMC / Rudnerweider Gemeinde.

Newcomers to our family of churches are interested in obtaining copies of the book, but there are (very) limited copies at Home Office.

Sometimes these treasures are found among collections of items that need to find new homes! We would be happy to 'reclaim' those books!

"Search for Renewal" books can be brought to the Go Mission! Office at 757 St. Anne's Road, Winnipeg MB. Call 204.253.7929 or email info@gomission.ca to make arrangements.

The **RECORDER** is published bi-monthly by the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference. As a vehicle of communication within the Conference, it strives to keep members of the EMMC informed about congregational life within the family of churches, to inspire interest and commitment to world missions, to facilitate dialogue on relevant faith and life issues, to stimulate spiritual growth, to communicate EMMC visions, to contribute toward a sense of Christian community and fellowship within the conference, and to inform members of major events and developments within the larger Anabaptist community and the greater Christian world beyond our borders. However, opinions expressed in *The Recorder* are not necessarily those of the Conference as a whole.

Letters, articles and photos are welcomed but *The Recorder* will only publish materials considered edifying to readers and reserves editorial rights to improve communication and adjust the length of submissions. All submissions, including photos will be retained by *The Recorder* unless a return is specifically requested.

The Recorder is sent free of charge to all EMMC members who request it, as well as other persons interested in receiving it. A full version of each current issue is available in PDF on our website at www.gomission.ca.

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Lil Goertzen, Editor with husband George. Photo taken at the synagogue in Capernaum, Israel, March 2013.



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Go Mission! Home Office

mailing address and street address
757 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2N 4G6 CANADA
(located in the Morrow Gospel Church building)
ph: 204.253.7929 | fax: 204.256.7384
www.gomission.ca | info@gomission.ca

Visitors are always welcome!

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(The Abundant Life)

* Christus sien Lawen - book 1
(The Life of Christ)

* Christus sien Lawen - book 2
(The Life of Christ)

Daut Christliche Lawen -
(The Christian Life)

(* indicates SEAN (Study by Extension for All Nations) material)

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EMMC/GoMission! Home Office
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Dr. Stuart Murray:

indebted, But no mere trophy of anabaptism

by Terry M. Smith

a bespectacled British tutor in missions at Bristol Baptist college, England, walks onto the stage at Steinbach Bible college, looks over a near-capacity crowd of largely Dutch-German Anabaptists and says, "Greetings from the Anabaptists across the pond."

During the SBC's leadership conference on March 1-2, 2013, Dr. Stuart Murray thanks members of historic Anabaptist-Mennonite churches for preserving the stream of Christian theology and practice from which he and some other church members in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are benefiting.

The Naked Anabaptist (Herald Press, 2010) was written for people in the U.K., not North America, he says, with positive attention from elsewhere being "surprising" and "a bonus." Speaking of Anabaptism in Steinbach, he suggested, is a bit like bringing "coals to Newcastle," a coal-mining centre. He recognizes his indebtedness and calls himself an Anabaptist.

no to status quo

But make no mistake. This polite, soft-spoken Brit is no mere trophy endorsing the status quo among Mennonite churches in North America.

He sees little gained by using Mennonite or Anabaptist within the local names of churches established by Urban Expression, a church planting emphasis in the U.K. and The Netherlands. To young people tired of Anabaptism, he encourages them to draw upon the vitality of other traditions within the Christian Church as well as to reconsider early Anabaptism.

While he encourages Anabaptists to look to their past as they move ahead, this is also being done by Methodists and the Salvation Army. The impact of Anabaptism in England is too small for it to be considered a renewal movement. He wants to be known first as a follower of Jesus, not an Anabaptist, he says.

personal journey

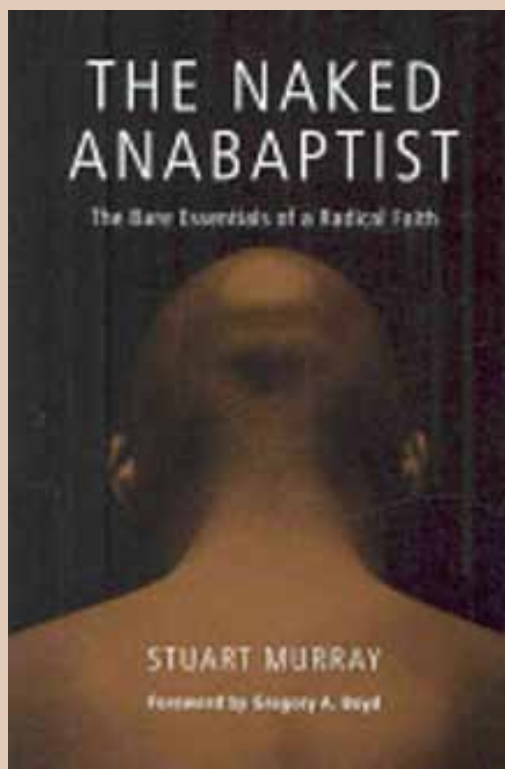
During Friday's session *My Personal Journey: Cutting Edge Theology or Tradition?* Murray says that decades ago when he began exploring Anabaptism, it provided a theological basis for his pacifism and reintroduced him to the Jesus of the gospels.

Alan and Eleanor Kreider—whose ministry with Mennonite Board of Missions largely became one of influencing members of non-Mennonite churches, not church planting—assisted him and others. Murray's interest led him to earning a PhD in Anabaptist hermeneutics.

The Anabaptist Network—a collection of mostly Anabaptist-influenced church members in traditional denominations in England and elsewhere—formed in 1991 with modest goals: to hold occasional conferences, develop more study groups, and produce a journal. As a member and (now former) chair of the network, Murray wrote *The Naked Anabaptist* as the fruits of its collaborative reflections.

seven core convictions

The network has seven core convictions—"our Schleithem Confession," not a full statement of faith, he says. We are to follow Jesus;





Stuart Murray presenting at the SBC Leadership Conference, March 1 and 2, 2013.

use a Christ-centered approach to Scripture; disassociate the church from wealth, status, and force; have Jesus as the centre point for our faith and lifestyle; be communities committed to discipleship, mission, accountability, and “multi-voiced” worship; connect spirituality and economics, care for creation, and seek justice; and make peace between individuals, “in and among churches,” and between nations.

why are people leaving?

In his initial Saturday address *What Does Anabaptism Have for Today's World?* Murray looks first at why 1,500 people are leaving churches **each week** in England. People leave reluctantly, he says, walking away from church (not faith) for reasons often unacknowledged by leaders.

Some reasons include manipulation, fall of leaders, conflict, busyness, carelessness, disillusionment, and a lack of equipping for life beyond church. Murray suggests that pastors hold exit interviews to carefully listen to people.

What sort of churches do people want to join? Ones that centre around God, not leaders or institutions; that nurture genuine friendship, not “insipid fellowship” (he proposes a moratorium on using “fellowship”); who are self-critical and treat adults as adults (participatory); who welcome questions and live with a sense of mystery; where worship moves beyond “the tyranny of joyfulness” to include lament; where events are simplified to prevent burnout, and people are equipped for life outside of the church.

This is a demanding, not costly, and achievable even for a small church, he says.

Why are people leaving Anabaptist churches? There are five issues, says Murray. The churches are now wealthy and conforming; ethnic identity is a barrier; mission is elsewhere, not local; quietism; and a lack of interest in Anabaptism. People are being lost for reasons that are not secret and a response is possible, he says.

four themes

In session three on *Being the Answer When No One's Asking the Questions*, Murray highlights four themes. First, discipleship is a journey of following Jesus by travellers who invite others. A verbal witness is required; evangelism through lifestyle alone is not enough in a culture where people are unequipped to interpret our actions as Christian.

Second, hospitality and community are needed. The two most popular books on Anabaptism are *The Politics of Jesus* and the *More-with-Less* cookbook. People were eating their way into Anabaptism, he says.

There is a need for real belonging, not “insipid fellowship.” The old order was to believe, behave, and belong; today people need to belong before they believe, he says. Anabaptism points to Jesus, misunderstood as “a drunkard and a glutton” because he was a “party animal.”

Third, peace and evangelism fit together. Given the country’s involvement in the Iraq war, the peace witness aids evangelism in the U.K. He avoids the terms “pacifism” (too passive), “non-violence” and “non-resistance,” preferring a friend’s description of being a “shalom activist.” He affirms a listener’s comment that the peace position is working to make things what they ought to be.

Fourth, the centrality of Jesus. Why he had to die and why they killed him are both part of the story. The wider Church has “diminished” his humanity, and the historic creeds marginalize his teachings. Yet telling his story is key in evangelism, Murray says, because there remains a degree of fascination with him in the U.K.—he collects stories of atheists attracted to Jesus.

Asked why church planting is critical for the future, Murray says that conventional churches cannot adapt fast enough, and he is not interested in more churches of the same kind.

anabaptist leadership

In the final session, Murray asks *What Does Anabaptist Leadership Look Like?* It will not focus on heroes, be vulnerable, is earned (not by position), emphasize community and empowering (not directing), and focus on the journey (not destination) and inspire.

The church needs to be “multi-voiced” with guidelines to assist edification, as illustrated by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14, he says. A multi-voiced church is better for growth because disciples are not made by “passive consumption.” Churches need to be communities of “discernment and resistance”—even at home, he argues with TV ads in his “very restrained” British way.

Third, there is a place for apostles, prophets, and evangelists, not just pastors and teachers. His Baptist denomination affirms those who seek to be pastors, wonders who will pay for would-be evangelists, and asks would-be prophets and apostles who they think they are.

Without getting hung up on language, he says, there is a need to affirm pioneers besides pastors and evangelists—to release people to go while being accountable within the church.

After four sessions, participants likely left feeling affirmed, or challenged, and with questions. For instance, I wonder what else would The Anabaptist Network write if it further critiqued “modern Anabaptism”? *The Naked Anabaptist* does this briefly (chapter eight), but perhaps Dr. Murray and The Anabaptist Network could write a sequel.

Terry M. Smith, an EMC minister of mostly British background, is editor of *The Messenger*, the publication of the Evangelical Mennonite Conference. This article was written for the Tri-Con Editors' Group.

BULGARIA:

Discerning and Prayer Ministry Trip

March 25 to April 2, 2013

The past three years have been a unique journey for Executive Director Jacob Friesen. He has been in regular contact with Frank Abbas, a missionary from Germany who is doing some very radical and wonderful ministry among the poor Gypsy slums in Bulgaria through “Light in the Darkness” ministries. Frank was drawn to the Mennonites as he felt they (we) are the perfect connection for the ministry he is seeking to carry out. Frank is looking for an accountability umbrella, help in understanding theology, and for practical assistance in teaching people to farm.

Bulgaria, a country of 7.36 million people has been in chaos for many years. The Roma (Gypsies) make up 4.9% of the population. The country was overtaken, first by the Muslims and then by the Communists. Since the Communist Party left about 20 years ago, the country has never found itself economically or spiritually. The people have become cynical and without hope. Farm land



and housing is cheap, but people need practical help and restored hope to assist them in rebuilding their lives.

There is need for development of a village of hope and the nurturing of a group of small churches that have started

THE TEAM



Jacob Friesen
EMMC / Go Mission!
Executive Director
Nassau Street Church,
Winnipeg Manitoba



Maggie Bergen
Altona EMM Church,
Manitoba

- Served in Bolivia for one year; Afghanistan for a summer
- grew up on a dairy farm
- loves people



John Dyck
Aylmer EMM Church,
Ontario

- served as leader and deacon for many years
- farmer and exporter of vegetables and other crops

Ivan Dyck
Aylmer EMM Church,
Ontario

- short-term missions to Africa
- has degree in agriculture and is owner of a very unique farming venture



John Neufeld
Gospel Mission Church,
Seminole Texas

- studying at Steinreich Bible School in Mexico
- loves farming, construction and is a true handy man



Frank Abbas

- is the key missionary with “Light in the Darkness” ministries, and primary individual with whom the team connected



in this chaotic setting. The story is very similar to what we responded to in Bolivia 10 years ago, which ultimately resulted in the establishment and growth of Villa Nueva.

As we explore the possibilities further, we think this might be a great opportunity for EMMC / Go Mission!, especially for our young adults and farmers.

Jacob and Arlene Friesen made an initial visit to Bulgaria in summer 2012. Jacob is now excited to take a team with him to do some further exploration, learning and discerning. Funding for this trip is being handled in a similar way as for other work / learn trips.

GOALS OF THE TRIP:

To understand how God is working among the poor, especially the extremely

marginalized in the difficult setting of a Roma ghetto

To understand what it looks like when a person accepts a people group as his own, moves into the chaos, starts preaching and living out the gospel, and a church community is birthed

To visit and dialogue with other Christian communities and potential partners in Bulgaria that Frank Abbas is working with

To visit other ghettos and high need areas where we might mobilize the present Bulgarian believers to start a new work

To visit a few properties and farms to get a sense of what the potential and the obstacles would be for starting a sustainable farming community – a village of hope

To explore, discern and pray whether God would have us join a certain aspect of this ministry

ANTICIPATED HIGHLIGHTS:

Home-stay with believers in the ghetto in Varna, Bulgaria

Get to know what it was like for Frank to move in and find his ministry in such a challenging setting

Participate in worship, Bible studies and baptism with the church Frank is leading

Visit some of the other Roma ghettos

Visit some of the potential places for developing a community and teaching farming

Your participation in this journey through prayer and learning more about the Roma and the difficulties they encounter will help as we discern. Pray with us that God would provide clear direction as we listen and learn together.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK *Jacob Friesen*

REVIVE US AGAIN

In February I had the joy of connecting and participating with wonderful ministry partners in our Spanish and Low German work in Mexico. I was deeply moved by the vibrancy of their faith and fervent prayer life. Somehow, I think these two are connected.

In North America we have so many resources at our disposal that we are not as aware of our desperate need for God or of each other. Many of these leaders got up extra early in order to spend personal time in the presence of God, often weeping as they confessed and interceded. The key agenda item for these leaders as they met was to prayerfully listen to what God was doing in and through the various ministries represented and then join in prayer for that leader and ministry. Lord, teach us to pray.



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Material wealth and globalization is giving us wonderful opportunities to be aware and even directly connected to incredible ministries across the globe. However, sometimes all this awareness and connectedness can be overwhelming or even disabling. There are so many needs and opportunities to get involved that we don't know where to start. And, so we don't. Missions can become way too complicated.

What if we uncomplicated missions and started simply "loving our neighbour" – those right outside our door? I really believe that this practical call to take Jesus literally has the power to revive your life and the life of your neighbour.

Let's join together to carefully consider this call and prayerfully engage and encourage each other in this uncomplicated, life-giving mission.

See you at the Gathering 2013 in May. (see pages 16 and 17 for more details)

Our **NEW** Neighbours – Low German Mennonites!

Celebrations are in order! For those of us who have over the years, been involved in Southern Alberta Low German outreach ministry could enumerate many reasons for celebration. Not the least of which would be the testimonies of those individuals and families who make up the Mennonite Gospel Church in Vauxhall – people who have discovered the joy of a Saviour who is motivating them to faithful service.

Yet another highlight would be the recent Deacon commissioning in Vauxhall that demonstrates how evangelism and discipleship combine to effectively draw people into the church and produce leaders to reach others.



Deacon Commissioning at Mennonite Gospel Church, Vauxhall Alberta on February 10, 2013. Abe and Sara Loewen, Greta and Hein Unrau responded to questions posed by Pastor Ben Froese (not shown).

And who would not see fit to praise the Lord for the opening of a new church plant! On March 3 the long prayed-for vision of a new church opened its doors for the Low German people in the Brooks / Duchess area.



The congregation in the Duchess Alberta area are currently renting this church building. The group led by Pastor Isaac Harms met here for the first time on March 3, 2013.

Can history repeat itself? EMMC has since the late fifties carried a vision for reaching their Low German brothers and sisters with the Gospel, and planted churches in Ontario, Belize, Mexico and Bolivia. While some of these regions have become more autonomous, the recent phenomena of Mennonites returning to Canada in large numbers, has brought that mission field back to our doorsteps.

It is evidenced in the rural Alberta community of Vauxhall. This church under the leadership of Pastor Ben Froese has in less than three years, quickly outgrown its facilities and there are concerted efforts to either find a larger facility or to obtain sufficient funds for a new building on a lot currently owned by EMMC.

Vauxhall is at a geographically central location to where our Low German speaking people have found work and homes. For the most part they have immigrated from Mennonite colonies in Mexico, Belize and Bolivia and more recently from the U.S. According to some sources, southern Alberta may now be home to as many as 15,000 to 20,000 Low German Mennonites. For the most part they live on farms or find homes in smaller communities. The Vauxhall church has many regular attendees that travel over an hour on Sundays and some as much as two and a half hours to gather for worship.

What are some of the factors that are challenging us to rethink our vision for Low German outreach? There are numerous dynamics, some of them uniquely different from those in the earlier decades of EMMC mission. In the sixties the appeal for income derived from hand labour brought many large families to southern Ontario and EMMC responded by sending families and pastors to plant churches.

What is now happening in Alberta (and also spreading into southern Saskatchewan) has some similar patterns. However, with today's advances in technology, and opportunity for travel, the tight reins that Mennonite colony leaders had on their people is loosening. Many who are involved in Low German outreach would concur that the colony system as it had been practiced for decades is on the verge of collapse, and Mennonites are again casting their eye on Canada as a preferred refuge. Our workers in the Bolivian colonies are most keenly aware of this. With this collapse comes a dispersion of spiritually void people, some of whom are returning to Canada.

Another major factor is the tighter immigration restrictions in the United States. Not only is it harder to immigrate to the U.S., many who have lived there for many years are now being displaced and choosing to move to Canada.

Who will take up the slack? Who will step into the gap? It is amazing to see that after all the years that some of the Mennonite churches in western Canada, not having practiced the Low German language for decades, are again becoming



Pastor Isaac and Lynne Harms are giving leadership to the newly formed Low German group that is meeting in the rented church facility near Duchess Alberta.

keenly aware of these newcomers who struggle to integrate into our mainstream Mennonite or evangelical congregations. There is an awaking among some of EMMC churches to again use our experience to reach out and start new churches. While Low German is no longer the prominent language in EMMC that it was in the sixties, there are still many first and second generation Low German Mennonite people with connections to the colony system in Central and South America.

This combination of urging / calling is what lay behind the birth of that new church plant in the Brooks Alberta area. Pastor Isaac Harms recognized this void when he and his wife Lynne and daughter Amy returned to Canada after spending five years in Spanish Lookout, Belize. They were serving there as the first pastor of a growing evangelical church in the middle of a Belizean colony. So when he brought his family back to Canada less than two years ago, he found employment in Brooks AB, with the intent of seeking out Low German families and availing himself to the possibility of planting a new church. Pastor Alvin Penner from a Mennonite church in Duchess collaborated with him to actively pursue this endeavour.

Meanwhile existing EMMC churches in the Saskatoon area had for some years been visiting and serving the Vauxhall church. It also became apparent to them that there was a spiritual void

among the Low German immigrants. Out of that shared vision an alliance of three Saskatchewan churches (Hague, Hepburn, Sutherland) and three Alberta churches (Vauxhall,



Tina and Ben Froese pastor the Mennonite Gospel Church in Vauxhall Alberta. Their giftedness in music plays an important part in their outreach ministry.

Duchess, Rosemary) came into being. In the fall of 2012 Evangelist Diedrich Harms and the D'Friesen singers from Manitoba held a series of evangelistic services. Meanwhile the churches had been praying for an appropriate building to begin Sunday services. Soon the United Church building in Duchess became vacant and arrangements were made to rent the facilities. Pastor Isaac began services on Sunday March 3, with 25 people in attendance.

Pastor Allen Kehler, Regional Coach in Saskatchewan, had been visiting the area over the years, and arranged for a meeting of church leaders. On March 18 leaders from the Saskatchewan and Alberta churches met with Pastor Isaac Harms in Duchess to draft a Letter of Understanding. This document was unanimously ratified and they immediately enacted an Advisory Board to provide oversight and financial means to begin this church. Because this church is governed by several Mennonite denominations, with funding coming directly from the participating churches, this congregation will choose its own path of association as it matures toward autonomy.

Yes there is much to celebrate! But churches like Vauxhall and Duchess are only scratching the surface. Similar immigration is now happening in southern Saskatchewan. We live in a new era, but we still have the same Message of hope, and a window of opportunity is opening and expanding. It is a humbling fact that the job is much larger than what these six Alberta / Saskatchewan churches can manage and / or finance. There is no doubt, that this is only one facet of outreach calling the church to attention, but who is better equipped to answer this call to reach Low German people moving into our neighbourhood?

As an EMMC we share a rich heritage of ministry among Low German Mennonites, many of us being the benefactors of faith through these efforts. One thing is sure! God is renewing our vision for church planting! He is calling us to learn from our history, to rethink, to strategize, and to respond. Whom will we send, to these our kin and our new neighbors?

But meanwhile we celebrate! But with our eyes open to His leading! We celebrate because He is faithful!

*~ Allen Kehler
Region 1 Coach*



Diedrich and Nettie Friesen of Reinland / Winkler Manitoba and their family continue to have a profound and effective ministry among Low German Mennonites here in North America as well as Bolivia. Known as D'Friesens, the group consists of parents Diedrich and Nettie Friesen, Matthew, Jason, Andrew and Mark (front).



Ministry Centre and Outreach Opportunities

Debbie and I have been privileged to be a part of a ministry team that went to Bolivia this past January to help with the construction of the Ministry Center in San Jose de Chiquitos. We were also able to visit the radio ministry of RTM, SETA, La Fortaleza school and church, the Centrum, (addictions center) the community of Villa Nueva, (school and church), as well as Chorovi, the LIEAB retreat center. Here are some of our impressions of what God is doing through MEM and LIEAB in Bolivia.

Everywhere we went we were impressed with the passion and commitment of the people who are working there to build the kingdom of God. We knew before we went that the people sent from Canada to serve in Bolivia are amazing and dedicated people, gifted and called by God to the task at hand. Seeing them in action confirmed that thought. Their wisdom in seeking to work together with each other and with other mission agencies in unity has the distinct pleasant aroma of the unity of the Spirit. My observation is that this requires a lot of maturity and discipline on their part to maintain this spirit of unity. But I believe it shows in the amount of good that they are able to accomplish together.

The relationship between RTM and MEM is invaluable for spreading the good news that Jesus is a gracious and loving Saviour. People who have been kept from the truth by their leaders, get to hear the good news in their own language. One of the measuring sticks of the importance of radio was to be able to see the very positive response to the invitation to hear the D'Friesens sing and preach. (We were able to hear them in San Jose and at Pailón). Many of the people seemed to know the songs, and the music seemed to speak to them.

Education is such an important part of the ministry in Bolivia. The role the Villa Nueva School plays in promoting growth spiritually and physically is more significant than we can even imagine. The quality of education in this school is good and is an example of how to do school. Their example is helping to raise the level of education. Arlie Peters, school director, shared that he receives calls from many schools asking for advice and help. This generation is already benefitting greatly, the next will even more.

The colony where Bill and Martha Kehler have begun a church have a huge need for a school. The parents in San Jose recognize that their children need to learn to read and write. Even if the children could attend the old colony schools, the schools on the colony don't cut it. Bill shared with us that a school is priority for this community. We met some of the 13 and 14 year-old boys who would benefit from a school. The school might only have five or six students to start. This would be very similar to how Villa Nueva School began, and now have about 160 students.

We had the privilege of meeting with some LIEAB Pastors

and leaders. One of the visions that they shared with us was a church plant that has begun as a house church in an area of Santa Cruz that sort of reflects what La Fortaleza looked like when it first began. They want to purchase six lots that have been offered to them. They have two thirds of the amount ready and are hoping to move ahead with the purchase in the next few months. This is only one of a few outreaches that they are undertaking. Their passion and ambition is admirable. Seeing the La Fortaleza School was another highlight for me. Education, giving people the tools to think and discover truth gives a society the ability to move ahead, "to fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28).

Aurelio Ovirece, chair of LIEAB, kept reminding us that the living standard of the believers is improving thanks to education. We saw examples of that in that the project manager as well as the architect of the addition to the school are both graduates of Colegio Anabautista La Fortaleza. We were able to meet Kenia Vasquez, another graduate, who went on to university, then to a year of service in Mozambique and will now fill in as administrator of the school in Villa Nueva while Lisa Friesen is in Canada on Home Assignment.

What does all this mean to us as EMMC? I believe we need to persevere in carrying out this ministry that God has entrusted to us. To me it seems as if it is harvest time in Bolivia. It has been worth it for our conference to hang in there. The leaders of MEM are seeking to pass on the work to locals. With the progress in education and training it seems feasible that it will happen. This may still be 10 years in the future. Bill reminded us frequently that there are many colonies without a witness. Bill and Martha are the only evangelical witness to the colonies around San Jose. We have the opportunity to be participants in God's kingdom being built. Let's keep praying and persevering.

~ Art Toews

*Bagot Community Chapel
General Council member EMMC / Go Mission!*

MEM = Mision Evangelica Menonita

LIEAB = La Iglesia Evangelica Anabautista en Bolivia

RTM = Radio Trans Mundial

**If you can
teach, speak Spanish and Low German,
and God is calling you ...
contact the EMMC / Go Mission! Office
at 204-253-7929 (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
and express your interest!**

Year two - teaching at Villa Nueva School, Bolivia

Whitney Belovicz, teacher
Villa Nueva School, Bolivia

Last year I was the only English teacher here at Villa Nueva School. But this year there are two of us! Stephanie Siemens is my roommate, fellow English teacher and wonderful new friend. God has blessed me so much in placing her in my life! We live together, work together, pray together, keep each other



Villa Nueva School teachers Whitney Belovicz (second year teaching) and Stephanie Siemens (first year teaching)

accountable, and force each other to relax and enjoy our time!

February 6 was our first day of classes. That morning I rose to see what wisdom Oswald Chambers might have to impart through the book *My Utmost for His Highest*. The reading for the day was entitled, “Are You Ready

to Be Offered?” It’s a question that I’ve been reminded of as I go through my day to day and, moment to moment challenges. Am I ready to give all God has given me?

Last week I accepted the huge new responsibility of teaching adult English night classes once a week at the school. I’m a bit nervous but really looking forward to a totally different kind of classroom setting.

I also have to opportunity to take Low German classes once a week as well which I’m very excited about! I’m determined to learn the mother tongue of my students and so be able to communicate better with their parents and show them that I really do care!

It’s such a blessing to watch “my kids” growing up right before my very eyes. They’ve grown physically, spiritually, mentally and God is working in their lives!

Last year was my first year teaching and that I had no teacher training whatsoever. Needless to say, I had a wonderful curriculum and faithful God to pull me through. But even so, it was tough! People would assure me that year one is hard for any teacher. I was certain it was just me!

I didn’t know what to expect at all for this my second year. I felt secure that I knew the children and the way that the school runs but still unsure of how things would go. God has given me a peace and certainty and JOY about teaching. Do I have everything figured out? Nope. But do I feel confident that this is where God wants me? Yes!

Year two feels so different! I have a student in grade 6 who asks me quite often if I like teaching and I never miss the opportunity to tell her just how much I LOVE teaching.

This year I am teaching English in grades 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and music in grade 6 and up, which is a new challenge for me but also the opportunity to grow!

HOW TO PRAY...

- Pray for me as I learn to teach music and adult English classes
- That I may have the words to say when students come to me for guidance
- That I may have balance in my life! There is a time to work and a time not to. Pray that I will know when it is time for me to rest.
- Pray that I would pray, and that I would be committed to growing in my personal relationship with Christ daily.
- Pray for me as I continue to seek God’s will for my life and learn to guard my heart and wait on Him!

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!!

Did you know ...

The community of San Jose, Bolivia is in need of a teacher. This individual or couple would be doing some “pioneering” work in that community. Is God calling YOU to this ministry?

Contact David Janzen, Bolivia Field Director at david@gomission.ca for more information

Evangelism and Discipleship with Dr. Chuck Nichols



2013 Spring Intensive Course
April 29-May 3, 9am - 5pm

Visit SBCollege.ca or call 204.326.6451 for more information



Bolivia: Family mission exposure

Dan and Tina Froese are from Aylmer Ontario, and are involved in outreach in the Tilsonburg area.

For some years, we as a family have prayed for an opportunity to help along and or be exposed to missions. It was our desire to expose our children and ourselves to something other than our familiar surroundings and everyday life. It was important to stir a heart of missions in us, to see what it means to be a missionary, to go to the front lines, where the rubber hits the road. Our prayer always included Bolivia and the missionaries there.

In late 2012 and in early 2013, there were some work teams that went to Bolivia to help. But the timing or other things came up and it didn't work for us as a family to go. We continued to pray. God answered our prayers.

Our four kids, ages 17, 14, 12 and 10 did not immediately share our enthusiasm for going to Bolivia. We had to drag them kicking and screaming. There were a lot of unknowns, mixed in with the fear of flying.



When we arrived in Bolivia for our two-week stay, we had work lined up for us. Besides that, we were not sure what to expect. On our first day we were taken right to the downtown market as a good introduction and welcome to Bolivia.

I still chuckle thinking about Tina gagging as we walked through meat markets.

We got settled in and went to work painting at the school in Villa Nueva. Some of the work we had anticipated was not ready to be done and thus we got to know Bolivia, "what doesn't get done today will get done tomorrow". With the shortage of work we were encouraged to accept the invitations to go into the colonies. By now, our kids were really starting to enjoy their time in Bolivia and asked if we could extend our stay for an additional week.

We spent a total of four and a half days and two nights in the colonies experiencing hospitality at its best. Getting to know some extremely friendly and loving households

as well as some broken homes and families. Along with all this we were encouraged by the many people we met.



One of our most encouraging encounters was with my (Dan) cousin who had recently come to know Christ as his Saviour. He had left the colonies about half a year ago and the joy of the Lord was flowing through him. He was in disbelief that it had taken him 30 years to find the assurance of Salvation through Christ. He came to know the Lord through a Low German Bible, and radio broadcasts. He is now ministering to his family in the colonies as well as others whom he knows.

In the colonies there is much talk of what they are hearing on the radio, although they are not supposed to have these "worldly" treasures. They love to listen to the message of hope that is broadcast. Meeting people like missionaries Bill and Martha Kehler who are heading up the work in San Jose, was a complete joy. To see the people



they are reaching through radio broadcasts and colony visits was exciting to see and experience for ourselves.

It was encouraging to see how involved Arlie and Eva Peters (Arlie is the Villa Nueva School Director) are in the education of the children and in the families of the community in which they live. The values and work-ethic they are instilling in these children will give them a brighter hope for a future in serving their community. Their hospitality, apple pie, ice cream, and watermelon, were appreciated more than words can say.

Dave and Lisa Janzen drove us around and taught us about Bolivia, picked us up at the airport and looked after us. We had to push their vehicle up to the gas pump on our first day in Bolivia. Who needs seat belts? There is always room for one more person in the vehicle. Why the need for lines on the roads anyway?

There were more people that helped us experience Bolivia and the work that is being done there with the Mennonite people. Our impression of the missionaries and the Mennonite people in Bolivia will be forever real and important in our lives. We have a good and realistic understanding of what missions is in Bolivia under MEM. We had to drag our children back home to Ontario, kicking and screaming. They want to know if we're going back



Spending time with friends! Tina (in dark shirt) and Dan Froese are seated at the far end of the table. Arlie (seated beside Dan) and Eva Peters are missionaries in Bolivia. Arlie is the School Director at Villa Nueva School. Eva provides limited medical assistance in the community as required. Aylmer EMMC is the home church for Arlie and Eva.

next year! We are now praying for the people in Bolivia in a more fervent way. God is at work there, and lives are changing!

It wasn't all work ...



Dan and Tina Froese with their family. Nathan, Samantha, Bethany and Amanda.



... there was some play time too!



Window on the Regions

Region 1 - Alberta / Saskatchewan

Sutherland Evangelical Church, Saskatoon SK

A Night of Worship

Sutherland Evangelical Church were host to a worship night on February 22, 2013. The evening was attended by many from our church family as well as others from churches



in the Warman, Osler, Hague, and Rosthern areas. The event was organised under the banner of “Valley Wide Worship” by a group of enthusiastic youth leaders driven by a desire to bring churches together through Christ.

Music for the evening was provided by a worship band called “We That Breathe” (see Psalm 150:6) which includes three members from the Sutherland congregation. Guest speaker, Conrad Jantzen, gave a brief message during the evening (after spending the previous night in the hospital with his wife for the birth of their second child). The event was well attended and the singing from the congregation demonstrated a passionate desire to worship our Lord Jesus! All praise be to God!

Check out www.facebook.com/valleywideworship for more information on the “Valley Wide Worship” events.

~ Devon Atkings
Music Coordinator

Sutherland Evangelical Church, Saskatoon SK

Africa comes to Sutherland

Our church was very privileged to host a team of Ugandan children and leaders from the Watoto organization on March 16. The choir consisted of 22 children ranging in ages 7 to 11. All of these children have either been abandoned or orphaned, a very common occurrence in Uganda and throughout Africa. Watoto gives these children a home, education, tools to be leaders and most importantly shares the love of Jesus.

The group is on a 6-month tour of Canada. It was heartbreaking to hear of the trials these young children have gone through and totally inspiring to see the love and devotion that they have for God! Their singing and choreographed dancing was beautiful, as was the colourful costume changes, drumming etc. We also had the opportunity to sponsor a child and buy



Myrtle and Carl Loeppky enjoying the children from the choir.

some authentic African items that have been made by a group of ladies. It was an honor to contribute to this organization.

They headed East after Saskatoon, stopping in Winnipeg and many other places. If you have opportunity, I would highly recommend this African Choir. For more information and the choir schedule, go to www.watoto.com.

~ Sheryl Doerksen



Region 2 - Manitoba Central

Morrow Gospel Church, Winnipeg MB

MGC Winter projects for MCC



On this particular Monday, these women were busy working on the blankets. Liz Thiessen, Anne Penner, Deanna Dyck, Gladys Penner and Maureen Hiebert at the sewing machine.

light! People stepped in and participated where they were able – everything from purchasing fabric, cutting the squares, figuring out which piece should go where, sewing the fabric together, tying the knots in the centre of the square to secure the fabric. Some of the work, washing and cutting squares was also done at home during the week.

Throughout the winter, it was a common sight to see a group of people, busy making blankets in the church basement. Mondays in January, February and March were set aside, and any interested individuals were welcome to come and participate.

Everyone had their assignment, making the work

The group has completed a n d delivered 60 blankets this winter. Most of the blankets measure 60 by 80 inches, which is

considered single bed size, the prescribed size from MCC. These blankets also have filling/liner, because even in a hot climate the nights get cold, especially in a mountainous region.

The completed blankets were taken to MCC headquarters at 134 Plaza Drive in Winnipeg. From there they were transferred to the Canadian warehouse and distribution center in Plum Coulee, MB, where they are bundled and packed in containers for shipment.

Gladys Penner, one of the blanket-making coordinators at MGC spoke to Arthur Mann, the person in charge of this department and he said, “Much relief aid is currently sent to Syria. This is where the blankets may go unless MCC receives a call for blankets from a more urgent region, in which case they would be redirected.”

~ Gladys Penner
Lil Goertzen



A sample of some of the 60 blankets that the group completed this past winter.

Region 3 - Manitoba South

MDS Assignment in Bastrop, Texas

We had the privilege of being assigned to work in Bastrop, Texas where wild fires had destroyed 1,600 homes in early September 2011. A lot of the homes were burned to the ground while the owners were at work. It was sad to see the beautiful lush green vegetation on one side of the highway and black charred stumps and empty cement pads and lonely chimneys on the other side, where the fire had not jumped the road. People of Bastrop called it a miracle that only two lives were lost in these fires. Of the homes that were destroyed, 70% of the people had insurance. We (MDS) catered to the 30% that did not have insurance.

Our job was to build new houses. We worked on three houses during the two months we were there. Some people came with experience, others learned really fast. Dennis did a lot of plumbing, Cornie did a lot of electric wiring, Helen and I with three other couples insulated, mudded, painted, installed windows etc.



Marion and Helen installing a window.

It was a real blessing to watch Guy and Toni come check on the progress of their new house. Toni said, “I cry every time I walk into this house, it’s so beautiful.” It was amazing to see the positive attitude they had after losing everything they owned.



The devastation that fire causes.

We were fortunate to see Veronica’s house completely finished and were blessed to be at the house dedication.

The RV group worked jointly with the traditional MDS group where Cornie and Helen worked before Christmas.

You meet amazing people when you go on an amazing experience. God is good.

~ Cornie and Helen Rempel
Gospel Mission Church, Winkler
~ Dennis and Marion Klassen
Morden EMMC

Loving Our New Neighbour

The Gathering 2013

MAY 24, 25 & 26

STEINBACH BIBLE COLLEGE, MANITOBA

- EMBRACING THE CALL
- OVERCOMING THE FEAR
- VARIETY OF GUEST SPEAKERS
- WORKSHOPS / FIELD TRIPS (SATURDAY)
- EVENING CELEBRATIONS, 7 PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY

MAY 26 DESIGNATED AS "GO MISSION SUNDAY" WITH GUESTS & SPEAKERS ENCOURAGED TO FELLOWSHIP IN REGION 2 AND 3 CHURCHES.



info@gomission.ca and www.gomission.ca P: 204.253.7909



INTRODUCTION TO GATHERING 2013

Our communities are welcoming newcomers from around the world. It's exciting to rub shoulders with the people of the nations as they become our neighbours, business owners, educators and integrate into every part of society.

Practical workshops and worship times will help with understanding and loving my secular or religious neighbour. Informative visits to a Mosque, Hindu and Sikh Temple are available to help us learn and develop healthy ways of relating to newcomers.

The entire weekend is planned to provide opportunity to hear, meet and interact with a mix of people from a variety of cultures and countries. Food, music and other cultural displays will draw you to new experiences and awareness of the nations on our doorstep.

SCHEDULE

Friday evening and all Saturday events (except field trips) take place at Steinbach Bible College, Manitoba

Thursday, 9am to 4pm

Ministry Leadership Event

Friday, 9am to 4pm

General Council Meeting

Friday, 7pm

Celebration Event

9pm

Coffee House / Fireside

Saturday, 9 to 10:30am

Practical workshops

11am to 4pm

Field Trips

7pm

Celebration Event

Sunday: All 31 churches are invited to make this a Go Mission! Sunday – a Sunday where we *intentionally* remember our missionary call as individuals and as a family of churches. We will be disbursed into the various churches in Region 2 and 3. We have a host of special guests that are excited about joining us for this missions' event! Video clips, Power Point presentations and Skype opportunities will be made available for churches to engage in participation on May 26.

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP EVENT:

Churches Dealing with Diversity
Thursday, May 23, 2013, 9am to 4pm
Gospel Fellowship Church
860 Main Street, Steinbach MB
Hosted by: Theology Committee

On May 23 the EMMC Theology Committee invites pastors, youth/associate pastors, ministry leaders, missionaries and spouses to gather at Gospel Fellowship Church in Steinbach, Manitoba. The purpose for this event is in building unity and mutual support for ministry leaders throughout the conference. This gathering of ministry leaders from the conference is

important to discover together the theological and practical needs in ministry today. Since pastoral and ministry staff have such significant leadership roles in the conference, this event seeks to support and reconnect leaders with each other and our family of churches.

The Theology Committee is sponsoring this initial event to explore what meaningful ways we can reconnect with ministry leaders across the conference. The event will focus on several questions for discussion. For example, what are the theological and ethical challenges facing our churches? What are the practical ministry concerns among church leaders? One of the challenges we face is that of dealing with

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CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

FOR GATHERING 2013



Sadiri Joy Tira
D.Min., D.Miss.
Senior Associate for Diasporas



Joy Loewen
author
*"Woman to Woman:
 Sharing Jesus with a Muslim
 Friend"*

SADIRI JOY TIRA, more commonly known as Joy, serves as the Lausanne Movement's Senior Associate for Diasporas, and the Global Diaspora Network (GDN) Chairperson. He is also Vice President for Diaspora Missions for Advancing Indigenous Missions (AIM). He ministered in Edmonton, Alberta for over two decades, where he was the founding Senior Pastor of First Filipino Alliance Church until 2006. Before immigrating to Canada, Joy worked as an engineer with Operation Mobilization's ship M/V Logos.

In 2011, Joy joined the Alliance Graduate School in Manila as director of the Institute of Diaspora Missiology, and also the Jaffray Centre for Global Initiatives at Ambrose University College and Seminary in Canada as Diaspora Missiology Specialist. Joy received his theological and ministry training from Western Seminary (D.Miss.) and Reformed Theological Seminary (D.Min.).

Joy is a missions practitioner who travels extensively around the globe mobilizing Christians in diaspora, particularly the globally scattered Filipinos to help fulfill the Great Commission. Born and raised in the Philippines, Joy and his wife Lulu immigrated to Canada in 1981 and are now naturalized Canadians. They are based in Edmonton, Alberta – one of Canada's top destinations for new immigrants and foreign workers.

JOY LOEWEN has been ministering among Muslim women for the past 35 years; first in Pakistan and now in Canada. She and her husband are with Pioneers International and have two married children and six grandchildren.

Joy was born in Yemen and grew up in Somalia where her parents were missionaries. She has written the book, *Woman to Woman, Sharing Jesus with a Muslim Friend* and blogs to help equip Christian women to reach out to Muslim women with the Good News of Jesus. Her blog can be found at <http://joyloewen.blogspot.com>



Dave Runyon
author / contributor
*"The Art of Neighbouring: Building
 Genuine Relationships
 Right Outside Your Door"*

DAVE RUNYON works for the Denver Leadership Foundation, a non-profit organization that exists to help government, business, and faith-based leaders unite around common causes. He also co-leads the CityUnite movement, which is a network of networks from around the Denver Metro area (cityunite.org). Previously, Dave served as a pastor for nine years at Foothills Community Church and The Next Level Church. In 2010 Dave led a neighboring movement that mobilized over 70 churches and 45 thousand people in the Denver Metro area. He graduated from Colorado State University, where he studied history and secondary education. He speaks locally and nationally encouraging leaders to work together to serve the common good. Dave and his wife, Lauren, have four kids and do not plan to have any more.

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diversity whether it's theological, ethical or cultural. What perspectives can we share that will foster a spirit of unity and inspire us to follow God's mission for his people. This day will also feature a listening session where ministry leaders can speak to the priorities of the Theological Committee in supporting the ministry of churches. The event will conclude with a time of sharing and prayer for ministry leaders and for the people and people and the churches we represent. Consider attending this event and staying for the Gathering to follow on the weekend.

Child care will be provided for the day.

~ Terry Hiebert, Chair
 Theology Committee



The Future of Pacifism?

~ *Christie Kroeker Boggs*



While on a hunting expedition, Jeff heard the screams. He followed the cries of desperation. He found the truck. Inside, was a woman named Eileen, bound and gagged. She told Jeff about her ordeal; that she was being held captive and her kidnapper could return at any moment. Eileen explained that the man keeping her hostage was armed, dangerous and evil. Despite the danger, Jeff freed Eileen from the truck and began leading her out of the woods. Still far

from safety, Jeff and his fearful companion were intercepted by the enraged villain. Both men were armed. Jeff, a pacifist, was faced with the dynamic decision: Should he use his gun to kill the evil kidnapper?

These are some of the questions and quandaries that Jacob Enns, SBC graduate, former police chaplain and current Mennonite pastor, poses in his book, "The Gentleman".

These are also the questions that over sixty people brought with them to the class at Steinbach Bible College on February 21. The evening Refresh! Session, entitled "What's the Future for Pacifism?" proved to be intriguing and relevant.

Enns, a presenter and panelist, began by explaining the premise of his recently-published novel. "I was born into a traditional Mennonite family and realized early on that we were 'different'. Yet, as I grew up, I saw a lot of inconsistency and hypocrisy in the church." There was a disconnect between teaching and deed, continued Enns, and this spilled over into the theology of pacifism. He wrote the book as a response to this upbringing. "The summary of the book," revealed Enns, "is the question of 'What's underneath pacifism?' Pacifism is not all black and white. Would you rescue someone who's being held by a serial killer?"

Joining Enns on the panel were representatives from SBC's constituent churches of EMC, EMMC and CMC. Each panel member provided sincere and heartfelt insight into the topic of pacifism, its ambiguity, and its present and future significance.

"Pacifism means living at peace with ourselves, with God and with each other," explained panelist Lil Goertzen (EMMC). This definition of pacifism broadened the boundaries beyond weaponry and war. While the average person may never be in "Jeff's" shoes, faced head-on with the decision to use deadly

force, Goertzen's definition of pacifism extends to everyone. This sort of authentic, real-life pacifism is inclusive.

Dave Reimer (CMC) extended the definition to include reconciliation. "Christ came to bring a gospel of reconciliation. How can I take a loss, as a Christian, so that someone else can win? Because that's what Christ did. He brought reconciliation and peace and that is also our calling as Christ-followers."

The essence and depth of authentic pacifism was expounded by this statement. Pacifism as reconciliation. Pacifism as Christ-like living. Pacifism as calling. These definitions gave heart to the meaning of the word. Pacifism, it was presented, encompasses more than wars and weapons. At its core is the emulation of Jesus.

Jesus was the perfect peacemaker. "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family," said Jesus in Matthew 5:9. The situations Jesus discusses in these verses extend well beyond war. The type of pacifism defined and exemplified by Jesus is reconciliation and is calling.

Sam Doerksen (CMC) asked an intriguing question, "Is a theology a theology if it doesn't have any feet? Can I say that I believe (in pacifism) if there's no action to follow?" When pacifism is linked solely to war and taking up the (literal) sword, the tendency is for it to become a theology of word alone. The conversation plays out at the dinner table, and is left there alongside the dirty dishes.

Yet, as was echoed many times by panelists, pacifism is

Graduation Events

Spring Concert
Friday, April 26, 7:30 pm, SBC Chapel

Graduation
Saturday, April 27, 2:00 pm, Steinbach EMC




SBCCollege.ca - 204-326-6451

not crisis-related ethics. Its relevance is not applicable only to those who come face-to-face with an armed kidnapper. Instead, pacifism is a theology that could, and should, be lived out every day. Just like Jesus, we live in a world plagued by conflict. These conflicts may not hit the evening news, but are nonetheless present.

“Pacifism is often described as ‘lack of conflict’, voiced panelist Andy Funk (EMMC). “This isn’t true, because look how much conflict surrounded Jesus.”

The burning question was asked of the panelists: What, then, does this mean for our Mennonite churches?

“We should not be hiding peace theology in our back pocket,” suggested Ward Parkinson (EMC). He continued that pacifism is a topic not often preached. While the pacifist message used to be a tenant of distinction within Mennonite churches, its topical absence from behind the pulpit seems to be a growing trend. “The distinctive aspect used to be a positive connotation,” continued Parkinson. “But, now it’s changing into something negative.” The focus of Mennonite churches has shifted towards evangelicalism. Pacifism is seen as a side theology, left untouched in our back pockets.

Peace theology—pacifism—is part of what makes Anabaptist churches distinctive. And yet life-long church members, like many who attended the Refresh! evening at SBC, are confused as to its definition and relevance. When pacifism is a creed based solely on war and weapons, it’s easy to detach it from the greater theology. In order for pacifism to truly have a future in Mennonite churches, the definition needs to be taught and expanded.

The responsibility, then, lies partly in teaching. If pacifism is something that shapes Anabaptist churches, the pulpit becomes pivotal. According to panelist Terry Smith (EMC), a 2005 survey of the EMC revealed that only 25% of members recalled a recent sermon on pacifism. It’s difficult to ascertain the future of pacifism when its definition goes unidentified.

Pacifism is something to be lived out every day, even in—perhaps especially in—times of political peace. It can be lived out by emulating the perfect peacemaker. It can be lived out, as expressed by Harvey Plett, through “coming together as churches to counsel families in conflict towards redemption and reconciliation.” It can be lived out by going the extra mile in pursuit of peace.

The way of peace can also be lived out by consistency. “Pacifism has become somewhat sentimental,” articulated Andy Funk. “It’s a personal practice that we do as individuals, which ends up making it situational. We seek pacifism as long as it seems to be working, producing the outcomes we desire.” Funk continued by stating that the pacifist distinction can set Mennonite churches apart. “Nonviolence sets up the church to be an alternative politic in this world.”

What is the future of pacifism?

Clearly, Jeff is not the only one asking the question. The answer is complex and perhaps somewhat unknown. What is undeniable, however, is that people, most notably congregants

in Mennonite churches, care enough to participate in dialogue. Perhaps this is the beginning of the answer.

Chrystie Kroeker Boggs is the Director of Library services at Steinbach Bible College. When she is not watching her Alabama-born husband, Richard, shovel snow, she can be found playing Lego with her seven-year old daughter, Ellie, watching college football, or leading a group of young adults at the Steinbach EMC.



SBC Fundraising Faspa

February 24 was an exciting day at Steinbach Bible College, as just over 200 people came to participate in the annual Fundraising Faspa. The event began with program which included a powerful musical presentation by the SBC ensemble, IGNITE! as well as a reading by alumnus and author, Clint Toews. Toews’ reading of *The Man from Bethlehem* was a highlight, and challenged the audience to be sensitive to marginalized persons.

We thank all those who attended and contributed over \$21,400 for the SBC Summer Ministry Scholarship fund. Thank you for your generous support.

HEMORRHAGING FAITH

WHY & WHEN CANADIAN YOUNG ADULTS ARE LEAVING, STAYING & RETURNING TO THE CHURCH



Join us as James Penner, author of the report Hemorrhaging Faith, leads us in wrestling through the trends that have developed and the challenges that need to be addressed.

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April 11-13

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Thursday evening offered to the general public as a “Refresh” seminar.

SBCCollege.ca



Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Chris and Elaine Hurst

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Working from Abbotsford BC with the
Aztec languages in Mexico
Home church: Hepburn Gospel Church, SK



Elaine and Chris Hurst

There was much excitement when Esteban and Hilario (local translators) returned rejoicing with the other six musicians. A total of 40 Aztec people gathered in Alcomunga to share their songs and stories about song-making. It sounds like our team is seeing the largest

growth of interest; there are four groups now recording songs in the little town of Cerro de la Palma. The folks from other Aztec areas seem to be facing greater challenges of finding capable, motivated musicians. So we realize we are privileged.

Presentation of New Testament in Tenango

Here's a translation of what Hilario wrote about the dedication:

Brother Cristóbal, the trip went very well and the celebration too. Those who went were very happy and are giving testimony to what God did in Tenango. The brothers cried when they heard what God is doing by means of the translation. I'm really happy and I cried too. There were between five hundred and a thousand people there.

On March 25, I had a lovely conversation with Plácido on Skype before the power went off down there. He said that everyone who went to the dedication in Tenango was so glad and they all had stories to tell. Even the bus drivers. Apparently Tenango is not on a main road, so getting there was an adventure for coastal folks, not used to high mountain passes – one of the bus drivers got out to take photos of the bus on a narrow bridge. Plácido was praising the Lord that nobody got travel sick. It all went to plan, including the showing of our Luke video on the bus DVD system while the folks travelled.

My understanding is that when the actual copies of the first New Testaments in the Nahuatl language were carried in to be presented they were in baskets and wrapped as though they were tortillas. This was food for everyone.

Plácido tells me that the singers from “our area” were given opportunity to participate. His son, Roboan, took a group with their double bass which travelled in the bus luggage hold wrapped in blankets.

Plácido's wife Maria, rarely leaves the village area, so this was a trip of a lifetime for her. She was so happy to have witnessed the event and now, along with the others, is looking forward to the presentation of the New Testament in their very own “true talk”.



Part of the crowd that gathered for the presentation in Tenango of the New Testament in the Nahuatl language.

Earlier in February, there were celebrations around the world to mark the International Day of the Mother Tongue. Hilario was invited to the World Trade Center in Veracruz City where state, national and even international leaders were promoting the value of indigenous languages.

On the local level, our team were involved in a celebration in Mecayapan in front of the town hall. Esteban sang and a trio from Hilario's church sang one of the recently composed praise songs.

Plácido, Esteban and Hilario were given the privilege of judging a competition for the best orators from among the children participating. The Town authorities gave cash prizes for the three best – \$120 for first place! The fellows say that this celebration went really well and they sense a favourable progress in public opinion since we first tried to get these events started about 8 years ago.



Participants in the celebration in Tenango, surrounding the presentation of the New Testaments in the Nahuatl language.

Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Guillermo and Mary Ann Reddekopp

SIM/Flying in Missions, Zambia

Lusaka, Zambia

Home church: Aylmer EMMC



Mary Ann holding Joshua, Lavinia sitting on Guillermo, and Samuel Reddekopp at the back.

In early March, Guillermo and Mary-Ann shared of the medical concern they had regarding 5-year old Lavinia.

For at least the past year we have noticed swollen glands in her neck and a low, continuous fever. Whenever the fever went up we would go to a doctor

(usually a different one each time because of circumstances) and they would say that there is an infection somewhere ... but they didn't know where and then give her an antibiotic. After several weeks and different doctor visits we ruled out TB, cancer and several other illnesses. Finally, one surgeon mentioned her tonsils being very large so we went to an Ear, Nose, Throat specialist. Sure enough, the problem was her tonsils! We have found a very capable German doctor here in Lusaka who saw Lavinia and scheduled to take out the tonsils and adenoids.

The original surgery date was March 19, but was postponed because of a lingering fever. The surgery was rescheduled for April 2, depending on the stability of Lavinia's health.

With tonsils and adenoids gone, we hope this will start a new chapter of good health for Lavinia. One amazing thing is that Lavinia has had a low-grade fever for a very long time, except for a few days right after a course of antibiotics... but yesterday (April 3) and today her temperature has been completely normal! We know that many of you were praying with us about the fever, that it wouldn't prevent the surgery again. God answered our prayers! Thank you, God!

Henry and Tina Redekop

Pastor Couple at Gospel Fellowship Chapel

Shipyard, Belize Central America

Home church: Gospel Mission Church, Seminole Texas



Tina, Henry, Aaron, Rachel, (front) Philip, Daniel and Jonathan Redekop.

An opportunity to remember

Every year in our community as we approach the Easter season, a group of young men and ladies prepare themselves for baptism as a "necessary step for marriage". As part of their preparation they have to confess to the people whom they have "sinned against".

This was the opportunity I encountered a few weeks ago. A young man from the colony called me to ask what evening during the next week he and a few of his friends could come and visit. Because I know this man relatively well and am very familiar with their baptism rules, I had a good idea what he was planning in his visit. So we agreed on Tuesday evening. Just as I suspected, they came to make confession.

This event reminded me of the story in the Old Testament where king Saul disobeyed God. When the prophet Samuel addressed his disobedience he was quick to make confession ([1 Samuel 15](#)), but not out of a sense of remorse. What Saul really wanted was to be in good graces with the prophet.

That seemed to be the idea of these young men - they came to confess not out of remorse, but they wanted to be in good graces with their leaders and tradition. For me this was a wonderful evening. I asked them why they were confessing to me: was it because they wanted to get baptized? Was it because their ministerial required it? Or was it because they were sorry for what they had done? One out of six had some remorse, and the other five needed to do this so they could get baptized. In response I challenged them on their beliefs, shared the Gospel with them, and explained that all the sin in their lives is all sin against God, and that it is God's forgiveness that they need. I asked them why they were getting baptized, and the answers ranged from wanting to get married, to wanting to get off the streets, to becoming members in the church. Not one out of the six had accepted Jesus as Lord. By the end of my time with them they were still not committed to Christ, so we need to pray for these young men.

Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Wes and Carol Schellenberg

InterAct Ministries / Wes - Office Administrator
Calgary, Alberta
Home Region – Glencross Mennonite Church, Manitoba



Amy, Matthew, Carol and Wes Schellenberg.

Getting To Where You Want To Go

The target is identified. The directions are clear. Some of the means for moving towards the destination are in place: passion for Christ, missionaries, cultural understanding, prayer networks, volunteers, funding, and administrative support. But in reality, we need much help in order to bring the good news to the least reached peoples in western Canada or to our two other geographical mission fields: Russia and Alaska. Pray that God would raise up more of His people to minister among the least reached of western Canada, Russia, and Alaska.

Journeying Together

InterAct Ministries' summer program, EnGage! has several purposes. The program is designed to give cross-cultural training and experience to participants in the context of relational ministry. While being guided by missionaries with ministry and cultural expertise, EnGagers will also learn to depend on the Holy Spirit for daily life and meaningful personal connections. EnGage! fulfills internship requirements for students but is open to anyone with a passion to share Christ - including families. In many ways, EnGage! is an ideal entry point into InterAct Ministries. March is often decision month for students regarding summer ministry internships. Pray for God's guidance.

From the North Pacific Crescent

Alaska: We mentioned back in September, 2011 that David Joseph, our Alaska Field Director, was mentoring a Native man to take the lead role as pastor of the Fairbanks Native Church. Harry was ordained in the fall of 2012 and continues to grow in knowledge and understanding. Praise the Lord for this blessing!

Russia: Start-up capital has been provided for a pine nut business in Tuva, and several producers have been found. Kingdom-focused businesses are one way to advance the work of the

church in Tuva. Pray that Scott and Jesse would have wisdom from the Lord as they give guidance to this project.

Canada: Ruth Browning of Loon Lake, SK shares, "February 13, our church had a community supper at the rec centre as an outreach. About 75 people were there, quite a few that had not been around the church before. My husband Dick, shared a short talk and two people shared testimonies." Pray that this fellowship, and others much like it, would be a compelling testimony to their community.

Family and Ministry Update

Physical well-being is not to be taken for granted and we have been reminded of that in various ways. Both of us have had health ups and downs over the last few months. Pray that we would make good choices regarding lifestyle (i.e. food, exercise, stress) and trust in the Lord's care.

Amy and Matthew are not little kids any more. Amy is working hard and enjoying her second year of studies in Nursing at Mount Royal University in Calgary. Matthew is in grade 12 and is looking forward to graduation. His plan is to work for a year before beginning post-secondary education. Both are a real blessing to us! Pray that they would continue to grow in their journey with Christ and that He would give them wisdom as they make decisions for their future.

We want to thank you so much for your prayer and financial support! Your participation in our lives and ministry is precious to us!



Treasured Foundation 2013



THE EXCHANGE
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Youth!!

check out the back page for more details!
video at www.gomission.ca on the home page

Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Renetta Siemens

Overseas Missionary Fellowship
Tribal Team Ministry Worker
Davao City, Philippines
Home church: Nassau Street Church, Winnipeg Manitoba



Renetta Siemens

You have partnered in the prayer journey for so many years and how thankful I am for that. In 1978 I was informed that I would need 20 people to pray for me daily before I could go as a missionary with OMF. Many times I reminded myself that there were people praying and God could work out the things I sometimes worried or wondered about.

So here I am after 34 years, getting ready to return to Canada. I need your prayers just as before. I am going to be moving around quite a bit yet before settling in Canada.

In April I will move into the house of my co-workers Adolf and Marianne Annen so that they will not have to pack up their house when they go to Switzerland on Home Assignment. The medical ministry of Marianne will carry on. Dario and Charity Tabog with their a 2 ½ year old boy will live in the house with me and Dario will oversee the hospital ministry.

Many patients will find accommodation in the house during check-ups and before or after admission. I am sure the house will be buzzing with activity. This will perhaps remind me of how I first served in the Davao Mission home and there was always plenty of activity there. The difference is that this time it happens with Manobo tribal people.

Please pray that God will send me the right people to help me know how to transfer some of my personal belongings to Canada in the upcoming months. I still interact with the present students and it always gives me joy when I can listen to them and encourage them to continue on and study hard as well as trust God for their needs.

We have been blessed with an increase in our student funds for this next year. Our students enrol for the new year in June. Do continue to pray for funding.

Something I will NOT miss from the Philippines

The smell of the fermenting garbage which often has rotten fruits in it.

Something I WILL miss.

The fresh coconut drink from the coconuts from my tree in my back yard!

*“And this is the will of Him who sent Me,
that everyone who sees the Son
and believes in Him may have everlasting life;
and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

John 6:40 (NKJV)

Carl and Pat Whitehead

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Papua New Guinea, Menya language group
Home church: Nassau Street Church, Winnipeg MB



Carl and Pat Whitehead

The music theory course was held January 7 to 11 in a village that is 15 minutes' ride plus 30 minutes' hike away from ours. There were 16 participants (plus onlookers) and it quickly became apparent that, in spite of all previous communication, they were looking for a crash course

on playing the keyboard, not a course in music theory. Pat explained that knowing some theory would help them to learn

and perform better and by the end of the week they were convinced. They are now hungry for a follow-up course in April or May.



Young girls and women listening to Menya music on Pat's iPod when she took shelter from the rain while walking from the airstrip to the village.

Most of the participants are members of the church group that Pat recorded last year and who are starting to travel around the area

doing music ministry to promote literacy and scripture use. Pat's class of five has now split with the addition of some women who have never been to school. Ruth took the more advanced students and is working with them on fluency.

Pat took the four beginners, and by the end of our stay in the village, there were nine in that class. We were in the village during school holidays, so a number of school girls joined Ruth's class as well. Pray for Ruth as she works with both classes while we are at Ukarumpa.



Two classes in one room was a little crowded and noisy at times, but this is a good kind of problem to have. Do you remember what your first attempts at writing looked like? Holding chalk and pencils for the first time and drawing lines and circles is a real challenge.

From gang member to fervent apostle of redemption through restorative justice

ELDORADO PARK, South Africa -- Eugene felt trapped. He was in prison where his fellow gang members were plotting the murder of a rival. Eugene was against the plot, but could only delay it. His gang members would see it through with or without his assistance.

Today, Eugene van Kramberg and his rival gang member—who survived the plot — are best friends. Now a Bishop of the Rock (**Reflections of Christ's Kingdom**) church, van Kramberg is committed to stopping the kinds of criminal activity of which he was once a part.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), in partnership with Van Kramberg and community members of Eldorado Park, a township of Johannesburg, has worked to establish a peace-building program that emphasizes restorative justice as a response to crime. Whereas punitive justice views punishment as the best response, restorative justice focuses on crime prevention and reconciliation. The victims and offenders meet face to face in the presence of a mediator in order to bring about reconciliation.

A goal of restorative justice is for the offender to gain an understanding of how their actions personally affect the victim. It is only through this understanding that true reconciliation can begin.

Van Kramberg's church recently experienced a break-in, where two teenage boys stole several items. There was disappointment on his face as he shared this story – but not a hint of anger. Though he himself had become a direct victim of a criminal act, van Kramberg saw this as an opportunity to restore the boys. It is a ministry through which God's love and forgiveness can be displayed in very practical ways.

Despite South Africa's constitutional shift from racial discrimination, prejudices remain. Racial discrimination can lead to criminal acts. When this happens, developing an understanding of cultural differences is a necessary part of the restorative justice mediation process.

"It is preferable to have a black person work with blacks, and a coloured person work with coloureds," said van Kramberg."



Bishop Eugene van Kramberg in his church in a Johannesburg township.

PHOTO: MCC PHOTO BY LUCAS KLASSEN

This is to ensure a respect of cultural differences, and is essential to a smooth and productive mediation process.

Peace and reconciliation were foundational aspects of Christ's life and ministry. Just as the apostle Paul teaches of God's reconciliation with mankind through Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17-20), van Kramberg notes that "it is our Christian responsibility to restore one another."

Restorative justice not only brings reconciliation where it is so desperately needed, but it is also an extremely effective means of sharing the Gospel. Though he is a Bishop of a large congregation, van Kramberg recognizes the reach of restorative justice within a community.

"The bulk of ministry is outside of the pulpit," he said as he pointed out toward the Eldorado Park community. "It is out there."

~ Lucas Klassen is serving as an MCC intern in southern Africa

Thank you for the shoes

These boys are among 70,000 to 80,000 Syrians living in the Zaatari Camp in Jordan. Thank you for helping Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) provide 2,750 pairs of winter shoes to children living in this camp. To meet the growing needs of the prolonged Syrian conflict, MCC is appealing for additional funds to support more people for a longer period of time in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Donations can be made online, donate.mcccanada.ca or at any MCC office. Gifts should be designated Syria Crisis. Your prayers and donations make a difference.

PHOTO BY PAUL JEFFREY/ACT ALLIANCE



MCC's work continues as change roils CIDA

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – A recent decision by the federal government to amalgamate the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and foreign affairs will have little immediate impact on the work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), says the executive director of MCC Canada.

“MCC will continue doing what it has been called to do—to work with the neglected and forgotten in the world,” said Don Peters.

MCC has had a long relationship with CIDA dating back more than four decades and most recently received \$2.8 million from CIDA for MCC's reconstruction work in Haiti. However, CIDA grants make up a relatively small proportion of MCC's annual income.

“We are blessed with large numbers of faithful donors and volunteers who support the work and mission of MCC” said Peters. “We simply could not accomplish what we do without their steadfast support.”

MCC will continue to apply for grants from the Canadian government where MCC priorities match the government's priorities. “We don't automatically apply for every grant proposal,” said Peters.

Although it is too soon to know what the amalgamation actually means, MCC Canada is urging the federal government to ensure that the expanded Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development will respond to the needs of the poor in the developing world. There is concern that within the new department these needs will be routinely trumped by Canada's commercial interests.

MCC Canada has expressed this concern in letters to three government ministers --Julian Fantino (currently responsible for CIDA), Ed Fast (Trade Minister) and John Baird (Foreign Affairs).

“We encourage you to ensure that “policy coherence” in the new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development serves to strengthen—rather than temper—Canada's commitment to the interests of developing countries,” says Peters in the letters.

“Indeed, we hope that “synergies” or “linkages” between Canada's foreign affairs, trade, and development objectives will privilege—rather than downplay—the needs of the poor.”

Peters said much of the public discussion on the changes has focused on the potential impact on the work of CIDA. In MCC Canada's letter to ministers Baird and Fast he points out that that there is also the potential to enhance Canada's approach to foreign affairs--that the new department's work can be enriched by Canada's experience and expertise in development and humanitarian assistance.

For more information visit: mccottawaoffice.wordpress.com/2013/04/03/why-changes-to-cida-matter-to-mcc

75th Anniversary Celebration!

Glencross Mennonite Church June 1 & 2, 2013

Saturday, June 1

Wiener roast and visiting at Cripple Creek

(1 mile south of the church)

Grounds open at 4 pm

Wiener roast at 5:30 pm

Campsites available:

10 Electrical sites, no water and sewer

Sunday, June 2

Sunday Morning Service from 10:30 – Noon

Theme: “To God Be the Glory”

Speaker: Jerry Letkeman

Lunch available (by donation)

*Choir practice during lunch for those who wish to join for afternoon service

Afternoon Service at 2 pm

Theme: “Looking Ahead”

Speaker: Allen Kehler

Faspa to follow service

SOUVENIRS AVAILABLE:

Glencross Church 75th Anniversary Recipe Books

Glencross Church History Books

Glencross Church History Photo DVDs

INFORMATION:

Norman Hildebrand: 204-822-3853

Shirley Unrau: 204-325-7272

Faspa and building friendships

A few weeks ago, I connected with a friend whom I had not seen in a while. After a few emails back and forth, I extended the invitation to come for faspa on a specific date. They arrived at the appointed time. There were hugs all around as we welcomed them into our home. Jen said “it *SMELLS* like faspa in here!” We decided that the “faspa smell” could be described as the fresh-coffee-cold-cuts-and-pickle combo.

Beyond ‘smelling’ like faspa, it meant sharing a simple meal, catching up on what was going on in their lives, laughter, some tears, telling of God's care and faithfulness. It meant relationship.

A few days later, I posted I note on Facebook, asking “when you think of the word ‘faspa’, what comes to mind?” The answers were varied, mentioning everything from buns to chocolate cake. But the overall tone was ‘relationship’ – being at Grandma's, friends, cousins, family gatherings. There was a sense of longing to recapture the simple meal and the rich connections it brought.

During this year, George and I will strive to build relationships by taking deliberate actions and inviting people to our home for faspa. If you want your name on the invitation list, send me an email! We look forward to hosting you in our home.

Faspa – that simple word and action that builds memories and relationships.

~ Lil Goertzen



Gary Sawatzky
Stewardship Consultant



Summer camp was a very significant influence in my life. I remember being nervous before attending for the first time at age six and I found the idea of going to camp very scary. I didn't want to leave home to spend a week with strangers! But, after the first couple of days, I began to develop friendships with some of the other kids. In fact, some of the fellow campers I met at age six are still friends today.

Bible stories were an important part of my church camp experience. Hearing Bible stories from somewhere other than at home, from someone other than Mom and Dad, helped me understand that other people shared the same faith.

It was during my week at camp at age nine that I came to know Jesus personally. Around two o'clock in the morning the Holy Spirit was wrestling with me. I got out of bed and went down to the speaker's cabin where I knocked on his door. The speaker was Mr. Quark – to this day I still remember his name – he answered my knock and we had a long conversation and that's when I made a commitment to follow Christ.

The camp influence stretched beyond just one week each summer. As a teenager, Dad and I would go to the camp on weekends to hammer nails and help with maintenance and renovation of the camp's facilities.

In my late teens, I was wrestling with my faith and was moving away from God. Once again, a speaker at camp had a significant influence. He challenged my spiritual

journey to the point that after I got home, I quit my job and enrolled at Bible school.

Many have similar stories of how impactful summer camp has been on their lives. Today, I'm grateful for the people who had the vision to build the camp, for those who gave money to support the camp and to those who volunteered at the camp. I'm thankful for the investment of all those who gave of themselves and their resources.

But camp is more than a facility. It's a safe place for spiritual interaction and learning responsibility. It's about making friends and finding out how to relate to others who are different than you. It's about learning to take your turn on the dish crew while others are out playing.

The challenge for today's camps is who will invest the time, energy, prayer and financial support. Investing in camps can have significant returns. Please support church camps with your time, prayer and finances. You just never know whose life may be changed.

Gary Sawatzky is a stewardship consultant at the Calgary, Alberta office of Mennonite Foundation of Canada. For more information on impulsive generosity, stewardship education and estate and charitable gift planning, contact your nearest MFC office or visit www.mennofoundation.ca.

For stewardship education and estate and charitable gift planning, contact your nearest Mennonite Foundation of Canada office.

ABBOTSFORD 1-800-772-3257: Arnie Friesen
CALGARY 1-800-772-3257: Gary Sawatzky | Kevin Davidson
KITCHENER 1-800-772-3257: Mike Strathdee | Sherri Grosz
NIAGARA 1-800-772-3257: Donald Brooker
WINNIPEG (MB & SK) 1-800-772-3257:
Harold Penner | Dori Zerbe Cornelien (MC Canada)

Insights in Youth Ministry

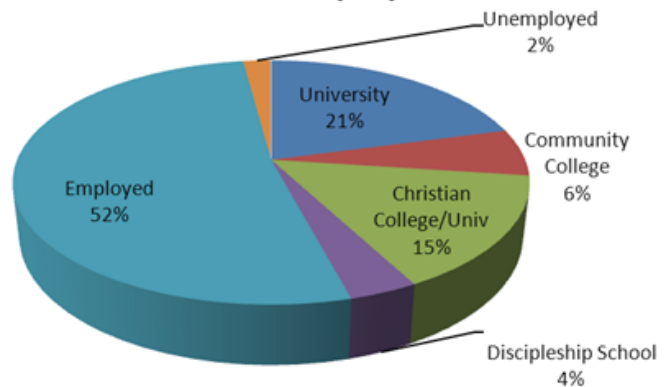
Hunches are good, but data is better. This is the axiom which spurred those of us at Steinbach Bible College to conduct a survey of youth ministries within our constituency. What we wanted was a clearer picture of what was happening in the youth groups of our churches. Over the past couple of months we have been collecting information from across our constituent churches. What is presented below is a snapshot of the data that we have collected so far.

When we looked at the size of youth groups, we noticed that no matter the size of the church there is a noticeable drop in the number of grade 12 students. This raises some interesting questions. Is this just a case where there is an overall dip in population or does it point to a disengagement of the youth? Based on some of the information coming from the Hemorrhaging Faith report it would seem to point to students checking out of youth group before they leave high school. It will be interesting to follow this report in the years to come.

Another interesting item that came out of the survey was that 50% of the youth groups participated in a Short Term Mission trip in 2012. In fact 72% of youth groups have participated in a Short Term Mission trip in the past 5 years. Many of the young people in our youth ministries leave high school having been exposed to other cultures through some short term experience.

Perhaps the most significant information for us at Steinbach Bible College was to get a better picture of where students were

2012 Grads (All)



going in the year after graduation. We asked youth leaders/pastors to indicate how many kids had graduated from high school in 2012 and then to indicate what these same students were doing currently.

We were surprised to see large percent of students who in the year following high school are choosing to stay at home and work rather than pursue education. As a college it does present a great opportunity as we seek to understand what high school students need during the first couple of years out of high school. While this data is no doubt helpful to us as we consider

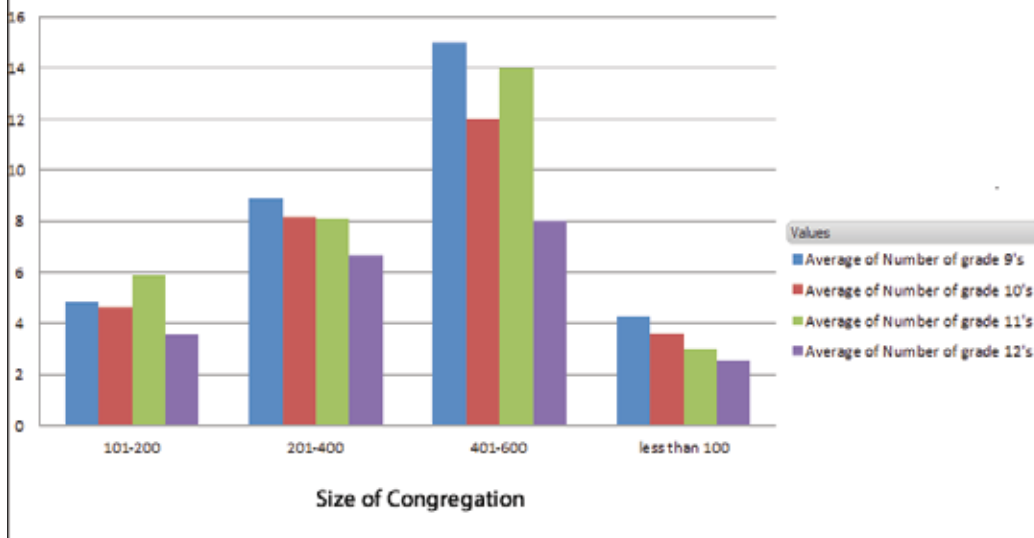
how to better equip students to serve, it should also cause church leaders and parents to consider the strength of the church going forward if the number of graduates attending Christian Colleges were to increase.

If you (or your church) did not complete this survey it is not too late for this year. We will be collecting data until the end of April. Simply go to www.SBCollege.ca and follow the link to the survey.

For the full report, please go to www.SBCollege.ca.

Patrick Friesen
Director of Enrollment

Average Youth Group Size





Mid-Way Christian Leadership

Fred and Charlotte Evans, Missionaries based in Swan River, Manitoba

Mentoring and ministering among First Nations

It is great to serve the Lord. One of the ways we serve Him is mentoring people, teaching what we have learned in Christian growth.

Fred has completed teaching two former gang members. They are now standing strong in faith. One is now responding to preaching invitations. The other is helping in fellowship in music and serving in church. They are both under the care of a local church, and take on responsibilities that come with being in a church.

There is another young man, who just graduated from Bible School. He is now helping in the local school, serving in various capacities.

We are working with a lady at the present time who helps us with music on the radio broadcast, and singing at special meetings. She is a helper in our local fellowship and is involved in hospital visitation. She is looking forward to going to Bible school in the future.

When starting this mentoring / teaching relationship, I begin with teaching the importance of God's word, the Bible, and to study it. Then there is the importance of prayer, and a

devotional time. I teach the importance of belonging to a local church and being accountable to a Pastor for continued growth and protection of false teachings. They are taught not to accept any teaching which does not line up with Scripture. They are taught to show their faith in ways they are gifted and led by the Lord in ways like singing, preaching, and visiting. They are taught to accept correction and rebuke for growth and to be respectful in character.

We use resources as Tribal Trails to use these believers once they become strong enough to stand in faith. We also use the radio broadcast for them to share their testimony. As the young eagle flies from the nest on its own, it is a great feeling to see these new believers stand on their own. Truly we can say with Paul in 1 Timothy 4:16 *Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine: continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

Finally, I teach them not to be hurt if only a few people come to the services, but preach as if there are thousands. And also to be humble in their service to God, and lastly preach only the Word of God.

Backyard Neighbours ...



Fred and Charlotte Evans, Swan River. Ministering to First Nations people in Northern Manitoba.

I am a member of an Evangelical Mennonite church here in Swan River, Manitoba. My wife and I are involved in First Nations ministry.

I ask the question, how do the believers in the Bible Belt look at First Nations people?

I remember the story of Abraham in the Old Testament. He had a relative named Lot. Lot and his family lived in Sodom and Gomorrah which were destined for destruction. Judgment was on the way. Abraham received news of what was going to happen. He interceded for Lot and his family who were of the same nation as Abraham. He did all he could to get him out of the condemned cities.

To me, the lesson is, "do I think of those who are of the same nation as I am, namely the First Nations people?"

Abraham did not forget his backyard neighbor, Lot. The churches have many backyard neighbors, namely the First

Nations. Are they remembered, or is the foreign field given priority? I along with others see the importance of foreign missions. God bless those who have gone and are there.

However, judgment is looming for the people on our own soil, in this respect the Native reservations.

Mission stations sit empty, the communities are empty of mission workers for the Lord. Darkness hangs over the communities for lack of light from the Gospel. Are there any Spirit-filled workers who will give themselves without reservation? Are there any who will go as Scottish missionary John Paten, who went into the heart of Cannibal territory (an island group called New Hebrides)? There he buried his wife and only child.

I thank God for some people going from our EMC church here in Swan River into a Reserve to minister there.

For myself I have been preaching for almost 36 years. It is the result of a man from a Mennonite community who came to our village. There were no fancy push button things to use or running water. We just ran to the lake with pails to get water. He decided to come to see the people in his backyard in the North. As a result I got saved out of the darkness. Down through the years I have seen many brought out of darkness into the light by the power of the Gospel, because a man obeyed to go north to the First Nations people, his backyard neighbors.

~ Fred Evans



Mid-Way Christian Leadership

Morgan Serger, General Director

Ministering among First Nations in Northern Manitoba



Mid-Way Christian Leadership annual meeting - a time of reporting and encouragement.

It is a great blessing to be surrounded by other followers of Christ. In the last few weeks we have been privileged to visit churches from Swan River to Morweena, Carberry, Morden, Steinbach, Winkler and Winnipeg. Added to that trip was last weekend's annual meeting for the members of Mid-Way Christian Leadership. Gathering together we have been able to hear about how God is using Bible study with **Fred and Stella Neff** in Grand Rapids to grow believers in their walk with Christ. We heard the testimony of faithful witnesses like **Cohle and Rebecca Bergen** about how children and youth are coming to Christ and then learning to walk with Him at Mid-Way Bible Camp and the SALT Youth Group in Thompson. Getting together to encourage one another and give glory to God for what He is doing is so important.

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling

of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

As you hear or even read in this magazine are you not stirred up to love with Christ's love and do good works in obedience to Him?

As we visited churches to talk of what God is doing in Northern Manitoba we shared prayer cards of missionaries and youth who desire to follow God. With that simple point of contact some have been moved by God to send notes of encouragement to these missionaries and youth. One young lady who has been learning what walking with Jesus everyday was encouraged that someone she has never met would consider her a sister and commit to pray for her. Other missionaries and youth have been blessed by the gifts of time and finances Christ's body shares.

As our 13-week old baby, Obadiah, traveled with my wife Krista and I we were reminded of God's great sacrifice, His only Son. We shared with over a thousand people about how God is changing hearts and minds in the North and disciples of Him are growing. We meet with adults and youth for Bible study, go out rabbit snaring, bow making and sharing time with young people who just want to see how living as a Christian shapes all parts of life.

With the annual meeting of Mid-Way Christian Leadership we heard from **Fred and Charlotte Evans** through music, reporting and messages of the need for lives to be focused on Christ. With Board members, missionaries, members and community supporters we shared in worshipping God in Cree and English.

I always wonder what heaven will be like when every tribe, tongue and nation will gather around the throne of God and give glory to Him. Maybe us believers getting together and sharing some of what God is doing is a little glimpse of that because the kingdom of God is at hand! God is so good!

*In Christ,
~ Morgan Serger
General Director*

Mid-Way Christian Leadership

Did you know ...

Lori Neufeld will be returning to Inner City Youth Alive on April 16, 2013 after her maternity leave. Lori will resume her ministry as Teen Outreach Coordinator, with much of her time being spent with youth at The Bridge Drop-in and meeting them one-on-one. She will be working 30 to 32 hours in a 3-day week so that she can also spend some time at home with their daughter.

ICYA ministers to the North End community of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Letter to the Editor

We are All Treaty People

I exercised my treaty rights today and so did you. When was the last time you stopped to think about your treaty rights as a non-Aboriginal Canadian?

First Nations people understand treaties as *sacred covenants* between nations joining the people of each nation in a relationship under God, a relationship in which the people of each nation have certain benefits and obligations.


Canada and the life we live here could not be possible without the treaties made with the original peoples of this land. As non-Aboriginal people living in this land we are party to these treaties – we are treaty people too, whether we want to acknowledge it or not. The fact that we can own homes, farm the land, access natural resources, do business and get in our car and freely go where we want is all thanks to the treaty rights granted us by First Nations people. These are rights we never even think about. We never have to struggle to have these rights acknowledged or upheld.

We're happy to keep on benefiting from our treaty rights, meanwhile, First Nations have to struggle to get Canada to uphold the rights promised them, and we say they should "quit whining" and let go of their rights. Whether or not we think recent blockades by Aboriginal groups are justified, we should at least view this as an opportunity for us to learn what it's like for First Nations people when their treaty rights are threatened.

As Canadians and as followers of Jesus, let's commit ourselves to learning more and to remaining faithful in our covenant relationship with First Nations peoples.

~ Andrew Reimer
Winnipeg, Manitoba


LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH



Open your home or workplace to an international volunteer
ivep.mcc.org

Commit a year to serve alongside others in Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East and Latin America
salt.mcc.org

IVEP **SALT**

Programs of Mennonite Central Committee 

Happy SPRING!



Mark your calendars for
SBC's 3rd Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 4, 2013 www.SBCCollege.ca



SBC
SBC College

Looking to Hire



Administrative Assistant

Go Mission! /EMMC Home Office in Winnipeg Manitoba is looking to hire an **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for a one year term to fill a maternity leave position. We serve as the connecting, communication and administrative hub for a family of churches and ministries in 4 countries. This person will assume responsibility and manage the regular administrative and light accounting duties so that the other Staff and the Board are freed up to do their primary tasks.

Complete job description available upon request.

Resumes should be sent to:
Jacob Friesen, Executive Director
Go Mission! /EMMC
757 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2N 4G6
or emailed to jacob@gomission.ca

In Search of ...

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (EMC) in Birch River, Manitoba is currently seeking a **PART-TIME PASTOR**. We are a small community church located 500km north of Winnipeg, MB next to the Porcupine Provincial Forest which lends itself to excellent hunting, fishing and camping opportunities.

We are a friendly congregation with approximately 40 attendees and a vibrant community youth program. We have a history of long term pastors with a heart for our community and varying levels of education.

We have strong ties to Steeprock Ministries which runs a summer Bible camp that touches the lives of 300 plus children from local First Nations communities every summer.

Interested applicants may apply by sending resume to:

Greg Thiessen
c/o Christian Fellowship Church
Box 10, Birch River MB, R0L 0E0
Phone: 204.734.8395
Email: g.thiessen@yahoo.com

MORROW GOSPEL CHURCH (EMMC) located in Winnipeg Manitoba is an urban Anabaptist congregation looking for a **FULL TIME LEAD PASTOR**. Ministry includes biblical preaching, teaching, prayer, and leadership development. The pastor would lead the pastoral team in harmony with the MGC church council.

The Sunday morning attendance of approximately 150 represents several nationalities and is involved in a variety of ministries including children's club, youth, Love Winnipeg, Alpha, home Bible study groups, and the international ministries of our denomination.

More info can be found on our website or by inquiry of our Search Committee. Resumes should be sent to the attention of:

Search Committee Chairperson
Rob Shipman
755 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2N 4G6
Website: www.morrowgospel.org
email: info@morrowgospel.org

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (EMC), Coatsworth Ontario is seeking a **SENIOR PASTOR** who has a heart for people and loves the Lord. We are an EMC affiliated church located in Coatsworth Ontario. The Church is mostly young families with average attendance between 80 to 100 people. The majority of the people attending have a Low German speaking background.

We seek a pastor who has the heart of a shepherd and a desire to see our church grow. His duties would include biblical preaching, teaching, prayer, and leadership development. Pastoral experience is preferred. He must be in agreement with our EMC Constitution and Statement of Faith. Anyone who possesses these qualifications and is interested in this position can forward their resume to: nlcfc@ciaccess.com

The **WINKLER MENNONITE CHURCH** is prayerfully seeking a **FULL-TIME LEAD PASTOR** who has a heart for people and is community out-reach minded. He should have strong preaching and Bible teaching skills and must be in agreement with our constitution and statement of faith.

For more information about our church visit at www.winklermennonitechurch.ca and about the City of Winkler at www.cityofwinkler.ca. If you, as a candidate feel lead by God to inquire about or apply for this position, please forward your questions and application or resume to:

Attn: Bernie Dueck
Email: berdueck@mts.net
Phone: 204.332.0257

BRIGHTWOOD RANCH (located west of Edmonton, Alberta) is a Christian camp providing a summer camp experience for kids from single parent, foster and group homes.

Summer positions are paid and include room and board:

4 month positions:

- program directors, secretary
- wranglers, program directors
- maintenance, and Horses of Hope staff

2 month positions:

- nurse, kitchen staff
- counselors, unit leaders, and wranglers

Full time Position:

- Horses of Hope Wrangler starting March 1, 2013

For more info go to:

www.brightwoodranchcamps.com
email: bright.wood@hopemission.com

Did you know ...

You can read *The Recorder* on-line. When the current issue is posted, it appears as "current issue" on the Go Mission! home page. Back-issues can be found at www.gomission.ca

Sign up for weekly updates with *Praise, Prayer and Pondering*. This information is also posted on the Go Mission! website as well as Regional Facebook pages.

Each of the six Regions has a Facebook page. You can follow information and events from the various Regions by going to www.facebook.com/gomission. For your specific Region, just enter your Region number.

EXAMPLE: for Region 4, the Facebook address would be www.facebook.com/gomission4

You can donate on-line through the Go Mission! website. There is a button on the Home Page that will guide you through the process.

We post videos on the website as well! You can find the Feature Video on the home page at www.gomission.ca.

Midway Christian Leadership Thompson Manitoba Ministry Opportunities

FULL-TIME OFFICE MANAGER

Do you have a passion for **working behind the scenes, being organized** and being in charge of **day to day office administration** while being a part of a team that is mentoring and discipling people for Jesus? Are you willing to become a part of a Northern, Manitoba community of believers? Mid-Way Christian Leadership, formerly Continental Mission Inc., is "**Growing Christian Leaders in the North**".

We are seeking a caring team member who will focus on office administration. This is a **FULL TIME POSITION** based in Thompson Manitoba. It begins as a paid position moving into a raised support funding model. The right individual will be committed to keeping regular office hours, learning to process financial paperwork, coordinate mailings and manage our digital and paper media.

We are building a team of committed individuals who are passionate about following God by discipling people into mature Christians and ultimately replacing our leadership positions from those we work with.

Please email generaldirector.mcl@gmail.com for a full **Office Manager** job description or inquiries.

ADULT LIFE COACH

Do you want to be a part of what God is doing? Mid-Way Christian Leadership, based in Thompson MB, is looking for an **Adult Life Coach**. Working in Thompson and surrounding communities a life coach uses questions and a gradual release of responsibilities to disciple and mentor Christians into Christian Leaders. MCL is looking for someone willing to **learn and serve** alongside the people of the North.

Responsibilities include working with a few adults in mentoring relationships, facilitating Bible study and collaborating with Christian leaders in **Northern Manitoba**.

This is a support/fund raised missionary position. We are looking for someone who is willing to take this **step of faith**, be trained in fund raising and raise a monthly commitment of \$3500 after being accepted but prior to starting the work. We are building a team of committed individuals who are passionate about following God by discipling people into mature Christians and ultimately replacing our leadership positions from those we work with.

Please email generaldirector.mcl@gmail.com for a full **Adult Life Coach** job description or inquiries.

YOUTH LIFE COACH

Be a **Youth Life Coach**. Taking the camp counselor skills into everyday life a Life Coach asks questions and facilitates a gradual release of responsibility in relationships that see young people growing into Christian Leaders building their life on Jesus.

Mid-Way Christian Leadership is "**Growing Christian Leaders in the North**". We are seeking a caring team member who will focus on Youth Life Coaching with a portion of time set aside for media related work. This is a **FULL TIME** position based in Thompson Manitoba with time spent in surrounding communities.

This is a support/fund raised missionary position. We are looking for someone who is willing to take this **step of faith**, be trained in fund raising and raise a monthly commitment of \$3500 after being accepted but prior to starting the work. We are building a team of committed individuals who are passionate about following God by discipling people into mature Christians and ultimately replacing our leadership positions from those we work with.

Please email generaldirector.mcl@gmail.com for a full **Youth Life Coach** job description or inquiries.



Back Page



for youth in grades 9 and up

TREASURED FOUNDATION 2013

december 28 - january 1
crown plaza hotel bloomington minnesota

II Corinthians 5:17

THE EXCHANGE

Out with the old. In with the new.

BREAK OUT SESSIONS
MISSION OPPORTUNITIES
AMAZING WORSHIP

cost: \$280.00 plus transportation



speaker

Craig Danielson
lead pastor

Calvary Church St. Catharines ON

PURPOSE: This International Youth Convention is to motivate and develop qualities of Christian life by equipping with tools enabling to live a life dedicated to Christ.



What is Treasured Foundation?

“TF” as it is fondly known, is an EMMC-wide youth event for students in grades 9 to 12 inclusive (ages 14 to 19). It’s a time to make new friends, share your experiences, create great memories, get involved with some pretty cool service opportunities, worship, mini-sessions, a New Year’s Eve party, focus on God and a whole lot more!

PURPOSE STATEMENT FOR TREASURED FOUNDATION

“The purpose of the National Youth Convention is to motivate the youth to develop the qualities of the Christian life by equipping them with tools enabling them to live a life dedicated to Christ.”

This Purpose Statement was adopted in 1989 for the very first TF event. The purpose for TF has continued all these years - to motivate, develop and equip our amazing youth and their leaders!



MAKING DISCIPLES. CONNECTING CHURCHES.
A MOBILIZATION INITIATIVE OF EMMC

THE RECORDER | Go Mission!

757 St. Anne’s Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA R2N 4G6
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