

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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**January 6, 2003**

**Today:** Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. In our service today we continue with our new series on the book of Acts. Our service is led by Janet Boldt, with Erna Friesen conducting us in song and Ruth Enns accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear from J. Evan Kreider who will be speaking on 'Pentecost; new beginnings' from Acts 2, and communion will be served. Angela Ekkert is in charge of children's church. Please stay with us after the service for coffee and goodies.

**Last Sunday:** Last Sunday Janice Kreider initiated our new series of sermons on the book of Acts. She focused mainly on Acts 1:12-14, the part of the story which reminds us that early Christians experienced Jesus as a group (more than as individuals), that they spent much time together in prayer, that they conducted church business meetings (to elect Matthias), and that they really had no idea how Jesus' spirit would be kept alive now that he seemed to be gone for good. Then Janice turned to the one brief phrase which mentioned that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was with the followers. Janice reviewed what we know of Mary's life as a mother, having to explain the unwanted pregnancy for nine long months, raising a child that was utterly independent (age 12 at the temple), a son who was so non-traditional that his family was convinced he was crazy, a son who publically seemed to prefer like-minded thinkers over members of his own biological family. Mary's parenting and life experiences with Jesus can be a metaphor for our lives. We too can be disappointed, even decimated by events in life, but like Mary, we have to keep on waiting, praying. Being part of a community of love and faith (as Mary elected to do) can be tremendously useful. Mary did not understand Jesus; instead she criticized him and desperately wanted him to change--yet through it all, she apparently waited and somehow supported him (and eventually his life's goals) to the end of her life. [JEK]

## **PGIMF News:**

Please join us for pre-service hymn singing at 9:45 as we work our way through the book from 1 to 658. We begin again on #117.

The "Jesus I Never Knew" home group will have its first meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 6 (tomorrow) at the Teichroeb's: 4515 Belmont Ave. Newcomers are welcome. If you're looking for a home group in the new year, feel free to ask Don Teichroeb or Mark Greenstreet for more information after the service.

Thank you for your response to the MCC refugee buckets collection kits and thanks to Nubia Martens for arranging its delivery. If there is any desire to continue participation in relief work in some small way with school kits, health kits or newborn kits, please see Hannelore or Nubia.

## **Upcoming speakers**

January 12	John Friesen	Epiphany "Marriage in the Family"
January 19	Henry Neufeld	Acts 3: Peter's miracles and preaching
January 26	Christina Lui (MSC)	Acts 4 : 1-31 Preach to the Council, then worship in jail
February 6	Sue Dudoward	Acts 4:32 - 5:11 Some believers share, some don't

*Moderator*—Erna Friesen (604-266-7819); *Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Karen Peters (604-264-1753);  
*Pastoral Concerns*—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245), Sue Dudoward (604-876-4114)  
*Worship*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961); *Music*—Eric Hannan (604-325-5065)

**Prayer requests:** Please continue to pray for Marilyn Hiebert, Kevin's mom as she dislocated her hip once again. Although the response to healing was quicker, there is still a long road ahead. Helmut reminded us of Alan and Connie Falk in the Czech Republic as the flood destroyed their school and lives, and they have been asked to stay another year. Henry and Tena give thanks for the many prayers, calls and help they received on their recent service tour. War in the Middle East seems inevitable - is there any answer apart from prayer?

## **The Wider Church**

**From MBMS International:** JAM-PACKED JANUARY! Barbara Block is an MBMS International worker in India. January is a hectic month at Kodai School. Pray for Barbara as she coordinates camps, collects and grades essays due, designs sets and helps organize and present the all-school play. Pray that all will work together with enthusiasm, energy and bring glory to God.

**MDS:** Harold Neufeldt is on a service term for the month of January in LA helping to rebuild a church in a poor area of town. MDS can always use support and money, and Harold would especially love some company from Canada in the time he is away. Please direct your inquiries to: Mennonite Disaster Service, 134 Plaza Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5K9 866-261-1274.

**MWC** Here is a news release from the World Conference demonstrating that although there is considerable concern on the part of the worldwide church about holding the event in Zimbabwe, the World Conference believes so strongly in it that they are willing to spend money to get the message out that it is good for the church to attend.

STRASBOURG, France — Tom Frank, from West Simsbury, Connecticut (USA), is a new volunteer with Mennonite World Conference, helping to secure support for the assembly in Zimbabwe next August. He will work half-time through 2003 at least at fund raising and advocacy, primarily in North America, along with Werner Kroeker and Larry Miller. Frank recently described his life as "a journey from Multinational Corporation to Multinational Church." Since becoming a Christian and a Mennonite about 6 years ago, he has developed a passion for the global Anabaptist-Mennonite church and MWC. Frank, who earned an MBA degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1964, is an adjunct professor in marketing at the Central Connecticut State University School of Business. His business executive experience, with Procter & Gamble, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hickory Farms and Corporate Express, is in global marketing and business development. He and his wife Anneliese were baptized at Toledo Mennonite Church in 1996. Since becoming Mennonite, Tom has worked with Mennonite Disaster Service; lectured at Goshen and Hesston colleges; and preached in Mennonite churches.