

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org) E-mail: [info@pgimf.org](mailto:info@pgimf.org)

January 16, 2005

**Today:** Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Erna Friesen, Rosie Perera will be leading us in song, Cynthia Friesen will be accompanying on the piano, and Henry Neufeld is your usher. Later we will hear from Gordon Matties from CMU who will be speaking to us on "Living in the Holy Moment: Conversations between Faith & Learning". Jaclyn Smith will be with the primaries, and Angela Ekkert will be with the Sunday School classes. Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.

**Last Sunday:** Last Sunday, Matthia Longane spoke on "Iconography and Prayer". A visit to Russian Orthodox sanctuaries in Moscow introduced Matthia to the world of icons, transforming her Catholic thinking about art and worship. Upon her return to Canada, she studied how to interpret and paint icons. She refers to icons as "the gospel in color and form", every line having a meaning. We can think of Jesus as an icon of God--an image (icon) revealing aspects of the reality of the incarnation of God. Icons are to show the transfigured state, giving us role models. In order to paint an icon of Christ, for example, one has to stay within a carefully prescribed tradition of forms and colors. All materials are natural, the wood reminding us of the tree of life, the linen of Christ's being clothed in linen, the alabaster coating being a new surface just like we start afresh at baptism. She then took us through a replica of an icon, helping us understand its ideas and language. Just as one might come across a truly meaningful word when reading scripture, stop and meditate on it, so too some believers stop when encountering scriptural ideas in an icon. Those visual ideas can also led one into new ways of praying and meditating. [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.

## **Upcoming speakers**

January 23	Jackie Bolen	-
January 30	Barbara Nickel	Writing in the Sand: Poems of Faith
February 6	Bernie Wiebe (Canadian Mennonite)	-
February 13	Evan Kreider	Lent I

## The Wider Church

**MBMSI SERVING IN SAÕ PAULO.** As you pray for MB missionaries this week, remember Mike and Cindy Epp, MBMS International missionaries in Brazil. Mike is superintendent at PACA (Pan American Christian Academy) in Saõ Paulo. Cindy leads a Women's Bible Study. Pray for wisdom and strength in their leadership roles.

**MBMSI Tsunami Relief** MBMS International is rebuilding homes in tsunami-affected areas of Thailand. It costs \$3,240 to build a house for 1 family. If you would like to help, please designate your contribution to P0140 Urgent Relief Fund - MBMS International, 302-32025 George Ferguson Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 2K7 or call us at (604) 859-6267 to donate by credit card.

**Mennonite Church Canada** As of December 31st, 2004, Mennonite Church Canada is \$100,000 behind in donation revenue. In the 17 days until the fiscal year-end, we are hopeful that a strong year-end response will continue to provide funds for ministries that are bringing healing and hope to many here in Canada, and around the world.

*Dan Nighswander*

*Moderator*—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Worship*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961);  
*Pastoral Care*—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245); John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)  
*Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

**Canadian Mennonite** "Beating Pens into Ploughshares: the Purpose of Christian Journalism," banquet and lecture by Timothy Dyck, Editor of Canadian Mennonite. February 5, 2005 at First United Mennonite, Vancouver, at 6:00 p.m. For tickets (\$20.00) contact Henry Neufeld. "Hosts for out of town guests are needed, please see Henry N."

**Charlotte 2005 Assembly** It's time to start making plans for the next joint MC Canada/MC USA Annual Assembly in Charlotte NC. More information and registration forms will be available this week, and you may find more information now at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/charlotte/> for more details. As well, now is the time for submitting advance resolutions for the assembly. To be included in the Report Book, these resolutions need to be submitted by Feb 15. Resolutions submitted by April 29 will be posted to the MC Canada web site, with a notice sent to all congregations when these are posted. Send advance resolutions to Dan Nighswander at \_\_\_\_\_, or fax to Dan at 204-831-5675. A guideline for submitting resolutions can be found at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/charlotte/>. Now is a good time to begin talking about who will attend as delegates to Charlotte 2005.

### MCBC nominations - Mary Woelk needs help!

MCBC is still short of candidates in various positions. I would again like to appeal to you to submit names that could be contacted for the various vacancies. It has been a somewhat frustrating year for the Nominations committee in finding candidates. Please help us as we cannot do this by ourselves. The work of the conference cannot go on unless we can find people willing to work.

The following positions are needed:

Church Ministries: 2

Camp Committee: 5

Finance: 1

Nominations: 4

CBC: 1

Thank you in advance for your help.

I will be away from Feb. 12 on. Please contact one of the other committee members.

Helen Wiens Franz phone# 604-859-2116 \_\_\_\_\_

Waylon Klix Phone # 604-864-8348 \_\_\_\_\_

Yours in his service,

Mary Woelk phone # 604-853-2170 \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Central Committee continues to respond to the victims of the Asia earthquake and resulting tsunami. MCC has designated several million dollars to respond both to immediate needs and long-term rebuilding. We are grateful for the outpouring of response — MCC BC has brought in nearly \$1,000,000 in donations. Current information and resources for churches, teachers, and families can be found when you visit: [www.mcc.org/asiaearthquake](http://www.mcc.org/asiaearthquake).

It has come to our attention that there have been people using the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) name fraudulently to solicit donations for relief efforts in Asia. **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) do NOT solicit donations door-to-door or by phone.** MCC and MDS will not ask for your credit card information over the phone unless you have called to make a donation.

*Moderator*—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Worship*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961);  
*Pastoral Care*—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245); John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)  
*Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

February 4&5, 18&19: **MCC Banquets** in Greendale, Abbotsford, Langley and Richmond respectively. Come and hear water stories from China and Lesotho and reports on MCC's response to the Asia tsunamis. For complete details visit: [www.mcc.org/bc](http://www.mcc.org/bc) or call (604) 850 6639 or 1 888 622 6337

**Women in Ministry** The Board of Faith & Life's study conference on "Biblical Perspectives on Women in Ministry Leadership", February 4-5 at King Road Church, Abbotsford will assist you to discern, learn, and listen to the biblical text, and each other as we strive to be faithful to the Word, and to embrace the pragmatic implications of living out the text." The presenters, Doug Heidebrecht and John Neufeld share a strong commitment to the Word of God and they desire to engage us in a healthy and constructive process. The presentations and round table discussions are designed to include pastors, church leaders, and interested people from your congregation. You can register on line at <http://www.bcmb.org/wimlstudyconf.htm> or by phone at the BCMB Office at 1-888-653-9933.

MCC-BC and Mennonite World Conference presents Larry Miller and Danisa Ndlovu. Larry is the Executive Director of MWC and is stationed in France. Danisa is the Vice President of Mennonite World Conference and is the Bishop of the Brethren In Christ Church in Zimbabwe. (Ray Brubacher, staff in Ontario may replace Larry Miller).

MCC-BC is setting up a lunch hour meeting Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:15 at First United Mennonite Church, 659 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave (604-321-2131) to which we invite pastors and leaders of the Mennonite Churches. This is a wonderful occasion to meet MWC leaders and staff and to hear from the larger Mennonite Community. Please confirm your attendance by email to Laura Loewen at: \_\_\_\_\_ and please feel free to forward this to others who might be interested.

### Thought for the day, many days ago...

"I call on every man and woman of good will all over America today... to take a stand on this issue. Tomorrow may be too late. The book may close. Don't let anyone make you think that God chose America as his divine messianic force, to be a sort of policeman of the whole world. God has a way of standing before the nations with judgement, and it seems that I can hear God saying to America 'You are too arrogant! If you don't change your way, I will rise up and break the backbone of your power! And I will place it in the hands of a nation that doesn't even know my name. Be still and know that I am God.'"

-- Martin Luther King, 4 April 1967

*Moderator*—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Worship*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961);  
*Pastoral Care*—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245); John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)  
*Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

## Gen 28:10-22

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.

<sup>11</sup> And he came to a certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.

<sup>12</sup> And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

<sup>13</sup> And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants;

<sup>14</sup> and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves.

<sup>15</sup> Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have

spoken to you."

<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place; and I did not know it."

<sup>17</sup> And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

<sup>18</sup> So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone which he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

<sup>19</sup> He called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,

<sup>21</sup> so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God,

<sup>22</sup> and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that thou givest me I will give the tenth to thee."

[RSV]

## Gen 32:22-32

<sup>22</sup> The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

<sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

<sup>24</sup> And Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

<sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and Jacob's thigh was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

<sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

<sup>27</sup> And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

<sup>28</sup> Then he said, "Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

<sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, "Tell me, I pray, your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the name of the place Peni'el, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."

<sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Penu'el, limping because of his thigh.

<sup>32</sup> Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the sinew of the hip which is upon the hollow of the thigh, because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh on the sinew of the hip.

[RSV]