

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: www.pgimf.org E-mail: info@pgimf.org

July 2nd 2006

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by John Friesen, Paul Thiessen will lead us in song, Susie Funk will accompany on the piano and Henry Neufeld is your usher. Later we will hear from Erna Friesen who will be speaking on “the Life and Faith of Dietrich Bonhoeffer”. Sunday school is finished for the season, and parents are requested to make their own arrangements for child care during the service. Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.

Last Sunday Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Henry Neufeld pointed out that in traditional Christian-Jewish thought, the implication is that bad things should happen to bad people. Henry used Job’s story to illustrate various ways people deal with unjust suffering. Despite the well-meaning assistance of good friends, Job’s contrarian insistence on his innocence forced God to answer Job in a way he did not want to hear. God’s answer to Job does not answer Job or his friends’ questions about human suffering - instead God says “What do you know about running the world?” Henry referred to 2Esdras (Apochrypha) where Ezra the prophet asks God the same question. God, through the angel Uriel, answers Ezra not as he expects, but with three seemingly simple, knowable questions. Ezra, answer-less, is frustrated, and asks “Why then have I been given the power of understanding?” 2Cor6 records Paul’s trials, despite his doing God’s will. In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus calms the storm for his companions. This story is different than the others, in that a bad thing did **not** happen to good people, yet they were left with more questions than if Jesus had not intervened. These accounts tell us that God will not always respond to our cries and complaints. And when we demand justice of God, do we need someone to talk back to us as God did to Job? Or will we get, as Job’s friends were, someone feeding us platitudes? Henry feels the most appropriate answer is to get past asking why, and ask “now what do I do?” An excellent question period followed that distinguished the most appropriate answer to the problem of evil (theodicy, *thank you Veronica*) from a theological perspective was not “Why me?” but “Why not me?”. [AP]

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

July 9	Maureen Klassen	Transfiguration and Transformation
July 16	Ruth Enns	-
July 23	Laura Sportack	-
July 30	-	-

Coffee hour signup! Our regular year for food groups having come to an end, we now rely on volunteers to supply coffee during the summer season. Please see the [coffee signup sheet](#) on the bulletin board in the back of the church to sign up to provide coffee during the summer. It is our greatest outreach, some would say, and one in need of constant volunteers over the summer. but if you would like to bring baking, that is also much appreciated.

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we now record the [response time](#) after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that **no privacy can be guaranteed**. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the [time of sharing and prayer](#), which will continue to be **not** recorded.

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)

The Wider Church

MBMSI FREEDOM FOR INDIA. Saji and Bindu Oommen are MBMS International missionaries to India. Pray for the Oommens as they strive to find ways of sharing Jesus with people bound by culture and false religions. Pray also for safe-keeping of their three young children.

St. John's Shaughnessy Evening services 6:30 pm Contemporary Evening Service. Sunday School is provided for children and youth at the 9 and 11 am services. At the Evening Service, Holy Communion is served on the last Sunday of each month.

Regent College is looking for friendly Vancouverites to provide up to one week of free housing for incoming students while they search for permanent housing in August. Meals are not expected (but welcome nonetheless!). For more information, please call Heidi at 604-221-3355, or email [Thank you!](#)

Regent College The summer series of free lectures at the chapel at Regent College begins again Monday July 3rd with Bruce Waltke speaking on "Land in the New Testament". All lectures begin at 8:00 pm and are held in the chapel at Regent College. Come early to get a good seat.

Christ Holds It All Together

¹⁵⁻¹⁸We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

¹⁸⁻²⁰He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things,

animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

²¹⁻²³You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message—just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message. [The Message]

Colossians 1:15-23

¹⁵Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

¹⁶For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by

him, and for him:

¹⁷And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all

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things he might have the preeminence.

¹⁹For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

²⁰And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

²¹And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies

in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

²²In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

²³If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; [KJV]

Hebrews 1:2

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact

imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Revelation 4:11

⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they

cast their crowns before the throne, singing, ¹¹'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'

John 1:3, 10

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The

true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 8:31-32

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' [all NRSV]