

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Today:** Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Veronica Dyck, Erna Friesen will lead us in song, Ruth Enns will be accompanying on the piano, and Ike Sawatsky is your usher. Today, we break from our summer series on the book of 2 Corinthians to hear from Don Boschmann speaking on *Learning to be Faithful in the Small Things* from Daniel 1. For now parents are requested to make their own arrangements for child care during the service if they feel their children don't wish to remain in the chapel during the service. Please join us in the lounge after the service for coffee and fellowship.

**Last Sunday** On Canada Day, Veronica Dyck's talk on Right Relationship in Ministry introduced us 2 Corinthians, Paul's fourth formal letter in 18 months to the house church(es) in one of Asia Minor's main cities. This somewhat emotional letter was written in response to severe personal differences and challenges Paul was experiencing with key house church personalities, as well as questions relating to how a small community of faith might best operate and behave, regardless of peoples' social or economic status, all the while dwelling on the theme of how the in-breaking God helps communities of faith. Since the converts in Corinth came from a variety of backgrounds (*e.g.*, no Jewish dietary concerns or laws), Paul did not dictate firm rules but rather offered a new approach to behavior and rules, indicating that Christians should evaluate-and reevaluate-their activities and lifestyles as their situations and surrounding society change, so that their actions not mislead or needlessly offend other believers. Immediately, Paul surprises the reader, indicating that he considered himself not the house churches' leader but rather their slave (unlike other leaders who were exerting power and asking for financial support). Just as Jesus consoles others in their suffering, believers are to console one another in their sufferings (including Paul in his past sufferings). Later in this letter Paul will champion the cause of the believing yet impoverished slaves who were experiencing second-class standing in the thinking and actions of believers who were landowners (much as Paul was being set aside as an apostolic leader by those same people). Veronica then led us through the initial 14 verses of chapter 1, verses which briefly tell of God's grace when rescuing Paul from earlier dangers, and hint at rebukes and challenges he faced from strong personalities in the house church. During discussion, we gave thanks that in spite of thousands of leaders and differences among millions of Christians around the world and in every cultural setting imaginable, the core of the gospel remains. [JEK - *ed. AP*]

## PGIMF News

### **Upcoming speakers**

July 15	John Friesen	2Cor 2:5-11 - An offender Forgiven
July 22	Rosie Perera	2Cor 2:14-3:11 - A New Ministry
July 29	Maureen Klassen	2Cor 3:12 - 4:6 - Renewal
August 5	TBA	2Cor 4:7-15 - Eternal life

**Summer Coffee Service** Please note the sign-up list on the bulletin board at the back to help out with serving coffee during the summer season. Questions? Please see Hannelore, and thank you in advance for your participation

### **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*—Erna Friesen (604-266-7819);  
*Pastoral Care*—John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)  
*Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

### Small groups discussion

You are encouraged to get together over the summer season in small groups to discuss the results of the PGIMF Revisioning process. There is as much food for thought, but we need to ensure we fully understand the implications of the results Donna Dinsmore presented to us before we agree on the next steps to be taken, hopefully in September. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to call on any member of the

**Picnic in the Park** You are all invited to the annual PGIMF event "Picnic in the Park" at Maple Grove Park, held after the service of July 15<sup>th</sup>. Bring food to share, games to play, chairs or blankets to sit on, portable tables if you have them, and come prepared to have fun! Guests and friends always welcome. Watermelon and soft drinks provided (and maybe snack foods too?). No reservation has been made at the park (\$78 and already fully booked!) so we will not be able to get picnic tables. We will meet as usual in the south-west corner of the park and enjoy ourselves anyway. Pray for sun in this, the coldest summer so far in the past dozen years!

### The Wider Church

**MBMSI REASONS TO REJOICE.** Otto and Marjorie Ekk are MBMS International Missionaries in Portugal. They praise God for the solid leadership in the Loures church; for the many young people coming to the Massamá church; and for continued growth in the two Russian speaking churches. Rejoice with them in the marriage of their son Jason this Saturday, July 14, to Alichia Kennedy.

**MCC BC Penny Power 2007.** Put your change to work! Bring your spare change to church this summer or the MCC BC Festival and Relief Sale September 14-15, 2007 to help feed people in Bangladesh. Help us raise \$25,000 this summer, one penny at a time. For more information contact Phil Schafran at (604) 850 6639 or 1 888 622 6337.

**Regent Public Lectures** You are invited to attend the continuing series of free public lectures at Regent College continuing on Monday, July 9 with Maxine Hancock speaking on *Tracing Grace in Life's Transitions: Life and the Literature of Spiritual Pilgrimage*. All lectures are held from 8:00-9:30 pm in the Regent College Chapel and you must attend early for a good seat. As well, On Wednesday, July 11, former Regent College professor, now living in Australia, Charles Ringma, will speak on *Re-inventing the Church for a Pluriformity of Structures*. Charles is teaching a summer class at Regent on building Christian communities, and this lecture will presumably draw from his expertise in this area.

**Mennonite Church Canada Annual Sessions** The MC Canada annual sessions wrapped up yesterday with at least one strong resolution. Delegates lined up several people deep behind microphones on Thursday morning to speak on a statement against militarization in Canada, which reads: "*Mennonite Church Canada believes that 'peace is the will of God' and that we need to 'witness to all people that violence is not the will of God' (Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, pages 81-82). Given this gospel understanding, we lament and oppose that the imaginations of our church and society are increasingly captivated by confidence in military solutions to human problems. May God grant us wisdom to discern and grace to act in ways that promote God's will for peace on Earth.*" A further session on Creation Care acknowledged the way in which Mennonites care for creation, and published a theological response to the issue with a call for suggestions. More information will come out in succeeding reports from the Canadian Mennonite.

July's **MennoLetter from Jerusalem** is on the bulletin board in the hall featuring information on the "One-state" solution to troubles in the Holy Land.

Just a reminder about some of the talents of our very own - Rosie Perera's photography/spirituality blog always gives new ways of looking at the world. See it with fresh eyes at <http://spaceforgod.blogspot.com/>

## Daniel 1

<sup>1</sup>In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup>The Lord let King Jehoiakim of Judah fall into his power, as well as some of the vessels of the house of God. These he brought to the land of Shinar, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his gods.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility, <sup>4</sup>young men without physical defect and handsome, versed in every branch of wisdom, endowed with knowledge and insight, and competent to serve in the king's palace; they were to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans. <sup>5</sup>The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine. They were to be educated for three years, so that at the end of that time they could be stationed in the king's court. <sup>6</sup>Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah. <sup>7</sup>The palace master gave them other names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine; so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself. <sup>9</sup>Now God allowed Daniel to receive favour and compassion from the palace master. <sup>10</sup>The palace master said to Daniel, 'I am afraid of my lord the king; he has appointed your food and your drink. If he should see

you in poorer condition than the other young men of your own age, you would endanger my head with the king.' <sup>11</sup>Then Daniel asked the guard whom the palace master had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: <sup>12</sup>'Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup>You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations, and deal with your servants according to what you observe.' <sup>14</sup>So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days. <sup>15</sup>At the end of ten days it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations. <sup>16</sup>So the guard continued to withdraw their royal rations and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. <sup>17</sup>To these four young men God gave knowledge and skill in every aspect of literature and wisdom; Daniel also had insight into all visions and dreams.

<sup>18</sup> At the end of the time that the king had set for them to be brought in, the palace master brought them into the presence of Nebuchadnezzar, <sup>19</sup>and the king spoke with them. And among them all, no one was found to compare with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they were stationed in the king's court. <sup>20</sup>In every matter of wisdom and understanding concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. <sup>21</sup>And Daniel continued there until the first year of King Cyrus.

## Galatians 6

<sup>1</sup>My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup>All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride. <sup>5</sup>For all must carry their own loads.

<sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap

whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup>If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

<sup>11</sup> See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup>It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be

circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh.  
14May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! 16As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon

the Israel of God.

<sup>17</sup>From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

<sup>18</sup> May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

## Is. 66:10 - 16

<sup>10</sup>Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her—  
<sup>11</sup>that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious bosom.

<sup>12</sup>For thus says the Lord:  
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,  
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing  
stream;  
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,  
and dandled on her knees.

<sup>13</sup>As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.  
<sup>14</sup>You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;  
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;  
and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with  
his servants,  
and his indignation is against his enemies.  
<sup>15</sup>For the Lord will come in fire,  
and his chariots like the whirlwind,  
to pay back his anger in fury,  
and his rebuke in flames of fire.  
<sup>16</sup>For by fire will the Lord execute judgement,  
and by his sword, on all flesh;  
and those slain by the Lord shall be many.

## Call to Worship

One: I praise you, O God, for you heard my cry for help and raising me up from my distress, you healed me.

**All: It is only through your grace, O God, that I have been given a fresh start in life.**

One: Let the whole congregation give thanks and sing praises to God;

**All: For the anger of God lasts but a moment, while the favour of God rests on us for a lifetime.**

One: Weeping may linger for a night, but joy assuredly comes in the morning.

**All: I formerly gloried in my own achievements but now see them all as your gracious gifts.**

One: It took the fear of death to bring me to my senses and see how much I rely on your mercy and grace.

**All: You have transformed my life, O God, from mourning to joy, making my spirit dance and my heart sing your praise forever and ever.**