

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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**March 23, 2003**

**Today:** Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship on this third Sunday of Lent. Our service is led by Henry Neufeld, Evan Kreider will be leading us in song and Edward Kehler will be accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear from Veronica Dyck who will be speaking on John 15 in a sermon entitled "Abide in My Love". Nadine Neudorf is in charge of children's church, and Bre'el Davis and Elvira Teichroeb will be with the toddlers.

**Last Sunday:** Last Sunday Mark Greenstreet introduced us to the Gospel of John and then spoke on various themes from John 14. Philip asked (verse 8) Jesus to "show us the Father", because Philip had not made the connection between Jesus and God in the way Christians would by the end of the first century. The writer of John gives us what Mark called "a series of icons" to explain or 'show' us Jesus. Some of these are metaphors such as "I am . . . the good shepherd/the vine/the light". When the gospel writers tried to put into words "God incarnate", they often ended up looking at Christ's life in action, showing how his words and actions went hand-in-hand. Mark stressed that the writer of John represented the thinking of a community of believers at the end of the first century, that these people brought their intellectual gifts to the task (as do we). They also, as a community, felt bound by one commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." This community then tried to live out Christ's ideals, using the sayings and stories they collected about Jesus to guide their lives. [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.

**Potluck Barbeque with students next Sunday!** As requested by the students according to their schedule, next week is the best time to hold the end-of-year potluck barbeque for them. Veggie burgers and Mennonite sausage will be supplemented by desserts (last names A-M, if you please) and salads (last names N-Z, by your grace).

You are all invited to a recital by Nola Shantz as part of her Master's in Piano programme this Sunday March 23 at 3 pm at the UBC Recital Hall. Come hear a truly gifted artist play!

**House Groups:** the "every other Monday group" will not be meeting this week.

## **Upcoming speakers**

March 30	Rebecca Sack	John 16: The work of the Spirit, Christ's Peace (Lent IV)
April 6	Don Teichroeb	John 17: Jesus prays for his students (Lent V)
April 13	Kevin Hiebert	John 18: Jesus is betrayed and judged (Lent VI)
April 20	Easter Sunday	Music and readings

**Prayer requests:** The fellowship expresses its sorrow to Heather Shantz whose father died suddenly last week. Heather is well known to us at PGIMF for her work with the toddlers. She flew out to Ontario last weekend and spent a few hours with him before he died. Your prayers are requested for her family as they cope with this loss. Our prayers over the war in Iraq appear like a butterfly in the face of a hurricane. Our strength is our faith. Pray for God to protect all who truly seek to follow the One in his many, many ways.

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*Pastoral Concerns*—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245), Sue Dudoward (604-876-4114)  
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## The Wider Church

**From MBMS International:** PRAYER MOMENT FOR MONGOLIA. Robert & Marlene Baerg are MBMS International workers in Mongolia. Pray for grace and joy for language learning. Ask God to break through the government's stronghold and persecution of the church in Mongolia.

Here is an excerpt from a letter of February 21 by Al Falk which Helmut mentioned receiving last Sunday. Al and Connie Falk spoke in our church 2 years ago before they went on a teaching assignment with MBMS in a Christian school near Prague.

*"We are coming close to the end of our two year commitment in the Czech Republic. We have been praying whether to stay in Prague or come back to Langley were Al's old job was waiting for him or go to Cornerstone Christian School in Saskatchewan which Al's uncle George has started." They have accepted now the position to teach there.*

*"We are feeling a myriad of emotions as we think of having to say good-bye to our friends in Prague and His ministry. We plan to come back in the beginning of July and spend a short time with our family and friends in BC and then venture off to the prairies. It will be an interesting summer of transition for our family as we pack up our lives here and come back to Canada".*

*"We look forward to the work God has for us here in the next four month. There is much to be done at school as they continue to deal with the effects of the flood.*

*We can't tell you how much we appreciate your prayers. We would love to visit your church once in July and visit with many of you again. We have appreciated the support from many of you even though you know so little about us. God bless you and your church family.*

*Love Al, Connie, Andrea, Mark and Sara "*

**UBC Lectures** The Canadian and Christian Scientific Association presents Roger Lundin, Clyde S. Kilby Professor of English, Wheaton College speaking on "Nimble Believing": Modern Literature and the Conflict of Interpretations' Monday March 17 - 4:15 pm - The Buchanan Penthouse, UBC For further information, contact Phil Hill at 604 822-3112 or [e-mail available] or Darren Brouwer at 604 822-2293 or [e-mail available]. The UBC Graduate and Faculty Christian forum was founded in 1988 by a group of University faculty and graduate students seeking to explore the dialogue between religious faith and academic scholarship.

Burnaby Christian Fellowship is closing its doors forever. There is a large list of items for sale at the fellowship through the BCMB churches. If you would like to receive an e-mail or printed list of the items for sale, please contact Andre.

Thanks from Sherbrooke Mennonite Church for the tremendous response to their second annual "One Day Sale" held to raise funds for the Refugee food Bank at Sherbrooke. They raised a little over \$3500 in one day with more money still trickling in. Congratulations, and thank you for your support. They have helped close to 700 families resettle in Vancouver from trouble spots around the world such as Honduras, El Salvador and Kosovo.

MBMS International is seeking an Accounting Clerk for work in their office in Abbotsford. Please see the posting on the bulletin board in the hall for more information.

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## Mennonite Church Canada

Mennonite Church Canada is undertaking to balance its budget this year with a massive array of cuts to programs and positions. Its \$7.5 million budget is to be reduced by \$2 million, funding for Canadian Mennonite University and the Canadian Mennonite publication will be cut, and programs and staff in areas as diverse as Mennonite Voluntary Service, Peace and Justice, and Church Planting have been eliminated entirely. Native ministries and International ministries have been retained, but with reduced budgets, resources and goals. To come into effect April 10, more than 20 positions have been cut, and further executive positions may be cut later in April. The process has been forced to absorb much sadness and anger. Moderator Henry Krause said that the Councils and the General Board approached the task from the perspective of maintaining those ministries that would be most difficult for area conferences or individual congregations to deliver. Your prayers and contributions would be most welcome as staff, congregations and the recipients of ministries come to terms with these cuts. More information is available in a posting on the bulletin board in the hall.

MBMS International publishes the *Global Bridge* newsletter every three weeks. It is now available on-line. See Andre if you would like the link. If you would like it printed out for you, we can arrange that too. We think...

MCC-BC has an opening for an Administrative Assistance to support Accounting and Resource Development. For more information on this job opportunity contact Wayne Bremner at 604-850-6639 or by e-mail [e-mail available].

For those of you who remember Lynn Forbes visiting us from Victoria, she is looking for a place to live for herself and her three-year old daughter in order to accept a job in 'treaty negotiations' in Vancouver and need to find out about childcare/accommodation options before deciding to accept. Her three-year old daughter would be making the move with her, and her first priority is to see if suitable arrangements can be made for her. If not, she will decline the position. Her husband has recently been promoted to a Director position at University of Victoria and consequently cannot make the move with them. If you can help, please see the bulletin board in the back hall for further details.

### Against war...

#### April 1918

You, whose forebodings have been all fulfilled,  
You who have heard the bell, seen the boy stand  
Holding the flimsy message in his hand  
While through your heart the fiery question thrilled  
"Wounded or killed, which, which?"--and it was "Killed--"  
And in a kind of trance have read it, numb  
But conscious that the dreaded hour was come,  
No dream this dream wherewith your blood was chilled--  
Oh brothers in calamity, unknown  
Companions in the order of black loss,  
Lift up your hearts, for you are not alone,  
And let our sombre hosts together bring  
Their sorrows to the shadow of the Cross  
And learn the fellowship of suffering.

Henry Christopher Bradby

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George and Victoria Hobson enjoyed themselves immensely at our church these past few weeks. They were touched that so many people expressed interest in their work in Africa and wanted to contribute. They have four projects deserving of help; two in Burundi and two in Rwanda. Contributions may be made through Rosie Perera who will see that it gets to each mission. In this and following bulletins, a short synopsis of each project will be made available at the rate of one a week. If you can't wait, you will also find the complete invitation on the bulletin board in the back hall.

“The Light University, in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. This new university offers wonderful new hope for a country in which higher education, disrupted by ten years of war and genocidal agitation, is vital. The University's President, Paul Ntukamazina, is an Episcopal minister and the Dean of the Cathedral in Bujumbura, and its Rector Gregoire Njeimana, is a lay Catholic, which also provides a striking ecumenical witness in this predominantly Catholic country. In addition to Kirundi, both speak excellent French and English, and have done post-graduate work in the U.S. The University is already attracting excellent students, but some buildings are not yet completed for lack of funds, and there are few supplies. There are three Departments: Business and Administration, Communication Sciences, and Theology, and more will be added as soon as possible. In addition to financial help, the University would welcome short-term visits by people with experience in these fields, who (for example) could teach a course for three weeks or a month.”

### John 15:1 - 16:4

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

#### *The World's Hatred*

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me

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before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’

<sup>26</sup> “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup> You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

**16** “I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. <sup>3</sup> And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.