

# *The* Messenger

## *The Church:*

Pastor Glen Koop looks  
at how God honours it

See page 3



Pastor Patricio Mora of  
Nicaragua reminds us  
of four important  
characteristics of it

See page 4



## Pondering Evangelical Anabaptism

ON JULY 5 two EMC boards jointly proposed to encourage wider understanding of Evangelical Anabaptism and conference council members were asked for feedback.

The proposal, presented by the Board of Ministers and Deacons and the Board of Church Ministries, was well received. Two cautions were given—that the emphasis be positive, not defensive, and that we continue to respect the benefits of being part of the wider evangelical family.

Biblical understanding appears to be weakening in society and wider church circles—we are not immune to it. The hope is that EMCers from various generations will reflect on and live out more of Scripture as reaffirmed in the sixteenth century.

J. C. Wenger described Menno Simons as “a sound evangelical, a true saint of God united to Christ by faith, born again and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, a teacher who sought to align his life and doctrine with the infallible Word of the Lord, the Holy Scriptures” (*The Complete Writings of Menno Simons*, xi).

Menno Simons was concerned about “true evangelical faith” expressing itself properly

(*The Complete Writings*, p. 307). He sought to free it from empty phrases, carelessness in lifestyle, and easy discipleship. As Wenger says, Menno is challenging.

As we reflect, we will evaluate our own discipleship and history. Harold Bender said in *The Anabaptist Vision* that there is a need to distinguish between “original evangelical and constructive Anabaptism” from other variants in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (*Recovery*, p.35). Is such discernment only needed when evaluating Anabaptists and movements of long ago?

Many people might be surprised to find how 16<sup>th</sup> century Anabaptists lived and died for beliefs and practices now taken for granted in much wider circles: believer’s church, believer baptism, faith as discipleship, religious toleration, separation of church and state, missions and more. Historically, Mennonites stood for this about 75 years before Baptists began and long before many other evangelical denominations existed.

Should this make us proud? No. It can remind us that we are *indebted* and invites us to reflect on what we are teaching and living today.

Terry M. Smith

## Preach the gospel

**P**REACH the gospel, and if you have to, use words is a popular slogan in evangelism. Some believers seem to take this as an excuse for not talking to non-Christians about their faith.

At a time, however, when most people outside the church are just as ignorant of the gospel and its claims as they were before the church began, it could be said there needs to be more open proclamation of the gospel, not less!

To fully model our faith, words are needed. When Jesus Christ is the centre of our lives, when he fills every corner of our hearts, this will flow out in both actions and words (Matthew 12:34-35). Peter says we must be ready, when opportunity comes, to give a reason for the hope we have. People may see our hope in Christ, but how will they know He *is* the reason for it without being told?

The early church leaders proclaimed the gospel unashamedly wherever people were gathered—in the marketplace, the synagogue—and thousands were converted. Though persecuted and harassed, the apostles didn’t stop speaking God’s message.

James, in his letter’s passage on the evils of which the tongue is capable, is convinced of the power of the spoken word to influence people and to affect their lives. While guarding our tongues from evil, silence is not the answer. In some cases, the “silent treatment” can be as hurtful as harsh words. When people are on the road to eternal destruction, it is deadly!

While looking at positive ways of proclaiming the gospel, let’s trust that God can bless even our bumbling efforts to make His name known.

Becky Buhler  
Assistant Editor

### The Messenger

EDITOR

Terry M. Smith



ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rebecca Buhler

**THE MESSENGER** is the publication of the Evangelical Mennonite Conference. It is available to the general public. Its purpose is to inform, instruct and inspire: inform concerning events and activities in the denomination; instruct in godliness and victorious living; inspire to earnestly contend for the faith.

Letters, articles, photos and poems are welcomed. Unpublished material is not returned except by request. The views and opinions expressed by the writers are their own and do not necessarily represent the position of the Conference.

**THE MESSENGER** is published twice a month (once a month in July and August) by the Board of Church Ministries of the Evangelical Mennonite Conference, 440 Main Street, Steinbach, Manitoba.

**Subscriptions:** \$12.00 per year (Manitoba residents add 7% PST, total: \$12.84). Subscriptions are voluntary and optional to people within or outside of the EMC. Members and adherents pay through their church.

**THE MESSENGER** is a member of Meetinghouse and Canadian Church Press.

Second-class postage paid at Steinbach, Manitoba.

Publications Mail Registration No. 09914

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

The Messenger occasionally gets requests for use of its mailing list, usually a one-time use from usually conference-related institutions. Approval for such use comes from the executive or complete Board of Church Ministries. If you prefer to opt out from such requests, please notify the editors.

**Mailing information:** All correspondence, including undelivered copies, change of address and new subscriptions, should be addressed to:

The Messenger  
P.O. Box 1268  
Steinbach, Manitoba  
R0A 2A0

Phone: 204-326-6401

Fax: 204-326-1613

E-mail: [emcmessenger@mts.net](mailto:emcmessenger@mts.net)

Portions available at

[www.emconf.ca/Messenger](http://www.emconf.ca/Messenger)

**MESSENGER SCHEDULE:**  
No. 18 - October 22  
(copy due October 10)

# God honours the church!

Pastor Glen Koop

**T**HE SERVANT knows God. He is one who knows God intimately. And there is very good reason for doing so. His father is Amittai, meaning *the truthful one*. And *the truthful one* gave him the name Jonah, *Dove*. *Dove* has the meaning of peace.

God thought the servant was ready for the mission. For no one calls someone to a mission unless they know the person is prepared, experienced, knows the language, and has communication skills.

God's call is straightforward: "Go, the purpose in going is quite clear. You are going to a Great City of wickedness. And the message you take is one of destruction, except if the people listen and turn to God, leaving their greedy, selfish, evil ways. Then it will be a message of life." The people to whom the servant is to deliver the message of destruction are the Assyrians in their capital city, Nineveh. It is for the sake of these wicked people God has called this servant of his. It is God's great love that desires to change, to transform, these people. The only messenger on earth to do the work is His servant of Peace.

## The servant responds

The servant hears the call. When one hears the call it usually means one goes. The servant listened. He was shaken up, comprehended the dangers and the unbelievable responsibilities of the call.

And then he took off. He was running. But he was running in the opposite direction. He got tired of running and so he took a boat cruise. And then he went into the hold of the ship, wrapped his outer garment around himself and fell asleep.

But God had someone looking for just this kind of individual. The captain of the ship abruptly awakened him. "What in the world do you think you are doing here, sleeping? You should be on deck giving us a hand. If this ship breaks up you are going down with it. What's your name anyway?"

God had the servant confess to the sailors: "I am one who knows God, the God who created the universe, the God who sent this storm. But I am running and trying to hide from my God. I know how to stop this storm." "How?" Of course they want to know.

"Turn me into a peace offering! Sacrifice my body to God," Jonah said. "Throw me into the raging sea and you will save yourselves." Was he thinking, "This way they are responsible for my death"?

But the sailors caught that nuance. They were not going to throw him overboard. They would row until their arms, legs, and backs were sore and the perspiration was pouring down their bodies. They'd make it to shore. However, they found it a lost cause. They couldn't do it. It could not be done! And so they listened to the servant, picked him up and tossed him into the sea.

The servant went down and the sea became quiet. The servant's response was, "I am not going, I'd rather...But God..."

## God rescues the servant

Although the servant was unfaithful, disobedient, this does not automatically mean that God will be unfaithful. Although the servant thought he would never again see the light of day, God had other plans. God had him taste some seaweed, even had some wrapped about his neck.

As Peace, the servant, went down he did some anxious praying. God had a great fish, a live submarine, swimming by at just the right time. And it also happened the servant was covered by algae, which the big fish saw and wanted to eat. It opened wide its mouth and God filled it. God had his servant hidden away safely in the belly of the sub.

The servant was being whirled around inside the belly like a bunch of rags in a Maytag washer. He was coming to his senses. This roundabout trip was making both the fish and the servant miserable. The servant prayed. This was just what God desired to hear and wanted to answer.

Miserable, self-centered servants can make a choice.

They can get more miserable, angry, bitter and curse God or turn to God in their misery and find forgiveness, peace, joy, and learn to love God.

The servant did the latter. God gave the big fish one of the worst stomachaches it had ever experienced. In the worst way it wanted to rid itself of whatever that one gulp of seaweed had brought into its belly. Once it got close to shore, God let it heave the contents of its stomach onto the shore. God in His Faithfulness Rescued the Rebellious Servant.

## God nurtures the servant again

Fortunately, God was at work in the lives of the Ninevites. When Jonah was ready to preach, the Ninevites were ready to accept the message. They turned from their evil ways; even the wicked king did. They turned to the God of Peace.



Glen Koop is senior pastor of La Crete Christian Fellowship (EMC) in northern Alberta. He has served as a pastor as well in Manitoba, Virginia, and Lesotho (southern Africa). He also served for years at Steinbach Bible College.

This was exactly what Peace—Jonah—had feared! If he preached, the people would repent and God would *not* destroy them. God had compassion! The servant prayed, “O Lord...I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.” Now what would happen to Israel? The servant would like to die.

The servant was more interested in seeing Assyria destroyed than Assyria being saved. (This seems to ring a bell of something fairly recent.)

The servant went to sit on the east side of the city. Here he constructed a shelter and sat in the shade. He desired to see the fulfillment of God’s prediction, destruction, not the salvation of the wicked Ninevites.

The Lord God in his gracious mercy provided a vine or a castor plant to shade Peace, the servant. God shaded the servant’s head from discomfort. This thrilled the servant. But then God sent a hungry little worm that

chewed on the vine and it withered. The servant then experienced a scorching east wind. And for the third time he wanted to die.

He found the sun extremely hot. His own anger boiled over. He was disappointed that he could not see lightning strike from heaven. And the scorching wind was just too much! He was so very much concerned about his comfort. He was more concerned about comfort for himself than he was about the salvation of the Ninevites.

God struggles with his servant again and again and again. God is faithful. God is gracious. God is compassionate. God is slow to anger. God abounds in love. God is forgiving. God relents from sending calamity.

I am most glad that God does not abandon his church as it struggles along in its limitations. It is wonderful that God struggles with the church as it in its many weaknesses seeks to serve him. ■

---

# The Church: Community of Fellowship and Priesthood of Believers

Pastor Patricio Mora

**T**HE WORD *church* comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning a group of faithful believers, the body of Christ, separated and set apart to follow and serve Jesus.

From Matthew 16:18–19 and 1 Peter 2:9–10 we notice four important characteristics of the church.

First, the Church is a fellowship or brotherhood. The church of the first century identified themselves as “brothers and sisters.” In the missionary effort they identified themselves with the fellowship of believers and the community of faith. In Acts 1:15, Peter addresses the 120 gathered and calls them “brothers.” This is a common term used for those belonging to the fellowship of believers, the church.

Later, the radical Christians of the sixteenth century were called Anabaptists and later they were called Mennonites, which actually had a derogatory connotation. But the movement was characterized by brotherhood, unity of the body of believers, following Jesus in service to one’s neighbour and sharing material possessions with

the community of faith and those in need.

Second, the Church has a mission and a definite function. Three important aspects are seen in Matthew 16:18,19; 28:18–20; and John 13:3–17.

There is the significance of binding and loosing. In the context of Judaism and the rabbinic schools, *to bind* means to withhold forgiveness and the liberation of sin. *To loose* means to grant forgiveness of sin and liberation. When the community of faith celebrates its liturgy, it celebrates forgiveness, liberation and reconciliation.

In Matthew, Jesus commissions his followers to the task of proclaiming and projecting the Kingdom of God to establish it among the children, youth, women and men. These will be saved and transformed to form part of the Body of Christ and the community of faith.

The mission of the church includes service (*diakonia*). In the washing of the disciple’s feet, Jesus teaches the deaconate of service. This means that the servant serves amidst suffering. With this pastoral model of service, the leaders, the pastors and the whole church takes on a role of servanthood that focuses on the majority.

Third, the church is a priesthood. The message of the Apostle Peter is that we are a chosen people, a holy nation, and a priesthood of believers to minister and administrate the work of God. The Anabaptists of the 16<sup>th</sup> century adopted the concept of ministry and mission in action rejecting the use of honorary titles. The Anabaptists preferred an itinerant mission, that is, a missionary church of the road and on the road.



Patricio Mora, pastor of the Mennonite church *Jesus is Lord* in Diriamba, Nicaragua, gave this devotional at the Church Planting Consultation held at Steinbach, Man., on July 9. Pastor Mora was a delegate from Nicaragua at the EMC convention.

Fourth, the Church is visible and invincible. The Anabaptists of the 16<sup>th</sup> century returned to the model of the primitive church as a visible church, a community of believers transformed by the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit. They were visible throughout their history. The Mennonite church of America, Africa, Asia and Europe makes itself visible through its liturgy and missionary action, evangelism and discipleship.

In the New Testament vision of the church, the church is a charismatic community in action. In the community of faith, the leaders, pastors, and members with their gifts all contribute to the edification and formation of the life of the church. These charismatic gifts are spiritual gifts for the mission of the church that Christ has given to the church. ■ (Translated by Lester Olfert.)

**Doreen Peters—Peters, Peters.**

On the back page of September 10 issue, the article *Ben D. Reimer: A tribute to my dad* was written by Doreen Peters, not as wrongly listed *twice*. Thanks to Doreen, who was forgiving, and to all who noticed the error.

Editor



**VOLUNTEER ARCHIVIST WELCOMED!** Loren Koehler, a missionary on furlough from linguistic/translation work in Congo/Kenya, is serving part-time in the EMC Archives in Steinbach, Man., for about the next year. Individuals or churches interested in research or in making donations can contact Loren on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 204-326-6401. Readers with skill in translating German sermons are especially welcome.

Loren works in cooperation with the EMC Archives Committee and Rev. Dave K. Schellenberg, Archivist Emeritus. The archives are located in the EMC national office.

Loren, wife Beth, and their three daughters live in Steinbach.

Terry M. Smith  
Executive Secretary  
EMC Board of Church Ministries

## Letters

# Let's take it as a gift

It seems that the debate about creation is not going away. We should not be surprised about this because the issues are extremely complex. The two extremes (Genesis literalism versus atheism) are both problematic. Genesis literalism is hard to defend in the scientific arena and atheism is a council of despair.

What to do? Some would argue that while it may be hard to do creationist science, it can be done and is being done by several groups. I have looked at these group's web sites and read some of their books and have found them highly unsatisfactory. The scientific explanations are forced and unconvincing.

As a geneticist, I simply can't believe that Tyrannosaurus Rex, the great meat-eating dinosaur, evolved from being a vegetarian dinosaur in the relatively few generations between the Fall and the Flood. The creationists have no real evidence that this kind of macroevolution can happen that fast. They also think that the transformation of the vegetarian dinosaur to a carnivorous one happened without the gain of genetic information.

When I think of the innovations needed to hunt, kill, and digest prey I can't imagine that they developed by a loss of information. This is just one example of the "science" I cannot accept.

If I were to accept the either/or of the extreme positions, I would have no choice now but to become an atheist and live in a seemingly purposeless universe.

There must be a middle way. Unfortunately, even after 150 years of Darwinism, no middle way has been found that has a general appeal to Christians and I certainly don't pretend to have the answer

either. I would like to make some suggestions, however.

The first one is that we should interpret different parts of the Bible in a way appropriate to that part. Maybe the first part of the Bible is kind of special just as we know the last part, Revelation, to be. The second suggestion is that we should take a positive attitude toward science and not continue the "warfare between science and religion." Honestly done science is a revelation about the world from God. Let's take it as a gift.

Glen Klassen  
Winnipeg, Man.

## EMC Region 8 Praise Night

Steinbach EMC, 7 p.m.  
October 19, 2003

Focusing on God's Greatness  
Special Offering — Project TBA



Call  
John Cosens  
at 204-866-3597

# With Our Missionaries



## SEMILLA continues educational outreach!

SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary, held an information evening on September 10 at Steinbach EFC.

Alvin and Kathy Plett, Betty and Ed Reimer (left) have both worked on construction projects for SEMILLA. Lester Olfert, EMC Foreign Secretary, says SEMILLA is "doing a fantastic work."

Amzie Yoder and Hector Argueta (right), the first and current directors of the seminary, made the presentation.

EMC has been involved with it since the seminary began, Lester Olfert says, by Board of Missions donations and the work of EMC Missions Auxiliary.

SEMILLA is Spanish for seed. The seminary focuses on outreach education and has study centres in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. Its centre in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

(photo by editor)

## Mexico

### A good day's work

Today was one of those days when, in spite of having been busy all day, now that the day is over, I wonder what of significance I actually got done. Have you ever had one of those days?



Grace Thiessen (Steinbach EMC) is involved in Bible translation in Oaxaca, Mexico.

I had to do some banking for some Zapotec friends who are outside of the country and what normally should have taken no longer than an hour, took four. Grrrrh! However, in the morning before I went on my errand, Odilón, Clemente and I started working on Romans 5.

What a challenging, yet wonderful book Romans is!

Odilón and I have not been completely happy with our rendering of the word "justify" and its cognates in Yareni Zapotec. God making us right with himself came out "God makes us good with himself" and sounded more like reconciliation than justification. So we talked again about what "justify" means. (It's kind of an important concept in Romans!)

We talked about standing before a judge and being acquitted of some wrong doing. Zapotec has a word *tulha* that means "guilt," "fault" and can mean "sin" in some contexts. Apparently the village judge, when declaring someone not guilty, says "you owe no *tulha*." The phrase seemed to fit. We added "in God's sight" and so "justify" now reads: "we no longer owe guilt/sin in God's eyes." Incredible, eh?

Maybe we actually did get a good day's work done today.

Grace Thiessen



Reporters,  
keep the news  
coming!

## NICARAGUA MISSIONS EXPOSURE — WORK TEAM

Volunteers are needed to work at the construction of a building at Camp Maranatha. There will also be opportunity to learn about the Fraternity of Evangelical Mennonite Churches of Nicaragua. Don Plett, former EMC missionary in Nicaragua, will be the coordinator and leader.

Dates: February 7 to 20, 2004

Cost: \$2,100 approximately

For information contact:

Lester Olfert

EMC Foreign Secretary

204-326-6401

or [lolfert@mts.net](mailto:lolfert@mts.net)



## Fall courses at SBC

Register now for fall evening and weekend courses at Steinbach Bible College.

### Introduction to Old Testament (3 cr.)

An introductory study of the historical and geographic background of the Old Testament, with an overview of major themes. Oct. 17-18, Nov. 7-8, Nov. 28-29, March 26-27

Friday 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to noon

Professor Gord Penner



### Helping Hurting Parents (1 cr.)

A course for those wishing to help parents who are hurting because of children who have divorced, died, or discarded parental teaching. Nov. 6 to 8. Thursday 7 to 10 p.m., Friday 7 to 10 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Professor Harvey Plett

For information or to register call 204-326-6451 or e-mail [admissions@sbcollege.mb.ca](mailto:admissions@sbcollege.mb.ca)

# First Paraguayan missions consultation held

At 4 p.m. on July 25, leaders from various churches from the area of influence of Radio Mensajero (including our Paraguayan EMC churches) started arriving at the Lucero Campground. A few hours later, the first Missions Consultation/Conference in the interior of East Paraguay was in full swing. Radio Mensajero was mainly responsible for organizing the event, together with CONAMI (National Committee of Missions), based in Asuncion. Together with the organizers, kitchen staff and helpers approximately 100 people participated.

Different mission agencies had displays and stands, where good materials regarding missions could be acquired. In the sessions, close to 50 church leaders, for the first time in their lives, heard facts and statistics about national and international missions. These statistics left the participants with a deep burden for the lost.

The native churches also shared their vision and work. From five small churches, this joint effort has grown to dozens of churches with about 300 committed believers. Each believer commits himself to earn (by making crafts or hunting) and give 3,000 Guaranies (about \$0.75) per month to help support four native missionaries to reach other natives in Paraguay. These native churches have formed the Association of United Native

Churches. They shared a vision for sending a missionary to Guyana to reach natives there.

The challenge was to “primarily do what we can with what we have and not what we could do with money that others could give us to do it with.”

There were a lot of challenges thrown out, a lot was learned and the “good seed” was sown among these leaders—who, in turn, are left to broaden the mission vision of their churches. The good meals, as well as the rounds of mate, provided lots of interaction and mutual encouragement as contacts and friendships were made.

Among the mission organizations that had a part in the conference were Trans World Radio, SIM, the Association of Evangelical Pastors of Paraguay, German Pioneer Mission, and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

CONAMI’s stated objectives for the conference, which we believe have been achieved, are:

- Get closer to the churches, missions and leaders to grow together in the vision of practical co-operation in missions.
- Become conscious of the size of the missionary task in Paraguay and the world.
- Objectively analyze the obstacles to the missionary task and take joint action to overcome them.
- Inform ourselves regarding church planting in communities and sub-regions

of Paraguay.

- Enrich the co-operation in missionary training and efforts, sharing ministries and new resources.

The consultation ended with Sunday dinner.

Chris and Revita Kroeker

Chris and Revita Kroeker (Rosenort EMC) manage the ministry of Radio Mensajero in Paraguay.



Missionary kids Sofia Pelegrina and Daniela Kroeker met for the first time and formed a close friendship—as did many of the leaders.



Around 60 participants attended from many different church and ethnic backgrounds.



SIM missionary Daniel Cool speaks on “the preparation of a missionary.”

# With Our Churches

## Celebrating people

**Crestview (Winnipeg, Man.):** We had various celebrations in our church recently that focused on individuals or groups of people.

On May 25 we celebrated the life of little Liam Edward Unrau. We had a parent-child dedication in which Darryl and Cyndy Unrau took part. They dedicated themselves to raising their son Liam for the Lord. May the Lord grant you much wisdom as you strive to do so!

On May 31, the ladies, including many guests, enjoyed our annual spring brunch. Men from the church did a great job of serving the meal. Irma Harder sang for us, and our own Heather Klassen shared of her involvement with Campus Crusade for Christ at the University of Manitoba. We grieved together as we heard Wilma Derksen tell of the struggles her family went



Work day at the church: John Rempel and Bernie Driedger clean light fixtures.

through when her daughter, Candace, was abducted and died a cruel death. She encouraged us to celebrate life!

The Sunday school season ended June 1 with a musical by the youth and younger Sunday school classes. The youth did a drama while the younger children, dressed in Egyptian costumes, sang two songs. Sunday school will resume in September.

Our church building needed some attention, so on June 7 we got together for a work day. We scraped paint, washed walls, cleaned light fixtures, replaced ceiling tiles, and more, in an effort to maintain the building God provided for us to worship Him in. Much laughter and fun can be had while working together!

June 8 was our annual Sunday school picnic. It was an occasion for lots of celebration as we gathered at Assiniboine Park, something we couldn't do for some years due to rain! The open-air service in the beauty of the park was an awesome



Pastor Vern's ordination: laying on hands are Bernie Driedger, Dorothy Janzen, Alex Wiebe (behind Dorothy), Beth Braun, Rob Wiebe, Conference Pastor David Thiessen, Jarett Fawcett, Heather Klassen and Dave Giesbrecht; kneeling are Lana and Vern Knutson.

way to worship God. After the barbecue lunch there was the option to participate in some games or just enjoy the day outdoors visiting with church family.

We welcomed the arrival of Gord and Anna Doerksen's baby, Joshua Gordon, in April, and on June 12 the ladies honoured him with a baby shower.

Our new pastoral couple, Vern and Lana Knutson, reached a milestone on June 22 when we celebrated Vern's ordination. The service included special music by a men's group that Vern is part of, a message by Conference Pastor David Thiessen, and

laying on of hands and prayer by members of the congregation who represent various church groups. Several members of Vern and Lana's families from far and wide joined us for this special event. A potluck lunch followed the service.

Paul Fleury and Janis Siemens were honoured with a pantry shower on June 26. They are planning an August wedding. This summer is seeing the continuation of the Crestview tradition. We have barbecues together as a church family after Sunday morning church services. What with people being away on holidays here and there, sometimes the barbecue attendance is high and sometimes low, but always there is enough to eat for everyone!

A sad event we have had recently is the passing of one of our senior members, Mr. Isaac Letkeman. His smiles and keen sense of humour are missed in the church. He passed away on May 10, and although we grieve his passing, we believe the angels in heaven gave him a welcome home celebration.

Darlene Wiebe



Participating in a parent-child dedication on May 25 were Cyndy and Darryl Unrau with Liam. Visiting for this occasion were Cyndy's mom and Darryl's parents.



Participating in a recent parent-child dedication ceremony are Joy and Brian Wolfe with Noah, Heidi and Richard Krahn with Abigail and Joshua, Tammy and Ben Driedger with Gavin, Angela and Fernando Reimer with Caden, and pastoral couple Martha and Peter Doerksen. Missing are Tim and Kathy Friesen with Jillian.



Baptismal/membership candidates and membership transfers involved (back) Glenn Peters, Ray Vandershaaf, Abe Froese, Tim Van Natter, Pastor Peter Doerksen, (middle) Gloria Goertzen, Rose Vanderschaaf, Elizabeth Froese, Janet Van Natter, (front) Linda Salonen, Emily Friesen and Val Wiebe.

## A summer of welcomes

**Grande Prairie, Alta.:** It's been exciting to see our church family grow here in Grande Prairie through a number of baptisms, memberships, and expanding individual families.

Susan Wiebe was baptised this spring during a Sunday morning church service by Pastor Peter Doerksen and she received membership that same day. She was gone during the summer receiving ESL (English as a Second Language) training, but is now back in our midst. We look forward to having her as part of our church family.

Our church also recently held two separate child dedication ceremonies. Richard and Heidi Krahn, Brian and Joy Wolfe, Ben and Tammy Driedger, Fernando and Angela Reimer, and my husband Tim

and I dedicated our children to the Lord.

What a profound sense of encouragement it was to see family, friends and members of the congregation rise to their feet in a symbolic gesture of commitment to support us as we raise these little ones to honour God and develop an intimate relationship with Him. How meaningful the words of a familiar hymn suddenly became during this time of global strife: *This child can face uncertain days because He lives.*

Another enjoyable event this summer was our annual church family campout at Bear Lake Bible Camp from June 13–15. The weekend was once again filled with waterfront activities, singing, soccer, beach volleyball, visiting, games and lots of great meals in between.

It was also the weekend our church family grew by 11 people. Emily Friesen, Gloria Goertzen, Glenn Peters, Linda Salonen and Val Wiebe were baptised by our pastor, Peter Doerksen, in Bear Lake and welcomed into membership. Also receiving membership that day were Abe and Elizabeth Froese, Tim and Janet Van Natter and Ray and Rose Vanderschaaf.

Kathy Friesen



Youth pastor Bernie Plett and senior pastor Peter Doerksen baptise Susan Wiebe with Kathy Plett looking on.



Baptismal candidates Emily Friesen, Val Wiebe, Linda Salonen, Gloria Goertzen and Glenn Peters gave testimonies.

### TO BE A MOTHER

What does it mean to be a mother? How does one become a mother? Most people would say that you have a baby, and that makes you a mommy. Well, what if you and your husband can't have a baby the conventional way? Does that mean you would never be a mommy? No, it just means that you learn new lessons in the birds and the bees.

First there are two seeds—seeds of hope and dreams. Then there are the prayers that grow from the hopeful dreams. Instead of a few (or many) hours of labour, as in the conventional method, there are months (for some, years) of labour. Pain of the heart of the heart, mind, soul, and yes, even the body. There is no due date, just hope, dreams and prayers.

It is hard to trust God in these times, yet only that trust can get you through them. It is hard to wait for the phone call that says, "We may have a baby for you." Finally the phone rings and the message comes.

The labour is in full force now. You are fearful—what if something happens? What if the mother who gives him life won't sign the papers? Cautious—you can't get too excited. It may happen, but it may not. Are you excited? Well, yes, but mostly not. Finally the news comes. She has signed the papers. All you have to do is go get your baby. Your baby has been born! Relief. Wow, you can breathe. You can get excited. It's over. So you think.

You see, there is a part of this pregnancy, labour and delivery that is very unique. You have to go and take that baby out of the arms of the one who gave him life and walk away. In many ways, that is the hardest part.

You see, this wonderful, brave lady is trusting you to take care of her baby and to make him yours. What a load to carry. Can you do it? It's not until several days after you bring your baby home that you wake up and say, "I'm a mommy. I can do this. This is my child, born of my heart." Praise God.

Noah Samuel is our child, born of our hearts.

Joy "Hannah" and Brian "Elkanah" Wolfe

# Adventure club, Mother's Day, Abundant Springs, graduation

**Abbeydale (Calgary, Alta.):** Our church has an amazing community outreach through our Abbeydale Adventure Club, a kids' program that draws up to 35 children in Grades 1-6 to our church basement every Wednesday evening. They are taught and supervised by a committed group of adults and high school volunteers.

Junior leaders are also learning leadership skills and responsibility. The highlight of their year is a campout which was held at River's Edge Bible Camp May 9-11. Prayers were answered when the week of snow, rain and cold temperatures gradually gave way to a warm sunny weekend.

On Mother's Day Pastor Charles said that there were all kinds of mothers: some were good, some weren't, some were fun, others were strict, some were athletic, some were creative...no matter what our mother was like, our duty was described in Proverbs 23:25—"give your mother a reason to rejoice!" The congregation was invited to share stories about their mothers.

Al Matchett said that he had never considered his mother athletic, but with 16 children to run after, she must have been! Debbie Sandland shared that she came from a much smaller family of 13 children and what she admired most was her mother's prayer life; to this day she prays for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, by name, twice a day.

Lenny Anderson's mother, a Mennonite church member, went against tradition by marrying a French fellow and dancing with her in the kitchen. Dave Kowalchuk and Marilyn Kroeker both shared stories that illustrated their mother's sense of fun and adventure.

Andrew Polachuk expressed gratitude for a mother who encouraged his musical pursuits, attending countless recitals and concerts. The service concluded with a prayer of blessing.

On May 16 two large vans filled with an exuberant bunch as they set out on the exciting prairie drive to Briercrest Bible College in Caronport, Sask. In preparation, a fundraiser, *Friendship Café*, which has become a spring tradition, was held on May 2.

The cold and snow of a typical Calgary spring was left behind as we entered the African village that had been set up in the church basement. We enjoyed sumptuous desserts, entertainment, contests and an auction. One thousand dollars was raised, enabling costs to be kept down for the 24 teens, leader and sponsors who attended the conference.

On June 10 we gathered to celebrate the high school graduates. Decorations and centerpieces illustrated their widely varied interests. We enjoyed seeing pictures and hearing stories of the growing up years that the parents shared. We wish each one of them God's abundance as they start out on the next phase of their lives.

Brenda Dick



High school graduates celebrated on June 10 are (back) Christina Polachuk, Shaun Thiessen, Christina Teske, (front) Rachelle Reimer, Samantha Dijker and Karla Reimer. Missing are Carly Dyck and Haley Hauck.

## Drama and members

**Prairie Grove (Lorette, Man.):**



On Mother's Day, Bambi Bertholet (centre) entertained, challenged and comforted us with her musical presentation *The Prodigal's Mom*. Matilda Friesen (left) and Gaylene Dueck played supporting roles. The captivating 20-minute opera, characterized by insight as well as humour, relayed the succession of fear, faith and joy most likely expressed by the mother of the prodigal son.

Jolyn Braun



We were very excited to receive two members on Easter Sunday. Christie and Jim Netzlaw have become actively involved in our church family, bringing energy, enthusiasm and musical talent to our Sunday services and other activities. We also welcome their three sons, Stirling, Gabriel and Graham. Standing with Christie and Jim (right) are our pastoral couple Darnell and Emily Plett.

Tamara Koop



Rebecca Wall was baptised June 8 in Ootsa Lake. Pastor Henry is next to her.



Mike and Wendy Kelemen were baptised August 10 by pastor Henry Plett.

## Surviving at Ootsa Lake

**Burns Lake, B.C.:** This year family camp was held June 6-8 at Ootsa Lake bible Camp. The theme of the weekend was *Survivor*. Ron Rooker spoke about remaining strong in Christ in spite of how Satan tries to undermine us. He encouraged us to bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5).

On Sunday, Rebecca Wall gave her testimony and was baptised in chilly Ootsa Lake by Pastor Henry Plett. Deacon Mike Watson assisted.

August proved to be a very busy and exciting month for two-year attenders Wendy Ettinger and Mike Kelemen. They were married on Saturday, August 2, by Island Gospel's pastor, Henry Plett, and on Sunday, August 10, they were baptised and

became church members formally, after giving inspirational testimonies. Deacon Carl Wiebe assisted. Praise the Lord, the Kingdom continues to grow. Be encouraged!

Cole Clifford

## The Great Chasm

There was a rich man  
Who had treasures so grand  
There was nothing he couldn't afford  
But outside his gate  
Lies a poor man who waits  
To catch what is thrown from the door

When the beggar had died  
He was flown to Abraham's side  
Where he was comforted from all his pain  
Now the rich man is dead  
And with hot coals for his bed  
He found nothing to quench the flame

"Please let the poor man come  
And cool my hot tongue  
Then send him down to my father's place  
For if they heard from the dead  
What awaits them ahead  
They would surely turn from their ways"

Then Abraham said,  
"Even raised from the dead  
They would not be convinced to repent,  
Because they did not receive  
And refused to believe  
All the prophets that God had sent"

The man looked up in torment  
For his life had been spent  
On selfishness and pride  
Now he longs for relief  
But the chasm's too deep  
He is trapped on the other side

So act justly, love mercy  
Give a drink to the thirsty  
The Lord has shown you what to do  
But if we're like the rich guy  
Who shuts his ears to their cry  
We'll be shown no mercy too

Brigitte Toews

**Micah 6:8, Luke 16:19-31, Matt. 25:31-46, Matt. 5:7, Prov. 21:13**



## New members join

**Morris, Man.:**

Helen and Walter Hamm came to us from Crestview Fellowship in Winnipeg, Man. We heartily welcomed them as members at Morris Fellowship on June 29.

Betty Siemens



# Membership, missions, music

**Roseisle, Man.:** April 13, Palm Sunday, Roseisle EMC was delighted to welcome Tim and Kathleen Freeman as members. Tim grew up in Debert, Nova Scotia; Kathleen was raised in Killarney, Man. Both were raised in loving Christian homes; both were led to the Lord at an early age by an older sister.

Tim's first answered prayer occurred about a year later when his grandfather became a Christian. It made a lasting



Kathleen and Tim Freeman were received as members by transfer, while Saul (held by Kathleen) was dedicated. Jesse is held by Tim. Pastor Randall and Faith Krahn stand with them.

impression on him. Kathleen experienced growth in her faith and a settled assurance of her salvation while attending Turtle Mountain Bible Camp. She was baptised in the Bay Avenue Mennonite Church the last year of high school. Tim and Kathleen met at Providence College and married a few months after graduation in 1996. They have two sons, Jesse, 3, and Saul, who will be a year in summer.

Following a message titled *Breaking the Silence*, Pastor Randall Krahn led a parent-child dedication as Tim and Kathleen committed themselves to raising their son Saul in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Pastor Krahn pointed out that both church membership and parent-child dedication are steps to breaking the silence that modern culture would wish to enforce on us, to keep our faith private.

April 20 the congregation celebrated Easter with a sunrise service beside Stephenfield Lake. We faced east, seated in a clearing surrounded by craggy old oak trees, the lake to the north, Canada Geese honking in the distance. We listened to Pastor Randall speak about the empty tomb and the risen Jesus, and wondered what it would have been like to be beside the Lake of Galilee listening to Jesus preach. Later, a potluck brunch was enjoyed in the picnic shelter.

The month of March saw us challenged by mission reports and inspired by musical events. March 16 Peter and Kathy Friesen reported. They were returning to Mexico

the following week. Kathy described how they were called to mission work. Peter painted a picture of the need and their work. He also challenged us to give financially and to pray for missionaries, as a way we can reach out in love.

The Muddy River Quartet cheered our hearts with a rousing hour-long concert March 23. Singers Bill Rademaker, Mark Moore, Brock Johnston, Brady Johnston and sound man Randy Kelly led us in a joyful time of worship with renditions of *Jesus Gave Me a Song*, *There is a River*, *A Vessel of Mercy*, and many more. The refrain of *A Sinner Saved by Grace* was a moving finale to the morning service.

The following Sunday we were led in worship by Rick and Val Ross, local Roseisle musicians. Rick, a tenor, played electric guitar. Val, an alto, played the keyboard. Together they performed several songs composed by Rick, including *My Jesus, My Lord*.

April 6 the congregation heard a report about Uzbekistan and Mexico, by Ike and Lawanda Friesen over a four o'clock faspas. Ike, a dairy farmer from the Morden area said his November 2002, two-week mission trip to Uzbekistan was "the fulfillment of a life-time dream."

In January 2003 Lawanda went on an eight-day trip to Mexico with Samaritan's Purse. They told riveting stories of

conditions in each of the countries they visited. Of special interest was the contrast between an orphanage Ike visited in Uzbekistan where "they have nothing—no toys, no books, next to no clothes" and an orphanage Lawanda visited in Mexico run by Samaritan's Purse which she described as "a very well-run home."

April 27 we had the privilege of hearing Ryan Peters, son of Frank and Annie Peters, report on his year in CMU's School of Discipleship. He spoke about his work experience, helping to build four cement block houses, travel adventures and of spiritual growth.

He talked about his change in attitude toward street people, the surprising affect the *Day of Silence* had on him, grappling with difficult passages in the Bible, and writing a new mission statement. Ryan plans to attend CMU in the fall.

April 25 Roseisle EMC hosted a perogy supper, our version of the soup and pie fundraiser. The community signals approval by its attendance and hearty appetites. The Ladies' Fellowship Committee and the food committee spearhead the planning, headed by Elsie Loeppky and Delores Dyck respectively. However, the entire church pitches in to make the event a success, including men, women and youth. Seventeen hundred cottage cheese perogies were made and over 200 people were served. The funds raised are used to support mission projects.

Throughout the winter months and early spring, three home Bible study groups met weekly Wednesday evenings in the homes of Randall and Faith Krahn, Ben and Nancy Peters, and Brian and Elaine Friesen.

Nancy Peters



Ryan Peters visits some ruins in Honduras while in the School of Discipleship program connected with Canadian Mennonite University.

# Vacation Bible School in Pelly area



Laurel and Tim Schroder with children Joanna, Jesse and Rylan are returning to Papua New Guinea for missionary service among the Saniyo.



Vacation Bible School was held in Swan Plain and Pelly, Saskatchewan.

**Pelly, Sask.:** Pelly Fellowship Chapel conducted VBS at two locations in August. Swan Plain Hall was where the group gathered from August 4 to 8 with Connie Hamm as director and others from the church assisting. Attendance was good and the children were eager to learn. The chapel in Pelly is where the classes were held from August 11 to 15 with Dan and Twyla Johnson directing and different people from the church assisting. Attendance was not high but it was good, as were the lessons.

It was an extremely hot week and we were so thankful for the helpers that were young enough to keep their energy level up where it needs to be for instructing active children. In each case, a Friday afternoon program was held for parents and friends to attend. We trust the seed sown will bear fruit.

August 17, we had our Sunday school picnic at the Pelly Park. The regular a.m. worship service was held in the beautiful outdoors. Following a noon meal of hotdogs, salads and desserts, there was a variety of games for the children or anyone that felt young enough to take part. Ice-cream was then served amid sprays of water that began quite innocently and escalated to where it was only the most senior people who avoided, to varying degrees, getting doused to cool off. It was a fun time.

Friday, August 22, an appreciation evening and farewell was held for Tim and Laurel Schroder and family. It was a time of visiting, playing games and enjoying lunch. Schrodgers will be leaving in mid-September to continue church planting and translation work among the Saniyo people in Papua New Guinea. Their furlough was extended due to the adoption of Jesse and Joanna from Haiti. It took time to get the necessary paper work first, to get them here to the country of Canada and then for taking them out to PNG. We have very much appreciated having Schroders with us and wish them God's best as they continue in ministry.

Vivian Anfinson

## SOUTH AFRICAN LEADER VISITS EMC OFFICE!

Bishop Adonis, leader of the Reformed Church of Christ in South Africa, visited the EMC national office on September 16. He is visiting churches in Canada and the U.S. According to his itinerary, "he has been involved with Mennonite work in the Transkei region of South Africa since 1982. He has been a tireless promoter of education among African Indigenous Churches...."

Bishop Adonis met with Henry Klassen, former General Secretary who related to Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission; Lester Olfert, Foreign Secretary; and Len Barkman, current General Secretary.

(Editor)





**ARTHUR PLETT**

**FEBRUARY 18, 1934 – AUGUST 8, 2003**

How do we define Arthur Plett? He was born on February 18, 1934 in Giroux, Manitoba, or, as he often put it, “out behind the barn.”

He was the second of 11 children born to Abram and Annie Plett. When he spoke of his youth, many of his stories included his brother Stan and his best friend John Unger—two men who are now greeting him in heaven.

He loved school and loved learning, but at a fairly young age, he felt called to help his father manage the farm. Thankfully, he didn't let his lack of formal education hinder his lifelong learning. All of his children would agree that he was one of the wisest men we ever knew.

He married the love of his life, Margaret, on July 9, 1960. Shortly after that, they started a family. Over the next nine years, they had four children (Brad, Dwight, Heather, Cynthia), although in later life, Dad would be quick to correct you and say that he had seven (Sue, Lorna, Marcel). They spent the first seven years of their life together in Landmark, but their desire to help a new church drew them to Arden.

In addition to farming, Dad dedicated

much of his passion to Arden Community Bible Church. In the last few years, since moving to Gladstone, he and Mom found a home in Gladstone Christian Fellowship.

Dad waited many years to become a grandfather. He needed an excuse to buy a pony and he needed someone who would share his delight when new chicks or lambs were born. Nine grandchildren entered his life—seven of them got a chance to sit on his lap and tug on his eyebrows.

And that's the bare facts. If you think you know him now, you're mistaken. He marched to the beat of a different drum. He was unique, unconventional, and wouldn't have cared if you thought so. He had passion for many interests, and could engage in conversation on any subject from Tommy Douglas' politics to the nature of a sheep.

He might not agree with your opinion, but he would always listen, respect it, and allow it to impact his own thoughts. And he might just challenge you on it days later, after he'd processed it. His beliefs and opinions were always tempered by his deep love for and intimate knowledge of the Bible. It was never far away, though Mom often had to find it for him on the way to church on Sunday morning.

Some of the things that gave him great joy in the past few years were his trip to Europe, his weeks spent volunteering at a Bible school in Mexico, having coffee with his wife many times a day, visits from his children and grandchildren, and standing on his head whenever he reached a major milestone. He was looking forward to spending this week volunteering for Habitat for Humanity.

We hope you're standing on your head in heaven, Dad. We only wish we could see it.

*His family*

# Births

WIEBE – to Frank and Margaret Wiebe of Aylmer, Ont., a daughter, Ciera Mackenzie, on March 24, 2003.

TOEWS-THIESEN – to Rod Thiessen and Karen Toews of Steinbach, Man., a son, Liam Skye, on April 8, 2003.

FROESE – to Albert and Teresa Froese of Aylmer, Ont., a daughter, Delila Faith, on April 29, 2003.

LOEWEN – to Stan and Tara Loewen of Fisher Branch, Man., a son, Jermaine Destan Isaiah, born January 18, 1998 in Mandeville, Jamaica, arrived home May 8, 2003.

KLASSEN – to Abe and Sara Klassen of Straffordville, Ont., a daughter, Kayla Ann, on May 18, 2003.

FROESE – to Ben and Anna Froese of Leamington, Ont., a daughter, Morgan Taylor, on May 20, 2003.

WIEBE – to Andrew and Diana Wiebe of La Crete, Alta., a son, Shane Alexander, on May 22, 2003.

NEUFELD – to Jake and Mary Neufeld of Aylmer, Ont., a daughter, Nicole Fay, on May 23, 2003.

ZILINSKI – to Dan and Jodi Zilinski of Steinbach, Man., a son, Carter Scott, on May 26, 2003.

FRIESEN – to Nathan and Bobbie Jo Friesen of Steinbach, Man., a son, Parker Jay, on May 29, 2003.

WIEBE – to Ben and Lucy Wiebe of Courtland, Ont., a son, Ethan Lukas, on May 29, 2003.

GREEN – to Mark and Wendy Green of Teulon, Man., a son, Samuel Zacharay, on June 4, 2003.

CRITTENDON – to Kevin and Nadine Crittendon of Hudson Bay, Sask., a daughter, Charis Arianne, on June 11, 2003.

KRAHN – to Pete and Sue Krahn of Aylmer, Ont., a son, Marshall Peter, on June 28, 2003.

FEHR – to Pete and Eva Fehr of Leamington, Ont., a son, Cody, on July 6, 2003.

WAHL – to James and Mary Wahl of Winnipeg, Man., a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, on July 16, 2003.

# Weddings

KEHLER – KROEKER: Miguel Lance, son of Marv and Irene Kehler of Giroux, Man., and Joelene Ruth, daughter of Lorne and Helen Kroeker of Steinbach, Man., were married on June 14, 2003, at Bird's Hill Park, with Larry Plett of Kelowna, B.C., officiating. The couple lives in Niverville, Man.

DYCK – WIEBE: David Dyck and Anna Wiebe were married on June 21, 2003 at Leamington (Ont.) EMC, with Peter Reimer officiating. The couple lives in Leamington.

FRIESEN – KLASSEN: Daniel, son of Neil Friesen of Mount Salem, Ont., and Liona Klassen, daughter of Isaak and Margaret Banman of Aylmer, Ont., were married on June 21, 2003, at Waterworks Park in St. Thomas, Ont., with Menno Kroeker of Rosenort, Man., officiating. The couple lives in Aylmer.

FEHR – WIEBE: Peter, son of Susan Fehr of La Crete, Alta., and Martha, daughter of Bill and Maryanne Wiebe of La Crete, were married on June 22, 2003, at La Crete Christian Fellowship Church with Glen Koop of La Crete officiating. The couple lives in La Crete.

UNGER – WIEBE: Willy, son of John and Sara Unger of Leamington, Ont., and Kimberly, daughter of John and Mary Wiebe of Winnipeg, Man., were married on July 12, 2003 at Winkler (Man.) EMMC, with Layton Friesen of Winnipeg officiating. The couple lives in Leamington.

VERHAEGHE – GILLANDERS: Albert, son of Mary Verhaeghe of Roseisle, Man., and Karen Gillanders, daughter of Pam Vallant of Carman, Man., were married on July 26, 2003, at Roseisle EMC, with Randall Krahn of Roseisle officiating. The couple lives in Carman.

FLEURY – SIEMENS: Paul, son of Ray and Alice Fleury of Winnipeg, Man., and Janis, daughter of Ken and Rosemarie Siemens of St. Francois Xavier, Man., were married on August 30, 2003, at Shoenfelder Mennonite Church near St. Francois Xavier, with Vern Knutson of Winnipeg officiating. The couple lives in Winnipeg.

SCHROEDER – FRIESEN: Sheldon, son of Dave and Freda Schroeder of Steinbach, Man., and Kerri, daughter of Dennis and Louella Friesen of Kleefeld, Man., were married on July 11, 2003 at Kleefeld EMC with Darryl Klassen officiating. The couple lives in Steinbach.

# Shoulder Tapping

**Note: Because positions are numerous, short ads will appear. Please notify *The Messenger* when ads are not needed. An ad can be removed after two insertions unless prior arrangements have been made. Thank you. - Editor**

Pelly Fellowship Chapel (EMC) is looking for a full-time **lead pastor**. Pelly is a small rural community (300 people) in east-central Saskatchewan. The congregation averages 40 on Sunday mornings and is the only evangelical church in the community.

Please forward your resume or questions to the search committee by mail at Box 70, Pelly, SK S0A 2Z0 or phone Eugene Prokott at 306-595-2287, or email woodlandsigns@sasktel.net

Winkler MCC Thrift Store seeks a **full-time manager**. Should be self-motivated and willing to take initiative, while responding to the board's direction; willing to work as a team with assistant manager and volunteers; have inter-personal, leadership and management skills; be computer literate; display a firm commitment to accountability; and have a heart for justice and global understanding. Retail experience and interest is an asset, and the ability to speak Low German is desired, but not essential.

All MCC workers are to exhibit discipleship, active church membership, and non-violent peacemaking. Mail or drop off resumes at Winkler MCC Thrift Shop, Box 1774, 325-4 St., Winkler, MB R6W 4B6; or e-mail at mcsstore@mts.net Call 204-325-9770.

Abbeydale Christian Fellowship (EMC) of east Calgary, Alta., seeks an **associate pastor** with strengths in counselling, teaching and preaching. Duties also include mentoring lay leadership in existing youth and college and career ministries. ACF is medium-sized (180-220), a congregation seeking to disciple members and attendees, encourage their gifts and involvement, and to reach out to neighbourhood and families of church adherents. We have strengths in lay leadership and ministry. Needed are gifts and abilities complementary to the existing pastor and lay leadership. Submit resumes to Harold Friesen, search committee chairman at SearchCommittee@abbeydale.org Description, qualifications and background, duties and responsibilities are posted on our website at www.abbeydale.org.

Vanderhoof Christian Fellowship (EMC) seeks a **full-time senior pastor** to serve a growing congregation of about 170 people in the centre of British Columbia. Our congregation is blessed with a large number of young couples, college and career, and youth. Home care groups are a thriving ministry here. The applicant will be a team player and work with other staff. If you feel the Lord calling you, contact Ron Penner at 250-567-9983 or email at vcfemc@telus.net. Applications must be received by December 20, 2003.

A rural western Manitoba community church is looking for a **full-time lead pastor** with a special gift and passion for ministering to young people, and a strong vision for developing and maintaining small town community relations. Contact Dennis Friesen (council chairman) at 204-824-2208 or Leonard Plett (deacon) at 204-824-2475 or e-mail lplet@mb.sympatico.ca.

La Crete Christian Fellowship Church (EMC), in a thriving northern Alberta community, seeks a **full-time senior pastor**. LCCF also seeks an individual for **full-time youth ministry** who is gifted and called to lead and disciple a growing youth group.

Forward your resume to search committee, La Crete

Christian Fellowship, Box 385, La Crete, AB T0H 2H0; or email lccf@telusplanet.net. Contact John Bueckert at 780-928-2212 or email at bueckert@telusplanet.net.

Morris Fellowship Chapel (EMC) seeks a **youth leader** for a half-time position to direct youth group program. Expansion in this ministry could include post-secondary age group. Contact Pastor Ward Parkinson at Box 219, Morris, MB R0G 1K0. Call 204-746-2424.

Kola EMC, serving a small community in southwest Manitoba, seeks a **full-time youth pastor** to work primarily with a group of about 25 youth. Contact Len or Lori Koop at 204-845-2130, email lkoop@mts.net, fax 204-845-2098; or Harold or Cheryl Friesen at 306-646-4545.

Swift Current EMC seeks a **senior pastor**. Our congregation of approximately 180 consists of all age groups. Major areas of ministry include preaching, providing vision and developing leaders within the congregation. Contact search committee, 2150 Walker Street, Swift Current, SK S9H 4C1 or e-mail: emcsc@sasktel.net.

Pansy Chapel (EMC), a small rural church in southeastern Manitoba, seeks a **part-time senior pastor**. Send resume to search committee chairman Dylan Barkman, Box 25, Pansy, MB R0A 1J0. For information, phone 204-434-6370.

Wynyard Gospel Church (EMMC), located in southern Saskatchewan, seeks a **full-time pastor** with an appreciation for small-town, rural life. The congregation averages 40 to 50 on Sunday morning, and comes from various church and cultural backgrounds. Contact Dennis Dell, congregational chairperson, by phone 306-554-3117, fax 306-554-3118, or Box 371, Wynyard, SK S0A 4T0.

Riverton Gospel Chapel (EMC), a small rural town in Manitoba's Interlake, seeks a **half-time pastor**. This friendly and loving congregation has an average attendance of 75-100, with a high percentage of young families. The area provides other employment opportunities in various sectors, including farming and construction, and has good schools.

Contact Paul Peters, board chair, by mail: Box 356, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0, by e-mail: paul@vidir.com, or by phone: 204-378-2740 (home), 204-364-2442 (work).

Endeavour Fellowship Chapel (EMC), a warm, friendly congregation with 50 to 60 in attendance on Sunday morning, seeks a **pastor**. It is located in a small town/rural part of east-central Saskatchewan, between Yorkton and Hudson Bay.

The church is flexible both in standards for both candidate education and experience. As an evangelical church in town, it serves a wide range of people. Contact chairman of elders Neil Fenske at 306-547-4738 or Box 263, Endeavour, SK, S0A 0W0.

Fish Creek Christian Fellowship (EMC) in Calgary, Alta., is looking for someone or a couple to give **ministry leadership to our youth/college and career**. This is a self-supported position. Contact Garry Kornelsen, 55 Woodford Cres. SW, Calgary, AB T2W 4C6 or phone 403-281-3747.

Steinbach EMC in Steinbach, Man., seeks a **full-time lead pastor** to provide leadership to a team that includes an associate pastor and a youth pastor. The applicant must have previous pastoral experience. Forward resume to Henry Klassen, Box 996, Steinbach, MB R0A 2A0; Phone: 204-326-6068; E-mail: henryk2@mts.net.

Gimli Bible Camp seeks a full-time, year-round **camp director** with managerial experience, a strong background in Christian camping, ability to program events and work well with public, with an evangelistic passion especially for people from the inner city.

The camp has a strong summer ministry to children and youth and a year-round guest ministry. Salary to be negotiated.

Contact: CSSM Ministries Manitoba, 200-189 Henderson Hwy., Winnipeg, MB R2L 1L7. Phone 204-668-2776, fax 204-667-1496, or e-mail cssm@mts.net

## Church needs a pulpit?

A plywood pulpit, 46 inches high, 36 inches wide and 24 inches deep is available to be given to any church in need of it. Contact Jerry Plett, pastor of MacGregor EMC, MacGregor, Man., at 204-685-2677 or 204-685-2293.

## Coming Events

**Oct. 1-3**  
13<sup>th</sup> annual Winnipeg  
Prophecy Conference  
Victoria Inn  
Winnipeg, Man.  
Phone: 204-889-8088  
or 204-254-7843

**Oct. 16**  
Eden Foundation Banquet  
David Schroeder, speaker  
Altona EMMC  
Altona, Man.  
Phone: 866-493-6202

**Oct. 19**  
EMC Region 8 Praise  
Night  
Steinbach EMC, 7 p.m.  
Focusing on God's  
Greatness  
Phone: 204-866-3597

**Oct. 23**  
Eden Foundation Banquet  
David Schroeder, speaker  
Bethel Mennonite Church  
Winnipeg, Man.  
Phone: 866-493-6202

**Oct. 24**  
Eden Foundation Banquet  
David Schroeder, speaker  
Steinbach Mennonite  
Church  
Steinbach, Man.  
Phone: 866-493-6202

**Oct. 25**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Landmark, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

**Oct. 27**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Steinbach, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

**Oct. 28**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Otterburne, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

**Oct. 29**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Morris, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

**Oct. 30**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Altona, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

**Oct. 31**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Winkler, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

**Nov. 1**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Morden, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

**Nov. 4**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Brandon, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

**Nov. 5**  
Sunong: The Right to  
Machatau  
Wycliffe Dinner Theatre  
Swan River, Man.  
Phone: 800-708-2476

# The Monarch butterfly: the king of the insects

SEPTEMBER is a time of change. You head back to school because the calendar says it's time. Temperatures are cool. Plants and animals change too, to prepare for winter.

For the Monarch butterfly it is time to head south to a warmer climate because it cannot survive the cold, harsh winters. The Monarch knows the exact time to begin the

journey. It is the largest butterfly in Manitoba and is known as the king of the insects. It is famous for its long distance migration.

Every autumn Monarch butterflies swarm. This means

that millions of butterflies meet in one place and start out together on the journey south. They travel 3,200 km to Central Mexico where they rest and eat until late February, when they fly north for the summer. The journey takes two months. How do they do it?

To make the journey easier the Monarch will soar some of the way on air currents. This is like floating and letting the air take you in the direction you want to go. In this way the Monarch is able to fly 130 km a day.

The Monarch's life is divided into four stages. First is the egg stage. The female lays hundreds of eggs in grassy areas where milkweed grows. Milkweed is a poisonous plant. When the newly hatched larva, the caterpillar, eats it, it becomes poisonous for its predators. This is its protection. Every day the caterpillar will eat its own weight in milkweed leaves. It grows quickly.

When the caterpillar is 10 cm long, it stops eating. It sticks to the underside of a protective branch and hangs upside down. As it hangs from the branch it becomes hard, shiny and green. Now it is a chrysalis.

The chrysalis hangs from the branch 5-15 days. Then it splits open and a new orange and black Monarch emerges. The newly hatched butterfly sits on the branch for two hours until its wings are dry. It cannot fly while it is wet.

So, as you head back to school to start a new year, the Monarch begins its long journey to Mexico. Look for its return when the snow has melted and spring is here again.

## MORE MONARCHS

1. Unscramble the names of the seven monarchs, *kings and queens from the Bible*, below.
2. Write them in the blanks.
3. Next write out the letters in the numbered blanks in order at the bottom to find out which name means *star*.

ojerambo \_\_\_\_\_ 5 6

alus \_\_\_\_\_

vaddi \_\_\_\_\_

reetsh \_\_\_\_\_ 3

mlsonoo \_\_\_\_\_ 2

haba \_\_\_\_\_ 4

beezjel \_\_\_\_\_ 1

1 2 3 4 5 6



*Do you have a story for The Personal Touch? It must be a true account (although names may be changed, if necessary) illustrating the Christian life or character. Send your 700-word story and a photograph of yourself or suggestion for a story to the address below.*