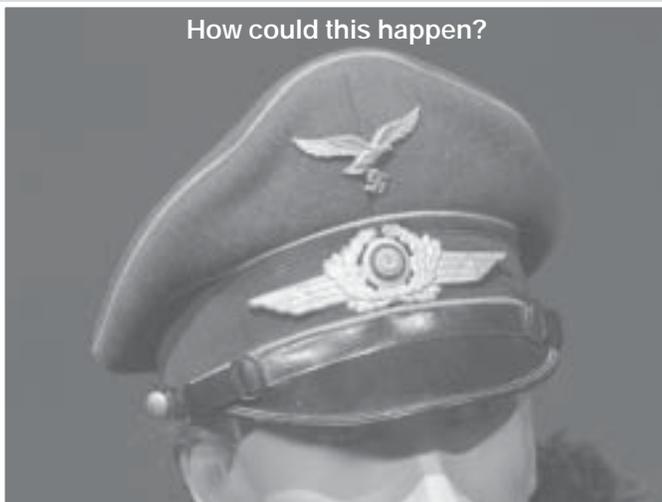


The Messenger



**Abe Warkentin
provides thoughts on
Remembrance Day 2003**



What would young people do today
if Canada was attacked?

How could Germany have
supported Adolf Hitler?



EVANGELICAL MENNONITE CONFERENCE
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Soldiers, pastors and missionaries

“WHAT soldier serves at their own expense?” Paul asked (1 Cor. 9:7).

The apostle Paul often supported himself as a tent-maker. He did this to avoid criticism, to not be a burden, and to be a positive work model (1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Cor. 11:9 and 12:14; 1 Thess. 2:9; 2 Thess. 3:6-10).

Yet Paul within these passages defends the right of people who labour in the gospel to be supported financially.

As a conference, we need to continue to grapple with fair financial support for ministers and missionaries.

Not all churches need full-time pastors. A multiple-leadership, tent-maker practice can serve in many places. This hasn't been taught or practiced enough in some regions. Tent-making is honourable.

If, though, people are expected to carry out pastoral work to where it limits their ability to provide for their family, churches should either reduce their expectations or

fairly compensate pastors.

We shouldn't pay a part-time salary and expect full-time effort. It is also helpful if we allow for talk about money and ministry without mistaking it for greed, a lack of faith, or being uncommitted. If talk about money is unspiritual, then many EMCers who are farmers, teachers, housewives, and business people live quite unspiritual lives!

Rather, it can be improper *not* to talk about money. Stewardship involves the proper use of what we are entrusted with. This is a matter of fairness, of spending as well as of saving.

And what about benefits and pensions for ministers and missionaries? Waiting for a reward in heaven is unhelpful when you face bills on earth.

Our EMC churches and national boards have taken steps to address inequities for pastors and missionaries. There is more to be done.

Terry M. Smith

Nuclear weapons, a continuing concern

REMEMBRANCE DAY is past, but the horror of nuclear weapons remains.

Nuclear weapons are today much advanced from those dropped August 6 and 9, 1945, on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Many Christians are concerned about nuclear arms. Here, pacifists and non-pacifists should find common ground.

In February 2001, I strongly opposed an American proposal of a Ballistic Missile Defense System. After September 11, a reader thought that I should retract my statements. However, serious concerns remain about nuclear weapons, the BMDS, and U.S. influence on nuclear disarmament.

There is only one super-power on the planet and its military might is unequaled in human history. As Canadian senator Douglas Roche says in his book *The Human Right to Peace* (Novalis, 2003), the U.S., which sets the pace for nuclear disarmament, has pulled back from significant treaties.

When a nation that protects its massive nuclear arsenal seeks at the same time to dissuade other countries from acquiring such weapons, the double-standard is not lost on many observers.

While the Ballistic Missile Defense System is to protect against weapons, there remains concern that it could be a catalyst for another arms race. If a rich nation with the most powerful military in the world seeks to better protect itself, how will smaller, poorer nations protect themselves when they can't afford such a defense system? By purchasing or developing more weapons.

EMCers disagree on whether nations must protect themselves and to what extent Christians can be involved in such uses of force. Regardless, nuclear weapons and the Ballistic Missile Defense System take discussions about self-defense to a different level.

Scripture says the Lord is concerned about making wars to cease—breaking the bow, cutting spears, and burning chariots (Ps. 46:9).

Surely, then, the Lord's people should be concerned about nuclear weapons, which can destroy the world He created and seeks to redeem. There is no place in God's world for them.

Terry M. Smith

The Messenger

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Terry M. Smith



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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.

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Thoughts on Remembrance Day 2003

Abe Warkentin

IN A callous moment, I could say what good fortune I had to be born in 1944 and north of the 49th parallel to boot! Not only did I miss World War Two but Vietnam as well. I'm too old now ever to be called up and the battles I face in the future will more likely involve cholesterol, arthritis and devaluated mutual funds. No gripping tales of hand-to-hand combat there.

But I couldn't be so callous. I grew up in a Mennonite home where the horrors of the Russian Revolution and the Soviet reign of terror weren't very distant memories, and I knew the privilege of living in Canada was never to be taken lightly.

Faith of our fathers

I was taught Mennonite history with an emphasis on non-resistance quite thoroughly in elementary school, and we memorized the German Catechism front to back several years in a row. On Remembrance Day in elementary school I can remember being marched down Main Street, Steinbach, Man., (fortified with cracklings and oatmeal, I'm sure) to the Mennonite church. I can remember singing *Faith of our Fathers* but I wonder whether we sang it in honour of soldiers or Mennonite martyrs.

The questions that I couldn't yet formulate in elementary school weren't much of an issue in high school, where we didn't have a Mennonite focus and forum for inquiring minds on subjects such as these. Pictures in family photo albums of both my grandfathers serving in alternative service in Russia, frightening stories of the anarchist/bandit Machno ravaging the Mennonite villages and the intriguing story of the *Selbstschutz* (Mennonites who fought in self defense), however, stoked a growing interest in my faith, particularly as to how it had played out under

pressures of war.

Since then I have read everything I have found on the subject, and there is a lot, but it is rarely where it should be found—in the church and community libraries. Some of the best stories are accounts of personal experiences but printed only in German. *Die Heimat in Truemern* (The Homeland in Ruins) by Gerhard Toews is one example.

There are strong, modern voices as well. Some of Frank H. Epp's passionate concern for the Anabaptist vision in a contemporary world comes through in a booklet entitled *The Glory and The Shame* published in 1967. These are editorials from *The Canadian Mennonite* from the time he was editor of that magazine. "Non-resistance," he stated in one editorial 36 years ago, "is rapidly becoming a four-letter word."

A different, but also very strong voice is that of Siegfried Bartel of Agassiz, British Columbia. In spite of historic Mennonite teaching against participation in the military, Bartel joined the German Army in 1937. Twice wounded, he was given the Iron Cross for valour and leadership.

In his book *Living with Conviction* (CMBC, 1994) Bartel writes of how he participated in the attack on Poland on September 1, 1939, by directing cannon fire at the Polish Army in the front trenches. Perhaps his most moving account is of how he ordered the execution of a partisan in 1943 and then experienced his darkest hour, becoming, finally, a tireless advocate of the way of peace as the only alternative to war.

Highlights of all the three books mentioned could be—no, should be!—included in a new publication with other stories about Mennonites and war for our church libraries and Sunday school material.

Gott mit uns?

It is hard in peacetime to imagine the forces at play at a time of war. You can get a feel for it on Remembrance Day if you attend a service and see the veterans march and hear the *Last Post* for those who have died. John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields* touches me deeply every time I hear it.

I was in the Kildonan Mall in Winnipeg in early November and studied the exhibit set up by the Transcona Historical Museum

Abe Warkentin is former editor of *The Carillon*, an English language community newspaper; and of *Die Mennonitische Post*, an international newspaper for German-speaking Mennonites. He has produced several books on Steinbach and Mennonites in Latin America. He and his wife Myrna attend Steinbach EMC.



How could this happen?



Legion. I was immediately intrigued by German war memorabilia and, in particular, by a German soldier's belt buckle inscribed with the words *Gott mit uns* (God with us) and just below, in relief, the Nazi insignia.

I had seen pictures of these belt buckles in photos, but never in actuality and it gave me a bit of a jolt. *Gott mit uns*. Period. With Hitler, through Poland and into the bowels of Europe and then the rest of the world, leaving millions dead and destroying families for generations to come? Then *Gott mit uns* along in the train cars carrying more millions to their deaths in concentration camps?

The Winnipeg exhibit showed a 1940s community totally caught up in the war effort, and I wondered, would our young men and women today seek conscientious status if Canada was at war with an enemy that actually threatened our shores and way of life? Could they resist the tremendous pressures that would be brought on them to enlist?

I think of my three, young grandsons this Remembrance Day and wonder how they will handle issues such as these.

Many mornings I go for early walks down our country road. Sometimes, around 7:30 a.m., I meet a bus that stops on the road to pick up little children for the huge, new charismatic church's school on the outskirts of Winnipeg.

I wonder, are these blond little Friesens and Penners that are being picked up? Very likely. So, why is this happening? Why aren't these children going to Mennonite schools? Is it, perhaps, because we're in a transition period where we are busy dropping

our Mennonite "baggage" in exchange for the simpler American Sunday school material, Power Point and praise bands?

Dachau

I traveled to Germany some years ago, not only to see at least a few parts of one of the most fascinating countries in the world, but to try and understand the people.

I had read the historical reasons for Germany's involvement in two world wars, of course, but there was something more that dry, historical facts couldn't pass on. Quite simply, though inadequately put: How could a country that could produce some of the world's greatest

musicians, writers and thinkers also support someone like Adolf Hitler?

After renting a car at Frankfurt Airport and following semi-trailers in the slow lane on the Autobahn for half a day, I got to Dachau, wondering all the while how, once in the city, I would ask about the location of the World War Two concentration camp. After all, this isn't Disneyland and America.

The site of the Dachau camp wasn't all that hard to find. The former camp headquarters is a museum today. A woman in a shop gave me directions. If you go there this summer, you can see the entrance with the large iron gate and the still mocking words *Arbeit macht frei* (work liberates).

Over 30,000 people died at Dachau and Col. William W. Quinn of the 7th U.S. Army called Dachau "one of history's most gruesome symbols of inhumanity."

Dachau was Germany's first concentration camp and it was established because German jails were overflowing with people the Nazis didn't much like. Eichmann spent time here before building Auschwitz. Another familiar figure was Dr. Siegmund Rascher, who performed gruesome experiments on inmates, freezing people, then warming them up, for example, supposedly to see how these findings could help the airforce.

Did he hate Jew and non-Aryans? To the contrary, say people. He just wanted to get his Ph.D., and reportedly would have received it with distinction if his infertile wife hadn't been arrested for stealing babies.

And there, perhaps, is at least part of the explanation to how common Germans could have indirectly, at least, supported Adolf Hitler. Dr. Rascher just wanted his Ph.D. And the next man wanted to feed his family and the next was just obeying orders, and the next...

Dachau is also the camp where Pastor Martin Niemoeller, who initially supported the Nazis, ended up in 1938. He wrote the following famous words, translated from German:

When the Nazis arrested the Communists, I said nothing;
after all I wasn't a Communist.

When they locked up the Social Democrats, I said nothing;
after all I was not a Social Democrat.

When they arrested the trade unionists, I said nothing;
after all, I was not a trade unionist.

When they arrested the Jews, I said nothing;
after all I wasn't a Jew.

When they arrested me, there was no longer anyone who could protest. ■



With Our Missionaries

Thailand

Sawadee ka! and Sawadee kup!

Hello. *Sawadee ka!* from Elvira and *Sawadee kup!* from Elmer. In Thai, genders use different endings for all greetings. We are alive and doing well. Thanks so much for praying for us.

We have felt God's guidance and leading so directly. At times we just had to step back and stand in awe at his provision. God has confirmed to us over and over again that this is where he wants us for now.

Once we saw this house, 195/186 Moobaan Tanawan, we just had a feeling we were at home. It has three bedrooms so we can host people overnight. It has a study which is now our temporary SIM office. We are thankful to be basically set up in our home. Some furnishings were provided, others we were able to buy from folks leaving Thailand. We went to the shops, market and regular, for the rest of our necessities.

We are driving a charcoal-colored '93 Mitsubishi Lancer. After riding for two weeks on *tuk tuk* (a three-wheeled, two-passenger motorcycle with a roof) and *sawngthaews* (a small pick-up truck with two rows of bench seats down the sides), we are very grateful to have our own transportation. We had actually hoped not to buy a vehicle but it was required by the location of our home.

Living in Nigeria for 13 years helped prepare us for this location. We had

forgotten how hot it is in the tropics. Having aged by 16 years probably makes a difference as well. We have installed fans in every room. The bedrooms have air conditioning, but we likely won't use it too much because of the cost. We are enjoying delicious

tropical fruits. Driving with right hand steering on the left hand side of the road is not as bad as we thought, though Elvira hasn't tried it yet.

This will be a good base to host people and to work from as we travel and relate to our personnel in three countries.

We had our first supper company a week after moving with a couple working in China who hosted Elmer's team in 2003. In November we'll be traveling to Bangkok and taking a



Elvira and Elmer Warkentin (Steinbach EMC) moved to Thailand from Canada in fall. They continue to serve in administrative work with SIM. Prior to their administrative work in Canada and Thailand, they served in Nigeria for 13 years.

breather in southern Thailand. In December we want to do some concentrated Thai language learning. We would appreciate your prayers.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new home in Chiang Mai. Just make sure we will actually be at home before you book your flights.

Elmer and Elvira Warkentin

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: Feb. 7-20, 2004
Application Deadline, Nov 30
Cost: \$2,100 approximately

For information and application forms contact:

Lester Olfert
EMC Foreign Secretary
204-326-6401
or lolfert@mts.net



Delegates, ministerial members, remember these meetings!

EMC Ministerial Meeting December 5, 2003

Fort Garry EMC
602 Pasadena Ave.,
Winnipeg, Man.

Theme: **How to be Socially Relevant and Biblically Faithful**
Presentations will be made

EMC Conference Council Meeting December 6, 2003

Crestview Fellowship
271 Hamilton Ave.,
Winnipeg, Man.

Reporting by boards
Special two-hour focus:
**Rebuilding the Relationship
between the Christian Church
and First Nations Peoples
in Canada**

Panelists:



Larry Wilson, pastor,
First Nations Community Church,
Winnipeg



David Pashe, instructor,
Assiniboine Community College,
Brandon



Stella Neff, retired educator
and now pastor's wife,
Grand Rapids

For information,
phone 204-326-6401.

Place of Refuge

It began as a dream several years ago. Others shared the dream, and on August 2, 2003, it became a reality—a centre for *High Refuge Ministry*, a ministry for people in Paraguay living with HIV/AIDS. The house is located almost directly in front of the government hospital that attends to these people.

For a month, every effort was made to prepare the place for the big inauguration event. Many donations came in, and people gave their time to make the place ready. The day, September 13, arrived with a bustle of final activities. Decorations, food and a hundred other details needed attention, but there was no lack of willing hands.

With beautiful weather and everything ready, the guests arrived. We were honoured to have a visit from Gloria, Paraguay's First Lady. She asked to speak and shared very eloquently of her personal faith in Christ and her desire to serve Him. An even greater honour for me was to have my parents, Dr. John and Clara Schmidt, with us. Fifty-three years ago, they opened a hospital to help people with leprosy, so this new venture is exciting for them. Mom did the honours by cutting the ribbon to officially open the centre.

The program included other talks and presentations. A viewing of the house, food, and visiting followed this.

What is the *Place of Refuge*? To understand, peek in. On Monday, we have two hours to seek the Lord's presence; otherwise, we open the game at 8 a.m. There are already some people waiting to enter. There are people who have been with their relative in the hospital for the whole night, and are tired and hungry. Others have come early to consult with the doctor or do an analysis.

Judy and volunteers set out breakfast. Another volunteer counselor goes to the hospital and the national AIDS office to see who is still around and if there are new people to talk to. We bring them to the *Place* for orientation and counselling. We have flyers prepared that we hand to many people. Throughout the day people call or drop in. There is much laughing and crying.

At mid-morning we pause for singing, a Scripture meditation, and prayer. Volunteer cooks are preparing lunch, and whoever is around at noon is invited to share in a simple meal. At any time the beds are available, one room for men and another for women.

Some administrative board members come to plan fund-raising activities and interviews for radio or television. Special events such as cooking classes are being offered.

Three o'clock comes too soon and it's

time to close. If it's Tuesday, the support group begins to meet at 4 p.m. and goes for about three hours. This is the central activity for the whole week, where we get together to share. We hear lots of stories of pain and discrimination, but also stories of blessing and restoration.

We seldom go straight home after closing the *Place*. Sometimes we meet with the board or volunteers. Sometimes we make the rounds in the hospital or in the city to take care of business. But in everything, the *Place* is now the hub of *High Refuge Ministry*. For people who can read Spanish, check the website www.altorefugio.org. Be blessed!

Dave and Judy Schmidt



Judy and Dave Schmidt (Roseisle) are involved in ministry in Paraguay to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Mexico

Missionary staff retreat held

On August 25–29, we were involved in a Mexico missionary staff retreat at Santo Tomas, Chihuahua state.

What a wonderful week this was! Missionaries Peter and Kathy Friesen, Alvira Friesen, Cathy Thiessen, Peter and Anne Wiebe, Lynnette Froese, Scott and Elisa Peters, Elvira Hamm, and Peter and Martha Doerksen met at Santo Tomas with speaker Jean Barsness for an absolutely wonderful time of refreshment and challenge.

God spoke so powerfully through the teachings Jean had prepared: Psalm 63—*To Know, to Follow, to Praise*. In our pilgrim journey (in truth, we have no home here on earth), our hearts' continual desire should be to: First, to know Him more intimately—to pray for a craving to know Him. Second, to follow Him more fully—

abiding, dwelling, and meditating in silence for us to be alone with God. Third, to praise Him continually—prepare to be in His presence, cleansed.

She used some quotes from Joseph Sowell: *Starting out as a follower is the easy step; staying with Him on the road is the challenge.*

Learning is a temporary assignment. Following is a lifetime challenge.

But we did more than just listen to our speaker. The week was filled with singing, prayer for each other, meditation. There was much laughter, food and games. This retreat was a terrific opportunity for us to get to know each other—a few were new arrivals—and support each other in our respective ministries. Peter and I are so blessed to serve with this Mexico team.

Martha Doerksen



EMC missionary staff in Mexico gathered for a retreat.

More first steps for North End Community Church

Greetings in the name of the One who is at work building His church in Winnipeg's North End!

On October 12 North End Community Church gathered for worship in the multi-purpose room at Inner City Youth Alive (ICYA is the ministry that we are partners with) for the first time. During the year prior to this we had been holding services with a small group of believers in our home.

Although this new worship area was more spacious, there was still a sense of homey intimacy as we worshiped together there for the first time. Our chairs were arranged in a circle with a white Christ candle and an offering basket on a table in the center. We sang worship choruses led by a young

rousing fashion; we sang God's praises with musical accompaniment provided by kids and youth of our congregation playing various toy horns and percussion instruments. Sol and his guitar made a valiant effort to keep us in tune and on rhythm. Following the service we enjoyed a potluck supper. We are looking forward to continued growth as we use the great facility ICYA has made available to us.

Now I will share with you some highlights of the past year for Amie and I in this church plant. We have been blessed to grow in our friendships with many people here in the North End. Relationships have developed through playing football with youth, coffee with adults, and meals at our house with families. We also led a community garden with a few neighbors again this summer. As these relationships deepen we learn from and are encouraged by our friends; we also have opportunities to encourage and disciple them.

Pray that God would give us love, wisdom and sensitivity as we seek to model Christ to our friends in the church and in the neighborhood.

This summer we as a church began to meet for our first congregational meetings.

Together we discuss choices we need to make as a church and work toward decisions. Since our group needed more space to meet in order to grow, we decided to find a facility in the area where we can hold our services; we decided on the ICYA building.

We have also been working to choose a name for the church. The name the church has chosen for itself is *North End Community Church*. Please continue to pray for love, unity, and purpose in this church.

In August we had a church picnic planned by two young men from the congregation. We met in a nearby park for a worship service, a barbecue, and games.



Andrew Reimer serves drinks at North End Community Church's Thanksgiving potluck.

man named Sol, who lives down the street from Amie and me. During our sharing and prayer time we focused on giving thanks to God.

In my message for that day I told the story of King David leading the people of Israel in celebrating the delivery of the ark of God into Jerusalem and a new place of worship (1 Chronicles 15 and 16). This was an occasion for Israel to give thanks to God and celebrate his goodness.

That Sunday, we as a church had several reasons to thank and celebrate God. Not only was it Thanksgiving Sunday, we also had a new place of worship and October 12 marked one year and one week since our very first worship gathering. Using the story of David's musical parade celebration as inspiration, we closed the service in a



Amie and Andrew Reimer are church planters in the North End of Winnipeg, Man. They serve the EMC, EMMC, CMC and ICYA.

As leaders, Amie and I want to see this church grow larger in numbers, but we also want to see it grow deeper in commitment and spiritual maturity. We have begun to lead a twelve-week Christian Living class that will help believers in the church to grow in their understanding of Christian faith, and in their lives as followers of Jesus.

Amie and I meet with one woman for the adult class. I also lead a class with a group of four teenage boys, all of whom are junior leaders at ICYA.

It is a blessing to teach young Christians who are eager to learn and to grow in their life of faith. Amie and I, together with one or two other more mature believers in the church, will seek to begin one-on-one mentoring relationships with the class participants. Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this class as we seek to make disciples.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Andrew and Amie Reimer



The October 12 service was North End Community Church's first to take place at Inner City Youth Alive.

With Our Churches

Welcome to Aberdeen, Adam!



Adam Robinson

Aberdeen (Winnipeg, Man.): On September 14, Aberdeen congregation received Adam Robinson into membership. On this day, Adam was also commissioned as Aberdeen's new pastor. Conference pastor David Thiessen was our speaker.

Adam first began worshipping with Mennonites when he was attending the University of Calgary, not far from his hometown of Cochrane. After finishing

university with a B.A. degree, Adam pastored the youth group at Foothills Mennonite Church in Calgary for five years.

The Foothills congregation encouraged Adam to explore ministry as a vocation and so it was that he moved to Elkhart, Indiana, with his wife Michelle, to study at the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Sadly, Michelle fell ill and died near the end of their first year there. In his grieving, Adam was fortunate to receive the strong support and care of the students and staff at AMBS.

Adam went on to earn his Master of Divinity degree at AMBS. Two years ago, he moved to Winnipeg in search of more Mennonites. He visited Mennonite churches, worked as a Mennonite chaplain at the University of Manitoba and worked in the human resources department at Mennonite Church Canada. This spring, another group of Mennonites was found at Aberdeen church.

When I asked Adam about his hopes and dreams for Aberdeen and his new job in leading the congregation, he spoke of a healthy community. He spoke of people

coming together, talking openly about their differences, making room for those differences, and avoiding "groupthink." He talked about Jesus as someone who embraced people where they were at, but at the same time critiqued the attitudes, boundaries and systems of his society in his day.

Aside from his obvious passion for a healthy church community, Adam takes an interest in playing squash and plays mostly at the University of Winnipeg. He is currently dating a good friend, Karen, with whom he shares cross-country skiing as a common interest. Another interest, one that also leans toward duty, is that of fixing up an older home which Adam purchased in Winnipeg's west end.

We, at Aberdeen, are looking forward to getting to know Adam, along with all of his unique offerings. As David Thiessen encouraged us from Matthew 3:17, we hope to work together as daughters and sons of God, motivated by God's love and the knowledge that God is already well-pleased with each of us.

Liz Plett

Life continues in a country church

Treesbank, Man.: After serving us as pastor, Anthony Reimer has returned to teaching. Daryl Friesen moved in with 11 guys in Brisbane, Australia, to play his guitar in a sound-proof room. Keith Murray's mom moved to Wawanesa from Neepawa.

As a church family we met at Spruce Woods, where it rained, and the kids heard a story about love as told by Luella Plett. A small group of children learned about sowing seeds of love and kindness at day camp in Treesbank.

Recently Kenton Penner talked to us about bringing all things together under one head, namely Jesus Christ. Ty Friesen fell off the back of a moving truck while counselling at Steeprock. Jeff Friesen went all the way to Long Bow to be kept awake by a cabin full of teens. Anna Plett followed some of her children to Portage and stayed there.

And so life continues in a small country church. The Lord has richly blessed us and is continuing to do so. Praise Him!

Anita Friesen

Susan and Anthony Reimer
(Messenger)



At Spruce Woods, the church gathered and kids heard a story told by Luella Plett.

Mortgage and minister



Pastor Mike Plett shredded the church's mortgage on April 27.

We have already enjoyed several challenging sermons by Vic and we wish their family God's blessings as they continue to serve.



Victor and Eileen Engbrecht were ordained as a minister couple on April 27. Their children are David, Rachel, Jessica and Johanna.

Landmark, Man.: An exciting celebration at Prairie Rose was the shredding of our church mortgage. We began construction of the current building in 1991, and now 12 years later could praise the Lord that it was paid for. This service took place on April 27.

Alvin Plett reported on the history of our church since it began in 1919. Arnold Reimer gave us a financial report. Harold Barg led us through the actual construction of the present church building. Heather Plett brought greetings from her father, former pastor Edwin Plett.

Then, as a congregation, we sang songs of praise and representatives from the various committees shredded the documents.

At the end of the ceremony, Denis Keating presented the plans for the new church addition. We ran out of Sunday school space and to address that problem, the membership voted to add on to our existing structure.

The addition is approximately 2,000 square feet and will house five large Sunday school classrooms as well as a small kitchen and an open area that will seat about 150 people for smaller services and functions. We want to give thanks to God for his faithfulness in continuing to work in and build both the individuals and the actual church building at Prairie Rose.

Following the mortgage shredding in the Sunday morning service, we had a fellowship lunch at the church so everyone could stay for the next exciting service. At Prairie Rose, we have a plural leadership team, meaning that a team of ministers and deacons heads



The church's new addition, shown as of August 2003, is 2,000 square feet.

the spiritual direction of our church. We are therefore dependent upon lay people to answer the call of God to serve on this ministerial team.

So, on April 27, we were excited to ordain Victor and Eileen Engbrecht. Harvey Plett spoke and encouraged them to "read, read, read" as they began this new ministry. Vic and Eileen had been a deacon couple, and so were not new to the ministerial, but now as ministers their job description has changed. They have four children, David, Rachel, Jessica and Johanna, and are excited to serve the Lord and the church in this way. We have already enjoyed several challenging sermons by Vic and we wish their family God's blessings as they continue to serve.

I will close by finishing the quote from Colossians: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him" (3:17).

Deidre Plett

VBS and pastoral changes

Creighton, Sask.: Vacation Bible School was held from August 18 to 22, with the theme *Son Harvest Country Fair*. We had about 40 children enrolled from the community and most attended all five days. The church was decorated with a large backdrop of a country scene, complete with round bales, corn stalks, farm animals, and a life-sized scarecrow.

Each day began with singing led by Deb Odegaard. Following this, the children were introduced to Uncle Zeke (Dale Warkentin), Auntie Opal (Janelle Hacault), Annie (Heaven Young), and T.J., Annie's cousin from the city (Tiffany Lazar).

Children watched as this family prepared their entries for the Country Fair and encountered all sorts of problems. Each day featured one of the first five fruits of the Spirit. After a Bible story, the children divided into age groups for handiwork—games and a craft—and a snack.

Janice Imrie was coordinator for the week. Many others helped as leaders of groups and crafts, kitchen help, decorators, and a scarecrow maker. After the morning session on Friday, we had a good turnout of parents for a program and lunch.

August 24 was a special time in our congregation and in the Flin Flon Mennonite Brethren Church. After 19 years in Flin Flon, Dale and Marge Warkentin had their last service before moving to Carman, Man., to take up a new assignment. For the past two and a half years, we have appreciated having them as our pastoral couple and their contributions to the life of our church.

A joint farewell service was held in the Flin Flon church on August 24, followed by a fellowship meal. We now have a joint interim pastor until next August. Alex and Carla Suderman arrived in time to help at VBS, and an induction service was held on August 24.

Margaret Moorhead



Auntie Opal, T.J., Uncle Zeke, and Annie—a family that encountered problems as they prepared their entries for the country fair. The actors are Janelle Hacault, Tiffany Lazar, Pastor Dale Warkentin, and Heaven Young.



Pastoral couple Marge and Dale Warkentin stand beside the scarecrow at the closing of VBS.



Marge and Dale Warkentin served the Flin Flon Mennonite Brethren Church as pastoral couple for 19 years and for the past two and a half years also served Northern Fellowship Chapel in Creighton. They have moved to Carman, Man., in further pastoral ministry.



Carla and Alex Suderman are serving as interim pastoral couple at NFC.

What you won't and will see here



Sorry, there's much about the Region 8 Praise Night held October 19 at Steinbach EMC that you won't see here.

You won't see host pastor Camden Rempel read from Psalm 92, which speaks of making music before God with instruments and singing. Or watch Anola pastor John Cosens guide the evening.

You'll miss Anola Fellowship Chapel's skit in which people ponder whether selfishness interferes with a Christian's prayer life. And there's no photo of singing by Laurel Plett, Melanie Plett, and Crystal Rempel of Fort Frances, Ont.

These photos don't tell of \$872 given to help a sister church at Caaguazu, Paraguay, to purchase musical equipment. You won't see Hans Rahn close in prayer. And there's more that's missing.

But you will catch a glimpse of how some churches and Steinbach Bible College got in on the event.

Terry M. Smith



Steinbach EMC: That Rob Hildebrand! With his silent screen musical style, he made adults laugh harder than the children did. Rob nearly turned the story of David's killing of Goliath into a fun event. Not many soldiers have reported in saying, "Conscientious Objector, sir!"



Blumenort: Ed Johnson and daughter Rachel sang *There is a Redeemer* and *My Redeemer Lives*.



Kleefeld: Don and Wannetta Fast, and James Fast sang *Send Your Power*.



Prairie Grove: Dora Koop, Trish Reimer, and Bambi Berthelet sang.



Stony Brook: Jillian Harder acted out the thoughts and feelings of a soldier who crucified Christ.



Steinbach Bible College: The college chorale sang *Ipharadisi* (In Paradise) in Zulu and moved in praise to God.



Steinbach EMC: Carol Dyck, Sharon Sagnes, Jacqueline and Steve Friesen, and Neil Klippenstein praised the Lord.



Prairie Rose: Vic and Eileen Engebrecht and Deb and Tim Rogalsky sang that *God is so Good* and *His Mercy Endures Forever*.

(photos by editor)

A needed emphasis on mental health

I just got a copy of the October 22 EMC *Messenger* on my desk and wanted to commend *The Messenger* and its editorial staff for giving mental health the primary emphasis in this issue. The relationship between our mental health and our spiritual health is intimately connected which is why it is so important for the church to look closely at how it can more effectively support those in our midst who deal with significant mental health issues.

It is only through personal and corporate exposure and education on mental health and illness issues that we can help break down the stigma that still surrounds this disease. Thank you for giving voice to a concern that will directly affect one in five of us during our lifetime.

James Friesen
Eden Health Care Services
Winkler, Man.



STUDENTS MEET AT CMU! Terry Smith, executive secretary and editor, spoke to EMC students and staff at Canadian Mennonite University on September 24. He said that we need to gently face our questions, should not pit Anabaptism and evangelicalism against each other, and must refuse to choose between evangelism and social justice.

(photo by Gerald Reimer)



Announcing the 4th annual Women's EMCup January 23-24, 2004 Rosenort (Manitoba) arena

To register as a team or as an individual contact:

Laura Thiessen, 204-475-1419,
cl_thiessen@excite.com or
Angela Kroeker, 204-586-8859,
patang@yahoo.com

Registration deadline is November 18, 2003.

Out-of-province teams are encouraged to attend. They can be billeted by getting in touch with Laura or Angela. Three games are guaranteed.

Since the purpose of the event is to connect with fellow EMCers for a fun game of hockey, teams should be made of EMC members and regular attenders.

Holiday Travel presents Mennonite Heritage Ukraine and Historical Russia Tour 18 days in Kiev, Zaporozhye, Moscow and St. Petersburg

Departure Date: May 14, 2004

For more tour details and
informational meetings
contact

tour host
Len Loeppky

1-204-326-2613
aloepky@mts.net
Box 491, Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada
R0A 2A0

Holiday Travel
Clearspring Centre, Box 2799
Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada R0A 2A0

PENNER - to Andrew and Angie Penner of High Level, Alta., a daughter, Bridget Isabea, on April 29, 2003.

PLETT - to Brad and Cynthia Plett of Landmark, Man., a daughter, Ava Kinsley, on May 1, 2003.

KOEHN - to Peter and Dorothea Koehn of Landmark, Man., a son, Geoffrey Kornel, on May 7, 2003.

FRIESEN - to Darcy and Yvonne Friesen of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., a daughter, Teagan Justina, on June 20, 2003.

LOEWEN - to Elmer and Tina Loewen of Aylmer, Ont., a daughter, Cynthia Yvonne, on July 4, 2003.

DOERKSEN-POETKER - to Andrea Doerksen and Ron Poetker of Landmark, Man., a daughter, Mackenzie Kiara, on July 14, 2003.

BERG - to Abe and Margaret Berg of Aylmer, Ont., a son, Micah Davion, on July 17, 2003.

FEHR - to Abe and Sara Fehr of Richmond, Ont., a daughter, Alyssa Helene, on July 17, 2003.

SCHMIDT - to Abe and Anna Schmidt of Delhi, Ont., a daughter, Melissa, on July 21, 2003.

ANDREWS - to Terry and Sandy Andrews of High Level, Alta., a daughter, Mikyla Daphne, on July 28, 2003.

SKJAERLUND - to Les and Gladys Skjaerlund of Landmark, Man., a son, Rorey Dawson, on July 29, 2003.

DOERKSEN - to Frank and Tracy Doerksen of High Level, Alta., a daughter, Maddi Lynn, on August 23, 2003.

HEIDE - to Pete and Tina Heide of Wheatley, Ont., a daughter, Justina, on August 31, 2003.

DERKSEN - to Peter and Judy Derksen of La Crete, Alta., a daughter, Kimberley Alice, on September 9, 2003.

GIESBRECHT - to Nathan and Brigitte Giesbrecht of Landmark, Man., a daughter, Katrine Denise, on September 18, 2003.

GIESBRECHT - to Rob and Michelle Giesbrecht of Landmark, Man., a son, Lucas D., on September 21, 2003.

FUNK - to Jeremy and Helena Funk of Landmark, Man., a son, Zephaniah Jeremy, on October 1, 2003.

PLETT - to Tim and Jenny Plett of Landmark, Man., a daughter, Rachael Anne, on October 2, 2003.

KEATING - to Ian and Priscilla Keating of Landmark, Man., a son, Noah Hudson, on October 7, 2003.

BERGEN - to Dave and Martha Bergen of Aylmer, Ont., a daughter, Demea Cassidy, on October 8, 2003.

RICHARDSON - to Michael and Jessica Richardson, missionaries in Venezuela supported by Prairie Rose EMC, a daughter, Emily Lynn, on October 18, 2003.

Hymnbooks needed

Woodhaven Manor in Steinbach, Man., needs 125 to 150 English hymnbooks. Contact Albert Brandt at 204-326-1146 if you have books to sell or to give away.

THIS article urges local churches to appoint a congregational historian to make sure their records are being given proper attention. This person can also serve as a point of contact to the Conference Archives. If your congregation already has a person serving this or a similar position, please let us know. If there is any way we can assist you, please feel free to contact the EMC office.

Loren Koehler



Church Records: Handle with Care

Lawrence Klippenstein

CHURCH RECORDS are important. They should be thoughtfully created and carefully preserved. Their usefulness may not always be immediately obvious, but there is ample evidence that such efforts can pay off in the end.

We should bother about church records in our congregations for several reasons. They tell the story of how our programs and ministries arise and grow. We need this information to understand what is happening in our midst, to evaluate past experiences, and to see what is still to be done.

Records, both written and oral, help us to appreciate the contributions of our church leaders and fellow-members. Such documents are indeed a part of the record of the work of God. The Bible is packed with recorded accounts of how God met His people in days gone by, while saying also that He will do so in future times.

What should a congregation store away in its record files? Through the careful preservation of worship bulletins and minutes of all meetings a great deal of significant data will be retained. Annual congregational and council meetings, indeed all other committee and group work, should be documented in this way.

Treasurers' accounts, membership guidelines and detailed permanent listings of baptism, marriage and deaths should be properly kept as well. Official correspondence needs to be filed and permanently stored. Constitutions, deeds, mortgages and other legal papers should be placed in a congregational record file after their purposes have been achieved. (If there must be a burning ceremony, let it be a duplicate, and not the original!)

Much valuable information about congregations appears in local newspapers, obituaries of members, census records, vital statistics, and similar documents. A newspaper clipping file is not difficult to make, and should be considered a "must." (Always make sure a clipping is marked as to source and date.) It is possible nowadays to create taped records of special programs, sermons, related community events, and more. Tapes can be easily duplicated and conveniently stored.

No church should be without a fireproof vault, even if only small in size. There are too many stories of churches losing their records in a fire—something which no one expects will happen, of course. Lost records frequently cannot be replaced, creating gaps of information that can be awkward and disconcerting to members later on.

From time to time every congregation should deposit older records in our Conference archives where they will be sorted, if necessary, stored and held in trust. Many congregations are already preserving much valuable material in this way. Important documents should always be filed in duplicate as insurance against loss.

The work of a congregational historian can begin with checking if proper attention is being given to the care of congregational records. He or she may help to sort what has accumulated over the years, and suggest appropriate methods of preservation.

The congregational historian also becomes the contact person with the Conference archives. This includes mailing or otherwise delivering records to be deposited there, and also

to receive needed information from the historian-archivist.

Some historians take the further step of collecting material for writing a history of the church, or even to write the story itself. This is an excellent way of introducing the group to new members, and a way of witnessing to God's grace to those outside the fellowship.

This takes more time and energy than simply filing documents in storage. But it is also something much-needed in our communities today. Such stories need to be written up, and the first move is for someone to begin.

Key Points

- Preserve worship bulletins and minutes of all meetings.
- Treasurers' accounts, membership guidelines and detailed permanent listings of baptism, marriage and deaths should be properly kept.
- Constitutions, deeds, mortgages and other legal papers should be placed in a congregational record. (If there must be a burning ceremony, let it be a duplicate, and not the original!).
- A newspaper clipping file of obituaries, etc. should be considered a "must."
- No church should be without a fireproof vault.

Some say they don't have the gift for writing history in this way. But we should do what can be done. Much can be gained by talking about the project with someone who does have some history-writing skills, as well as knowledge about the way to publish a book. Persons directing our Conference history-archives program are prepared to offer advice and suggestions at any time.

Who is in fact qualified to be a congregational historian? One could say firstly, both young people and adults. Certainly one does not have to be retired, though it can be a most interesting kind of work for persons whose time is free in that way.

What matters essentially is to have an interest in this phase of ministry in the congregation. Such a person needs to have some appreciation for the value of church records. Manuals and other directives are available to get actual training on the job.

A number of Conference congregations are presently taking a new look at the question of record care. Some have begun to sort through papers that have lain in large cartons for years, but need better storage. Others are improving facilities to make better record care possible.

More than half of our congregations have already appointed historians for this kind of work. Hopefully the rest can make similar arrangements in the coming year.

Congregational record-keeping is not merely an option. It should be a priority matter, dealt with conscientiously, and properly carried through.

Your congregational experience should not remain hidden, or even be lost altogether. Preserve your records to help make sure that won't happen! ■

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**ARTHUR PETER (ART) NEUFELD
1929-2003**

Art Neufeld of Kola, Manitoba, beloved husband of Marie, passed away to be with his Lord on September 13, 2003, at the Virden District Hospital at the age of 74 years.

Art was born July 22, 1929, in Steinbach,

Manitoba, to Peter K. and Elizabeth Neufeld. He was one of four boys and two girls. Art attended school in Steinbach. In 1951 he married Marie Peters, also of Steinbach. They resided in Steinbach until 1957, at which time they moved to Kola, Manitoba, where he was still living at the time of his death. In his early years, he maintained roads in the RM of Hanover. When he moved to Kola, he began a building construction career. He retired from his business in 1988.

At the age of 18, Art dedicated his life to the Lord. He taught Sunday school, led youth groups, and participated in choirs and quartets. Because of his Bible school training and commitment to the Lord, he was elected to be the minister of the new EM Church in Kola.

In 1960, a son, Donald Craig came to Art and Marie. In 1963, they received a daughter, Diane Marie. To complete the family, a son, Eric Dean (Chuck), arrived in 1969. During Art's life, he enjoyed watching his children and later, his grandchildren,

with their achievements in sports, music and other activities. He also enjoyed family fishing trips and vacations.

His relationship with his Heavenly Father took him to many places to teach and preach the Word of God. He based his family, business and personal life on the teachings of the Bible.

He was predeceased by his father, Peter K. Neufeld, and his mother Elizabeth; step-mother Margaret; brothers Bill and Harry; sister Margaret Toews; and a sister in infancy, Helen; his sister-in-law Tina.

He passed away unexpectedly but peacefully, with his family at his side. He is survived by his wife Marie; son Don (Jan) and their children Miles, Nicole and Victoria; daughter Diane (Barry) Koop and their children Blair, Brock and Shanley; and son Chuck (Denine) and their children Kaila and Chad.

We, the family, would like to thank all of our friends and family for their prayers and support during our time of bereavement.

His Family

Weddings

PLETT - HILL: Aaron, son of Ray and Dorothy Hill, and Alicia, daughter of Jerry and Phyllis Plett, were married on December 14, 2002.

PLETT - REIMER: Josh, son of Louis and Elvira Plett of Landmark, Man., and Jocelyn, daughter of Al and Deb Reimer of Landmark, were married on February 8, 2003 in Landmark.

SIEMENS - REIMER: LeRoy, son of Bill and Helen Siemens of La Crete, Alta., and Faith, daughter of Arnold and Cheryl Reimer of Landmark, Man., were married on February 15, 2003 in Landmark.

PLETT - PLETT: Kevin, son of Wes and Pat Plett of Blumenort, Man., and Laurel, daughter of Alvin and Katherine Plett of Landmark, Man., were married on March 8, 2003 in Landmark.

JANZEN - WOLGEMUTH: Darryl, son of Menno and Nettie Janzen of Winkler, Man., and Alexandria, daughter of Randy and Lydia Wolgemuth of Landmark, Man., were married on May 25, 2003 in Landmark.

KROEKER - UNGER: James, son of Warren and Mary Kroeker of Landmark, Man., and Angela, daughter of Gilbert and Susan Unger of Landmark, were married on May 26, 2003 in Cuba. They held a reception in Landmark on June 7, 2003.

KLASSEN - REIMER: Tony, son of Henry and Sue Klassen of Steinbach, Man., and Chris, daughter of Philip and Phyllis Reimer of Landmark, Man., were married on June 21, 2003.

BROMM - GULLICKSON: Clay Bromm and Tanya, daughter of Gerry and Elaine Gullickson of Landmark, Man., were married on June 28, 2003 in Regina, Sask.

KRAHN - GUENTHER: Jake Krahn of Chihuahua, Mexico, and Mary, daughter of Jacob and Anna Guenther of Vienna, Ont., were married on June 28, 2003 in Frogmore,

Ont., with Pastor John Wall of Straffordville, Ont., officiating. The couple lives in Chihuahua.

BUECKERT - THIESSEN: Darryl, son of Jake and Nettie Bueckert of High Level, Alta., and Lisa, daughter of John and Tina Thiessen of High Level, were married on July 12, 2003 at High Level Christian Fellowship, with Richard Klassen of High Level officiating. The couple lives in High Level.

HILDEBRANDT - PLETT: Matthew, son of David and Elfrieda Hildebrandt of Landmark, Man., and Tabitha, daughter of Murray and Lorene Plett of Landmark, were married on July 26, 2003 in Landmark.

NEUSTATER - FROESE: Henry Neustater and Eva, daughter of David and Anna Froese of Aylmer, Ont., were married on August 9, 2003 in Aylmer, with Pastor Jake Friesen of Aylmer EMC officiating. The couple lives in Aylmer.

WARKENTIN - UNGER: Travis, son of Les and Cyndy Warkentin of Landmark, Man., and Laura, daughter of Gilbert and Susan Unger of Landmark, were married on August 23, 2003 in Landmark.

FAST - NEUFELD: Frank, son of William and Agatha Fast of Merlin, Ont., and Eva, daughter of Johan and Maria Neufeld of Port Lampton, Ont., were married on August 30, 2003 at Leamington (Ont.) EMC, with Lowell Froese of Leamington officiating. The couple lives in Leamington.

NEUFELD - FEHR: Corny Neufeld and Tina Fehr were married on August 30, 2003 at Leamington (Ont.) EMC, with John Bartsch of Leamington officiating.

NIKKEL - WILSON: Paul, son of Ed and Mary Nikkel of Portage la Prairie, Man., and Kimberly, daughter of David and Colleen Wilson of Rapid City, Man., were married on September 6, 2003, with Rev. Terry LeBlanc of Edmonton, Alta., officiating. The couple lives in Portage la Prairie.

SIEMENS - GUENTHER: Willy, son of Dick and Tina Siemens of Aylmer, Ont., and Tina, daughter of Jacob and Anna Guenther of Vienna, Ont., were married on September 6, 2003 in Frogmore, Ont., with Pastor John Wall of Straffordville, Ont., officiating. The couple lives in Aylmer.

WIEBE - GIESBRECHT: Mark, son of Roland and Pam Wiebe of Landmark, Man., and Ashley, daughter of Reuben and Lyse Giesbrecht of Landmark, were married on September 6, 2003 in Landmark.

MARTENS - LOEWEN: Rick Martens of Leamington, Ont., and Helen, daughter of Isaak and Susanna Loewen of Leamington, were married on September 13, 2003 at Leamington EMC, with Jake Enns of Tilbury, Ont., officiating.

SCHMITT - PETERS: John, son of John and Margaret Schmitt, and Julie, daughter of Jake and Helen Peters of Tilbury, Ont., were married on October 4, 2003 at Leamington (Ont.) EMC, with Lowell Froese of Leamington officiating.

KLASSEN - SCHULTZ: Jason, son of Abe and Kathy Klassen of Steinbach, Man., and Pamela, daughter of Marshall and Janice Schultz of Landmark, Man., were married on October 18, 2003 in Landmark.

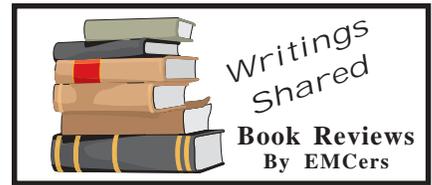
Coming Events

Dec. 5
EMC Ministerial
Fort Garry EMC
Winnipeg, Man.
Phone: 204-326-6401

Dec. 6
EMC Conference Council
Crestview Fellowship
Winnipeg, Man.
Phone: 204-326-6401

Jan. 13 to Apr. 6
Perspectives on the
World Christian
Movement
Callsbeck Fellowship
Chapel
Winnipeg, Man.
Bergthaler Mennonite
Church
Winkler, Man.
Phone: 204-663-3453

Shoulder Tapping



German teacher wanted for school at Rio Verde in Paraguay starting February 2004. If interested call Willie Dueck, 204-364-2335, or mail to Box 700, Arborg, MB ROC 0A0.

Wymark EMC is a congregation of about 130, set in a rural, farming community in southwest Saskatchewan. We seek a **senior pastor** willing to serve the Lord by modeling and communicating an intimate relationship with God, His Word and His family. He must be able to equip and encourage local leadership, building them up so they can reach out and disciple others. For information, call Blaine Friesen at 306-627-3441; send a resume at Box 116 McMahon, SK S0N 1M0; or email blfriesen@t2.net.

Camp Assiniboia at Headingley, Man., seeks a **manager**. Responsibilities include personnel leadership, guest relations, and general oversight of physical operations and services. This busy year-round camp operates Christian summer camp programs and rental services. This position is ideal for a motivated couple with an Anabaptist faith commitment and a willingness to relate to a Mennonite Church Manitoba congregation. Strong communication and organizational skills are an asset. The camp also seeks half-time **rental secretary** to coordinate group schedules and to assist with hosting. Contact Mennonite Church Manitoba at 204-896-1616 or camps@mennochurch.mb.ca.

People seek friendship and a better life! Open Circle, a ministry of MCC in Manitoba, invites applications from volunteers willing to serve as **visitors** to inmates in Manitoba prisons and in **supportive roles** to newly-released prisoners who request support during their resettlement into the community. Call Murray Barkman at 204-772-5317 or e-mail opencircle@mts.net.

Riverton MCC Thrift Store seeks a **manager** to promote MCC's objectives and manage the shop as a service to the local and global community. Needed are vision, leadership and interpersonal skills. The shop has clothing and housewares, with a new furniture location to open in 2004. Mail resume to Riverton MCC Thrift Shop, Box 623, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0.

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 Prokolt at 306-595-2287, Lewis Anfinson at 306-595-4743 or Dan Johnson at 306-594-2151, or email woodlandsigns@sasktel.net.

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.

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 Les Martens at 204-565-2604, email leskola@mts.net, or fax 204-565-2635.

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.

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.

Action International Ministries needs a **business administrator** to serve in Manila, Philippines. This position is open immediately for someone who loves the Lord and people, is an administration, and can trust the Lord for their support. Other ministry opportunities exist. Learning Tagalog is encouraged, but not required. You would work with about 25 missionaries and 12 Filipino staff who minister to urban poor, street children and to strengthen churches. Two years is required, four or more preferred. Check our website: www.actionph.org or email Mary Ann at maryann@actionintl.org.

Union Gospel Mission in Winnipeg, Man., would like to hire a full-time **food services manager**. Duties include kitchen staffing, cooking and stock control. This position is salaried with benefits. Contact John Hiebert at 204-943-9904 if interested.

Parent Trek: Nurturing Creativity and Care in Our Children, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi, MCC Canada, 2001. 190 pp., \$11.95.

Reviewed by Amy Kroeker, member at Fort Garry EMC.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



IN A world filled with confusing messages about money, success, and the importance of the individual, how can we best encourage the children in our lives to live joyfully, gracefully, and responsibly?

Parent Trek: Nurturing Creativity and Care in Our Children by Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi provides suggestions and thought-provoking questions to help guide parents and caregivers as they seek to enable children to make conscientious choices about their time and resources.

The book was commissioned by Mennonite Central Committee as a follow-up resource to *Trek: Venture into a World of Enough*. It covers a variety of topics from sharing faith with our children to being conscientious shoppers to creating community connections. It poses questions such as "how do we create family traditions?" and "how much television is okay?"

Each chapter is divided into shorter sections authored by various contributors. An initial meditation on the topic is followed by a more in-depth discussion that includes several reflection questions for the reader.

Diverse responses to each topic at the conclusion of each chapter create a sense of conversation, and practical "try this" suggestions bring the ideas and opinions to life. Resources at the end of the book include relevant websites, books, videos and a number of "table graces."

The short sections are easy to read and are full of thought-provoking ideas and practical suggestions. It is an excellent resource for individuals, yet it also works well as a springboard for group discussions.

Parent Trek encourages both adults and children alike to find creative and joyful ways to share their material possessions, time, faith, and stories with each other and with a larger community.



Just an Ordinary Day

Most days are just ordinary. We like that. We know what to expect.

Long ago, in another place, there was also an ordinary day. A landlord got up early. He stoked the fire and hurried out to do the chores. As he worked he thought about the young couple who arrived late last night. All they wanted was a place to sleep. The young woman looked very tired. It was almost time for her child to be born. The young man was about to become a father. He loved his wife. He was concerned. They needed to find a place to stay quickly.

Far out in the fields shepherds were settling in for a quiet peaceful night. The sheep were safe. The shepherds anticipated a night of rest as they guarded them. They expected an ordinary night like the ones before. But that night a child was born. He was not ordinary. He would change the world forever.

It seems that God's people had forgotten something. They were waiting for something. All their lives they had waited. In fact, they had been waiting for centuries.

God had promised to send them someone who would save them. He would be wise and understanding. He would be a mighty ruler. He would bring peace and justice to an unjust world. He would be their Messiah.

From the time of Adam and Eve God's people experienced hardships. Noah and his family survived the flood. Abraham had to leave his family and his country. God promised him a son but he had to wait until he was old before he came.

They experienced jealousy, greed, fighting and famine. They became the slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt and, with Moses as their leader, they miraculously escaped. Their journey through the desert was long and difficult. God taught them how to live and promised to bring them out safely, but often they did not listen or believe.

They were completely dependent on their leaders and felt uncertain about their lives and their future. Throughout these experiences they waited for the one God had promised to send.

Then on an ordinary night he came. His birth was marked by a special star and announced to the shepherds by angels. The shepherds hurried to worship the new child. They knew he was their Messiah. But many of God's people did not recognize him. They had forgotten the promise. Read Isaiah 9:6-7 for the promise.

It is Advent. Advent means *coming*, or *arrival*. As you observe the symbols of Advent and Christmas, which ones help you remember why Jesus came?

HOW WAS your day? Did you get up for school? Did you get washed and dressed? Eat breakfast? Leave the house? Go to class? Meet your friends? Eat lunch? Get home in time for supper? Did you do your homework? What about tomorrow? Will you do it all over again?

Christmas Symbols

Across

4. Another word for birth
5. We hang these by the chimney with care
6. A joyful song celebrating the birth of Jesus
8. Wise men who came to honour Jesus
9. Long-eared member of the horse family (carried Mary to Bethlehem)
10. Messenger from God

Down

1. A ring of holly leaves or evergreen branches—a Christmas decoration
2. Soft brown cake
3. Points of light in the night sky announced Jesus' birth
7. Christmas flower with red petals

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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.