

The Messenger

Divine Blessing:



Cole Clifford
needed money
and ended up
finding Christ

(page 3)

Edwin Friesen says,
'God will bless,
but let's not
dictate the currency'

(page 11)



Keeping a paper trail

HOW WELL does your church keep track of members and adherents? Do you have a membership transfer book, give out baptismal certificates, and write letters of introduction?

Paul interceded in written form on behalf of Onesimus (Philemon). Written notice was given that Timothy was released from prison (Heb. 13:23). Paul listed the good and bad actions of Christians and non-Christians by name (2 Tim. 4:10-16).

Paul also wrote of the faithful service of Timothy and commended Epaphroditus, of whom some were critical (Phil. 2:19-30). He wrote that he sent Tychicus (Eph. 6:21) and warned against the activities of Alexander the coppersmith (2 Tim. 4:14).

Other examples could be cited. Individual Christians and congregations were identified, commended, and cautioned in written forms tucked under the arms of every Christian who carries a Bible.

What does this say? First, Christian leaders and congregations can use paper in tracking, commending, and cautioning. Second, letters of contact, transfer and release have a place. Third, we need to be careful what

we say, do, or write in our legal environment (as, presumably, Paul was in his *different* legal environment).

Much of our connecting, commending, and cautioning can't, and shouldn't, happen on paper; Paul was often separated by distance and by prison. Still, a church needs to keep good records and to keep in touch with people.

While some people might object to tracking, it is an act of pastoral care. Forgive my crassness, but I remember the notices my father would receive as a farmer in central Alberta—the ones from the marketing board that listed the condition of each hog shipped to market. Both Dad and the marketing board were interesting in keeping track of each animal. Now, if someone says people are far more important than pigs, that is precisely my point.

The Elder John wrote, "I had many things to write to you, I am not willing to write them to you with pen and ink; but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face" (3 John 13-14). Paper alone isn't enough, but it has a role.

Terry M. Smith

How has the role changed?

SOMETIMES this magazine uses clumsy language. Church news sometimes says that a couple was "ordained" to the ministry. Yet the EMC says officially that we do not ordain women as ministers.

It would appear that the husband is ordained and the wife is recognized in a supportive role (perhaps the local church or Board of Ministers and Deacons has a different view).

The roles of a minister and his wife are different and so is the type of help each needs.

In the past 50 years, what has changed in the role of a minister's wife? Historians can offer more perspective on this than can I. However, the move toward paid pastors has shifted roles and so, too, has the trend toward more ministry wives working outside of the home.

Further, views vary among wives on what is to be expected from them. Some ministry wives want to be heavily involved in congregational life; others are content to be one member among many.

In 1997 I wrote that our national structure is better geared to help ministers than their wives, that an intercession course at SBC could be offered to assist ministry wives, and that providing practical help to ministry wives could be discussed at a ministerial meeting.

I wrote, "If someone says, 'A spouse can make or break a pastor's ministry,' offer an alternative view: how a church or conference treats a minister's wife can make or break her ability to serve." I stand by that statement. Responding more fully to the needs of ministry wives will strengthen our conference ministerial.

Terry M. Smith

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.

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Our eyes should have it

Cole Clifford

NINE YEARS ago, as a pre-Christian, I worried about our future. Our only source of transportation, a six-year-old van, sat with a blown motor and we had about sixty dollars. It was the bottom of the northern B.C. winter and there were no job opportunities in the paper, at least no jobs that I was qualified to do.

There was, however, under *Personals* one entry that read, “Are you interested in nutrition? Simple and easy, we train you.” Shall I make the following two years’ story short? I was, it was, and they did. The ad turned out to be a multi-level marketing opportunity to use and sell energy and weight-loss products.

My wife and I plunged into it with all the vigour that desperate people muster when they feel cornered by their circumstances. We lost our social friends, free time, and compromised our relationship with our children and with each other.

To me, it seemed worthwhile. The van was long-since fixed, we had considerably more than sixty dollars in the bank, and we had won many awards from the company for retail sales and for recruiting of other distributors. We were able to fund trips as far afield as Chicago and Atlanta to attend motivational seminars and new product launches.

And at one of those I stand before a speaker named Jim Rohn. It was a rare experience in life; I learned much in that hour. First, he had a look that attracted me. Perhaps in his mid-60s and with thinning grey hair and an engaging smile, Rohn displayed the confident demeanor of what I took to be *the wealthy*. And he *was* wealthy—and a world-class, in-demand business speaker and philosopher.

Second, he had great ideas, the most memorable of which was: If you want to be successful in this business or in any other, get your

priorities straight. Put God first in your life, your family second, and your business third; then watch your future unfold in ways you can’t begin to imagine. Now, that sounded simple, but it drove me to some hard thinking.

I thought we were doing well in business because we worked and planned 18 to 20 hours a day (my first priority), in the process almost completely sacrificing a social life with children and friends (my second priority, at best). This God he said should be placed first in my life was such a distant third as to seem non-existent. And, I was still a worrier, though I had most *things* I had wished for only two years earlier. These realizations didn’t seem like success.

At the airport on the way home from the convention, we met another speaker. This woman was not only a 35-year-old millionaire but in our “upline” in the business, and I was anxious to talk about her success and methods. She was calm and self-assured (because she was rich?), and very down-home. I don’t remember a single thing she said, but her eyes—oh, her eyes!

I returned to my wife rather uneasily and said to her, “There’s something strange about the people in the upper levels of this company. That woman has the same calm depth in her eyes as Jim Rohn and some of the others. Have you noticed that?” I was astounded as Mary calmly replied, “Well, they’re Christians.” The strange feeling in my mind intensified. You have to understand that I had virtually no church background of any kind and, although I knew Mary had, there had been no visible practice of it in the six years I’d known her, nor was it ever mentioned.

Inwardly I scoffed. “You mean to tell me it’s something *visible*?” I said. “Yes,” was her reply. I was so shaken up on about five different levels that the return flight was quiet on the outside, but quite noisy inside my head.

Put God first? What God? Where is He, assuming I wanted to? *Where* would I put him? And how would that make us more successful?

Another of Mr. Rohn’s suggestions for business success was, “Work harder on your self than you do on your business.” He said it’s easy to get around successful people and to see how they do it, and just as easy not to. You get to choose which you do. He said that if you want to learn *anything*, start at the library; if you want to be successful, study the autobiographies of successful people. And so we did.

I was amazed to find that when you look up *success*, there are hundreds of books on the subject. I read voraciously for days, but it didn’t take long to realize that, in one form or another, all the writers said to be successful you’d better get some religion in your life.

Invariably, these giants of industry, artists, musicians, inventors and others credited the presence of God in their lives as being fundamental to their success in their chosen



Cole Clifford at Region 1 gathering April 2003 at Burns Lake, B.C.

fields. Giving God the credit seemed to be the major reason for their humble attitudes and “knowing” that he was in charge led to calmness and peace of mind and—my mind leaped ahead—the result of that internal spirituality would be *visible*. That inner strength could become contagious, producing greater results in companies, in families, in individuals. Success!

We decided to not only hear the convention speakers and take notes; we decided to put their ideas into practice. Putting business third in the proposed rank of God, family and business seemed risky, but easy to do. We resolved to reduce our workday from 16 hours (with occasional gusts up to 20) to between six and eight. That freed up time to devote to the household and family relationships, which we had largely ignored.

Slowly, tense feelings began to soften, and family and friends accepted us back as our mental framework was deliberately changed from one of being totally business-oriented to a more people-oriented one.

Now, how to put God first? For a long time Mary had known, but kept to herself, a feeling that something was missing in her life. She hadn't confided in me for the probably well-founded anticipation of antagonism and perhaps derision any God-talk might have produced. But now, with all this new information, she ventured that she'd like to get back to church regularly and allow God back into her life.

How could I disagree? Not only would it be giving in to her wish, it seemed like an initial attempt to put God first. Looking back, it seems so calculating and academic, yet now I see God's hand in it. He put me in the presence of Christians who didn't preach, yet were visibly Christian—opening my heart to go back to church without any regrets, shifting my focus from business to family. But the greatest surprise of all was yet to come.

I found out that I *liked* going to church. But what did I like about it? I didn't know any songs or any of the members, couldn't find any referred

to Bible passages, didn't know any of the protocol. The pastor and his wife visited us early on and treated Mary as one of them, which she was. I was asked if I had ever read the Bible—I think they knew the answer—which I took on as a personal challenge that night.

I realized that to put God first in my life, I was going to have to read what they called His Word, plus it would probably help me to “get with the program” during sermons. I began at Genesis and kept going like any other book—no jumping around.

That same week I set my alarm for 6 a.m. on a Friday morning in January (unheard of!) and drove in pitch darkness and -20 degrees Celsius to the church for a men's prayer hour. What was happening to me? I entered nervously and was greeted by the pastor, whom I barely knew, and four other men. They showed by example that audible prayer needn't—shouldn't—be long-winded or preachy; rather, it should be simple, personal and thankful.

Then we fell to a solid hour of *how-is-it-going?* and toast with coffee. The interrogation of the new guy revealed that three days of reading had gotten God's people safely out of Egypt with some spectacular miracles. They encouraged me to hang tough through Leviticus and Numbers and were so nice to me I went back again the following Friday.

Each session ended with short prayers by each man and I began to participate, nervously at first. I still wasn't sure whom they were talking to. About eight weeks later I'd finished the book and each Friday morning during that spring, one question always raised was, “Where are you reading now?” Their constant interest bolstered my own. God's Word was now real to me. I knew to whom we were praying.

I now know all the stories, the epistles from the apostles, and who Paul is. I've now underlined, highlighted and just generally read to death six Bibles (yet still can't quickly find Titus).

What had started out as an almost intellectual exercise “to get some religion” like all successful people seem to have turned my life upside down.

Over the nine years since the spring of 1995, we've kept our reduced emphasis on that business, yet our financial picture has only improved. I've learned a lot about tithing and the more we give, the more it seems God gives to us.

I always liked that story about having to build a bigger barn (not that I *want* one). God definitely drew my wife back to Him, this time with a man beside her who desperately needed to know Him. He will always have first place in our life, family second only to Him (including friends), and financial pursuits third.

I surely don't claim perfection after my journey thus far. I still manage to stumble quite frequently, either with impatience or with angry words. Therefore, the passage about being a work in progress gives me the greatest comfort.

My goal still remains to gain such spiritual maturity that someone can tell just from looking into my eyes that I am a Christian, seeing there the serenity and peace that can come only from knowing Jesus Christ personally. Then I will be considered rich, even if I have no money, and successful by any standard you care to name. ■

Cole Clifford is part of Island Gospel Fellowship in Burns Lake, B.C.

Letters

CARE FOR THE PASTOR'S HUSBAND

The editorial *Calling imperfect people as pastors* (Jan. 28, 2004) raises a number of important strategies to discover and support those with pastoral potential. Having recently gone through a pastoral search in our congregation, we know the importance of identifying and supporting those in pastoral positions.

I would like to add one category that has been relevant in our congregation, and I believe will become more important in the years to come: Care for the pastor's husband.

Arden Thiessen's book *The Biblical Case for Equality* may help in this area. Can we expect a review of this book in *The Messenger* in the next quarter?

Brad A. Nance
Winnipeg, Man.

CFGB grain drive is on at southern Manitoba elevators

Two Manitoba grain companies and two farmer-owned elevators are waiving their handling fees for a special grain drive for Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

"With grain elevators waiving over \$11 a tonne, the money saved on each and every tonne of grain donated to the food drive is enough to feed about one hundred people for a day," said Harold Penner, Manitoba Coordinator for CFGB.

Grain deliveries will be accepted free of charge at the following locations:

March 3, 2004 – Artel Farms Elevator, Niverville – Grant at 204-346-4222.

March 4, 2004 – former Cargill Elevator, Winkler – Ray at 204-324-7202 or Cornie at 204-324-3161.

March 6, 2004 – Agricore United Red River South (Letellier) – James at 204-737-2096.

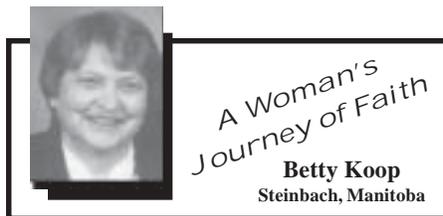
March 13, 2004 – Delmar Commodities, Gladstone – Jeff or Ernie at 204-385-2292.

The focus is on wheat; however, farmers can call ahead if they have other crops to donate.

There will be community events with Foodgrains staff in attendance. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome to come to the elevator, whether or not they have grain to deliver.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a Christian-based charitable organization. Last year over 46,000 tonnes of food were supplied in 19 countries around the world.

CFGB



VERA

IT WAS Sunday morning at our church in Maseru, Lesotho. Again I gave thanks for our multi-racial congregation. There were at least 20 or more nations represented. That seemed like a little bit of heaven, where *all* nations will worship together in peace.

One of the women attending that Sunday was Vera, a young Russian woman. When I met her after church she told me, quite frankly, that she had come simply to see another white face! We were just happy that she had come and trusted that she would eventually see God's face and experience His love in our community of believers.

She had met a Mosotho (native of Lesotho) man when he came to study at a university in Moscow. Her work in a research lab lacked excitement, so the prospect of dating this black man was intriguing.

Eventually they were married and he took her back to Lesotho when he had completed his studies. Here she was welcomed by his family and soon discovered what it was like to be the daughter-in-law in a Basotho home. She understood very little of the language, and felt most isolated and alone. Her little son was very dear to her, but she longed for the company of another white person.

One day she met a white woman while shopping and struck up a conversation. When she poured out her loneliness, the woman suggested going to our church. "I know there are some white people there," she assured Vera.

Next Sunday she brought Vera to church and that's when I met her. Since she was eager to join any group of ex-patriates that would have her, I invited her to join our weekly Ladies Bible Study group. She was excited to come.

By now I was fairly proficient in driving our right-hand drive car on the "wrong" side of the road, so I went to pick her up. On our drive to the study she told me, somewhat anxiously, that she had never been to a church before, concluding, "I grew up in Communist country and didn't go to church."

I think she wanted me to know this, in case we wouldn't welcome her into our

group. But of course we were happy to have her come so she could also get to know our wonderful Saviour!

Vera read English but didn't really comprehend it. She asked rather wistfully if there was some way to get a Russian Bible.

Again we had confirmation that the Lord knows of our needs before they are even expressed. At that particular meeting we had another visitor—a missionary whose husband had studied Russian years ago when they had a burden for Russia and had prayed much that doors would open to go there. They were Americans and when they had packed to go to Lesotho, for some reason, they had included his Russian Bible even though luggage space was limited.

So here was the miracle of a Russian Bible being available in a tiny country in southern Africa, because God knew it would be needed.

Vera came regularly to our studies but she was desperately homesick for her mother back in Russia. Eventually she got a full-time job, hoping to earn enough for airfare for herself and her little son, so she could not attend our daytime meetings any longer. This was shortly before we were to leave for Canada, so I lost touch with her.

However, at times when I walked by the florist shop where she worked, I would see her through the window. The Bible was open on the counter, and she pored over it when there were no customers to serve.

I would love to report that she came to know the Lord and that we were privileged to teach and disciple her. But, to my knowledge, she did not make a commitment, at least not before we left for home. Another lady from our church tried to keep in contact and we trust the seed of the Word will take root and grow.

On reflecting on our two years in Africa, and remembering the many people whom we met and interacted with, I was struck again by what Paul wrote so many years ago. It seems some said they followed Paul, some Apollos, some Cephas. Paul says, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow" (1 Cor. 3:5).

I met many women in Africa who had already accepted Christ before we came. We also met some whom we could help in their desire for new life in Christ. And we met some, like Vera, who heard the Word, but did not accept it during our term. We were simply a link in the chain of planting and watering.

Our assignment: Be faithful, here and now. God brings about new life and growth.

Our assignment: Be faithful, here and now.
God brings about new life and growth.

Mexico, the Forgotten Mission Field!

MEXICO, forgotten? Not by the EMC, you say. Or is it?

It certainly is a popular winter vacation destination. Many EMCers have relatives living in Mexico and so go on regular visits. It is also one of the most popular short-term missions destinations because of its proximity. But is Mexico given consideration when career missions is considered?

Our first EMC workers went to Mexico in 1954, which means we have been involved there for a half-century. Mexico has received a special emphasis in our mission work. Much-appreciated work teams go to help. How can we say that the EMC has forgotten about Mexico?

Consider this: Our missionary staff in Mexico in 1978 was 18 people, with 14 working among Spanish-speaking people; now it is 13, but only four work among Spanish-speaking people—a significant shift. Only one single person and one couple in Mexico are under 30. The other 10 have an average age of over 67 years. In five years all but five will have reached 65. Younger missionaries are needed to carry on the ministry and move into new areas of ministry and parts of Mexico.

The country is desperately in need of workers. Mexico is forgotten by young people who travel to other lands and by parents who think, “We’ve heard about Mexico for years. That’s old news. It is not unreached by the gospel.”

Consider, however, that Mexico has 100 million people; that’s more than three times the population of Canada (in the same land area as Alberta to Manitoba). By comparison Nicaragua has 4.8 million and Paraguay 5.7 million. One of the largest cities in the world is Mexico City, estimated to be around 17 million—more than one-half the population of Canada!

Consider, too, that our work in Mexico is more accurately described as mostly work in one state of Mexico—yet it has 11, most of whose needs we have not even touched; only Grace Thiessen under Wycliffe works outside of Chihuahua State. In our half-century of efforts, we have barely scratched the surface of the needs in Mexico.

Mexico is a nominally Christian country. Ninety per cent of people are connected with the Roman Catholic Church and perhaps 10 percent are Protestant, but less than 10 percent attend services weekly. That’s much less than in Canada. *The need is great!*

Fortunately, if some EMCers sometimes overlook Mexico, we are not alone in our mission efforts there; other Mennonite conferences, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and inter-denominational missions also show spiritual concern. God

is raising up a new generation of believers in Mexico, among the German-speaking Mennonites. For example, there are 166 students enrolled at Steinreich Bible School. Some of those will surely catch a vision to evangelize and disciple the Spanish-speaking population.

There is an urgent need to hear from people who are willing to answer the call of Christ to take the gospel to Mexico—an urgency created by the gospel of Christ, the needs of Mexico, and the average ages of our missionaries there.

Language study is needed, but many young people have been exposed to other languages in their homes and at school; Spanish training is provided for by the Board of Missions.

Bible college is helpful, but arrangements can be made for an alternate training process. Other training is equally helpful. Mexico has need of people with



Missions Appointment

Annabelle Friesen (Braeside EMC) has been appointed for short-term missionary assignment of 30 months. After a semester of studies at *Instituto Biblico de Asuncion* and acquiring better Spanish ability, she will be involved in youth and children’s ministry.

Annabelle grew up in Winnipeg, Man., and graduated from Miles Macdonell Collegiate in 2001. She studied for two years at Steinbach Bible College.

She went to Mexico on a missions trip at 15. At Abundant Springs she dedicated her life to serving God in missions. At 18 she was a member of Project Macedonia to Bolivia. Annabelle has been involved with the Spanish ministry at Braeside EMC for several years.

Lester Olfert
Foreign Secretary



Window on Missions

Lester Olfert
Foreign Secretary

many skills!

Some people might have a heart for reaching out to Spanish-speaking people. Others might be interested in serving Low German people whose families moved there generations ago. Some people might favour urban ministry, others rural efforts. The needs and opportunities are there. And missionaries who serve in Mexico under the Board of Missions do not have to raise their support.

Yes, there are many other needs in the world—many countries and many needs. Our small Mennonite conference in some of its history has been too narrow-minded and focused on certain areas. We need to reach out to needs in many other countries beyond those we have been involved in. We are changing to respond to needs in many places, and may Christ bless all such efforts.

But Mexico remains needy. Don’t overlook your neighbour that lives two houses (countries) south of you. Mexico is our Samaria. Call, write or come talk to me about the needs and opportunities.

Lester Olfert with Terry Smith

Project Macedonia 2004

Belize, An Exciting Summer Mission for July 2004

July 9 to August 2

Ministry: in Spanish villages; in Blue Creek, Spanish Lookout, and Shipyard; youth ministry; work project: build a school on the colony of Shipyard.

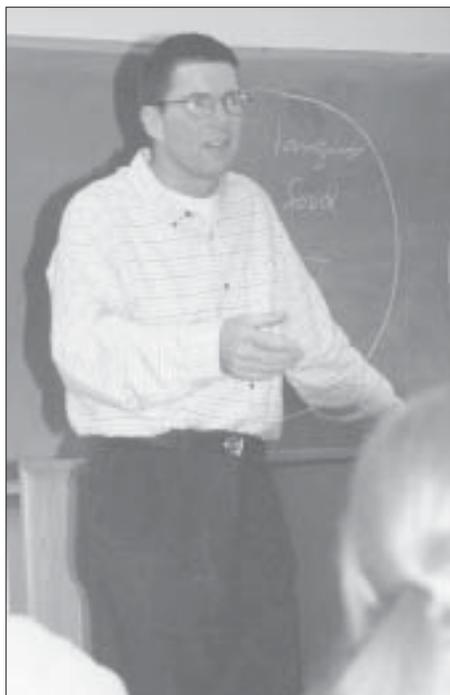
Applicants must be 18 or a high school graduate. Each member needs to raise about \$2,000 Canadian for travel, passports, inoculations, accommodations and insurance.

Application deadline is May 15.

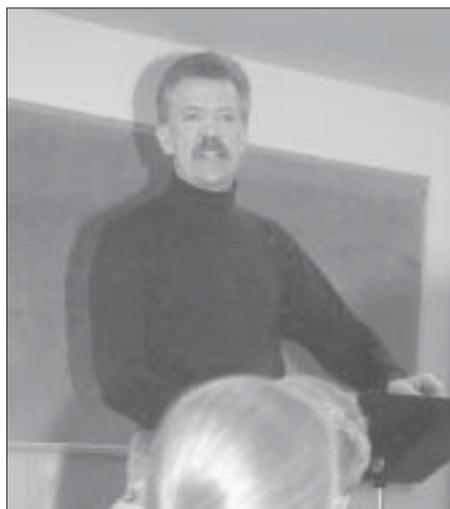
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‘God wants passionate people,’ Gerald Reimer says



Gerald Reimer



Peter Dueck



Lester Olfert with SBC students.

(photos by editor)

As he munches on pizza and drinks pop, Gerald Reimer chats with students. He's EMC Conference Youth Minister, and he knows that many students end up serving in their home churches and not in full-time missions service. That's fine. But on this cold January 26 evening, a passion beyond pizza takes him to meet Steinbach Bible College students from EMC churches.

Many students consider full-time ministry in Canada or elsewhere, and he wants to encourage and support them, to give them opportunity and "walk this journey together." He tells them this.

Later, the tall, former missionary to Mexico reads aloud about a Christian hated for openly speaking of his faith in Christ. "How passionate are you becoming in your relationship with God?" Gerald asks students. "Is it affecting your heart and your soul?"

"...Be prepared to be used by God in amazing ways and then step out in obedience and follow the calling he has laid upon your heart," he says. "God wants passionate people living in his kingdom, and we...want passionate people working with us to further that same kingdom."

Len Barkman has served in Belize and in the Bahamas. Now as General Secretary, he provides general oversight of EMC missions. Africa is a "beautiful" continent with many needs, some seen through his visits. The DR Congo is going through political strife, yet the church is active in evangelism. Workers are needed to help couples such as Paul and Lois Thiessen, serving as Bible translators in Burkina Faso.

Botswana needs youth workers. Southern Africa needs career and short-term workers; orphaned by AIDS, many children need care.

Associate missionaries serve on all continents except Australia in a variety of ministries, Len says. In Africa alone, workers are in Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya/Congo, Lesotho, Zambia—and elsewhere.

Lester Olfert has served as a missionary in Mexico and Nicaragua. As Foreign Secretary, he's responsible for oversight in Paraguay, Mexico, and Nicaragua. Multinational companies have made an impact on Mexico, but the Christian Church has not really made that much of an impact," he tells students.

"Even though Mexico is a nominal Christian country—with over 90 percent Roman Catholic and five percent Protestant—only about...less than 10 percent attend church regularly," he says.

Most Mexicans know about Jesus, but much fewer "have a personal relationship with God."

With the missionary team aging, "we need younger missionaries with passion and vision" in both Spanish and German areas, he says.

"People in Paraguay seem to be more responsive to the gospel than in Mexico," he says, but "there is a real need for discipleship and leadership training to gather these Christians" into "healthy, growing churches." Much of what "you do...in your home church, you could do out there" in settings that are challenging, stretching, and rewarding.

Peter Dueck has been a church-planter in Alberta. He and his wife Trudy serve jointly as Canadian Secretary, giving oversight to church planting in Canada. He asks if anyone with ADD is present, because he's been told that "when little kids with ADD grow up, they become church planters."

His passion is for Canada. People are needed here to start more churches. More than 200 ethnic groups and cultural groups immigrate yearly to this country, he says; through them our nation could send Christians abroad who already know the culture and language.

While our nation used to close more churches than it started, the trend has reversed since 2002; now, slightly more congregations are opened. Church planting has "come to the front burner of many of our denominations" and the EMC needs to "start three churches per year if we want to be a growing conference," he says. Edmonton alone needs 348 more evangelical churches to have one per 2,000 people.

"This is the first generation of Canadians who has not deliberately chosen to reject the gospel, because this is the first generation that doesn't even know enough about God to reject Him," says Peter. If you're not a church planter, maybe you're a tent-maker, he says.

"You are living in EPIC times," he tells students. "Your generation" wants a faith that is "experiential, participatory, image rich, and connective," which is what "Anabaptists always believed in."

There's more passion. A Christian who served in a predominately Muslim country speaks of his experience and of needs in Muslim areas.

This Christian's identity remains concealed. Why? There are places where an openly Christian witness remains unwelcome, though needed, and passion still takes people there.

Terry M. Smith

With Our Churches

MHCC has a new pastor couple

Grande Prairie, Alta.: The search for a new pastor couple for Mission Heights Community Church seemed to take quite a while, although I noticed other job postings in *The Messenger* that ran much longer than ours did.

Still, it has been quite the process. But God is faithful and still does hear and answer prayers. Our prayers were answered with the arrival of Pastor Rick and Lori Hall from Fort St. John, B.C. They began their ministry with the church in October 2003.

We look forward to forming relationships, being strengthened and challenged by Rick's messages, and encouraging each other as we begin a new phase in our church family. Welcome, Rick and Lori!

Kathy Friesen



Lori and Rick Hall have served at Mission Heights since October 2003.



MHCC's sign welcomes the new pastor couple.

Community Bible Fellowship *in action*

Swan River, Man.:



Our missions conference invited Joseph and Grace Siedu, Fred Evans, Bill and Anna Penner and Fred Neff for a truly inspiring weekend.



The grades one to three Sunday school class—Marty Cook, Jeremy Evans, Dayton Pierrepont, Addison Nemez, Joel Peters, Tanner Bird and Lindsay Penner—performed a Christmas play, *The Drummer Boy*, in December.

Nine new members *at Abbeydale*

Abbeydale (Calgary, Alta.): October 26 was a joyful day at Abbeydale Christian Fellowship as nine members joined our congregation.

Brenda Dick



Added by baptism: (back row) Brent Rogers, Brad Dueck, Mike Kehler, Josh Sommer, (front row) Rachelle Reimer, Jaclyn Kornelson, and Colleen Taubert.



Ivan and Lennie Anderson transferred their membership. Pastor Charles Koop stands with them.

It's exciting at Fort Garry!

Fort Garry (Winnipeg, Man.): This has been another exciting year at Fort Garry EMC. There has been a lot of growth due to membership transfers, baptisms, and births. It is this growth that has convinced the membership to embark upon a building project that is aimed at expanding the existing facilities.

Back in June of 2003 at the church camp and in church a number of people committed themselves to becoming a part of the Fort Garry church family through baptism and membership transfers. Baptism at Lake Nutimik was a cold experience that warmed our hearts as

young people publicly committed themselves to a life of faith before their families and friends. Not quite so chilling was the baptism and membership transfer at the church.

The church camp at Camp Nutimik was a fun-filled weekend of activities mixed with sessions that focused on the stories of individuals within the church. The attendance at the church camp was higher than in the past few years, helping to reinforce the importance of this weekend activity in the life of our congregation. It was a time of focusing on ourselves and building relationships to strengthen the bonds that make us a strong church family.

There have been a lot of new very young voices added to the church this year. The births have been a significant factor in the growth of our church family. It is wonderful to see all of the babies and the dedication of the parents to helping these children to grow up in a warm and accepting church family. As a church we are committed to helping these parents to encourage their children as they grow in our midst and learn lessons from the life of Christ.

Earlier in the year we reported about the ordination of Layton Friesen as our lead pastor. In the fall of 2003 our associate pastor, David Kruse was also affirmed in an ordination service. This was a day of celebration, recognizing David's commitment of service to the word of God



In keeping with the example set by believers in the book of Acts, we called five people to fulfill the role of deacon in the church. The five (front row centre) are Alvin and Esther Brandt, Elaine Kroeker, and Helen and Peter Friesen.

and the people of Fort Garry EMC.

All of this growth has resulted in facilities that are stretched to the limit. As a result the church has begun fund raising for a building project. The goal is to expand the existing facilities to make room for more worship space, and more Sunday school and meeting rooms.

We have also committed ourselves to sponsoring a refugee family from Colombia. The committee has started working on fundraising for the yearlong commitment to supporting a family of four when they arrive sometime in the first few months of 2004. The enthusiasm of the committee members and the support of the church are encouraging; hopefully, this will help the refugee family in their transition to life in Canada.

Harv Sawatzky



The ordination service for David Kruse was held in the fall of 2003. Participating were Layton Friesen, Cameron McKenzie, Gerald Reimer (EMC Conference Youth Minister), Donita Reimer, and Irma Janzen. David and Tammy Kruse kneel in the foreground.



We held a child dedication service in November of 2003. Participating were Rod Thiessen and Karen Toews with Liam, Kurt and Audrey Friesen with Cameron, and Cora and Nathan Hoepfner with Ethan.



These individuals joined by membership transfer or baptism in spring of 2003: Julia Enns, Jeff Enns, Rachael Penner, Al Penner, Martha Brandt, Kevin Brandt, Crystal Friesen, Faith Loewen, Matt Loewen, James Loewen, Marcy Loewen, Michael Plett, Amanda Reimer, and Steven McKenzie.



An evening campfire at the church retreat at Camp Nutimik in June of 2003.



Many people gathered for the dedication of Hillside Christian Fellowship's building on September 28 at Buffalo Head Prairie, Alberta.

Hillside Christian Fellowship holds dedication service

Buffalo-Head-Prairie, Alta.: Approximately 150 people were in attendance at the dedication service at Hillside Christian Fellowship held on September 28. Many local and surrounding friends and neighbours came to celebrate this long-awaited event. Some of these friends and neighbours consisted of pastors, deacons and other church members.

Mimi Friesen

Some people were eager and willing to share in the celebration by bringing greetings and encouragement of God's richest blessings on and in our church.



Richard Klassen (High Level Christian Fellowship) represented EMC Region 1.



Doug LeMoal brought greetings from the EMC congregation in High Level, Alta.



Dave Kroecker of B.C. represented Mennonite Foundation of Canada.

Abe Wiebe represented Believer's Fellowship in La Crete, Alta.



Ernie Boehlig represented Tompkins Evangelical Church.



SBC Leadership Conference

2004

Empowered Leadership in a Congregational Church

March 19-20, 2004
Speaker Owen Burkholder
 Call SBC to register 204-326-6451 or 1-800-230-8478
 Register online: www.sbcollege.mb.ca
Pre-registration preferred

Kabul, Afghanistan

Shoes for the poor

Shoes for the Poor were recently distributed in Kabul, Afghanistan. More than \$1,063 (\$766 U.S.) was raised at Abundant Springs in May 2003. We distributed the shoes at a small school for poor Hazara children. This is a large tribal group in Afghanistan that has experienced much discrimination from the more dominant language groups in the country.

A Mennonite couple from France has their own school project for about 50 kids in a Hazara district of Kabul. MCC is sponsoring some of their expenses, while ISAF Germany is helping them with distribution of goods as well. The couple was extremely grateful for this help with shoes.

We distributed two pairs of shoes to 125 people. Each child got one pair of rubber boots for the cold, snowy, wet winter months and one pair of good tennis shoes. The total cost for 250 pairs of shoes was \$586 (U.S.).

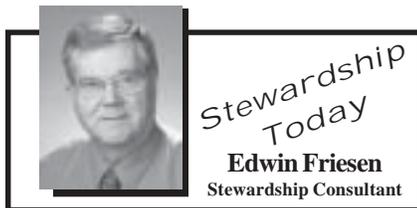
We hope to use the balance of the money to purchase and distribute shoes for children living in rubble and ruins in our own neighbourhood and around the area.

Name Withheld

Mothers in their *chadars* (coverings, veils) wait in turn for their children's names to be called to receive the shoes.



Children with two pairs of shoes each.



GOD FIRST

I WAS significantly challenged both in faith and practice when, after a family finances presentation, a woman came up and told me that she and her husband had for years had serious problems managing money. They had gone to their pastor for help.

The pastor had challenged them to give God 10 per cent of their gross business income and then learn to live on the balance. Though it took great faith and discipline, they did and the rest, as they say, is history. Their business was now paid off and the couple was in the process of buying another one. They had already covenanted with God to give a minimum of 10 per cent of the new business income as soon as they got the keys.

After another presentation several weeks later, a middle-aged man challenged my thinking in a similar way. "God does in fact reward us financially if

we give him our first fruits," said the well-dressed man. "I am living proof of that." His story was similar. Beseated by debt problems, he committed to give God the first and the best and was amazed at how God had blessed his financial fortunes.

Does giving God a tithe or gift of first fruits actually make your money go further? Is giving to God first, the cornerstone of financial management? Is giving our tithe to God the way out of debt? Does God want us to be rich? Forget the last question, but what about the others?

Biblical teaching and the testimonials of people both suggest that giving our tithes and offerings to God gets his attention and blessing. Challenging the lukewarm Israelites to make a full commitment confirmed by bringing in their tithe of first fruits, God said, "Test me in this...and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:10).

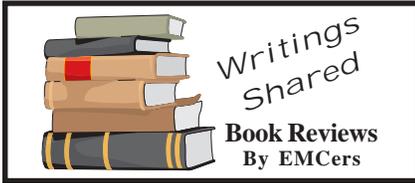
Though I am reluctant to accept it, the testimonials of people and some Scriptures suggest that more often than not, the blessings for giving are material—more money; more money so that you can be even more generous. "Now he [God] who supplies seed to the sower [us]...will

enlarge the harvest of your righteousness...so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in praise to God" (2 Cor. 9:10-11).

Yet, even though God does reward some generous people with more money, there are other people, equally generous and faithful, who have not experienced reciprocal material blessings. In fact, obedience to God may mean having less of this world's goods. If generosity were a sure means to riches, everyone would be generous but for exactly the wrong reason—selfishness. If we do things for selfish motives, God turns his face.

Whether rich or poor, our call is to put God first in worship and service. God will bless, but let's not dictate the currency.

For stewardship education and services, contact your nearest Mennonite Foundation of Canada office. Abbotsford – Dave Kroeker, 1-888-212-8608; Niagara – Darren Pries-Klassen, 1-888-212-8731; Kitchener – Mike Strathdee, 1-888-212-7759; Winnipeg – Edwin Friesen, 1-800-772-3257.



The Dogmatic Imagination: The Dynamics of Christian Belief, A. James Reimer, Herald Press, 2003, 112 pp., \$13.99. Reviewed by Darren Plett, senior pastor of Pleasant Valley EMC and Chairman, EMC Board of Ministers and Deacons. (A. James Reimer teaches religion at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo, Ont.)

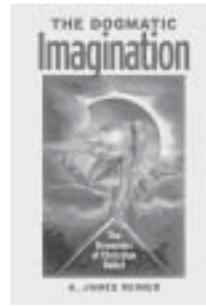
The Dogmatic Imagination is a collection of little essays engaging one's imagination in the pursuit of solidifying one's Anabaptist faith. As the forward by Raylene Hinz-Penner states, "Powerful, teachable faith moments rise up out of offering up big questions to youthful imagination, youthful passions, a keen desire to know."

Reimer's style is one which appeals to the post-modern age. He identifies the issue, or dogma, if you will, God, creation, sin, the fall, heaven, hell. He then raises

the questions, talks about possible perspectives, adds a few new insights forcing broader thought, and turns all of this over a few times using different scriptures. Then he leaves the reader to formulate his own conclusion while he moves on to another fundamental Anabaptist dogma and repeats the process. And I must assume that this, rather than practical suggestions, Biblically based conclusions, or a systematic theology, is the purposed intent of his book.

No doubt Reimer's style, his way of questioning, probing, exploring and discussing dogma will appeal to some readers. However, my life is the life of a pastor and the life of a church leader who is interested in how dogma works or doesn't work in the daily life of people who make up the church. My character is one that likes to come to at least some form of conclusions. Reimer's way of exploring and discussing dogma without some hard core practical teaching and conclusion is far from satisfying.

Given the title, one should not be



surprised that Reimer writes rather theoretically and sometimes contradicts himself as he explores the different perspectives of the issues he identifies as key to the Christian faith.

In writing about *The Corporate Church*, Reimer states that, "Ultimately what matters is not individual belief, but our

corporate witness to what God is doing in the world." This follows on the heels of a statement which reads, "I'm tempted to say it is almost irrelevant what you or I believe as individuals. This is not to minimize the truth that each individual has personal responsibility and intrinsic value before God." How do you come to any conclusion as to what Reimer is really saying when thoughts are thrown together like that?

But then I must remind myself that coming to a conclusion is not Reimer's intended goal. These essays are intended rather to probe and question, and then to leave the reader with the option of formulating his or her own conclusion on the issue.

Good Response!

THANK YOU to those readers who donated back issues of *The Messenger*. We are still looking for one or two copies of the issues listed below. Please contact the Conference Office if you have any you wish to donate.

| Year | Volume | Number |
|------|--------|--|
| 1963 | 1 | 5,6,7,10,14,15 |
| 1964 | 2 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15 |
| 1965 | 3 | 5 |
| 1966 | 4 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,15,19,20,24 |
| 1967 | 5 | 3,4,5,6,7,12,14,15,15b,16,17,18,19,20,25 |
| 1968 | 6 | All issues needed |
| 1969 | 7 | All issues needed |
| 1970 | 8 | All issues needed |
| 1971 | 9 | All issues needed |
| 1972 | 10 | All issues needed |
| 1973 | 11 | All issues needed |
| 1974 | 12 | All issues needed |
| 1975 | 13 | All issues needed |
| 1976 | 14 | All issues needed |
| 1977 | 15 | All issues needed |
| 1978 | 16 | All issues needed |
| 1979 | 17 | 3,9,10,11,12,14,18,19 |
| 1980 | 18 | 10,11,13,22 |
| 1981 | 19 | 3,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25 |
| 1982 | 20 | All issues needed |
| 1983 | 21 | 3(2), all others (1) |
| 1984 | 22 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10,13,15,20,23,24 |
| 1985 | 23 | 2,5,9,11,12,13,14,19,22,23 |
| 1988 | 26 | 24 |
| 1990 | 28 | 14 |
| 1996 | 34 | 3 |
| 1999 | 37 | 16 |
| 2001 | 39 | 6,10,12 |



IN MEMORY OF OUR SON HENRY PLETT 1957-2003

Henry, you fought so faithfully to the end,
We hoped so much you would make it,
But it wasn't meant to be.
You were so sick, still you were concerned
more for others than for yourself.
You had a heart for everyone—
For rich and poor, for young and old,
you cared for all.
You left your sweetheart, Vivian,
and your three beautiful girls,
And the rest of us with
a good example to follow.
Henry, if only I could pray with you once
more.

We miss you so, we loved you dearly.
Mom and Dad

Submitted by Otto and Frieda Plett
of Arborg, Man.



WILLIAM PETERS
1937-2003

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

William Peters was born on March 7, 1937, in Swan Plain, Sask., to Peter and Helen Peters. He lived his early years in Saskatchewan and moved with his mother and siblings to Manitoba, where he lived the remainder of his life.

In his teens, he was presented with the gospel and he accepted it full-heartedly. He was then baptized on the confession of his faith and life became complete.

He married Elizabeth Wieler on October 20, 1963. They were blessed with three daughters and one son. They would have celebrated their fortieth anniversary in October 2003.

Dad worked for the Canadian National Railway for 33 years. He started as a linesman on the tracks and worked his way into a managerial position at the time of his retirement in 1991.

When Dad retired, he and Mom decided they wanted to serve the Lord by going on missions. Their first assignment sent them to Black Forest Academy in Germany. Dad used his talents for building and maintenance. They were there from 1992 to 1995. After less than a year at home, they served in numerous positions at Camp Arnes. They served there for one year.

After Mom’s health made it harder to go on missions assignments, Dad kept busy volunteering wherever he found an opportunity. This included Mennonite

Disaster Service, Braeside EMC, and Habitat for Humanity.

In the last few years, he also kept busy renovating their house. He also enjoyed helping his children with renovating their homes. No job was too big or too small. He kept busy to the very end.

Dad passed into eternity on July 26, 2003, in Saskatoon, Sask., with his wife and children around him. He left us a legacy of how to live a godly life. He will be missed by us all.

He was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife Betty; his children Sharon and Darryl Klassen, Lorie and Bryan Schlamp, Connie and Richard Dueck, and James Peters and Anne Walton; his grandchildren Katy and Ethan Klassen, Austyn, Nikolai and Jacelei Schlamp, and Jonah, Micah and Naomi Dueck; his six sisters and two brothers and their families; his eight brothers-in-law and four sisters-in-law and their families.

The funeral service was held July 31, 2003, at two o’clock in the afternoon at Austin Evangelical Fellowship in Austin, Man. Interment was at the Sommerfeld Cemetery.

His Family



MARGARET LOEWEN
1912-2003

Margaret Loewen was born in Greenland, Man., on March 20, 1912. By the time she went to school, the First World War had started and it was not permitted to speak German in school. That is where she learned English.

It was three miles from her house to the school, so her dad would often give the children a ride to school in a horse-drawn buggy. In winter, they rode in a covered sleigh. She said they weren’t cold, because her dad would warm up the blankets before the ride.

My mom went to Winnipeg with her dad for the first time when she was 12 years old. Her sister Agnes had already gotten a job working in Winnipeg as a cook and housekeeper and later she as well as her brothers and sisters would go to Winnipeg to work.

At the age of 19, in 1921, she gave her heart to the Lord. By this time she was

working in Winnipeg and had spent a number of years as a cook at Ravenscourt School. During the time she lived in Winnipeg, she attended Winnipeg Bible College and graduated in 1945. That same year she met Cornelius Loewen, who became her husband on November 12, 1945. In 1947, a son, Beverly Neil, was born to them.

In 1949, after a stint working in a bush camp near Kenora, we moved to McTavish, near Rosenort, where my father had a small house. We were evacuated during the 1950 flood and lived at my grandmother’s house in Greenland.

After we returned to McTavish, my mother saw the need for a Christian club for the neighbourhood children. She called it the *Good News Club*. My dad would play his Hawaiian guitar and my mother would lead the singing and present a lesson and a story based on the Bible.

When we moved to Winnipeg in 1955, she started this up again. We lived in Winnipeg till 1957, when we moved to Ontario. We returned to McTavish in October 1958. My mother took over the post office; she was McTavish’s first postmistress.

In 1963, we moved to Abbotsford and lived there till 1965, when we moved to Coquitlam. By this time, Mom was working in Valleyview Hospital as a psychiatric aide. She worked there till retirement at age 65. This was in 1977, and she had been a grandmother for two years! I am sure of all the jobs she had, being a grandmother was her favorite.

Mom and Dad bought a small house in

Surrey in 1967, and sold it in 1985 and moved to Abbotsford. After my dad died in 1988, my mother was lonely and lived alone in their apartment till she wasn’t able to look after herself as well. She sold the apartment and moved to Menno Terrace in 1998.

In 2000, she moved to Tabor Home. As time went on, she became less able to look after herself, so in 2001 she moved to the extended care part of Tabor Home. She received wonderful care from the staff there.

The year 2003 brought a turning point in her health. She had more and more difficulty walking, so she was confined to a wheelchair. In the middle of November, my mother got influenza and was very ill with a high fever. Through the beginning of December, her condition got progressively worse, and she passed away on December 9.

A few days before she died, she told me “The Lord is taking care of me” and “Let’s keep our eyes on Jesus.” In spite of her weakened condition, her faith was constant till the end, as well as the love she had for us and for her family members. The last words we heard her speak were “I love you.” I know that she will be waiting with open arms to welcome us home to heaven one day.

Margaret is survived by son Neil and Betty-Lou Loewen and their family, and brothers and sisters and their families. She will be sadly missed by us all. We all grieve for her...but we rejoice in the fact that she has passed from death to eternal life.

Her Family



**MARGARET BRANDT BARKMAN
1915-2003**

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Margaret W. Brandt of Rosenort was born June 7, 1915. She grew up on a farm in Rosenort and was the youngest of fourteen children born to Henry and Elizabeth Brandt. She was baptized upon the confession of her faith by Bishop Jacob B. Kroeker in the Rosenort EMC, of which she was a lifelong member. She married Frank R. Barkman on October 24, 1937, by the Rev. Peter W. Friesen and they were blessed with six sons and one daughter.

Mom and Dad shared their joys and sorrows for 38 years. When Dad passed away in September of 1975, Mom bravely faced the reality of living alone. Although she grieved deeply, she continued to be a strong example to her children. Mom moved numerous times: from the farm to the house on Birch Drive in Rosenort (which Dad had built for her), to Rosewood Apartments, to Heritage Center, and then to the Morris Lodge. Each move was a positive experience for Mom. Now she has made her final move—Heaven.

Mom delighted in cooking and baking for her family. Some specialties were her Christmas cookies with the silver balls and gum drops, and red sugar cookies. You could never outdo her "blue ribbon" *zwiebach* and brown bread. When she couldn't bake and cook anymore, she still read her cookbook very often. In fact, it made it to the Lodge!

Her love of flowers was obvious in her flower gardens: very few weeds and loads of blooms! Her vegetable gardens were also a real joy for her. She absolutely despised *faate hahn* (portulaca) and dandelions. Sewing and embroidery were hobbies enjoyed by Mom. She loved to sew anything from pants and dresses to doll clothes. Mom spent many hours embroidering tiny stitches on pillowcases and tea towels. She knew how to turn an ordinary item into something beautiful.

Mom thoroughly enjoyed each visit from her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Mom was a prayer warrior

which we will really miss. Despite a lifelong struggle with a lack of assurance of salvation, Mom's fears were laid to rest one night when Jesus appeared to her in a dream and lovingly affirmed His love and forgiveness. The look of joy on her face as she related her experience to a Home Care worker was priceless.

She was a changed person after that. She looked forward to Bible Studies on Thursday afternoons at Heritage Center and was always eager to learn and would often participate.

Mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in fall of 2000. Her health deteriorated in the spring of 2003. She moved to the Red River Valley Lodge in Morris on August 25. After a few weeks, her health continued to decline and she was diagnosed with pneumonia. On October 4, she was transferred to the Morris Hospital for further care. She passed away peacefully on October 7 with pastor George Toews at her side.

We would like to thank all the home care workers who looked after our mother for the last five years and to all the nurses and doctors who cared for our mother in her last days. As a family we will always remember our gentle and caring mother and grandmother. We are grateful that Mom did not suffer long and that she is now resting forever in the presence of Jesus. We look forward to the day when we will meet again.

Left to mourn her passing are her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren: son Walter and Betty, granddaughter Colleen and Kelvin Giesbrecht (great-grandchildren Candace, Kendall), granddaughter Yvonne and Perry Hildebrand (great-grandchildren Michael, Taylor); son Henry and Susan, granddaughter Sandra and Ellis Dudley, grandson Sheldon and Trudy, granddaughter Sara and Ross Phillips (great-grandchild Colton), grandson Sam and Tanya Taylor, grandson Cody; son Kenneth and Betty, grandson Timothy and Lisa (great-grandchildren Tory, Ethan, Aaron), grandson Theodore (great-grandchildren Riley, Taran, Shelby), grandson Trevor and Jennifer; son Leroy and Emily, granddaughter Melissa and Michael Thiessen (great-grandchildren Gabriela, Alexandra), granddaughter Ginger and Bud Penner, granddaughter Tiffany and Kurt Enns; son Ernie and Risa, grandchildren Mikaela, Whitney, Logan; son Ron and Phyllis, grandson Stacy, granddaughter Alisa and fiancé Lee Martin; daughter Sharon and Rod Dueck, grandchildren Jaimee and fiancé Jeremy Loewen, Jordan and Kelsey.

Mom is also survived by one brother Nick and two sisters-in law, Margaret and Julia Barkman, and many nieces and nephews. Mom was predeceased by her husband Frank R. Barkman in September 1975, still born daughter Irene, her parents, five

brothers and seven sisters of whom two were stillborn.

The funeral service was held on October 11, 2003 at the Rosenort Fellowship Chapel, Rosenort, Manitoba.

Her Family

Coming Events

Feb. 28
EMC All Boards Meeting
Ridgewood EMC
Giroux, Man.
Phone: 204-326-6401

March 5
Peace that passes all understanding
Eden Foundation benefit concert, 7:30 p.m.
Mel Braun (baritone)
Laura Loewen (piano)
Mennonite School Choirs
First Presbyterian Church
Winnipeg, Man.
Phone: 204-325-5355

March 5-7
Our Story, God's Story
Speaker: John H. Neufeld
Retreat for families with a person with mental and physical challenges
Camp Assiniboia
Headingley, Man.
Phone: 204-896-1616

March 7
Peace that passes all understanding
Eden Foundation benefit concert, 3 p.m.
Mel Braun (baritone)
Laura Loewen (piano)
Mennonite School Choirs
Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church
Winkler, Man.
Phone: 204-325-5355

March 19-20
Empowered leadership in a congregational church
Speaker: Owen Burkholder
SBC Leadership Conference
Steinbach Bible College
Steinbach, Man.
Phone: 800-230-8478

March 22-25
Grounded in God
Mennonite Camping Association
2004 Convention
Lincoln City, Oregon
Phone: 541-996-3978

March 29
Deadline for Social Concerns Essay Contest
What is our Christian Responsibility to the economic poor?
Open to high school students
Phone: 204-326-6401

The Evangelical Mennonite Conference office has a new address!

Future correspondence for EMC and for *The Messenger* should now be addressed to: 440 Main Street
Steinbach, MB
R5G 1Z5

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

Gospel Mission Church (EMMC) seeks a **full-time senior pastor** to serve a growing congregation of about 170 in the city of Winkler, Man. Primary responsibilities are preaching, teaching, training, and developing leaders within the congregation to reach out and disciple others. This congregation has a large percentage of younger families. We have active youth, Sunday school, home Bible studies and ladies ministries. Contact Jake Giesbrecht, Gospel Mission Church, RR1, Box 565, Grp 39, Winkler, MB R6W 4A9. Phone 204-325-5414; e-mail at jgiesbrecht@gvsd.mb.ca.

Reserve Fellowship Chapel (EMC), located in Sioux Valley, Man., seeks a **part-time senior pastor**. The smaller 47-year-old congregation is part of the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, a community that has a Christian history going back to 1879. The church serves people of various church backgrounds and experiences. Currently there exist ministries through a small Sunday service, Sunday school, Bible study and a summer VBS program. The congregation is located about 45 minutes from Brandon and Virden, where a variety of work opportunities exist. For information about this opportunity, please contact the EM Conference office at 204-326-6401.

Roseisle EMC, a warm, friendly congregation serving a diverse community, seeks a **full-time pastor**. Roseisle is a small rural town in south-central Manitoba. The church's average Sunday morning attendance is 85.

The applicant should be familiar with the Mennonite perspective and willing to be guided by the EMC Statement of Faith. Previous pastoral experience is an asset. Please submit resume and cover letter to Peter Dyck, Box 4, Roseisle, MB R0G 1V0, phone 204-435-2068; or Frank Peters, Box 94, Roseisle, MB R0G 1V0, phone 204-828-3571.

Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary Schools, Inc. seeks a **senior principal/CEO** for August 2004. This person is responsible to the board of directors and provides overall leadership. The person will have a broad educational background and experience; support WMES' mission and mandate; have or qualify for a Manitoba teaching certificate; be a good communicator; be interested in development; relate well to the public, to staff and to the board; and be self-motivated with a passion for leading a superior team of educators.

WMES is church-related and independent, operating two campuses (Bedson K-8 and Agassiz K-6), with a total enrolment of about 500 students. Its mission is to "provide Christ-centred education, integrating faith and life, within a caring school community." These vibrant, energetic educational centres reflect an open admissions policy.

Submit resumes by March 31 to WMES, 250 Bedson St., Winnipeg, MB R3K 1R7 Attention: Bob Peters, board chair, or by email to boardchair@wmes.ca.

Inner City Youth Alive is an organization in the North End of Winnipeg, Man., that reaches youth and their families in the community. It seeks a **community ministry coordinator** that will work with adults from the surrounding community, and with volunteers and staff to be the hands and feet of Christ. It also is seeking a **program director** that should possess pastoral gifts and be ready to support and encourage the staff team. Phone: 204-582-8779. Email: icya@mts.net. Website: www.innercityyouthalive.org.

A **director** is sought for a new addictions treatment rehabilitation centre in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico. The director will work with MCC workers and a program committee. An ability to speak Low German, High German, or Spanish is an asset. Contact Mary Friesen at maryf@mennonitecc.ca or 204-261-6381.

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.

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 R0C 0A0.

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.

Salem Home Inc., a 145-bed, accredited Mennonite personal care home in Winkler, Man., needs a **chief executive officer** on or before August 23, 2004.

The CEO is responsible to the Board of Directors for the overall operation of the organization. The successful applicant will provide direct leadership to the senior management team, ensure appropriate delivery of services, and demonstrate accountability.

Applicants should have a university degree in Health Care Administration or a related entity; a demonstrated record of successful leadership in an integrated health care system; effective communication, problem-solving, negotiating and public relations skills; an aptitude to relate to the mission and value system of the corporation.

Interested candidates should forward their resume on or before March 19, 2004 to: CEO Search Committee, Salem Home Inc., 605-350 4th Street, Winkler, MB R6W 1J8, E-mail: abeenms@mts.net, Phone: 204-325-4494, Fax: 204-325-4658.

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, Lewis Anfinson

at 306-595-4743 or Dan Johnson at 306-594-2151, or email woodlandsigns@sasktel.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 Les Martens at 204-565-2604, email leskola@mts.net, or fax 204-565-2635.

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.

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 administrator, 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.

MCC Canada seeks an **IVEP Canada coordinator** to work out of the Winnipeg office. The coordinator is responsible for administering the International Visitor Exchange Program in Canada in cooperation with provincial IVEP coordinators. Annually, the IVEP brings approximately 65 international young adults for a year of Christian service, cross-cultural living experience and on-the-job vocational training in the US and Canada. This person will have a degree in a related field. He/she will have networking, communication, presentation, administration and computer skills.

Some experience with foreign languages and cross-cultural living preferred. Significant travel is required during the months of July, August, and February. All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to personal Christian faith and discipleship, active church membership and non-violent peacemaking. Contact Marsha Jones at 204-261-6381 or e-mail: mgj@mennonitecc.ca.

Anola Fellowship Chapel is looking for a **full-time pastor** starting as soon as June 1, 2004. We are a rural congregation with an attendance of about 125 people in a newer building. We are an EMC church comprised of people from assorted backgrounds. We have great potential for outreach. Please contact Art Koop at 204-355-4243 or David Wiebe at 204-866-3245.



You Are Like a Penguin!

“HEY! Wait a minute! That’s insulting!” you say firmly. “I don’t look like a penguin!”

“You’re absolutely right! You don’t *look* like a penguin! You *act* like one!”

“What?!”

Let me explain. Penguins live in Antarctica. If you live on the prairies, both you and the penguin live in the coldest part of the world. In fact, this last January you were much colder than the penguin because the temperatures here were lower. In Antarctica, where it’s summer in January and February, the South Pole is turned toward the sun and temperatures rise to -22 C. That’s warm compared to winter in July and August when it dips down to -88 C.

Canada is a northern country. In the winter the North Pole is turned away from the sun, cold arctic air covers us and temperatures fall below zero. This January, temperatures fell to -42 C, which is much colder than -22 in Antarctica.

Like you, penguins spend a lot of time and energy trying to stay warm. You have warm coats and live in a heated house. The penguin’s short thick body keeps him warm. He has a layer of fat under his thick skin which is covered in dense feathers.

In especially cold weather penguins huddle in a close group, sometimes hundreds of them all rubbing shoulders together. The penguins on the outside edge of the huddle move in to change places with those who have been warm for awhile in the center. Baby penguins stay warm underneath the soft fat belly of their dads whose job it is to protect them from the cold.

If you live on the prairies you enjoy many outdoor winter activities. You skate, toboggan down snowy hills, and you play hockey. Penguins have fun, too. They toboggan on their white tummies. They toboggan for fun down steep cliffs, and also to move quickly over ice and snow.

Penguins surf, too. They surf through the ocean waves right onto the land. Penguins also like diving off high cliffs, and from ice floes, into the icy ocean below. Then they quickly scramble back up to go again. Just like you line up to wait for your turn, penguins line up at the best diving

spots and wait their turn to dive again and again.

Sometimes people say penguins look like little people dressed in tuxedos. They are cute. The largest penguin, the Emperor, is very mild mannered. He doesn’t get into fights. But you can’t have one as a pet. Penguins are protected animals. They need their natural habitat. So, if you want to see a penguin, you must travel to its home. And if you’re from the prairies you’ll feel quite comfortable.



PENGUIN JOKES:

What did the sea say to the iceberg? *Nothing, it just waves!*

What is a penguin’s favorite lunch? *An ice-burger with iceberg lettuce!*

Where do penguins keep their money? *In a snow bank!*

An Acrostic: How much do you know about penguins and their habitat?

P _ _ _ _ the only songbird in Antarctica.

E _ _ _ _ _ the largest penguin.

N _ _ _ bare ice or rocks where penguins lay their eggs.

G _ _ _ an ocean bird in Antarctica.

U _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ where penguins spend most of their time.

I _ _ _ _ _ thick layer of ice and snow that covers most of Antarctica.

N _ _ _ part of the penguin’s body that is very short.

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.