

Christian Education Update

December 2007

EMC Board of Church Ministries
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Peace Sermons by EMCers 2007

The 96-page **CD booklet** was sent to about 170 ministers listed in the *EMC Yearbook*. It is available to other people for \$2 (\$4, if mailed). It contains 17 sermons by EMC leaders. Comments have been positive. Thank you, again, to pastors who contributed. We encourage the preaching of peace sermons throughout the church year.

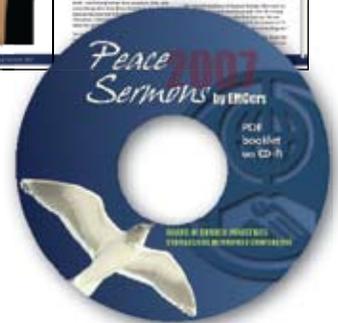
Peace Sermons by EMCers 2008

The Education Committee seeks **sermons** for an edition of the CD booklet to be published in 2008. If you have peace sermons presented in 2007 (or earlier), please forward them for consideration. The payment is a copy of the CD.



Hidden Beliefs

Enclosed is an article by Gay Lynn Voth, a professor at Columbia Bible College, on *Hidden Beliefs: What's behind the sermons we hear?* It explores the **relationship** between *Evangelical* and *Anabaptist* theology and sermons. Since there is diversity in both Anabaptist and Evangelical circles (and much overlap, as shown by the term *Evangelical Mennonite*), some of the divisions seem overstated (possibly because the article is so short). However, it remains useful for probing **assumptions** behind our theology and sermonic styles. It comes with Voth's permission (and that of *Mennonite Brethren Herald*, where it was published in October 2007).



Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy

EMCers are studying at dozens of **institutions** across Canada. Many of us have benefited from Campus Crusade for Christ, The Navigators, and Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Which institution influences more EMCers, through full-time direct study there, than any other institution in Canada? It isn't SBC. It's the University of Manitoba (in Winnipeg).

EMC, through the Board of Church Ministries, helps fund a part-time Mennonite chaplain, Mark von Kampen (mvonkampen@gmail.com) at the U. of M.; churches and individuals *are also asked and needed* to **support** the ministry.

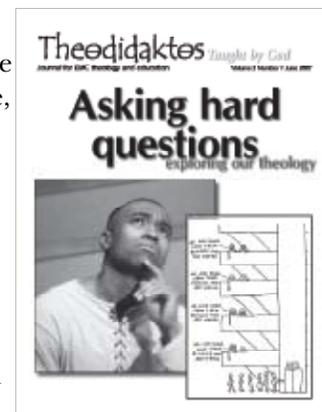
As Ken Warkentin, pastor of Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, said recently, "There is a direct connection between the chaplain's office and the promises that churches made to the little children [in dedication] many years ago." A **chaplain** "is helping us keep our promises." Churches are invited to relate to EMC students on campuses nearby, to forward information on where students are studying, and to support chaplaincy ministries.

Discussing Anabaptist Theology

The Evangelical Anabaptist Committee continues its work. The committee **serves** by authority of the BCM and the Board of Leadership and Outreach. Pastor Kenton Penner (Treesbank) is the committee's chairperson (204-824-2268).

Theodidaktos: Journal for EMC Theology and Education

The **third** edition of the journal, edited by Darryl Klassen, senior pastor at Kleefeld EMC, is in process. Along with this update are additional copies of issue two. *Theodidaktos* means *learning from God*. To submit a paper for the **fourth** issue, contact editor Klassen at 204-377-4773.



Follow Me Still Available

The thirteen-lesson discussion guide was produced by our Education Committee, supported by the Board of Leadership and Outreach's Social Concerns Committee. The guide is topical but focuses on biblical social justice. The booklet can be used by cell groups, senior youth groups, older teen/adult Sunday school classes, as a pastoral preaching aid, and in other ways. Discussion questions are scattered within the lessons and there is a list of resources in the back. EM churches have used the booklet and found it **challenging**. The booklet costs \$2.50 (shipping is extra). BCM encourages **all EM churches** to use this resource. A second printing of the guide is possible.

Worship Theology Committee

The BCM is still working toward developing a Worship Theology Committee to assist our churches and conference. If you are aware of people who might be **helpful** on such a committee, please contact me. It would look at music-worship trends and their underlying theologies within our conference churches and respond with thoughtful guidance in this area. The constitution allows the BCM to "provide resources and services to help congregations with Christian education" and "music ministries" (p. 37).

Pulpit Supply/Sunday School Discussion

I am available for pulpit supply and Sunday School discussions. If you have **suggestions** about Christian Education, let me know.

Social Concerns Committee

The EMC Social Concerns Committee is willing to make Sunday School **presentations** on various topics (social justice, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and more). Contact chair Wally Doerksen (Good News Community Church, Steinbach) at 204-326-9444

Sunday School Curricula

The Education Committee of the BCM **encourages** using Anabaptist materials or, at least, the **supplementing** of interdenominational materials. Anabaptist materials are available through Mennonite Publishing Network, Kindred Press (check the *Word Wise* and *Luminaire Studies* produced by the Mennonite Brethren), and Steinbach Bible College (six sets of study and leader's guides are available from the college). SBC's titles are *Radical Discipleship*, *Come Let Us Worship*, *The Last Trumpet*, *Minor Prophets*, *Hebrews*, *Living Truth*, and *The Church that Christ Builds*. *Gather 'Round* is a curriculum for children, youth and adults, put out by Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Church USA, and Church of the Brethren (www.gatherround.org).



Blessings on the teaching ministries within your churches!

Terry M. Smith (Rev.)
Executive Secretary