

## Sunday School Curricula

The Education Committee of the BCM **encourages** using Anabaptist materials or, at least, the **supplementing** of interdenominational materials to uphold Evangelical Anabaptist teaching. **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 (sets of study and leader's guides are available from the college). SBC has resources on Old Testament, New Testament, doctrinal studies, and topical studies. New offerings include *Keeping in Step with the God of Peace*, *Good News for a Broken World*, and *Revelation*. Check the college website for information ([www.sbcollege.ca](http://www.sbcollege.ca), under Resources).

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](http://www.gatherround.org)).

## Post-Baptismal Instruction

Some of our churches are intentional about post-baptismal instruction, including **mentoring**. This is just as important as pre-baptismal instruction, and it cannot be replaced by pre-baptismal instruction. Just as was memorizing the catechism decades ago, *The Christian Life* booklet is only one step along the journey. Dr. John Roth pointed out in *Remembering Our Baptism* (*The Messenger*, Nov. 5, 2008) that the need for continuing education remains. Early Anabaptists often amazed their critics with their **knowledge of Scripture** and personal lifestyle. Can we say the same today?

In Acts we see people often baptized on the same day they professed faith in Christ; clearly, post-baptismal instruction was necessary. How detailed is your congregations pre- and post-baptismal instruction? If your congregation has **practices** that other EM churches would benefit from knowing about, let us know about them.

## SBC Leadership Conference

*Growing Bible Savvy People* is the topic of the Leadership Conference hosted by Steinbach Bible College March 13–14, 2009. Main sessions will assist pastors and teachers to come to a greater **understanding** of God's Word. A series of workshops will enhance the three sessions with practical applications. A brochure is enclosed.

**Blessings on the teaching ministries within your churches!**

Update written by Terry Smith, edited by Rebecca Buhler

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# Christian Education Update

JANUARY 2009



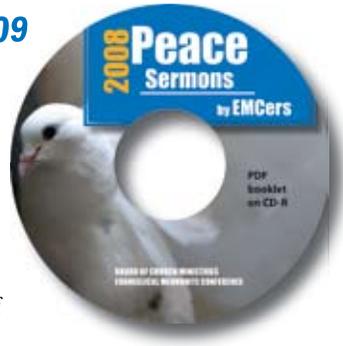
## Sabbatical/Pulpit Supply

From January to April 2009, Terry Smith is on **sabbatical**. He is studying at Providence Seminary, but remains available for pulpit supply. Please contact him at home (204-346-1314) or through work (204-326-6401, rbuhler@emconf.ca). He does not have e-mail at home.

In Terry's absence, Rebecca Buhler is serving as interim editor. BCM board members and staff person Gerald Reimer are covering some of his executive duties. Please contact them as needed.

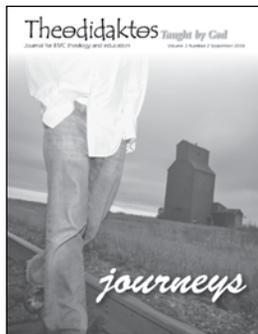
## Peace Sermons by EMCers 2008 and 2009

By now ministers will have received copies of the new CD **booklet** containing 13 *Peace Sermons by EMCers 2008*. The Education Committee seeks sermons for an edition of the CD booklet to be published in 2009. If you have **peace sermons** presented in 2008 (or earlier), please forward them for consideration. The payment is a copy of the CD. If a minister was missed, let us know. If someone else wants a copy, it's available for \$2, \$4 if mailed.



## Evangelical Anabaptist Committee Follow-Up

The Board of Church Ministries and the Board of Leadership and Outreach have met on two occasions regarding the **final report** of the Evangelical Anabaptist Committee. Further actions will be taken: The General Board is being kept informed, recommendations will go to it, and it will decide what gets placed before Conference Council. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact board chairs Robert Goertzen (BCM) and Art Dueck (BLO) or staff persons connected to these boards.



## Theodidaktos: Journal for EMC theology and education

The **fourth** issue of the journal, edited by Darryl Klassen, senior pastor at Kleefeld EMC, was published in September 2008. Your congregation has received print copies for distribution; it is also available on-line at the EMC website (www.emconf.ca). If you need more print copies, let us know. *Theodidaktos* means learning from God. To submit a paper, sermon, or book review for the **fifth** issue (slated for early 2009), contact editor Darryl 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. A **sample** chapter is available on-line (www.emconf.ca/publications.htm). 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.

## DVD/VHS License

Since the December 2007 vote at Conference Council, the denominational DVD/VHS license (which covers 60 EM churches and two prospective church plants) has been purchased from *Audio Cine Films*. As indicated previously, ACF does *not* cover all films. You will need to **check the website** (www.acf-film.com) to see if a particular film is included. The license allows churches to use videos legally during services, children's church, youth events, and more. This office does not claim to understand copyright law, but is encouraging churches to be aware of this reality as we serve in a multimedia world. Please find enclosed an article, sent with permission.

## Worship Theology

The BCM does not have a Worship Theology Committee. It is, rather, working to identify useful resource people, materials, and joint events. We remain **concerned** about some worship trends and their underlying theologies within our conference churches. The constitution allows the BCM to "provide resources and services to help congregations with Christian education" and "music ministries" (p. 37). Look for a two-part series on worship by Dr. Christine Longhurst (CMU) in *The Messenger*.

If we were to conduct a survey of **worship practices** in the EMC, what would we discover? We would discover strengths. Yet questions might be asked: What is your order of service based on? How much of Scripture used and how? What is the range of hymns and songs? How does being Evangelical Anabaptist in theology show itself in the service order? Some churches might be surprised to find their service orders are descendents of American frontier camp meetings, and miss important elements. All churches have **liturgies** (service structures, originally meaning the work of the people); some are more effective than others.

CMU is offering a biennial **conference** on worship and music. *Refreshing Winds 2009: Worship Come to its Senses* will be held January 22-24, 2009. Information can be found at [www.cmu.ca/conferences.html](http://www.cmu.ca/conferences.html), by e-mailing Diane Hiebert at [dhiebert@cmu.ca](mailto:dhiebert@cmu.ca), or by calling 204-487-3300 or (toll free) 877-231-4570.

