

## Catechism, anyone?

A catechism provides an orderly overview of Christian teachings on many subjects. This could include the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. How does your congregation use these summaries of Christian teaching and ethics?

## Close to Home (list) from MennoMedia

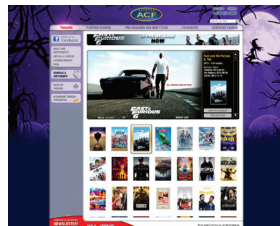
Bullying	Child Abuse
Gambling Addiction	Acquaintance Rape
Electronic Addiction	Overwhelming Debt
Spousal Abuse	Infertility
Eating Disorders	Bi-polar Disorder
Pornography	Elder Abuse
Alcoholism	Dementia
Depression	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Extreme Anxiety	Self-Harm
Marital Discord	Teenage Pregnancy
Drug Addiction	

## Revised Common Lectionary

The Revised Common Lectionary provides weekly OT, Gospel, and NT selections to guide weekly worship and instruction. It is free at various websites, including at Vanderbilt Divinity School (the RCL is being supported, not necessarily Vanderbilt). Why not learn from the lectionary's discipline? Here's a suggestion: base the service and sermon on at least three publicly read passages (OT, Gospels, later NT) that show how Scripture leads to Christ, tells of his life, and reflects on him.

## Licensing Reminders

The denominational video license (which covers EMC churches) is purchased yearly from Audio Cine Films. ACF does *not* cover all films. Check the website ([www.acf-film.com](http://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. Local churches should *not* purchase a license from ACF.



The EMC national office CCLI music license covers musical uses at regional and national events. It does not cover music use by local churches. Such congregations need to purchase their own local license from CCLI.

## Key Links

- ◆ [www.acf-film.com](http://www.acf-film.com) (Audio Cine Films video licensing)
- ◆ [www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org) (Christian Education materials)
  - [www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice)
  - [www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome)
  - [www.mpn.net/worship](http://www.mpn.net/worship)
- ◆ [www.emconference.ca](http://www.emconference.ca)
  - [www.emconference.ca/ce-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/ce-resources)
  - [www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos](http://www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos)
  - [www.emconference.ca/catalogue](http://www.emconference.ca/catalogue)
  - [www.emconference.ca/worship-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/worship-resources)
- ◆ [resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver](http://resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver)
- ◆ [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca) (*What is an Anabaptist Christian?* booklet)
- ◆ [www.themeetinghouse.ca](http://www.themeetinghouse.ca) (*Inglorious Pastors* series)
- ◆ [re-worship.blogspot.com](http://re-worship.blogspot.com) (Dr. Christine Longhurst's worship blog) and [faithmatters.ca](http://faithmatters.ca)
- ◆ [www.cmu.ca/portable.html](http://www.cmu.ca/portable.html) (CMU short courses)

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

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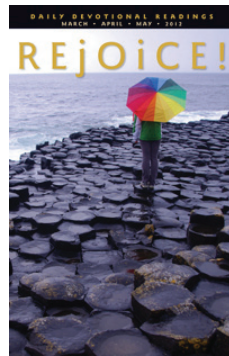
# Christian Education Update

December 2013



## Resources for EMC Churches

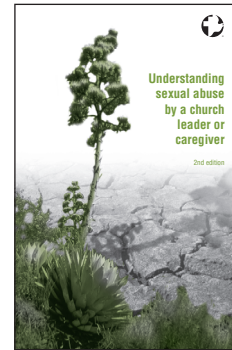
- For Sunday School or Vacation Bible School materials, small group books, youth materials and more, check out **MennoMedia** ([www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org)) for a full product listing.
- A **List of Resources** is available at [www.emconference.ca/ce-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/ce-resources) to assist in your church's teaching ministries.
- **Ancient Future: A Mennonite Catechism**, an 18-lesson guide on Christian beliefs within an Anabaptist perspective, is available free from Fort Garry EMC (in electronic version). Contact Fort Garry EMC at 204-261-1084 or [fortgarryemc@mts.net](mailto:fortgarryemc@mts.net).
- A **2011 Peace and Discipleship Sermons by EMCers** booklet is available (pdf at [www.emconference.ca/ce-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/ce-resources))
- **Rejoice!** is an Anabaptist daily devotional guide produced by MennoMedia ([www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice)).
- **Theodidaktos: Journal for EMC Theology and Education** (editor Darryl G. Klassen) is available free on-line ([www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos](http://www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos)) and in print. The *Journal* provides an in-depth look at issues and a voice for EMCers.
- **What is an Anabaptist Christian?** is a booklet from Mennonite Church Canada that can be downloaded free ([www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca), search "Anabaptist Christian"). It focuses on "Jesus is the center of our faith. Community is the center of our lives. Reconciliation is the center of our work."
- A free **Worship Guide** is available from [www.mpn.net/worship](http://www.mpn.net/worship), produced by Mennonite Church USA and MC Canada.
- **Close to Home** by MennoMedia is a contemporary series of pamphlets on many issues faced by EMCers. Please check [www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome) for a full listing of titles printed and others being planned. (See later in *C.E. Update*.)
- The **EMC Video Resource Library** catalogue is online at [www.emconference.ca/catalogue](http://www.emconference.ca/catalogue). Rental fees are designed on a cost-recovery basis to help maintain and expand the library. Title suggestions are welcomed.



- Need helping in planning a worship service? A **Worship Service Handbook**, produced by Pastor Dave Wiebe (Taber EMC), reflects some of his MA studies at Briercrest Seminary. An electronic copy is available free, posted on the EMC website ([www.emconference.ca/worship-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/worship-resources)).

## Free Booklet to 'spare much grief'

An updated booklet *Understanding sexual abuse by a church leader or caregiver* is available free from MCC. Sexual abuse by church leaders is a topic many avoid, says MCC, but "the knowledge and understanding this booklet provides could spare so much grief in the church." Call 888-622-6337 or download it ([resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver](http://resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver)).



## Inglorious Pastors

The Meeting House, a Brethren in Christ congregation in 10 locations across southern Ontario ([www.themeetinghouse.ca](http://www.themeetinghouse.ca)), has a seven-part 2010 video/audio sermon series called *Inglorious Pastors*, dealing with non-resistance, just war, and pacifism. The main presenter is Bruxy Cavey; one sermon is by Dr. Gregory Boyd. In whole or in part it might be useful. Decide as you will, but some issues are directly addressed. Suggested by Richard Klassen, former EMC moderator.

## Some Useful Writings on Arminian Theology

"Mennonites have been historically Arminian in their theology," said Dr. Harold Bender, "whether they distinctly espoused the Arminian viewpoint or not." A short list of Arminian materials is available upon request to assist leaders interested in further study.

## Worship Blog and Seminars

Dr. Christine Longhurst, a Mennonite Brethren educator, has a blog: [re-worship.blogspot.ca](http://re-worship.blogspot.ca). Worship workshops and seminars for local churches can be found at [faithmatters.ca](http://faithmatters.ca).

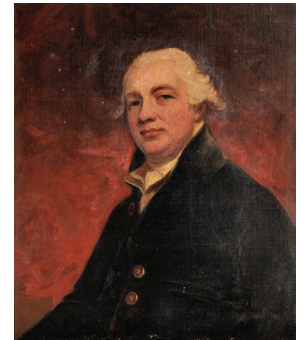


## CMU Short Courses

Canadian Mennonite University offers 17 short courses (three or four sessions) on a range of topics to be held in area churches ([www.cmu.ca/portable.html](http://www.cmu.ca/portable.html)). It is possible that other educational institutions in your region do the same.

## When Sunday School Was Opposed

Robert Raikes (1735-1811), a newspaper editor and publisher in England, met Thomas Stock, who had started a Sunday School to serve neglected children. Raikes began one in his parish in 1780. Schools later started in other parts of England and then Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and America. Raikes' school taught children manners, to read and to write, and Bible instruction. Child labour was common in the British Isles; education was needed but hard to obtain. The schools met on Sunday, the children's day of rest.



Robert Raikes

In its early years, Sunday School was sometimes opposed, often by ministers: it was seen as the devil's agent, did not honour parents, might divide the church, would educate lower class people who would become dissatisfied with their low pay, and end the amusement of others.

With the help of Queen Victoria, John Wesley, William Fox, and many others, it succeeded.

Sources: C. B. Eavey, *History of Christian Education* (Moody, 1964); K. O. Gangel and W. S. Benson, *Christian Education: Its Philosophy and History* (Moody, 1983); "Raikes, Robert," *Dictionary of the Christian Church* (Zondervan, 1978).

## Baptism and Membership

Baptism is an act of membership. If membership reveals identity, service, and accountability with Christ and his Church, can baptism be any less? Who would officiate at a wedding where a couple did not expect to live together? The rich meaning of baptism, as a covenantal act of membership, belongs to basic Christian education.