

The RECORDER

May / June, 2013
Volume 50, Number 3

SPECIAL SECTION Annual 2012 Financial Reports



The Gathering 2013
Loving Our New Neighbour
Embracing the Call
Overcoming the Fear

Prayer Opportunities and Coming Events

Dates to Remember

Canada Day
July 1

American Independence Day
July 4

**Treasured Foundation 2013
"The Exchange"**
December 28 to January 1, 2014
Crowne Plaza, Minneapolis MN
EMMC-WIDE YOUTH EVENT

**Gathering 2015 &
Aylmer EMMC's 50th Anniversary**
July 10, 11 & 12
Aylmer Ontario

**Mennonite World Conference
16th Assembly**
July 21 to 26, 2015
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Recorder Deadlines

July 15, 2013
for July / August issue

September 16, 2013
for September / October issue

November 15, 2013
for November / December issue

On the cover

Being led in worship at the Gathering 2013 Evening Celebrations provided the larger group the opportunity to respond together. The result was beautiful music and worship.

The RECORDER is published bi-monthly by the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference. As a vehicle of communication within the Conference, it strives to keep members of the EMMC informed about congregational life within the family of churches, to inspire interest and commitment to world missions, to facilitate dialogue on relevant faith and life issues, to stimulate spiritual growth, to communicate EMMC visions, to contribute toward a sense of Christian community and fellowship within the conference, and to inform members of major events and developments within the larger Anabaptist community and the greater Christian world beyond our borders. However, opinions expressed in *The Recorder* are not necessarily those of the Conference as a whole.

Letters, articles and photos are welcomed but *The Recorder* will only publish materials considered edifying to readers and reserves editorial rights to improve communication and adjust the length of submissions. All submissions, including photos will be retained by *The Recorder* unless a return is specifically requested.

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The Recorder, Go Mission! Office
757 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2N 4G6
Phone: 204.253.7929
Fax: 204.256.7384
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**Lil Goertzen,
Editor**



Life can start running at a frantic pace. Stop and smell the flowers! Nature is one of God's many gifts to us.

PHOTO BY JOSPEH TIMBURY, WINNIPEG MANITOBA

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Go Mission! Home Office
mailing address and street address
757 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2N 4G6 CANADA
(located in the Morrow Gospel Church building)
ph: 204.253.7929 | fax: 204.256.7384
www.gomission.ca | info@gomission.ca

Visitors are always welcome!

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- Region 4 Ontario
- Region 5 USA
- Region 6 Belize / Mexico South

Find specific churches in your Region by going to www.gomission.ca and click the orange "Go Community" button

More than a Memory: *Shaped by the Lord's Supper*

~ ARLENE FRIESEN



The Lord's Supper has long puzzled and fascinated me. Should it be the somber and introspective twice-a-year ritual of my adolescence? Or is it rather the thankful celebration of the risen Christ that I experienced in weekly chapels during my seminary years? Or something in between? Is it merely a memorial or does it convey something of God's present grace?

After seminary, I was privileged to lead a congregation in its worship. Searching for a way to capture the fullness of communion, I came upon this acclamation: "Christ *has* died, Christ *is* risen, Christ *will* come again!" This memorable phrase shaped in our church family a deeper understanding of remembrance, the real presence of Christ, and a foretaste of the kingdom banquet.

Recently I taught the history of Christian worship. My students and I were challenged by the different traditions of the Church (including the Anabaptists) to explore the depths of the Lord's Supper. To eat the bread and drink the cup is to participate in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16).

How can our practice of this ritual fully express its mystery and power? If our practice is one-dimensional and weak, we will miss out on some of the rich foods Christ has for us in this meal. Let us feed by faith on the multi-course banquet laid out for us in the acclamation.

Christ *has* died

Remembering Christ's saving acts is more than a historical exercise. In remembering, we bring his work into the present so as to be experienced again.

We remember and give thanks not only for Christ's sacrificial work, but also for the Spirit's regenerating work. Both of these works are historic and actual, past and present.

Practices to renew our remembering:

- Memorize and recite this acclamation: "Christ *has* died, Christ *is* risen, Christ *will* come again." We remember his death and suffering on our behalf. We affirm with faith his living presence in and among us. We anticipate with joy sharing with him in the kingdom banquet.
- "Do" the memory. A full-bodied remembering is more than intellectual. Leanne Payne says that the early disciple was eager to participate in the Lord's Table. "This was a symbolic action. But it was not merely a symbolic one, for in doing this he 'died' once again with Christ to the sins of the world, his own included. He also rose with Christ once again in newness of life, forgiven and strengthened anew to do Christ's mighty works in the world."
- Demonstrate this eagerness physically. Coming forward to receive the bread and cup – the "altar call" of communion – is a physical way to remind ourselves that in feeding on Christ we find forgiveness and life (John 6:54-57).
- Make prayer for healing available. Payne calls communion the greatest healing service the Church has to offer. Christ's victory over the powers (Colossians 2:15) gives us confidence to pray.

Christ *is* risen

Sometimes our communion talk stops at the death of Christ. But he is not dead; he is risen! The bread of communion becomes a metaphor for the Body of Christ. And this is where we encounter him – Christ present in the gathered body. We belong together as one loaf or one cup because each of us as an individual grain or grape belongs to him.

This was a favourite image of the early church and of early Anabaptists. The picture of grain being crushed to make bread or grapes being crushed for wine points to the submission needed for this community to be one.

And so, in remembering Christ risen and present among us, we are called to renew our commitment to self-sacrificial love (John 15:12-14). Does the way in which we practice communion actually do this? If the focus is on my individual self-examination and my individual remembering of Christ's sacrificial work for my individual self – perhaps not.

Practices to renew our awareness of the risen Christ among us:

- Think carefully about the connection between baptism and communion. If communion is a renewal of our covenant pledge to Christ and each other, should we reserve it for those who have made that pledge in baptism? Many of us are moving to greater inclusivity. I myself have encouraged this, but my recent reading of the early Church's practice has challenged me to reconsider.
- Take reconciliation seriously. Teach the joy of keeping short accounts with each other so that we may freely share in the Table together.
- Restore the kiss of peace or some other sign of reconciliation. Place it in the order of service after confession. This reminds us that we are not only reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, but also to each other (Ephesians 2:14-18).
- Use the early Anabaptist Pledge of Love. It is part of Balthasar Hubmaier's Order of Communion (<http://www.anabaptistnetwork.com/node/252>, see #8).
- Give opportunity for testimonies, praises, prayer requests, and people coming forward for prayer with designated prayer ministers. These are times of "discovering each other as people who belong together because we each belong to him" (Henri Nouwen).
- Serve communion in such a way as to recognize the Body.
 - Conrad Grebel pushed for people to stay in their seats and serve their neighbours rather than coming forward to be served by the minister. He believed this better demonstrated the true nature of the Body. The simple gesture of passing the communion tray to our neighbour before taking the elements allows our neighbour to serve us, rather than serving ourselves.
 - Gather in groups around the Table and take together.
 - Combine communion with a potluck to strengthen fellowship.
- Restore footwashing as a powerful symbol of self-sacrificial love.

- Bring offerings for the poor. The problem in Corinth (1 Corinthians 11) was a division between the rich and the poor. Our gratitude in the Lord's Supper should make us overflow with generosity. Bring gifts of food for a local soup kitchen or food bank. Bring money gifts for redistribution to those in need.

Christ will come again

We remember God's saving acts and we encounter the risen Christ in the gathered Body. But it does not stop there. The King is coming!

God's glorious feast, described in Isaiah 25:6-8, is a time when people will come from all places to eat with the King (Matthew 8:11, 26:29). Every communion reminds us that Christ's vision will be realized and encourages us now to live joyfully within those kingdom values.

Practices to renew our anticipation of Kingdom feasting:

- Sing resurrection songs as well as passion songs.
- Tell stories of the signs of the Kingdom among us.
- Increase the frequency. Both in the early church and among early Anabaptists, the Lord's Supper was celebrated frequently, perhaps at every gathering. Gratitude overflowed. Regular thankful celebrations develop habits of gratitude.
- Build anticipation. Jewish people end their Passover with a hope-filled "Next year in Jerusalem!" Could we conclude with "Next month with the King!"?

In my own life and in those of church members, I have seen a fear of unworthiness and a tendency toward perfectionism rob us of the gifts of this meal. Let us practice this three-fold truth and eat with joy. "Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory." *Maranatha* – Come, Lord Jesus.

Arlene Friesen communes with the church family at Nassau Street Church (EMMC - Winnipeg, Manitoba). She teaches Bible and ministry studies at Steinbach Bible College. She has her MTS (Master of Theological Studies) from Tyndale Seminary, Toronto.



The Congregation That Could

A powerful story of reconciliation led by the Holy Spirit

~ BETHANY DAMAN

COMMUNICATION STUDENT, CMU

NIVERVILLE MB - It's a congregation that has two buildings, belongs to two conferences and is only four years old – not your average church. Although the small town congregation referred to as Niverville Community Fellowship only began in 2009, its history commenced decades before that.

In 1944 Niverville Mennonite Church was birthed by the General Conference of Mennonites. As the congregation developed and changed, divisions and conflict between languages and generations started occurring in the church. "It was a struggle for power," said Bill Redekop as he and his wife Roselyn reflected on the difficult times. Eventually the struggles resulted in a split as a large number of people left Niverville Mennonite Church in 1967 to form the Elim Mennonite Church.

The two churches grew as individual entities, both numerically and spiritually. Over the years, leadership in the congregations changed and despite the painful history, friendships between the groups grew. The ladies started going on retreats together, the congregations started working together to put on a summer VBS program, and on long weekends, when both sanctuaries were relatively empty, they had joint services. By 2006 there were discussions of the two churches coming together.

"The idea was that coming together we would be able to do more than apart," said Gordon Daman, chair of the Elim Mennonite Church elder board at the time discussions began taking place. The fact that the churches had a shared theology and history was a contributing factor to making this possible. Although the initial idea came from elder board discussions, they were very intentional to keep the whole process congregational driven. "It wasn't top down, but truly bottom up," said Daman.

This time of discussion and communication came with much commitment to prayer, seeking what was best for the congregations. Roselyn Redekop, a member of the original Niverville Mennonite Church when the split occurred, said, "We were well into the process of the churches joining together before it dawned on me 'that's right, we moved apart. We're coming back together again.' I had my hesitations, but once the ball was rolling I never worked against it."

On January 1, 2009, after three years of dedicated work and seeking God's direction, Niverville Community Fellowship was birthed. "Two congregations who split apart 40 some odd years earlier, representing several hundred people, each with unique faith stories and theological perspectives, each connected to a larger conference with distinct polity and procedures, coming together in prayer and worship to discern the formation of a new congregation. That in itself is one of the biggest God moments of my life," said Ken Warkentin. As the pastor of Niverville Mennonite Church at the time the churches came together, he said he had never before heard of two congregations who had split coming together to form a new church.

Although job descriptions changed, all staff members from the previous congregations maintained employment. The Elim



After the healing service at Niverville Mennonite Church on November 23, 2008 the joint group of Elim Mennonite Church and Niverville Mennonite Church walked down the road to share Communion at the Elim Church.

Mennonite Church became the youth building and Niverville Mennonite Church, only one block away, became the worship building where Sunday morning services are held. Both buildings are actively involved in the community as they also house organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Helping Hands, and Baby Blessings.

Today, Niverville Community Fellowship continues to blossom as it is home to about 230 people in the rural town of 4000, while remaining affiliated with both Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference and Mennonite Church Manitoba. Chris Marchand, current lead pastor of the church who only started attending with his family after the congregations came together, notes, "We never, and still don't have a sense of who went to which church. There was a heightened sense of welcoming a visitor because everyone felt like a visitor."

Every day the congregation faces new opportunities as they work towards a building project to bring together the youth building and worship center under one roof. The conferences work with them as they remain affiliated with both, and the members work together in the opportunities they have to serve the community. God has proved Himself faithful to this congregation as the people work towards a common mission: to love the people of Niverville and beyond through participating in the movement of God's love towards people.



VBS ministry draws lots of children from the church and neighborhood.

Window on the Churches

Region 1 - Alberta / Saskatchewan

Sutherland Evangelical Church, Saskatoon SK

Bound for Belize

Leesa Doerksen has exciting plans for the next year. She will be busy making lesson plans and packing her bags for Spanish Lookout Belize. Leesa has been accepted by the Spanish Lookout school, which is operated by the EMMC church



School begins August 16, and Leesa will be heading out earlier so she can become acquainted with her new surroundings. This 10-month assignment will take her through to the end of May 2014.

Leesa heard about this opportunity through her dad, Dale Doerksen, who is the pastor of her church. Leesa had been looking for ministry option overseas when this idea was introduced to her. After much prayer, she believes this is where God wants her for the next year.

The Sutherland church has been very supportive with their encouragement and finances in preparation for Leesa's departure. Leesa covets your prayers on her behalf as she steps out in faith and confidence and follows God's direction.

Treasured Foundation 2013



THE EXCHANGE
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Youth!!

video at www.gomission.ca on the home page and under "resources" and click on the **Treasured Foundation 2013** link

Region 2 - Manitoba Central

Morrow Gospel Church

Saying good-bye

After 10 years of ministry at Morrow Gospel Church, Ralph Unger stepped from being full-time pastor to being full-time retired. The church family recognized Ralph and Mary Lynn on May 15 with a supper and brief program, giving congregants the opportunity to share music, poetry and well wishes. The group of over 200 people moved between laughter and tears as individuals thanked Ralph and Mary Lynn for the various ways in which they had ministered.



Mary Lynn and Ralph Unger brought their ministry to a close at Morrow Gospel.

Ralph's 'official' retirement date was May 31, with his last preaching assignment on May 12. Ungers will be traveling for a few weeks before returning to Winnipeg to start on some new projects.

We wish them God's blessing as they find new ways to be involved in ministry and impact the lives of those around them.

~ LIL GOERTZEN

Baptism and Membership



Baptism and Membership at Morrow Gospel Church, Winnipeg on May 12, 2013. Back row: Andy Funk, Associate Pastor, Bev Funk (T), Marcie Rudyk (T), Kristin Buhler (B), Anne Penner (T), Pastor Ralph Unger. Front row: Len Funk (T), Jeff Rudyk (B); Duane Buhler (B), Vern Penner (T). B=Baptized | T=Transfer

Glencross Mennonite Church

Baptism and Member Acceptance



Henry and Eva Thiessen (T), Tom and Karen Wiebe (T). Standing at the far right are Garry and Chris Klassen (T). Baptized, middle back row left to right, Paul Gervais (B), Emily Unrau (B) and Kristen Klassen (B). Front Evan Unrau (B), and Jody Friesen (B)

It was a wonderful evening. Family and friends came together on April 21 to celebrate and witness the baptism as their special someone gave their personal story of how they had come to know Christ. There were seven of them, happy and excited, and yet somewhat nervous. Public speaking was a little scary to most, but as had been taught, God requires each of His children to step out in faith and acknowledge Him. He will, by His Spirit, lead and guide them through life and show His faithfulness. God is faithful. All seven were then accepted as full members into the Glencross Mennonite Church. Three couples transferred in and were accepted as full members into the Glencross Mennonite Church.

Pastor Peter Redekop spoke of Paul's conversion on his way to Damascus; (Acts 22) how Paul's life changed, and how he demonstrated the conversion that had taken place in his life.

~ ALLEN SCHELLENBERG

Mexico Bible Distribution

~ ABRAM AND ALVINA PETERS

~ NEIL AND HELEN SCHMIDT

Two years ago, Pastor Hein Thiessen had a desire and a dream that each home in the Durango Mexico colony could have a Low German Bible. This would give people the opportunity to read and understand what was written. Many people prayed and April 8 to 10, 2013 that desire became a reality.

There were many struggles trying to get the bibles to Durango. But with God's help they got here just in time. There were a few people who doubted the plan and said it was a bad idea. But no one can break God's plan. "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be broken." (Job 42:2).

Eight people from Manitoba brought 1500 bibles to Durango and assisted with handing them out to each family. Each day eight vehicles drove from house to house handing out the bibles.

Each person who received a bible was motivated to read God's Word. At each home they read John 3:16. While handing out bibles each child received either a sticker or a Canadian flag. There were excited too. Each family was given a paper with scripture verses telling them that they could know if they are saved and how to accept Christ. Every home received one or two bibles and some asked for more. Out of the whole colony, only twelve people didn't accept a bible.

The Spanish church is interested in doing a similar bible distribution among their people.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:1-3



Helen Schmidt (above right) of Winkler EMM Church with a young girl from Durango Colony in Mexico. Neil Schmidt is at far left in the photo below.



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Mexico Mountain believers



Diedrich Harms, Leadership Development has mentored many people through the years. David Wiebe was one of those unassuming people with a special gift. Diedrich helped him find his way to God and has been teaching him evangelism for the past years. David's passion for the people of the mountains has developed into a unique ministry. This is part of his ministry up in the Mexican mountains where few people dare to go. God is at work in this place!



The majority of those gathered are women and children. There are some men in the group, but they are noticeably absent. That's one of the challenges living in a remote village and having to find employment elsewhere in order to provide for the family.

Readin' and Writin' in Low German

~ ABE GIESBRECHT, MISSIONS FACILITATOR

Nothing communicates truths and understanding like hearing something in your mother tongue. That became clear to the nearly 50 participants from 5 countries at the first ever Low German Media Conference held recently in Paraguay, South America.

At times it's easy to forget that there are many thousands of Mennonite people in Bolivia, Mexico, Belize, Paraguay, and perhaps even in Canada, the U.S. and other countries for whom Low German is not only their mother tongue, it's the only language they understand.

So with that in mind, people from a variety of backgrounds, but with one common purpose in mind, met for a 4-day consultation on how to most effectively produce and manage such materials for the spiritual benefit of the Low German speaking people.

What we found from hearing reports of each others' ministries was that much is being done, and much more is needed. It became clear that something had to be put in place so that what is being done could be done most effectively, and that these materials would then be available to the most possible Low German speakers.

The Conference dealt with written materials, music, radio programs, and other ministries. At the end it was decided to form a small committee which would look into how the internet could be used to produce, store and access these resources. A follow-up conference is being planned in 2 years.

Aside from reports and discussions the group enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Friesland Colony people in East Paraguay. A bus tour following the conference took visitors to see the beauty of Brazil's Iguazu Falls, and to attend a Sunday morning Church service in Sommerfeld Colony, and to the Leprosy Hospital, Kilometer 81.

If you would like more information on this event, or about how you can help with translating much needed materials into Low German please contact Abe Giesbrecht, Missions Facilitator, at the EMMC / Go Mission! office. abe@gomission.ca or call 204.253.7929



Exchanging ideas at the Low German Media Conference.

Loving Our New Neighbour

The Gathering 2013

MAY 24, 25 & 26

STEINBACH BIBLE COLLEGE, MANITOBA

Ministry Leadership Event

Thursday, May 23

hosted by the Theology Committee

held at at Gospel Fellowship Church, Steinbach



The Theology Committee recognized the need for pastors and leaders to have the opportunity to connect and get to know one another as well as discuss things that affect church life. They responded by inviting **Elton DaSilva** (left), Executive Director for the

Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba. His presentation on “Dealing with Diversity” addressed the increased cultural diversity in our communities. His words resonated with many who had gathered. DaSilva’s insight was practical, timely and appreciated.

During the discussion time, the Theology Committee listened to many insights, concerns and recommendations for resourcing churches in the future.

- *Divorce and Remarriage resources are needed by some churches.*
- *Value of membership in a culture where “attendance is enough.”*
- *Suicide*
- *Women in leadership*
- *Differentiating foundational vs. secondary issues or “Define the biggies.”*
- *Congregations have a long expectation list but our priority though, is to train leaders.*
- *Managing change in a diverse culture—older vs. younger persons*
- *Church planting is key task because established churches are too rigid for new initiatives.*
- *Return to the core of the gospel—people’s separation from God.*
- *Communities are changing—the things we talk about mostly in theory (ie: homosexuality), our kids are dealing with it directly in their schools. How do we teach our kids to respond?*
- *Culture may get too deeply rooted. Doctrine does not change but all needs to be tested by the Scriptures.*
- *“We are well situated to reach Low German Mennonites.” But their culture is also changing.*

The guided prayer time with Ben Klassen and the worship in music led by Michael Krahn added to the fellowship experience.

It was exciting and encouraging to see about 75 pastors, spouses and leaders representing the Regions, taking time to develop new friendships and engage in meaningful conversations. God’s peace and presence was at work.

Friday Evening Worship Celebration

“Embracing the Call”

Al Letkeman (right) related the story of being a 16-year old and going skiing with a friend. They decided to go up the ski lift which took them into dense fog. They reached the top of the mountain and began the thrilling descent in the perfect skiing conditions. After a period of time, they could no longer distinguish any signs of other skiers in the area. They discovered that they were on the ‘wrong’ side of the mountain. Daylight was fading fast.



After walking through waist-deep snow for a few hours, they noticed shafts of light in the sky. They made their way towards the light, which was coming from the ski lodge, and made their way towards safety.

Other skiers were preparing to head out to look for the guys when they came in and identified themselves.

Sometimes our ministry is to be those shafts of light for those who are trying to find their way through the darkness.



Nancy Robertson (left) lives in Winnipeg, and attends Nassau Street Church. When she first connected with Nassau Street, she was looking for help, and received it. Nancy grabbed hold of that help and began to find ways of responding to others in need.

In her apartment building, Nancy is known to many of the residents as someone on whom they can depend. They know that she will be down in the coffee area at a certain time, working on a puzzle and is always ready for conversation. Since many of the building residents struggle with mobility and need assistance, Nancy has keys to access their apartment in case of emergency. Being a neighbour that they can depend on is her practical ministry to those right in her neighbourhood.



*B e n
a n d T i n a
F r o e s e* (left) have wonderful ministry opportunities among the Low German speaking people in Southern

Alberta. By using music and bible study as a way to connect with these newcomers, the Froeses have given leadership in the restart of the church in Vauxhall Alberta. Their strong passion to see people come to Christ is evident. The Mennonite Gospel Church in Vauxhall regularly accommodates more than 100 people each Sunday in a sanctuary that was designed to seat 100 people. According to Ben, being over-full is a good thing! Praise God!

The Froeses shared of their ministry in Alberta, and provided the music during the evening offering collection.

Special thanks to Benjamin Reimer for using his photography skills over the weekend! The majority of the photos in the Gathering 2013 section are his work.



The use of technology allowed **Dave Runyon** (left) to participate via Skype during the evening celebration. Dale Doerksen engaged him in discussion as they explored what is meant by the “Art of Neighbouring”. Simply put – it means making the effort to know the names of your neighbours and as opportunities present themselves, develop friendships with your neighbours. Many of us live very independent lives and need to make the effort to talk to those who live right next door.

Similar interests or the need for a helping hand are often the natural way to start conversations and begin the friendship. Introducing the topic of faith can come in simple ways like talking about the weekend activities, which for you, may include going to church. It’s a start.

Dave used the example of a tic-tac-toe chart (see below) and encouraged people to name the neighbours situated right around. Place yourself in the middle spot. Can you name the people who live in your immediate vicinity?



Coffee House



HUGE thanks to the following for making the Coffee House a great experience!

L Bee Specialty Coffee and Cake
5-287 Main Street Steinbach, Manitoba
donated all the coffee beans

Raymond Ginter
Gathering 2013 Barista
specialty coffees to order

Carlee Friesen
Very capable dessert server

European HOMESTYLE BAKERY
Lisa Harder
204.320.9781

Everyone who stayed to enjoy the fellowship time!

Loving Our New Neighbour

The Gathering 2013

MAY 24, 25 & 26

STEINBACH BIBLE COLLEGE, MANITOBA

Offering Opportunities for Gathering 2013

Helping each other love our new neighbours in ...

Loving neighbours is about creating relationships of care. The focus of our gifts at this Gathering was on helping specific people and churches in their ministry of sharing the Good News of Jesus with their new neighbours. Our goal was to raise \$45,000 through the offerings and the designations through our worship services on Sunday May 26 and beyond.

Southern Alberta – \$10,000

Many of us came to know Christ and were disciplined through church planting efforts in Southern Ontario and different regions in the United States. Loving our new neighbours by sharing the gospel and assisting in establishing a church has been part of the EMMC/Go Mission! story for years. We join hands with the new church in Vauxhall, Alberta as it reaches out to the many newcomers in the area, especially as it seeks to respond to the youth that often congregate in large, destructive parties.

Storm Lake, Iowa – \$10,000

We are thrilled by the intentional move this church recently made by relocating to Storm Lake to reach more of their “new Latin neighbours”. By God’s grace, people are responding to the Gospel and are being disciplined. Presently the Real Life Community Church congregation is renting space for worship meetings but land has been purchased and plans are to start building soon. We are excited to help the people of this church in this vision of reaching their new neighbours with the Good News of Jesus.

Veracruz, Mexico – \$10,000

Six years ago John Wall moved to Mexico to help his dad in church planting and some economic development. Today John is providing pastoral care and leadership to a group of churches in the beautiful mountain region of Veracruz. We are thankful for this opportunity to participate in what God is doing in and through this family of churches as they reach out to their neighbours in loving service.

Hope for Children through Education – \$15,000

Over the years we have brought hope to families in Mexico, Bolivia and Belize by providing Christ-centered education. Most of these schools have become self-supporting and continue to impact over 900 children a year. We are helping with teacher salaries for schools in Villa Nueva, Bolivia and Durango, Mexico.

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Saturday workshops and field trip

Workshops

Saturday morning provided individuals the choice between five different workshops, which were designed for interaction and learning.

Sharing Jesus with a Muslim Friend (for women only)

– Joy Loewen

MOVE IN – Intentionally choosing a neighbourhood

– Harv Thiessen

Loving my Secular Neighbour – Wally Doerksen

Introduction to World Religions – Dr. Daryl Climenhaga

From Sierra Leon to Canada to find Jesus (Youth)

– Joseph Massaquoi

A quick coffee break and then participants boarded the school buses and headed to Winnipeg to continue the interactive learning experience.

Harv Thiessen of

Operation Mobilization was the leader on one bus, and Ed Loewen was on the second bus. Both leaders provided brief



Harvey Thiessen

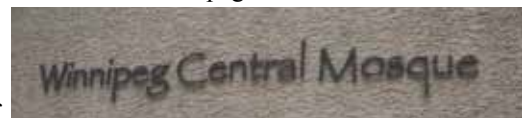
background as to what to expect at the students would be introduced to a Sikh Temple, Muslim Mosque and Hindu Temple. The key thing the leaders wanted to impress on the students was the great gift of believing and knowing that Jesus is

the Son of God. That is one of the truths that separates Christians from other religions. Time spent at the locations varied which also determined how much information the students gathered.

Once back at SBC, there was much conversation and comparison as to what the difference groups had experienced. A lot was packed into a very short afternoon, giving a very brief overview of religions. Many walked away from that field trip, having a better understanding of these religions. It also prompted some to do further study to become prepared for meaningful conversations with those who may not share similar beliefs.



Lunch!



Ed Loewen

Saturday Evening Worship Celebration

“Overcoming the Fear”

Patrick Friesen of SBC together with the rest of the worship team led the congregation through beautiful times of worship on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

Earlier in the day, the youth had the opportunity to hear Joseph Massaquoi share his faith story and to ask questions of his life. Joseph was born in Sierra Leon. As a young boy, he witnessed the horrors of war and saw the results of it unfold in his village.

Joseph made his way to Canada and eventually settled in Winnipeg where he continued to practise his Muslim religion.



Joseph Massaquoi sharing his faith journey.

His cousin brought him to an evangelical service. Joseph went with the intent to be disruptive. Instead, through a series of events, Joseph accepted Jesus into his life.

He had many questions about his new faith, and wanted to learn more about this man Jesus, so he enrolled at Steinbach Bible College.

Hein Thiessen is the pastor at the Nuevo Ideal Church in Durango Mexico. Hein brought along a friend, Isaac Hiebert and introduced him to the crowd. Hein and Isaac both shared their thanks and gratitude to God for using EMMC / Go Mission! and their faithfulness in bringing the gospel to their area in Mexico.

Guest speaker, Dr. Sadiri Joy Tira serves as the Lausanne Movement’s Senior Associate for Diasporas, and the Global Diaspora Network (GDN) Chairperson. He travels extensively and shared of some of his experiences abroad and right at home.

He encouraged the congregation to take the step beyond saying “hi” to your neighbour. Rather than remaining curious about two fellows who were doing lawn care at a park in Edmonton, he engaged them in conversation. Dr. Tira bought sandwiches and shared the lunch break with the workers, listening to their stories. Both men were from Central American countries and were seasonal workers, earning money to



Dr. Sadiri Joy Tira



Patrick Friesen leading the worship team.



Hein Thiessen, Durango, Mexico.



Isaac Hiebert of Durango, Mexico expressed his thanks.



Hermat Habib (second from left) gave direction for Saturday supper preparations. Menu included a variety of international foods. It was amazing!



help support their families back home. He now has names for those two workers, and has started a friendship with them.

Dr. Tira recognized the hesitation we all have in stepping beyond what is comfortable and opening up to the potential of new friendships and opportunities to reach into the lives of others.

Bolivia is never far from the hearts and prayers of many. Ben and Lisa Friesen shared a video from Villa Nueva School, featuring Sandra Rojas, one of the Bolivian teachers.

This is Sandra’s ninth year teaching at the school. She expressed her love of the children, the school and the opportunity to be part of the ministry of education for these young children. Sandra believes that God has placed her at the school at this time, and desires to be faithful. She expressed her thanks to God and to EMMC / Go Mission! for the opportunity to impact children for Jesus.

To see complete video, go to www.gomission.ca and click “The BEST video of our impact”.



Lisa and Ben Friesen of Villa Nueva, Bolivia.

Celebrating Celebrations

Bestselling authors of *Mennonite Girls Can Cook* return with a second course



Waterloo, Ontario - When *Mennonite Girls Can Cook* released in 2011, the authors had no idea that there would be such an outpouring of support from their faithful readers, or that the book would quickly become a Canadian bestseller. With readers around the world hungry for a second course, Herald Press is thrilled for *Celebrations* to be available across Canada on May 1, 2013.

Drawing on the recipes passed down from their Russian Mennonite ancestors, Lovella Schellenberg along with Anneliese Friesen, Betty Reimer, Bev Klassen, Charlotte Penner, Ellen Bayles, Judy Wiebe, Julie Klassen, Kathy McLellan, and Marg Bartel have selected their favorites for *Mennonite Girls Can Cook Celebrations*.

Each of the 118 recipes found in *Celebrations* are traditional, family favorites made in honor of a specific celebration, from baby showers and weddings to the holidays and celebrations of life. Filled with personal family stories and beautiful photos, this full-color book contains much more than recipes - something that the ladies' thousands of faithful blog followers appreciate.

In 2008, British Columbia-based Lovella Schellenberg began a blog where she intended to post her mother's recipes, starting with Paska; a traditional Easter bread. She soon welcomed recipes from nine other women from British Columbia, Manitoba and Washington State with Mennonite backgrounds. Today, the *Mennonite Girls Can Cook* blog has received over 6 million visitors, with 7,000 readers coming back daily.

Early on in the blogging and book publishing process, the women decided that they would extend their gift of hospitality to feeding hungry children and giving back to the organization that helped their ancestors in Russia and the Ukraine. The overwhelming success of the first book allowed the women to donate a greenhouse to the Good Shepherd Shelter in the Ukraine. All book royalties for the new *Celebrations* cookbook will be disbursed through Mennonite Central Committee to provide clean drinking water for people in Africa through their Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Program.

"I never could have imagined that the Paska recipe my husband's grandmother gifted me in 1978 would be making such a powerful impact today. She could have never guessed that her simple gift that inspired this project might help feed orphans in her native Ukraine, or provide clean drinking water for children in Kenya" said Lovella.

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New face, new voice!

Interim Admin Assistant at Home Office



Janice Rempel, interim Admin Assistant at Home Office.

We are pleased to announce that Janice Rempel has accepted the position of interim Administrative Assistant at the EMMC / Go Mission! Home Office in Winnipeg. She will be assuming these duties to accommodate Tracy Dueck's maternity leave. Janice began her training at Home Office on June 3, 2013.

Previously, Janice was the receptionist at Steinbach Bible College. Janice looks forward to the opportunity to serve the EMMC / Go Mission! constituency and partners through her gifts and calling.

Tracy's last day in the office will be June 21.

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Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Pete and Cathy Dyck

WEC International

Mexico

Home church: Aylmer EMM Church, Aylmer ON



“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Proverbs 55:9

We write this letter with a mixture of apprehension and excitement

Josiah, Cathy, Pete and ChristyAnn (front) Dyck

because God has answered your prayers in a very unexpected way. We believe that God is calling us to move to the state of Michoacán (west of Mexico City) to work among an indigenous group called the Purépechas. The idea, when suggested to us, came as a surprise, and yet at the same time we as a couple felt immediately that it was of the Lord. Now we are busy preparing to move out there at the beginning of May, the Lord willing.

God preparing the way without us even realizing it. Last year, Pete had the opportunity to do small group Bible studies with a number of people. When we talked to our field leaders about this, they led us to see that our real passion now is doing small group Bible studies and discipleship. The Purépecha are a people group that WEC has “adopted”. As a mission our goal

is to send missionaries to work among them. At this point there is only one missionary couple working in the area, but another couple is preparing to move there this summer, so we will not be there alone.

Our family is facing a multitude of changes – ministry, church, house, language, culture and climate (a cooler climate will be a definite plus!). We almost feel like new missionaries going out to the field for the first time.

The Purépecha men and some of the younger generation speak Spanish, but most of the women beyond the thirties only speak Purépecha. The late forties does not seem like a very appropriate age to try learning a new language, but we will need to give it our best shot, because Spanish is not the heart language of the Purépechas, not even of those who understand Spanish. For Josiah and ChristyAnn the biggest challenge will probably be making new friends, especially for Josiah, who is more reserved. ChristyAnn is excited about going. Josiah is getting used to the idea of moving.

Please pray for the many details involved in this move:

- that God will lead us to a house appropriate for our family’s needs. We would like a house with 3 or 4 bedrooms and a decent-sized yard (with trees would be a lovely bonus). We are planning to make a trip out there the last week of April to look for a house to rent
- that God will prepare each of us for the move.
- safety as we travel (7 to 8 hour drive)
- energy for packing and wisdom in sorting out what to take along.
- special grace to say many good-byes
- Ezekiel and Carol in this transition time

Thanks again for praying for us, especially as we venture out into new territory.

Harry and Mars Enns

Serving in Mission

- on loan to Providence College & Seminary

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Home Region 2



Harry and Mars Enns

On May 14, we received the following information came to Home Office from Harry and Mars:

“It has recently come to our attention that we are in jeopardy of losing our U.S. ‘green cards’ (or permanent resident

status), as we’re now living in Canada. If this were to happen, we would lose our pension benefits, after paying into the pension

*fund for 12 years. Obviously, this would deny us funds we had counted on for our retirement. We are currently **praying**, working with our immigration lawyer in New York, **praying**, filling out government forms, **praying**, trying to determine all the options ... and **praying** some more! Would you please pray with us?”*

The following update arrived May 31:

We want to begin by thanking you for your prayers! We were overwhelmingly encouraged, and reminded again of the many very loving, caring, and faithful friends we have. We are SO blessed!

As believers, we are often drawn back to the words of Isaiah 55:8. Sometimes it feels like: here we go again - our neatly laid plans colliding head-on with God’s! Only two short years ago we moved from Chicago to Winnipeg. The transition was difficult, but being enjoyably smothered with love from our kids and grandkids, we began to feel at home and settled. How

continued on page 16

Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Harry and Mars Enns, cont'd from page 15

quickly things change! With our green card status in question, we needed to find an immediate solution. Thankfully, our incredibly loving God, who has planned each day of our lives down to the smallest detail, assures us in Jeremiah 29:11 that:

*I know the plans I have for you,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.*

His plan has begun to unfold. We can only see one step at a time, but as far as we can tell, we need to move back to the U.S. for 12 to 18 months in order to become American citizens (dual citizens, actually, as we'll maintain our Canadian citizenship, as well).

SIM USA has a position for us at SIM's Retirement Village in Sebring, Florida where Harry will serve on the maintenance staff, and I will help out where needed. We have served twice before in Sebring for short periods of time. We thoroughly enjoyed our times there, and have come to love and appreciate the staff. It will be a privilege to work together with them for a longer period of time.

You can help by:

- continuing to pray with us through this unexpected time of change. Leaving our family again would not have been our first choice. We'll miss them terribly!
- praying about, or helping with, our financial shortfall. We'll need to raise an additional \$8,000 (\$667/month) by July 1st, primarily to cover medical insurance. With God ALL things are possible!

Where does this leave the Missionary Care Center Project?

This project has proceeded much more quickly than we had anticipated. There is a meeting scheduled for all interested parties to discuss our common felt need to improve the care we offer missionaries and MKs in Manitoba. Our hope is that a new organization will be formed, with a mandate to begin the process of offering improved care for this specific group of people. We hope to vote in a Board of Directors and a temporary Director who can take up the activities from here. Please join us in prayer that God will motivate all concerned to be ready to take steps that will move the Missionary Care Feasibility Study into reality with a Board and Director ready to move forward.

Murray and Carol Honsberger

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Bible translation into Kwomtari Language

Papua New Guinea

Home Church: Altona EMM Church, Manitoba



Murray, Carol and Kevin Honsberger

S u s a n ' s husband Raimon became excited about storytelling after hearing his wife tell the stories she learned. He began using this process in his preaching, asking his wife to tell the story and then he would make the application. Allowing a woman to take such a part in

the service is a very new thing in PNG culture.

When asked to share a devotional at a church leader's conference Raimon used the storytelling method. Because of the great interest in the process the devotional stretched into a five hour teaching session. As awareness of the storytelling process has gone out many church leaders are asking to receive training.

Praise God for the enthusiasm people are showing when they hear the stories and for the good questions they are asking. Pray that God's Word will make a difference in their lives as they listen to each story.

God's Word comes alive as Susan (right), an illiterate woman, tells its stories!

... at the third Oral Bible Storytelling Workshop in Wewak (April 9 to 23).



We are about to mark a major milestone in the life of our family! On June 18, Kevin will graduate from high school — the youngest of our four children. We will officially be empty nesters.

Please pray for Kevin:

- as he says good-bye to his many friends here in PNG
- as he transitions to life in Canada
- for guidance regarding his plans for the fall

In a few short weeks, we will be boarding the plane for Canada! Please pray wisdom in choosing and prioritizing, as there are more tasks than time available.

So much has happened these past three years among the Kwomtari and we are excited to be coming home to share with you. We plan to settle in Altona, Manitoba for the year. Between trips to share with you, our partners and friends, we plan to work on the Kwomtari language project.

We look forward to seeing you face to face! Thank you for being such an amazing support team! Each one of you is so important to us and to the Lord!

Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Chris and Elaine Hurst

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Working from Abbotsford BC with the
Aztec languages in Mexico
Home church: Hepburn Gospel Church, SK



Elaine and Chris Hurst

Thanks to those of you who pray for the translation team. As I (Chris) look back on my last week here in Tatahuicapan there are several positive things to share. We have all received grace somehow this week; sometimes it may not feel like it I know. I'm humbled

and grateful to the Lord for His grace.

There are over 30 congregations in town and I have only been to 10 or so. These folks were very receptive. After the meeting people bought the 5 copies of Luke and all the other booklets and CDs I'd taken along. They are very interested and sat around afterwards, reading Luke and discussing. Just the kind of stimulus a hermit Bible translator needs after too many hours at the desk!

Our invitation to speak on the town radio turned into a fun experience. It is a new initiative partly from the local University, so there was a representative from the city University taking video of the whole hour's broadcast. Esteban started by talking about the Bible translation project and how it is going. Plácido is really our expert, so he spoke the most. I did a spot on language value and one on the benefits of bilingualism, since the interviewer remembered I had talked to him about that a few years ago.

There seems to be interest in Nahuatl literacy classes for the community. The fellows now have a standing invitation to speak each Tuesday at 5pm about language related topics.

For a change of setting I went with Plácido to his field to plant corn one evening. You pierce the ground with a "dibble stick", (a hefty pointed shaft), then throw three kernels into the hole and kick some dirt over. We planted an area about 25m x 35m in just over an hour, then got soaked in the rain on the way home on our bikes. At 27° C, who is worried about getting wet?

This week Plácido, Esteban, Hilario and I have worked on 2 Corinthians. It is mostly ready for the consultant now, having passed through many stages of revision.

I nearly took progress in translation for granted, but this surely is a sign of grace. We battled with Hebrews this week. Chapter 9 verses 2 and 3 speak of the "Holy Place" and the "Most Holy Place". We had left them as Spanish words with footnote explanations, but were not happy with that. Our consultant says we have a good solution, but we will test what we came up with



Chris and Elaine's son Paul chatted away with Esteban (in Spanish) about things they both know well; family, growing plants and raising chickens. Paul's reason for the trip is to accompany Chris and attend the wedding of his friend Victor. Paul and Victor have been best buddies since they were three years old.

before I declare victory. How would you translate these terms if English didn't have the word "holy"?

But it is not all hard going and there are many gems that encourage the fellows and show that St. Paul had a deep love for the Corinthians. We enjoy reading through whole chapters to be sure it is clear.



The happy couple, Victor and Eve. Victor gave Paul the privilege of being a witness before the judge in the civil part of the wedding.



The "radio station" is simply an upper room in the market building with an antenna on the roof.

Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Correna Janzen

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Bible Translation into the Sos Kundi language
Papua New Guinea
Home church: Morden EMM Church, MB



Correna Janzen

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:58

We are almost finished translating Luke 22! Why Luke 22? We spent a lot of time on the Christmas story to produce a series of Bible story videos and we needed a change. We will work on Luke 22-24 and then go

back to Luke 1.

More exciting than the fact that we are almost done with one chapter is that the men are understanding the procedure we are using to do translation and they are going through the steps without us prompting them for what they need to do next. They are also starting to ask more questions about the passage so that they get a clear understanding of the meaning before they start to translate. The translators continue to develop their typing skills. Some have almost learned all of the letters. Soon they will be the ones typing the translation into the computer. Usually we are working with the translators, but we also want to get to know



Children painting at Sos Kundi Day in 2011

and minister to their wives. We had a great time talking with their wives over lunch one afternoon. It really helped to build some bridges with them. Pray that we will continue to find ways to encourage their wives.

The ladies can READ!! Not only can they read, they are excited about reading. Their favourite reading material: recently translated passages of Scripture. As Tabitha said to me one day, "When we read in Tok Pisin it is like there is a film over our eyes, but when we read in Sos Kundi we can see clearly." The ladies have decided that they want to keep meeting to practice reading even when I am not in the village. I have left them with some reading materials. Pray that their excitement about reading continues to grow. Pray that we can keep up with their demands for reading materials. Finally, pray that other villages will start literacy classes.

Michael Penner

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Winnipeg, MB
Home church: Altona EMM Church, MB



This spring brings big change in that I will be moving on to new things after this school year. Through conversations I've had with leadership, it has become clear that this is the time for me to move on. I still very much believe in the work that the IVCF High School Ministry is doing, and I hope you will continue to join me in supporting them with funding and prayer.

I will still need support through the end of June. Provided I continue to receive the current level of monthly support, I will still need an additional \$1,500 to cover my salary and remaining ministry expenses. Please pray with me that I will be able to finish well, that the group at Fort Richmond Collegiate will transition well into what's next for them, and that I will respond well to God's leading into the next phase of my life.



Picnics are a great way to gather friends and have a relaxed time outdoors. Make some extra food and invite a newcomer to join the group.

Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Henry and Tina Redekopp

Pastor Couple at Gospel Fellowship Chapel
Shipyard, Belize, Central America

Home church: Gospel Mission Church, Seminole Texas



Tina, Henry Aaron, Rachel, (front) Philip, Daniel and Jonathan Redekopp.

Bill and Tina Wiebe were invited by EMMC Region 6 to speak at our Ministerial Retreat. The blessings were many as they spoke personally into the lives of our family members during their short stay at our home. Although they are the pastor couple of our home church in Seminole, Texas, we did not know them very well. We were privileged to be able to get to know them on a more personal level. They encouraged us as a couple, invested into our children, and blessed the church. Bill gave two very timely and practical messages and Tina presented a captivating children's story in Low German. This was all before the retreat!

In Chetumal, our Region 6 ministerial members were challenged and refreshed by the sessions on "Our Calling, Our Ministry, Our Gifts and Our Faithfulness." After the retreat, they visited and encouraged each of the other churches in the region. What a blessing that we can share with and edify each other in the Body of Christ!

In a recent visit with Dr. Friesen at the clinic in Shipyard, our conversation was interrupted by his son Herman who is assistant doctor and dentist. Herman had a visitor from a neighboring village who wanted to know what we believe about Jesus Christ. As Herman and I sat there visiting with this man, answering his questions about our faith in Christ, I reminded him that we could not speak for the colony because we are not part of the colony church. His response both surprised and blessed me. He explained that he had tried talking to people in the community about their beliefs. As long as they talked about traditions they were willing to answer, but

when he asked about Jesus they told him that he had to go talk to "that other group that Dr. Friesen was part of, because they like to talk about Jesus." I have since learned that this has happened more often, and we are blessed to be labeled with a people who are known to talk about Jesus.

Please pray that our testimony will increase and impact the community in a way that helps others turn their hearts to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

When people ask us what the needs of our congregation are, one of the first things I think of is a music ministry. Henry and I are not musically gifted, but this last Christmas and now again for Easter, Henry organized a choir. With the help of some folks from Blue Creek EMM church at Christmas, we forged ahead in our enthusiasm. Priscilla Friesen helped us during Easter by playing piano, and once again our lack of skill was graciously over-looked because of our eagerness.

Through this, I have learned that it is OK not to be professional, as long as we sing with our hearts to the Lord. I believe that the missed notes and off-key singing filtered through the heavens to God as melodious songs of praise.

On March 2, 2013 Gospel Fellowship Chapel hosted a Christian concert at the park in Shipyard. We had people come from Spanish Lookout, Blue Creek, Little Belize, Indian Creek, Chen Pine Ridge, and from Shipyard. It is difficult to know how many people attended because so many stayed in the shadows where they would not be seen. However, those who surveyed the park to calculate attendance estimated 300 to 400 people were there to listen and support. We also learned a week later that approximately 20 youth had been at the neighbours' yard where they heard the whole event.

One Destination from Spanish Lookout and *Glory Bound Gospel Band* from Blue Creek provided the music. Enrique Friesen shared his testimony. The evening concluded with a clear presentation of the Gospel. We have heard many positive reports and several have suggested that we should begin planning our next event. Thank you all for your partnership in praying with us for this event. We believe that all those who attended were blessed and some were challenged to make a decision for Christ.

We find that dreaming helps us stay encouraged and motivated. Here are a few of our *dreams, desires and needs*:

- * *Music minister couple* willing to come out for 3 months to teach us
- * *A couple* to come and live in our community for a couple of months for the purpose of visiting and building relationships in the colony
- * *Two teachers* for next school year



Bill and Tina Wiebe, pastor couple at Gospel Mission Church in Seminole Texas, were the guest speakers at the Region 6 Ministerial Retreat.

Mission Workers - Updates and Insights

Renetta Siemens

Overseas Missionary Fellowship
Tribal Team Ministry Worker
Davao City, Philippines
Home church: Nassau Street Church, Winnipeg MB



Renetta Siemens

Most of our students from the hills attended the Manobo youth conference in early in April. Now they are finishing their summer classes and then in June back to normal classes.

On April 8 I moved my things into the Annen residence where I will house-sit until their return in October. I was thankful that Marianne had the closets cleaned out so that I was able to put some of my clothes and other things straight into the closets. I was not only left with some empty closets, but Marianne and Dolfi Annen left me a wonderful staff to work with.

Dario and Charity Tabog (left) and their two-year old son **Darrel** are staying with me at my request. Dario is the head of our medical ministry while Annens are gone. Charity is our chief cook and in charge on the main floor. I live on the second floor of the house.



Juvelyn Nudo (right) also lives in the house and helps with the medical ministry. Dario and Juvelyn assist patients to the hospital and back.



Raymond (below) hopes to go to college this year. Pray that he will be able to improve his English. Charity speaks English quite well and sometimes spends time helping Raymond with his reading. I speak English to him too but he does not always understand so I translate it into Cebuano. Raymond is a very quiet but helpful young man to have in the house.



I have a few more months left here in the Philippines and then return home for retirement. Pray for good health and stamina to sustain me over the last few months. Pray also for wisdom in packing and saying good byes.

What will I miss? The times to chat with friends and people having time to just sit back and visit

What will I not miss? The smoke coming into my house from the burning of garbage by the neighbor.

Once again a big thank you for being my prayer partner and journeying with me.

Carl and Pat Whitehead

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Papua New Guinea
Home church: Nassau Street Church, Winnipeg MB



Carl and Pat Whitehead

Scripture Application and Leadership Training Course

May 6 - 10 were the dates of the mini-SALT course held in the village of Akwanja. Normally a SALT course is a two-week course held after the New

Testament has been dedicated in a language. The course in Akwanja was the first ever 'mini-SALT' course, and the first one held before the New Testament was completed, so in some ways it was an experiment. The idea behind the 'mini-Salt' was that it might be a way of encouraging people to want to learn to read the vernacular, and perhaps they might become excited about God's word in their own language.

For five days the team taught about who God is, who Satan is, sin and salvation, how we should be living as Christians, forgiveness, Christian family, and other topics, through teaching, drama, and small group discussion. The participants were excited about what they were learning, and for many this was new information, even though to us it seemed very basic.

After the sessions on the fourth day participants were divided into groups and went out into the neighbouring villages to present some of the materials. They were received with enthusiasm and requests for more teaching. More significantly, the day after the course finished, some of the participants started using the teaching they had received as they led in their own church services. Ezekiel is teaching one lesson a week after the Sabbath day services. Members of the music group are planning to use the materials in their next ministry tour around the area, and the pre-school teachers are planning a patrol through the area in November / December with the intention of using the materials.

After the SALT course we finished packing up our village house in preparation for our home assignment. We left the village May 15 and headed back to Ukarumpa, where we faced another round of packing. Because of the need for increased security, all of us who live in our part of Ukarumpa have been asked to vacate our houses and move to houses in another part of the Centre. We've been sorting and packing this house which has been our home for the past 35 years—the home where all our kids grew up—and will be moving to the top of the hill to a house that is smaller, but still quite adequate for our needs. Most of our things will be put into storage until we return to PNG in 2014 and another family will be renting it while we're in Canada.

Praise and Prayer:

- Praise God for a successful SALT course and for the enthusiasm of the participants. Pray that what the Lord has begun will continue and that lives will continue to be blessed as a result.
- Praise God for the leadership team that He's put together for the PNG branch. Pray that they will be sensitive to God's leading.
- Pray for housing and a vehicle while in Canada—we have a few possibilities but nothing definite yet.
- Pray for our adjustment to life in Calgary; Carl will be working in the Wycliffe Canada office part time, and I will be doing some studies in Hebrew and Teaching English as a

Second Language

- Pray for wisdom in planning our itinerary for our year in Canada. Please let us know if you would like to get together with us.
- Pray for Korin as he considers his options for the coming year and what the Lord would have him do in the future.
- Praise God that the churches in PNG are beginning to take ownership of the translation task.
- We praise God for each one of you who have faithfully stood by us throughout this 4-year term.

New school and outreach in San Jose, Bolivia



“Ministry” happens all over and in many formats!

David and Lisa Janzen have been ministering in Bolivia for more than 12 years. David is the Bolivia Field Director and provides overall leadership to the ministries under MEM (Mision Evangelica Menonita).

Lisa uses her gifts in Low German radio ministry, music, teaching and loving those around her.

Pailon is a well-established community, supporting a school for Low German families, a church and opportunities for economic development.

About 250 km east of Pailon is San Jose. It is a new outreach — only two years old — and already experiencing rapid growth. The San Jose Ministry Centre was completed earlier this year. It will serve as a drop-in centre for Mennonite families coming into San Jose for appointments and other needs.

Lisa Janzen is pictured below, in the middle of all the action with the children at San Jose. Touching the lives of children results in being able to reach the parents as well with the love of Christ.

~ LIL GOERTZEN



Two years ago, Bill and Martha Kehler (left) went to San Jose, Bolivia to minister among the many Low German speaking people in the surrounding communities. For the first while, they were the only evangelical voice in the area.

Some new believers from the near-by colony have built this school house on the colony, and are waiting for a teacher to come and assist with the education for their children.

It's exciting to see the initiative coming from within the colony. However, these parents are experiencing opposition from colony leaders who do not want them to start the school or encourage any evangelical teachings. Pray with us that the believers will stay strong and encouraged in spite of the threats and rejection they face.

~ LIL GOERTZEN



Steinbach Bible College

Graduation 2013

It's difficult to believe, but another year of training servant leaders at Steinbach Bible College has already come to a close. Dorms, classrooms, and halls are quiet after a rich weekend of graduation celebrations. Many graduates experience a significant range of emotions as they mark this milestone: pride in their achievements, relief at having completed their studies, excitement for future plans, and sadness as they leave the close-knit community of friends, faculty, and staff of SBC.

The weekend began with a spring concert Friday evening and featured music, drama and faith stories by current students and alumni, as well as the presentation of 7 Certificates of Biblical Studies.

Graduation ceremonies for the Diploma and Bachelor of Arts graduates took place the following day at Steinbach EMC. Dr. Chuck Nichols, as guest speaker, gave the Commencement Address. Rebecca Fehr Reimer (Gregory Drive Alliance Church) gave the Valedictorian Address, with Raymond Ginter (Gospel Fellowship Church, Steinbach) giving the Undergraduate Response. Nine grads received a Diploma of Biblical Studies, 13 received a three-year BA in Christian Studies, Bible/Theology, or Youth Ministry, while 2 four-year BA's were awarded in Christian Ministries and Pastoral Ministry. A celebration banquet and award ceremony took place at the college the same evening.

Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2013 awards:

- Delta Epsilon Chi (ABHE)
Sarah Barkman (Mennville EMC)
- Timothy Award
Adrienne Petkau (Lakeview Community Church)
Alexander Brandt (Carberry Evangelical Free Church)
- Harvey Plett Scholarship
Markus Fast (Steinbach MB Church)
- Betty Reimer Scholarship
Dianna Wiens (Mennoniten Gemeinde Concordia, Paraguay)
- MFC Spirit of Generosity Award
Nate Siemens (La Crete Christian Fellowship)
- Bible/Theology Award
Jayelle Friesen (Prairie Rose EMC)
- Youth Ministry Award



SBC Grad Photo 2013 - Front Row: Karen Wiens, Sarah Barkman, Nicole Strohschein, Chana Penner, Kyla Plett, Angela Dueck, Gwen Reimer, Rebecca Reimer, Hannah Hunt. Middle Row: Jolene Plett, Markus Fast, James Ramelli, Ryan Sawatzky, Nate Siemens, Elden Shore, Alexander Brandt, Thomas Penner, Kalene Gross. Back Row: Sean Bucholz, Jeremy Dyck, James Corder, Jason Wolfe

- Ashlyn Neufeld* (Niverville Community Fellowship)
Peer Counseling Award
- Angela Dueck* (Pleasant Valley EMC)
Worship Arts Award
- Thomas Penner* (Steinbach EMC)
Children's Ministry Award
- Gillian Hunt* (First Baptist Church, Swan River)

The class of 2013 included 9 EMC and 2 EMMC graduates.

Please join us in prayer for all our graduates as they move on as servant leaders in full-time, part-time or volunteer ministry, further education, and / or employment. May they continue to grow in their faith and in the knowledge of the truths of this year's theme passage:

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
Psalm 91: 1-2, ESV.



EMMC Grads 2013: Chana Penner (Gospel Fellowship Church, Steinbach MB) and Ryan Sawatzky (Altona EMM Church, MB)
~ SBC

Class of 2013

~ SANDY DERKSEN
PHOTOS: CORA LYNN CAREY

Bethany College's Spring Concert and Commencement weekend has always been a memorable time for students and their families, and for alumni and friends to gather, celebrate, congratulate, and say good-bye. This year's celebration on April 20 to 21, affirmed the outstanding student body which graced the halls of Bethany this year. The event highlighted young men and women who have grown as disciples of Jesus and have exemplified 2 Timothy 2:15: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth."

The celebrations began on Saturday with the annual Spring Concert at Knox United Church in beautiful downtown Saskatoon. Susan J. Schmidt Goerz directed a presentation of musical ensembles and drama, "When I Walk through Those Doors," which focused on walking with Jesus in the power of God. Conductor Brent Kruger and the Teen Challenge Choir were special guests who, along with students, alumni, and community members, presented an uplifting message of hope.

Following the concert, students and guests along with Bethany faculty and staff gathered for an impressive banquet at the Sheraton Hotel. The students presented a program which was filled with tributes and shared memories of the year and the transformation they experienced in their lives.

On Sunday, the Commencement Service drew family and friends to the Bethany campus in Hepburn to recognize the accomplishments of the students. Bethany College conferred 13 Bachelor of Arts degrees, 13 Bachelor of Christian Studies degrees, 21 Diplomas of Biblical Studies, and 3 TESOL Certificates.

Four Academic Awards were presented:

Cherie Bright – First Year Academic Award for Excellence in an Exegetical or Research Paper for her essay, "Joy Through Surrender, Isaiah 55:6-1"

Dynel Weber – Second Year Academic Award for Excellence in a Creative Project, "Noah and the Flood"

Stephanie Chase – Second Year Academic Award for Excellence in an Exegetical or Research Paper for her essay, "Becoming One in a World of Two: God's Intention for Male and Female Relationships as portrayed in Genesis 2:18-24"

Brittany Suderman – Fourth Year Academic Award for Excellence in an Exegetical or Research Paper for her essay, "The Power of Images, Pride and Greed: The Biblical Theology of Idolatry".

Additionally, two other awards were given recognizing excellence in academics and leadership:

Stephanie Chase – the Governor General's Bronze Medal, awarded to the Diploma graduate with the highest cumulative Grade Point Average

Kaylee Buhler – the Delta Epsilon Chi Award of the Association of Biblical Higher Education for academic excellence, Christian character, and leadership contribution

In addition, several faculty and staff received recognition for long-term service: Rick Schellenberg, 25 years; Lisa Braun, 15 years; Jean Campbell, 10 years; and Candace Hamm, 5 years.

Michelle Dyck, a Second Year student from Calgary, Alberta, shared how God taught her to use her gift of hospitality as she spent time in "community" and in building relationships with others.

Student Council President and Third Year student, Tim Peters, from Winkler, Manitoba, challenged students to continue to nurture their relationship with Jesus and be rooted in Him instead of putting their confidence in their accomplishments and qualifications. "The only thing that qualifies us for ministry," Peters stated, "is our relationship with Jesus and being rooted in Him." His concluding hope was "that you will have used Bethany to dig your roots so deep that when you leave, you will be able to stand firm on the solid Rock of Christ."

The heart of Bethany College is to *nurture disciples and train leaders to serve* and was evident in the details of the commencement celebration itself. Ashley Marie Wiebe, an alumna stated, "Bethany College has encouraged my soul yet again. I don't know how it can be so meaningful and encouraging to watch other people, most of whom I don't know, celebrate another year at Bethany other than to say that God moves in that community and no one is immune to how powerful it is when a generation of people decide to be open and obedient to God's calling on their life."

For information on this and other events or activities at Bethany College, please go to our website: www.bethany.sk.ca.



Congratulations!

Justin Hamilton graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethany College. Justin is the Youth Pastor / Pastoral Intern at Sutherland Evangelical Church in Saskatoon, SK.

Bethany College is located in Hepburn, Saskatchewan.



Harold Penner
Stewardship Consultant



He chose to be *generous*

*Mennonite Foundation of Canada recently completed printing of a new book, **Giving your first fruits: Money, faith and worship, the collected writings of Edwin Friesen.** Edwin was a Stewardship Consultant with MFC for more than 13 years and was involved in the creation of many MFC resources. He had a passion for writing, for sharing and inspiring generosity in others. The book features a collection of Friesen's writings, as well as recollections of Edwin from various family, friends and colleagues.*

Edwin often wrote based on experiences from his own life and family and his writings profess a very practical message. Those featured in the book speak about our use, management and sharing of money. The concept of first fruits giving to God is presented, not as a legalistic method of dealing with money, but rather a response to God's generosity to us, and a means of ensuring money does not displace God in our hearts.

Like the question of which came first, the chicken or the egg, Edwin reflects on the relationship between our generosity and God's blessing – do we give first then experience God's blessing or do we give because we feel we have been blessed? How would you describe your experience?

True to Edwin's nature, he occasionally provides readers with a "rule of thumb" to assist with very practical ideas for money management. These rules were collected from the interactions Edwin had with people throughout his life and considered worthy of remembering and sharing with others. They also reflect his life practice of being intentional in the things he did and encouraging others to do likewise.

Generosity, for Edwin, was a conscious decision. He chose to be generous, not only when there would be a charity receipt attached, but to make a practice of also giving directly to bless others without expecting a tax refund at the end of the year. He saw this as a means of ensuring he was truly giving

from a generous heart and of breaking the limiting shackles of the charitable receipting system that is part of the Canadian tax system.

Over the years of being an MFC Stewardship Consultant Edwin counted it an honour and privilege to speak with hundreds of individuals and couples regarding their estate plans, as well as dozens of couples regarding succession planning. In "Are you keeping a family secret?", Edwin challenged couples to open the conversation and be transparent with their children about their estates and their intentions regarding transferring the estate to their children or charity. While recognizing there may be situations where openness is not wise, he knew from experience the benefit of openness and he sought to model that in his own family.

MFC published the book **Giving Your First Fruits: Money, faith and worship** to honour the contribution of Edwin Friesen to the Foundation and its clients. It is our hope that the book will challenge and encourage you to reflect on your handling and dialogue regarding money. To read it online or download a free copy, visit Mennofoundation.ca/gyff or contact an MFC office near you to receive a personal copy of the book.

Harold Penner is a stewardship consultant at the Winnipeg, Manitoba office of Mennonite Foundation of Canada. For more information on impulsive generosity, stewardship education, and estate and charitable gift planning, contact your nearest MFC office or visit www.mennofoundation.ca.

For stewardship education and estate and charitable gift planning, contact your nearest Mennonite Foundation of Canada office.

ABBOTSFORD 1-800-772-3257: Arnie Friesen

CALGARY 1-800-772-3257: Gary Sawatzky | Kevin Davidson

KITCHENER 1-800-772-3257: Mike Strathdee | Sherri Grosz

NIAGARA 1-800-772-3257: Donald Brooker

WINNIPEG (MB & SK) 1-800-772-3257:
Harold Penner | Dori Zerbe Cornelsen (MC Canada)

Project Builders hosts seminar on Succession Planning

Friesen: Put it in writing

Blumenort, Man.—Your will is the last conversation you have with those left behind when you die. What do you want that statement to be?” That was one question posed on April 6, 2013, by Tim Fry at a seminar on planning for succession sponsored by EMC’s Project Builders and hosted at Blumenort EMC.

Fry, a lawyer with experience as a pastor, presented some of the legal hurdles to address in succession planning. He elaborated on the importance of a well-prepared will and defined the role of an executor to carry out your intentions.

Elaine Froese, a writer and family coach, addressed the dynamics of working through a succession plan with your family. “Conflict is not bad, but unresolved conflict is,” she said. “What are the filters we have in place preventing us from seeing the next person’s point of view?”

Dr. Arden Thiessen provided an overview of Old and New Testament, including principles such as: “Prosperity can be Dangerous” (Deuteronomy 8:11-18; Luke 12:13-21), “God’s Rules are for own Good” (Deuteronomy 12:12,13; Luke 11:28, Romans 11:22), and “Extend Generous Compassion for the Poor” (Deuteronomy 15:7-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-12).

Harold Penner and Rick Braun Janzen, Mennonite Foundation of Canada representatives, introduced us to various giving options: gifting accounts to average giving from year to year, options at the time of a transition to offset Capital Gains, and gifting options provided through the estate.

Henry Friesen, accountant, addressed practical ways to enhance estate value in management or ownership to business partners or family members. Start planning your exit strategy the day your child asks to join the family business. Redefine parting ways as success rather than failure. Put your cards on the table. Put it in writing.

This year we decided to focus on a topic having practical applications for all of us as we seek to be faithful to Christ through the material assets we have accumulated. It was encouraging to hear affirmation for addressing the theme of “Integrating Faith and Business in Planning for Succession.” Participation from our sister conferences, Chortitzer Mennonite Conference and EMMC, was much appreciated.

Project Builders is becoming increasingly known in the EMC as an organization dedicated to assisting our mission workers and national churches in developing capital projects to serve the church and help it meet spiritual and physical needs within the community.

PB has invested close to two million dollars in a range of buildings, facilities, micro-loans, and Business for Transformation initiatives.



A year ago in April, Project Builders had a number of excellent seminars with Craig S., as he challenged us with to engage in Business for Transformation in difficult access countries. Project Builders is currently involved in supporting three distinct projects in Asia, North and West African countries.

~ LEN BARKMAN

Did you know ...

There are a variety of ways of making a donation to EMMC / Go Mission! Of course, cheques, cash and money orders are always welcome. We would be happy to accommodate monthly transfers or processing your on-line donations if that is your preference.

To donate on-line, go to www.gomission.ca and click on the “donate” button on the home page. If you prefer doing regular monthly contributions through bank transfers, just call the EMMC / Go Mission! Home Office at 204.253.7929 and we will be happy to assist.

Mailing address:
EMMC / Go Mission!
757 St. Anne’s Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA R2N 4G6

Batoka, Zambia -- As we sit on church benches in the shade of several trees we watch kids wash their hands under the water flowing from a large hand pump. Women fill their plastic pails with clean water before carrying them home.

Ricky Mwale, who minds the pump, gestures to the women and describes how pumps can fall into disrepair. When internal connecting rods break, he says “no matter how much she tries to pump, there will be no water coming out.”

Local communities rely on the pumps, especially during the dry season. When the pumps fail, people are forced to collect what can be unclean water from streams and swamps.

Most of the pumps were installed years ago by a variety of agencies and the Zambian government. When the pumps broke down, villages had to hire contractors to fix them, at a cost of up to \$100. Sometimes pumps were left in disrepair for years.

To address the problem, the Brethren in Christ Church’s (BIC) compassionate ministries program trains local people to maintain the pumps. The BIC also donates tools that can be used for repairs.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) supports the program, by covering the cost of the person who does the training. In the Batoka zone, 10 men are now trained to take care of pumps in 42 villages.

Webster Munkombwe is one of the pump-minders. He says since the BIC training began in 2009, broken pumps are fixed within a few days. “As soon as it is reported that the bore hole has broken we go there to repair it,” he says. As such there is continuous flow of clean and safe drinking water.”



Ricky Mwale, Cleanwell Muyuni and Webster Munkombwe were trained by the Brethren in Christ Church to maintain hand pumps in their communities to provide access to clear drinking water. MCC is providing some funding for the program.

MCC PHOTO BY EMILY LOEWEN

For pump minders, it’s a way to supplement their income. Communities pay for each repair, usually around 80 Kwacha (\$16). It may not be much money, but the men doing this work say they are proud of their contribution to their villages.

Cleanwell Muyuni is one of the pump minders. “Many children will grow up stronger and healthier because of this clean water,” he says.

EMILY LOEWEN IS AN INTERN WITH MCC IN ZAMBIA

April 13, 2013 marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Throughout this year, we wish to celebrate and thank the many people and organizations that have created, built and supported the Foodgrains Bank over the years—the early visionaries, the practical people that worked out the mechanics, the many farmers across the country that caught the vision, the Mennonite Central Committee that established the initial food bank and then invited other churches to join, the 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies that now belong.

We also want to recognize the hundreds of partner organizations around the world that implement programs, in often difficult circumstances; the growing number of church congregations, both rural and urban, that are participating; the many individuals that generously donate cash; the business community that supports growing projects and facilitate grain donations and other efforts; and the Canadian International Development Agency that has supported the Foodgrains Bank

from the beginning.

The most recent report by the Food and Agriculture Organization indicates that the prevalence of hunger in developing countries has fallen from 23% to 15% in the last 20 years. We have contributed to this progress by reducing the impoverishing effects of hunger and disasters and supporting the efforts of households and communities to feed themselves.

Yet, we are deeply conscious that there are still 870 million people around the world who go hungry. Continued progress in reducing hunger is by no means certain. Our 30th anniversary is a time of re-tooling how we work, expanding some new approaches, strengthening the quality of our program, and inviting Canadians to continue joining with us in this God-inspired work of ending hunger.

While we have much to celebrate, we do so with the knowledge that the work of ending hunger is as urgent and vital as ever.

After two years of recovery work, MDS closes project in Joplin, MO.

Nearly two years after an EF5 tornado struck Joplin, MO, Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) closed their project site in Joplin.

On May 22, 2011, an EF-5 tornado cut through the center of Joplin, Missouri. The tornado was over a mile wide. Over 7,000 homes were completely destroyed, the town's infrastructure was heavily damaged, including the hospital and school. In addition to the loss of property, 159 lives were lost during the storm, making this disaster the second deadliest tornado in all of US history.



A cross carved out of a downed tree in the first weeks of clean up after the Joplin tornado.

Local MDS volunteers responded to the news of the tornado immediately. Within 24 hours, volunteers were helping to clear access roads and were working with local farmers to help move animals to safety. In the weeks to follow, thousands of volunteers poured into the area to begin the job of cleaning up. Weeks later, the first repairs began.

MDS volunteers from Arkansas, Iowa and Missouri traveled back to Joplin to mark the end of MDS' response in Joplin and to celebrate getting families back home.

Kevin King, MDS Executive Director, joined Larry Hostetler, Missouri Unit Chair and Al and Jan Kroeker, MDS Region III Directors at an evening of celebration and closure. Representatives from partner agencies, including Rebuild Joplin, Fuller Center for Housing, Samaritan's Purse, Joplin Family Worship Center and several families who received a rebuilt home also attended the ceremony and dinner.

This was King's fourth trip to visit the project in Joplin. He relates, "I entered into town and saw the famous cross was at one of the street corners that one of our volunteers carved out of a tree stump. It is now

weathered and cracked from the drying sun - proclaiming the injury of the past."

Renee White, chair of the Long Term Recovery Committee in Joplin praised MDS' work saying, "MDS was integral to the rebuilding here in Joplin. MDS showed us a work ethic. You showed us what humility looks like. You are known not only for the quality structures you build, but the spirits that you lifted as well. We are a better and richer community now because of MDS. Thank you."

In the two years that MDS worked in Joplin, over 3,300 volunteers served completing 125 clean ups, 23 minor repairs, 25 major repairs and nine new builds. There were also 12 new builds that volunteers worked on from foundation to "dry-in stage".

Mennonite Disaster Service is a volunteer network of Anabaptist churches that responds in Christian love to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States.

While the main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this service touches lives and nurtures hope, faith and wholeness.



Renee White and Carol Nut of the Joplin Long Term Recovery Committee give words of appreciation as Leland Hostetler looks on.



MEDA is Making Change

WATERLOO, ON - MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) is excited to announce its partnership with several area Mennonite organizations to produce Making Change, a financial literacy video series. The four-part series set to be released in Fall 2013 will be suitable for both youth and adult audiences.

Making Change will explore and encourage discussion about how a person's faith impacts how they handle their finances. The video series, through the lens of the age-old "share, save and spend" concept, will examine how biblical teachings mimic and differ from current ideals.

"This partnership is a great opportunity for MEDA to join other Mennonite organizations as we open up the dialogue surrounding faith, finances, and the influence they have on one another," shared MEDA President Allan Sauder. "The Making Change videos will be a great reflective exercise for individuals, groups and organizations alike to examine their attitudes towards money. We look forward to joining the surrounding communities in discussing how our values guide how we share, save and spend money."

In Search of ...

More Gathering 2013 photos

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (EMC) in Birch River, Manitoba is currently seeking a **PART-TIME PASTOR**. We are a small community church located 500km north of Winnipeg, MB next to the Porcupine Provincial Forest which lends itself to excellent hunting, fishing and camping opportunities.

We are a friendly congregation with approximately 40 attendees and a vibrant community youth program. We have a history of long term pastors with a heart for our community and varying levels of education.

We have strong ties to Steeprock Ministries which runs a summer Bible camp that touches the lives of 300 plus children from local First Nations communities every summer.

Interested applicants may apply by sending resume to:

Greg Thiessen
c/o Christian Fellowship Church
Box 10, Birch River MB, R0L 0E0
Phone: 204.734.8395
Email: g.thiessen@yahoo.com

The **MORDEN EMM CHURCH** (Manitoba) is prayerfully seeking a **FULL TIME SENIOR PASTOR** who has a heart for God and a love for people. The successful Pastoral candidate will be gifted with strong preaching and Biblical teaching gifts. The Pastor will lead in harmony with the Ministerial Council and a full time Youth Pastor.

Our church family's average attendance is approximately 200. For more information about our church, please visit our website at mordenemmc.ca. If you feel God is calling you to this position, please send resume to:

email: memmc@mymts.net
mail: 610-1st Street
Morden, Manitoba CANADA R6M 1V7

MORROW GOSPEL CHURCH (EMMC) located in Winnipeg Manitoba is an urban Anabaptist congregation looking for a **FULL TIME LEAD PASTOR**. Ministry includes biblical preaching, teaching, prayer, and leadership development. The pastor would lead the pastoral team in harmony with the MGC church council.

The Sunday morning attendance of approximately 150 represents several nationalities and is involved in a variety of ministries including children's club, youth, Love Winnipeg, Alpha, home Bible study groups, and the international ministries of our denomination.

More info can be found on our website or by inquiry of our Search Committee. Resumes should be sent to the attention of:

Search Committee Chairperson
Rob Shipman
755 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2N 4G6
Website: www.morrowgospel.org
email: info@morrowgospel.org

The **WINKLER MENNONITE CHURCH** is prayerfully seeking a **FULL-TIME LEAD PASTOR** who has a heart for people and is community out-reach minded. He should have strong preaching and Bible teaching skills and must be in agreement with our constitution and statement of faith.

For more information about our church visit at www.winklermennonitechurch.ca and about the City of Winkler at www.cityofwinkler.ca. If you, as a candidate feel lead by God to inquire about or apply for this position, please forward your questions and application or resume to:

Attn: Bernie Dueck
Email: berdueck@mts.net
Phone: 204.332.0257

BRIGHTWOOD RANCH (located west of Edmonton, Alberta) is a Christian camp providing a summer camp experience for kids from single parent, foster and group homes.

Summer positions are paid and include room and board:

4 month positions:

- program directors, secretary
- wranglers, program directors
- maintenance, and Horses of Hope staff

2 month positions:

- nurse, kitchen staff
- counselors, unit leaders, and wranglers

Full time Position:

- Horses of Hope Wrangler starting March 1, 2013

For more info go to:

www.brightwoodranchcamps.com
email: bright.wood@hopemission.com

TEACHERS WANTED

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL in Shipyard, Belize is looking for **TWO TEACHERS** for the 2013-2014 school year. We have students ranging from grade one through grade 10, and have them divided into two classes. We use Christian Light Education curriculum, and have a small computer lab. Housing will be provided and teachers will receive a small remuneration for living expenses. Interested persons can contact:

School Board Chairman Henry Friesen
henryannafriesen@gmail.com

ADULT LIFE COACH

Do you want to be a part of what God is doing? Mid-Way Christian Leadership, based in Thompson MB, is looking for an **Adult Life Coach**. Working in Thompson and surrounding communities a life coach uses questions and a gradual release of responsibilities to disciple and mentor Christians into Christian Leaders. MCL is looking for someone willing to **learn and serve** alongside the people of the North.

Responsibilities include working with a few adults in mentoring relationships, facilitating Bible study and collaborating with Christian leaders in **Northern Manitoba**.

This is a support/fund raised missionary position. We are looking for someone who is willing to take this **step of faith**, be trained in fund raising and raise a monthly commitment of \$3500 after being accepted but prior to starting the work. We are building a team of committed individuals who are passionate about following God by discipling people into mature Christians and ultimately replacing our leadership positions from those we work with.

Please email generaldirector.mcl@gmail.com for a full **Adult Life Coach** job description or inquiries.

YOUTH LIFE COACH

Be a **Youth Life Coach**. Taking the camp counselor skills into everyday life a Life Coach asks questions and facilitates a gradual release of responsibility in relationships that see young people growing into Christian Leaders building their life on Jesus.

Mid-Way Christian Leadership is "**Growing Christian Leaders in the North**". We are seeking a caring team member who will focus on Youth Life Coaching with a portion of time set aside for media related work. This is a **FULL TIME** position based in Thompson Manitoba with time spent in surrounding communities.

This is a support/fund raised missionary position. We are looking for someone who is willing to take this **step of faith**, be trained in fund raising and raise a monthly commitment of \$3500 after being accepted but prior to starting the work. We are building a team of committed individuals who are passionate about following God by discipling people into mature Christians and ultimately replacing our leadership positions from those we work with.

Please email generaldirector.mcl@gmail.com for a full **Youth Life Coach** job description or inquiries.



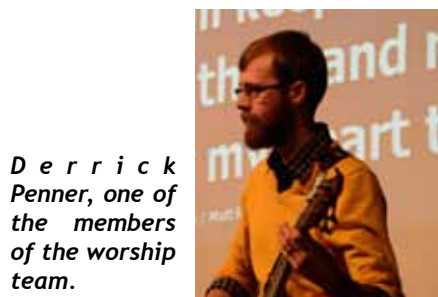
Blaine Dueck, youth pastor at Blue Creek EMMC, Belize enjoying the fabulous desserts at the Gathering 2013 Coffee House.



Two evangelists - Diedrich Harms and Ben Froese.



Laurissa Ginter, chair person for the Gathering 2013 Planning Committee.



Derrick Penner, one of the members of the worship team.

Annual Report 2012



MAKING DISCIPLES. CONNECTING CHURCHES.
A MOBILIZATION INITIATIVE OF EMMC





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK *Jacob Friesen*

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”

Acts 20:24 NLT

Expanded our Mission Reach

1. By God's grace and diligent work by our incredible staff and generous partners, we have invested approximately \$500,000 in expanding our ministry facilities in Bolivia. This includes two large additions to education centers and the building of a ministry center in San Jose.
 - a. The school for Low German speaking children at Villa Nueva doubled their space by adding a second wing to the existing structure. This made room for a computer lab, library, and the much-needed classroom space.
 - b. La Fortaleza School in Santa Cruz is operated by LIEAB, our sister conference. Expansion to their existing facility created classroom space, allowing more children to receive quality, Christian education.
2. We have added to our missionary staff and expanded our ministry reach by ...
 - a. Developing a counseling center in Santa Cruz, Bolivia right in the busy shopping area of Santa Cruz where the Low German people gather.
 - b. Participating in the building of a large addiction rehabilitation center near Villa Nueva, Bolivia where men and women are already receiving help. Our staff will continue to play a key role on the local board and also in providing counseling and support to the clients coming for help.
 - c. Partnering with LIEAB in developing their young pastors by assisting them in hiring ***Ruben Mercado*** to be a “Pastor to the Pastors”. This has already brought fresh enthusiasm and new zeal for missions to the churches and resulted in a new church plant.
 - d. Facilitating ***Ruben Mercado*** in coaching 22 churches and 7 ministries, most of which are in central Mexico. Besides a small salary, we are covering most of the airline costs for his travels to Mexico, while the churches cover the other ministry expenses for Ruben's work.
 - e. Joining ***John and Maria Wall*** and Hope Ministries by providing a small salary for John so that he is freed up to lead and provide pastoral support to a group of churches in the Mountain region of Veracruz, Mexico.
 - f. Bringing ***Abe Giesbrecht*** on as Missions Facilitator a role in which he has successfully organized and led work teams, been a connecting link to missionary home assignments and also assisted in the discernment process of new workers. Abe is also working on standardizing and documenting ministry plans so that expectations and plans are clear and easily accessible.
 - g. Facilitating and promoting prayer for a number of renewal and evangelistic services in places like Southern Alberta, Southern Ontario, Bolivia, Belize and Mexico by people like ***Diedrich Harms, Ruben Mercado, Allen and Anita Kehler, D'Friesens***, etc.

- h. Enabling Allen Kehler to work with Region 1 and the churches in southern Alberta to access and develop a plan for another church plant in that region.
- i. Involving a few young adults from various regions in discerning a potential mission field.

steps in being more aware and intentional about caring for each other in our regions.

Enhanced our Communication

1. Our leaders and constituency is more informed through consistent weekly updates that Lil Goertzen sends out every week in time for local church bulletin preparation.
2. The Board and Council are experiencing the benefits of having minutes and documents stored in an accessible and searchable format on the website.
3. Although face-to-face meetings are still the best, we are learning to use video conferencing for many of our larger and smaller meetings.

Discipleship

1. We have encouraged a few more regions to consider selecting a “Regional Pastor” that could assist them in providing support for pastors and church leaders in carrying out their discipleship ministry. Some would like to go back to a centralized conference pastor while others are still interested in exploring other options. There seems to be a growing urgency for sorting this out.
2. We assisted 3 regions in establishing “examination committees” for processing Ordination applications and together with them have completed a number of Ordinations.
3. The Theology Committee is finding their place and planned their first “Ministry Leadership Day” (May 23) to coincide with our Gathering this year.
4. In each of our regions there are a few churches that are going through painful transitions and others that are spiritually vibrant and growing. We are taking small

Program Administration

1. The Board initiated a thorough review of our Organizational Structure that involved all of our pastors and council members. A detailed report was presented to General Council and is still being processed.
2. Lack of clarity or understanding of process and procedures has created extra administrative work and stress for home office staff, board and council. We have put together an orientation and training package that will help General Council and General Board members better understand the various roles, reports and accountability structures.

Summary

1. We made huge strides in our mission fields in other places and also increased awareness and enthusiasm for this work.
2. Regions are at different levels of engagement and mutual encouragement, but most have moved towards a greater understanding and desire to work together.
3. We still need to come to greater agreement on what we want to do locally, regionally and all together and then accept a structure that will serve that best.

Moderator's Message



Dale Doerksen was affirmed as Moderator by the General Council on May 24, 2013 at Steinbach Bible College.

Dale and his wife Sheryl are the pastor couple at Sutherland Evangelical Church in Saskatoon Saskatchewan. They have three adult children.

I love the EMMC. Because of the vision and commitment of many people, an EMMC Church was planted in Saskatoon several years before I was born. By the grace of God my parents began attending this evangelical church. I was privileged to hear Bible stories from caring Sunday School teachers, be mentored by committed boys brigade and youth leaders and taught in the Scriptures by godly pastors. I have been given a rich spiritual heritage for which I am eternally grateful.

Now I have a chance to give back by serving on the EMMC General Board and General Council. This is not a task I approach lightly, but to which I only consented to after much prayer and counsel from others. I consider it a great responsibility and tremendous privilege. I pledge to serve to the best of my ability as God provides the grace and strength to do so. I also believe that you as regions have elected a slate of wise and godly men to serve on the board/council. We are committed to helping build God's kingdom under the umbrella of the EMMC.

There is one thing I ask of you in return. ***Please pray for us.*** Pray that God would give us a ***commitment*** to His Word and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that we would be ***open*** to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and have the ***courage*** to obey God's call on us. Pray for ***wisdom*** and ***grace*** to be evident in all our meetings and interactions with the churches, regions and each other.

We have some big challenges before us, but as I read in Zechariah 8:6, what may look impossible to us is not too hard for God.

I have pledged, for the next year, to fast and pray for the EMMC every Tuesday at lunch time. I invite you to join me in this. Even if you are not able to fast, take some time during your lunch period every Tuesday, to pray for our conference. Pray for God to soften hearts, transform lives with the Gospel and build His church among us.

We are beginning to implement a revision process regarding the key structures and governance of the conference. I believe this will lead to greater clarity and transparency. If this does not happen, please contact myself or your local board/council member with your questions and/or concerns. We are here to serve you as a family of churches.

I want to publicly thank Jake Thiessen (past Moderator) and Peter Dueck (Treasurer) for their many years of service on the EMMC General Board. Thank you for your efforts during the taxing time of implementing a large change in structure to our current regional system.

Let us together pick up the torch of the Gospel and faithfully proclaim the Good News that Jesus is able to transform and keep all who look to Him in faith.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."
Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

EMMC / Go Mission!

General Board and General Council Members

as of December 31, 2012

(*) denotes General Board Executive

GENERAL BOARD

*Jake Thiessen, Moderator – Altona EMMC, Manitoba
*John Krahn, Vice-Moderator – Blue Creek EMMC, Belize
*Peter Dueck, Treasurer – Morrow Gospel Church,
Winnipeg Manitoba
Mel Foth – Hague Gospel Church, Saskatchewan
Walter Thiessen – Spanish Lookout EMMC, Belize
Ike Unger – Leamington EMM Church, Ontario

GENERAL COUNCIL (includes all members of General Board)

George Derksen – Morden EMMC, Manitoba
Abe Dueck – Winkler EMMC, Manitoba
John Dyck – Leamington EMMC, Ontario
Lyn Dyck – Altona EMMC, Manitoba
Dave Ginther – Warman Gospel Church, Saskatchewan
Terry Hiebert – Gospel Fellowship, Steinbach Manitoba
Dean Huber – Hepburn Gospel Church, Saskatchewan
Lawrence Klassen – Glencross Mennonite Church, Manitoba
Michael Krahn – Aylmer EMM Church, Ontario
Claude Lainey – Gospel Mission Church, Winkler Manitoba
Ben Reimer – Hague Gospel Church, Saskatchewan
Denis Stoesz – Bergfeld Mennonite Church
Art Toews – Bagot Community Chapel, Manitoba
John Wall – Aylmer EMM Church, Ontario

EMMC / Go Mission! Staff

as of December 31, 2012

Tracy Dueck, Administrative Assistant
Jacob Friesen, Executive Director
Abe Giesbrecht, Missions Facilitator
Lil Goertzen, Communications Coordinator
Diedrich Harms, Leadership Development
David Janzen, Bolivia Field Director
Allen Kehler, Region 1 Coach
Ruben Mercado, Latin Ministries Facilitator / Coach

Accounting Services:

Bob Milks

EMMC / Go Mission!

General Board and General Council members

as of May 24, 2013 General Council Meeting

(*) denotes General Board Executive

GENERAL BOARD

*Dale Doerksen – Moderator – Sutherland Evangelical Church
Saskatoon Saskatchewan
*Lyn Dyck – Vice-Moderator – Altona EMM Church, Manitoba
*Mel Foth – Treasurer – Hague Gospel Church, Saskatchewan
John Dyck, Leamington EMMC, Ontario
John Krahn – Blue Creek EMMC, Belize
Al Letkeman – Nassau Street Church, Winnipeg Manitoba
Walter Thiessen – Spanish Lookout EMMC, Belize
Ike Unger – Leamington EMMC, Ontario

GENERAL COUNCIL (includes all members of General Board)

George Derksen – Morden EMM Church, Manitoba
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Michael Krahn – Aylmer EMM Church, Ontario
Claude Lainey – Gospel Mission Church, Winkler Manitoba
Ben Reimer – Hague Gospel Church, Saskatchewan
Denis Stoesz – Bergfeld Mennonite Church, Manitoba
Jake Thiessen – Altona EMM Church, Manitoba
Art Toews – Bagot Community Chapel, Manitoba
Brian Toews – Austin Evangelical Fellowship, Manitoba
John Wall – Aylmer EMM Church, Ontario
John Wiebe – Sutherland Evangelical Church,
Saskatoon Saskatchewan

NOTE: since the May 25 General Council meeting,

- John Krahn has agreed to be the General Board secretary
- Jake Thiessen has resigned from General Board and General Council

EMMC / Go Mission! Staff

as of May 25, 2013

Tracy Dueck, Administrative Assistant
Jacob Friesen, Executive Director
Abe Giesbrecht, Missions Facilitator
Lil Goertzen, Communications Coordinator
Diedrich Harms, Leadership Development
David Janzen, Bolivia Field Director
Allen Kehler, Region 1 Coach
Ruben Mercado, Latin Ministries Facilitator / Coach

Accounting Services:

Bob Milks

Statistics as of December 31, 2012

Church / Pastoral Staff Listing

Region 1

HAGUE GOSPEL CHURCH

Allen and Anita Kehler, Lead Pastor

HEPBURN GOSPEL CHURCH

Dean and Cheryl Huber, Lead Pastor

MENNONITE GOSPEL CHURCH, VAUXHALL

Bernhard and Katharina Froese, Lead Pastor

SUTHERLAND EVANGELICAL CHURCH, SASKATOON

Dale and Sheryl Doerksen, Lead Pastor

Justin and Amber Hamilton, Youth Pastor/Pastoral Intern

WARMAN GOSPEL CHURCH

Vacant

WYNYARD GOSPEL CHURCH

Steven and Shirley Wiebe, Lead Pastor

Region 2

AUSTIN EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP

Colin and Dawn Bell, Lead Pastor

Andrew and Jenny Dyck, Youth Pastor

BAGOT COMMUNITY CHAPEL

Michael and Janice Fehr, Lead Pastor

GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, STEINBACH

Darrell and Corrina Dyck, Lead Pastor

Garry Blatz, Youth Pastor

LAKESIDE GOSPEL CHAPEL, ST. LAURENT

Vacant

MORROW GOSPEL CHURCH, WINNIPEG

Ralph and Mary Lynn Unger, Lead Pastor

*retired as of May 31, 2013

Andy and Patricia Funk, Associate Pastor

NASSAU STREET CHURCH, WINNIPEG

Daren and Renae Redekopp, Lead Pastor

Al and Monica Letkeman, Senior Pastor

Brynden and Brynden Devenny, Youth Director

NIVERVILLE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Chris and Heather Marchand, Lead Pastor

Elaine and Darrell Kehler, Congregational Care

Ashlyn and Tyler Neufeld, Youth Pastor

Region 3

ALTONA EMM CHURCH

Frank and Betty Friesen, Administrative Pastor

Ben and Cindy Klassen, Pastor of Teaching and Discipleship

Kellin and Tami Friesen, Youth Pastor

BERGFELD MENNONITE CHURCH

Eric and Mavis Lee, Lead Pastor

GLENCROSS MENNONITE CHURCH

Peter and Marian Redekopp, Lead Pastor

Trevor and Jamie Fleming, Youth Pastor

GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH, WINKLER

Claude and Micheline Lainey, Lead Pastor

Claude and Yvonne Dugas, Associate Pastor

MORDEN EMM CHURCH

George and Ann Derksen, Lead Pastor

Peter Serger, Youth Pastor

*hired as of January 1, 2013

WINKLER EMM CHURCH

Dale and Lori Dueck, Lead Pastor

Wilbert and Hilda Friesen, Associate Pastor

Loren and Sylvia Guenther, Young Families Pastor

Tim Goertzen, Youth Pastor

Carolyn and Jake Wiebe, Children's Ministry Director

*hired as of May 15, 2013

Region 4

AYLMER EMM CHURCH

Abe and Margaret Harder, Associate Pastor

Michael and Anne Marie Krahn, Associate Pastor

Ron and Helena Zacharias, Youth Pastor

BLENHHEIM EMM CHURCH

Isaak and Sara Unger, Lead Pastor

LEAMINGTON EMM CHURCH

Ike and Maria Unger, Associate Pastor

Willy and Helen Fehr, Associate Pastor

Peter and Maria Klassen, Youth Pastor

Annie and Herman Bergen, Children's Ministry Director

Region 5

GOSPEL MENNONITE CHURCH, SUBLETTE KANSAS

Gerhard and Elena Penner, Lead Pastor

Pete and Lena Dyck, Youth Pastor

GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH, SEMINOLE TEXAS

Bill and Tina Wiebe, Lead Pastor

Tina and Bill Wiebe, Women's Ministries

Randy Martens, Music and Worship Coach

Corny and Kat Froese, Youth Ministries Director

LIGHTHOUSE MISSION CHURCH, TIGERTOWN TEXAS

Vacant

REAL LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, STORM LAKE IOWA

Peter and Louise Hiebert, Lead Pastor

Region 6

BLUE CREEK EMMC, BELIZE

Diedrich and Katharina Dyck, Lead Pastor

John and Marian Krahn, Associate Pastor

Blaine and Melissa Dueck, Youth Pastor

COLONIA DEL VALLE EMMC, MEXICO

Willie and Sharon Reimer, Lead Pastor

GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL, SHIPYARD BELIZE

Henry and Tina Redekopp, Lead Pastor

HOPELCHEN EMMC, MEXICO

Vacant

SPANISH LOOKOUT EMMC, BELIZE

Walter and Betty Thiessen, Lead Pastor

James and Darlene Peters, Associate Pastor

Missionaries and Associate Missionaries as of December 31, 2012

EMMC MISSIONARIES

Friesen, Lisa and Ben,
Administrator at U.E. Villa Nueva (Lisa), Bolivia

Froese, John and Aggie
Conferencia Menonita Evangelica, Pastor Couple,
El Valle Mexico

Harms, Diedrich and Judy
Leadership Development, USA

Janzen, David and Lisa
Bolivia Field Director, Bolivia

Kehler, Bill and Martha
Outreach Ministry, San Jose Bolivia

Kornelsen, Elmer and Liesbeth
Pastor Couple, Hopelchen Mexico

Mercado, Ruben and Guadalupe (LIEAB),
Evangelism / Teaching, Bolivia

Peters, Arlie and Eva
Director of Education
Low German Ministry (Arlie), Bolivia

Peters, Simon and Edith
Counseling Ministry, Bolivia

Redekopp, Henry and Tina
Pastor Couple, Shipyard Belize

Reimer, Willie and Sharon
Pastor of Colonia Del Valle EMMC, Mexico

Wall, John and Maria
Regional Pastor / Coach, Mexico

Hurst, Chris and Elaine
Bible Translation into Nahuatl language
Wycliffe Bible Translators
British Columbia and Mexico

Janzen, Correna
Bible Translation into the Sos Kundi language
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Papua New Guinea

Neufeld, Lori and Dan
Teen Outreach Coordinator (Lori)
Inner City Youth Alive, Manitoba

Reddekopp, Guillermo and Mary-Ann
Pilot (Guillermo) – on loan to Flying Mission Zambia,
Zambia, Africa

Reimer, Andrew and Amie
Community Minister
Inner City Youth Alive, Manitoba

Schellenberg, Wes and Carol
Canada Field Administrator (Wes)
InterAct Ministries, Alberta

Siemens, Renetta
Tribal Team Ministry Worker
Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Philippines

Thiessen, Harvey and Brenda
Executive Director of OM Canada
Operation Mobilization, Ontario

Toews, Bob and Karen
Director of Recruitment
Avant Ministries, Manitoba

Whitehead, Carl and Pat
Bible Translation into the Menya Language
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Papua New Guinea

ASSOCIATE MISSIONARIES

(receive financial support from EMMC / Go Mission!)

Buhler, Scott and Patsy
Team Leaders with TeachBeyond - Brazil

Dyck, Pete and Cathy
Support staff at multi-ministry center (El Monte)
WEC International, Mexico

Enns, Harry and Mars
Serving in Mission, on loan to Providence College

Ens, Tony and Janet
Teaching, Key-Way-Tin Bible Institute
Northern Canada Evangelical Mission,
Lac La Biche AB

Giesbrecht, Marsden and Mandy
Church Planting
Northern Canada Evangelical Mission, Saskatchewan

Honsberger, Murray and Carol
Bible Translation into Kwomtari language
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Papua New Guinea

Regional Statistics as of December 31, 2012

	Members	Attenders
Region 1 - 6 churches	384	490
Region 2 - 7 churches	933	1,026
Region 3 - 6 churches	2,118	1,888
Region 4 - 3 churches	952	929
Region 5 - 4 churches	425	777
Region 6 - 5 churches	522	729
Total 31 churches	5,334	5,839

Partnerships

Who is LIEAB?

La Iglesia Evangélica Anabautista En Bolivia

is the group of Spanish-speaking Anabaptist churches that grew out of EMMC missionary efforts in Bolivia. LIEAB today consists of:

- 11 established congregations (8 urban, 3 rural) and 3 new outreaches. A total of 400 baptized members, with an average Sunday attendance of 650.
- A Private Christian School of 750 students in Santa Cruz
- A Bible School by Extension (SETA) with over 350 students – training leaders to train others.
- Camp Chorovi (formerly EMMC clinic) - a camp facility for retreats, training and other ministry events.
- La Fortaleza Medical Clinic – serving the needy in the community.
- A ministerial made up of national pastors who give leadership and oversight to the various LIEAB ministries.

Who is MEM?

Mision Evangelica Menonita



The requests for help keep coming from Bolivia, and so EMMC / Go Mission! continues its work there.

There are an estimated 60,000 to 80,000 Low German speaking Mennonites living in close to 70 colonies in the Santa Cruz area, and in regions to the east. A number of years ago we entered into a partnership with the Evangelical Bergthaler Mennonite Conference of La Crete, Alberta to more efficiently and more effectively carry out projects and manage mission staff.

About two years ago the Evangelical Mennonite Conference headquartered in Steinbach, Manitoba joined that partnership, known as MEM (Misión Evangélica Menonita). We are pleased to see that two couples, **John and Helen Froese** and **Henry and Caroline Krahn**, from the EMC have been accepted and are expected to be in Bolivia before the end of 2013.

Who is CME?

Conferencia Menonita Evangelica

The CME was officially formed in September 2007 at a convention with representatives from the three EMMC, three EMC and one EMMC/EMC churches becoming members of this conference.

EMMC and EMC remain as partner conferences, however with less direct input to the visioning and strategy of operation of these churches.

CME has their own leadership structure comprised of two representatives from each of the participating churches.

Conferencia Menonita Evangelical (CME)
Evangelical Bergthaler Mennonite Conference (EBMC)
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)
Evangelical Mennonite Conference (EMC)
Gospel Message Ministries (GMM)
La Iglesia Evangelica Anabautista En Bolivia (LIEAB)
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
Mision Evangelica Menonita (MEM)
Mennonite Foundation of Canada (MFC)
Mennonite World Conference (MWC)
Mid-Way Christian Leadership / Continental Missions Inc.
Steinbach Bible College (SBC)



Mennonite World Conference
A Community of Anabaptist related Churches

Congreso Mundial Menonita
Una Comunidad de Iglesias Anabautistas

Conférence Mennonite Mondiale
Une Communauté d'Églises Anabaptistes

Report to the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference Gathering 2013

MWC is called to be a communion of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service and witness.

Signs of God at Work

- in shared stories from around the world on the MWC website (www.mwc-cmm.org) and through the MWC Facebook page;
- in conversations about Christian identity from an Anabaptist perspective in one's own cultural context, aided by papers and itinerant teachers from the Faith and Life Commission;
- in reflections, shared through a Peace Commission survey, about what it means to be a peace church in the midst of much violence;
- in visits by the Deacons Commission with churches that are suffering;
- in exploration by the Mission Commission of better collaboration among the many mission and service agencies to enable more effective witness;
- in cross-denomination conversations that

enable us to understand our own distinctives while building broader church understanding through the dialogues with the Lutherans, Catholics and Seventh-day Adventists;

- in planning for the next Global Assembly and Global Youth Summit, to be held in Pennsylvania July 21-26, 2015. Plan to participate!

Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession

- Praise God for the 9,500 congregations around the world from around 100 MWC member conferences that are seeking to be agents of God's peace in their contexts.
- Pray for César García of Colombia, MWC General Secretary, as he visits with member churches on all continents and shares God's vision for the church as expressed in Revelations 7:9.
- Pray for the MWC



César García

Executive Committee, consisting of representatives from five continents, meeting May 2013 – at the same time as the EMMC Gathering 2013.

Sign Up to Stay Connected

Write info@mwc-cmm.org to sign up for a monthly e-alert called *MWC Info* and to get on the list to receive MWC's newsletter and magazine by regular mail or by email: *Courier/Correo/Courrier*. These are available in English, Spanish or French. When signing up for either or both of these publications, give your name, country and language preference.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Roth, MWC North American Representative.



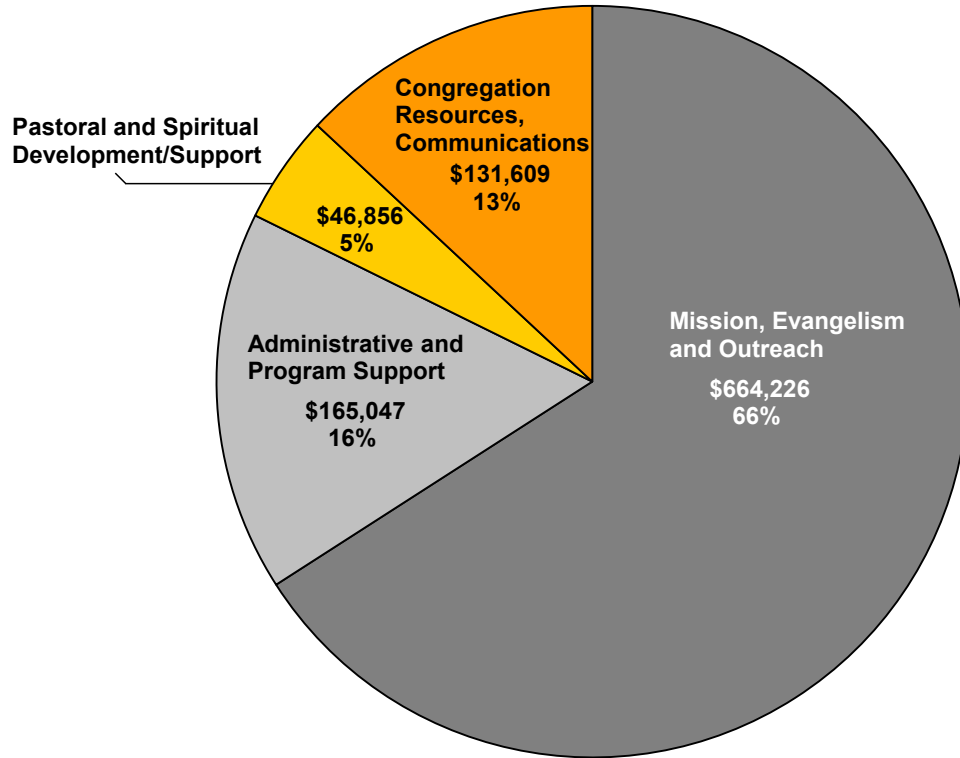
MWC General Council members share communion at May 2012 meetings in Basel, Switzerland.

Mission Agencies and Organization

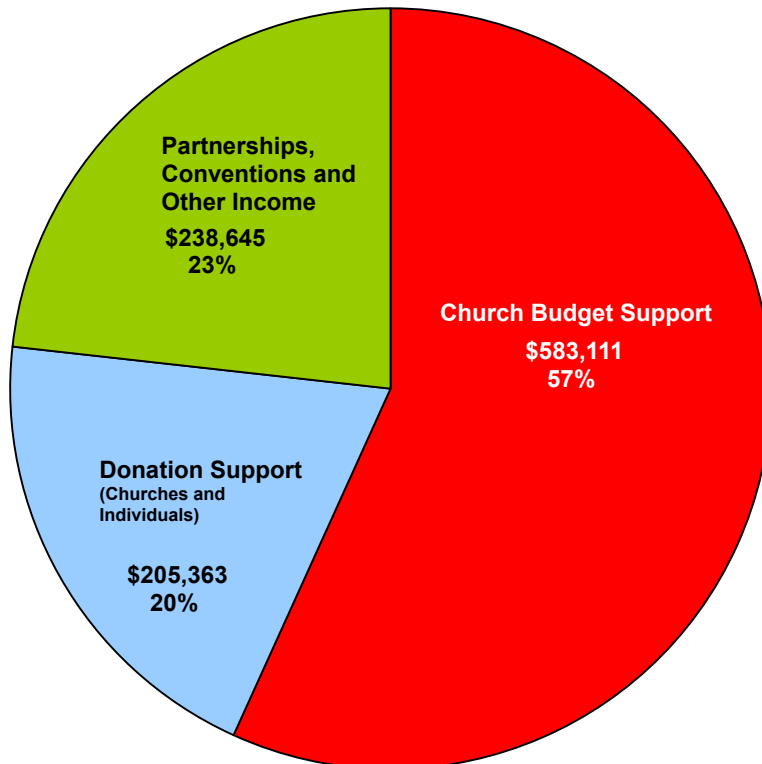
represented by EMMC / Go Mission! workers

AIM	Advancing Indigenous Missions
Avant	Avant Ministries of Canada
CCI	Children's Camp International
CME	Conferencia Misionera Evangelica
EFCCM	Evangelical Free Church of Canada Missions
EMMC	Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference
FESPA	Family Education and Support Project of Aylmer (Ontario)
FMZ	Flying Mission Zambia
ICYA	Inner City Youth Alive
InterAct	InterAct Ministries of Canada
IVCF	Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada
LIEAB	La Iglesia Evangelica Anabautista en Bolivia
MCC	Mennonite Central Committee
MCS	Mennonite Community Service
NCEM	Northern Canada Evangelical Mission
OM	Operation Mobilization
OMF	Overseas Missionary Fellowship
OMSC	Open-Door Missionary Service Committee
SIM	Serving in Mission
TB	TeachBeyond
VM	Village Missions of Canada
WBT	Wycliffe Bible Translators
WEC	WEC International
YFC	Youth For Christ
YWAM	Youth With A Mission

**Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference
Ministry Activities**
2012/2013 Actual

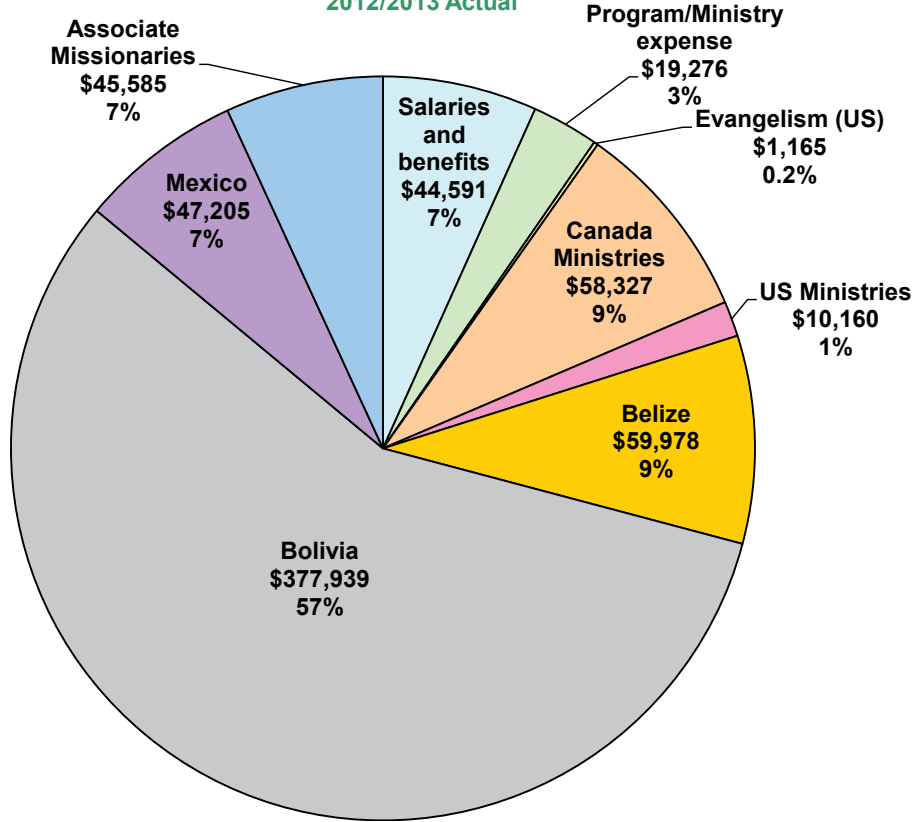


**Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference
Revenue Sources**
2012/2013 Actual



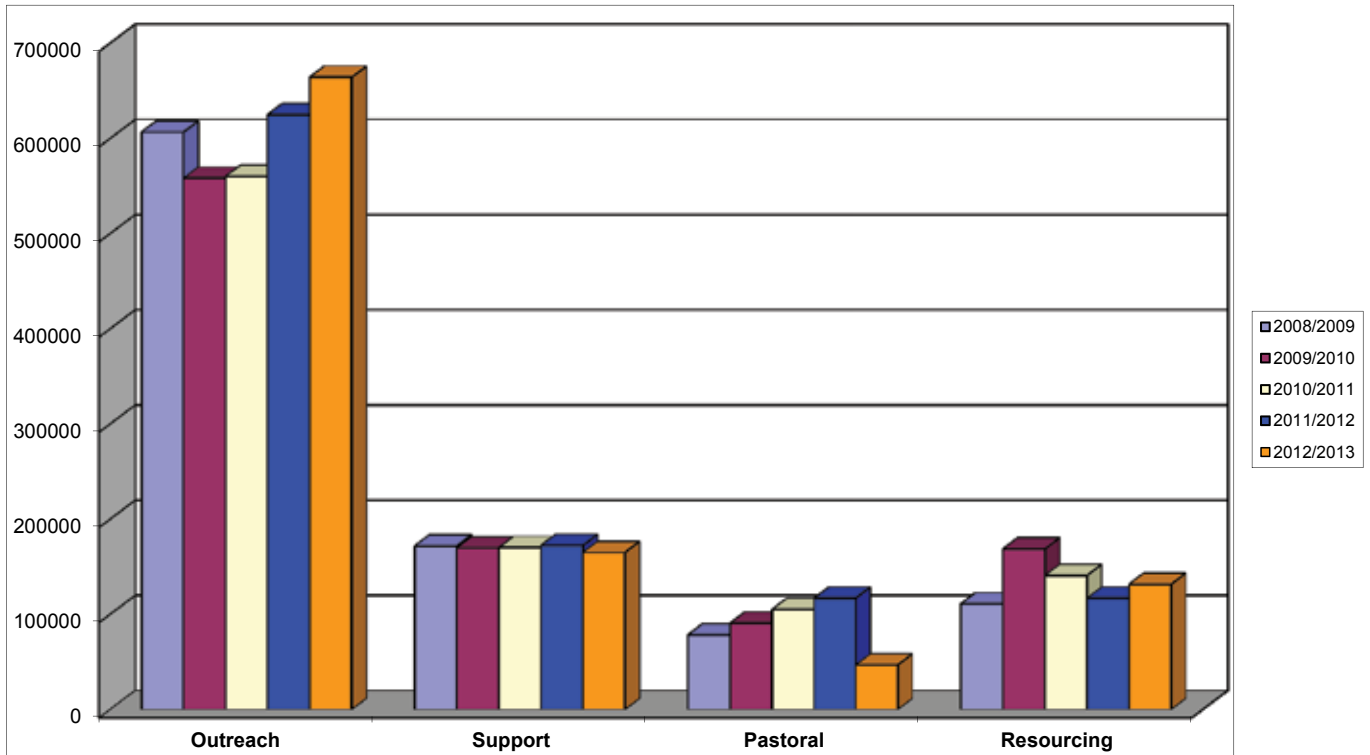
Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference Mission Locations

2012/2013 Actual



Ministry Expenses

5-year Comparison
2008-2013 Actual



Holukoff Chiarella

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Kevin Masse, B.Comm. (Hons), C.A.
(Practising as Kevin Masse Chartered Accountant Ltd.)
Ralph Orr, B.Comm. (Hons), C.A.
(Practising as Ralph Orr Chartered Accountant Ltd.)
Wayne H. Chiarella, B.A., C.A. (Retired 2011)
Sam Holukoff, C.A. (Retired 2005)

101 - 1180 Pembina Highway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2A4
Telephone (204) 452-6449
Fax (204) 452-3397

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of
Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference

The accompanying summarized statement of financial position and summarized statement of operations and changes in fund balances are derived from the complete financial statements of Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference as at January 31, 2013 and for the year then ended which we expressed an opinion in our report dated May 1, 2013. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements of Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference as at January 31, 2013 and for the year then ended in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Holukoff Chiarella

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
May 1, 2013

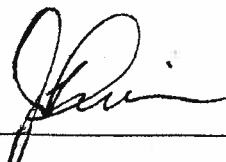
EVANGELICAL MENNONITE MISSION CONFERENCE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT JANUARY 31, 2013

<u>ASSETS</u>			
	<u>Jan. 31,</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>Jan. 31,</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>Feb. 1,</u> <u>2011</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 159,503	99,368	95,128
Receivables			5,199
GST receivable	5,830	2,801	4,177
Inventory	15,434	15,134	10,437
Prepaid expenses	<u>2,877</u>	<u>7,721</u>	<u>1,577</u>
	183,644	125,024	116,518
 TERM AND OTHER DEPOSITS	 1,299,857	 1,347,297	 1,111,785
 CAPITAL ASSETS	 <u>142,511</u>	 <u>147,692</u>	 <u>153,287</u>
	 \$ 1,626,012	 1,620,013	 1,381,590

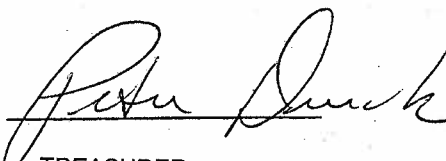
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 150,897	193,359	162,940
Deferred contributions	<u>100,735</u>	<u>100,284</u>	<u> </u>
	251,632	293,643	162,940
 FUND BALANCES			
General Funds	502,619	459,461	435,876
Restricted Funds	768,900	768,305	688,593
Endowment Fund	<u>102,861</u>	<u>98,604</u>	<u>94,181</u>
	1,374,380	1,326,370	1,218,650
	 \$ 1,626,012	 1,620,013	 1,381,590

ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL BOARD:



 MODERATOR



 TREASURER

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE MISSION CONFERENCE
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GENERAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2013

	General Funds			
	<u>Operating</u>	<u>General Reserve</u>	<u>2013 Total</u>	<u>2012 Total</u>
REVENUE				
General donations				
Churches	\$ 583,111		583,111	588,972
Individuals	205,363		205,363	173,216
Program and other	235,272		235,272	278,874
Treasured Foundation				270
Interest	3,373	13,629	17,002	16,364
Receipt of estate bequests	<u>13,250</u>		<u>13,250</u>	
	<u>1,040,369</u>	<u>13,629</u>	<u>1,053,998</u>	<u>1,057,696</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Mission, evangelism and outreach	664,226		664,226	624,987
Administrative and program support	165,047		165,047	172,285
Pastoral and spiritual support/development	46,856		46,856	116,921
Congregation resourcing, publications and support	131,609		131,609	117,068
Treasured Foundation	<u>452</u>		<u>452</u>	<u>2,850</u>
	<u>1,008,190</u>		<u>1,008,190</u>	<u>1,034,111</u>
EXCESS REVENUE	32,179	13,629	45,808	23,585
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	6,477	452,984	459,461	435,876
TRANSFER OF ESTATE BEQUESTS	<u>(13,250)</u>	<u>10,600</u>	<u>(2,650)</u>	
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	\$ <u>25,406</u>	<u>477,213</u>	<u>502,619</u>	<u>459,461</u>

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE MISSION CONFERENCE
 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
 RESTRICTED FUNDS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2013

	Restricted Funds					2013 Total	2012 Total
	Capital Fund	Education	Regional Activities	Designated Funds			
REVENUE							
Donor directed contributions	\$			378,039		378,039	166,728
Interest		<u>2,950</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>7,968</u>		<u>11,079</u>	<u>11,404</u>
		<u>2,950</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>386,007</u>		<u>389,118</u>	<u>178,132</u>
EXPENDITURES							
Donor directed ministry			1,480	384,512		385,992	92,825
Amortization	<u>5,181</u>					<u>5,181</u>	<u>5,595</u>
	<u>5,181</u>		<u>1,480</u>	<u>384,512</u>		<u>391,173</u>	<u>98,420</u>
EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURES)							
	(5,181)	2,950	(1,319)	1,495		(2,055)	79,712
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	147,692	95,810	40,024	484,779		768,305	688,593
TRANSFER OF ESTATE BEQUESTS		<u>2,650</u>				<u>2,650</u>	
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	\$ <u>142,511</u>	<u>101,410</u>	<u>38,705</u>	<u>486,274</u>		<u>768,900</u>	<u>768,305</u>

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE MISSION CONFERENCE
 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
 ENDOWMENT FUND
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2013

	Endowment Fund	
	2013 Total	2012 Total
REVENUE		
Interest	\$ 4,257	4,423
EXPENDITURES		
EXCESS REVENUE	4,257	4,423
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>98,604</u>	<u>94,181</u>
FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ <u>102,861</u>	<u>98,604</u>

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I come to the garden alone

~ LIL GOERTZEN

Our tour was quickly coming to an end, something that none of us were eager to embrace. The time spent in Israel with other Christian editors and writers had been profound as together we read scripture and were taught about the history of the Holy Land. Our newly acquired appreciation of place and context made oft-heard Bible stories come alive. We heard things with fresh ears as our guide Herzl peeled back the layers of history and connected it with its rich symbolism.

My husband George and I did not know what to expect from this trip, but we both knew that somehow, this trip would leave an imprint on our hearts.

The Garden Tomb, nestled in the old part of Jerusalem is a beautiful, peaceful place, designed in such a way that multiple groups of various sizes can gather for times of reflection and worship. This particular day was not overly crowded.

Our guide for this part of the afternoon was a patient man, who lovingly shared his passion for The Garden Tomb. He led us through the garden pathways offering explanations along the way. We came to a platform that provided a view of what is traditionally known as Golgotha. Centuries have eroded the rock, but with a little imagination, the rough and jagged formation of ‘the skull’ is still visible. Below the rock were rows and rows of tour buses. The irony – just as people came to watch Jesus die on the cross 2000 years ago, crowds continue to make the pilgrimage now to see where he died.

We made our way through the garden, taking the time to stop, appreciating the beauty of the flowers and reflecting on what the activities could have been like surrounding the crucifixion. *The crowd yelling their curses and jeers. The cries of agony from those hanging on their crosses. Shouts of anger and disdain from soldiers. Wails from mourners and those who were followers of Jesus. Comments and question from the curious on-lookers. The confusion and intensity of all of that swirling together was far from peaceful.*

Our steps took us back to the quieter place in the garden where our guide provided insight as to how the tombs had been carved from the rock, and the different ‘rooms’ within the tomb.

It was quite different than the picture that we were shown in Sunday School when I was a kid.

The pathway led down the stone steps to the entrance area to the tomb where it is believed Jesus was placed. A hush was over the group waiting their turn to step into this sacred space. One by one, they bent over, squeezed through the small doorway and peered into the dimly lit chambers. There was no body. There were no linens. Jesus was not there. He is risen!

Stepping back into the bright sunshine was a stark contrast from the confinement of the tomb.

Other groups had selected their spaces throughout the garden. A large group of about 150 worshipers sang songs, some of which were familiar, only they were singing in a language that I didn’t know. A group behind us blended their voices with “I Come to the Garden Alone”.

Herzl our guide, a Messianic Jew, was very aware of the significance of us being in this sacred place. It was appropriate that we share scripture together and celebrate communion.

The tiny hand-carved olivewood cups held the wine, with the flatbread in the linen-lined basket.

I couldn’t help but wonder how the disciples felt that night when they shared that odd event in the upper room and Jesus telling them to take and eat – this is my body; take and drink – this is my blood.

The experience in the Garden Tomb went beyond emotion of the moment and garden surroundings. The empty tomb was a stark reminder that God sent His son, Jesus, that we might have life.

Our group entered into that intimate time of reflection and being alone, yet together as we ate the bread, drank the cup, and affirmed our commitment to Christ and the body of believers.



PHOTO: ROBERT RICHARDSON (C)

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