



NEWSLETTER

Irene Klassen of Calgary, AB., was President of ABWM 1970-75. At Bethlehem '83, Irene was elected Canadian VP for the General Conference Women in Mission. She served for 6 years in that role, then continued on as WM representative to Commission on Education until 1992. We are pleased to present here a meditation by her.

AUTUMN

I could almost see the red colour seeping into the veins of the vines along the wall.

The golden leaves were glowing on the poplar trees. More and more red ones were appearing on the maple. Ripe apples were plopping on the ground. Autumn with its glorious burst of colour, its fruition and harvest was just beginning.

A flock of nine or ten robins suddenly appeared from nowhere, and descended on the backyard. Ravenously they devoured everything edible in front of them. They scratched under dead leaves for grubs, raced up and down branches looking for seeds and insects. They feasted on flies and spiders in the spider webs. Then an hour or so later, just as quickly as they had come, they were gone, leaving a neat and tidy yard. I wondered how far they had come this day and how far they were still going. And I marveled at the mystery of migration.

I know a place called Tanglewood, where dead and dying trees cling to living ones, their branches intertwined. In the autumn the tangled roots are covered with a thick carpet of dead leaves and more dying leaves floating down to join them. The red and gold carpet soon turns to brown, while it protects the roots of the living trees and then decays to enrich the soil and nourish new growth. What a wonderful plan for perpetual recreation.

Our lives too, are intertwined, leaning on and supporting each other, and are renewed in due season. Even as I was pondering the glories of autumn and mysteries of life and death, a group of school children passed by. New clothes, new backpacks filled with new books, new pencils and all the new things they would



need for this new school year. “My new teacher is so neat! She even remembered my name!” “Mine is sort of grumpy, but he seems to know his Math and maybe I’ll get better grades.” “I’m going to keep my papers in neat order this year.” The voices faded as they passed.

I looked at the calendar. September. And there were already several dates marked. Tuesday – Women in Mission; Wednesday – Book Club; next week Monday – Choir... then Parent-Teacher meetings and several more. Summer was over and autumn was definitely here. Even as I sighed at the ending of summer, I was excited: new activities to be planned; new ideas to make committee meetings more interesting and productive; new books to read, and chances to share the summer’s reads; new music to learn. This was going to be another good year.

Endings of autumn overlap with its beginnings. The leaves will continue to colour, to fade and fall, and the birds will continue to their mysterious flight. People will continue to lean on and support each other, and God will continue to renew the earth with beauty and wonders.

By Irene Klassen

CWM EXECUTIVE CHANGES

Thank you to:

- Dodie Lepp for serving CWM 4 years, 1 year as President-Elect, and 3 years as President;
- Beth Moyer for serving ABWM 5 years as President;
- Esther Patkau for serving SKWM 4 years as President.

Welcome to:

- Evelyn Buhr, new President for ABWM;
- Audrey Mierau Bechtel, new President for SKWM.

JOINT MEETING OF MENNONITE WOMEN USA AND CANADIAN WOMEN IN MISSION, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, JULY 7/05

- Our two countries each donated 1 comforter to be tied at our joint booth during the Conference. These 2 comforters were raffled and raised \$334.00. Kathy Fast from Winnipeg created a beautiful work out of African fabrics of blue, yellow, green and red. See picture lower left.
- Approximately 375 women were present for the dinner meeting.
- International dress was encouraged. See photo of Veronica Thiessen in her Ukranian costume, bottom middle.
- Shirley Redekop, Floradale, ON. won the door prize of a CMU Course.
- Michele Hershberger, from Hesston College, Kansas, author, teacher, powerfully dramatized stories of 3 women, Rahab and Lydia from the Bible, and a present day story of an illegal immigrant woman.
- Offering was \$4887.37(US), which was divided equally between expenses for the event, and African, Latin American Women doing Theology.



NEWS:

- **Important new forms for processing donation cheques.** One form is for treasurers of local groups forwarding donations to the Provincial/Regional Treasurer; and one form is for Provincial/Regional Treasurers forwarding donations to CWM Treasurer. Are you using the new forms? Please check with your President for copies.
- **New 2005-06 Opportunities for Giving Form.** It is very important for local treasurers and Provincial/Regional treasurers to use this form when sending in donations. Without this form, Ruth Jantzi, CWM treasurer, and Randy Wiebe (MC Canada Accountant) do not know to what account the donation should be deposited.
- Cathleen Hockman-Wert resigned her position as Editor of Timbrel effective Oct. 31/05.
 - Laurie L. Oswald is the new Editor of Timbrel effective November 1/05
 - Recipients of Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund scholarships for 2005/06 are Leah Bueckert and Lois Siemens. Both are continuing their studies at AMBS.

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