



...and when you pray...

Looking back at 2005

God gives us many opportunities to reflect on the past. That which is our history, including our Biblical heritage, spans the ages and reaches beyond us into the future. As God's children, we are called to reflect and to look to the future with the same bold hope and confidence of Simeon and Anna when they saw the Christ child. As Mennonite Church Canada Witness, we understand that God is at work setting things right in a broken world, redeeming and restoring all things in Christ to God's intended design. This is why we do what we do as we pray 'may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven' and in building God's Kingdom. We want to align our being and doing with this work of God. When we reflect on activities of this past year, we realize there is much to be thankful for. Give praise to God for:

- The many people praying for the work and ministry of the broader church.
- The solidarity churches in Canada have shown for the church and its leaders in Vietnam.
- The emergence of a new Anabaptist congregation in South Korea
- The expanding church in Thailand and other places where we have ministry.
- The health and safety for Janessa Otto, who was medivaced from Benin shortly after her arrival.
- The growing partnerships between churches here and churches around the world, where we learn from each other how to be God's presence in each of our own contexts. This includes the growing partnerships with native churches here in Canada.
- New believers in Christ, who also desire to participate in the building of God's kingdom. We hear of these people from many of the places in which we have mission workers.
- The many opportunities for talking about faith, the church, and what it means to be a Christian in China, Macau, Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Colombia, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Spain, Italy ...
- The ability to celebrate the many years of dedicated ministry of Walter Franz who retired in fall and is now assisting the Riverton Fellowship Church.
- The spirit of generosity as people like you and your churches send financial support, with a deep desire to help change the world.
- The leadership training taking place in Botswana, Benin, China, Korea, Colombia, Chile, South Africa, Macau, Thailand, Cuba... and here in Canada
- The openness of our congregations to hear about God's presence and activities in many places by inviting and helping to support Witness workers and MC Canada staff, and the encouragement we have received from one another. Quite a number of mission workers itinerated in churches this past year. Glynn & Susan Jones (Botswana), Erwin & Marian Wiens, Cheryl Woelk (South Korea), Loren & Donna Entz (Burkina Faso); Glenn E. Witmer, Mike & Ginny Hostetler (Israel); Todd & Jeannette Hanson & Cari Friesen (China); Vic & Kathy Thiessen (England); Bruce Yoder & Nancy Frey (Benin); Steve & Cheryl Martins (Afghanistan); George & Tobia Veith (Macau); Cliff & Natasha Dueck (Ukraine); Jason & Donna Martin (Italy); Pat & Rad Houmphfan (Thailand).
- The partnerships we have around the world, including working together with organizations such as Christian Peacemaker Teams, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service, Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure.

- The young people and mission interns who have a keen interest in the mission of the church.
- The peace witness and ministry of Glenn Witmer in Israel, Sherry Peters in Ireland, and church leaders in Colombia in building bridges among people who have historically been in conflict with each other.
- A brand new ministry partnership with Peace Mennonite Church for the ministry of Dann and Joji Pantoja in Philippines

Looking Ahead in 2006

We also ask for your continued prayers as we face the year ahead. Please pray for sensitivity to God's leading and God's desires as we go about our day to day activities – always conscious of being a part of God's community, bringing God's grace, joy and peace. Pray for:

- New staff as they learn their roles and take the ministries of Mennonite Church Canada Witness to new heights. Janet Plenert begins as Executive Secretary for Witness; Tim Froese as Executive Director for International Ministries and Mission Facilitator for Latin America and Hippolyto Tshimanga as the Mission Facilitator for Africa and Europe. Pray also for good applicants for the other positions needed to assist the national church body to fulfill its mandate of leading, mobilizing and resourcing the broader church. (See website for positions)
- New workers who will be going on assignment in this coming year: Dann & Joji Pantoja to Philippines (leave Jan 9th); Jeff & Tany Warketin to Burkina Faso (leave in Feb); Dan & Yvonne Nighswander to South Africa (leave this summer).
- The eager Cuban church leaders as they encourage and build Christian communities that extend the invitation to become as God would have us be. Pray for the series of week long seminars, resourced by Mennonite Church Canada Witness.
- The continued literacy work and Bible translation that is being done in Burkina Faso, as well as the new church planting ministry Jeff & Tany Warketin will be involved with in this coming year.
- The Chinese Confession of Faith from a Mennonite Perspective as it is distributed this year – for the impact it can make in furthering the development of God's people (facilitated by Samson Lo, director of multi cultural ministry).
- The mission workers who are on North American assignment, preparing for and doing itineration in 2006, that we can all learn from each other about God's work and find ways we can share God's love and reconciliation in a world of need.
- The Macau prayer walk and learning tour that will take place April 20 – May 2, facilitated by Samson Lo. Pray for a better understanding of the ministry in Macau and ability to encourage and walk in solidarity as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Staff and students of Connexus, the English language training centre of the Korea Anabaptist Center, as well as those teaching English in China, for opportunities to share the gospel and its impact on one's life.
- The witness to resolving conflicts in non-violent ways. Pray for churches around the world and for members of the church to work towards peace and justice for all by living out God's call for peace.
- IMPaCT (International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together) where a number of pastors from Latin America will come to Canada, and be hosted by pastors in MC Manitoba this June.
- God's church celebrating its ministry over the years. The congregation in Niedergoersdorf, Germany will celebrate 10 years of serving God on May 7th. Jake & Dorothy Unrau are giving leadership to shaping this event.

I want to thank each of you for your continued prayers and your encouragement to each other. May our lives impact the lives of others in such a way that they too will be drawn closer to God and God's church continues to be the example or light to the world. May God bless you and continue to make you a blessing in this coming year.

Kathy Fast, PrayerNet Coordinator

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