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Wrapped in God's Love: A Milestones Ministry Resource

In a world where clever marketing targets and nurtures our children as consumers of its products and values, Christians face the challenge of fighting back by wrapping our children in God's love. To do so effectively, we need creative approaches for nurturing our children and youth with the alternative values, beliefs and practices of our faith community.

This is what *Wrapped in God's Love* provides for our churches and its families. By creatively blending congregational rituals of blessing and welcome with age-appropriate responses for growing generous hearts, this booklet can help us nurture the church's children in faith and Christian stewardship. This resource will look familiar to many of you, for it began as an initiative of the Hillcrest Mennonite Church, "Milestones Ministry: Planting Seeds of Faith," which Mennonite Church Canada distributed to our congregations in the February 2003 *Equipping*. *Wrapped in God's Love* builds on this earlier Milestones Ministry resource and now includes a stewardship emphasis modeled on the work of the Canadian Interchurch Stewardship committee, to which Jeff Steckley, Congregational Ministries Minister for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada was an active contributor.

The rituals and stewardship training suggestions in this book can be implemented as they appear, or they can be used as a springboard to develop rituals and practices for your specific congregational context. It is my hope, for the sake of the children whom God has entrusted us, that the rich resources in *Wrapped in God's Love: A Milestones Ministry Resource* will help plant seeds of faith and grow generous hearts in homes and congregations across Canada and beyond.

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