

May 2010, *Equipping* #106



Leanne Plett
Equipping Coordinator

With spring beginning to blossom

it is time to look forward to the upcoming Mennonite Church Canada Assembly, which will take place in Calgary from June 28 to July 3. We hope this year's assembly proves to be a time of community, rejuvenation, and a new focus on being thankful.

Leanne Plett – Equipping Coordinator

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Mennonite Church Canada

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- *Prayer, Notes & News* – May 2010
(bulletin announcements, newsletters, worship planners, leaders)

Christian Witness

- *The road is made by walking.* – Janet Plenert
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Christian Formation

- *Children's Stories* - on-line only, based on lectionary readings
(for worship planners, teachers, pastors, education committee, librarian etc.)
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/126
- *Resource Update No. 5*
(for worship planners, teachers, pastors, education committees, librarian, etc.)
- *Celebration Story: Alternative Service website inspires student*
(bulletin boards, leaders, worship planners, and church newsletters)
- **Special Sunday Worship Resources**
View and download the entire Special Sunday grouping: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/482

Extending our Faith

- Parish Paper
- What Makes a Mennonite
- Vision Book - CMU press



Robert J. Suderman,
General Secretary,
Mennonite Church Canada

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Living eucharistically

The theme text for Mennonite Church Canada's July Assembly in Calgary is taken from the letter to the Colossians. It has been very rich to focus on this important letter for the better part of two years.

The strong call to *eucharistic* (thankful) living stands out in the letter:

We give thanks for you to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, continually in our prayers (1:3);

... giving thanks with joy to the Father who has made you able to share the lot of God's holy people and with them to inherit the light (1:12).

... and overflowing with gratitude (2:7).

And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful (3:15).

... and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him (3:17).

Be persevering in your prayers and be thankful as you stay awake to pray (4:2).

This focus on gratitude is striking. We don't know a lot about the Colossian church, but we do know that its life was not easy. Living in the heart of the Roman Empire was not simple. Being a community of Jesus-style peace in the land of Caesar was dangerous. Doing and saying everything in the name of the Lord Jesus was subversive, because there was "no other Lord but Caesar." It was not easy to keep alert for prayer and to persevere in it when the daily life was very difficult.

The root Greek word for gratitude and thankfulness is *eucharist*. This word, in turn, is composed of two words: *eu*, meaning good; and *xaris*, meaning grace. Thus, to be thankful is to celebrate the good grace of God in our lives. To be grateful is to focus on God's goodness, not on the benefits of our efforts. To be grateful puts our ministry firmly under the umbrella of God's power and grace. Living *eucharistically* shifts the attention away from our indebtedness to the other for advantages gained, to the presence of God in everything we do and achieve.

The exhortation to allow the good grace of God to rule our lives is as revolutionary in our context as it was in the Roman Empire. It is not what our society promotes. It is not what our culture assumes. Living *eucharistically* is a powerful symbol of transcendence in a society that often forgets that human effort is not the last word.

It is inspiring to meditate on the role of *eucharistic* living for our society. It would be noticed. It is a powerful way of proclaiming an alternative Kingdom. It is a good way of exposing others to the gospel of the grace of God.

We will explore the letter to the Colossians more deeply in July at the Assembly. We invite you to be there: Calgary, June 29-July 3. It will indeed be a rich experience of gratitude.



Equipping Prayers Notes News

A resource packet for equipping Mennonite Church Canada pastors and leaders

600 Shaftesbury Blvd
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4
Toll free 1-866-888-6785
P: 204-888-6781
F: 204-831-5675
E: office@mennonitechurch.ca
www.mennonitechurch.ca

Please insert these prayer requests and notes into your bulletin.
Remember, you can also find these at www.mennonitechurch.ca/equipping for easy "cut and paste" insertion.

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Sunday dates	Prayers: Please pray for and with the Church	Ministry Notes: This is how your financial support of Mennonite Church Canada is ministering...from across the street to around the world	News/Announcements: Stay in tune with the wider church
May 2/10 Many Peoples Sunday	As we celebrate the diversity of God's church on Many Peoples Sunday, please pray that God's people around the globe will be inspired to seek new ways of connecting with each other, and for expressing Christ's peace and justice wherever they may be.	Thank you for supporting Mennonite Church Canada's Multi-Cultural ministry and helping us to connect with those of other languages and cultures. God's people come from a wide spectrum of cultural and ethnic diversity that is increasingly reflected in Mennonite Church Canada congregations. We have so much to learn from and share with each other!	Can people of different faiths work together for a common good? Find out in Episode 38 of the <i>Church Matters</i> podcast at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1302
May 9/10	Please pray that God will provide healing for Mennonite Church Canada Witness worker in Macau, Tim Buhler , who recently injured both arms in a serious fall. Boths arms are in slings. Also, pray that despite the distance, Tim's wife Cindy will find ways to connect with her sister in Canada who was recently diagnosed with cancer.	The Mennonite Church Canada Assembly is the biggest annual faith formation opportunity offered to congregations. Register for this year's assembly - Reclaiming Jesus; Gladly Wear the Name - online at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1300 or download the Registration Booklet here: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1303 . Your continued support of and participation in these gatherings contributes to the fellowship and ministry of Mennonite Church Canada.	Truth and Reconciliation, Treaty and Covenant. Tune in to a two part <i>Church Matters</i> series (Episode 39 and 40) for a biblical and churchly perspective on promises, treaties, and covenants in the context of Aboriginal land claims in Canada. www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/206
May 16/10	The search for a new General Secretary for Mennonite Church Canada is ongoing. Please pray that God's wisdom and understanding will guide each member of the search committee, and that the right candidate will sense God's leading to this important role.	Mennonite Church Canada has introduced a Youth Ambassador option for Assembly 2010, Reclaiming Jesus; Gladly Wear the Name. For more information, see the registration booklet at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1303 . Thank you for encouraging youth in your congregation to participate in the wider church – and for supporting them in their efforts!	
May 23/10	Today is Pentecost! As we celebrate the birth of Christ's Church, pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will anoint God's people in new ways to meet the spiritual hunger of the world around them.	Thank you for supporting Mennonite Church Canada Learning Tours, which allow participants to more intimately experience the ministries we engage in together. In 2010, Learning Tours brought people to Philippines, China, and Israel-Palestine. An Aboriginal Learning tour to the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park at Siksika First Nation is planned for Assembly 2010.	100 new DVDs have recently been purchased at the Resource Centre – great for home viewing and small group study. Your support of Mennonite Church Canada allows our library to offer these and many more thousands of specialized resources for loan, sale or download.
May 30/10	Praise God for the growing strength and vision of the Macau Mennonite Church as local members assume more leadership roles! Please pray that God's grace and wisdom will mark the leadership of Susan Poon , the congregation's new chairperson. Witness workers Tim and Cindy Buhler and George and Tobia Veith (currently on North American ministry leave) serve the Mennonite Church in Macau.	Approximately every two weeks, Mennonite Church Canada brings you stories of the ministries and people you support. Thank you for helping us to share information and inspiring stories about and for God's people! Check out www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/891 for the latest additions. You can receive regular updates by subscribing to our News Service at http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/news/releases/subscribe/ .	

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11



Janet Plenert
Executive Secretary
MC Canada Witness

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An African proverb says, *The road is made by walking.*

Spanish poet Antonio Machado (1875-1939) expressed a similar idea when he wrote, *caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar.* (Wanderer/pilgrim, there is no road, the road is made by walking it.) According to this logic and wisdom, the path we want to see ahead of us is the one we should begin to walk step by step. In so doing, we will create the road for others to follow.

Mennonite Church Canada has 12 outcome statements that describe what we think we should look and act like as we continue the journey of faithfulness. They are rich and engaging statements that can inspire and motivate us and show us where the road is well tread, and where it is but a faint path. They can also serve to illustrate where the road is not yet walked, and thus where we need to begin walking.

One of these statements says: *We are a generous church, joyfully giving our talents, time, and financial resources as a response to God's generosity and to support the ministries of the church at all levels.* As I have been reflecting on these statements I have thought of the story in II Corinthians 8 where Paul tells the story of the Macedonian Christians taking an offering for their brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. Paul tells us that "during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity..... (they) begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints." (II Cor 8:2-4). Symbolically speaking, these young believers had no road to walk on. They had to choose to create the road by taking steps of faithfulness, of compassion and of joyful

generosity. And scripture says that this is what they did. They begged to be allowed to give generously to their afflicted brothers and sisters whom they have never met.

Even today, it is often in times of trial that we see paths being made by walking. The evening of February 27 Pastor Pacheco and his family were sleeping in their home in Chile. The earthquake shook their house, breaking walls, shifting the structure, and making it impossible to walk upright in the house. They had to kick down their bedroom door to get out. Their house stood, but is condemned and will soon be torn down. They have lost everything. But Easter weekend, Pastor Pacheco and others loaded a truck full of supplies to deliver to other people who were suffering due to the quake. In the midst of the devastation of losing his home, he was a leader in modeling what it is to be a generous people who give joyfully. He was not waiting for his personal needs to be met before he helped others, but as a victim himself, he was reaching out to be an agent of God's healing and hope.

As I reflect on these stories, I see a road being formed before us in Mennonite Church Canada. It is evident that some have already walked this road of joyful generosity, and it is clear that the road needs to be widened, and be trampled down even more. May we all feel led by the spirit, through the grace that has been granted to us, to have abundant joy in all forms of generosity.

RESOURCE UPDATE

BORROW ... PURCHASE ... DOWNLOAD ... LINK

600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4; 1-866-888-6785 (toll free); resources@mennonitechurch.ca; www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre

WORSHIP CALENDAR

May 2 – Many Peoples Sunday
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1261

May 23 – Pentecost
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/164

Baptism
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/968

Graduation
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/969

Camp Sunday
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/267


Summer worship
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/259

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MAKE THE MOST OF THIS UPDATE:

 **Circulate** widely – to librarian, pastor, worship planners, education coordinator, and church secretary

 **Invite** friends/committee members to subscribe: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/347

 **View** this issue electronically at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1304 and connect with our online catalogue

 **Submit** your own original worship service or congregational event for inclusion here and on the web

MC Canada Assembly: One of our Greatest Resources

Are you coming to **Calgary June 29 – July 3** for our annual Assembly? Worship, workshops and discernment sessions, together with fellowship and recreation make this annual event one of the best resources we offer.

Here are some lists of resources for your perusal before we meet in Calgary:

Ministers' Conference -

"Your Signature for Joyful Ministry" with Marianne Mellinger – See Pastoral Identity resources at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/373

Assembly Discernment Sessions –

"Strengthening Our Capacity to Discern the Will and Mind of God" – See Church Identity resources at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/870
Also see Jack Suderman's paper, "Being a Faithful Church" - www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1306

"Young Adults and Seniors in the Same Church" – See Young Adult resources at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/189 and Seniors Ministry resources at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1176

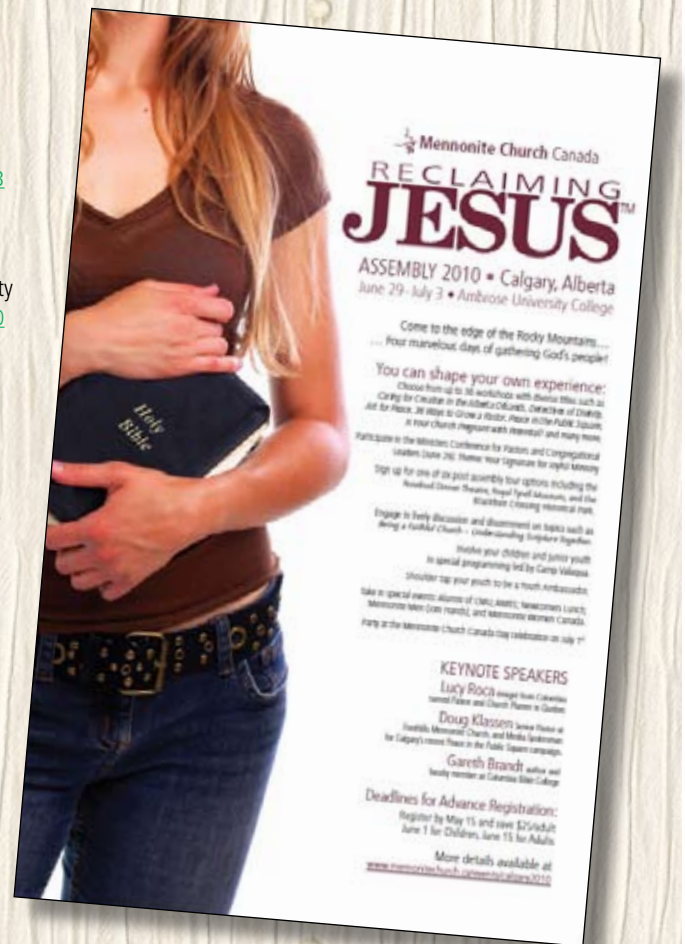
"Peace in the Public Square" – www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1185

Assembly Sunday worship materials -

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1307

Registration forms -

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1303



Children's Corner

Resources for the library, home, Sunday School or Sunday morning storyteller



A Family of Ice Cream

by Melanie DeSouza-Cook and Anita Koles McNeill, self-published, 2010.

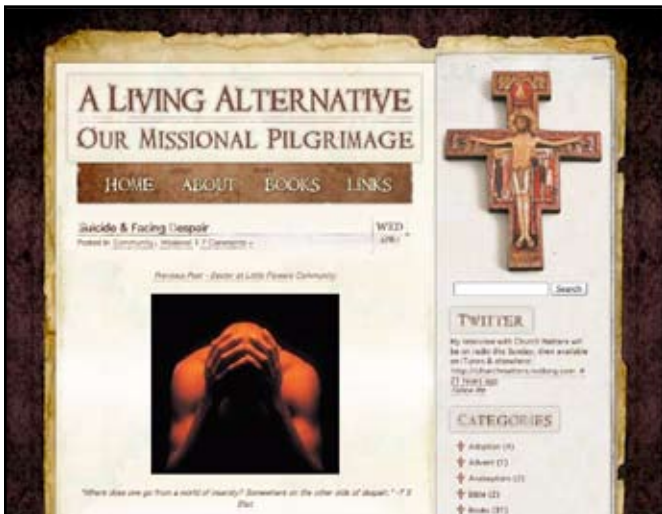
A colourful children's book that celebrates the gifts of different cultures and faith traditions that make up a blended "family of ice cream". Each "ice cream family" faces unique challenges when it comes to raising children of mixed heritage to feel okay and accepted, yet these families also signify a hope for a better, more accepting world.

For additional children's books, see www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/168

Website Window

Links worth noting

Our catalogue links you to many websites
– here are some recent additions:



www.missional.ca/ A Living Alternative: Our Missional Pilgrimage. The blog of Jamie Arpin-Ricci, pastor of Little Flowers, a new missional church plant in MC Manitoba.

<http://mennonitegirlscancook.blogspot.com/> More than just recipes, this site is about HOSPITALITY versus entertaining. About BLESSING versus impressing.



www.thevillagecasketmaker.com An alternative (economic, ecological) choice in the funeral industry.

www.campswithmeaning.org/summer/music/music.php Downloadable original music from the staff at Camps with Meaning, Manitoba.

www.theworkofthepeople.com Visual media for the church, searchable by keyword or lectionary date.

<http://paintedprayerbook.com/> Blog of Jan Richardson, writer and artist - including her reflections during the seasons of the church year.

www.gotell.org – Bible storytelling for the global village.

✉ Do you have any sites to recommend?

From our Churches

Original materials from our constituency

Managing Congregational Change: A Four Phase Process Model

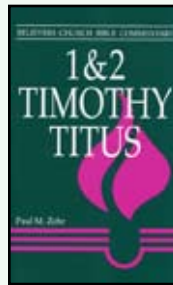
by Bruno Dyck, Mennonite Church Manitoba workshop, 2010.

In this workshop outline, Bruno Dyck parallels the process of change within a congregation with a study of the Kingdom of God in Luke. First presented at the Mennonite Church Manitoba annual delegate sessions in February 2010.

Free powerpoint download at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1305.

✉ Share your church's original material at resources@mennonitechurch.ca

From our Press



1 & 2 Timothy, Titus: Believers Church Bible Commentary

by Paul M. Zehr, Herald Press, 2010.

Applies Christian theology and ethics to the political, philosophical, religious, and cultural issues that early Christians faced as the church reached out in mission in Ephesus and on the island of Crete.



Planting Churches in the 21st Century: A Guide for those who want fresh perspectives and new ideas for creating congregations

by Stuart Murray, Herald Press, 2010

Murray suggests that church planting isn't just about numbers--it's about the renewal of the church and the development of new ways of being the church that are biblically rooted and contextually appropriate.

From our Partners



New Perspective in Believers Church Ecclesiology

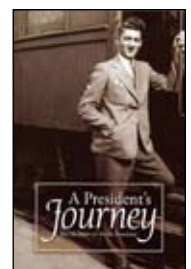
ed. Abe Dueck, Helmut Harder and Karl Koop, 2010.

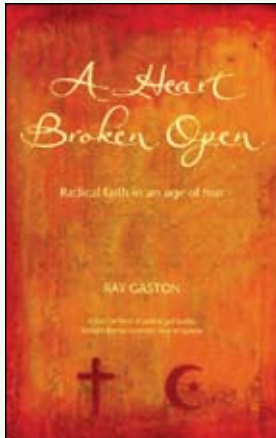
These essays engage topics such as denominationalism, the sacramental tradition, the Emerging Church movement, and Global Christianity. In a spirit of critical dialogue, this volume revisits debates over the relationship between church and world, individual and community, and practices related to the church's mission.

A President's Journey: The Memoirs of Henry Poettcker

by Henry Poettcker, 2009.

Dr. Henry Poettcker's memoirs recount his passage from a Russian Mennonite farm boy to the president of Canadian Mennonite Bible College (now CMU) and the president of Mennonite Biblical Seminary (now AMBS). Under his leadership, both institutions experienced major development and growth, and yet, where others would boast of such accomplishments, Dr. Poettcker reveals a modest life of devotion to God.



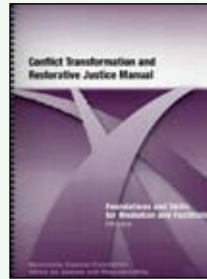


A Heart Broken Open: Radical Faith in an Age of Fear

by Ray Gaston, Wild Goose Publications, 2009.

Subject: [Inter-faith Dialogue](#)

A moving and insightful reflection by a Christian minister on his grassroots engagement with Islam – from inner-city parish ministry in Leeds to the streets of Karbala at a time of rising Islamophobia and the ‘War on Terror’.



Conflict Transformation and Restorative Justice Manual: Foundations and Skills for Mediation and Facilitation

ed. Michelle E. Armster; Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Mennonite Central Committee, 2008.

Subject: [Conflict Transformation](#)

Chapters focus on faith/spirituality, peacework, conflict transformation, restorative justice, communication, mediation process, group facilitation, group conflict dynamics, standards and ethics of practice, pedagogy.



The Least of These: Strong Coffee, Greasy Spoons, and America's Leftovers

DVD with Tony Campolo, Old Fashioned Pictures, 2004.

Subject: [Ministry with the Poor](#)

It's the same old, same old at the local diner. Jim, the owner, hides in the kitchen. The regulars retread old banter. And some new guy sits alone at the counter. Then, a simple idea shatters that dull routine. The same old, same old? Not tonight. Not ever again.



For Everyone BORN: Global Songs for an Emerging Church

ed., Jorge Lockward; Christopher Heckert, 2008.

Subject: [Global Church](#)

Sharing the songs and prayers of Christians worldwide can have a significant impact upon our worship life. This volume seeks to share sung prayers and stories in a format that makes them accessible to a variety of emerging worship styles.



Faith and Vision: Twenty-Five years of Christians in the Visual Arts

ed., Cameron J. Anderson; Sandra Bowden, Square Halo, 2005.

Subject: [Visual Arts](#)

This book is the record of a generation of Christians who heeded the call to make art and, in doing so, accepted its manifold challenges, tensions, and affirmations. The hope of the many contributors to this book



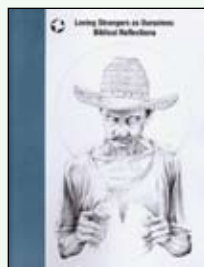
Singing the Sacred: Musical Gifts from Native American Communities

ed., Alvin Deer, GBG Musik, 2008.

Subject: [Aboriginal Music](#)

The songs come from 15 Native American communities within the US. Each song entry contains a musical score, a singable English translation, a brief history of the song, and a paragraph with performance tips called “Sharing the Gift.”

is that it will serve as a signpost of encouragement to a rising cohort of artists who follow.

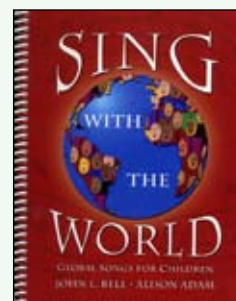


Loving Strangers as Ourselves: Biblical Reflections

Mennonite Central Committee, 2006.

Subject: [Immigration](#)

Immigration and emigration have become global phenomena in our time. This is a 7-session study of how God views immigrants and sojourners and challenges us to love and care for immigrants in our communities.



Sing with the World: Global Songs for Children

ed., John L. Bell; Alison Adam, GIA Publications, 2008.

Subject: [Children's Music Ministry](#)

These songs are accessible—many of them instantly singable—and they have been chosen for use with children in a wide variety of worship and classroom situations. This handy collection is a valuable tool to help enlighten children to the ways of other cultures through the global language of music.

CMU Bookstore
600 Shaftesbury Blvd. • Winnipeg

We have a great selection of theology books from a variety of publishers and authors.



For special orders contact
cmubookstore@cmu.ca
Call 204.487.3300 | ext. 339
or toll-free 877.231.4570
www.cmu.ca



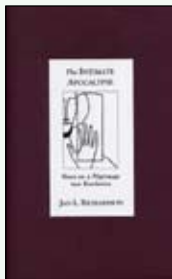
Black Gold: Wake Up and Smell the Coffee DVD

Mongrel Media, 2005. Subject: [Fair Trade](#)
Multinational coffee companies dominate an industry worth over \$80 billion. But the price paid to coffee farmers remains low. Tadesse Meskela is one man on a mission to save his 75,000 struggling coffee farmers from bankruptcy. As his farmers strive to harvest some of the highest quality coffee beans on the international market, Tadesse travels the world in an attempt to find buyers willing to pay a fair price.



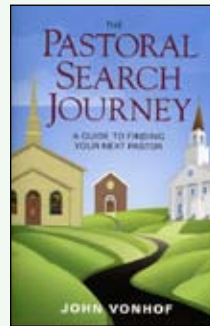
A New Kind of Youth Ministry

by Chris Folmsbee, Zondervan, 2006.
Subject: [Youth Ministry Models](#)
This book guides you on the way to discovering, developing, and practicing a new youth ministry design that more effectively engages youth with God, through Jesus, as they journey toward a life of continual spiritual finding and evolution.



The Intimate Apocalypse: Notes on a Pilgrimage into Revelation

by Jan L. Richardson, Wanton Gospeller Press, 2007.
Subject: [Revelation](#)
These dozen charcoal drawings, and the reflections that accompany them, invite the reader into a thoughtful journey through one of the most hopeful, imaginative, and powerful books of the Bible.



The Pastoral Search Journey: A Guide to Finding your Next Pastor

by John Vonnor, Alban Institute, 2010.
Subject: [Pastoral Transition](#)
It's not a common occurrence to seek out a new pastor, so pastoral search committees can sometimes feel as though they are inventing the process from scratch. Provides detailed guidance for search committees to ensure a good match between pastor and congregation.



Growing Together: Building a Marriage that Lasts DVD

by Walter Wangerin, Paraclete Press, 2004.
Subject: [Marriage Enrichment](#)
This video aims to equip couples with the tools necessary to build a vital, safe, and dynamic marriage that can sustain them through the inevitable changes and challenges life brings. Divided into 9 segments, it covers topics such as forgiveness, trust, talking and listening, and sexual intimacy.



The Open Table: An Invitation to Know God DVD

by Donald Miller, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2008.
Subject: [God](#)
There are many people who argue God doesn't exist and many who argue God does. Still, millions know that, all arguments aside, what they feel in their souls is a need for God. The Open Table DVD uses state of the art video and the power of personal testimony to put God in front of anyone who has yet to meet Him.

Attention Church Librarians!

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– Dorothy Martens, Morden Mennonite Church Librarian

*Church librarians place order, track the local circulation and are responsible for return of items.

This promotion is limited to our book collection and does not include seasonal (Christmas, Easter, etc.) resources.

May 2010, *Equipping* #106

Alternative Service website inspires student



A website sharing the story of Conscientious Objectors (COs) in World War II inspired Abby Landon to re-examine her own beliefs, and connect with her family's Mennonite faith heritage.

Landon discovered the Alternative Service web site – an award winning project of Mennonite Church Canada's

Heritage Centre – in her quest for information for a social studies term paper.

"I decided to write about Conscientious Objectors at the suggestion of my grandma, who is a Mennonite," Landon said in a telephone interview.

Landon's maternal grandmother, Dolores Naumenko, was a young child living in Waldheim, Sask. during WWII. Naumenko recalls that her father remained at home on the farm during the war and that her uncle, a dairy farmer, gave the government a portion of his weekly income, indicators that the two men may have sought exemption from military service. She also remembers that just before Christmas one year, a family in Waldheim, Saskatchewan lost a son and brother who had engaged in Alternative Service as a medic overseas. Conscientious objection to war and its implications left an impression on Naumenko.

Landon was so inspired by the vast number of references, original articles, letters and photographs she found on the website that she sent an email

of thanks to Conrad Stoesz, an Archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Centre.

"...I found it very encouraging to hear how the Mennonites, my relatives, pursued a Christ-like life even when it was extremely difficult. It has made me consider the dedication of my actions for Jesus and my 'separation' from the influential aspects of this world, as well as the importance of having support and encouragement around me," she wrote.

"I was very happy to receive Abby's email – it made my week," said Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Heritage Centre Archivist and leader of the Alternative Service web site project. "We usually do not get such personal notes of thanks for the site out of the blue... It was humbling to learn that the site helped her examine her own faith. The stories from the past encouraged her to dig deeper into what she believed and what Jesus means to her. I think this was the highest hope we had for the site, that young people would re-examine their faith in light of the examples of the conscientious objectors."

Before starting the project, Landon had never heard of Conscientious Objectors.

"I think the biggest thing [that impressed me] is the Mennonites willingness to just completely separate from the rest of society...from worldly values," she says.

To learn more about Conscientious Objectors in World War II, see www.alternativeservice.ca.

We invite you to share with your congregation the following story. The story should take no more than 2 minutes to read aloud. You might also wish to include it in your church newsletter.

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11

