



Leanne Plett  
Equipping Coordinator

## Truth and Reconciliation

This month, I would like to draw your attention to Janet Plenert's article regarding the upcoming Truth and Reconciliation events. I encourage you to take the time to read the article and consider where you fit into the quest for truth and reconciliation in our Canadian society. In this edition, we also welcome Vic Thiessen as the new Executive Secretary of Support Services. Vic is not new to Mennonite Church Canada but is new to the office and we are excited to have him join the team.

Leanne Plett – Equipping Coordinator

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- *Children's Stories* - on-line only, based on lectionary readings  
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[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/126](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/126)
- *Resource Update No. 6*  
(for worship planners, teachers, pastors, education committees, librarian, etc.)
- *Celebration Story: God is at work in Macau*  
(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](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/482)
  - o **Assembly Sunday**, July 4  
download at: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1307](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1307)
  - o **Promotion Sunday**, Sept. 5 – tiny/1328  
download at: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1328](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1328)



Robert J. Suderman,  
General Secretary,  
Mennonite Church Canada

June 2010, *Equipping* #107

## Financial Trends: Healthy or Worrisome?

Mennonite Church Canada folks are generous people. We are also astute, knowing where and how to leverage additional, non-donation funds for important ministries. And by adding qualities of honesty, thriftiness, and commitment we know that our church and its ministries are well planned, carefully implemented, and capably administered. And this is very good.

The trends of our generosity are both impressive and interesting. Let's look at some vignettes:

- Did you know that MC Canada congregations together received total revenues of upward of \$45 million in 2008? This represents a steady increase since as long as we can remember. Revenues for congregations are not declining. This surely is good news.
- Did you know that the related organizations of MC Canada (schools, MCCs, MDS, CPT, etc.) received total revenues of over \$150 million in 2008? This too is a steady increase, likely ever since these organizations were begun. Revenues donated and leveraged for ministries are not declining. This too, surely, is good news.
- Did you know that MC Canada was one of the very few member-denominations of Mennonite World Conference that met its fair-share contribution to MWC in 2006-2009? That too is very good news.
- Did you know that MC Canada congregations use an average of 79% of their revenues for local ministry expenses (including salaries, facilities, programs)? This percentage too has persistently increased over the last decades. Whether or not this is good news depends on the measuring stick we use.

- Did you know that about 5% of revenues received by congregations are used for ministry beyond Canadian borders? This percentage has gradually decreased over the last decades. Is this good news? The many partners waiting and wanting us to walk with them through the open doors of ministry don't think so.
- Did you know that congregational giving to the Area Churches and MC Canada for joint ministry, nurturing church life, fostering common identity, providing common services, and participating in international mission is decreasing? This too has been a steady trend over many years. We need to talk together about whether this is good news.

Are these trends healthy or worrisome?

The generosity of our people is worth celebrating; so are the very strong ministries related to the church. But there are some worrisome trends that we need to note.

- a) The trend toward decreasing the support for the ministry we do together beyond the congregation is worrisome for two reasons. Vocationally, we are called to use our gifts in service to others. Legally, it will be increasingly difficult to defend our status as "charities" when a high percentage of receipts are used for the direct benefit of the donors.
- b) The decreased capacity for international ministry aggravates the inequities of wealth and poverty in our complex world, and insulates us from perspectives that helpfully broaden our understandings of faithfulness.

*continued on reverse*

- c) There is an increased desire to support the activities of the church, but a decreased willingness to strengthen the church that inspires the activities. Given that the integrity of the activities is closely linked to the values and credibility of the church that inspires them, this trend is not sustainable over a longer term. If the vital link between church and activity is weakened at either end, both will undoubtedly be diminished.
- d) When a common identity is weakened, multiple identities are spawned. When we consider the actual and impending complexities of the 21st century, the pressures toward fragmentation will increase dramatically. Such fragmentation will be unhealthy for the life and witness of the church. We ignore the strengthening of the church at our own peril.

The key question, of course, is what kind of church is needed for the century we are poised to engage with the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ? This question can be debated. It seems evident, however, that strength in common Anabaptist identity and in joint ministry need to be key ingredients of the vocation that God is calling us to.

At the upcoming Assembly in Calgary (June 29-July 3, 2010), the General Board of Mennonite Church Canada will frame this discussion and seek your counsel. We pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we discern our faithfulness for our time.

June 2010, *Equipping* #107



# Equipping Prayers Notes News

A resource packet for equipping Mennonite Church Canada pastors and leaders

600 Shaftesbury Blvd  
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4  
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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](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/equipping) for easy "cut and paste" insertion.

June 2010, Equipping #107

Sunday dates	<b>Prayers:</b> Please pray for and with the Church	<b>Ministry Notes:</b> This is how your financial support of Mennonite Church Canada is ministering... from across the street to around the world	<b>News/Announcements:</b> Stay in tune with the wider church	
June 6/10	Pray that <b>Dianne and Fanosie Legesse</b> , Mennonite Church Canada Witness volunteers to Ethiopia, will experience God's peace as their three year ministry at Meserete Kristos College and community draws to a close.	Thank you for your growing interest in Mennonite Church Canada Native Ministry Partnership Circles. These groups recently gathered to bring together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal partner congregations for a time of learning and fellowship.	<p>From <b>June 21-23</b>, Winnipeg will host the World Religions Summit with over 50 religious leaders of the world's most prominent faiths. General Secretary Robert J. Suderman will represent Mennonite Church Canada. The primary objective of this gathering is to hold G8 nations accountable for the pledges made in support of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to help end global disparity. Suderman will speak on the topic of Peace and Security. For more information, see <a href="http://www.faithchallengeg8.com/">www.faithchallengeg8.com/</a></p> <p><b>Ever wonder what Anabaptism looks like without Mennonite clothing?</b> Find out by reading <i>The Naked Anabaptist: The Bare Essentials of a Radical Faith</i>, a new book from Herald Press. Check it out at <a href="http://www.mpn.net/nakedanabaptist">www.mpn.net/nakedanabaptist</a> <b>Special offer:</b> Buy before June 15 and get 20% off! Use code MCB0515.</p> <p>Manitobans have an opportunity to witness an historic event and help redress a great wrong in our history. The first national event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will happen at The Forks on June 16-19. Christians should attend to learn about healing and hope for ourselves, for our neighbours and for our country. Information at <a href="http://www.trcnationalevents.ca/websites/trcevent2010/">www.trcnationalevents.ca/websites/trcevent2010/</a> Mennonite Church Canada is inviting every congregation to send representatives to this event and share your experience with your fellow members.</p>	
June 13/10	<b>Tim and Cindy Buhler</b> , Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers to Macau, invite prayer for the diverse needs of the members of their small fellowship – for physical healing, comfort, and inspiration.	Thank you for your support of Mennonite Church Canada's audio program, <i>Church Matters</i> . In April, this 15 minute audio program was accessed online over 1,000 times! Each episode features a guest interview on current issues facing the church. Tune in via iTunes or at <a href="http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/206">www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/206</a> .		



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June 20/10	Please pray for <b>Samson Lo</b> , the director of Multi-cultural Ministry of Mennonite Church Canada, as he helps strengthen congregations and leaders in non-English speaking congregations across Canada in this summer and fall.	Thanks to your support, <b>Palmer Becker</b> , Mennonite Church Canada Special Assignment worker, was able to participate in the ordination and the training sessions for 26 new Mennonite pastors in the Mennonite Church in Vietnam.	Approximately every two weeks, Mennonite Church Canada brings you inspiring stories of the ministries and people you support. You can get this regular News Service directly in your email inbox by subscribing to our News Service at <a href="http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/news/releases/subscribe/">www.mennonitechurch.ca/news/releases/subscribe/</a>	Mennonite Church Canada congregations are perpetrating acts of peace! Mennonite churches in Calgary held a billboard campaign of peace slogans in December, and in March, called for a peaceful response to local white supremacist activity. Floradale Mennonite Church of Ont. presented "Those Peace Shoes" a play/dinner theatre in April. Add your Act of Peace to "1,000 Acts of Peace" at <a href="http://liveforpeace.org/">http://liveforpeace.org/</a>
June 27/10	The Executive Committee of Mennonite Church Canada's General Board invites you to join your voices in thanks to God for the upcoming service of <b>Willard Metzger</b> as the next General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada.	With your support, the Mennonite Heritage Centre was able to upgrade microfilm. The new scanner will allow staff to respond more efficiently to inquiries and allow visitors better access to historical records.	Your Resource Centre has just become larger and more accessible! The Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre has recently joined Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Columbia Bible College, and Mennonite & Brethren in Christ Resource Centre to form the Anabaptist Resource Consortium, an integrated online library service. Browse <a href="http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre">www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre</a> and now receive search results from all 4 collections. More materials at your fingertips; more resources in your hands!	You're invited to join the <a href="#">Mennonite Church Canada group on Facebook!</a>



Vic Thiessen  
Executive Secretary  
Support Services

## Greetings from your new Executive Secretary of Support Services!

June 2010, *Equipping* #107

Allow me to provide a brief introduction. I grew up in Winnipeg, attended CMBC (now Canadian Mennonite University - CMU), the U of Manitoba and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), taught theology, ethics and 'Christianity and Contemporary Culture' at a small Bible school in New Brunswick, worked as a Mennonite Central Committee volunteer for five years (three years in Germany as director of the Military Counselling Network, two years in New Brunswick, working with victim-offender mediation), spent five and a half years in Edmonton, where I was the director of the Welcome Home Community (Mennonite social service agency) and then seven and a half years in London, England as a mission worker with Mennonite Church Canada Witness and the Mennonite Mission Network (working as Director of the London Mennonite Centre). You may also know me as the film writer for the *Canadian Mennonite*. I am married to Kathy and have two adult daughters (Janelle, who is active with Canadian Peacemaker Teams, and Katrina, who just graduated from CMU).

My time in London gave me a fresh perspective on the worldwide Anabaptist church and a passion for getting young adults excited about Christianity. Time and again I heard church leaders from the UK and the U.S. (especially those involved in the Emerging Church Movement) talk about how they have turned to Anabaptist theology as an anchor for a Christian faith that is relevant in the 21st century. As Mennonites, we have a tremendous opportunity at this moment in history to play a vital and influential role in the future of Christianity. We are a humble people, so we are understandably hesitant to assume a leadership role in the wider church, but Christians from all over the world want to hear more about our emphasis on following Jesus, peace and justice, and community. In a world of food riots, climate change and terrorism, these emphases lead to a theology with integrity that can get young adults excited about Jesus and bring them back into our churches.

The voice of Jesus, who said: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news," is as fresh today as it was 2000 years ago. But the church needs to continually find new ways of conveying the good news to each new generation. I believe Mennonite Church Canada is already an essential voice in creating a transformative vision which will help reshape and revitalize Christianity for decades to come. But there remains much untapped potential in our church. I am thrilled to be joining the wonderful Mennonite Church Canada staff team at exactly this time.

In my new role as executive secretary of Support Services, I have quickly learned how limited Mennonite Church Canada's resources are for the great opportunity that lies ahead of us. I dream of a time in the very near future when members of Mennonite Church Canada congregations will see the potential for Mennonite Church Canada (and how much more we are than just an office) and view their increased congregational budget lines for Mennonite Church Canada as a highlight of their contribution to God's work in the world. I hope you will help us make that dream a reality.

One of the responsibilities of my new position is the coordination of logistics for the annual assembly (the thematic and faith aspects of assembly remain the responsibility of our Formation Ministries people). Elsie Rempel has done a great job in handling both logistical details and leading the thematic work for Assembly 2010. I will be assuming the logistics portion of Elsie's responsibility for Assembly 2011. I have had the opportunity to attend many assemblies in the past 35 years and they have always been a highlight of the year for me, so I look forward to this task, as I look forward to seeing you in Calgary, where Ed Janzen and I will be reporting on behalf of Support Services.

I hope I will be able to serve Mennonite Church Canada well in my new role and ask that you remember me in your prayers as I begin this important work.



Janet Plenert  
Executive Secretary  
MC Canada Witness

## A Ministry of 'Truth and Reconciliation'

June 2010, *Equipping* #107

Eugene Peterson's rendition of 2 Corinthians 5:18 says, "God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them." Paul calls this a 'ministry of reconciliation' which has been entrusted to us. As a church, therefore, we are called to work at God's agenda of making things right in the world. 'for he is our peace... he has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Eph 2:14-15)

When we think of Canadian society, there is perhaps no more significant, pervasive, broad-based need for reconciliation that there is between the Aboriginal peoples of Canada and those of us who came and claimed their land and legally and officially pronounced them savages in need of saving and civilizing. We cannot underestimate the shaping force this had had on Canada as a country, nor the pain this has caused. Over a period of about 80 years, about 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were pulled from their homes and families and placed in 130 residential, and usually church run, schools. And this does not include those who had similar day school experiences.

As Mennonites we want to say that it wasn't us who ran residential schools (though some Mennonites have been loosely associated with day schools). We cannot and must not remove ourselves from this tragic and sweeping failure of the church to be the church. We (as Christians) allowed the government to consider Aboriginal peoples second class, and like savages. Mennonite individuals and congregations (within and beyond Mennonite Church Canada) have been involved in a variety of ways with day schools and children's homes – including the perpetration of negative attitudes toward and perceptions of native people.

Some of our involvements are shining examples of faithful witness and honouring of peoples and cultures created in the image of God. Other activities are now raising questions. We all, by virtue of our belonging in this society, are actors in the ongoing drama of making the world the way God intended it to be. The question is – which role will we play? Will we take our place firmly as protagonists of reconciliation, healing and restoration? Will we be antagonists in the ongoing struggle for recognition of

Aboriginal peoples? Will we be 'extras', simply present without particular role nor position?

As a people entrusted by God to gather all things together, things in heaven and things on earth (Eph 1:10), and given the ministry of reconciliation, I believe it is incumbent upon us to engage openly and as fully as possible in restoring right relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

One way we as a church can be responsive and active in this process, is to participate actively in the Truth and Reconciliation events offered by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. There will be seven major events over the next five years. As Mennonite Church Canada, we would like to have Mennonites active and present at every event. Symbolically and practically we will open ourselves to listen deeply, cry at pain and injustice government policy and racism have caused, and find ways to stand together, pressing onward toward reconciliation and healing. As a church, we must do no less.

The first Truth and Reconciliation event will be held June 16-19, 2010 at the Forks in Winnipeg. Detailed schedule is not yet available at the time of writing. I challenge each of our Manitoba congregations to send representatives to this first Truth and Reconciliation event, and then make time and space to hear their reports and stories. And we welcome you letting us know of your attendance. I hope to see you there.

### Helpful sites:

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada:  
[www.trc-cvr.ca/overview.html](http://www.trc-cvr.ca/overview.html)

For updates on Winnipeg events:  
[www.trc-cvr.ca/annocement\\_e.html](http://www.trc-cvr.ca/annocement_e.html)

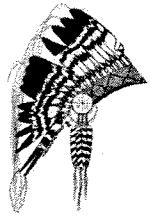
See related articles on the  
Mennonite Church Canada web site at:

Residential schools, Indigenous Peoples Tour to  
Mennonite World Conference:  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1346](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1346)

Indigenous Peoples Tour , South America, news story:  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1334](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1334)

Lawyer Larry Plenert's article on residential schools:  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1335](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1335)

Please make copies and post on  
your Community Bulletin Board



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs invites you  
to learn and witness *history in the making*.

The First National Event on the  
**Legacy of the Indian  
Residential School System**  
**June 16 - 19, 2010**  
**The Forks | Winnipeg, MB**



This historical event is the first of seven National Events being held across Canada over the next five years. **This is an opportunity for the non-Aboriginal public to learn about the Residential School System's place in Canadian history. This event will also honour and support Residential School Survivors.**

**This historic event will include:**

- Honouring Indian Residential School Survivors and their experiences
- **Private statement-taking** recounting both positive and negative experiences
- Daily educational, cultural, and artistic activities (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis specific activities and programming)
- Full-day children's programming (hosted by Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre and the Manitoba Theatre for Young People)

*\* Cultural and emotional support will be provided on-site by Resolution Health Support Workers*

*\* This is an outdoor event with some activities taking place under tents and will proceed rain or shine*

**Who Should Attend?**

- Residential School Survivors, former staff, and those experiencing the intergenerational impacts
- The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend
- Parishioners of all faiths and denominations, members of all religious organizations,
- Secondary and post-secondary students (*children welcome*)
  - Community Leaders
  - Educators
- Social & Frontline Workers



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**For details, call Jennifer Wood at 1-877-626-6713 or  
Truth & Reconciliation Commission at 1-877-796-0530**

Jennifer Wood, IRS Unit Coordinator | Jerilyn Huson, IRS Admin Assistant | Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Toll Free: 1-877-626-6713 | Fax: 1-866-780-2188 | Email: AMC@GoToInfo.ca



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**Mennonite  
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bulletin insert

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## Truth and Reconciliation: It's about Respect

This historic gathering will be the only event of its kind to be held in Manitoba! Mennonite Church Canada invites every Mennonite Church Manitoba congregation to send multiple representatives to this important national event: Our entire society is impacted by the legacy of Residential Schools. At the time churches condoned the position of the Canadian government of "civilizing" Indian children. Today the church must stand in solidarity with its Aboriginal brothers and sisters. We must LISTEN to their stories.

We must LEARN about their culture. Together we can find healing and hope for ourselves, for our neighbours and for our country.

This is an interactive, dynamic, multifaceted event that offers many ways to learn and to listen. Please plan to attend some of this event and stand in solidarity with those who have survived the Indian Residential Schools.

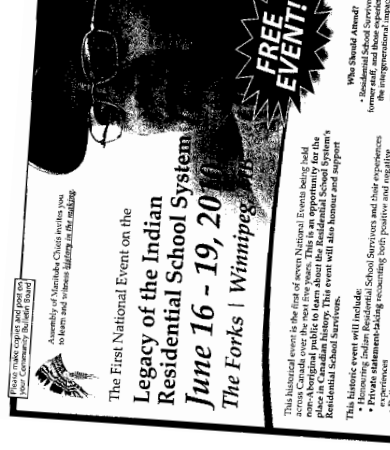
**When: June 16 – 19, 2010**  
**Where: The Forks (Winnipeg)**

A schedule of events, locations, and times can be found at [www.trcnationalevents.ca/websites/trcevent2010](http://www.trcnationalevents.ca/websites/trcevent2010)

For more information on the TRC itself please check [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)

In an effort to be in solidarity and have a strong Mennonite presence, please let Mennonite Church Canada know if your congregation will be represented or was represented at this event. And even more, encourage your representative(s) to write a reflection for your congregational newsletter, and do share it with us!

Please send your responses and comments to [nativeministry@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:nativeministry@mennonitechurch.ca)



To learn more, check our Mennonite Church Canada's "Church Matters" podcast on this theme. Episodes 31 & 32 focus on "The Church's role in Government Truth and Reconciliation Commissions" with Dr. Piet Meiring of South Africa. Episodes 40 and 41 focuses on "Treaties, Covenants and Promises: Where is the Conscience of the Church?" with Aboriginal theologian Adrian Jacobs. See [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/158](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/158)

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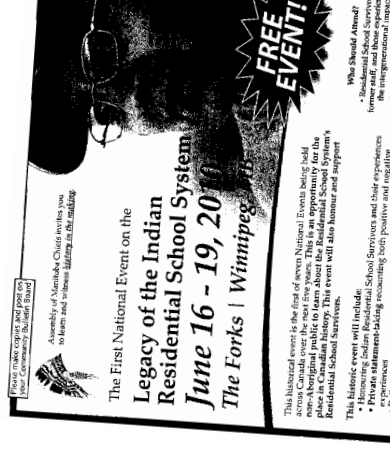
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# RESOURCE UPDATE

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## WORSHIP CALENDAR


Sunday School Appreciation  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1016](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1016)  
Graduation  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/969](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/969)  
Camp Sunday  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/267](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/267)  
Summer worship  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/259](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/259)  
Labour Day  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/257](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/257)  
Sunday School Promotion  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/256](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/256)

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 **View** this issue electronically at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1355](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1355) and connect with our online catalogue

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



## Here's something NEW!

The Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) Bookstore and the Resource Centre are co-sponsoring a monthly contest - for each issue of Resource Update. If you're an online subscriber and a Canadian resident, submit an answer to our question and give yourself a chance to win a recently published resource! The winner will be drawn from all entries received

Each Update will feature a new contest – with a new question and title. But you must respond quickly – each contest expires 48 hours after the Update is sent!



### This month's prize

**This Hidden Thing**  
a 2010 novel by Dora Dueck.

### Email your response to:

[resources@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:resources@mennonitechurch.ca), with "June 2010 Contest" in subject line.

### To be eligible:

Contestant must be an online subscriber, and a Canadian resident. Entries must be sent within 48 hours of receiving this Update.

### This month's question

Name two (or more) reasons you subscribe to the Resource Update.

## Your Resource Centre larger and more accessible than ever!

We've joined the **Anabaptist Resource Consortium**, an integrated online library service. Soon you will be able to browse our online catalogue and receive search results from Winnipeg and 3 partner libraries: Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Library, Columbia Bible College Library, Mennonite & Brethren in Christ Resource Centre. More materials at your fingertips. More resources in your hands!

### Other online Catalogue Enhancements

- **Simpler to search.** Adjust any list of resources by acquisition date, relevance, or alphabetical order.
- **Renew loan items online.** Go to "My Account" to view loan histories, past orders, and to renew items quickly and easily. (If you don't remember your username/password, let us know – we'll send it to you)
- **Scripture search.** Go to "Advance Search" and look for worship or education materials by scripture reference.

## Children's Corner

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



### Shin-chi's Canoe

by Nicola I. Campbell and Kim LaFave, Groundwood Books, 2008.

The story of two siblings' experiences at a Canadian residential school: Shi-shi-etko and her six-year-old brother, Shin-chi. As they begin their journey in the back of a cattle truck, Shi-shi-etko takes it upon herself to tell her little brother all the things he must remember: the trees, the mountains, the rivers and the tug of the salmon when he and his dad pull in the fishing nets. Shin-chi knows he won't see his family again until the sockeye salmon return in the summertime. A simple, but gripping look at this dark part of our Canadian history.

For additional children's books, see [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/168](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/168)

## Website Window

Links worth noting

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



[www.friesenfamilyband.com](http://www.friesenfamilyband.com)

Eclectic faith-folk music for heart, mind and soul. This Edmonton family of 7 recently released its 2nd CD.



[www.capnm.ca](http://www.capnm.ca) – Canadian Association for Parish Nursing Ministry. Mennonites are again looking at parish nursing as a viable ministry among seniors and others. This website has a wealth of information.




[www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb/director](http://www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb/director) - The Lion and the Lamb: Director's Book Choices. A bibliography of children's resources that promote the study of peace and justice.



[www.pauldueck.ca](http://www.pauldueck.ca) – Paul Dueck, harpist from Ontario, has recently launched his 4th CD based on the Psalms.



[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1340](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1340) - 5-week video/audio series from The Meetinghouse (Brethren in Christ congregation), called Inglorious Pastors: Waging Peace in a World of War. An introduction to Anabaptism through sermon and study.

 Do you have any sites to recommend?


## From our Churches

Original materials from our constituency

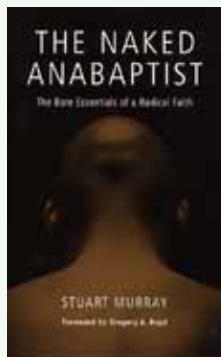
Stories and Reflections from Sudan by Donita Wiebe-Neufeld, 2009.

Stories, photos and reflections based on her notes and memories from a Mennonite Central Committee learning tour to Kenya and Sudan in the early fall of 2009. The tour was organized to raise awareness and funds for MCC's Coming Home; Sudan campaign.

Free download at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1338](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1338)

 Share your church's original material at [resources@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:resources@mennonitechurch.ca)

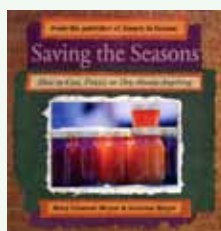
## From our Press



**The Naked Anabaptist: The Bare Essentials of a Radical Faith**

by Stuart Murray, Herald Press, 2010.

Anabaptist Christians have been around for almost 500 years. But what does Anabaptism look like when not clothed in Mennonite or Amish traditions? Writing from Great Britain, Stuart Murray peels back the layers to reveal the core components of Anabaptism—and what they mean for faith in his context and ours. It's a way of following Jesus that challenges, disturbs, and inspires us, summoning us to wholehearted discipleship and worship. Read this book, and catch a vision for living a life of radical faith!



**Saving the Seasons: How to Can, Freeze, or Dry Almost Anything**

by Mary Clemens Meyer, Susanna Meyer, Herald Press, 2010.

You can't get much closer to the source of your food than canning or preserving it yourself, and Saving the Seasons shows you how through clear instructions and step-by-step pictures. Loaded with helpful tips, charts and user-friendly recipes for beginners and experts alike, you will enjoy the season's bounty all year long! A follow-up to the popular Simply in Season cookbook.



Mennonite Publishing Network

## From our Partners

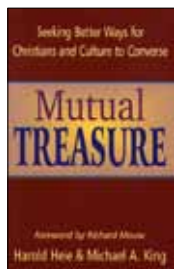
### Cascadia Publishing House



**You Never Gave Me a Name: One Mennonite Woman's Story**

by Katie Funk Wiebe, 2009.

This memoir records Katie Funk Wiebe's search for identity as a woman left widowed with young children who becomes a writer and an early Mennonite and biblical feminist. She faced a jungle of confusion about gender roles in a conservative church. In engaging style, with humour and pathos, she invites the reader to join her on this journey.

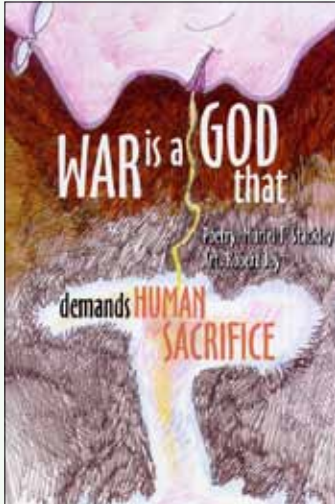


**Mutual Treasure: Seeking Better Ways for Christians and Culture to Converge**

ed., Harold Heie; Michael A. King, 2009.

Rejecting both Christian withdrawal from and confrontational approaches to culture, this book calls for engaging others by coming alongside them, building relationships of trust through which to seek mutual treasure.





**War is a God that Demands Human Sacrifice**

by Muriel T. Stackley and Robert Joy, Wordsworth, 2009.

Subject: [War](#)

Invites us to linger with the ugly side of war, instead of hide from it. Muriel T. Stackley's words - simple, unflinching - and Robert Joy's art help us travel a chronological path to a circumspect place where we may embrace our outrage and begin to craft hope.

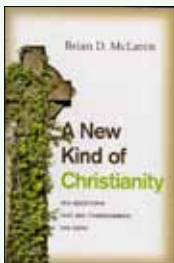


**The Church of Facebook: How the Hyperconnected are Redefining Community**

by Jesse Rice, David C. Cook, 2009.

Subject: [Technology and the Church](#)

Jesse Rice believes that Facebook offers a profound look at our deepest needs. Join Jesse as he explores social networking and its impact on culture and the church. Filled with fresh perspectives and provocative questions, this book encourages us to pursue authentic relationships with God and those around us.



**A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that are Transforming the Faith**

by Brian D. McLaren, HarperCollins, 2010.

Subject: [Church Identity](#)

McLaren examines ten questions facing today's church (faith, authority, divinity, Christology, culture, sex, inter-faith conversation, and more). Here you will find a provocative and enticing introduction to the Christian faith of tomorrow.



**As Resident Aliens: Christian Peacemaker Teams in the West Bank, 1995-2005**

by Kathleen Kern, Cascade, 2010.

Subject: [Israel/Palestine](#)

A history of CPT's involvement in the West Bank city of Hebron and their story of relationships with Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals who were resisting the Israeli military occupation of Palestine. As "resident aliens" (See Exodus 23:9) they have sojourned in the Holy Land to support Palestinians and Israelis who reject violence as a means of solving the conflict, who think that one nation has no right to subjugate and exploit another, and who believe all the residents of the region are entitled to the same human rights.



**Nurturing Healthy Sexuality Conference DVD featuring Gayle Gerber Koontz (from AMBS)**

DVD, Mennonite Central Committee, 2010.

Subject: [Sexuality](#)

The video recording of two sessions recently sponsored by MCC in Manitoba on the topic of healthy sexuality.

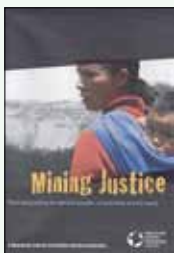


**The Old Testament Roots of Nonviolence: Abraham's Personal Faith, Moses' Social Vision, Jesus' Fulfillment, and God's Work Today**

by Philip E. Friesen, Wipf and Stock, 2010.

Subject: [Old Testament](#)

This book reveals the continuity of the Old and New Testaments in the development of three major themes (war and peace, the great commission, social justice) over millenniums of time in the unfolding biblical story of God's creation, tough love, and redemption of the social order.

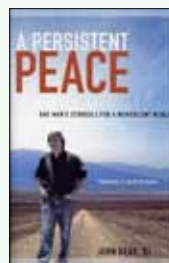


**Mining Justice: Promoting Justice for Affected People, Communities, and the Earth**

DVD, Mennonite Central Committee, 2010.

Subject: [Advocacy/Social Justice](#)

Around the world, Canadian companies are at the forefront of the mining and resource extraction industry. This is a mixed blessing. On the one hand, mines provide employment and other community services, but often jobs are short-lived and mines displace people from their homes, destroy land, and contaminate water supplies. MCC may not have all the answers but they are committed to mining justice.



**A Persistent Peace: One Man's Struggle for a Nonviolent World**

by John Dear, Loyola Press, 2008.

Subject: [Biography/Memoirs](#)

John Dear's autobiography invites readers to follow the decades-long journey of social activism and spiritual growth of this nationally known peace activist and to witness his bold, decisive, often unpopular actions on behalf of peace.

**CMU Bookstore**  
600 Shaftesbury Blvd. • Winnipeg

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

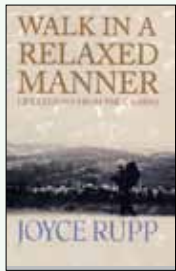
The Modern Theologians  
Apostolic People  
I Have a Dream  
Restless Gods

For special orders contact  
cmubookstore@cmu.ca  
Call 204.487.3300 | ext. 339  
or toll-free 877.231.4570  
[www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)

## New Resources

We average 3 new resources daily.

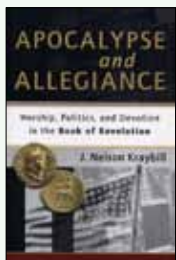
Check [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/480](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/480) for a complete listing



### **Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino**

by Joyce Rupp, Orbis Books, 2005.  
Subject: [Pilgrimage](#)

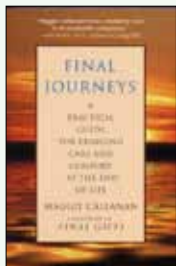
At age 60, Joyce Rupp didn't know what she was getting into when she began a 47-day pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Joined by her walking friend Tom, a retired pastor, Joyce learned lessons that can help all of us travel on life's up-and-down journey with more grace and lightness. She shares them in this enjoyable recounting of her journey.



### **Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics and Devotion in the Book of Revelation**

by J. Nelson Kraybill, Baker Publishing Group, 2010.  
Subject: [Revelation](#)

This fresh interpretation of Revelation includes questions and illustrations that turn readers' attentions to twenty-first-century issues of empire, worship, and allegiance. It is illustrated throughout with images of ancient sites, artwork from the catacombs, and Roman coins and with stories of modern Christians who live out John's radical vision of a New Jerusalem. The book also includes maps, timelines, a glossary, and discussion questions that invite further personal or group reflection.



### **Final Journeys: A Practical Guide for Bringing Care and Comfort at the End of Life**

by Maggie Callanan, Random House, 2009. Subject: [Terminal Care](#)

For more than two decades, hospice nurse Maggie Callanan has tended to the terminally ill and been a cornerstone of support for their loved ones. Designed to be your companion, resource, and advocate from diagnosis through the final hours, Final Journeys will help you keep the lines of communication open, get the help you need, and create the peaceful end we all hope for.

# RECLAIMING JESUS™

GLADLY WEAR THE NAME

ASSEMBLY 2010 • Calgary, Alberta  
June 29 - July 3 • Ambrose University College

## Resources for your perusal before Calgary 2010

### Ministers' Conference

- "Your Signature for Joyful Ministry" – see Pastoral Identity resources at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/373](http://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](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/870) and Jack Suderman's papers, "Being a Faithful Church" at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1306](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1306), Being a Faithful Church2 at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1351](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1351)
- "Young Adults and Seniors in the Same Church" – see Young Adult resources at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/189](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/189) and Seniors Ministry resources at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1176](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1176)
- "Peace in the Public Square" see [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1307](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1307)



### Report book

[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1349](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1349)

### Registration Book

[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1350](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1350)

## God is at work in Macau

June 2010, *Equipping* #107

Attendees at a recent Bible study group meeting in the fledgling Mennonite church in Macau expressed pride in their city for its Christian heritage, one that began with Protestants and Catholics – and the numerous Catholic churches across the city that provide a striking contrast to the all the casinos.

“I think they are sure that God is leaving his footprint across the city,” says Tim Buhler, church planter here.

When Macau was returned from Portuguese to Chinese authority in 1999, the local government invited international casino operators to set up shop in Macau and the gambling industry was launched. It has become Macau’s primary source of revenue and employment.

Although Macau is part of China, it is considered a Special Administrative Region, governed by different laws. While the gambling industry is illegal in mainland China, it puts rice on the table in Macau.

“For us in terms of doing ministry it’s not just the issue of gambling, it’s the issue of money, the issue of affluence,” says George Veith, Mennonite Church Canada worker. “People in Macau are fighting the increased price of real estate, food, the cost of living. The pressures of life go up a notch.”

Despite challenges created by the gambling industry in Macau, faith and commitment are growing among the 35 regular attendees of Macau Mennonite Church. On June 7, 2009, Treasure Chow was ordained as the first local Chinese leader of the congregation, and by the end of March 2010, a newly elected church council consisted entirely of local citizens, with Susan Poon as their chairperson.

Releasing congregations to local leadership is the goal of church planters. As local citizens assume leadership roles, Mennonite Church Canada workers have gradually stepped into roles of encouragement and support.

The ordination and leadership transfer at Macau Mennonite marks the culmination of 13 years of work by George and Tobia Veith, who helped birth the church in 1996. Tim and Cindy Buhler, who



also work through Mennonite Church Canada, live on an outlying island of Taipa with their daughter Kristyn, and are supporting the Chows during their first year of church leadership while the Veiths are on a North American ministry assignment.

Tobia Veith points out that aside from the deceptive glitz of gaming, Macau is an unrecognized gem of the Orient, with a charming mix of eastern and western cultures, numerous world heritage sites, and the rich heritage of the Macanese people group which resulted from 450 years of intermarriage between Portuguese and Chinese before repatriation. “We have appreciated living there alongside the resilient people of Macau, who are always warm to a conversation in Cantonese, who held our children when they were toddlers on their laps on the crowded buses, who allowed us ‘in’ on the web of relationships that gets things done in Macau’s neighbourhoods.”

In an email exchange, Tim Buhler writes that “Macau Mennonite is the fruition of God’s leading to plant a peace church in Macau with involvement by Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Mission Network and Eastern Mennonite Missions. Macau is a challenging place to live and work but we join in with what God is doing in the city. We look for His faithfulness to the people of Macau.”

We invite you to share with your congregation the following story from Macau, a small city-state in China that has grown to become the world’s largest gaming centre. Here, Mennonite Church Canada workers George and Tobia Veith and Tim and Cindy Buhler have been encouraging a small but thriving congregation. 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*