



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Witness

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FOR YOUR CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

During this past year, we have encouraged you to include notes in your church bulletin each Sunday. These notes show **how your financial support of Mennonite Church Canada WITNESS is ministering ...from across the street to around the world!**

Below is a selection of Witness Notes that have been made available throughout 2003. We invite you to include this collection in your congregation's annual report book, to demonstrate how your congregation is involved in ministry through the wider church.

WITNESS

This is how your support of Mennonite Church Canada is working for the Church:

INTERNATIONAL: GENERAL

Helping support the Global Mission Fellowship, which is comprised of church and mission leaders from all over the world. The creation of this Fellowship will help adapt global strategy and cooperation in encouraging missiological reflection, new partnership potential and mutual encouragement.

Holding **Witness Mission Seminars**, where new MC Canada WITNESS workers, who are leaving for an assignment, and returned International workers get together for five days of orientation.

INTERNATIONAL: AFRICA

Brian Dyck and Lynell Bergen serve in **South Africa** where they do bible teaching and AIDS ministries with African Initiated Churches.

Loren and Donna Entz minister to the **Samogho people in Burkina Faso**.

Glyn Jones and Susan Allison-Jones serve in **Botswana** with African Indigenous Church leaders assisting in Bible study and helping the churches respond to the AIDs epidemic.

Bruce Yoder and Nancy Frey, mission partners in Benin, work at the Benin Bible Institute, assisting with the biblical and theological training program for church leaders.

Nancy Frey, mission partner in Benin, ministers with several women who have graduated from Benin Bible Institute to pray, read the Bible and think about what it means to be a faithful Christian woman. They are now reaching out to others.

The **church and the Africa Inter Mennonite Mission team in Burkina Faso** are concerned about spreading the gospel and spiritual discipleship. Mennonite Church Canada WITNESS workers are involved in language analysis and Bible translations, as well as evangelism and mentoring new believers.

Mennonite Church Canada WITNESS relates to African Initiated Churches in southern Africa through Africa Inter Mennonite Mission. WITNESS workers in the region also support the AIC leaders in Lesotho.

INTERNATIONAL: ASIA & MIDDLE EAST

China Education Exchange workers supported by MC Canada WITNESS often hear stories of stress and sadness from their students who are experiencing much change in their culture. Supporting MC Canada WITNESS facilitates ministry of support and solidarity to a culture under much strain.

The witness of the **Korea Anabaptist Centre** in Seoul, and of mission workers Erv and Marian Wiens in Chun Chon, Korea has resulted in peace initiatives from Korean Christians in this time of world tumult.

Cheryl Woelk has been working in Korea this past year with the **Korean Anabaptist Center** under the Internship program of MC Canada WITNESS. She has renewed her commitment to peace program development at the Korean Anabaptist Centre.

Kathi Suderman began an internet discussion forum on ways to respond to the war in Iraq. Teachers and students through the **China Educational Exchange** participated enthusiastically. MC Canada WITNESS facilitates not only English language study, but also provides opportunity for open discussions on critical world issues.

Pat & Rad Houmphan, in Thailand, have been doing a special series of lay-leadership training since February and are inviting other pastors and missionaries to assist with the training. MC Canada WITNESS helps participants be better equipped to lead the church

Glenn Witmer, MC Canada WITNESS worker **in Israel**, has helped set up an intern program over the summer months for students to experience and participate in Mennonite ministries among Palestinian & Israeli Christian, Muslim and Jewish people.

Todd & Jeannette Hanson, Mennonite Church Canada WITNESS workers **in China** led teacher training through the church for school teachers in the community. A part of the course includes teaching English skills, using CEE curriculum that teaches English through peace-building. Hansons also led the China Education Exchange's summer language program in Beijing.

INTERNATIONAL: EUROPE

Vic & Kathy Thiessen direct the London Mennonite Centre which supports the Anabaptist Network, the Metanoia book service, Bridge Builders conflict mediation service, theological seminars and much more.

Jake & Dorothy Unrau, who have worked 5 years in **Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine**, are completing their assignment and returning to Canada for the summer months, before beginning new work in Germany. The church in Zaporizhzhya has found a local couple, Ivan & Violetta Duschenko, to take over the leadership. MC Canada ministries in Ukraine, and now in Germany, provide assistance to the ongoing work in those areas.

INTERNATIONAL: LATIN AMERICA

In Cuba there is a group of congregations that have become interested in Anabaptist ways of following Jesus. They have adopted the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective as a key reference point. MC Canada WITNESS provides resource people and funds to facilitate an annual retreat for leaders where they gather and receive teaching.

Church Leadership in Latin America is an on-going need of the church. **Omar and Ester Cortes-Gaibur** are theological leaders in Chile whose impact with local leaders extends into the entire region. Their **5 & 2 Multiplying for All** ministry assists women and children who are in need due to family crisis and abuse. They are presently looking for more local partners to share in the heavy workload.

Rudy and Helen Baergen work at the **Mennonite Seminary in Bogotá, Colombia**, teaching and supporting the pastors of the national church. Your donation to MC Canada WITNESS helps the church be a stronger witness to peace and justice in a violent setting.

The Evangelical Mennonite Association in Brazil was formed in the late '50's. **Mennonite Church Canada WITNESS** provides support for their leadership training through its seminary called CEMTA (Mennonite Centre of Theological Education) which provides basic and advanced level courses in various regions in Brazil.

NATIONAL: CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The work of **Congregational Partnerships** in MC Canada WITNESS links the being of the church through missional education with the doing of the church through partnership initiatives that engage the church in active ministries in Canada and around the world.

In each **Area Conference of Mennonite Church Canada**, half-time staff persons have been appointed to **facilitate missional education and partnership activity** through Mennonite Church Canada WITNESS. As a result, new **partnership initiatives** with ministries in **Ukraine, Chile and China** are emerging in groups of congregations across Canada.

Mennonite Church Canada WITNESS distributes monthly issues of **PrayerNet**, which provides information on ministry, both joys and needs. You are also invited to subscribe to these regular releases by contacting witness@mennonitechurch.ca

NATIONAL: MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRY

The purpose of the program of **Multi-cultural Ministry** is to build connections with the many multi-cultural congregations of Mennonite Church Canada. Much of the new growth in Mennonite Churches is happening in non-Anglo congregations. Your support of MC Canada WITNESS enables **Samson Lo of the Multi-cultural Ministry** office to resource and network with these groups.

NATIONAL: NATIVE MINISTRY

Native Ministries of MC Canada WITNESS (together with other agencies) advocates on behalf of aboriginal communities that are not well represented to the public. Currently there is a crisis in Grassy Narrows, ON and **Native Ministry** supports Christian Peacemaker Teams in seeking to help in non-violent ways. Your support of WITNESS makes such advocacy possible.

MC Canada Native Ministry staff are working with the communities of Riverton and Matheson Island, Manitoba, in planning for "Native Assembly 2004", together with other Native groups. This event is a time for Native Mennonite church members and associates to gather for worship, special events and fellowship. It is scheduled to be held in Riverton MB, July 26-29, 2004. Your support for the Native Ministry program helps resource the Native church and its leaders.