

December 2008, <i>Equipping</i> #91 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.			
Date	Prayers: Please pray for and with the Church!	Announcements: Stay in tune with the wider church	Ministry Notes: This is how your financial support of Mennonite Church Canada is ministering...from across the street to around the world!
December 7 Second Advent	O God of comfort, may your peace fill us abundantly and with confidence, that we might share your message of hope with others.	no advance announcements this month	Witness workers Cliff and Natasha Dueck are completing three months of North American Ministry and preparing to return to Kherson, Ukraine on December 15. Your support helps them minister to children and youth in Kherson, Mis and Naddnipryanski through holistic outreach projects.
December 14 Third Advent	O God of restoration, we bring to you the broken pieces of our lives, our families and homes, our churches, communities and creation, knowing that you can mend all things. Restore us and strengthen our feeble hands so we may use them to care for all that you have created.		Your support helps the Mennonite Heritage Centre collect not only paper materials but also machine readable items like audio tapes, wire recordings, film strips, VHS tape, etc. Each year your support allows the Heritage Centre to transfer some of these obsolete records to new formats to preserve the voices, ideas, and images from the past. Thank you!
December 21 Fourth Advent	O God who dwells among us and within us, we offer ourselves as humble stewards of your kingdom. May your desires become our desires that we may serve you well and share your bounteous love.		Did you know that volunteers play an important role in communicating the prayer requests of Mennonite Church Canada Witness? Every month Jake and Anne Harms of Douglas Mennonite Church visit the Shaftesbury office in Winnipeg with a group of their friends to prepare PrayerNet for mail distribution. Thank you, volunteers!
December 24 Christmas Eve	O God of love, you have embraced us with your gift of salvation through the birth of Christ. May the joy with which we celebrate Christ's birth sustain us and be a constant reminder to us of your everlasting care.		Vic and Kathy Thiessen, Witness workers at the London Mennonite Centre in England, are currently on North American Ministry. Your support makes it possible for the Thiessen's to share inspiring stories about how they are introducing and promoting Anabaptist theology in a country where few people attend church regularly.
December 25 Christmas Day	O God of grace, let all of creation praise your holy name! You came to dwell among us as an infant of lowly circumstance. May the richness of this blessing bring us grant us everlasting hope and joy.		During the busy Advent and Christmas season, things get especially busy for the MC Canada finance department. We receive almost 25% of our annual donations in December! Thank you so much for your generous support.
December 28	Tim and Cindy Buhler, MC Canada Witness workers in Macau, report that it is now illegal for them to hold outdoor gatherings or hand out materials or tracks on the street. Pray that God will reveal new ways of sharing the life-giving message of the gospel to the Buhlers and to other Witness workers who face similar limitations.		Long-term Witness workers Todd and Jeanette Hanson are currently living in Burnaby, BC. Todd is studying "Languages, Cultures, and Literacies," while Jeanette continues to work with MC Canada Witness and Mennonite Partners in China. With your support she is helping connect individuals and groups in Canada with Chinese partners for ministry and exchange.