



# RESOURCE UPDATE

March 2005, No. 3

**Mennonite Church Canada**

A service of Mennonite Church Canada — Highlighting Resources for Sunday school, Family Ministry & Worship...

600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4; 1-866-888-6785 (toll free); 204-831-5675(fax); resources@mennonitechurch.ca; www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre

## CALENDAR

We offer resources for...

### March

- 20 Palm Sunday
- 24 Maundy Thursday
- 25 Good Friday
- 27 Easter

### April

- 3 Evangelism and Church Planting Sunday

### May

- 1 Stewardship Sunday
- 8 Christian Family Sunday
- 15 Pentecost

## Circulate your worship materials here!

Congregations are always looking for current, tested resources from our member congregations. Email, fax or post us your copy of a special service, litany or celebration, and we'll pass it on.

## Mennonite Church Canada Lent Resources

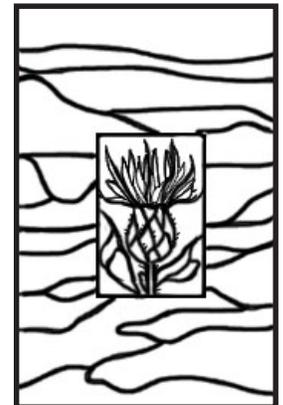
### KidsPak Lent Project: Toast, Bannock and Jam

Did you know that one in three children in Canada is Indian (First Nations)? How many First Nations children do you know? This project will help you and others learn about their lives and help congregations link with First Nations communities, building relationships between the hearts and minds of bannock and toast eaters. Jesus can help us break down the dividing walls between us. Each KidsPak project teaches stewardship through a fundraising opportunity.



### Marvelous in Our Eyes

At-Home Lent Resource. Worship resource for the home offering symbols, scriptural reflections, prayers and family-based activities. Downloadable at our website or order from the Resource Centre.



### God Our Refuge, by Arlyn Friesen Epp.

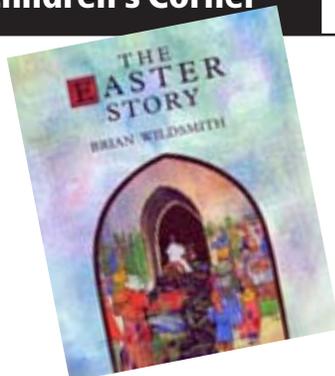
Hymn text and melody downloadable free from our online catalogue. Originally written in response to September 11, this plainsong based on Psalm 46 is especially suitable for Lent.

### Update Subscription

Subscribe to this monthly Update and receive it free by email. Simply send your name, phone number and email address, with the instruction, "subscribe" to resources@mennonitechurch.ca. And pass the invitation along to a friend. We're here for pastors and church leaders, and there's also great resources for families, children, and individual reading.

## Children's Corner

*Resources for the church library, home, Sunday School class or Sunday morning storyteller.*



### The Easter Story, by Brian Wildsmith.

Simple, straightforward adaptation of the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, allowing young readers (ages 4-8) to glean the substance from the metallic-gold-hued illustrations, symbolism and, most likely, discussion with grownups who may be reading along. And the donkey's-eye-view of the events allows a slightly different perspective from the standard portrayal!

### Route To:

- Librarian
- Pastor(s)
- Worship Planners
- Education Coordinator
- Church Secretary

These links and many other electronic resources can also be found through our own online catalogue at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre).

### [www.smalltallmusic.com](http://www.smalltallmusic.com)

A new initiative by Bryan Moyer Suderman (a.k.a. “God’s Love is For Everybody” CD). Join a new network of people who will support and participate in the development of new music for families and the church. Members will receive regular “deliveries of fresh, wholesome, home-grown, organic music straight from the producer.”

### [www.adnetonline.org/resources/adnotes](http://www.adnetonline.org/resources/adnotes)

Anabaptist Disabilities Network. Each quarterly issue of ADNotes gives helpful information on including persons with disabilities and mental illness and their families in the life of the community of faith. Subscribe for current email editions or view website for back issues.

### [www.goshen.edu/devotions](http://www.goshen.edu/devotions)

Sign up for free weekday online Lent devotions. Provided by Goshen College (Indiana) students, faculty and staff. Each based on the lectionary Scripture passages.

### [www.mennonitechurch.ca/resources/seasonal/lent](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resources/seasonal/lent)

Our own website includes this year’s At-Home Lent resource, *Marvelous in Our Eyes*, written by Elsie Rempel for family worship and reflection. This seasonal web page also includes worship resources for Tenebrae, Good Friday and Easter worship services.

### [www.mhsc.ca/encyclopedia/search.html](http://www.mhsc.ca/encyclopedia/search.html)

Online Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia. Resources include: Mennonite confessions of faith and statements of position on a variety of issues; a bibliographical guide to Anabaptist Mennonite studies; a registry of Mennonite materials available in North America that come from the former Soviet Union; genealogical sources of interest to Canadian Mennonites.



## In on the Action?

### January’s Top Picks

- **Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book.** Two-week cycle of morning and evening prayers.
- **Growing Up With God: Using Stories to Explore a Child’s Faith and Life.**
- **Journey Toward Forgiveness: From Rage to Reconciliation.** 60-minute documentary including seven stories.
- **Leader: Equipping the Missional Congregation,** Faith and Life Resources. Our church ministry quarterly periodical.
- **Down to Earth: The Parables of Jesus.** An adult Bible study from Faith and Life Resources’ Good Ground series.



## Resource Centre on the road

*Bring the Resource Centre to your next gathering* or attend one of the following events. Arlyn is willing to provide a display of materials, lead a workshop/Sunday School, preach a sermon. Contact the Resource Centre to make arrangements.

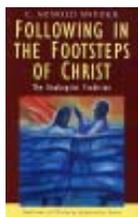
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| February 18-19 | Display at MC Manitoba sessions                                     |
| February 20    | Workshop: “Honouring Scripture in Worship” at Home Street Mennonite |
| February 25-26 | Display and workshop at MC Saskatchewan sessions                    |
| February 27    | Preaching at Eigenheim Mennonite Church                             |
| April 22-23    | Display and workshop at MC Eastern Canada sessions                  |
| April 24       | Preaching at Hamilton Mennonite Church                              |

## New Resources

For a complete list of new acquisitions, click "Newest Resources" on the Resource Centre webpage

### Lent:

**Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions**, by Sister Helen Prejean, author of highly acclaimed, *Dead Man Walking*. Addresses the new moral edge of the debate on capital punishment: What if we're killing the wrong person? Sister Prejean shows how race, prosecutorial ambition, poverty, election cycles, and publicity play far too great a role in determining who dies and who lives. Though American in context, it's a gripping read as she takes the reader through her own spiritual journey around universal questions of life and death, individual and state, themes so poignant now during Lent.



**Following in the Footsteps of Christ: The Anabaptist Tradition**, by C. Arnold Snyder. This general introduction to the spirituality of the Anabaptist tradition draws on court records to give an intimate glimpse into their early beliefs, practices, and spirituality.



**The Cross in Our Context: Jesus and the Suffering World**, by Douglas John Hall. In this small gem of theological reflection, one of North America's foremost "theologians of the cross" offers a profound and compelling contemplation on the relevance of the church's most fundamental confession.

**A Sensual Faith: Experiencing God through our Senses**, by Ian Price. This series of five studies, culminating in a meal, helps us reflect on the ways in which God comes to us. These Lenten studies use each of the senses as a doorway to deepening our faith and encountering God.

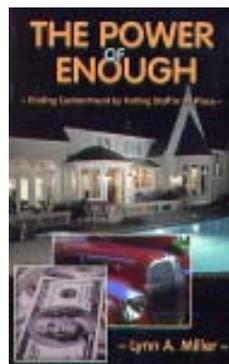


who found her son that was raised still had to die someday; and the thief crucified alongside Jesus. Provocative Lenten material. Includes discussion guide.

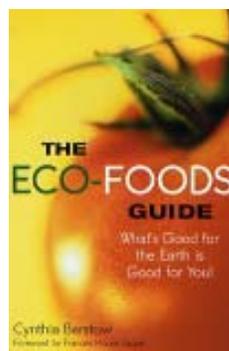


**The Last Supper**. This DVD was filmed and dramatized entirely in the Middle East and is the most extensive film ever made on the Last Supper. Emphasizes both its Christian tradition and Jewish roots, and explores the recipes of the exotic Biblical courses served at the supper: bread, salads, herbs, olive dish, lamb, wine, fruit, and all other magnificent courses. A recipe booklet with authentic Biblical recipes for the meal is included in PDF format.

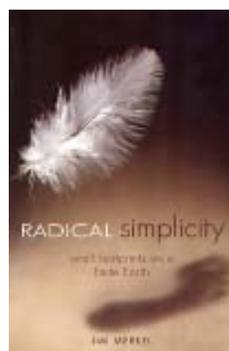
### Stewardship:



**The Power of Enough: Finding Contentment by Putting Stuff in its Place**, by Lynn Miller. A stewardship message that needs to be heard in a culture brainwashed by the gospel of materialism. Lynn is a popular conference and congregational speaker and has been a pioneer in the study of firstfruits theology and its application to a life of faith. This small group resource includes thirteen brief chapters with study questions.



**The Eco-Foods Guide: What's Good for the Earth is Good for You!** By Cynthia Barstow. The essential guide to making sense of grocery store aisles! Examines today's food choices, and then takes you on a fascinating and even humorous tour among many alternatives, helping you to decide the best food solutions for you and your family, including: eating seasonally, buying locally, shopping at farmer's markets, regarding our food as sacred once again..



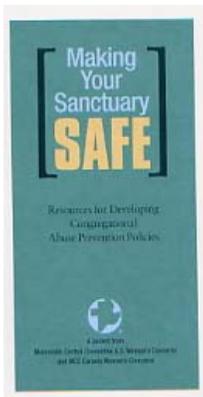
**Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on a Finite Earth**, by Jim Merkel. Many people feel the need to change their own lifestyles as a tangible way of transforming our unsustainable culture. This is a guide toward a personal sustainability goal, and offers a way to lower your footprint to be more equitable among all people, species and generations.



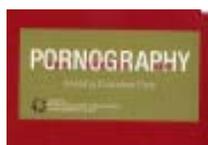
**God, Money and Me: Exploring the Spiritual Significance of Money in our Lives**, by Mennonite Foundation of Canada. A 12-lesson study guide that encourages North Americans to talk about the relationships among money, God, and ourselves. Money is not merely the stuff with which to pay our bills. It has spiritual significance. How we earn, spend and manage our money tells a lot about who we are and what we consider important in life.

## Church Leadership:

**Purpose Driven Mennonites**, by Craig Pelkey-Landes. The hugely successful books of Rick Warren have highlighted the word “purpose” in the vocabulary and lives of tens of thousands of people, including many Mennonite Christians. The author interviews Mennonite leaders who have used Warren’s materials and reports his findings and personal reflections.

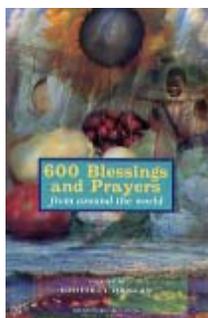


**Making Your Sanctuary Safe: Resources for Developing Congregational Abuse Prevention Policies**, by Mennonite Central Committee. Included in this packet is information on why a church prevention program is necessary and ways in which a church can be vulnerable. Includes ideas for how to keep children safe, screening processes for staff and volunteers, ways to assess the safety and needs of your congregation, as well as sample prevention policies and further resources.



**Pornography: The Secret Sin**, by Mennonite Central Committee. This packet of information and resources is offered to help us all better recognize and understand this problem and equip us to take loving and effective action to overcome it, while affirming sexuality as a good and precious gift from God that must be treasured and protected.

## Worship:



**600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World**, ed. by Geoffrey Duncan. The blessings in this anthology are practical, poetic, prayerful, simple and profound. They cover an array of occasions and needs: for creation, the seasons and rhythms of the year, the birth of a child, for loved ones, for rites of passage, for the sick and dying, for our daily food, for our work, for creativity, for journeys and farewells, for peace, joy, hope and for each new day of life.

**Remembering Well: Rituals for Celebrating Life and Mourning Death**, by Sarah York. At times of death and grief, the task of planning a funeral or memorial service often falls to survivors who are unprepared to think about such an event. Nevertheless, those who mourn need to give voice to their sorrow. This resource offers family members, clergy, funeral professionals, and hospice workers ways to plan services that honour the spirit of the deceased.

## From our Press

*New from Mennonite  
Publishing Network*

*Available from the Resource Centre for a free preview loan. To purchase, call MPN at 1-800-245-7894.*

### New Vacation Bible School curriculum!



**Celebrate the Psalms: Our God is Awesome!** The Psalms represent every possible human emotion, and express children’s feelings of joy, trust, fear, sorrow, and gratitude. Through song, prayer and Bible dramas, children can celebrate God’s presence in their worship and everyday living.

**Centered Teaching, Cycle B Spring.** A creative alternative to traditional Sunday school; a user-friendly resource to supplement the “Jubilee” curriculum; a welcome resource for congregations with few children; a resource that honours the different ways children learn.

**Second Mile: Pathway C** The third of four “Pathways” that invite congregations and small groups to enter a journey of worship, study, action and reflection that will help them become active signs of Christ’s peace in a broken world.

**Sacred Search: Encountering God During Lent**, by Angela Reed. Invites youth to know God, themselves, and others in deeper ways by doing a kind of “internal house-keeping” during Lent. Includes six Lenten exploration sessions and an Easter celebration.



## Checked the Resource Centre web pages recently?

Our online catalogue now features:

- **Quick-Pick Bibliographies** (fast references to recent resources on popular themes)
- **Seasonal materials** – check our Lent “display.”
- **User-friendly Records** (Over 600 cover images and helpful annotations)
- **Files and Links** (A growing number of downloadable files and website links.)
- **Easy reference** to our Newest Resources at the Centre.
- **Resource Update Subscription link.**

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[www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre)