Kitchner-Waterloo 2011 Assembly

Tuesday July 5

Churches too quiet

by Dan Dyck

"The sad thing is, the churches are too quiet," writes Kyong-Jung Kim, Director of the Korea Anabaptist Center. "Either they don't pay attention to this or they don't want to step on boundaries that are not welcome by government."

Kyong-Jung is referring to the expropriation of property to build a naval base. Ironically, the naval base is being built on JeJu Island, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and designated an "Island of World Peace" by the former president Roh Moo-Hyun in 2006.

The naval base is being "forcefully" constructed near Gangjeong village, a gathering of perhaps 1500 farmers and fishers, say activists. As a strategic military location in close proximity to Korea, mainland China and Japan, the island has for centuries endured colonization and conflict.



Photo cutline: A banner on the shore JeJu Island reads, "Stop the Naval weapons base! No more relocation [of the base] to the beautiful village of Gangjeong!" – photo provided

JeJu Island became an autonomous province of South Korea in 1946, but has enjoyed little autonomy. Just two years later a civil conflict, spilled over from mainland Korea, cost the lives of 30,000 islanders.

For its part, the Korean Navy claims that the new «eco-friendly» naval base will create jobs and increased security for the island. Anders Riel Müller of the Korea Policy Institute, an independent research and educational organization, recently visited the island. He shares in his report that, "...it is difficult to imagine an eco-friendly 50-hectare naval base that will house 8,000 marines, up to 20

destroyers, several submarines and two 150,000-ton luxury cruise liners."

In an email prayer request, Kyong-Jung noted there are many legitimate reasons for civil society to seek a halt to the construction of the naval base. Local protestors cite environmental destruction, loss of an agrarian culture and the changes it will bring to the local economy, as well as the transformation of a peaceful island into a military target.

These are strong humanitarian incentives, but Kyong-Jung focuses on a more important reason, one that should inspire churches to take action "... we as Christians cannot help thinking of Jesus teaching and action for peace. Jesus would have wept over again if he were standing with us in our situation today," he writes, citing Luke 19:42 and Psalms 2:1.

Advocacy letters can be sent to: *Embassy of* the Republic of Korea, 150 Boteler St., Ottawa Ontario, Canada, K1N 5A6; Tel: 613-244-5010; Fax: 613-244-5034

Mennonite Church Canada partners with the Korea Anabaptist Center to provide resources for peacemaking, discipleship, and Christian community in South Korea.



In the opening service, Youth Assembly worship leaders Fiona Mo, Mike Turman and Clement Mo have youth think of an intention for the week before laying a stone on the stage to remind them of that goal each day.

Number of the Day

13.7

In 2010 Canada's foreign aid spending amounted to \$13.7 million per day, about 20% of the amount it spends on the military. Find out more about foreign aid spending at canadianchristianity.com/bc/bccn/0810/01aid.html



Ministers' Conference – July 4, 2011 - Reframing Anabaptism

Dave Rogalsky – Eastern Canada Correspondent for Canadian Mennonite

Under the rubric of *Reframing Anabaptism*, Jeremy Bergen, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Theology at Conrad Grebel University College, addressed the topics "Unlearning Anabaptism" and "Learning Anabaptism" at this year's Mennonite Church Canada Ministers' Conference, held Monday at Conrad Grebel University College.

Speaking to nearly 160 keen listeners, he began with a vivid example displaying a photo of Nancy Heisey, then president of the Mennonite World Conference, giving Pope Benedict XVI an icon of Dirk Willms rescuing his Catholic pursuer. The well known story ends with Willms being executed as a heretic by Catholics. We see ourselves as a martyr people. How might Benedict have received this gift? What would Willms have thought of being made into an icon, something he and the early Anabaptists rejected? In other words, what have we as Mennonites become?

Our self-view is as a persecuted, martyr people, influencing us in receiving the 'repentances' which we have been receiving from other Reformation era churches, like the recent one by Lutherans, but we have moved into the mainstream of society. Challenging Stuart Murray's *Naked Anabaptist* Bergen quipped that we are all clothed, all located in a time and culture.

Turning to the idea of the tension between the believed or ideal church on one hand, and the experienced or real church on the other hand, he worked with the fact that we are never what we want to be. This includes areas such as how true we are to our Anabaptist forebears. And then he wondered if that is to whom we really want to be true, or whether we don't want to be true with them to the Biblical texts which informed the sixteenth century Anabaptists. There is much in whom we have become that we need to address, and perhaps unlearn, among ourselves as a variety of Mennonite denominations.



Ministers Conf 02/03 – Jeremy Bergen discusses with David Driedger (right, pastor at First Mennonite Church in Winnipeg) after his presentation on *Learning Anabaptism*.

Part of this is to learn the marks of the true church and to live them – unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity – taken from the Nicene Creed. Purity, something that leads to the many Mennonite denominations, is not one of these. Often we name those from whom we separate as non-Christian. Bergen also challenged the common definition of catholicity as universality. Catholicity instead means something more like 'unity in diversity.' He spoke to the need to learn from our former persecutors, now sisters and brothers in Christ, and wondered if they have not always been. We have things to offer to the others, and we have much to learn from other Christians. There is a tendency to become known, not for what joins us to other Christians, but for which small issues separate us. We become known

for our idiosyncrasies, not for our common belief in God. Bergen went to pains to make sure that he was not speaking to uniformity but rather that we focus on the core of our belief rather than our distinguishing features alone.

After the discussion time Gordon Driedger (pastor from Petitcodiac Mennonite Church in New Brunswick) told the story of a delivery person who asked "what kind of church is Mennonite?" After a three minute lecture on Anabaptist history and theology the man stopped him and asked, "Do you believe in the Creator God . . . the Son . . . and the Holy Spirit?" When Driedger answered yes, the man replied, "Then you're my kind of church."

Metzger's Going Missional receives award

On June 15, 2011, in Mississauga, Ont. Willard Metzger, Mennonite Church Canada's General Secretary, won two Word Guild Canadian Christian Writing Awards for a book he co-wrote with Karen Stiller.

Going Missional: Conversations with 13 Canadian Churches who Have Embraced Missional Life received an Award of Merit under each of two categories; Christian Leadership and Culture. Metzger was one of 29 writers, including Karen Stiller, who received awards from The Word Guild for books they published in 2010.

He expressed surprise and delight about the win; "It's not every day you get an award for something you've written."

Going Missional was published by Word Alive Press in June of 2010 and is available via Mennonite Church Canada's Resource Centre at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1592.



Epic News is the daily news sheet for the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2011 in Waterloo, Ontario. It will be brought to you daily from July 4 – 8, 2011. Full colour editions of Epic News will be available in PDF format at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1389. We will print an ecologically friendly quantity of hard copies for distribution on site – please share. Comments, questions, and affirmations can be sent to **ddyck@mennonitechurch.ca**.

Editors: Dan Dyck, Deb Froese; Design by Megan Kamei, Ryan Roth Bartel



Nelson Kraybill: Lighting up Circuit Boards

oy Deborah Froese

A challenge issued by his classroom of high school students in San Juan Puerto Rico some thirty years ago sparked Nelson Kraybill's ongoing fascination with the book of Revelation. In 2010, he published *Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics, and Devotion in the Book of Revelation* (Brazos Press, Grand Rapids MI).

For Kraybill, President Emeritus of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana and one of three keynote speakers at Assembly 2011, an understanding of the complex and sometimes confusing book of Revelation evolved dramatically over the years. In an email interview, he reflects upon his first real exposure to Revelation in Grade 10.

"My Mennonite Sunday School teacher gave everyone in the class a copy of *The Late Great Planet Earth*. Inside was a note...saying this teaching was "biblically sound." Indeed, the book was filled with Bible references. But I now see that most were taken completely out of context...

So I have moved from seeing Revelation as a crystal ball or horoscope to seeing it as a vigorous critique of empire and idolatry in the first century. If we understand how John of Patmos critiqued the Roman empire and how he counselled Christians to be faithful to Jesus in that context, then we can listen for what the Spirit is saying to us today about allegiance, worship, and obedience to the Lamb."

In the opening pages of *Apocalypse and Allegiance*, Kraybill wrote that he aspired "to teach John's vision in ways that are accessible to a general audience."

Though he shares a clear appreciation for academia and his scholarly friends, he notes that "the real octane of biblical teaching does not take effect until it sparks on a personal, congregational, and missional level...It's satisfying to see circuit boards light up in myself and in other people's lives with that kind of teaching."

Connecting on a deeper level

"When I was at AMBS I had the privilege (and burden) of speaking in many different pulpits across the continent. I enjoyed that, but realized that I rarely knew in-depth what was going on in a given congregation," Kraybill writes.

His new role as Lead Pastor at Prairie Street Mennonite Church, also in Elkhart, allows him to teach, preach and mentor the same flock week after week.

"Now I know very well the people to whom I preach and relate. Theological and missional reflection go deeper in this kind of sustained relationship. It's also been invigorating for me to function in the economically, racially, and politically diverse urban neighbourhood of south central Elkhart. "

The role change has been a challenge, but not an unwelcome one. It brought a shift in work culture, from an organization of employees with definitive job descriptions to one that is supported primarily by volunteer efforts with the flexibility and wide spectrum of skill levels that come with it.

"The time and energy that volunteers have to contribute may vary, and institutional leadership in the congregation requires the ability to inspire, encourage, and empower," Kraybill writes.

He says that he had to explain to some people why he would voluntarily – and happily – leave an academic executive position to be "just" a pastor.



"That attitude baffles and sometimes frustrates me, because I find the pastorate to be an intellectually, spiritually, and vocationally demanding role. We have a problem in the Mennonite church if we think of anyone as 'just' a pastor. Pastors have unparalleled potential to inspire and lead the church, and we need to restore a level of respect and appreciation to the role. We need our most capable young people to be preparing for congregational leadership."

In addition to his role as a keynote speaker for Mennonite Church Canada's Assembly 2011, Kraybill will lead a seminar for youth and adults. *Competing for Your Loyalty: How Worship Shapes Allegiance* is offered on Tuesday June 5 and Thursday June 6 at 4:00 p.m.

Remembering God's future

About the Assembly theme, "Remembering God's Future", Kraybill muses; "If we don't constantly remember that God someday will bring a new heaven and a new earth, and if we don't keep in mind that God's future is constantly breaking into the present, we are likely to fall into the idolatry of thinking that we can save ourselves and our world with our own programs, peace witness, and inclusivity. God might want to use all of those, but *salvation belongs to God* (Rev. 7:10)!"

Through the pursuit of greater understanding for himself and for others, Kraybill is focussed on "lighting up circuit boards" and planting seeds for future church leadership with a passion that is contagious.





Those who reside in the region of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada will be able to pick up supplies on behalf of their congregation at the Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre onsite in Hagey Hall, Room 139 – a location where you will also find MennoMedia products.

Voices from the past

Christ did not wish to decide or pass judgement between brother and brother concerning inheritance, but refused to do so. So should we also do.

-Michael Sattler, (c. 1490-1527)

Generosity Report sows seeds...

Dan Dyck

"The sower went out to sow."

With these words, Pastor Terry Zimmerly walked throughout the lawn chairs and picnic blankets nestled under the trees of a downtown park, and scattered Mennonite Church Canada's Generosity Report among the worshipers at a joint service of Hope Mennonite Church and Home Street Mennonite Church in Winnipeg on June 26.

With the distribution done, Zimmerly led worshippers through the booklet page by page, inviting listeners to follow along as he read some of the text., He highlighted the gift of God's seed growing among congregations through the work of Mennonite Church Canada, in which "each one of us is a partner with God."

Along the way he shared personal stories of people who had experienced blessing and transformation through the work of Mennonite Church Canada including the multi-lingual congregation he and his wife Karen had pastored in Regina with the help of translated resources, Resource Center materials, , the Company of 1000 leadership development fund, congregational partnerships around the world, peace activities of the congregation's youth,— all assisted by the work of Mennonite Church Canada staff and volunteer leaders.

Mennonite Church Canada has published a *Generosity Report* – one of way of saying thank you to congregations and individuals – for every Mennonite Church Canada household across the country. Those who reside in the region of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada will be able to pick up supplies on behalf of their congregation at the Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre onsite in Hagey Hall, Room 139 – a location where you will also find MennoMedia products.



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In the early days of January 2011, an idea for something new caught hold of Susan Kehler and wouldn't let go.

Kehler, a member of Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford BC, had just finished reading "Gifts of the Church for a New Year" an article from Mennonite Church Canada General Secretary Willard Metzger, published in the Jan. 10 issue of *Canadian Mennonite*.

"That which is different can be new. Something routine for one person, if never experienced before by another, can be new. A different approach can be new. A different point of view can be new. A different understanding can be new," Metzger wrote.

"How could we give gifts to the church at New Years time?" Kehler reflects in a telephone interview. "I read that and I had an idea." She wanted to share the notion that old things viewed in different contexts can seem new again with the children of Abbotsford Vietnamese Fellowship, where she organizes the children's program.

Some weeks later, Abbotsford Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship held a special Vietnamese/Chinese New Years service to which Emmanuel Mennonite was invited. There, Kehler and the children shared special banners they had made, featuring examples experienced by students of "old" becoming "new".

"When we brought a Vietnamese food dish to western food banquet [at

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Emmanuel Mennonite Church] at Christmas time, they liked it and that is something new," said one child.

"In my school, a classmate who was always kind became a Christian and he became even more kind," said another.

After the service, Kehler sent Metzger some photos of the banners along with a card explaining what she had done. "...one never knows what others learn from our penned or spoken ideas." Kehler says.

ASK SOMEONE WHO HAS TRAVELED WITH US!

2011 TOURS

MENNONITE STORY IN POLAND (August 9-17)
VISIT UKRAINE with EDGAR STOESZ (Sept. 19-28)
A PORTUGUESE PILGRIMAGE (September 20-30)
EXPERIENCE IRELAND with the LEDERACHS
(September 22-October 3)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR GARRY JANZEN (October 14-23)

FROM NAZARETH to ROME (November 10-22)
BEHIND the VEIL-EXPERIENCING EGYPT
with MEDA (November 14-26)
OBERAMMERGAU CHRISTMAS MARKET (Dec. 7-11)

2012 TOURS

AN ANTARCTIC EXPERIENCE (January 2-15)
JAMAICA — ITS PEOPLE, NATURAL BEAUTY
and FRUITS (January 20-29)
GUATEMALA (February 24-March 4)
VISIT MEXICO and ITS COPPER CANYON
(March 9-18)

EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA (March 18-31)
FOLLOWING the STEPS of MOSES (April 16-27)
ISRAEL/PALESTINE with NELSON KRAYBILL (May 2-11)
EUROPEAN HERITAGE with PAUL ZEHR (May 3-16)
ALASKA CRUISE TOUR (June 7-18)

GLORY of RUSSIA: MOSCOW & ST. PETERSBURG (July 3-13)

EUROPEAN HERITAGE with JOHN RUTH (July 10-23)
MENNONITE STORY in POLAND & UKRAINE
(September 18-29)

MEDA TOUR to ETHIOPIA & TANZANIA (Oct.12-22)

SERVICE TOUR to ISRAEL/PALESTINE

with PASTOR JAMIE GERBER (Oct. 13-22)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE with NELSON KRAYBILL

(Nov.12-21)
VIETNAM and SINGAPORE (November 12-26)

2013 TOURS

AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND (February 1-21)
CHURCHES & SAFARIS in KENYA & TANZANIA
(February 8-20)

TOURMAGINATION MYSTERY TOUR (April 17-26)



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2010 Saskatoon peace bus campaign deemed successful

Karin Fehderau, Saskatchewan Correspondent, Canadian Mennonite

During the Mennonite Church Canada assembly in Saskatoon in 2009, the discussion about taking a public stand for peace received a sound workout and the challenge to live out a thousand acts of peace was put to the delegates to consider.

As is the case with some Mennonite churches, it takes times to work new ideas through the ranks, but in the summer of 2010 MC Saskatchewan was preparing to launch a large-scale blitz of bus board signs proclaiming that peace is worth a look.

Stephanie Epp, chair of the MC Saskatchewan Peace and Justice Committee, reports that each of the churches involved was encouraged to contribute whatever it could. More than \$4,000 came in, enough to pay for a large ad across one side of five Saskatoon city buses.

Of the seven churches that pledged support, two were outside the city.

Although considered a rural church, Pleasant Point Mennonite chose to take part in the bus ad campaign for two reasons, says Pastor Harry Harder. "We're part of the greater Saskatoon area," says Harder, who owns a sheep farm a half-hour drive from the city.

And since many members of their congregation regularly do business in the city, the small church decided it was right to sacrifice part of its annual church budget for the city bus ads.

Pauline Steinmann, pastor of Wildwood Mennonite in Saskatoon, noticed renewed curiosity in her congregants as a result of their involvement. "It certainly created some interest in terms of our whole peace stance," she affirms. "We're hearing conversations around the topic of, 'What do we really believe in terms of a public stance?'"

Wildwood also chose to put an ad in its community newsletter to notify the neighbourhood of the church's ownership in the campaign, using the same logo in the ad as the bus boards to create a connecting point.

Nutana Park Mennonite, a larger urban church, also chose to be involved. An e-mail from co-pastor Anita Retzlaff reflects a positive experience through all of it: "The process of discernment for our board of deacons was a valuable exercise to go through as we contemplated this project."

Will MC Saskatchewan run the ads again, perhaps on an annual basis?

"There is no firm decision," says Epp, noting that the ads are in storage, so if it is done again there will be no need to pay for production costs, only the advertising costs.

At any rate, it appears the public was watching, at least by those who take the bus. MC Canada reports that the number of visitors to its liveforpeace.org website, which was printed on the bus ads, rose significantly during the campaign. "There was a 45 percent increase in site activity originating in Saskatoon over the course of the ad campaign," notes Dan Dyck, director of communications.

And it appears that Saskatchewan Mennonites were thinking. "Within the churches, there were more conversations around peace and peace issues. That made it a very successful campaign," says Epp.

This story first appeared in the April 4, 2011, edition of Canadian Mennonite.



Update:

- The Peace and Justice Committee of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan has invited congregations to identify themselves with the tag line, "We are a live for peace church." The P&J committee will do a follow-up in Sept.
- Osler Mennonite ran three ads in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix declaring themselves a "live for peace" church, and has included the declaration on a banner inside their church and on their web site. proposing a tag line identifying themselves as a "Live for Peace" church. Osler Mennonite Church has already declared itself as a Live for Peace church with a banner indoors and signage outdoors. An outdoor marquee sign identifies Osler Mennonite Church as "A Welcoming Christian Community for Peace"
- Mennonite Church British Columbia used the peace theme for its annual LEAD conference on Feb. 25 prior to its Annual General Meeting. Dan Dyck, Director of Communications for Mennonite Church Canada, was one of several presenters for a panel discussion on peace.
- Live for Peace posters will be sent to all congregations in fall, 2011, to remind ourselves of this commitment.
- Liveforpeace.org website stats (averages) from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 1, 2011: 404 unique visitors/month, viewing 19 pages each.
- There are 36 Acts of Peace listed on the 1,000 Acts of Peace page at <u>www.</u> <u>liveforpeace.org</u>. Congregations and individuals are invited to log their acts of peace here – no matter how big or small – as a way of sharing and inspiring others toward acts of peace.
- pacifist not passive-ist

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The website <u>www.thepeacefulchristian.</u>
 <u>com</u> has been helping to promote non-violent peacebuilding and www.liveforpeace.org.

-Dan Dyck



People displaced by diamond mining in Botswana allowed to return home

A company press release issued two days earlier

of the company's "corporate social responsibility

and sustainability programme aimed at the

development of a lasting positive legacy ..."

on June 20, indicated that the new initiative is part

Adapted from Peaceful Societies at peacefulsocieties.org/NAR11/110630gwi.html, posted June 30, 2011

The Gem Diamonds Company announced last week that it will help finance and drill four boreholes to provide water for the G/wi and the other San or "Bushmen" communities in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana. This latest development appears to close a nasty chapter in the history of San conflicts with the dominant societies of southern Africa. Gem Diamonds is headquartered in London, England.

The San peoples, of whom the G/wi are one, were forcibly evicted from their homes in the CKGR a decade ago in order to expedite diamond exploration and mining in the Kalahari Desert. The Botswana government claimed that it removed the people only for their own good, and that they had willingly moved to the government's resettlement camps. Some of the G/wi and other

San felt that life in the resettlement camps was an improvement, since the government provided more services than they had previously enjoyed. However, many others strongly opposed the enforced move and wanted to return to their homes.

With the support of the militant British NGO Survival International (SI), the San societies filed a law suit with the High Court of Botswana which ruled, in late 2006, that the claimants did have the right to return to their desert homes. The government accepted the decision, but harassed those who returned by preventing them from reopening the water borehole that it had capped when it moved

them to the resettlement communities.

Survival International consistently supported the San in their efforts to find justice, including the issue of press releases denunciating the human rights practices of Botswana.

SI also condemned the two companies involved—first De Beers, followed by Gem Diamonds—for cooperating with government campaigns to deprive the G/wi of their land and their rights. The NGO also tried to shame some prominent personalities for wearing diamonds that may have come from Botswana. SI ratcheted up its campaign against the country last fall by launching an international boycott of all travel to the country.

Meanwhile, in order to gain water for their communities, the San people filed another law suit to override government refusal to permit borehole reopening. The suit was turned down by a single judge from the High Court in July 2010. However, in January 2011 a further appeal received a unanimous response from the the court stating that; the government did not have the right to prevent people from drilling for water, or from reopening old boreholes. It was up to the G/wi, and the other San, to move forward from there.



The Central Kalahari Game Reserve, where the G/wi will soon have wells for water. Photo from Quesemana's photo stream on flickr, Creative Commons License.

The French news agency AFP reported on June 22 that a non-profit group, VOX United, will work in partnership with Gem to drill four drinking water boreholes in the CKGR in response to community discussions. Gem Diamonds will provide the technical and financial means to do the drilling.

A company press release issued two days earlier on June 20, indicated that the new initiative is part of the company's "corporate social responsibility and sustainability programme aimed at the development of a lasting positive legacy ..."

Drilling for the first borehole will begin in early July 2011, with the other three to follow shortly. The company says that it suggested four

dispersed sources of water to prevent too many people from concentrating near a single borehole.

The press release quotes Mr. Clifford Elphick, CEO of Gem Diamonds, who said, in part, "Gem Diamonds remains committed to implementing sustainable solutions to the environmental and community-related issues in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and embraces the opportunity to continue our work with the

local communities and other interested parties to ensure that the benefits of the Gope Diamond mine are [realized] for the community as a whole."

SI has been strangely silent, for once, about a major development regarding the San situation. There is nothing on their website about this latest news.

Mennonite Church Canada has relationships in Botswana through partnerships with Mennonite Mission Network, African Inter-Mennonite Mission, Inter-Church Ministries (of Botswana African-Initiated Churches, and Botswana Christian Council. In early May, 2011, Willard Metzger, General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada, attended the Ecumenical Conference on Mining in Toronto, to learn more about the behaviour of Canadian dominated mining industry on international locations.



Announcements

Seminar Room Changes

Please note the following changes to Seminar room locations:

"Is the end near?"HH150
"Humour me" ML 246
"Join the Anabaptist Party"ML349
"In the Spirit of Humanity"ML212
"On the Hot Seat"HH336
"We Have \$\$\$ For You!"

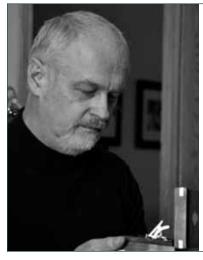
Note: Please pay careful attention to verbal announcements regarding additional seminar location changes.

Thank you for your generosity.

Monday's offering in support of the Mennonite Church Canada Translation project totalled \$2407.45

Six Nations Tour Pick up location

Those who registered for the Six Nations of the Grand tour on Wednesday will meet their bus in the large parking lot opposite Hagey Hall at 10:30 am sharp.



Additional Nominee

Christian Formation Council

Earl D. Reimer

Occupation: Sales

Church Membership: Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Winkler, MB

Past/present involvement/positions in local church: Church council chair, past vice-chair, Pastoral Congregational Relations Committee (past), Fund Raising Committee (past), Worship Committee Chair (past)

Other church or related vocational/volunteer experience: Music leadership

Thank you to Mennonite Church Eastern Canada for your servant support of Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2011.



Church Matters Podcast: Episode 51: The Anabaptist Has No Clothes with guest Stuart Murray, takes a look at of The Naked Anabaptist, Murray's popular book that is re-igniting interest among Anabaptists, while uncovering its core values to many readers for the first time. To download this episode, see www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1526

Church Matters is also available for download from www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/206 or iTunes.

BEADS FOR BURKINA!

During the Friday (July 8) afternoon break time.

Kids from the Children's & Jr. Youth Assembly will be selling bracelets and necklaces created from seeds and carved clay beads indigenous to the West African country of Burkina Faso. Proceeds will be used for a church building for the Foyer Evangélique Mennonite de Ouagadougou (FEMO), and a proposed Children's Ministry program there.



From the Archives

Arriving in Canada, Remembered

A September 1984 re-enactment of the arrival of Russian Mennonite immigrants to Canada. The 1924 immigrants walked from the Waterloo train station to Erb Street Mennonite Church, where they were greeted by their Swiss-south German Mennonite hosts. Gary Snider, dressed in garb worn by his grandfather when he arrived in Waterloo on July 20, 1924, is being interviewed by a television reporter as the re-enactors make their way up Erb Street.

Prepared by Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Photo credit: Mennonite Reporter, Mennonite Archives of Ontario (grebel.uwaterloo.ca/mao)