



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

RESOURCE UPDATE

May 2005, No. 5

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...

May

15 Pentecost

July

4-9 MC Canada Assembly,
Charlotte, NC

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.

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

Spring Cleaning?

The Resource Centre can be your depository for last Sunday's special litany, last month's unique service, or last season's creative drama. We are asked all the time for current, tested resources from our congregations: youth services, poetry, drama, dance, litanies, readers' theatre, music, intergenerational ideas. Please help us out! Email, fax or post us your copy of a special service, litany or celebration, and we'll pass it on! We want the Resource Centre to serve as our national circulation depot of original, creative, congregational resources.

Summer Possibilities

The Worship/Education Guides that accompany the *Jubilee* summer curriculum. Available to preview from the Resource Centre or order copies from Faith and Life Resources.

This summer's recommended guide: *God's People: Surprised and Changed*.

Messages from the Prophets or Spirit Fruit. Two summer themes for congregational worship, with accompanying at-home resources for family worship and response. Copies available at the Resource Centre.

Roadside Stories from Family Vacations: Planning a Spiritual Trip. 13 summer themes and worship template developed by Shalom Mennonite Fellowship. Download from *Leader* website:

<http://www.leaderonline.org/supplement.htm>

Commission camp workers and bless campers before they go to camp. Camp Sunday worship materials can be downloaded at <http://www.mennonitecamping.org/mca/members/downloads>

Children's Stories that follow the lectionary texts. Link to our catalogue: <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/23/6796>

Jonah and God's Big Love: A Learning Experience for Adults and Children. This study is designed for adults and children to learn together. Flexible for small groups, cell churches, a vacation setting, or individual families.

Celebrate the Psalms: Our God is Awesome! New Vacation Bible School curriculum. For sample materials and order information, check www.mph.org/vbs/



Children's Corner

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



Jesus Stories: God's Love Through His Parables

The Gospels are full of wonderful stories about Jesus ... and stories Jesus told. This video for children brings to life Jesus' teaching, healing and caring. Using humour and emotion, the stories provide a fresh approach to the Bible. Includes three parables (The Lost Coin, The Good Samaritan, The Log and the Speck) and four stories (Feeding the Five Thousand, The Woman Forgiveness, Blind Bartimaeus, Zacchaeus). Suitable for ages 6-12.

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.

Youth Ministry Sites

www.faithandliferesources.org/gather_round/gatherround.htm

Gather 'Round curriculum. Did you know the new Sunday School curriculum from Faith and Life Resources (due out in 2006) will include youth materials?! Check out this link for FAQ, theological convictions, and goals of the coming material.

www.alternativeservice.ca

If Canada went to war, what would you do? Check out the story of Conscientious Objectors and the choices they made during World War II. Award-winning website, produced by Mennonite Heritage Centre.

www.mcc.org/thermostat

A new youth resource from Mennonite Central Committee on war, peace and Christian conscience. Features a DVD and study guide, Bible studies, role plays, personal stories, video clips, dramas, handouts and more. Video clips, online discussions, resource links and order information are provided at the website. A preview copy is also available for loan from the Resource Centre.

www.ymroadtrip.org/home.htm

Youth resources from an Anabaptist perspective, including: Sunday School lessons, Bible studies, devotionals.

www.ambs.edu/php/!Explore/index.php

The !Explore program at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. !Explore is for the young people (grade 11 and 12) in our midst who have budding leadership talent and spiritual understanding. Equally important, !Explore is for entire congregations, and especially pastoral leaders, who are willing to put time and energy into mentoring young leaders. Visit the website for program information.



In on the Action?

March's Top Picks (most requested items)

- ***Let All Within Us Praise: Dramatic Resources for Worship*** by Patty Shelly.
- ***I'm Your Child, God: Prayers for Our Children*** by Miriam Wright Edelman. Collection of prayers which embraces issues that children and teens face in an increasingly complicated world.
- ***101 Devotionals with Children*** by June Galle Krehbiel. Devotionals with fresh metaphors and positive images of God.
- ***Sex and Faith: Celebrating God's Gifts*** by David Boshart. This "Closer Than a Brother" men's study guide assumes that sexual health gets a big boost as Christian men learn how to support each other in their sexual journeys.
- ***Secure in God's House: Shelter in the Bible*** by Ann Weber Becker. A "Women in Mission" study reflecting on the biblical images of shelter, and the security we find under the shelter of God.
- ***The Pacifist Who Went to War***. The story of two brothers who took different paths in World War II. One was a CO and the other went into military service.
- ***Veggie Tales: An Easter Carol***
- ***Word of Mouth: Creative Ways to Present Scripture***. Includes reader's theatre scripts from the gospel of John.
- ***Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book***. Two-week cycle of morning and evening prayers.
- ***Stages on the Way: Worship Resources for Lent, Holy Week and Easter***. From the Iona community in Scotland.



Resource Centre on the road

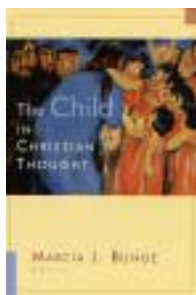
Bring the Resource Centre to your next gathering.

Arlyn is available to provide a display of materials, lead a workshop or Sunday school, preach a sermon. Contact the Resource Centre to make arrangements.

New Resources

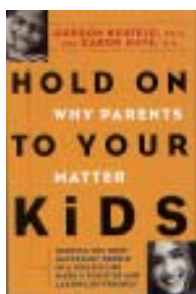
For a complete list of new acquisitions, click "see more New Resources" at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Home>

Parenting/Family



The Child in Christian Thought edited by Marcia J. Bunge. A collection of 17 essays that "fills an enormous gap in contemporary family studies: the study of Christian theological approaches to children and the responsibilities of families and society toward them ... The essays here challenge a flat association of Christianity with children's original sin; critique a contemporary culture of

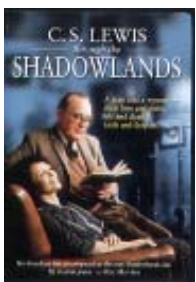
child devaluation, commodification and neglect; probe the responsibilities of parenting as a serious calling and spiritual discipline; and examine the inter-connecting responsibilities toward children of families, churches, the market and the state." From the Foreword by Don Browning and John Wall.



Hold On To Your Kids: Why Parents Matter by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Mate. Tackles an emerging trend - peers replacing parents in the lives of our children. The authors have dubbed this phenomenon peer orientation, which refers to the tendency of children and youth to look to their peers for direction: for a sense of right and wrong, for values, identity and codes of behaviour. Peer

orientation undermines family cohesion, sabotages healthy development and fosters an aggressive and prematurely sexualized youth culture. It provides a powerful explanation for schoolyard bullying and youth violence. The authors seek to restore parenting to its natural intuitive basis and the parent-child relationship to its rightful preeminence.

Small Group



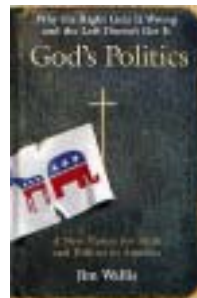
C. S. Lewis through the Shadowlands.

This original BBC screenplay (90 minunte DVD) is about the agonizing spiritual crisis of C.S. Lewis when his wife died of cancer. The love, grief, pain, and sorrow were so shattering to Lewis that his basic Christian beliefs, magnificently communicated in his many books, were now called into serious doubt. But he picked up the pieces and moved out of the depressing "shadowlands," realizing that "real life has not even begun yet."



Becoming Human: On Theological Anthropology in an Age of Engineering Life. This pamphlet is intended to be used as a resource and discussion-starter for Christians who wish to reflect together on some of the questions raised in our day by biotechnology. It introduces

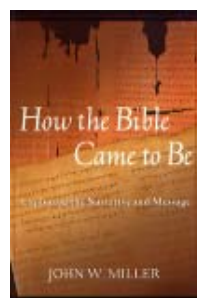
theological themes and language by which various Christian traditions give expression to the deep realities of which we are a part. For example: May the tissues (stem cells) of a human fetus be used to look for a cure for Alzheimer's disease? Should scientists clone human beings, simply because it is possible? May humans manipulate the environment in whichever way suits them, no matter the effect on other species? Should Christians care about the ozone layer? Should Christian farmers grow genetically-modified foods?



God's Politics: A New Vision for Faith and Politics in America, by Jim Wallis.

An American's response by the editor of "Sojourner's" magazine to the current political-religious climate in the United States. Jim Wallis wonders, "Since when did believing in God and having moral values make you pro-war, pro-rich and pro-Republican? And since when did promoting and pursuing a progressive

social agenda with a concern for economic security, health care, and educational opportunity mean you had to put faith in God aside?" This book offers a call to make both the religious right and left more accountable to key values of the prophetic religious tradition - values of love, justice, reconciliation, and community that Jesus taught and that are at the core of faith.



How the Bible Came to Be: Exploring the Narrative and Message, by John W. Miller.

Detailed study of the form and message of the Bible as a whole, with carefully documented information on how, when, and why its diverse components were assembled. It puts readers in touch with the intent and goals of those who created this large body of sacred scriptures, revealing the many factors at play in the Bible's formation.

Church Leadership



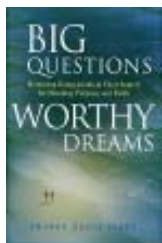
Being a Vibrant Church: Learnings from Our Small Rural Congregations

by Naomi Unger and Eric Olfert. A four-session discussion guide generated by the "Vibrant Rural Churches Project" of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. In 2003, the authors visited the ten smallest rural congregations in MC Saskatchewan

to identify how these churches maintain life and vitality in the face of rural community decline. Secondly, this project aimed to provide a process whereby those congregations could boldly expand their dreams to proceed with further life-giving possibilities. Might your congregation listen and learn from these churches?

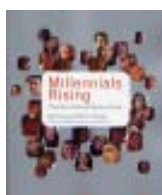
New Resources (continued)

Young Adult Ministry



Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith by Sharon Daloz Parks. A compassionate look at the challenges young adults face in their search for a place of belonging, integrity, and contribution - and a clarion call to thoughtful adults to actively mentor the next

generation. Sharon Parks re-examines the twenty-something years and shows how crucial it is to create mentoring environments that recognize, support, challenge, and inspire the promise of young adult lives.



Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation by Neil Howe and William Strauss. In the 60s it was the Boomers. In the 90s it was the Xers. Now, it's the Millennials - who are graduating from high school. The authors suggest that today's

Millennial teens are defying conventional wisdom about youth. Before the decade is over, Millennials, they predict, will reject the Gen X pop culture, rebel against Boomer politics, and dramatically redefine what it means to be young.

Worship



Voicing God's Psalms by Calvin Seerveld. Fresh verse translations of 37 biblical psalms with accompanying audio CD featuring oral readings and versification melodies played by solo recorder or saxophone. In an introduction and an afterword, the author sets the biblical psalms in historical

context, highlights the rough and tender tenor of God's psalms, and offers concrete suggestions for helping these psalms come alive in our private and public worship today.



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**
- **User-friendly Records** (Over 700 cover images and helpful annotations)
- **E-files and Links** (A growing number of downloadable files and website links.)
- **Easy reference** to our Newest Resources.
- **Resource Update Subscription link.** We'll send this newsletter to your email account free.

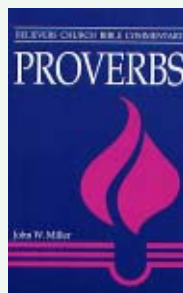
It's never been easier to access our 7000 titles!

www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre

From our Press

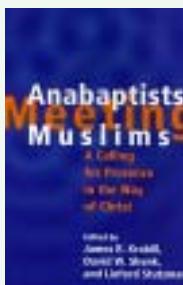
New from Mennonite
Publishing Network

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



Proverbs, by John W. Miller. The nineteenth volume in the Believer's Church Commentary series is unique for its detailed uncovering of evidence for two editions of Proverbs, a first in the time of Solomon and a second in support of King Hezekiah's historic religious reforms. In this light heretofore puzzling features of the

book's design, purpose and message are clarified and the book's relevance for its time and ours is greatly enhanced.



Anabaptists Meeting Muslims: A Calling for Presence in the Way of Christ edited by James R. Krabill, David W. Shenk and Linford Stutzman. This book reveals a rich diversity of Anabaptist engagement with Muslims around the world. Here are essays and reports from people

who serve among Muslims, administrators at mission and service agencies, professors and scholars of mission, and theologians. Among these voices is a spirit of dialogue, questioning, agreeing, amazement, and sometimes, dissent. This book does not seek to present a homogenized view that flows through a predetermined Anabaptist ideological grid. Rather it is a forum for giving and receiving counsel and a place to share stories and reflections that will encourage and help to equip Christians for the calling to presence in the way of Christ.



Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice by John D. Roth, Herald Press. Ask any person randomly on the sidewalk what they know about Mennonites and chances are their answer will include Mormons, black clothes and buggies, or general confusion. This short, engaging book gives a brief account

of what Mennonites believe. From the beginnings of the Anabaptist movement in the 16th-century, to biblical interpretation, baptism, understandings of the church, ethics, and the complex question of denominationalism, the author provides a solid framework for on-going conversations about faithful discipleship in the Mennonite church today.