



Local church youth in Burkina Faso helped build a welding workshop that will be a small business and a classroom to learn the trade.

Service and Example

A new welding shop in Tin, Burkina Faso offers more than metal repairs to the local community. Norm Nicolson is using the shop to train youth in the trade of welding while modelling business ethics based on Christian values.

Norm, who is a Mennonite Church Canada worker with his wife, Lillian, led construction of the shop with the help of local church youth.

The Nicolsens note that many young men want to learn a trade to better support their families, but opportunities are rare. "A learning center like this will put Christian teaching into practice in ways that can go beyond simple preaching and evangelism," says Lillian.



Following Jesus is much more than a decision and a few discipleship classes. Lifelong teacher and preacher Palmer Becker has developed a 16 session discipleship program designed to make a life-long commitment to Christ a richer experience.

Life Changing Practice

“Many churches simply offer 3 to 5 sessions of orientation for new believers or new members,” says Palmer Becker. “That’s not enough to prepare for a lifetime of commitment to Christ and the church.”

In response Becker has written *Begin Anew: Christian Discipleship Seminars*. The 16-session booklet is designed to help seekers make life-changing commitments to Christ, to the church, to spiritual disciplines and to a ministry in the church or mission in the world. *Begin Anew* (98 pages) can be downloaded for free in English or Spanish at www.commonword.ca/go/89.

His popular *What is an Anabaptist Christian?* booklet is also free to download at www.commonword.ca/go/48 and is available in 9 languages.



Growing mushrooms in coffee grounds is a new recipe for helping urban churches in Colombia strengthen their self-sustainability. Congregations who start small enterprises like this idea are taking root in Mennonite Church Canada's International Ministry's work in numerous countries.

Church Mushrooms

Growing fungi in coffee grounds may help urban churches in Colombia grow in self-sustainability. Hippolyto Tshimanga, Mennonite Church Canada's Director of Africa Ministry and Latin America Ministry, is on a quest to bring economic sustainability to church communities. He's found that one of the best ways to do that is through small business endeavours that also provide economic support for families – like growing mushrooms

Pastor Rodrigo Preciado of La Mesa Mennonite Church attended a training session in Bogotá with an expert mushroom grower. This inspired him to initiate a mushroom growing project with La Mesa. Tshimanga reports that the La Mesa project is planting seeds for future church growth by including not only church members, but people in the wider community.

Mennonite Church Canada invites you to share these Celebration Snapshots with your Congregation through your church newsletter, bulletin board, website or other communication avenue. They take no more than 2 minutes to read.

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11



An Anabaptist/Mennonite peace church is growing in Macau, a Special Administrative Region of China economically driven by the gambling industry. Through cell groups, English classes, children's classes, and friendship evangelism, the Macau team invites working class people to join a community of people who follow Jesus.

A Global Effort

Did you know that our congregational support allows Mennonite Church Canada to minister in more than 20 countries around the world, helping to grow self-sustaining churches?

Through the efforts of 35 Witness Workers, we encourage faith communities and train seekers of Christ in discipleship and leadership. We do so creatively, being mindful of different perspectives and cultures, knowing that God is at work before we arrive and after we leave.

Like Macau Mennonite Church, where George and Tobia Veith have served for 18 years. The congregation is now led by local pastors Treasure and Bailey Chow and continues to grow as an Anabaptist/Mennonite peace church, reaching out to the wider community in ways that meet local needs.

Thank you for your support of the wider church!

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