



The rapidly growing church in Ethiopia is hungry for biblically trained leaders. These first year students were delighted to say a personal thank you to Listowel Mennonite Church for their Bibles when Pastor Norm Dyck and Fanosie Legesse (Bethel MC) delivered leadership training sessions in response to an invitation from Meserete Kristos Church.

## *Hungry for Biblical Leaders*

The church in Ethiopia is working hard to supply biblically trained leaders for a rapidly growing church – but it's hard to keep up with the demand. In response to an invitation from Meserete Kristos Church, Mennonite Church Canada sent Fanosie Legesse (Bethel MC, Elora, Ont.) and Pastor Norm Dyck (Listowel MC in Ont.) on a short term assignment to help train new church leaders.

From March 10-28, Legesse and Dyck provided train-the-trainer classes that students could take back into their own communities and share to grow more leaders. First year students also received English study Bibles from Listowel Mennonite Church.

"The joy the students expressed is impossible to describe in words," Dyck wrote on his blog, [revnd.blogspot.ca](http://revnd.blogspot.ca).



Mennonite Church Canada peace ministries in the Philippines bring together Christians, Muslims, and Indigenous peoples into Peace and Reconciliation teams to help de-escalate violence in conflict zones and deliver aid in the face of natural disasters. After learning about this ministry on the Internet, an ecumenical gathering in Germany contributed \$1,600 Euros to this Philippines ministry.

## *World War II Anniversary Connects Christians in Four Countries*

When an ecumenical group met recently in Dresden, Germany, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the city's destruction in World War II, they chose to make a gift of peace to help ease conflict in another country.

Online, the group found compelling stories of Mennonite Church Canada's peace ministry in the Philippines. A collection gathered at the commemorative service amounted to \$1,600 Euros and was dedicated to peace ministry in conflict zones around Mindanao, Philippines.

Participants attending the service represented churches in Dresden, Germany and Coventry, England. Coventry suffered a similar fate during World War II. Since then, Dresden and Coventry have become "twin cities" in search of reconciliation and understanding.



Muslim and Hindu students took part in a Leap in Faith art workshop during Spring Break, 2015. The workshop, led by gallery curator Ray Dirks with fellow artists Manju Lodha and Isam Aboud, encouraged sharing, respect and acceptance of one another across cultural and faith differences.

## *Can You Draw God?*

During a Leap in Faith art workshop at Mennonite Church Canada's Heritage Centre Art Gallery in Winnipeg, a six year old Hindu girl painted a Hindu temple with several empty spots. Gallery curator and artist, Ray Dirks asked why she had not painted inside the alcoves.

"I don't know how to draw God," she responded.

A six year old Muslim boy beside her instantly piped in, "God is invisible."

These children belonged to a group of Muslim and Hindu students who spent their first afternoon of Spring Break at the gallery, where programming encourages sharing, respect and acceptance of one another across cultural and faith differences.

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



Mennonite Church Canada Archivist Conrad Stoesz provided historical photos and information on Mennonite conscientious objection for an exhibit at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The display provides tools and inspiration for people to make a positive difference in the world.

## *Mennonites Represent at Canadian Museum of Human Rights*

From the annals of Mennonite history to the walls of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the principles - and photographs - of conscientious objectors (COs) to war are in the national public eye.

Through his role as Archivist at Mennonite Church Canada, Conrad Stoesz contributed content for a wide display highlighting the experience of Mennonite COs. The display is intended to do more than simply highlight wrongs, but to give people tools and inspiration to make a positive difference in the world once they leave the museum.



Steve Heinrichs (pictured left) dedicated his personal vacation including weekends to “Watch and Pray” – a time of reflection and meditation on scriptural directives to respect and care for the land. He invited others to join him around a sacred fire from Easter Sunday through Earth Day (April 22).

## *Keeping a Vigil*

Steve Heinrichs grew up in urban Vancouver, giving little thought to creation care until he assumed the role of Mennonite Church Canada’s Director, Indigenous Relations.

Well-read on the history of Indigenous peoples, the land and climate change, he brings a big picture view to what is now a passion. New knowledge and insights drove him to develop the critically acclaimed book, *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry* – a collection of well known Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal authors, poets, and artists who create a conversation among themselves throughout the book, with a focus on caring for the earth.

From Easter Sunday through April 22 – Earth Day – Heinrichs dedicated his personal vacation time, including weekends, to reflect and meditate on scriptural directives to respect and care for the land. Part of that time was spent in prayer around a sacred fire with others who joined him.

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