



The Japan ministry of Mary Derksen and her late husband Peter helped nurture Oita MC and build lifelong friendships. Photo provided.

## *Lasting Relationships*

Mary Derksen and her late husband Peter (3rd from left and far right) helped grow the church in Japan by serving through the Commission on Overseas Mission, a predecessor to Mennonite Church Canada Witness. After retiring in 1999, the Derksens continued their relationships with friends in Japan.

In 2007, they were invited back to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Oita Mennonite Church. At age 17, Pastor Junji Sasaki (2nd from right) came to the Derksens's door with five friends after watching *The Ten Commandments* film. He asked the Derksens to teach them about the love of God.

Sasaki has now been pastor of Oita MC for almost 30 years, and is married to Mami (far left). Toshiko Oshita (2nd from left) is one of Oita's longest standing members. She became a nurse and then a mid-wife who went to Africa twice with a government program.



Photo provided

## *Children lead the way*

A futsal (soccer) park project in Gaborone, Botswana is springing to life with the help of children who are following God's lead. After connecting project roadblocks with the spiritual stronghold of Jericho, Witness workers Nate and Taryn Dirks decided to respond just as Joshua did: they walked around the park and prayed for God's will to be done. And who should they meet at the park? A young boy named Joshua – not a common name in Botswana – joined their walk! The obstacles to the project fell away and it received a boost from Mennonite Church Canada Sunday School children – a donation sufficient to install playground equipment and posts for a soccer/basketball court!

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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*



Photo provided by Moses Falco

## *Shared Lament*

On March 20, about 75 people gathered at Home Street Mennonite Church in Winnipeg to lament suicides epidemic at Pimicikimack Cree Nation (Cross Lake, Man.). Since mid-December 2015, six people have died by suicide, five of them youths, one a mother in her 30s. An additional 140 people have attempted or threatened to kill themselves in a recent two week period, and 100 children are on suicide watch.

The service was organized by Moses Falco, pastor at Sterling Mennonite Fellowship in Winnipeg, a congregation who partners with Pimicikimack. "Sometimes, we just need to sit with the pain and bring that to God," Falco wrote in a Facebook post.

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World Fellowship Sunday at the first Korean Anabaptist Conference hosted celebrations at Jesus Village Church, one of the oldest Anabaptist-related congregations in South Korea. Photo by Bock Ki Kim.

## *Anabaptist movement flourishing in South Korea*

The first Korean Anabaptist Conference took place on Jan. 30, 2016, gathering nearly 100 people together in downtown Seoul, Korea. "People want to see a healthy, biblical church, justice in the public square, and a tangible community based on the Anabaptist movement," says Bock Ki Kim, director of the Korea Anabaptist Center (KAC) and a Mennonite Church Canada Witness worker. "We hope that the conference can be a small catalyst for the future movement as well as a clear invitation to the participants to follow the way of Jesus Christ in their daily lives."

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