

March 2004, *Equipping*

A Moment for Celebration

We invite you to share the following story with your congregation. It takes about 2 minutes to read aloud. Perhaps your church has a tradition in which your mission or outreach committee shares a story on a monthly basis, or perhaps you'd like to start one in which these impact stories can be shared. You might also wish to include the story in your church newsletter. Thanks for considering sharing this with your congregation!

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The congregation in Zaporozhye has a building!



For the first time in 60 years, Mennonites in Zaporozhye, Ukraine have their own house of worship. On Christmas Eve 2003, the Zaporozhye Evangelical Mennonite Church finalized the purchase of a building just off Zaporozhye's main avenue. What a gift from God! During the Second World War, Mennonites were evacuated from the Chortitza region, their first place of settlement in Russia. Ten years ago a Mennonite congregation re-emerged. Jacob and Dorothy Unrau served this congregation as pastors for five years, concluding their term as Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers in summer 2003. Now a Ukrainian couple, Ivan and Violetta Dushenko, give pastoral leadership. For the past several years, the congregation has used a five-room apartment as its offices and rented a school auditorium for worship gatherings. The new building requires some major clean-up and repairs but is ideally located and an appropriate size for the congregation's purposes. The congregation thanks us in North America for providing the funds which made it possible for it to acquire its new home.

- A moment for celebration by Mennonite Church Canada WITNESS