

CALENDAR

We offer resources for...

Feb 5	Church Education Sunday
Mar 1	Ash Wednesday
Apr 14	Good Friday
Apr 16	Easter

Resource Update

- Highlights faith and church ministry resources that Mennonite Church Canada makes available by loan, sale or electronic download.
 - is distributed 10 times a year by Mennonite Church Canada in its congregational *Equipping* package.
 - For a free personal email subscription to the **Resource Update** contact resources@mennonitechurch.ca
 - Submissions of a special worship service, litany or celebration are always welcome. Share with us and other congregations!
 - Links in this publication are LIVE - just click to enter our website.
- Editor: Arlyn Friesen Epp
Designer: Lynette Wiebe

MC Canada DVD!

A new compilation DVD of MC Canada ministries in Canada and around the world includes:

- **An inspirational piece** that challenges who we are as the church and who we are called to be. Especially suitable at a congregational meeting.
- **An overview montage** of last year's Assembly in Charlotte, NC.
- **A musical documentary** of Mennonites exercising their passion for peace at the Peace Walk in Charlotte.
- **8 ministry profiles** of our work in Israel, Africa, Ukraine, China, Korea, Canada.



Is your Children's Club or Sunday School in need of a midwinter boost?

Early in that busy month of December, your church received a hard copy of the Burkina Faso KidsPak project in Equipping; a project for small and tall that can help your church grow in stewardship and mission.



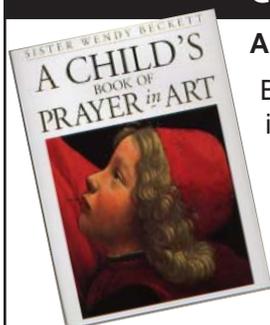
This latest KidsPak project shows how your financial and prayer support can help an ancient language come to life as Lillian Haas, who developed a Siamou alphabet and primer, is teaching eager readers to read their own language. This,

along with the patient witness of MC Canada workers in Burkina Faso, is empowering an increasing number of Burkinabe people to read God's word in their own language, and strengthening the small but vibrant Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso.

While you support this project, you can also learn about life in Burkina Faso if you watch the video, learn how to make some Burkinabe snacks, play some Burkinabe games and learn how to write your name in Siamou. Download KidsPak, Burkina Faso: In My Own Words: Lettering a Language! at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7071>, or call and ask us to send you a hard copy.

Childrens' Corner

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



A Child's Book of Prayer in Art, by Wendy Beckett, DK Publishing, 1995.

Beckett has selected paintings that can speak to children, illustrating the important values of love, respect and forgiveness. She helps children to prayerfully look and listen, gaining insight into art while developing a greater understanding of their own spirituality.

Children and adults alike will find enrichment and enlightenment as they contemplate the paintings and consider Beckett's thought-provoking commentaries and prayers.

Route to...

- Librarian
- Pastor(s)
- Worship Planners
- Education Coordinator
- Church Secretary

Statistics and Dreams



I'm writing this *Update* on the first day back to the Resource Centre in the new year. It's allowed me time for a bit of reflection:

I am grateful for:

- The numerous emails of encouragement and calls of appreciation as we work together to resource our congregations and families.
- A consistent increase in circulation during 2005: a whopping 42% jump from the year before.
- The 111 MC Canada congregations that I had direct contact with this past year, 59% of whom were from outside Manitoba.
- Tools of communication, including our online reservation service. In its second year, its usage jumped by 212%! I trust that in addition to phone and email contact, our website development will meet the needs of our geographically diverse, and increasingly technologically-driven constituency.
- Travels, where I have met some of you during workshops, worship, retreats, or around the display table at area conference settings.

I look ahead to 2006, and am excited about:

- Hiring a half-time assistant at the Resource Centre in the next months to help with a growing demand for resources and allow me more time for church visits.
- The continued development of a "one-door" web resource that will integrate all of MC Canada resources, offer e-commerce possibilities, and many more downloadable materials.
- The five persons who have recently been appointed as Resource Advocates in each of our Area Conferences: Monika Neufeld in BC; Tracy Ewert Brown in AB; Donna Schultz in SK; Marla Langelotz in MB; Lisa Carr-Pries in MCEC. In the next months they will be key people in the promotion of the new Sunday School curriculum Gather 'Round.
- Continued partnership in your own ministries whether we meet in person, talk by phone or email, or communicate on our website.

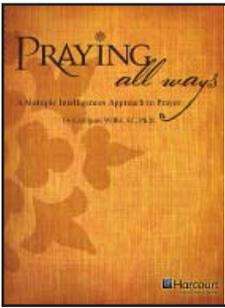
God's blessings to you, your family and congregation in this New Year! —Arlyn



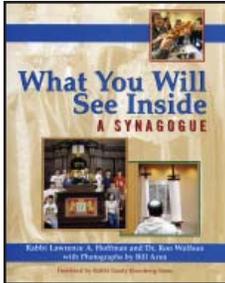
In on the Action?

Top 10 Rentals in 2005, in order of popularity:

1. ***Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book***, AMBS, 2004. Includes a two-week cycle of morning and evening prayers.
2. ***Let All Within Us Praise: Dramatic Resources for Worship***, by Patricia Shelly, Faith and Life Press, 1996. 45 scripture-based reader's theatre scripts and 16 original songs.
3. ***God's Story, Our Story***, by Michele Hershberger, Faith and Life Resources, 2003. This is an introduction to the Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective.
4. ***The Radicals*** (VHS-1990 and DVD-2004). The story of Michael and Margaretha Sattler dramatizing the 16th century origins of the Anabaptist movement in Europe.
5. ***Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives***, by Karen Marie Yust, Jossey-Bass, 2004. Provides insight and a variety of helpful tips for nurturing children's spiritual formation.
6. ***Tent of Meeting: A 25-Day Adventure with God***, by Julie Ellison White, Faith and Life Resources, 2004. A study guide to help youth grow spiritually through a variety of classical Christian disciplines.
7. ***A Generous Orthodoxy***, by Brian McLaren, 2004. Calls for a radical, Christ-centred orthodoxy of faith and practice in a missional, generous spirit.
8. ***Creation Chronicles***, by Ted and Lee, 1999. Both humorous and profound, the pair dramatically portrays 17 diverse characters from the Old Testament.
9. ***Words for Worship***, by Arlene Mark, Herald Press, 1995. Collection of prayers, litanies, and blessings to enrich and deepen corporate worship.
10. ***Second Mile, Pathway C: The Road to Emmaus***, Faith and Life Resources, 2004. The third of four "Pathways" that invite congregations and small groups to enter a peacemaking journey of worship, study, and action.

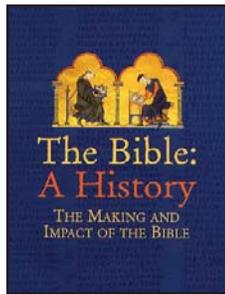


Praying All Ways: A Multiple Intelligences Approach to Prayer by Caroljean Willie. Through a myriad of prayer models, this book invites you to explore new ways to deepen your life of prayer.

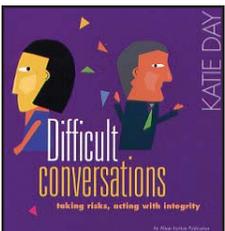
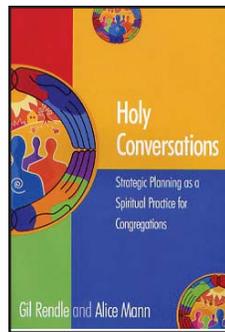


What You Will See Inside a Synagogue. A visual introduction to the traditions of Jewish faith and worship to help satisfy children's curiosity and broaden their awareness of other faiths. Also available in the series: *What You Will See Inside a Mosque* and *What You Will See Inside a Hindu Temple*.

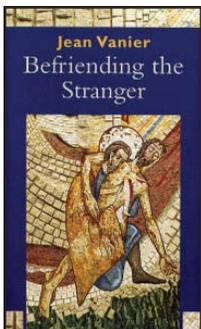
The Bible: A History - The Making and Impact of the Bible, Good Books, 2004. The extraordinary story of how the Bible came to be, and how it emerged as one of the most influential books in history.



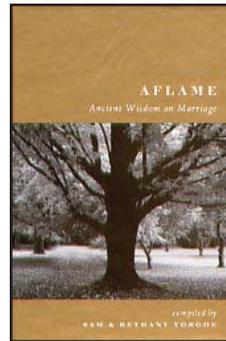
Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations, Alban Institute, 2003. A planning guide to help the congregation set strategic goals.



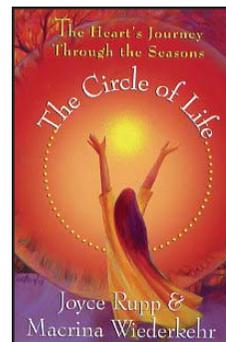
Difficult Conversations: Taking Risks, Acting with Integrity, Alban Institute, 2001. Difficult to talk about controversial issues at church? This book outlines how the church must become engaged in difficult conversations.



Befriending the Stranger, by Jean Vanier, 2005. Six meditative pieces that extend God's invitation to us today to create places of belonging where each one is loved and accepted with one's own fragility, abilities, and disabilities.



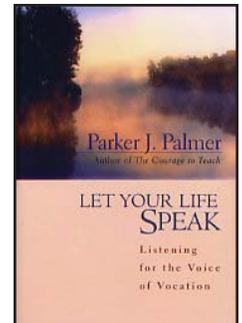
Aflame: Ancient Wisdom on Marriage, 2005. Offers ancient wisdom and scriptural reflection on eight aspects of marriage: unity, beauty, harmony, joy, purity, desire, fruitfulness, and fidelity.



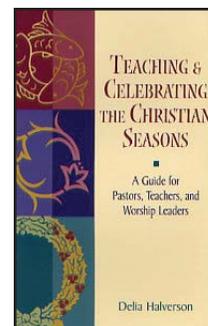
The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey through the Seasons, by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr, 2005. Using reflections, poems, prayers, and meditations, the authors invite us to listen carefully and closely to the wisdom of each season.

life I am living the same as the life that wants to live in me?" Parker shows that vocation is not a goal to be achieved but a gift to be received.

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation, by Parker Palmer, 2000. "Is the



Why You Should Give Your Pastor a Sabbatical, Alban Institute, 2001. A video with

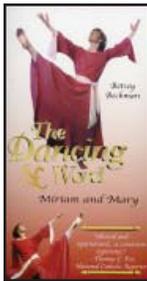


study guide that makes the case for clergy sabbaticals as a way of retaining congregational vitality.

Teaching and Celebrating the Christian Seasons: A Guide for Pastors, Teachers and Worship Leaders by Delia Halverson, 2002. Helps congregations understand and incorporate into the life of the church the symbols, colours, and practices of the church year.



Elbow Room, National Film Board of Canada, 2002. A short animated video suitable for conflict-resolution training. Fourth video in the *ShowPeace* series.



The Dancing Word: Miriam and Mary. Here, on video, is the Bible - and two of its most important women - made powerfully present with expressive dance, symbol and artistry. Study guide included.

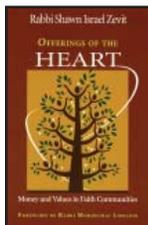
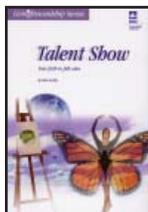


Bullying: A Spiritual Crisis, by Ronald Cram, 2003. Cram identifies bullying as a spiritual crisis and writes from a theological/spiritual perspective. Offers resources and suggestions to assist leaders as they address bullying in the home, school and church.

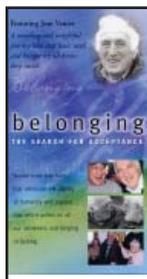
Talent Show: Your Faith in Full Colour, Mennonite Mutual Aid, 2005.

A practical study about discerning and using our God-given talents. Third in the *Living Stewardship Series*.

Offerings of the Heart: Money and Values in Faith Communities, Alban Institute, 2005. Provides texts and tools to help congregational leaders approach financial resources as core means to build and maintain whole and holy lives in a communal setting.



Belonging: In Search of Acceptance, 2002. In this video, Jean Vanier explores prophetic, counter-cultural ideas regarding human fulfillment. Shares life-changing insights into the human search for acceptance.



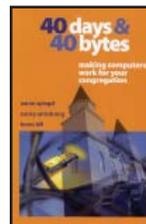
Peace Quest: Nurturing Peace within the Self, Relationships, Society, and the Planet, by Kelly Guinan, 2002. A collection of exercises for children to build feelings of inner peace and also to build their skills for making peace with others. Lots to offer teachers and parents. Also recently acquired by the same author: *Go With Peace: Enriching*



the Lives of Children through the Pursuit of Peace for All.



One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship, Alban Institute, 2003. Seeks to help bridge the gap between the human tendency to prefer ethnic and cultural homogeneity in worship and the church's mandate to offer a more diverse and inclusive experience.



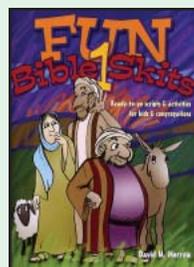
40 Days and 40 Bytes: Making Computers Work for Your Congregation, Alban Institute, 2004. Explores technology so your congregation can decide, from a ministry and culture standpoint, what you need to do. The goal: godly service - not technological glitz.

www.congregationalresources.org: A Guide to Resources for Building Congregational Vitality, Alban Institute, 2005. Examines key books, organizations, web sites, and people that will help leaders gain an understanding of issues facing their faith communities.

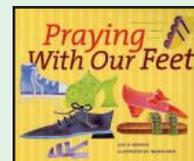
From our Press

New from Mennonite Publishing Network

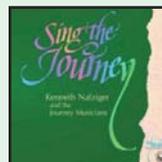
Available from the Resource Centre for a free preview loan.
To purchase, call MPN at 1-800-245-7894.



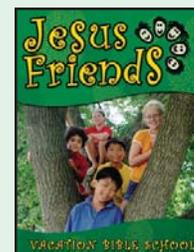
Fun Bible Skits 1: Ready-to-go scripts and activities for kids and congregations, by David Morrow, Faith and Life Resources, 2005. 25 ready-to-go biblical scripts and activities for kids and congregations. Great for clubs, retreats, camp, Sunday school, or worship



Praying With Our Feet, Herald Press, 2005. A children's story told from the point of view of a young girl who takes part in a walk for peace, along with her parents and members of her church.



Sing the Journey CD. An audio CD to help acquaint congregational leaders and members with *Sing the Journey: Hymnal Supplement 1*.



Vacation Bible School 2006: Jesus Friends. This year's Mennonite VBS resource will teach children how to reach out "across the street and around the world." Free sample materials and ordering information at www.mph.org/vbs.



Gather 'Round Sunday School Curriculum Begins Fall 2006. Find price lists, Bible outlines, unit themes, samples and full product details at www.gatherround.org.