



INTOTEMAK

MY FRIENDS

INTOTEMAK – FALL 2005
Volume XXXIV No. 3



Mennonite
Church
Canada

Witness

What about Charlotte?

The Charlotte Assembly, held from July 4 – 9, 2005 was the first since Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA were formed as separate, closely related church bodies.

Charlotte is a city characterized by lush growth, cobblestone streets, many fountains, antique trolleys and trains, and mammoth convention facilities that could accommodate more than 8500 of us (4,000 youth and 5,000 plus adults and children) in air-conditioned comfort.

The assembly, above all, was characterized by vibrant, inclusive, creative worship services every morning focused on the theme *Can't Keep Quiet* based on Acts 4:20.

These services included a wide variety of sacred music, testimonials, drama, videos, and sermons delivered by people representing Colombia, the African-American community, the Caucasian community, and the North American Native community.

Special activities included tours, an ice cream social, workshops, concerts, great children's and youth programs, the opportunity to donate blood, service projects, and joint services for all age groups, to mention only a few.

What role did Native people and their organizations play in this massive assembly? A fairly significant role, I believe. In the Mennonite Church Canada sessions Native Ministry was included in the reporting. The Manigotagan Community Chapel was featured by sharing its history, current activities, and its dreams for locally trained pastoral leadership.

Native Ministry of MC Canada and Native Mennonite Ministries of MC USA shared a display booth. Many people filed by and looked at pictures, books, and artifacts and left with a copy of *Intotemak* in hand. Many good contacts were made and many conversations took place in the exhibit hall.

I was privileged to conduct a workshop entitled *Reshaping Native Ministry in Canada*. We focused on the Partnership and Ministry Circles we have formed and are forming and in which Native and non-Native

churches learn from and share with each other, and engage in joint ministries. Miles Reimer shared briefly about the newly formed Native Mennonite Ministries in the USA, while Harley Eagle depicted the work of Aboriginal Neighbours of MCC Canada (Native Ministry is privileged to be part of this). Steve Cheramie Risingsun (a Houma pastor in Alabama and New Orleans) presented a workshop on *Faith and Culture*.

Lawrence Hart, a close friend of many of us in Canada, and a Southern Cheyenne peace chief, was given a "peace pitcher, by the Peace and Justice Network of MC USA in a very moving ceremony. Please look for more information on this award elsewhere in this issue.

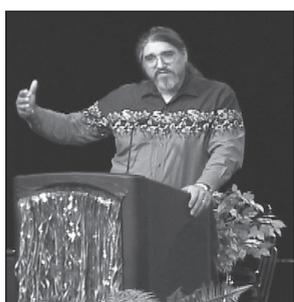
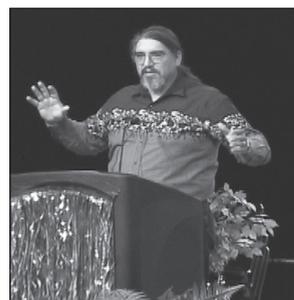
Finally, Ray Aldred, a pastor, originally from the Swan River Cree Nation in Alberta shared in a powerful way during the last worship service



on the morning of July the 9th. In the midst of following the theme, *Can't Keep Quiet*, Aldred shared how he had been reintroduced to the Christian faith through the stories and influence of his own people, especially by the elders.

You can see that in many different ways, including around the meal table, Native people were actively involved in the Charlotte Assembly.

Walter Franz
Native Ministry Director



Daily Vacation Bible School

Riverton and Manigotagan

Riverton

The Riverton Fellowship Circle church was privileged to have a group from the Douglas Mennonite Church join us for a week-long DVBS. 9 youth along with their leaders arrived on Sunday, July 17th, in time to participate in our worship service, and join us for a fellowship lunch.

Their days consisted of some volunteer work at the Friendship Centre, and the MCC Thrift shop. They spent some time each day preparing for the evening sessions.

Approximately 35 kids showed up each night. The youth and the children had a wonderful time together. A comment made by one of the parents was, "they showed our children love"!! Their enthusiasm and energy, as they interacted with the children was a joy to see. We were so blessed to have them here.

*Elaine Slough
Riverton, Manitoba*

From July 17-21, 2005 a group of 9 Senior High Youth and 3 Adult sponsors from Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg spent time in the community of Riverton, Manitoba. In partnership with the Riverton Fellowship Circle, we prepared and lead a 4 day "Veggie Tales" evening Vacation Bible School program, for children ages 4 to 13. During the day we volunteered at the MCC Thrift shop, the Friendship Centre Day Camp and worked on the MCC voluntary service workers' home.

Our group was warmly received by the community of Riverton and members of the Riverton Fellowship Circle. We were thrilled by the wonderful turn-out at our Vacation Bible School program each night. It was wonderful to meet and build relationships with the children from the community. One of the highlights of our trip was the opportunity to attend the treaty days at Peguis First Nation. We were amazed by the beauty of the singing and dancing that we witnessed



at the pow-wow. This is an experience that we will remember for a very long time. Many of our group members also enjoyed searching the shelves of the MCC Thrift store for "treasures". A number of people returned home with "new" unique wardrobe items.

It was a privilege for us to spend a few days of our summer serving and learning in Riverton. We encountered the presence of God as we worshipped and served him in a new

setting. We hope that God will continue to provide us with opportunities to meet together with the people of the Riverton Fellowship Circle and their community.

Group Members: Katrina Sklepowich, Cory Funk, Gabrielle Wiebe, Amanda Pauls, Jami Krahn, Emmanuel Allieu, Zachary Fast, Devin Ollinger, Carla Van Doeselaar, Luke Enns, Foort & Ruth Bruinooge

Ruth Bruinooge, Youth Pastor



Manigotagan

Two weeks ago, I went on our youth group's annual venture to the small aboriginal town of Manigotagan. This was my first time on the trip, and I now regret that I hadn't taken up the opportunity years earlier. Not only were we there to run a daily VBS program for the kids, but also to form relationships and friendships with the kids and with each other.

One might think that the cultural differences between our two communities might present a barrier that would have to be crossed, but, in fact, it was quite the contrary. The kids were friendly, immensely outgoing, and extraordinarily eager to participate. I have been involved in several DVBS programs at Steinbach Mennonite over the years, and I have never experienced such an enthusiastic and welcoming group. I'm not sure whether it is a cultural characteristic or not, but I found it immeasurably easier to become close to these kids than it was to even get the kids from our church to participate. A lot of them were extremely affectionate, frequently dishing out hugs, tickles, or requesting (demanding) piggy back rides and the like. It was extremely self-fulfilling, and gave each and every one of our group an enormous boost in self-confidence. Not only were the kids amazing, but the setting was peaceful and serene. We were even lucky enough to experience a meteor shower, as well as some of the most impressive northern lights I have ever seen.

On the day that we left, the kids made us feel like celebrities. They would come up to us with pens and paper wanting us to sign and give our email addresses so we could keep in touch. They crowded the bus as we left, calling our names and giving us high fives through the windows. Some even ran with the bus as we pulled out. I have rarely felt so loved. I definitely saw God at work that week, and very much wish to return next year.

*Luke Janzen
Steinbach Mennonite Church Youth*



This summer, I participated in the annual youth group service project to Manigotagan, a primarily aboriginal community in which we, the youth, take on the task of teaching the children there Daily Vacation Bible School for a week. I also participated in this trip last year, and it was very interesting for me to compare the two experiences. Last year, we had three youth and two sponsors, and were in charge of approximately forty kids. Naturally, it was a rather overwhelming experience. With five of us trying desperately to keep forty kids under control for a whole week, one definitely learns to put one's trust in God. This year was a rather different experience, in that we had thirteen youth and two sponsors (and about the same amount of kids). It was certainly less hectic than last year, but it was still a wonderful experience. As last year's group had naturally bonded quite closely, I was a bit skeptical as to what would happen with a group so much larger. To my surprise, however, I found that our group bonded as closely, if not even more so, than last year's group.

Another great part of the week for me was meeting the kids who I had connected with last year, and growing even closer to them. At Manigotagan, I reconnected with old friends as well as making wonderful new friendships, both with the children there and with others within our own youth group. Furthermore, I found that in growing closer to my friends, I also grew closer to God.

Although it is not usual for graduates of the youth group to return to Manigotagan (except as sponsors, of course), those of us on the trip who graduated this year had such a wonderful experience that Randy has extended the offer for us to return next year. This is an offer which I would love to accept, and, God willing, I greatly look forward to returning next year and growing even closer both to the Manigotagan youth and to those in my own youth group.

*Nevin Climenhaga
Steinbach Mennonite Church Youth*

Food Justice Camp visits Matheson Island, Pine Dock and Riverton

“We have tasted food justice and it is delicious!” was one person’s assertion at the conclusion of an ecumenical Food Justice Camp that was held in Winnipeg from August 15 to 21.

The camp brought together 40 people, ranging in age from 19 to 89, from four Canadian provinces. They represented Mennonite, Anglican, United Church, Catholic and other Christian denominations. The event was spearheaded by the Anglican Church of Canada, with support from Mennonite Central Committee Canada, Mennonite Church Canada, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the United Church of Canada.

Why is junk food cheap and healthy food expensive? Why does hunger exist alongside excess? Why do some agricultural communities die and others remain vibrant? What are the ecological issues of our food system? What are the biblical and spiritual values that under gird food choices? These were just some of the questions explored by camp participants through worship, Bible study, special presentations, group discussions and immersion experiences.

For three of the six days, sub-groups of campers headed off to learn about food issues in different parts of the province. The five “immersion sites” included: several fishing communities, an organic farm, a mixed farm, an area where industrial agriculture is practiced, and the inner city of Winnipeg. The immersion experiences were the highlight of the week for most campers.

The fisheries group was hosted by Neil and Edith von Gunten, longtime Mennonite Church Canada workers in Riverton, Matheson Island and other northern communities. At Matheson Island, two local fishers, Ron Whiteway and Brent Smith, took the group out in their fishing boats. Campers helped to “lift” the fishnets and to remove pickerel from the nets. They also received lessons in filleting.

At Pine Dock, after a lively discussion time and lunch with local residents at the community hall, Clifford and Violet Lea gave campers a tour of the local fishing station. Here fish is measured and weighed, packed in ice, and loaded into big trucks for a trip to the processing plant near Winnipeg. Campers were also introduced to the special equipment needed for ice fishing in winter.

Campers learned that the existence of a Freshwater Fish Marketing Board, created by the government in the 1970s, improved life for fishers from the days when privately-owned American fish companies dominated the scene. Now a quota system ensures that the fish supply is protected, and that local fishers can earn a decent income. However, there is a down side. Fishers do not have input into the decisions of the Board. Moreover, some types of fish, that could feed hungry people, are thrown away because there is no market for them.



Some fishers are also concerned about the quality of water in Lake Winnipeg and what that means for the fisheries. Agricultural run-off and poorly treated sewage has increased the nutrient levels in the lake. This could have a serious impact on fishing in the future.

During their last night in the Riverton area, campers and members of the Riverton Fellowship Circle pooled ingredients and efforts to cook a festive meal of local foods – pickerel from the lake, mushrooms from a nearby forest, beets and other vegetables from an organic farm, as well as bannock and pie prepared by local baker Ernie. A spirit of unity in Christ was present as these “loaves and fishes” became an abundant feast, with plenty of leftovers.

Back in Winnipeg, all the campers shared stories of hope and struggle from their various immersion sites, and brainstormed ways to be engaged in promoting food justice. They agreed that food justice brings together economics, ecology and community. Where everyone has enough, where the earth and its waters are sustained, and where communities are healthy, there is food justice.

*Esther Epp-Tiessen
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

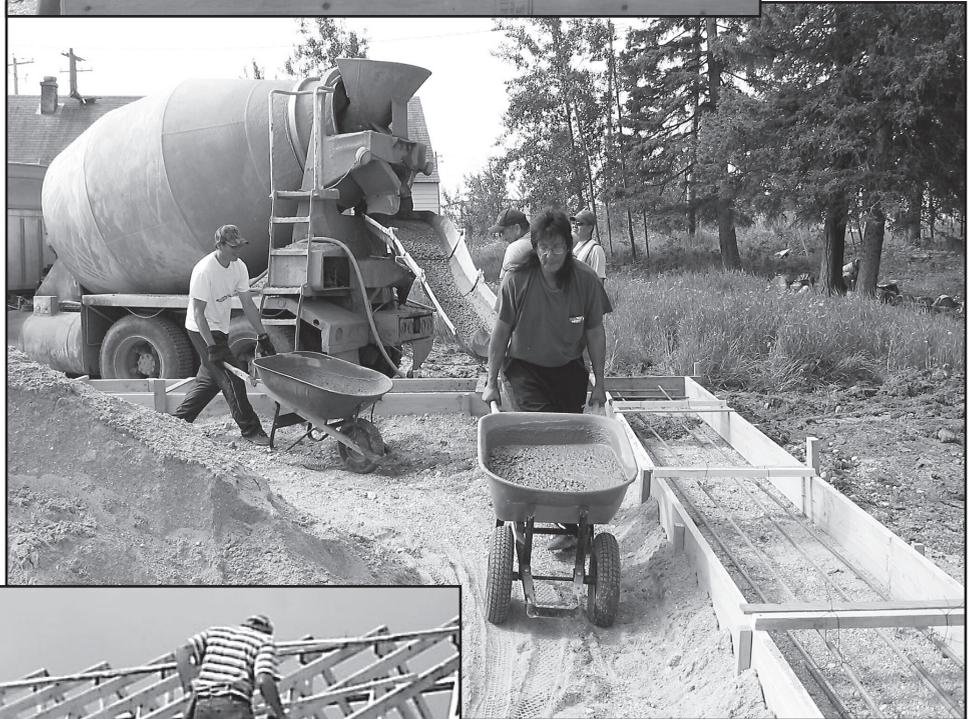


Living Word Church Construction Update

The Living Word Church in Cross Lake continues to work on their new building. All the sheathing is done. The next stage is installing the doors, windows, siding and roofing. Local volunteers, trades-people and the band office are generously pitching in to help with the building. Other Mennonite Church Manitoba congregations, individuals and business people are also contributing funds and materials for this project. Volunteers are needed for interior work such as insulating, dry walling and taping, floor installation and finishing crews.

A shortage of materials and wet weather slowed building progress over the summer. Due to these delays, the October dedication date is no longer possible. We will keep you informed about the date for a building blessing and dedication service. Please continue to pray for the congregation and volunteers as they work to make this dream a reality.

*Norm Voth
Director of Evangelism and
Service Ministries
Mennonite Church Manitoba*



Leadership Changes in Native Ministry

Walter Franz retires

Walter Franz, long time worker with Mennonite Church Canada, is retiring from his role as Director of Native Ministry in mid-October. For the last 15 years Walter has served and contributed in numerous ways within MC Canada. He began as Director of Native Ministry in 1990 and in 1995 became the Executive Secretary for the Ministries Commission for a four year period, after which he again gave leadership to the Native Ministry program. Within that time period he also directed the ministry with "Umsiedler" (immigrants) in northern Germany (1997 – 2002).

Walter has had a long and varied career working in the church. Walter began his work in the church as a pastor in 1964. He served two congregations, Osler Mennonite & Altona Bergthaler and was also a teacher and principal at the Swift Current Bible School. His experience as a pastor and teacher stayed with him and these roles and gifts flavoured his ministry with Mennonite Church Canada.

Walter has faced numerous challenges over the years. He has always carried a deep concern and empathy over the struggles that face Native communities across Canada. He has always shown a deep desire for Native and non-Native communities to build closer relationships and share their gifts. Walter has graciously worked through the ebb and flow of transition, which included refocusing of the Native Ministry program. He has also struggled with health issues.

There have also been many, many moments of joy and celebration. Walter's deep love and care for the people he has gotten to know over these many years will continue to carry him into his retirement years. He has built many relationships over the years, always with a pastoral edge. There have been many joy filled moments in linking people together through summer camps and DVBS. Walter put vast energies into developing partnership circles. This

places grass roots people, grounded in the church, side by side, getting to know each other and sharing in each others lives; giving 'feet' to the dreams in the heart. We believe God's vision for the church is this sharing of gifts and celebration of a diverse group working for the same end – a body of believers, building God's kingdom here 'on earth as it is in heaven'.



Mennonite Church Canada Witness continues its desire to extend God's love and reconciling nature across the street and around the world. Native Ministry will continue the focus on leadership development, constituency education, facilitating partnerships and networking. Neill and Edith von Gunten, well known among Native communities, particularly in Manitoba, will begin as Co-directors of Native Ministry in mid-October. We welcome the gifts they bring and their understanding of and long history with Native peoples.

*Kathy Fast
Coordinator of National Ministries,
MC Canada Witness*

Thank You

It has been an incredible journey, and we want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making it possible for us to spend the past 36 years living and working in several Manitoba Native communities. We have now moved to Winnipeg in preparation for the next phase of our ministry that will begin this fall, as we share the position of Native Ministry Director and Partnership Facilitator with Mennonite Church Canada Witness.

Those of you in the constituency of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada (that became Mennonite Church Canada) have made it financially possible for us to spend these many years on your behalf in Bloodvein River (two short-term assignments while

attending Canadian Mennonite Bible College), Manigotagan (six years), and Matheson Island, Pine Dock, Loon Straits and Riverton the balance of the time. We are grateful that the First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana, has made it financially possible for us to continue our ministry the past two years as well.

We want to thank

each one of you in the Native communities in which we have worked and visited. You have accepted us so warmly and made us a part of your communities and personal lives. You have taught us so much and been such a support to us personally. Your hospitality and generosity has always extended to the many other people we have



Community News and Notes

Births

Alexander Michael Wiebe was born to Kathi (von Gunten) and Greg Wiebe of London, Ontario on August 17, 2005. He is also welcomed into their home by his brother Tyler. Alexander's grandparents are Neill and Edith von Gunten and Art and Alma Wiebe of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dedications

Several children were dedicated to the Lord at services led by Neill von Gunten of Riverton, Manitoba:

Hannah Noreen Ladouceur of Matheson Island, Manitoba, was dedicated during the June 19, 2005 church service at the Matheson Island Chapel. Hannah's parents are Michelle Ladouceur and the late Ernest Mowat Jr.

Braedin John Sigursteinn Melsted and **Lavery Wallace Lifman Melsted**, sons of Shawn and Melissa Mowat

introduced you to over the years who have visited your community.

Our children arranged a community tea in our honour in Riverton on the afternoon of August 6, and presented us with a handcrafted memory box filled with pictures and words of encouragement from a variety of people in the area. It was a wonderful surprise, kids! Thank you to everyone who came and those who helped our children make it a delightful afternoon for us!

To the people of Pine Dock -- Thank you for the supper you had for us on August 12. The feast was delicious as usual!! It was a joy to hear the children sing their DVBS songs from that week and to play several songs on the fiddle for us. You know that hearing them play is always a treat for us! We are honoured by your gift to us as a community and look forward to seeing which picture you select for us of your community. Symbolically receiving the

keys to your community is also a great honour. Thank you for everything!

August 21 was our last Sunday as pastors of the Riverton Fellowship Circle. We spent the morning service time sharing Scripture, songs, and personal comments. A delicious potluck dinner and time for visiting followed the service. The church congregation presented us with a beautiful star blanket to remember them by and a scrapbook with each of their pictures and some comments.

Our contacts with these communities will now be different since we are no longer in a pastoral role in their midst; however, we have said "so long" (not "good by"), as friends do when someone moves away. Our paths will still intersect as we all work together to further God's kingdom in this world.

*Neill and Edith
von Gunten
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

Melsted, were dedicated in a ceremony at their home near Arnes, Manitoba, on June 30, 2005.

Shayne Owen Garnet Johnston and **Carl Bryson James Johnston** were dedicated at a ceremony at their home in Pine Dock, Manitoba, on July 23, 2005. The boys are the sons of Laurie Rosser and Dwayne Johnston.

Natasha Jean Danielson was dedicated during the Sunday morning service at the Riverton Fellowship Circle on July 24, 2005. Natasha's parents are Dianne Danielson and Daryl Zagozewski. of Riverton, Manitoba.

Birthdays

Jean Simundson of Pine Dock, Manitoba, was the guest of honor at a 70th birthday party on Sunday, July 10, 2005. The celebration was held at her son Chuck's home in Winnipeg and was hosted by Jean's five children. Congratulations, Jean!

Edgar Mowat of Matheson Island, Manitoba, celebrated his 65th birthday on July 23, 2005. His family and friends hosted a delicious pig roast barbecue in his honour over the supper hour.

Congratulations, Edgar!

Ellen Lea of Pine Dock, Manitoba, celebrated her 80th birthday recently. Her children held an open house tea in her honour at the Riverton Fellowship Circle on Sunday afternoon, July 24, 2005. The Pine Dock Fiddlers and Pine Dock Square Dancers entertained the family and friends who came to celebrate with Ellen.

Ellen presently lives in the Fisher River Personal Care Home and a group of residents also came along in the van for the celebration.

Congratulations, Ellen!

Pearl Selkirk of Pine Dock, Manitoba celebrated her 65th birthday recently. Her family surprised her with a barbecue supper at her home on Saturday, August 6, 2005.

Congratulations, Pearl!

Weddings

Susan Selkirk and **Dean Klatt** were married on July 30, 2005. The Saturday afternoon ceremony was held in the garden at Captain Kennedy House on River Road in the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews, Manitoba. A family supper and social evening was held at the Selkirk Recreational Centre following the ceremony.

Susan is the daughter of Pearl Selkirk, and the late Chuck Selkirk, of Pine Dock, Manitoba. Dean's parents are Irene Klatt of Selkirk and Leonard Klatt of Victoria Beach, Manitoba.

Congratulations, Susan and Dean!





Jacqueline Michelle Irvine and Blair Harley Mowat of Winnipeg, Manitoba, were joined in marriage on Saturday, August 27, 2005 at the Kildonan United Church in Winnipeg.

Jacqueline's parents are Carol and Steve Sukich of Winnipeg. Blair's parents are John and Ann Mowat of Matheson Island, Manitoba.

Congratulations, Jacqueline and Blair!

Anniversaries



Murray and Gwen (Selkirk) Olafson of Riverton, Manitoba, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with family and friends on Saturday, August 20, 2005. The couple's three children hosted a barbecue supper and

boce tournament in their parents' honour at their home. Congratulations, Murray and Gwen!

Deaths

Patience Viola Lillian Rose Munroe, born June 5, 2005, died suddenly on June 23, 2005 of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome at her home in St. Albert, Alberta.

Patience is survived by her parents, Brandi Hodgins and Melvin Munroe, formerly of Riverton, Manitoba; grandparents, Liz and Maurice Willis, Melvin and Pearl Knife and Harvey Hodgins; great-grandparents, Ina Commanda and Rose Gunn; uncle Clayton; aunts Jo-Anne, Ashley, Noelle, April, Megan, Brooke and numerous other relatives.

The funeral service was held at the Riverton Fellowship Circle on June 28, Neill von Gunten officiating. Burial was at the Hecla Island South Side Cemetery.

Gladys Baptiste of Little Grand Rapids passed away July 27 in Winnipeg after a long battle with illness at the age of 58. Her husband Allan with his family and many friends mourn her early passing. Interment took place at Little Grand with Albert Eaglestick officiating.

On August 11, 2005 **Melvina Vicki Lee Parenteau** (Chooch) passed away at the age of 24. Wake services were held at the Raymond Flett Memorial United Church in Winnipeg on August 17 and 18. The funeral service was held at the Aboriginal Funeral Chapel in Winnipeg with Rev. Menno Wiebe officiating. Interment followed at the Brookside Cemetery, Winnipeg.



She leaves to cherish her beautiful memory, one son Jacob, mother Elaine, her Father Melvin, stepfather Arnold Thompson, brothers Vincent, Kelvin and Melvin; sisters Helen, and Angela. Her common law husband Bradley Roulette; great grandmother Isabel Cook, grandmothers Merna Guiboche and Olga Parenteau and a large extended family. Melvina was predeceased by her son Jason.

On August 11, 2005 **Julius Many Bears** passed away at the age of 66. Wake services were held on August 15 and the funeral service was held on August 16. Both services took place at the residence of Lynden and Shannon Many Bears (Siksika Nation AB)

Julius leaves behind his loving wife Patricia; his sons Eugene (Darlene), Clark, Lynden (Shannon), Stuart (Adrienna) and Jonathon Many Bears, Rueben (Lorraine) Weasel Head, Stuart Big Snake and a large extended family and many friends.

Julius was predeceased by his parents James and Alice Many Bears; his sister Georgina Many Bears; his brothers, Carl and Francis Many Bears; his special daughters, Darlene Sitting Eagle, Darryl and Ramona Many Bears; and a grandchild Scotty Many Bears.



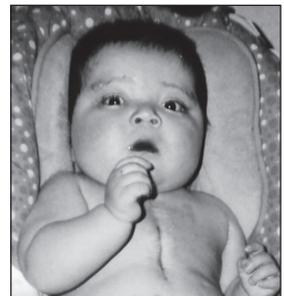
On August 13, 2005 **Madeline "Lae" Green** passed away at Seven Oaks Hospital in Winnipeg. She had lived her whole life of 79 years at Bloodvein. Both she and her husband were very faithful members in the work of the church. For a number of years she had struggled with different ailments. She was predeceased by her husband in 2001 leaving her children, grandchildren and many friends to grieve their loss. She was buried at Bloodvein with Henry Neufeld in charge.

Wendell Scott, originally of Bloodvein, passed away on Aug. 20 at the age of 20 years. He was born with many challenges, but had a great capacity of showing love.

He was predeceased by his parents and 3 siblings. He leaves behind his siblings Carol, Melvin, Derek, Willie, Angela, his common-law wife, many friends and relatives. Many mourn his early passing.

The funeral service was held at Aboriginal Funeral Home with interment at Glen Eden Memorial Gardens. Henry Neufeld officiated.

Jerome Tyron Bryant Blair Courchene was born with "left heart syndrome" on August 24, 2004 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He had only 2 chambers instead of 4, plus many other complications. He was sent to Edmonton Children's Hospital only hours after he was born and had 3 major heart operations and spent approximately 1/3 of his life in the hospitals in Edmonton and Winnipeg. But, God saw how tired he was getting and wrapped his



thoughts of tsuch

stark reminder
too deep for minds to grasp
and emotions struggling
outside of our control

and then
death arrives so unannounced
so out of plan and schedule
not according to design

when death comes
it devastates
cutting deep into the heart
of those remaining
to endure the grief

her destiny was not
for any of us to manage
nor can we choose her path
that leads from here

now that we are gathering
to bid farewell
and pay our last respect
we must do so helplessly
for she is now
within the guardianship
of God

*Menno Wiebe
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

Community News and Notes cont.

arms around him and said "Rest my child and come home with me." He passed away on July 8, 2005 in Pine Falls hospital.

Jerome is survived by his parents Edward and Romano, siblings Alexis, Edward Jr., Jada and Zachary, grandparents Clem and Edith Courchene and Henry and Prissilla Hardistry, great grandparents Frank and Annabella Moneyas, Katherine and Herman Courchene, and many aunts and uncles and numerous relatives, cousins and friends.

Jerome's wakes were held in the Hollow Water Community Hall beginning July 1, 2005. The funeral service was also held in the hall on July 15, 2005. Rev. Henry Neufeld officiated. Interment took place in the Anglican Parish Cemetery.

Mary Jane Benson of Bloodvein, Manitoba passed away at the age of 81 on September 4. She was predeceased by her husband. She was an ardent trapper and hunter. At one point she shot two moose with the use of a 22 rifle. For many, many years she was an active part of the church at Bloodvein. When health failed and was unable to take care of herself she became a resident of Central Park Lodge in Winnipeg from where she passed away after a bout with cancer. She leaves to mourn her family and many friends. Interment took place at Bloodvein with David Russel officiating.

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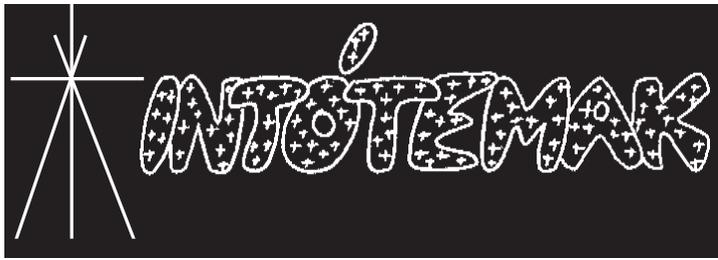
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Credits

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Page 10 – Melvina Parenteau – photo provided by Menno Wiebe
Page 10 – Julius Many Bears – Courtesy of the family
Page 10 – Jerome Courchene – photo provided by Edith Courchene

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Making INTOTEMAK even Better

Thank you for your ongoing interest in, and support for, this Native Ministry magazine. With this letter we are asking your input and direction for the future.

You will remember from the last issue of INTOTEMAK that Mennonite Church Canada Witness is committed to continuing to publish this magazine four times a year and, in fact, wants to strengthen and expand its outreach in the larger context of Native Ministry work.

The decision has been made to mail a copy of each issue to each address on our reader list so that the printed copies can be shared with others. This means that we will not move toward circulating the newsletter via e-mail at this time. Another recent development is that INTOTEMAK issues are also available on the Mennonite Church Canada website, www.mennonitechurch.ca

We need to update the computer software that is being used for INTOTEMAK so you will notice changes in layout in future issues. We are grateful that Tammy Sawatzky of Winnipeg is willing to use her expertise in that area and help us improve the format of the magazine. We have kept the same distinctive logo and front page for about 30 years now, and the question has come up of whether to keep it, alter it, or change it completely. What do you think?

The INTOTEMAK readership is a diverse group of people and churches from across Canada, the United States and even beyond. We would appreciate help from you, our readers, on how this goal to improve INTOTEMAK can best be accomplished to serve our mutual needs. We want to know what you think is most important for you to read, most challenging for you to learn about, and what will stimulate your faith even more.

Please e-mail imiller@mennonitechurch.ca with your comments, or fill out this questionnaire and send it to INTOTEMAK,
600 Shaftesbury Blvd.,
Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4.

Your feedback would be much appreciated.

With our appreciation for your response,

Walter Franz
Neill and Edith von Gunten
Native Ministry Office

How many people read your personal or organization's copy of INTOTEMAK?

Why do you read it?

What sections of the newsletter do you read most frequently? *(Please rank according to number, with # 1 being your first choice)*

1. Meditation (and Saulteaux translation) ____
2. News articles ____
3. Community News & Notes ____
4. Obituaries ____
5. Special interest articles ____
6. Other _____

What would you like to see more of? *(Please indicate your choice(s))*

1. News articles ____
2. Reports from Native churches and communities

3. Letters to the editor ____
4. Photographs ____
5. Community News & Notes ____
6. Provincial Native Ministry news ____
7. Issue-oriented articles – e.g. articles relating to developing church leadership, breaking down stereotypes, suicide, alcoholism, etc. ____
further ideas you would have _____
8. Recommended reading, book reports, listing new resources ____
9. Other _____

Is it time for a new logo, masthead and INTOTEMAK front cover title?

No ____ Yes ____ If yes, why?

We invite you to submit a sketch of a logo of your choice!