



INTOTEMAK

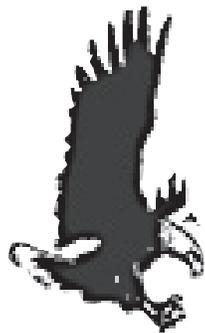
MY FRIENDS

INTOTEMAK – Winter 2005
Volume XXXIV No. 4



 Mennonite
Church
Canada

Witness



A View from the Eagle's Nest

Greetings to you from our new chair! We have moved to Winnipeg and are learning what it means to work in the Native Ministry office at Mennonite Church Canada instead of living and working in a rural community setting. The Canadian geese have been staying close by the office window this fall and their presence has been helping us in our transition to city life. We are excited about the challenges that lay before us and we ask you to remember us in your prayers.

For many years we were privileged to live in an area where we could see many eagles soaring through the sky or sitting on the branches of the spruce trees, especially in the fall of the year when they gather along the shores of Lake Winnipeg before heading south for the winter. The passage from Isaiah 40:31 has also come to have a special significance for our personal lives:

“Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.”

We saw several eagles as we traveled along the lake shore to Riverton on the Sunday morning of their Country Gospel Jamboree in early November. Seeing them was once more a confirmation to us that it is God, our Creator and Savior, that sees the big picture of life. We as God's children are asked to trust Him to lead us in the path that we should go.

There were two items that needed immediate attention when we began

our new position on October 17:

1) Norm Voth of Mennonite Church Manitoba was patiently waiting for us to help with the final planning for the upcoming Partnership Circle meetings with Native and non-Native churches in Manitoba on November 9-10 at Grace Mennonite Church in Winkler.

2) We are busily finalizing an agenda for the “cross-country” tour we will be making between now and Christmas on behalf of Mennonite Church Canada Witness. We will visit some Mennonite Church Canada congregations, the national and provincial conference staff members, the provincial Mennonite Central Committee Aboriginal Neighbors staff, and others involved in ministry with Aboriginal peoples in Canada. This “learning tour” will also include meeting people of other church denominations that are also working in this field. We are looking forward to discovering how we in Native Ministry can work together with people on many fronts, be a helpful resource to our congregations, and continue the dialogue between Native and non-Native congregations across the country so that partnerships will continue to develop and deepen between congregations. We look forward to meeting many of you as we travel over the years, and we welcome your input and direction as we discern the direction the Native Ministry program will take into the future.

Many of you will be interested to know that Native Assembly 2006 will be held next summer in Atmore, Alabama --July 24 - 27, 2006. Neill attended the semi-annual meeting



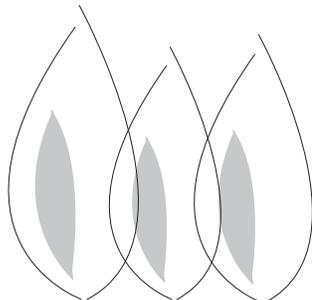
of Native Mennonite Ministries in Atmore on October 28-29, and he reports that much planning is underway! The theme, “God Is One ... We Are One”, is based on Ruth 1:16. If there is enough interest within Canada, we will find a bus or other suitable means of transportation that will make that trip possible for everyone who wants to attend. We need to know that you are interested, however, before we make any plans --so please let us know as soon as you can!

Thank-you to those that have responded to our questionnaire in the previous issue on “Making INTOTEMAK even Better”. We would appreciate hearing from more of our readers on suggestions, advice and guidance as we seek to make improvements to serve our mutual needs. *Please see the form on page 11...we'd love to hear from you!*

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you during this holy season.

That is all we have for now. Migwetch.

*Neill and Edith von Gunten
Co-Directors, Native Ministry*



THE SEASON of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before...

*Jan L. Richardson, Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of
Advent and Christmas*



MC Canada Witness staffing changes

Janet Plenert has been appointed as Executive Secretary for Christian Witness for Mennonite Church Canada effective January 1, 2006. This position became vacant after



Plenert

Jack Suderman accepted the call to become the General Secretary for Mennonite Church Canada. Janet is well-qualified for this task to which she brings a passion for national as well as international ministries that fall within the mandate of Christian Witness. Her experience in cross-cultural ministry and more recently in administration of the International Ministries prepares her for this new



Suderman

assignment. Her knowledge of the MC Canada constituency and the respect she has gained from churches and leaders as well as the Witness staff are also important gifts she will take into this new role. Jack Suderman succeeds Dan Nighswander, who served as General Secretary since 1999.

Welcome to Riverton

I am so glad that Walter Franz did not fully retire, but that he and Hilda have accepted our invitation for pastoral leadership at the Riverton Fellowship Circle church. They have been with us for two months now and enjoy their time in Riverton. Things are going good in the church and it is wonderful to see the children take part in the service. The church people enjoy their hospitality, their sense of humor, their love and respect for everyone.

Walter and Hilda, thank you so much for showing us how much you care and becoming part of our community!

*Love and peace,
Barb Daniels, Riverton, MB*

Letter from Robert J. Suderman, November 25, 2005

As Executive Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada Witness moving into a new role on December 1 as General Secretary of MC Canada, I want to highlight a few things.

Mennonite Church Canada Witness is a vibrant, relevant, competent, and cutting-edge department of our church. We want to foster and nurture the formation of Christian faith communities in many contexts (1st Witness priority). We want to encourage and resource congregations in their desire to connect with ministry and to be a dynamic "Kingdom" presence wherever they are (2nd Witness priority). I am very pleased with the way our staff and workers are ministering on behalf of the entire body.

The energy, innovation, and creativity that comes out of Witness, building the identity of the church includes: PrayerNet, World of Witness Directory (we want to be a praying church); Multi-cultural Ministry (we want to be a multi-ethnic church); Native Ministry (we want to walk with our First Nations people as they continue to make contributions and face challenges); Missional Formation staff (we want to be a missional church, aligning all vision and activities of our church with God's reconciling intentions for the world); and Congregational Partnerships department.

As I look forward to my new position as General Secretary and the challenges that will bring. I am excited about the priorities that have been discerned for the national church, namely to a) Strengthen our identity as the body of Christ b) To become more intentionally global and ecumenical as we think about our contribution to the world c) To develop and strengthen leadership at all levels to allow us to become the church we want to be. I also look forward to working with the new Statement of Identity and Purpose that the delegates approved at the assembly in Charlotte in July/05 (see www.mennonitechurch.ca).

Significant discussions have been and are taking place to deal with the diversity that is within us and to find ways to understand that as a strength that God has given to the church rather than as an obstacle to overcome. I ask for your continued support for Witness and the entire church as we move ahead into an exciting future as Mennonite Church Canada. May God richly bless you all. RJS

Manigotagan Community Chapel

The church extension project is underway; however, it is not progressing as quickly as we would have liked. We encountered a few unexpected delays along the way, not so much in the building part, but more in the digging. There are not many backhoes in the area and you have to be patient. God has put us to the test in this regard, especially Murray Martin, our "un-specified and on-site" project manager. Thanks, Murray, for your patience and commitment. We as a congregation wish to publicly extend God's blessings upon you.

I might add that God has blessed us with really good weather for the project, and we are thankful for that. We are also thankful for all the help we got from the congregational members and others in the area. Lastly, we are grateful for the financial help we received from various sources, thereby allowing us and encouraging us to go ahead with the project. Without your support, we would not have been able to do

it. We wish God's blessing on all those who gave of their time, skills, and money. It will be so nice when our bathrooms are complete and we don't have to use the outdoor biffy any longer.

Other Chapel News: After a number years of starting our Sunday morning service at 11a. m. and finishing at noon, we have recently (October 1, 2005) changed our starting time to 10:45 a.m. One of the reasons for the change was because our services were running a bit longer due to the many prayer requests. As a result, our closing prayer was being pushed back until around 12:30 p.m. This prevented some of our congregational members with health-related concerns, such as diabetes, from being able to eat at noon or shortly thereafter when they should have been eating. Readers, and especially those with diabetes, will understand that the intake of food at specific intervals is very important to avoid diabetes symptoms such as shakiness and/

DVBS “Scores Big” with Children at Matheson Island

“P.S. To the people of Matheson Island: Thank you for trusting us with your kids. We have learned to love each and every one of them.”



Grunthal Bergthaler Mennonite Youth.

For the week of August 8 - 12, the little log church at Matheson Island was transformed into “God’s All-Star Champions Stadium”. “Training camp” in the themes of bicycling, soccer,

baseball, hockey and mountaineering took the children’s straight to the Bible characters of Philip, Zaccheus, Elisha, King Josiah and Peter. They learned about needing the right equipment

to play the game correctly. Philip needed to have his feet shod with the gospel of peace. Zaccheus needed the Helmet of Salvation in making wise decisions. Elisha told the children about wearing the Breastplate of Righteousness. King Josiah presented the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God in the form of a hockey stick and Peter told them about the night he told three lies, how he repented and then realized how badly he needed to wear the Belt of Truth.

The walls echoed with the beautiful voices of children singing to the theme song that they could all be “All-Star Champions” in the kingdom of God and how they could be “safe at home plate”.

The grounds outside were transformed into training sites where the children enjoyed the theme sport of each particular evening.

Snack time on baseball night was enjoyed as they built their sundaes with ice cream on first base, caramel sauce on second; sprinkles on third, and whipped cream at home plate.

Craft time saw children kneeling on the floor and working on the benches as their tables.

Friday night we opened up the evening and invited Mom’s and Dad’s, Aunts, Uncles, Grannies and Grandpas to join us for a bonfire wiener roast.

We, the team, give praise to God for opening this door for us. With His incredible blessing, this project saw the population of the Island increase. Originally we had been told there would be no more than 14-20 children on the Island. Well, this number grew and grew, whereas one night we enjoyed 29 children and teens! As one gentleman said to us, “We don’t have that many children on the Island, you must be counting adults too.” Isn’t God amazing as He performs His wonders before our very eyes? What impact have we left? Only God knows as we sowed the seed with pleasure for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grunthal Bergthaler Mennonite Youth

or weak feelings. Again, we are thankful that we can control the start times of our services, like 15 minutes here or there, but we do want to acknowledge and thank God that He is the one who is in control of our life span and how our bodies react to certain needs.

We are also thankful that our congregation numbers are remaining strong. No one has left our church in the last year. In fact, it is fair to report that we have gained a few members. God is working in our lives and in the lives of those we serve. As one member from the community of Black River First Nation stated a few Sundays ago, “It is so good to come back home and be with my friends. This will be my home church from now on.”

Another person, who has a cottage in the area, recently stood up and announced that he has been to many churches, both large and small, but the Manigotagan Community Chapel is the one where he is “most blessed.” God is working in the lives of our people. It is our

job to make people feel welcome in the church. The Lord will do the rest. We invite all you readers to our Chapel. The church building may not be big enough, even with the addition, but in God’s big church, “His Creation,” just outside the walls of the chapel there is plenty of room.

In closing, I should add that the 25th Family Campout weekend in September went over very well. It went so well that people who attended are asking that we have it twice per year rather than just the one time. On that request, we are thinking of having one in the spring and then the usual one in the fall. We are asking all readers and those who have attended the Family Campout at one time or another to pray for this to happen. For now, we will leave it in the hands of the Lord.

“Listen to His voice today. If you hear it, don’t be stubborn. You were stubborn when you opposed Me (Psalm 95:7 & 8).

Norman Meade, Winnipeg, MB

2005 DVBS at Pine Dock

The DVBS program began at Pine Dock on August 8. The team arrived that day for a five-day program, but preparations had started months earlier. The Pine Dock community initiated a request for help with the spiritual needs of their children, and Norm Voht, Walter Franz and Neill and Edith von Gunten worked with the Pine Dock community and our church to make this transition happen.

We, at Grace Mennonite Church in Winkler have found a role in this transition. Fred and Helen Peters visit the community on a regular basis. They were our liaison people for finding accommodations for the DVBS team and setting the date and time for DVBS.

Many people from Grace church helped ahead of time to shop for groceries, prepare meals we could fix easily on site, get snacks for each day, paint posters for each lesson and otherwise prepare our sessions for each day.

It didn't take long after we arrived on Sunday night before a baseball game was started and other games played. Our free time and devotional and planning times as a group were in the mornings. The children began arriving at the nearby playground well before the 1 p.m. starting time. Chrissy, a child visiting in the community that week said, "I'm planning my visit for next year when the DVBS program is on!"

The sessions began with Autumn and Jodi and their puppets, Sport and Champ, using a skit to introduce the "armor of God" for each lesson. Sports themes



were used to illustrate the Biblical truths and some of the staff dressed up as Bible characters to play the part. The children were attentive and asked many questions.

On Monday each child received a music CD to take home. There was a song for each day that reflected on the theme. "Be Strong and Courageous" was a favorite and the children sang the song on Friday night at the community supper.

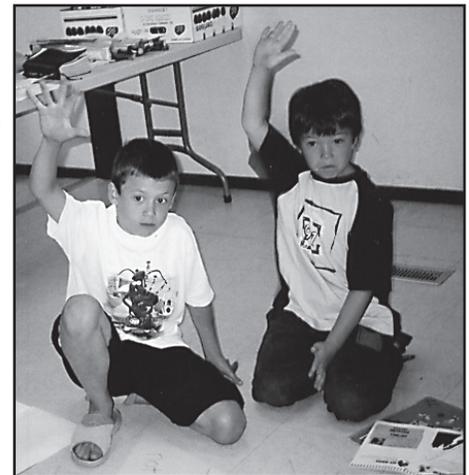
We had an enthusiastic and eager group for the outdoor games, full of energy, delight and fun. Craft time concluded the afternoon and there was always something to take home. The children decorated "God's All-Star Champion" water bottles, and their first-place winner ribbons said, "I'm a Winner on God's Team."

After the formal teaching time was over, the interaction continued with baseball and other games on the playground. Some of the fathers showed up to join in the play as well. The more senior group enjoyed visiting on the community deck, overlooking the playground, with the many community residents who stopped by during the

week!

A highlight of the week was the day Wilfred took his fishing boat out to set his nets. We got to go along for a fishing lesson. We watched the seagulls and pelicans fight for the discarded fish. Then a majestic bald eagle flew in and scooped up the fish that Wilfred had just tossed into the water. The other birds didn't stand a chance. We boated down the sandstone shores, flanked with lush trees of every kind, the gentle wind blowing our hair. "This makes me feel young all over," one of group piped up. What a wonderful, relaxing morning.

Wilfred guided us on a nature hike to the caves another time, and he and Denise also hosted the group in their home. The pickerel fry was a real treat! Another night the youth had a fire on the beach, until it was rained out. Geordie was enthusiastic about the fossils he brings back from McBeth Point and gifted us each with one to take home. We also shared two meals with the DVBS group that



was at Matheson Island that same week, one meal was at Pine Dock and once we went to Matheson Island.

Friday evening we were invited to be a part of the Pine Dock farewell supper for Neill and Edith von Gunten. What a feast! Three large tables were full of food, including bannock, moose stew, meatloaf with moose meat, pickerel and much more. We were happy we and the children of the community could be a part of the program that followed.

We enjoyed our time at Pine Dock immensely and look forward to going back again next summer. Thank you, Pine Dock, for your hospitality!

*Hilda Fehr,
Winkler, MB*

School Opening at Pauingassi

The Pauingassi (Manitoba) community celebrated the opening of their new 12 million dollar school complex on September 21, 2005. Most of the ceremony was held outside in the warm, sunny, calm weather just in front of this beautiful bright building.

After much discussion, the new school was named the Omishosh Memorial School, being named after Omishosh (Charlie George Owen), a very respected and honorable elder of the Pauingassi settlement who passed away on December 30, 2001. His wife Janet was asked to cut the ribbon before everyone entered the 26,000 square foot building and was served sandwiches, fruit, tea and coffee. There was also more entertainment by the drummers and singers.

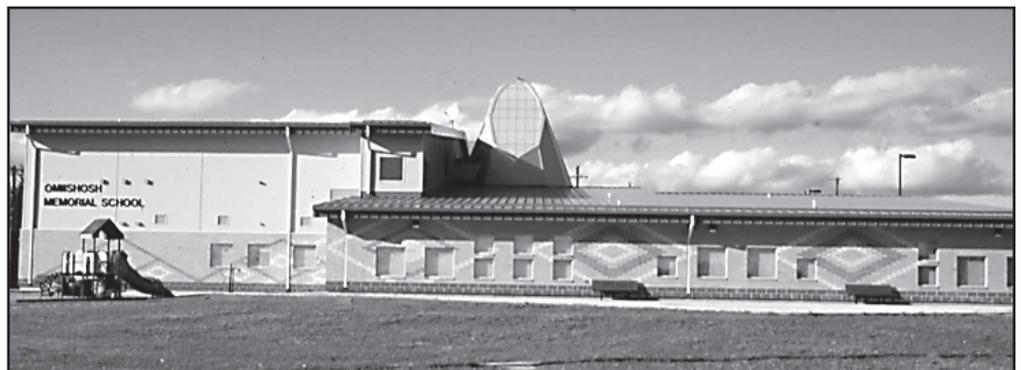
The opening exercises were held outside, with a number of dignitaries present. Louis Crow (acting chief of Pauingassi due to the absence of Chief Harold Crow) opened the ceremony with prayer and reading the Gospel of Matthew 18:1-5. This portion emphasizes the importance of children in the Kingdom of God. Seeing the school is first of all for children, this is what he wanted to emphasize in selecting this portion.

Among the dignitaries present, who took part in the program, were Eric Robinson on behalf of the Manitoba Government, Chief John Thunder of the South East Development Council, and Joe Malcolm, the Executive Director of the South East Resource Development Council, and others. The local school board chairman, Allan Owens, also had a part on the program.

Henry and I were especially grateful to be at this opening ceremony since it was exactly fifty years ago this fall since we started the first school on this settlement in a one-room log cabin. Our entry to Pauingassi was upon the invitation of Waanacens (Alex Owen, father of Omishosh) who approached us in March 1955. His invitation on behalf of the community was strong, "Our way of life in the past has been very adequate for us, but now the outside world is crowding in on us and our children will need to know English as well as the ways of the outside world. Please come to Pauingassi and live with us; teach our children English and have services with us."

We moved onto the settlement in the fall of 1955 and stayed for fifteen years. Though we moved away at that point, (August 3, 1970) we have kept up a close contact with the people over the years, and continue to do so. We have great hopes for the people as we see the multiple opportunities that are open to them. We trust they will be able to take full advantage of the facilities at hand and surge ahead.

This year there are about 130 students in the school



from Kindergarten to Grade 9 and eleven teachers. The school will also offer adult education courses and a counseling skills course for members of the community. They also have proper facilities for Industrial Arts and Home Economics classes. In total there are now 44 computers in the school, with all the newest software and capable of handling all the needs of the school.

NDL Construction did the construction of this building, and they hired people from the community. Designing and negotiations took about a year and the actual construction took about sixteen months. Now that the school is complete, we hope it will be of benefit to the whole community, and especially the education of the children

*Elna Neufeld,
Winnipeg, MB*



Log onto Mennonite Church Canada
website
www.mennonitechurch.ca

A Walk for Healing

Christian Peacemaker Teams returned to Kenora on October 17 after concluding a full time presence there in May, 2005. The walk described below took place on October 21. CPT Kenora is a community organizing project focused on undoing racism and improving the relationship between the Anishinaabe and white communities of Kenora. The team will be on location until December 12, 2005 and returns again February 7, 2006 for another ten weeks. In this time CPT Kenora will document mistreatment of Anishinaabe people and explore ways to build bridges between the white and native communities.

Nancy Morrison points her eagle feather toward the gravel parking lot on the territory of the Wauzhausk Onigum First Nation. "It was over there," she says, referring to where St. Mary's Catholic residential school once stood. "I came here when I was three. When I was eight my nokumis (grandmother) initiated me into the Medewin Lodge." (Medewin means "heart of the people"; the Medewin Lodge carries the core spiritual and cultural practices of the Anishinaabe people.)

"The nuns found out. They stripped me naked in front of all the other girls. They shaved my head and beat me all over with a leather strap. For a long time I could not sit down because of the welts." Nancy ran away many times but was always caught and returned to the school. "I never gave up," she says. Nancy, age 76, is an Anishinaabe elder who

cares for street people.

A group of 20 people, members of the local Anishinaabe community joined by CPT Kenora, huddles under the awning of the Golden Eagle Entertainment Centre to escape the grey morning drizzle. "We ask the Creator and the ancestors to watch over us on this second annual Memorial Walk for residential school survivors. We are walking to remember the survivors and to work for healing." One by one we kneel and waft the purifying smoke of the burning sage over our heads and bodies. Nancy prays in her language.

Young men drum and sing and then we set off. "I made it all the way last year," Nancy says, smiling, "but with the weather this year I'm not so sure."

The walk winds seven kilometers up and down hills, along the outskirts of town and around the edge of a lake. Our destination is the Treaty #3 Administration Office, formerly the site of the Cecilia Jeffrey Presbyterian residential school.

Along the way, Larry James Kabestra Sr., age 57, tells me his story. "My parents brought me to St. Mary's when I was seven." I learn later this was a government regulation. If parents didn't surrender their children, the police would capture them and bring them to the local residential school. "I felt lonely and hated being there. I didn't speak any English. The teachers strapped electrodes to my wrist and shocked me when I made a mistake. I ran away. When they



caught me and brought me back the staff shaved my head and gave me shoes that were too small." "Residential school was just like a prison. I didn't need any adjustment," he says. "Both places taught me to hate." Larry knows: he's been in prison. "I'm a binge drinker and I remember all these things. I don't think I'll ever get better." Larry says this even though he has completed a university degree started while in prison and served as chief of his band.

As we enter the parking lot of the Treaty #3 office, I look across a field of overgrown grass. Empty swings stand alone, calling

up the ghosts of the children who played there. While Nancy's resilience fills me with hope, Larry's continuing struggle saddens me. I think about our churches' and our government's part in this ongoing tragedy. While many of the survivors have died, few have received compensation. The process has stalled. My church, the United Church of Canada, pledged itself to be part of the healing seven years ago. Now I ask myself: are our pledges of support genuine or are they are empty, like the swings?

David Milne

Reprinted by permission from Christian Peacemaker Teams

Country Gospel Jamboree 2005

The Riverton Fellowship Circle congregation held their seventh annual Jamboree and fundraiser on November 6, 2005, from 1- 5 p.m. This event is planned each year for the first Sunday in November. Once again there was a large crowd of folks who came to support our church and enjoy great Country Gospel music. Praise the Lord! We couldn't have done it without the help of our everlasting God and Creator. The Presence of the Holy Spirit was felt by all of us in the Recreation Centre that day.

The Northern Gospel Lights Singers were here to entertain us with their talented band members. This year they had Bill and Doreen Meade, Ruth Martin, Juanita Bjork, Charles

Simard, Lila and Rita Palson, Stan Dorrie, Jim Bosco and Dennis Sinclair. They also had three special guest singers come with them, Chris Beach, and Eileen and Jack Meade. Another group, headed by Stirling and Yvette Ranville of Winnipeg, wowed the audience with their inspirational singers and musicians.

We sold raffle tickets prior to the Jamboree and on that day, and the draw was made here. The oak coffee table, handcrafted and donated by Dave Baerg of Winnipegosis, was won by Kacee Johnson; the rocking horse, also handcrafted and donated by Dave Baerg, was won by Janet Blanchard; and the dreamcatcher, handcrafted by Emily Collins of Riverton,

was won by Francis Hall.

The silent auction, headed by Kim Ledingham and Fantine Collins, was very successful. All of the items were donated by very generous individuals, businesses and churches.

Emily Collins and Sylvia Zagozewski sold tickets on the spot raffle items that were also very graciously donated. The basket of body cleansers and lotions was won by Carrie Jacobson; the vinaterta cake was won by Joyce Monkman, and the afghan was won by David Monkman.

The canteen, headed by Doris Kozub, offered an extremely delicious menu, and once again the food was all donated. Doris had many volunteers to help her, and this event was also very successful.

I believe that everyone who attended was thoroughly impressed by the performances they heard and full of joy to meet their old acquaintances. I talked to many of the people who were there and they affirm that they want to be back again next year, but many of them advised that we must do more advertising next year.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all those who donated something, all those that attended, all the performers in the bands and all the volunteers who worked to make the Jamboree such a wonderful success. We already look forward to next year's Gospel Jamboree with excitement - on Sunday, November 5th!

Joyce Grimard,
Riverton, MB

Manitoba Partnership Circles Meet

The Partnership Circles in Manitoba had meetings November 9 & 10 at Grace Mennonite Church in Winkler. About 28 Native and non-Native adults representing church communities, met to discuss goals and objectives of ministry circles, to work together in developing vision, direction and programs. One goal is to learn to know each congregation and ministry context better, creating a partnership between the Mennonite churches in the south and those in the north. There is also working at 'big picture' issues together, which include planning camp for next summer and the Native Assembly in Alabama in July. We divided into small groups made up of the different native church communities to discuss issues and concerns and then come back to the big circle for reporting. Norm Voth from Mennonite Church Manitoba and Neill & Edith von Gunten from Mennonite Church Canada gave

leadership to the larger group meeting.

On Thursday morning Kathy Fast very efficiently led us in a time of worship, emphasizing the different gifts that each one brings to the table. We itemized different gifts the Native communities would bring to the non-Natives. Among them were patience and acceptance, love and compassion, faith and trust, openness to share, gift of flexibility, organized, but yet relaxed, humor, plus many others. They also have a high level of spirituality without racism, and have the gift to bring down stereotypes. They have a tremendous sense of loyalty to friends and family relationships. In another column we listed certain things non-Natives would bring. Among them being lots of humor, hospitality, and extensive life experience, ability to get things done, excellent facilities, and opportunities. We also bring young

people who are willing to serve.

Opportunity was given to get to know the Winkler area better. Tours were taken to the M.C.C. warehouse and to a dairy farm. A couple from the Grace Mennonite Church, Andrew and Elnora Enns shared of the beginnings of their church and the Lord's leading in a remarkable way up to this present time.

We were very royally treated with coffee breaks enjoying muffins, cinnamon rolls, veggies & dip, fruit, coffee, tea & juices. Besides that we were served a grand turkey supper with all the trimmings, borscht and pie with ice cream, perogies and farmer sausage. If anyone was interested, they were even offered a care package to take home. Thank you so much to the whole group who showed such love and warm hospitality. We were grateful for everyone who attended these meetings, but were sorry the communities were not all represented.

*Elna Neufeld
Winnipeg, MB*

Community News and Notes

Weddings

Melanie Bird and **David Carriere** of Matheson Island, Manitoba chose Saturday, October 8, 2005 as their wedding day. The evening ceremony took place at the Matheson Island Log Chapel, with Fred Peters of Winkler, Manitoba officiating.

Hazel and Ken Bird of Matheson Island are the bride's parents. The groom's parents are Bev Carriere and David Moodie.

Congratulations, Mel and Dave!



Birthdays

On November 3, 2005 we had a surprise 85th birthday party for **Carrie Jacobson** at the Riverton Fellowship Circle church. There was a whole church full of people there, including her daughter-in-law Janette and granddaughter Brandy who had traveled from The Pas to be there. Carrie enjoyed all of the attention!

It took a little strategy on my part to take Carrie out of town that afternoon! We went to Arborg to get our hair done and did some shopping to kill time until 5:30 p.m. Carrie was getting hungry so I told her that we would go back to Riverton. When we were driving past the church, we saw lots of cars there. Of course, Carrie said, "What's going on in there?" I told her that I would go in and check to see what was happening so I did. I came back out and told Carrie that we were invited to join in. Carrie willingly got out of my truck and everyone yelled "surprise" and sang "Happy Birthday" to her as she came in the church doors. She was really surprised! Happy 85th Birthday, Carrie. P.S. Carrie was not born on Halloween, but she sure knows how to take part in the event!



Pat Palson and the rest of the gang

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RFC hosts Shufflers

The Riverton (Manitoba) Fellowship Circle congregation had the privilege of hosting the Whiz Bang Shufflers, a bluegrass band from the Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg on October 15, 2005. The coffeehouse and fundraising event was a huge success! Rick Unger was on bass, Luke Enns on guitar, Ben Regier on mandolin, and Curtis Wiebe on both banjo and ukulele, playing bluegrass with a hint of folk attitude and some jazz. The music was enjoyed by people of all ages.

Another highlight was the children's feature during the intermission. Curtis had the props to go with his presentation and the children loved it. Our summer DVBS team also made the drive north to Riverton to reconnect with the kids and the church folk and to enjoy the coffeehouse evening with us. It was a wonderful evening, one that none of us will ever forget.

Elaine Slough Riverton, MB

Editorial Contributions

Your contributions to INTOTEMAK are welcomed. Please send them to:

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Page: 4 — Photos provided by MC Canada
Page: 5 — DVBS photo provided by Grunthal Bergthaler MC
Page: 6 — Pine Dock photos provided by Hilda Fehr
Page: 7 — Photos provided by Henry Neufeld
Page: 8 — Walk for Healing photo provided by CPT Kenora
Page: 10 — RFC Shufflers - photo provided by Elaine Slough
Page: 10 — Wedding (Melanie Bird and David Carriere) photo provided by Fred & Helen Peters
Page: 10 — Birthday (Carrie Jacobson) photo provided by Pat Palson
Page: 12 — Living Word Church photos provided by Norm Voth

Editing and text prepared by Edith and Neill von Gunten, and Ingrid Miller.

Design/Layout by Tammy Sawatzky

*I'm Your Christmas Tree,
All Brightly Lit*

I'm your Christmas tree, all brightly lit,
Hung with angels, colored balls, and elves.
Underneath my boughs your presents sit,
If you've behaved yourselves.

Why must we wait till early Christmas morn
To open up our brand-new games and toys?
Why gifts for us the day that Christ was born
If we're good girls and boys?

Now listen to your Christmas tree: I'm wise
In all the ways of faith that you must know.

I'm here because of what I symbolize:
Green through ice and snow.

There is a world beyond what we can see
Where, by grace of God, we can receive
God's greatest gift: to live eternally,
If only we believe.

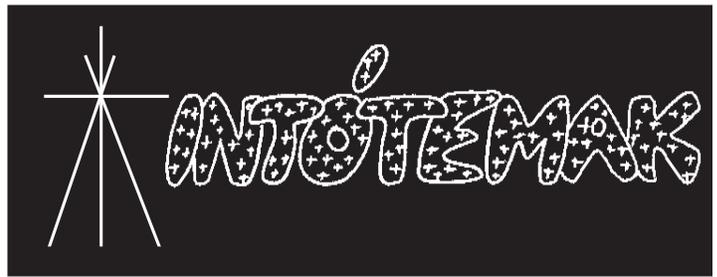
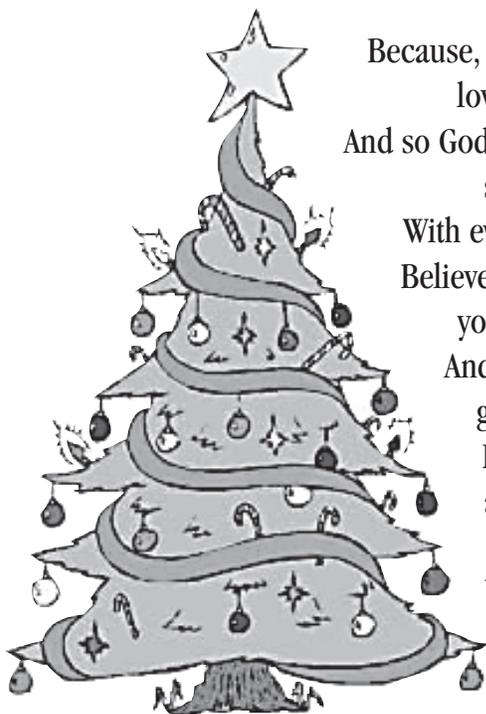
Eternal life is what God gave to you
In sending down His son to live on Earth.
This was His gift, so Santa brings gifts, too,

To celebrate Christ's birth.
The baby Jesus got gifts on this
day

Because, like any child, He
loved to play.
And so God wants to share this
special joy

With every girl and boy.
Believe God loves you as
your parents do,
And takes great joy in
giving gifts to you.
Live well and love,
and evergreen like
me,

You'll live eternally.



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))

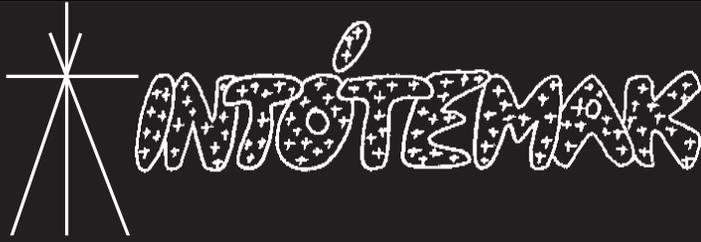
1. News articles _____
2. Reports from Native churches and communities _____
3. Letters to the editor _____
4. Photographs _____
5. Community News & Notes _____
6. Provincial Native Ministry news _____
7. Issue-oriented articles – e.g. articles relating to developing church leadership, breaking down 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!

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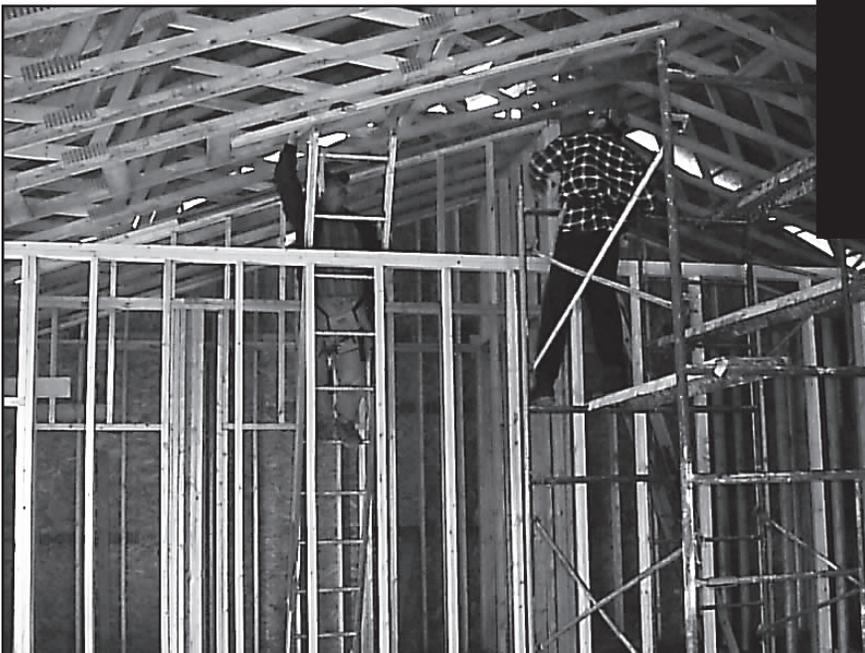
Living Word Church Construction Update

Members the Living Word Church and other supporters from Mennonite Church Manitoba congregations continue to work on the new church building in Cross Lake. A crew recently installed the drywall on the ceiling and hopefully a taping crew will soon be available to complete that part of the construction. After the interior is painted the flooring, cabinets and fixtures can be installed.

Pastor Lorna McIvor said she was hoping to begin using the new facility in November. The congregation is anxious to have the building ready for Sunday School and worship very soon. The congregation has worshiped in homes for the past two years. Unfortunately that limits how many people can participate. The congregation is looking forward to having a larger, flexible and accessible space available for worship. Sunday School is an important ministry for this congregation and many adults in Cross Lake have memories of going to the Mennonite Sunday School over the past 50 years.

Please continue to pray for the congregation as they work to finish the building and begin using it for worship and service in their community.

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



Coming up...

March 2006 Intotemak
Re-design of quarterly
newsletter

