

April 28, 2002

Today: Welcome to our worship service. Fred Adrian will be speaking on the hiddenness of God. Following the service (and pizza?) we will have our AGM.

Last Sunday: Henry Kliwer (Conference Minister, Mennonite Church in BC) spoke on *Mission: A barrier to overcome or a bridge to cross*. Using the example of how disastrous it is to put new wine that is still fermenting into old stretched wineskins, he suggested that Mennonites need to rethink the missional church, new ideas, new forms. He then looked at the story of Jesus meeting the woman from Samaria at the well, asking how *we* relate to people of different social, economic levels and different cultures. Jesus overcame these barriers by expressing his own need in order to elicit a response (asked for water). The second barrier was sin (5 marriages, possibly not her fault). Jesus went straight to the problem and addressed it, getting it out of the way kindly. The third barrier was the place of worship (must it be in Jerusalem) and Jesus declared that we can worship God anywhere. When Jesus built bridges over the barriers to this woman, she became one of Christ's insiders and was a missionary to her people. Today's issues tend to focus on differences of thinking about sexuality and gender, but the central question is "Do we know the Living Christ? Will we drink his living water?" Henry urged us to keep bridging, searching for the key that will make communication possible. [JEK]

PGIMF News:

The children are participating in a **Penny Power Coin Drive** for MCC.

This is the **last Sunday** to make corrections to the revision of our church directory. If you are relatively new to PGIMF, we would be pleased if you added your name. The list is posted in the hallway.

Next Sunday, our speaker will be Henry Hildebrand. If you get here at 9:45, there will either be singing or Margaret Carey will be playing viola.

There are no food groups organized for May, June, July, and August. Please sign up on a Sunday by Sunday basis on the sheet on the bulletin board by the mailboxes.

Please reserve May 31 to June 2 for our church retreat at Camp Luther.

PGIMF plans to have an evening discussion on the referendum on Wednesday, May 1. MCC BC sent us some lavender brochures on "Referendum: Confused?"; they are on the little table in the hallway.

Volunteers are needed for May and June for the Sunday School and nursery. There will be no organized Sunday School in July and August.

The Hannans are looking for a house to rent for July 1.

The Wider Church:

The Mennonite Historical Society of BC's next meeting is Saturday, May 11 at 7 pm at Garden Park Towers in Clearbrook. The speaker is Marlene Epp, author of *Women without Men: Mennonite refugees of the Second World War*.

Pray for Paul and Maurine Friesen, MBMS International missionaries in Peru. The Ashaninca Church leaders are arranging for regional Bible courses. The Friesens will be in the US during April and May.

MCC Canada and the various Mennonite denominations are sponsoring regional meetings on "Pursuing Peace in such a Time as This", considering questions such as Who are we as Christians in the Anabaptist tradition? How do we understand our world (terrorism, fundamentalism, globalization)? The location here in BC is the Bakerview MB Church on Clearbrook Rd., Friday and Saturday, May 24 and 25. See the poster in the hallway. Register at peace@mccbc.com

Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) is looking for team leaders for its School of Discipleship (SOD). Positions are open starting August. Requirements are: minimum age of 24, Christian youth ministry leadership experience, love of travel, flexibility, and post secondary studies. More information at www.outtatown.com or 204-487-3300. Recent high school grads are invited to apply to participate in SOD.

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| <p><i>Moderator</i>—Erna Friesen (604-266-7819); <i>Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)</i>—Janice Kreider (604-228-1217); <i>Pastoral Concerns</i>—Hedie Hintz (604-321-8042), Herb Reesor (604-224-5245), Sue Dudoward (604-876-4114) <i>Worship</i>—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961); <i>Music</i>—Andrea Siemens (604-266-3040)</p> |
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