

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: www.pgimf.org E-mail: (Redacted)

December 30th, 2007

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship and our first service after Christmas. Today we will be led in worship by Andre Pekovich, in song by J. Evan Kreider, we hope to have an accompanist at the piano, and your usher is Hilda Unger. Parents are requested to make their own arrangements for child care during the service if they feel their children don't wish to remain in the chapel during the service. You are all welcome to join us in the dining room after the service for coffee and fellowship.

PGIMF News

Upcoming speakers

January 6	Henry Neufeld	Membership Sunday
January 13	Johannes Stolz	Plurality Revealed
January 20	Randy Schmidt	International Child Care - Haiti
January 27	Janet Boldt	-

Message from the treasurer Thanks to everyone who made contributions during the first four Sundays of December. PGIMF now has a comfortable carry-over to 2008 of \$4,000+.

The Wider Church

MBMSI HOPE FOR THAILAND. Pray today for Bob and Christina Davis, MBMSI workers in Thailand. They are currently in language study at the Lopburi Learning Center in preparation for church planting and evangelism among the Khmu and Hmong people of Northern Thailand.

MCC The staff at MCC-BC would like to draw your attention to an inspiring story on our "aids care now" website. When you visit <http://www.aidscaresnow.org/voices/tatu.html> you'll see "Tatu's Story". Tatu is a Tanzanian mother of 3 who has HIV; but hers is a story of hope because of the strength and support she has received from the Mennonite Church there. The MCC service worker, Jo French, who works with her is from BC. It is hoped that you will find it as encouraging as the staff in the office did.

☞ Kevin's friend David Voth is looking for volunteers for **MissionsFest** Jan. 25-27 for the Mission Opportunities search station. This is an area where people can come in and get some initial information based on their own background regarding which mission agencies they want to investigate further. If there is anyone who would be willing to help me could you have them contact me or contact Missions Fest to volunteer. To volunteer go to the Missions Fest website at www.missionsfestvancouver.ca and select "volunteering". You can apply online or email, phone or mail. Indicate "Mission Opportunities" to work with David.

Membership Sunday

Karl Brown and Rosie Perera will be joining our church on January 6th during our Membership Sunday service. If there are any others who wish to join them, please see Henry Neufeld or any member of the PGIMF church board.

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we now record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will continue to be not recorded.

Moderator—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Worship*—Erna Friesen (604-266-7819);
Pastoral Care—John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, 'Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely';

and he became their saviour

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of
old.

[NRSV]

Psalm 148

¹Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

²Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

³Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

⁶He established them for ever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

[NRSV]

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Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

¹³And again,

‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again,

‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. [NRSV]

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they
are no more.’

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’ [NRSV]