

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org) E-mail; (redacted)

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Today, our service will be led by Paul Thiessen, Evan Kreider will lead us in song, Rosemary Bell will accompany on the piano, and Edward Epp is your usher. Later we will hear from Rosemary Monreau, principal of the Lingana Foundation, a charity dedicated to serving the children in Darfur, Chad and Central African Republic. Rosemary will be speaking on her work through Lingana. 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.

**Last Sunday** By January 11th, 2009, as the Great Snow of 2008 began to melt (at least in less lofty regions), our congregation was once again able to gather for worship. Steve Berg (Conference Pastor of the BC-MB Conference) spoke on a number of texts, starting with the famous passage in Isaiah 55.1-3 which invites all who "hunger and thirst" for that which has lasting value. By inviting Israel to feast and dine, without paying, Isaiah recalls celebrations in antiquity sponsored by monarchs at the beginning of their reigns. Jesus offers a similar call, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness", and Psalm 42:1 set a similar idea to music ("As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God"). People universally have voids in their lives which need satisfying. To this, Jesus adds the concept of seeking "righteousness" in ways that only a spiritual community can satisfy. Jesus' teachings show that the spiritual life is similar to eating and drinking, for in both cases we must eventually return for more. [JEK]

## PGIMF News

### Upcoming speakers

January 25	Don Teichroeb	World Fellowship Sunday
February 1	Johann Funk	Winds of Peace
February 8	Henry Neufeld	Show me your Glory
February 15	TBA	

**Church board meeting** to be held at Andre's Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Agenda items to Don please.

## Membership

If you wish to discuss becoming a member of PGIMF, please see any member of the board on the back of your church list, or one of the people listed at the bottom of this bulletin.

## 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*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961);  
*Pastoral Care*—Erika Hannan (604-325-5065); *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)  
*Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

## The Wider Church

**MBMSI** Sandra Fender, MBMS International worker with the Hope 4 Thailand team arrived in Thailand near the end of November, 2008. Pray for her as she is in a year of language study before going north to serve.

## Prayer Requests

☹ For those of you who know the talented and musical **Albert Langemann** family, originally from Sherbrooke Mennonite Church, and now residing in Colorado, Albert Langemann Jr suffered a heart attack and died while snowshoeing with his daughter on Saturday Jan 10. Our prayers are with the family.

**MCC** is responding with humanitarian aid in **Gaza**. Working with their partners in the region, MCC is providing emergency assistance, which will consist of food, blankets, clothes for children, diapers, mini gas cookers and more to vulnerable families. MCC is also calling for an end to the violence. Several people connected with MCC's Peace Network have begun a rotating fast until the violence comes to an end. You can read MCC's press release on these efforts when you visit [www.mcc.org/be](http://www.mcc.org/be) and click on "MCC Provides Humanitarian Aid".

**MCC** has also created resources for churches to use including a prayer for peace, written by Daryl and Cynthia Byler, who are our MCC representatives in the Middle East. You can find these resources as well as links to blogs, calls to action, faith reflections and more when you visit: [www.mcc.org/gazaerisis/resources/](http://www.mcc.org/gazaerisis/resources/)

**MCC's annual fundraising banquets** are coming up next month, featuring guest speaker Zemedkun Baykeda Habtyimer - Executive Director of Meserete Kristos Church Relief and Development Association (MCC's partner in Ethiopia) and music by the Columbia Singers. Zemedkun has an amazing personal testimony that you can read when you visit: [www.mcc.org/acp/2004/Mar\\_Apr/aCP\\_MarApr2004.pdf](http://www.mcc.org/acp/2004/Mar_Apr/aCP_MarApr2004.pdf) It is inspiring!

**February 27, 6:30 pm - Peace Mennonite Church, Richmond BC**

**February 28, 6:30 pm - South Langley MB Church, Langley BC**

**March 6, 6:30 pm - Bakerview MB Church, Abbotsford, BC**

**March 7, 6:30 pm - Sardis Community Church, Chilliwack BC**

Tickets will be available as of February 1<sup>st</sup> at host church offices, from your MCC rep, at area MCC Thrift Shops and from the MCC office. Mark your calendars and use the appropriate bulletin announcement below.

**MC-BC new bylaws** At the AGM (Feb. 21, 2009) Mennonite Church BC will present a motion for approval by the delegate body for the purpose of bringing our MCBC By-laws up to date. Copies of the by-laws have been sent out for your consideration. Anybody wishing a copy of the bylaws by e-mail (a set of the old bylaws is also available for comparison) please e-mail Andre at (redacted)

**Missions Fest 2009** takes place this year from January 30 to February 1, 2009 at the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre. This years guest speakers feature Tony Campolo, Mark Buchanan, Joseph D'Souza, Marie Ens and Mike Yankoski. Events start on Friday at 9:00 am and continue through to Sunday 5:00 pm. Information about the event and volunteering can be found on the bulletin board in the hall or at <http://www.missionsfestvancouver.ca/>.

### **Five Questions - MB Herald**

Church: Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship  
Pastoral duties: Shared by dedicated volunteers  
Location: Vancouver



***What was the defining moment for your congregation?*** There were 3 moments: the realization that despite being Mennonites from various conference backgrounds, we could come together and become one congregation; the realization after the departure of a pastor that we could continue to exist relying on our own members for leadership; and the insertion of "Inter-Mennonite" in our name.

***How would you describe your congregation?*** We have about 50 adults and youth who value rigorous inquiry, respect all Christian traditions, and seek to build bridges to others.

***What does it mean for your church to be evangelical Anabaptist?*** We encourage people to grow in and toward faith in Jesus and commitment to following his teachings as recorded in Scripture. We welcome all seekers and doubters who are on a journey of faith, and we are open to their participation in the life of the church. We treat conversion as both individual and communal. Salvation is not merely a private thing but should motivate us to take care of our fellow human beings and God's creation, and to work toward reconciliation in the world.

***What is the significance of your church name?*** To us, Mennonite indicates the importance we give to Jesus' teachings on love, peace, and justice. Inter means we seek to bridge differences and be open to dialogue with the larger hermeneutical community seeking to understand Scripture and God's intention for our lives.

***What makes your church unique?*** Our worship service, which takes place in the chapel of a university student residence, has a built-in time of response and discussion after the sermon. We value artists among us and display their work in our worship service. We've also kept alive the four-part harmony hymn singing tradition, and hold an annual Christmas sing-along Messiah service.

Samaritan's Purse and **Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)** announce to area churches that they are partnering together in providing clean-up assistance to those impacted by the flood and mudslides in the Fraser Valley. Volunteers welcome - please call 604-393-3901 (volunteer centre in Greendale). Questions can be directed to Leonard Klassen (MDS BC Unit Board Chair) at 604-855-2542 (redacted) or Andy Northrup (Samaritan's Purse) at 604-393-3901.

The focus of **Lingana Foundation** is to offer compassionate, holistic and sustainable programs for children and their communities, in the conflict and poverty stricken areas of Sudan (Darfur region), Chad and Central African Republic.

Given that the tragedy of the lives we deal with are so pressing, we have already been hard at work in the field and in North America. As a result, our administrative processes, such as our pending charity status, our website, and other administrative aspects, are slower in being completed. Our last phase (confirmation of charitable status) should be complete early in January, retroactive to 2008.

We gratefully accept donations of any amount while we continue to bring compassionate projects that bring life-giving hope through education and community support. Please consider facilitating our mission in the field by your generous contribution, either monthly or as a special one-time donation. For instance, \$300 will educate one youth and his/her direct community for the first year.

Please make your donation payable to:

Lingana Foundation, #270, 101-1001 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 4E4

## 1Samuel 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you

called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' <sup>11</sup>Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.' [NRSV]

## 2Corinthians 5:11-21

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a

human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [NRSV]