

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org) E-mail: [info@pgimf.org](mailto:info@pgimf.org)

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

**Today:** Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Andre Pekovich, Eric Hannan will lead us in song, Evan Kreider will be accompanying on the piano, and Henry Neufeld is your usher. Later we will hear from Rosie Perera who will continue our summer series on 2Corinthians with a chapter entitled *New Ministry in the Light of Christ* from 2Cor 2:14-3:11. For now 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. Please join us in the lounge after the service for coffee and fellowship.

**Last Sunday** Janice Kreider continued our series in 2Corinthians with passages from chapter 2:5-11, and once again drew on the example of the Amish for inspiration, as in two previous sermons in recent weeks. Janice brought to us John Ruth's book "Forgiveness: a legacy of the West Nickel Mines School" which explored the ways in which forgiveness is intrinsic to the Amish way of life, the public demonstration of which was something few will forget. Yet the other, puzzling side of Amish practice - that of shunning - is equally unforgettable. How does one reconcile the two? Janice showed how Paul speaks exactly about both of these practices in 2 Corinthians. Paul was slandered by the church at Corinth, the church refused to rebuke the offender, forcing Paul to defend himself, and when regret or apology finally came, Paul encouraged forgiveness. Janice noted this passage speaks about Paul's explicit instructions - rebuke those who harm the spirit of community in the church, and when apology has been received, then comfort those who have been punished. Janice pointed out that the Amish act with discipline as the highest form of love. Thus, shunning and forgiveness are seen as two endpoints on the scale of love in the church community, and we are encouraged to keep both in mind in order to keep ourselves true to Christ's goal for us - to love God. [AP]

## **PGIMF News**

### **Upcoming speakers**

July 29	Maureen Klassen	2Cor 3:12 - 4:6 - Renewal
August 5	J. Evan Kreider	2Cor 4:7-15 - Eternal life
August 12	TBA	2Cor 4:16-5:10 New Life in Two Bodies
August 19	TBA	2Cor 3:12-4:6 Bold new ministers

**Summer Coffee Service** Please note the sign-up list on the bulletin board at the back to help out with serving coffee during the summer season. If you have any questions, please see Hannelore, and thank you in advance for your participation.

**Parking** You are requested to help the Menno Simons Centre be a good neighbour in the neighbourhood. To enable house residents to park in front of their own houses, you are requested not to park on the north side of 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., but instead to park on the south side of 11<sup>th</sup> Ave or on Crown St. while attending services. Thank you.

### **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)

### Small groups discussion

You are encouraged to get together over the summer season in small groups to discuss the results of the PGIMF Revisioning process. There is as much food for thought, but we need to ensure we fully understand the implications of the results Donna Dinsmore presented to us before we agree on the next steps to be taken, hopefully in September. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to call on any member of the board's former revisioning steering committee (Don, Erna, Jodie and Andre) for explanation or to attend your event.

### The Wider Church

**MBMSI MOVING FORWARD IN THAILAND.** Greg and Becky Ouellette are MBMS International workers in Thailand. They ask prayer as they scout out potential locations to move to this fall in the Phuket and Phang Nga areas. Pray God to give them specific and encouraging words that sustain them in the midst of these big decisions.

**Regent Public Lectures** You are invited to attend the continuing series of free public lectures at Regent College continuing on Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> with Edith Humphrey speaking on *Open Heaven and Case Closed: An Appeal to Heart and Mind*. Then on Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> you can hear Bernd Wannewetsch whose lecture is entitled *Take Heed What Ye Hear: The Theology and Ethics of Listening*. All lectures are free and are held in the chapel at Regent college, beginning at 8:00 pm. Come early for a good seat.

**MCC** Calling all Quilters! If you are planning to donate a quilt to the MCC Festival in Abbotsford, please bring your quilt to the Abbotsford warehouse on Marshall Road by August 1<sup>st</sup>. We are grateful for each donation and need time to determine the best way to sell your quilt. If you have questions or need more information please contact Christa Giesbrecht at (604) 850 6639 or 1 888 622 6337.

 Those of you who remember former PGIMF attendees **Chris and Louise Friesen**, who met while they were students living at the Centre, and who used to sing in Abendmusik, will be please to hear that they are coming to town to do a concert with 4 of their 5 children (ages approximately 6 to 12), singing songs written by Chris. On August 12 Grandview Calvary Baptist Church presents the Friesen Family Band from Edmonton, AB in a concert of original faith-based folk music, featuring material from their new CD, "We are Seeking" at 8 pm at Grandview Calvary Baptist Church, 1803 E.1st Ave, Vancouver. Admission by donation.

**Ministry Opportunity at the BCMB Conference office:** With the resignations of both support staff in the Conference Office, the BC Conference of MB Church has reorganized responsibilities and now seeks an experienced Executive Assistant & Bookkeeper to join their team. The Executive Assistant & Bookkeeper serves as a general bookkeeper and supports the Executive team with administrative assistance. Training in and working knowledge of Simply Accounting software and bookkeeping skills are essential. Demonstrated competency with Microsoft Office Suite tools is required. Knowledge of some design software (Indesign, Dreamweaver, Contribute) is preferred. This position is full time and is available immediately. **Also sought** is an experienced Executive Assistant to join their team. The Executive Assistant serves as a receptionist and supports the Executive team with administrative assistance. Competency with Microsoft Office Suite tools is required. Knowledge of some design software (Indesign, Dreamweaver, Contribute, Publisher, and Word Perfect) is preferred. Some bookkeeping capabilities will be required. This position is full-time and is available as of September 1, 2007 or sooner. For details and requirements visit: [www.bcmb.org/classifieds.html](http://www.bcmb.org/classifieds.html) or e-mail resume and cover letter

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## **An update on the Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Endowment Fund**

**from Henry Hildebrand**

During my service in Kenya at the Kijabe Hospital, a complication of prolonged labor known as vesicovaginal fistula (VVF) came to my attention. While this condition is thankfully relatively rare in developed countries because of the availability of medical care, it tragically occurs in 1-2 cases per 1000 pregnancies in Kenya, particularly in teenage women. VVF is a complication arising when difficult labor is not relieved in time by Cesarean section. These teenage girls are old enough to conceive but are not sufficiently developed to deliver. Some of them have had female circumcision done resulting in such severe scarring that the vaginal outlet is narrowed. During prolonged difficult labor the vaginal wall and the bladder become compressed between the skull of the fetus and the pubic bones of the mother. Prolonged pressure produces a hole, known as a fistula, between the bladder and the vagina allowing urine, as it is continuously being produced, to flow freely into the woman's vagina. The dribbling urine will wet her clothing, resulting in a constant offensive odor. Sometimes a fistula also develops between the rectum and the vagina worsening the unsanitary situation.

VVF occurs most frequently among teenaged women who have little access to medical care because of poverty, ignorance or lack of transportation to a center where repair can be done. The results of VVF are life shattering for these young women. In many tribes and societies they are rejected by their husbands and often by society and family and they become impoverished social outcasts.

A VVF endowment fund was established in 2002 under the administration of the Africa Inland Mission which issues tax receipts. My goal was \$50,000 which would have been sufficient to generate enough to pay for repair and hospitalization of about 6 cases per year at Kijabe, Kenya. The generosity of many people has resulted in about \$200,000 being donated and many more women than I had hoped for have been treated with an exceptionally high success rate. These women have, in effect, had their lives restored. But, as might have been anticipated, as it became known that help is available, more and more women with VVF have come to be operated on. Since only the money generated by the fund can be used (it would shortly be consumed if the capital were used) there have been times when patients have had to be turned away when the money for that year had been spent and the impoverished victims could not pay for the operation themselves. Fortunately, by God's grace and the generosity of donors, funds keep coming in and the work continues. While at Kijabe I had my eye on one of the Kenyan surgical residents in training hoping that he would continue his studies and become a gynecologist at the hospital, capable of doing these difficult VVF repairs. This, in fact, happened. Here is a moving story of what Dr. Osofi is doing at Kijabe as received recently from Dr. Newton, chief of anesthesia at the hospital:

*"It was near midnight and my pager sounded with the numbers 311999 which means come immediately to the operating room. As I arrived, Kitur one of the Kenyan anesthesia nurses from a rural mission hospital who will finish the nurse anesthesia program in one month was busy resuscitating a mother of three children. There had been complications during the C-section and now our Kenyan Obstetrician was performing a life saving operation on this mother while Kaptur was busy performing all of the anesthesia skills that he had been taught for this situation. I assisted in a very small manner but basically this mother was being cared for by Dr. Osofi, the Kenya Obstetrician, and Kitur as the anesthesia nurse. I have to admit that I was full of joy realizing that these two Christian medical care providers represent the real essence of "Kijabe Hospital" as they were saving the life of a mother of three who would have certainly died in 99% of the hospitals in Sub-Saharan Africa with a similar situation. Dr. Osofi came to Kijabe Hospital as a young Christian medical student from the University of Nairobi, and then completed an internship in Kijabe as well as becoming a next door neighbor to our family. After internship, he was exposed to the specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology by one of the missionary doctors and decided to become one himself.*

*The hospital supported Dr. Osofi financially and in many other areas to allow him the opportunity to complete his specialty training. And now, he has returned to Kijabe as a specialist who cares for the poor from his own country without any of the barriers that myself or others from another country may demonstrate. This is a major miracle by God who knows that this one doctor can affect many in his country from the position that he has obtained. As I rounded the next morning in our 5 bed ICU where the mother, Mercy, was being stabilized after receiving 5 units of stored blood in the operating room to save her life. During the night, I knew that she still may not survive*

*since her body really needed someone to donate "fresh" blood with all of the good blood products, but we could not find a match and she had no family members.*

*That next morning, half expecting to see Mercy still very ill, I was greeted with a smile and later "asante sana" (thank you) from this mother who easily could have died. Why did she look so good medically? Her blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygen levels were all great. After questioning the ICU nurses, they informed me that Dr. Osoti came by in the middle of the night to check her and seeing that her only hope was "fresh" blood he went and donated his own blood. God allowed me to see his plan for medical care providers who are trained in Africa to work in Africa. As he does with all followers of his son, Jesus, he wants us to show people the love of God by serving and giving of ourselves. This is in stark contrast to most physicians in the west and certainly in Africa where the doctor is the "bwana mkubwa" (Big Man!). God had brought Dr. Osoti to a Christian hospital (Kijabe) in his own country (Kenya) to train as a medical student who would later (July 2007) be able to give his own blood after surgically knowing how to save Mercy and avoid three children from growing up motherless. This is the type of person that ALL of us whether we are in the states, Europe, or from a small village in East Africa would love to have medically caring for ourselves and our family."*

I do appreciate your interest in this project and wish you God's blessing. Your donation should be sent to:

Africa Inland Mission                      1641 Victoria Pk. Ave.  
Scarborough, ON, M1R 1P8

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## 2 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:11

<sup>14</sup>But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

<sup>15</sup>For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup>To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

<sup>17</sup>Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

**3** <sup>1</sup>Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? <sup>2</sup>You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. <sup>3</sup>You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

<sup>4</sup>Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. <sup>5</sup>Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. <sup>6</sup>He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Glory of the New Covenant

<sup>7</sup>Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, <sup>8</sup>will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? <sup>9</sup>If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! <sup>10</sup>For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. <sup>11</sup>And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! [NIV]