

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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June 18, 2006

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Kevin Hiebert, Christy Jennings will lead us in song, Kathryn Schmidt will accompany on the piano and Erika Hannan is your usher. Later we will hear from Veronica Dyck who sermon in entitled "Hearing & Obeying the God who Sees: the rejection of Saul & David's anointing". Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship in the lounge. Children are welcome to join the primaries in the nursery or our teachers in the Sunday School classes as they are available.

Last Sunday We're not sure why Nicodemus went to Jesus at night, said Evan Kreider in his sermon last Sunday. The light/darkness theme is strong in John's gospel and this could be a continuation of that theme. By addressing Jesus as "rabbi" Nicodemus acknowledges Jesus special status as a teacher. Gentile converts were required to start life anew - "born from above" - so Nicodemus could not understand why he, smart Jew, needed to be born from above. As Moses lifted up the serpent, so the Son of man must be lifted up - on the cross. Israelites were able to live by looking up at the serpent, we will live by looking up at the cross. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; Jesus says God's love will save the world. The discussion focussed on Nicodemus being stuck in an old way of thinking; he needed to think outside the box. For God so loved... as the hymn says, "bathed in love's mighty boundless ocean. (HN)

PGIMF News:

Please join us for pre-service hymn singing at 9:45 as we work our way through the book from 1 to 658.

Upcoming speakers

June 25	Henry Neufeld	-
July 4	Erna Friesen	-
July 11	-	-
July 18	-	-

 **New addition!** Lucas (name available from Webmaster) was born on June 5, weighing in at a subtle 9lbs 8 oz.. He is super blonde and super easy so far. Big brother is getting slightly more used to the idea. We are home and grateful for grandparents that will be with us until the end of June. - *W, M, Z and Lucas*

 **New address** Justin & Andrea Siemens have a new address, but the phone is still the same. (Available from the Webmaster) Congratulations to them on their new place.

Coffee hour signup! Our regular year for food groups having come to an end, we now rely on volunteers to supply coffee during the summer season. Please see the [coffee signup sheet](#) on the bulletin board in the back of the church to sign up to provide coffee during the summer. It is our greatest outreach, some would say, and one in need of constant volunteers over the summer. but if you would like to bring baking, that is also appreciated.

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—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245); John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

The Wider Church

MBMSI Otto and Marjorie Ekk (Dinuba, CA) MBMS International, Portugal. As the Lourdes church is focusing on evangelism, pray they will put into practice what they are learning. Pray for wisdom, endurance and creativity as we enter a new phase of helping the church plant of Massama

St. John's Shaughnessy Evening services 6:30 pm Contemporary Evening Service. Sunday School is provided for children and youth at the 9 and 11 am services. At the Evening Service, Holy Communion is served on the last Sunday of each month.

Regent College is looking for friendly Vancouverites to provide up to one week of free housing for incoming students while they search for permanent housing in August. Meals are not expected (but welcome nonetheless!). For more information, please call Heidi at 604-221-3355, or email [Thank you!](#)

MCC Employment Essentials has just opened a new office in Vancouver and is offering programs in Career Exploration, Job Search Keys and Workplace Success Skills. For complete information contact Tricia Bowler (604) 303 9025, (604) 264 7001 or [Visit the MCC employment website at www.mccemployment.bc.ca](#)

MCC is responding to the earthquake that struck Indonesia on May 27th. Those wishing to support relief efforts there may do so by making cheques payable to MCC BC marked for "Java Earthquake Appeal" and sending them to MCC BC Box 2038 Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8. Credit card donations are also accepted when you call (604) 850 6639, 1 888 622 6337 or when you visit www.mcc.org/donate

MDS has a need for skilled crew leaders and cooks to help our projects run smoothly this summer. If someone could even go for 3-4 weeks this would be greatly appreciated.: Pass Christian, MS, needs skilled construction crew leaders June-August, cook for latter part of August for 2-3 weeks. Point Aux Chenes, LA, needs skilled construction crew leaders for June-August, and a cook for two weeks in August. Bayou La Batre, AL, needs finishing carpenters to go for two weeks between August 6-26. New Iberia, LA, needs skilled construction crew leaders from Mid June to August 5th, and a finishing carpenter or two from July 30-August 5.; Please contact Karla Amstutz at 717-859-2210 or 717-682-9701 or [for more information.](#)

"In times past, people were expected to believe first, then behave fittingly, and belonging came as a final step in the journey. Now people often belong first, find their identity in the community of God's people, then start behaving as suits those living the Jesus way. Believing is often the last step on the journey. Often we have asked people to get their beliefs right first, when what we need to do is find a way to help them get connected with the body of Christ. As they begin to belong in that circle, the spirit of Jesus leads them closer to him." - Jim Loepp Thiessen in Vision, spring 2006

This quote is reminiscent of the Axial philosophers (900 - 200 BC) who would say we have it all backwards; while we say one must believe in God before committing to a religious life; they say that it is only by adopting a religious life that we have any hope of encountering the divine. Or, as Karen Armstrong summarizes it: "What mattered was not what you believed but how you behaved." (Henry Neufeld)

1Sa 15:34 - 16:13

15 Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the Lord. ²Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did in opposing the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt. ³Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'" ⁴So Saul summoned the people, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers, and ten thousand soldiers of Judah. ⁵Saul came to the city of the Amalekites and lay in wait in the valley. ⁶Saul said to the Kenites, "Go! Leave! Withdraw from among the Amalekites, or I will destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites withdrew from the Amalekites. ⁷Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt. ⁸He took King Agag of the Amalekites alive, but utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep and of the cattle and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was valuable, and would not utterly destroy them; all that was despised and worthless they utterly destroyed.

¹⁰The word of the Lord came to Samuel: ¹¹"I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me, and has not carried out my commands." Samuel was angry; and he cried out to the Lord all night. ¹²Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, and Samuel was told, "Saul went to Carmel, where he set up a monument for himself, and on returning he passed on down to Gilgal." ¹³When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, "May you be blessed by the Lord; I have carried out the command of the Lord." ¹⁴But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears, and the lowing of cattle that I hear?" ¹⁵Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the cattle, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed." ¹⁶Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." He replied, "Speak." ¹⁷Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. ¹⁸And the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' ¹⁹Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" ²⁰Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹But from the spoil the people took sheep and cattle, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal." ²²And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as

great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Surely, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is no less a sin than divination, and stubbornness is like iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king."

²⁴Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵Now therefore, I pray, pardon my sin, and return with me, so that I may worship the Lord." ²⁶Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel." ²⁷As Samuel turned to go away, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this very day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. ²⁹Moreover the Glory of Israel will not recant or change his mind; for he is not a mortal, that he should change his mind." ³⁰Then Saul said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, so that I may worship the Lord your God." ³¹So Samuel turned back after Saul; and Saul worshiped the Lord.

³²Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." And Agag came to him haltingly. Agag said, "Surely this is the bitterness of death." ³³But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so your mother shall be childless among women." And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal. ³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

16 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought,

“Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.”
⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all

your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

2Cor 5:6-10, 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight.
⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.¹¹Therefore, 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.

¹²We 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.¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.¹⁵And 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.

¹⁶From 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.¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mk 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?
³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the

ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it;³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Psalm 20

¹The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
²May he send you help from the sanctuary, and give you support from Zion.
³May he remember all your offerings, and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices. Selah
⁴May he grant you your heart’s desire, and fulfill all your plans.
⁵May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the Lord

fulfill all your petitions.
⁶Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand.
⁷Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.
⁸They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright.
⁹Give victory to the king, O Lord; answer us when we call.