

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: www.pgimf.org E-mail: info@pgimf.org

May 11th, 2008

Pentecost


Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Today our service will be led in worship by Rosie Perera, in song by Andre Pekovich, Deberah Shears will accompany on the piano, and Henry Neufeld is your usher. Later we will hear from **Grant Hill** who will be speaking on Acts 2:1- for Pentecost. 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 On May 4, 2008, Dr. Ron Penner (President of Columbia Bible College, former professor at the Fresno Seminary) spoke on "Keys to Overcoming Adversity". Of the many stories in the bible illustrating how believers addressed adversities in their lives, Ron focused on the account of Joseph (Genesis 37.1-8), a 17-year-old trouble maker who grew up to become the Prime Minister of Egypt by age 30. Joseph was raised in a dysfunctional family, the 11th of 12 sons, in a pre-literate society, pre-10 commandments. Sharing his dreams with his jealous brothers was foolish, leading to his first main adversity: slavery in a foreign land, faced with a new language, and working for one of Egypt's toughest captains and executioners. Joseph did not settle for doing the minimum to survive, but instead learned the language, culture, city economics, and came to help his master's household flourish. When framed by Potiphar's wife, he was jailed (not executed, suggesting Potiphar suspected she was not telling the whole story). Even in prison, Joseph adjusted, helped and encouraged others, and made the best of his truly adverse circumstances. He was freed eight years later, rising to great power in the world's leading economy. Even when he could have been a corrupt politician (like so many others) or when he could have taken revenge on his brothers, Joseph rose above the temptations. Ron gave us several things to contemplate this week. (1) Parents should never give up on their children--never. (2) Like Joseph, we should continue to listen to the voice of God within us (whether it is a random thought, a word from someone or even a dream or verse). (3) We should carefully guard our integrity, not compromising our moral or ethical standards. (4) We should make the best of what life presents us (whether we are slaves or politicians), and (5) we should learn to be patient, for adversity does not disappear quickly. Joseph was in jail 8 years, but eventually was given an opportunity to live a different life. [JEK]

PGIMF News

Upcoming speakers

May 18	Gay-Lynn Voth	MCC in Israel/Palestine
May 25	Camp Luther retreat	Church retreat
June 1	Henry Neufeld	-
June 8	Mark McConnell	-

 Any newborns wishing to have their parents dedicate them at a special service on Father's Day this year are asked to express their wordless groans of the spirit to their parents to have a conversation with any member of the church board about this. After all, Jesus loves you especially!

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)

Summer Coffee Signup

Please see the bulletin board at the back of the church for the sign-up sheet for the summer coffee time after our service. Many thanks to all who participated in the food groups throughout the year, and we hope you will continue this valuable ministry through the summer.

Camp Luther Our annual church retreat will be held on May 23-25th at Camp Luther with Walter Bergen leading us in the theme "Telling our own story" for this always-successful retreat weekend. We intend to provide child care for families so that they are encouraged to come for the weekend. Former church attenders are especially invited to attend, and we encourage all of you to make a special effort to invite them. Thank you.- Diane Ehling, Erika Hannan, Andre Pekovich

The Wider Church

MBMSI As you remember Jason & Andrea Edwards this week, MBMS International workers at the Pan American Christian Academy in Brazil, pray for their involvements in teaching at the school, assisting in ministry at Familia de Deus Church and in soccer ministry. Also pray for healing for Andrea's eye after surgery

MCC Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on May 2nd, killing 4000 people, with thousands more missing and much of the population struggling to find food and shelter. MCC is accepting donations for relief efforts. Cheques made out to MCC BC should be marked "Myanmar Emergency Assistance" and sent to MCC BC Box 2038 Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8. Credit card donations can be made when you call (604) 850 6639 or 1 888 622 6337 or online at mcc.org/donate.

The **Global Food Crisis** is a complex issue. To dig deeper and to see how MCC is responding, visit mcc.org/food. To make a donation to MCC's food programs, make your cheque out to MCC BC, marked "Food" and send it to MCC BC Box 2038 Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8. Credit card donations can be made when you call (604) 850 6639, 1 888 622 6337 or online at mcc.org/donate.

Regent College prayer retreats Regent College invites you to deepen your capacity to listen and respond to God with ythe first of two guided prayer retreats are scheduled as part of this year's Summer School. Join R. Paul Stevens, Professor Emeritus, Marketplace Theology, Regent College on May 17th at St. Helen's Anglican Church, to practice teaching, guided silent prayer and lunch. Fasting during lunch is optional. This retreat will be a dedicated time of reflection and silent prayer with one half hour of teaching to be followed by an hour of silence. The teaching and prayer will be organized around phrases in the Lord's Prayer. Come expecting God to meet you.

MC Canada Annual Assembly Registration has begun for the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly (July 7-8) and the People's Summit for Faithful Living (July 8-10). Remember that the early bird discount registrations end on May 15. Delegates are needed - please see Don if you are planning to go. Assembly Report Books, which include ministry activity updates, discernment materials, and financial information are now available on line at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/summit08/>. Paper copies will be available in a couple of weeks

The **Regent College** Free Lectures series continues this Wednesday, May 14 with Ross Hastings speaking on *Ecstasy, Embrace, Effulgence: The Trinity and the Mission-shaped church in the 21st Century*. All lectures will be held in the chapel at Regent College and begins at 8:00 pm. Come early for a good seat.

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Acts 2:1-21

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." [NRSV]

Genesis 11:1-9

¹ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' ⁵ The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and

they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' ⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. [NRSV]

CALL TO WORSHIP

The peace of God be with you today.
Receive with joy the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*We feel the winds of God blowing among us.
We sense the tongues of fire empowering us.*

How amazing is the power God gives us.
How manifold are the works of our Creator.

*The breath of God fills us with confidence.
The Spirit creates new life within and among us.*

God calls us to be dreamers and prophets.
God gives us a vision for a world of peace.

*May the glory of God endure forever.
We will sing praise to God as long as we live.*