

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: www.pgimf.org

August 1st, 2010

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our service this Sunday will be led by Chris Skinner, we will be led in song by Rosie Perera, accompanied at the piano by Ruth Enns, and Henry Neufeld is your usher. Later we will hear a message from Kevin Hiebert, who opens our summer series on the Book of Job. Please join us in the lounge after the service for coffee, and fellowship. *Parents with small children, please note arrangements have been made for child-minding on the second and last Sundays of each month, and you are invited to contact other parents in the service, or any member of the church board for more information.*

Last Sunday Erna Friesen spoke on a difficult series of texts from the lectionary, including the outrageous charge by the Lord to Hosea to take a prostitute as a wife. Erna used that story as a launching point for a discussion on both the faithfulness of Israel and of our society today. Hosea, despite being from the southern kingdom of Judah, was called to preach to the northern kingdom and against the followers of Baal. He excoriated Israel for its unfaithfulness to God, so much so that his own children were named after God's punishments to the people (Lo-Anni - "not my people" etc.), and made no other comment about justice issues that were the staple of earlier books. He further preached on marriage and unfaithfulness in a world where temple prostitution was culturally accepted. Erna noted unfaithfulness to God has similar consequence to unfaithfulness in a marriage - betrayal and anger, as opposed to romance and lifelong commitment in sickness and health. Hosea's and Gomer's children were victims in the choices made, where a wife with no conception of faithfulness was asked for same. Though it is understandable in a "logical" sense - worship of a pantheistic Baal invoked fertility itself - of land, of females - as a supreme deity. Yet we, (and perhaps they too) knew no assurances could be given, and Hosea merely hammered the lesson home. In spiritualizing such sensations as hunger and sex and aggression, Satan-worship enters easily as a hedonistic and orgiastic tendency. Violent religious intoxication became the norm, and child sacrifice was only one depraved way in which this worship led to abuses of the human condition. Yet God offers redemption, even as he holds the plumb-line up against us. God will have compassion, if only Israel will turn from Baal, as Hosea offers to Gomer a change from her life of prostitution. Today, too, we are offered an escape from scientism and humanism, which has caused great suffering. The consequences of this sin cannot be evaded - the inner soul knows the brokenness that results. And so does God [AP]

PGIMF News

Upcoming speakers

August 8	Henry Neufeld	Job Series II - Simply a sinner
August 15	Andre Pekovich	Job Series III - It's not my fault!
August 22	TBA	Job Series IV - The religious answer
August 29	Karl Brown	Job Series V - The Lord Speaks

Summer coffee signup. Thank you to all the food groups who made this year's coffee and fellowship following the services such a success. Please help us carry it on informally through the summer, and see the coffee signup list at the back of the church.

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 Richard & Hazel Funk praise God for the safe arrival of their grandson Paul Robert. The summer is busy for them as they minister in Salzburg, Vienna and Gmunden, and travel to Canada for their son's wedding. Pray for the health of their small group in Salzburg.

PGIMF annual summer barbeque to be held August 15th after church at the Hannans. All welcome! Bring your friends!

MBMSI is looking for two individuals or a couple who are qualified teachers to provide education to eight (8) missionary children (ages 2-10) in the Turkic World. Sept 2010-June 2011. Also, an opportunity for two individuals to serve the Japan MB Conference by teaching ESL in Osaka, Japan in September 2010 for one year. For more information on this exciting role, contact John Best at 604-859-6267 or by e-mail.

MCC MCC BC Festival, Auction and Relief Sale September 10 & 11 has moved from the traditional 3rd weekend in September - please join us for another wonderful weekend at the Tradex! MCC BC is accepting material donations for the Auction and Relief Sale. Items for live and silent auctions are needed as are items for the garage sale. For more information, contact our office toll free at 1 888 622 6337 or visit bc.mcc.org

MCC Penny Power: MCC Penny Power Could Reach \$500,000! A generous donor to MCC has pledged up to \$50,000 to match all Penny Power donations received for Kenya sand dams. This is a one-to-one match on all funds received up to \$50,000, so there is the potential to raise \$100,000, which will then be matched 4:1 by CIDA for a total of \$500,000 for Kenya Sand dams! Join our annual coin drive and make a difference in the lives of Kenyan families. Learn more when you call Ruth at 604-850-6639 or 1-888-622-6337 or visit www.bc.mcc.org/pennypower.

MDS Diamond, La. - The leaking oil well may be capped, but Gulf Coast residents are still anxious about the future. MDS wants to have volunteers working at the Diamond, LA project this summer to let people know that we have not forgotten them. The weather is hot, the bugs are fierce, and you may need to cook your own dinner (there is A/C for sleeping), but our friends in the Diamond communities are so grateful that MDS is still there! General construction, electrical, and plumbing skills are all needed. If you are interested in a volunteer opportunity please call (866) 261-1274 in Canada.

Job 1:1-12

¹There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ²There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. ⁴His sons used to go and hold feasts in one another's houses in turn; and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵And when the feast days had run their course, Job would send and

sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt-offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, 'It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.' This is what Job always did.

⁶ One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ⁷The Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the Lord, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.' ⁸The Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job?

There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil.’⁹ Then Satan answered the Lord, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’¹⁰ Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.’¹¹ But

stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.’¹² The Lord said to Satan, ‘Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!’ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Job 1:13-22

¹³ One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother’s house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, ‘The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys were feeding beside them,’¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you.’¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another came and said, ‘The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you.’¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another came and said, ‘The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you.’¹⁸ While he was still

speaking, another came and said, ‘Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house,’¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you.’

²⁰ Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshipped. ²¹ He said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’

²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing. [NRSV]

Job 2

¹ One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. ² The Lord said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the Lord, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.’ ³ The Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.’ ⁴ Then Satan answered the Lord, ‘Skin for skin!

All that people have they will give to save their lives.’⁵ But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.’⁶ The Lord said to Satan, ‘Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.’

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.’ ¹⁰But he said to her, ‘You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

¹¹ Now when Job’s three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the

Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. ¹²When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. ¹³They sat with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great. [NRSV]

Job 3

¹After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ²Job said:

³ ‘Let the day perish on which I was born,
and the night that said,
“A man-child is conceived.”

⁴ Let that day be darkness!
May God above not seek it,
or light shine on it.

⁵ Let gloom and deep darkness claim it.
Let clouds settle upon it;
let the blackness of the day terrify it.

⁶ That night—let thick darkness seize it!
let it not rejoice among the days of the year;
let it not come into the number of the months.

⁷ Yes, let that night be barren;
let no joyful cry be heard in it.

⁸ Let those curse it who curse the Sea,
those who are skilled to rouse up Leviathan.

⁹ Let the stars of its dawn be dark;
let it hope for light, but have none;
may it not see the eyelids of the morning—

¹⁰ because it did not shut the doors of my
mother’s womb,
and hide trouble from my eyes.

¹¹ ‘Why did I not die at birth,
come forth from the womb and expire?

¹² Why were there knees to receive me,
or breasts for me to suck?

¹³ Now I would be lying down and quiet;

I would be asleep; then I would be at rest

¹⁴ with kings and counsellors of the earth
who rebuild ruins for themselves,

¹⁵ or with princes who have gold,
who fill their houses with silver.

¹⁶ Or why was I not buried like a stillborn child,
like an infant that never sees the light?

¹⁷ There the wicked cease from troubling,
and there the weary are at rest.

¹⁸ There the prisoners are at ease together;
they do not hear the voice of the taskmaster.

¹⁹ The small and the great are there,
and the slaves are free from their masters.

²⁰ ‘Why is light given to one in misery,
and life to the bitter in soul,

²¹ who long for death, but it does not come,
and dig for it more than for hidden treasures;

²² who rejoice exceedingly,
and are glad when they find the grave?

²³ Why is light given to one who cannot see the
way,
whom God has fenced in?

²⁴ For my sighing comes like my bread,
and my groanings are poured out like water.

²⁵ Truly the thing that I fear comes upon me,
and what I dread befalls me.

²⁶ I am not at ease, nor am I quiet;
I have no rest; but trouble comes.’ [NRSV]