

## POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our service this Sunday will be led by Henry Neufeld; we will be led in song by Rosie Perera, accompanied by Ruth Enns, and Ike Sawatsky will be your usher. Later we will hear from John Konrad whose talk is entitled "God's grace working in and through us". Please join us in the lounge after the service for coffee and fellowship. *Parents with small children, please note that arrangements have been made for child-minding on the second and last Sundays of each month, and you are invited to contact any other parent in the service, or any member of the church board for more information.*

**Last Sunday** Last Sunday, Laura Eriksson spoke on the theme, "What do we know by heart?" Exploring the possibility that we may be profoundly influenced by our childhood memories, Laura recalled that her earliest memories included worshipping in church, prayer and a yearning for beauty. What are our articulated memories? What has shaped us since birth? Jeremiah, for example, wrote that his life's purpose was known even before he was born (Jer. 1.4-) and that he had already been appointed by God to be a prophet. His was an affirmed beginning, even though it moved him well away from his comfort zone. . The N.T. lectionary, Luke 4.18 (quoting the Jeremiah passage) tells of Jesus claimed a similar early calling from God, something we surmise he had sensed among his very earliest memories. His call was that of discrediting Judaism's practices which ignored the love of God and made some practicing Jews feel superior to others. In this context, Jesus reminded his hometown listeners in the synagogue that God's love is for everyone, even non-Jews such as Naaman. Jesus quite possibly knew this by heart from childhood, for it seems to echo his mother's poem, the *Magnificat*, which proclaims economic justice for all and God's love extending beyond Jewish borders. The epistle reading from 1 Cor. 13, heard primarily at weddings, was actually addressed to a small congregation that was rife with personality conflicts and deep divisions on many seemingly insurmountable issues. Paul told these troubled believers that their religion is essentially about love. This recalls what Jesus once said: "By this will people know you are my disciples, if you love one another." Many of us have likely known this teaching and others like it by heart since childhood. How does this shape our daily lives? [JEK]

### **PGIMF News**

#### Upcoming speakers

February 14	Karl Brown	Surprise!
February 21	J. Evan Kreider	Lent I/Communion
February 28	Charis Weathers	Lent II
March 7	Janice Kreider	Lent III

☞ You will find your receipts for donations in your mailboxes now - please take a moment and check all your mail as well.

Paul's father Nicolai passed away peacefully Friday night at the age of 93. He desired to join his wife since her death last October, and we all join with Paul and his siblings to mourn his passing.

### **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** Robert & Anne Thiessen continue training and mentoring church planters, elders, and ministers in villages in South Mexico. Praise the Lord that the churches are growing, local leaders are gradually taking over the ministry allowing Robert & Anne to move on to new villages. Please pray for new leaders as they face many challenges. Travel into very remote areas also has its risks; please pray for safety for the Thiessens.

**Regent College** invites you to stop by during the 2010 Winter Olympics, just a few blocks away from UBC Thunderbird Arena, one of the major venues for the Games. On event days the doors are open to visitors from around the world as part of the More Than Gold program. See the Regent Website at [http://www.regent-college.edu/events/more\\_than\\_gold.php](http://www.regent-college.edu/events/more_than_gold.php) for details on events and co-host University Chapel.

**Communitas Supportive Care Society** will host a conference with Tom and Christine Sine of Mustard Seed Associates on March 20 at Seven Oaks Alliance (2575 Gladwin Rd, Abbotsford) to talk with delegates about the challenges churches and faith-based agencies face today and trends in the future in caring for those who are not able to care for themselves. For more information, see the brochure on the bulletin board in the hall.

**MCC** continues its appeal for material aid in their ongoing response to the earthquake in Haiti. \$807,000 has been raised so far to the BC office - \$4.2 million nationally. MCC is gathering relief kits, heavy blankets and sheets. For details on these items visit [bc.mcc.org](http://bc.mcc.org) or call 1-888-622-6337. Those interested in volunteering should contact Sophie Tiessen-Eigbike indicating specific skills, experience, and availability.

## **St Ignatius' prayer against depression**

O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness  
and we feel our weakness and helplessness,  
give us the sense of Your presence,  
Your love, and Your strength.  
Help us to have perfect trust  
in your protecting love and strengthening power  
so that nothing may frighten or worry us  
for, living close to You,  
we shall see Your hand. Amen.

## **Psalm 138**

### *Thanksgiving and Praise Of David*

<sup>1</sup>I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup>I bow down towards your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love  
and your faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything.

<sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased my strength of soul.

<sup>4</sup>All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

<sup>5</sup>They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
for great is the glory of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup>For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands. [NRSV]

## Isaiah 6:1 – 8

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of

unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

[NRSV]

## Jeremiah 29: 10 – 14

<sup>10</sup> For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup>Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

<sup>13</sup>When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup>I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. [NRSV]

## Luke 5:1 – 11

<sup>1</sup>Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup>So

they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. [NRSV]

## James 5: 7 – 11

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing

at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. [NRSV]

## **A Fresh Voice in Men's Spirituality**

Author Gareth Brandt Explores New Images Beyond the Warrior and the Monk

When it comes to male spirituality, men seem to have only two choices for models. "They are told to be strong, take-charge and independent, like warriors, or silent and alone, like meditating monks," says Gareth Brandt, author of the new Herald Press book *Under Construction: Reframing Men's Spirituality*. "Being aggressive or passive seem to be the only options out there."

For Brandt, who teaches spirituality at Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford, B.C., those images—made popular by some Christian men's movements—are too limiting. "When I started examining the subject, I thought there must be other images we could use to help us define what a Christian man looks like," he says. "I was sure that not every man wants to go into battle, or withdraw from others."

He decided to test his idea by inviting male friends to participate in a discussion group exploring different images of male spirituality. "Within 24 hours, the group was full," he says. "It showed me that I wasn't alone in feeling this way."

The result of those meetings is *Under Construction*, which uses the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis to explore other images of male spirituality. "I would send a chapter out in advance, and then we would meet and talk about it," he says. "The discussion helped me refine the book, and made it a group project"

"Joseph was an ordinary man who experienced a lot in life—tragedy, shattered dreams, temptations and fulfillment in life and work," he says. "Yet he was strong and gentle, showed a love for God, was able to forgive and be reconciled with those who had harmed

him." The desire to be a peacebuilder and to promote God's shalom in the world is a key element of male spirituality for Brandt.

For Brandt, male spirituality "reaches its height when it shows compassion to all people, beginning with those close to us. It's about being part of building God's commonwealth of love and justice, having the courage to face the wounds of our past and building a marriage, a family, and a career while empowering others to build with us."

As for the book itself, Brandt acknowledges that it can be tough to get men interested in reading about why they need to talk about spirituality. "That's why I call this a 'men's book for those who don't read men's books.' I didn't read men's books either until I began to research for this project, but I have become convinced that we need to talk about our unique spirituality as men. I just don't think the resources out there up to this point tell every man's story."

And why should men want to open up or read about this subject? "We are half of the human race, and we're responsible for a lot that has gone wrong in the world," he says. "Plus, North American men are the most powerful group of people on the planet. A good place to start is a humble self-examination and an exploration of some healing and holistic metaphors of spirituality. That is what I hope to provide with this book."

*Under Construction: Reframing Men's Spirituality* is available at local Christian bookstores or at [www.mpn.net/underconstruction](http://www.mpn.net/underconstruction)

### **And this just in from Hannelore's sister-in-law Hospital chaplain at Edmonton's University Hospital...**

CBC Radio Canada broadcast a story on Spiritual Care that included the recent cuts to 13 positions in Fraser Health Authority. CBC's *The Current* aired this story for half an hour back on Monday February 1<sup>st</sup> on CBC Radio One. Though the live broadcast is past, it has been archived and is still available for listening via the website at [www.cbc.ca/thecurrent](http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent). You are encouraged to listen to the story, and offer comment to CBC including thanks for the broadcast of the show, using the easy connect form at the end of the broadcast, or by phone on their listener feedback line at 1-877-287-7366.