

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

January 17th, 2010

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our service this Sunday will be led by Erna Freisen; we will be led in song by Andre Pekovich, accompanied by Ruth Enns, and Erika Hannan will be your usher. Later we will hear from Rebecca Stanley who will speak about the ministry and values of Urban Journey. *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 On January 10th, Jeanette Hanson (Missionary in China) spoke on one theme which ran through the day's lectionary texts: "fear not". Luke reports that these words were spoken by the angel to the terrified shepherds, and Isaiah also uttered them, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you." By comparison, John the Baptist (Luke 3.15-) had a message to the wealthy and powerful (us) which can only induce fear. Even Mary's "Magnificat" should make Canadian Christians fearful because her triumphant prayer is utterly threatening to our wealth. If the weak are going to be raised up, it can only be at our expense; if all the hungry in the world are indeed to be fed, our daily diets will suffer enormously; if the mighty are to be brought down from their seats, laws in many places will change drastically and there could be a serious redistribution of resources that would hurt our life styles. Mary's message is inclusive, Jesus attempted to include everybody in his proposed kingdom and Isaiah portrayed God as calling out to all nations. In the context of this call being global, the message "fear not" reminds us that God really is with us, that we need not fear other peoples, other races, or new economic times. Truth is, however, most of us likely do fear a truly upside-down kingdom. [JEK]

PGIMF News

Upcoming speakers

January 24	Paul Thiessen	Lectionary texts
January 31	Laura Ericsson	Love (1 Cor. 13) - Potluck/Congregational mtg
February 7	John Konrad	Mood disorders and the church's response
February 14	TBA	-

The Wider Church

MBMSI Jason & Andrea Edwards are MBMS International workers at the Pan American Christian Academy in São Paulo, Brazil. Please pray for wisdom for Jason and Andrea as they interact with students and faculty at the school; to give them opportunities to share Jesus and invite people to Familia de Deus, the church they attend.

NOTICE PGIMF church board meeting on Tuesday January 19th at 7:00 pm at the Menno Simons Centre - meet in the lounge.

Regent College Free Lectures Come to Regent College Tuesday January 19th to hear Rikk Watts speak on the topic *History, Hermeneutics, and Talk about God: From the Greeks to the Gospels* in this free lecture. Then on Thursday January 21st, you can hear Don Lewis speaking on *Behind the Balfour Declaration of 1917: Understanding Evangelical Support for a Jewish Homeland* which should be an excellent primer on Christian Zionist thought. All lectures held in the chapel at 7:30 pm - come early for a good seat!

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)

Camp Squeah The Camp is engaged in a planning process, beginning with a survey to develop a sustainable direction and strategy for the coming 3-5 years with the help of a Royal Roads University student in the Master of Business Administration program. To reach a broad scope of consumers, members, associates and key stakeholders an on-line survey has been created. You are invited to participate in this survey which should take approximately 10-15 minutes. The web link can be found at the Camp Squeah website <http://www.squeah.com/home/>. The survey will be available from January 9- 25, 2010. If you are not directed to the on-line survey you can connect with Gerry Dyble, student, at dyble@telus.net for further information. Your support in this survey is greatly appreciated.

MB Herald Creative Arts Contest

Calling all MB writers, artists, and photographers - it's the MB Herald creative arts contest! We invite you to submit your short stories, humour, poetry, artwork, or photography (on any subject) to the MB Herald. We're looking for creativity, excellence, and originality. Winning entries will appear in our 2010 summer reader. Prizes will be awarded for the most outstanding entries. Submission deadline is May 17, 2010. Please submit original entries or high resolution computer files, along with a short bio and your contact information, to mbherald@mbconf.ca or 1310 Taylor Ave., Winnipeg, Man., R3M 3Z6. For more information, call Laura Kalmar or Karla Braun at 888-669-6575 or 204-669-6575.

MCC When Love Hurts Support Groups are for women who have experienced or are experiencing abuse (verbal, emotional, or physical) in their intimate relationship. This ten-session support group is offered in several locations in the Lower Mainland. For more information call Elsie Goerzen, 604-845-0841 or email her at endabuse@mccbc.com.

MCC Are you a fan? Join the Mennonite Central Committee British Columbia Facebook group and keep up to date on events, disaster responses, thrift shop specials, discussions, and more. We have over 100 fans already - what are you waiting for?

MCC - Haiti

As Mennonite Central Committee ramps up its response to the devastation in Haiti, MCC workers in the country are already assisting as they are able. "We didn't sleep last night as we were pulling and digging people out of crumbled houses in our neighborhood," wrote MCC worker Alexis Depp of Waxhaw, N.C., in an e-mail on Wednesday, January 13. She and her husband, Benjamin Depp, then searched for missing friends and coworkers. MCC, which has been working in Haiti since 1958, has workers in Haiti include nine people from Colombia, the Netherlands and the United States; seven Haitian program staff members; and additional support staff. All program staff located in Port-au-Prince, the capital, are accounted for.

The Canadian government is matching donations. MCC is eligible for these matching funds which essentially double the value of a donation. The match will apply to donations made by individual Canadians from January 12 to February 12, 2010. Additional MCC staff are flying into Haiti today. They include two people stationed in Honduras and one from the U.S. A fourth, from Edmonton, Alta., will arrive on Saturday.

1,000 water filters have been purchased and are awaiting shipment to Haiti. Drinking water will be a significant issue given the collapse of water collection systems. At MCC in British Columbia, donations have been pouring in, reflecting the concern that people feel for those living in the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

Donations to MCC's response in Haiti are welcome. They should be designated Haiti Earthquake. Donations can be made online at mcc.org, by telephone at 1-888-622-6337, by mail – MCC BC PO Box 2038, 31414 Marshall Road Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8 or at your local MCC Thrift Shop and Ten Thousand Villages store

Micah 6:6-8

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for

my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? [NRSV]

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the

scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question. [NRSV]

1Corinthians 12:1-11

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is

given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. [NRSV]