



Cross Walk



Uganda
2010
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Lighting Our Way



Patrick Preheim

Hospitality

“Hospitality” has a prominent place in this edition of the Crosswalk. Marlene Froese has contributed some thoughts and suggestions on the matter from her perspective as Community Life Coordinator. On behalf of a group appointed by the Care and Visitation Committee, Walter Wall has submitted a working draft proposal of a table fellowship ministry for people within the church and for those God will draw to our church. We hope to discuss the idea of these “link” groups at our semi-annual meeting. Beyond this Crosswalk edition, hospitality is a concept surfacing in various branches of our congregational life: hosting young adults for a meal, the Guess Who is Coming for Faspas event, the low German program, the Adult Education series on Three Cups of Tea, to name just a few.

I credit the Holy Spirit with our congregation’s continued and renewed efforts toward hospitality. The older patterns and customs of hospitality are changing. In our context the concept of hospitality “has fallen on hard times. Busy schedules, working mothers, the disappearance of servants, and the rise of a highly mobile population have

combined to make genuine hospitality seem a thing of the past” (Sara Covin Juengst, *Breaking Bread: The Spiritual Significance of Food*, p. 37). This reality entails a spiritual loss, so the Holy Spirit gets us thinking about new ways to encounter the divine through hospitality. The Spirit does this because hospitality is important.

The biblical material clearly understands hospitality, and more specifically table fellowship, as an essential aspect of our spiritual lives. Books have been written on biblical hospitality, so I will give you just a taste. The Old Testament has numerous stories in which hospitality leads to blessing: Abraham / Sarah (Gen 18:1-16), Lot (Gen 19:1-11), Gideon (Judges 6:11-18), Boaz (Ruth 2-3). Epistles of the New Testament from at least three different apostolic schools urge the new church to continue the habit of hospitality: Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:2, and 1st Peter 4:9. The Gospels make table fellowship (in the institution of the Lord’s Supper) a primary means by which we remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. There can be no doubt that hospitality and table fellowship are core concepts of our biblical tradition.

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Board Report

Ernie Epp



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Our goal is to keep you informed and connected with one another. We would appreciate contact from you regarding any news items you may have about the joys and concerns of our church family.

**Due Date for the Next
Cross Walk
is May 23.**

Summer is almost here, and many plans for rest, travel and family recreational times are being made. Aren't we fortunate? We are truly among the blessed and we ought not to wait until Thanksgiving to be thankful. Our God is faithful and just.

Our Annual General Meeting was very well attended and a positive time of congregational discernment took place. The minutes will be reviewed at our Semi-Annual meeting on May 31 and you will note that a lot of congregational matters were considered. It is vitally important for the congregation to meet from time to time to make decisions important for its healthy spiritual and practical life. Attendance at the last meeting was good. It would be even better if more of our younger families would be able to attend and participate. I encourage all of us to encourage as many as possible to come to the May 31 meeting. The agenda is quite short yet vital. Elections for deacons whose terms are over will take place and various committee members will need to be appointed. This congregation could not exist if it weren't for persons committed to the ongoing healthy life of this congregational family and willing to volunteer their time and talents.

Your Board of Deacons met on April 19. A summary of the agenda items considered is provided here:

1. The Nominating Committee reported that persons from our congregation have been found for almost all openings. Carrie Dueck continues to encourage members and regular NPMC participants to come forward if they wish to serve this church as a deacon or a committee member.
2. Our finances are in good shape. A shortfall of about \$35 was reported in the actual revenue and expense category.

3. A more active approach to presenting the Anabaptist position on Peace and Justice to the public is being advocated. Will we do this with ads on Buses and/or other places of high visibility in our city? More discussion on this is to take place.

4. Three persons were presented to the Board for approval of their requests to transfer their church membership to NPMC...we rejoice in this. Eric and Lois Wiens, and Rhoda Derksen.

5. More requests for NPMC services are coming from the community. Our pastors have to cautiously consider how many of these can actually be taken on.

6. The Youth Fund Raiser last Sunday, Apr.18, raised approx. \$4,000. We are a generous congregation and give freely to help our youth grow spiritually and relationally within this church community.

7. The Pastor Emeritus resolution returned to the Board at the annual meeting was again reviewed. A report will be provided at the semi-annual meeting.

8. Our Youth Pastor search is going well with a number of applications to consider.

The next Board of Deacons meeting is scheduled for May 17 at 7:30pm.

Anita Retzlaff closed the meeting with prayer.

Lighting Our Way - Hospitality

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As I mentioned earlier, our social milieu differs from that of biblical times or even the 20th century. The ancient spiritual dimensions present in hospitality may be found in new forms. I suspect that God, Jesus, and

the Holy Spirit are less concerned about the form of our hospitality than if we are simply seeking to be hospitable. May God grant us wisdom and courage as we faithfully attempt contextualization of hospitality to 21st century Saskatchewan.

NPMC Care Group

Walter Wall

On March 22 our Community Life Coordinator, Marlene Froese, met with representatives of some of the care groups to discuss the present status and future direction of our Care Groups.

Of the five groups originally formed, only two remain active. Marlene challenged us to reconsider their purpose and organization. Should 'programs' be essential or should the groups just meet socially? Should people remain indefinitely in the same group, or should they move into new groups at regular intervals? Should the groups be a means of drawing visitors and new members into a closer association with the church?

Those present all thought the care groups should continue. It appears that the groups that have continued to be active met more frequently and more regularly. One of them often met over potluck lunch after the morning church service. Other groups became inactive because they ran out of people willing to assume a leadership role, or because their members felt they could not host or take on a program for their group.

It was the view of many at our meeting that the word 'care' in Care Group made people feel they were obligated to provide care to others in the group in case of illness, etc. and this made them reluctant to join a group. Caring, it was felt, would likely occur spontaneously, but should not be seen as an obligation. Many people already have many 'caring' responsibilities and should not feel obligated to take on more.

After much discussion, those present at the meeting came to the following tentative conclusions:

1. We wanted the Care Groups to continue, but perhaps under a different name, such as "Links (Lynx?) Groups" in order to reflect an emphasis on social contact.
2. Each group should meet about once every two months over a potluck lunch after the morning service. Visitors at the morning service would be invited as guests. Other meetings would be at the discretion of each group.
3. Programs would be limited to occasions special to the group, i.e. a member returning from a holiday might show a few pictures and talk about holiday highlights.
4. NPMC members presently part of an active group should feel free to stay with that group as long as they wish to. Those presently not part of an active group would be encouraged to join a group by a process yet to be determined.

Before formulating any final plan, we want to hear the opinions of NPMC members. Please phone, write or email your thoughts to any one of the following: Marlene Froese, Jake & Barbara Ens, Elva Epp, Walter Wall, Kurt Sawatzky, Erika Doerksen.

HOSPITALITY Expecting **SURPRISES**

Marlene Froese

In the bible story of Jesus visiting Mary, Martha and Lazarus we saw two very different ways to define hospitality. One way was the act of providing, in this case the food, and the other was the engaging act of listening. Both women were in the hospitality process, but yet so different. It is really a verb or a noun, active and passive and yet both are a way of living 'Hospitality'.

Michele Hershburger, in her book "Hospitality-Expecting Surprises", begins a 40-day journey of practicing hospitality in a deliberate way. She recounts the many blessings she received in actively engaging herself in really living the word hospitality. After completing her 40-day walk she felt she was living proof of experiencing God's hospitality toward us. She then proceeded to write her account and provided us with her personal definition of hospitality. She says, "It is a new way of looking at the world." In simplest form, "hospitality is seeing the stranger through the eyes of Jesus." Or she writes, "It is choosing to look for Jesus in the eyes of each stranger. It is loving the stranger."

So I ask us, Nutana Park Community, to embark on our personal 50-day journey to new concepts and actions in living out hospitality. As we live our day let's engage ourselves with looking for Jesus in everyday happenings and deliver, in acts, the love that we receive from Jesus. Let us intentionally invite to give and receive that love to community around us. It could be and unexpected surprise of love firsthand.

Faith, Film and Fiction

Patty Friesen

I haven't seen any good movies this month, but had a number of good reads

Half-Broke Horses by Jeannette Wells, is the entertaining tale of her grandmother and a family history of relationships with half-broke horses. The Glass Castle is Wells previous bestseller.

The Horse Boy by Rupert Isaacson is the amazing journey of a father with

his autistic son and another tale of the healing power of horses. While not a healing from a Christian perspective, we have empathy for the challenges and heart-felt desire of parents of autistic children.

Stones Into Schools by Greg Mortenson continues the inspiring story of Three Cups of Tea of the American mountain climber who returns to Pakistan to build schools

for girls, empowering villages and the next generation against the recruitment of Taliban forces. **Three Cups of Tea** is now required reading for US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and should be for Mennonites as well.

A Short History of Tractors in Ukranian by Marina Lewychna is a family journey of immigration, aging parents and second marriages. Funny and sad.

Library News - new to the Library

Susan Ens-Funk

for the Bible tells me so - a film by Daniel Karlake (DVD) An award-winning documentary following the experiences of people of faith walking beside family members and children who are homosexual. A film which can offer healing, clarity and understanding for people exploring scripture and sexual identity.

Anyone and Everyone - a film by Susan Polis Schutz (DVD) A documentary film which records the discussion of families' experiences having a family member who is gay. The families come from all walks of life and diverse origins and religious communities.

The Blue Book - from the Presbyterian Church - A resource booklet designed to address the most frequently asked questions about homosexual orientation.

The Journey Home I and II - from Tamara's House. resource books for people who have experience childhood sexual abuse or are supporting survivors. These two booklets provide essential information for people working to heal after living through abuse and for their families and friends.

Sponsoring Group Handbook - from Citizenship and Immigration - a handbook for groups who are sponsoring and supporting refugee settlement.

Peace - by Barry Miles. A coffee table book on 50 years of Peace Activism in North America. A beautiful and interesting historical retrospective.

The Nikkel-Nickel Family of Prussia, Russia, America and Canada - Edited by John P. Nickel. A family history book.

Praying with the Anabaptists- The Secret of Bearing Fruit by Marlene Kropf and Eddy Hall - Fifteen meditations with Scripture, stories, prayers, prayer exercises and hymns to deepen our spiritual relationship with God. This is a helpful resource for small groups and individuals. (On the shelf at 242.8 K93)

For the Beauty of the Earth - Women, Faith and Creation Care by Patty Friesen (yes, our Patty Friesen). Twelve session for women's gatherings, Sunday school classes, retreats or individual reading and inspiration. (On the shelf at 242 F912)

Prayer Book for Earnest Christians translated by Leonard Gross. A remarkable book with prayers of warmth and purpose. Suitable for public as well as small groups. (242.8 G878)

My Maasai Life by Robin Wiszowaty. An autobiographical account of a young woman's study trip to Kenya and its' lasting impact on her life.

Lunch with Lenin by Deborah Ellis. Ten short stories set in diverse locations around the world but drawn together by the impact of illicit drugs on the lives of teens. If you experienced the Breadwinner Trilogy, you will want to read this. (Y W47)

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne. A look at the Holocaust through the eyes of young children. A powerful and deeply affecting book. (Y B792)

Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting. Why are people homeless? What is it like to live that way? Eve Bunting answers these questions in a skillful picture book. (E B 942)

All the World by Liz Garton Scanlon. A beautiful, pastoral poem about the Earth and the activities on it. (E S279)

The Song of the King by Max Lucado. Another picture book parable from the storyteller Max Lucado.

God Said Amen by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso - A striking picture book parable about the dangers of self-sufficiency and the power of humility.

A Faith Like Mine - A nonfiction book for children discussing the major world religions which includes information on the places, practices and people.



NPMC and Numbers

Lynn Driedger

No, I am not going to wax eloquently about the fourth book of the Bible. This is simply about the Sunday morning attendance statistics that have been kept over the last ten years. Every Sunday morning, the person operating the sound board takes a few minutes to count all of the people in attendance. This information is passed on to me, and I record it and work out monthly and yearly averages. So for your edification, I present the yearly averages for our two services. I have also included the total average for both services. This number can be misleading if you compare it to the years when we had only one service, since there will be anywhere from three to six people who, for various reasons, attend both services. However, it can help show general trends.

Two things stand out for me. The first is that the overall attendance has been quite stable over the last four or five years, a very encouraging sign of the health of our congregation. The other point is the general decline in the number of people attending the 8:15 services. This, however, is a good example of when you can't trust statistics to give you the whole picture. Those who attend the early service on a regular or semi-regular basis, do so because they are spiritually nourished by the quiet and contemplative nature of the service in the lounge, or because employment or home situations prevent them from attending at 11:00.

If anyone has any questions about these numbers, or would like more detail (e.g. month by month averages), I would be pleased to give that information to you.

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
8:15	-	-	34	37	43	39	38	33	28	26
11:00	216	240	238	224	211	199	191	202	197	199
Total	216	240	272	261	254	238	229	235	225	225

Library Bequest

MCSask received a bequest from the estate of Maria Boldt, which is designated to be used for library resources in the Saskatchewan Mennonite churches. NPMC's portion of that bequest is in the amount of \$740.00.

Maria and her husband Cornelius spent their lifetime in ministry. They were devoted to the church and to the various conferences. Their passion was preaching and teaching. They lived a simple, frugal lifestyle and were always generous in their giving.

The executors of the will, Dennis Boldt and David Neufeld, ask that we apply these funds in such a way that they honour the love for Christ and the Church that was so much a part of Cornelius and Maria Boldt's life.

An Ecumenical Retreat Workshop

Kurt Sawatzky, Board Member, Prairie Centre for Ecumenism

Teach us to Number Our Days

"Teach Us To Number Our Days", is a retreat workshop presented by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism on April 12 to 15 with Father Tom Ryan. Father Ryan, the former director of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism in Montreal, is currently the Director of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations at the North American Paulist Center in Washington, D.C.

The retreat provided opportunities through presentations on aging, illness, death, grief, the afterlife - all with an eye towards bringing us to look more clearly at the life that is ours to live now. Father Ryan led the participants using a variety of methods to work with these themes such as journaling, guided meditations and group participation and sharing to awaken us on a deeper level to the gift of life - remembering to live. Awareness and acceptance that we will not enjoy life on this earth forever can bring a clarity and richness to the limited, precious moments of life, and foster a special care for relationships and priorities.

In the first of five sessions, the emphasis was on the topic of aging and the Law of Impermanence. All life is impermanent. We experience great stress if we deny this and cling to life as if it is permanent. The first truth is that we are subject to aging. We have fear of what aging will bring us, not the aging itself. As in all things, our attitude and how we look at life determines whether we achieve the goal of aging well. If we live without purpose we are only "getting old". Successful or gracious aging is a spiritual strengthening as we acknowledge our physical weakening;

wisdom versus knowledge, seeing our life with the "eye of wisdom", a time of inner strength and reflection. In retirement we have the opportunity to work or participate in a whole new range of activities of our choosing, when our work is no longer primarily for financial rewards but for personal and meaningful, life enriching rewards. It is a time to benefit from all the experiences we have had through our whole life.

In the next two sessions we were led to closely examine the topics of illness and death, inevitable events in the process of living, changing, aging and dying. We considered the meaning of suffering and loss. Pain is part of life. Illness and pain teach us about the impermanence of life, returning us to what is meaningful and essential and to look at things more deeply. Illness makes us aware that we need God; we are not in a position of control when we are ill. Through illness, suffering and weakness we are brought to God, which opens us to a new and richer life. In opening ourselves to the blessings of God, we open ourselves to a better, richer, more meaningful life to experience the true joy of relationships with God and other people. Our lives are meaningful, satisfying and happier when we focus less on ourselves and more on service to other people. We are meant to give our lives to others and our death as an example or gift to our loved ones.

The best way to prepare for death is to practice "little deaths" or "letting-go's" throughout our life. Life consists of continuous change, letting-go of the old and embracing change. If we do this in a natural manner throughout our life, we will be more ready to

accept death as the final "letting-go". Death then is the natural inevitable step of letting-go of our life on this earth to our resurrection to the eternal life with God.

The topics of grief and resurrection were presented and considered in detail in further sessions of the retreat. The fifth and last session was entitled "life before death-remember to live!" We need to live today, live in the present all the time, "the reality of now". Love God and people as we enrich the lives of those around us by serving and caring. We live and age successfully by widening our social circle, being active in helping other people and increasing our exposure to relationships. To live richer lives of fulfillment, spirituality becomes more important since healthy spirituality always brings more contentment to life. If we do not find God in everyday life, we risk not finding Him at all.

This ecumenical retreat was attended by approximately 30 participants from many denominations. Many friendships and relationships were formed during the retreat through sharing, praying, singing, and visiting during refreshment and lunch breaks, the Wednesday evening dinner, and the closing session of sharing around the "Tree of Life". The retreat was a very enriching ecumenical event. All the participants benefited from the presentations, which made us all think deeply about topics that are important to each of us, but that most of us aren't always comfortable thinking about and sharing with others. The retreat focused us on how we want to use the time and resources we have and the values we want to keep front and centre as we live and age well.

Church Family News

We **REJOICE** with

Jeremy Enns as he received baptism and was welcomed as a member of NPMC

Anita Retzlaff, Jeremy Enns and Patrick Preheim on the day of Jeremy's baptism



Rhoda Derksen and Lois & Eric Wiens as they became members of NPMC through transfer of membership

Carrot River Mennonite Church as they celebrated 50 years of worship on April 18

the following churches as they will celebrate 100 years of worship this summer:

- Aberdeen Mennonite Church** on June 5-6
- Zoar Mennonite Church** Waldheim on July 2-3
- Zoar Mennonite Church** Langham on July 16-18
- Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church** on July 24-25
- Laird Mennonite Church** on August 28-29

Our Condolences to Those Who Are Grieving the Recent Death of Loved Ones

Sarah Brown on the death of her father, John Macdonald. John was a son-in-law to **Alina Balzer** and a brother-in-law to **Geraldine Balzer & Gordon Peters**

Arnie & Edna Koop, Tanya Koop, Teresa, Garlin, Janae and Teya Hunter on the death of their father, grandfather and great grandfather, Frank Koop

Peter & Marilyn Guenther on the death of Peter's brother, Edward Guenther

Lora Mae Epp and Gerald Epp on the death of husband and father, Paul Epp

Janna and Aiden Krismer, Derrel Friesen, James Friesen, and Grace Kroeker on the death of grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt, Sarah Friesen

Upcoming Events & Important Notes

May 2
CMU Singers
8:45 am & 11 am
NPMC

May 2
Junior & Adult Choirs
Spring concert
7:00 pm
NPMC

May 9
RJC Spring Concert
2:30 pm
RJC Gym

June 7
House of Doc Concert
4:00 pm
Shekinah Retreat Centre Amphitheatre
Tickets: \$25
Ph: 945-4929
Email: office@skekinahretreatcentre.org

June 11-12
MCC Sask Relief Sale & Auction
To volunteer contact:
Armin & Edith Krahn
Ph: 384-1206
Email: eakrahn@sasktel.net

June 29-July 3
MCCanada Assembly 2010
Ambrose University College
Calgary, AB
To be a delegate contact:
Allan Klassen

A Year in Germany

Alina Balzer-Peters

Sunday School Immersion & A Roman Holiday

So I did Sunday school – can you believe it? I can't and I don't know how I did it either.

Before Christmas I told the Youth Pastor that whenever he needed help or whatever I was around to help. And around this time my church is looking for a new pastor since Pastor now is retiring. And last Sunday we were voting on whether to hire a particular man as the new pastor. SO everyone in church needed to be there to vote and no one wanted to do Sunday school. So I was asked, since obviously I don't vote.

MY GOODNESS. For some reason I said yes. So the night before I began planning a lesson . About lent. In German. In English Sunday school isn't a big deal - I mean I write down a couple of notes and wing it. But you know my German isn't THAT good that I can just talk about any subject. So I wrote and I translated and I worried and I cursed my need to be 'challenged' this year. And I wondered why I ever said yes. And then my friend S called (she's a pretty new friend and she's pretty cool). She wanted to invite me to go bowling with a couple of friends but I said I had to do this Sunday School prep. AND SHE OFFERED TO HELP ME. Praise the Lord Jesus I was happy. I baked cookies too because I mean kids love cookies.

Then Sunday came and I went early to prep. I set it all up. I went over my

lines. I worried and worried. S came and we were ready to go. Then only 3 relatively young kids showed up. So we coloured and it was good. Then parents noticed that there was indeed Sunday school that day so they



Above: The exterior of the Roman Coliseum
Below: Alina inside the Roman Coliseum

felt the need to call home and send the kids over. SHOOT. I was totally set back. Like I didn't know what to do anymore. Everyone was in the middle of their colouring that I didn't want to interrupt with my lame lesson that I barely understood. And yeah. We didn't learn much. We coloured what we were thankful for and then the boys played video games and the rest of us did animal charades, read books or played Guess Who.

Now I didn't think it was that

terrible. Since it was a meeting that day I was more designated babysitter and could do what I liked. I didn't have to deliver the best lesson ever. But I felt I had to. I felt I needed to prove that I was the great trainee that did Sunday school and not only did it but did it AWESOMELY so that all the kids now loved me and the parents respected me. But I realize that doesn't have to happen. And also kids aren't hard to impress. And I kept thinking to myself: I've sung

in front of hundreds of people before AND I've forgotten the words; this isn't that intense. I've done an academic presentation at a conference before; this is seriously not that bad. I've had to do countless presentations in classes that count for grades; this doesn't even matter.

Nonetheless I fretted over this situation like nobody's business and all because it was

in German. All because I would have to communicate complex thoughts in a language that I don't totally understand yet. And even though it went well, I don't know if I'd do it again.

I went to Rome! But really, only for a day. Not long enough I tell you but what can you do? Okay where to begin!

I met my friend KW (she's here from the University of Waterloo) in the main train station. It was so great to see

her. I realized that we had not seen each other in almost a year which signifies how long I've been in Europe! We were both super tired that first night so we went and got some pizza after dropping our stuff off at the hostel. Then we pretty much just caught up the whole night. And

our room had a snorer! Downside of hostels. Snorers totally totally suck.

And the next day we started early and saw the Vatican! And it was so sunny and gorgeous the whole day. I just relished in the sunshine. And the beauty of all these things. Like it obviously wasn't spiritual but so remarkable to see these feats of humanity in art. Like the amazing work people were forced to do that's standing thousands of years later is just. Wow. We had a great language moment when we entered St. Peter's Basilica. There was a sea of yellow-suited people. KW pulled an Italian security guard aside to ask what was going on. But first she asked if he spoke English. No he didn't. French? Not that either. Deutsch? Ja. Awesome. So the people were there because they had helped with the earthquakes that had been going on and they got a day in Rome! It was great having KW with me, she's



Alina, making a wish as she throws coins in the Trevi Fountain

a Classics and Art History major so Rome is just her thing. She knew tons of stuff so we never needed a tour. And the Sistine Chapel was pretty amazing. Like I can appreciate everything. But I feel for a lot of these the amazingness is so blown out and then you get there and you're like 'oh wow this is cool but it isn't thaaat amazing'. For KW it was a different story because she studies this stuff and loves it. So after that we had gelato and made our way to the Coliseum. Also WOW. And we got in for free cuz it was Ladies Day!! Best ever. I was just in awe of the place for the same reasons as stated above. And then we walked around the Forum for awhile in the beautiful sunlight. And then made our way to the Pantheon, big beautiful fountain.

Ate more gelato. Talked a lot. It was just a lot of fun. We got lost a couple of times but how can you not in Rome. And Pizza and lasagna and red wine. It was so Roman. *sigh*. I'm sad I was only there for a day. There you go! So pretty much really really enjoyed my time there and look forward to going back and taking it easier next time. Buy cheap(ish) leather shoes, eat more gelato, and pasta and maybe then move onto another Italian city like Florence.

Also. This is the 8th month in Europe! Holy smokeroos.

My Favourite things about Germany:

Ich freue mich für dich People who say they look forward to things for you. In Canada we say 'hope you have a good time', or 'I'm happy for you' but no one says 'I look forward to that for you'.

Curry ketchup. So delicious.

Someone telling you to use Du (informal 'you') instead of Sie (formal 'you') when addressing them.

Old men who wear sweater vests, felt caps, scarves and still ride on old school bikes when they're over 70.

Uganda 2010

Delmar Rempel (On behalf of Betty Brown and Lorraine Harder)

It all started in August of 2009, when an Anglican lady, Pauline Hildebrandt from Alexandria Virginia, was visiting us with her Father. Pauline is a second cousin to Betty and we had become good friends from a previous family reunion. Pauline was in my office looking at my degrees on the wall and mentioned that she had just returned the week before from Uganda where she is heavily involved with a home for rescued girls who had either been left alone on the streets or been sexually abused. The home is called the "Kings Daughters Ministries" (KDM) of Kampala, Uganda. She expressed interest in going back to film a documentary of this home in order to solicit funding to support the girls and the home. She stated, "I need a photographer to come with me to do it," then turned to me and asked, "Will you do it?" My immediate response, as if it had been a call from God was, "Yes I will do it." I said this without even talking to Betty. The die was cast.

Now to put plans into action would mean a new, still more sophisticated, professional video camera and all the other filming and lighting equipment needed to carry out the plan. Plus, I would need someone with experience to do interviews and voice-over when we would need to do translation and give other information. I asked Lorraine Harder, who I knew had some experience with this, if she would be interested in coming with us. After a few weeks she said yes, knowing full well this was a volunteer assignment and we were to cover all of our own expenses. It indeed was good to have Lorraine with us, providing not only good interviewing techniques, but also her hearty laugh, and her ability to connect with the KDM girls.

We had another lady, Florence Ogoola from Fairfax, Virginia, with us. She was born in Uganda but has lived in the USA

for 30-some odd years. She is a nurse in a hospital in Virginia and was interested in joining our team. The people in Uganda know English, due to the country's British colonial past, but they also speak tribal languages and dialects of which there are at least twelve. Many of the younger



Above: Betty showing Betty N. basics of cross-stitch
Center: Delmar filming as girls provide shade with umbrella
Below: A typical filming scene with Pauline interviewing

photos compliments of Delmar Rempel

ones could only understand the native dialect from their villages or slums. Florence was able to translate very quickly. She also had come home to visit with family members still living in Uganda. So this was our team - Pauline, Lorraine, Betty, Florence and I.

Each had their assignment to do. Betty helped the girls that were involved with sewing and tailoring and bead-work, as well as baking. Together with the girls responsible for cooking meals they baked their first "high altitude cake" - there are different recipes and baking times for different altitudes. It was a carrot cake with icing and was a first for them. It was a very good cake for their first try. They had no measuring cups or spoons; they mixed in a plastic washbasin with a wooden paddle. It was a REAL challenge for Betty. Betty just wanted "to be a grandmother to the girls."

The youngest one is six years old, and as we understand it, was pushed out of her home by her parents and left to fend for herself on the street where she was found by Sally W'afrika, the founder and executive director of KDM. She followed Lorraine everywhere and they became close, as the photograph of the two together shows. Lorraine also taught beading techniques she had learned from the First Nations here in Saskatchewan. She also conducted interviews with many of the girls and helped set up for filming.

It was a sobering experience hearing some of the stories related to us by the girls, staff and volunteers at KDM. Yes, we might have these same situations here in Saskatoon, BUT, we have a social system that deals with such situations. In Uganda there is no such help from the government and very few NGO's. If a child is on the street in slums or in the village (often abandoned as young as 5 years old), that child will need to beg or steal food and water (none that is "clean") and sleep in

doorways or wherever. These young girls are then abused in many ways with no one to help or protect them. These pages could be full of stories we know about, but will not dwell on. Rather, I want to focus on the positives and what KDM is doing to help these girls.

KDM was started by Sally Wafrika in the early 2000s. She had been abandoned by her parents as a child. At the age of twenty, she began taking street girls in to live in her tiny apartment. She brought food and clothing to female prisoners and a young girl reached through the bars to grab her. The girl begged her not to leave her in the prison. The girl only got to eat what other prisoners would share with her. The girl also had severe epilepsy and had lost most of her ability to speak because she was so traumatized. Sally told the girl she had no place to keep her and that she had a job as a tailor and had to go to work. Half way home Sally had asked the taxi to turn around and return to the police station. She picked up the girl and this was one of the early child rescues of KDM. Why was a little girl living in a prison cell? Her mother had passed away when she was two. There were no other females in the home and the father had started to sexually abuse her. At the age of 12, she had screamed while being sexually assaulted and the neighbors had heard her and came to help. The father was jailed but they had no place or person to send the girl too, therefore they had put her in this jail cell. Now at the age of 14, with the love of a new family at KDM, the help of a young medical student, and an American sponsor to pay her school fees, she had started school, and had gotten her epilepsy under control. We met her and came to love her - what a wonderful young lady!

Today, as sponsorship money is available, these young girls and women in their teens and early 20's are now given a space in this place, which becomes their home. They receive training, nurturing and education until they are self-sufficient enough to go on their own. Because of overcrowding (some rooms have as many as 4 triple-decker bunk beds) their personal space is very limited; clothes are kept in old suitcases or boxes and there is no room for other furniture. But, they now

have a place to call home and are they ever grateful for it! They are given good food, taught housekeeping, and personal hygiene. They receive a good



Above: Lorraine teaching beading as taught by Canadian natives
Below: Lorraine and her new friend, Madrin (one of the girls at KDM)

photos compliments of Delmar Rempel

education, even up to University level, or they go to schools to learn a trade, such as cooking, tailoring, cosmetology and business administration. Many would like to start their own business. Sally encourages them to dream of what

they would like to become but she also pushes them to make concrete plans to achieve those dreams. Some want to be doctors (to help those in need was a frequent explanation) food caterers, social workers and social administrators, nursery workers, psychologists, dentists, beauticians, business operators, and many more. One of them is a very competent, trained massage therapist - just ask Lorraine or Betty. What an opportunity for young girls and women who otherwise would not have had any hope for a future.

In the Kampala community people are taking notice of the activities that are created at KDM. There was a doctor who was there on a regular basis as a volunteer. A teacher left her teaching job to become the school coordinator for KDM, much to the dislike of her "Head Master." Many of these children never had experienced school, and needed a lot of help in adjusting to school discipline and doing homework. She not only gave up her job,

but salary as well, and works at KDM without financial assistance, "depending on God to provide". He did before we left! We all received farewell letters from many of the girls. One named Betty M who is becoming a very good tailor wrote on a footnote to Betty, "Thank you for seeing in me what other people would not see in me, and what I didn't know I am capable of doing. I love you". It's a heart wrenching experience to know these girls did not receive parental love and support. It is overwhelming to think of what Sally Wafrika has taken on, trying to be a parent to over thirty girls.

KDM has been recognized by the Uganda Government and given a charitable designation status and we were told this week that there is now an organization here in Canada that we can donate through to KDM, and receive a Canadian tax deductible receipt. If any of you would like to become involved in helping these girls as a sponsor, please contact us and we will direct you to the right avenues. I can be contacted by phone at 306.374.3647 or e-mail delmar.r@sasktel.net

What an experience!

Journey with Bob

Evelyn Roden

Bob, our third child came into this world in a big hurry, late in the evening of October 18th, 1968. He was a beautiful baby with lots of thick, black hair. He was welcomed by his sister Joanne and brother David. He was a fussy baby, which we attributed to the usual things, colic, teething, allergies. When he became a toddler, we noticed some things that concerned us. His speech was delayed and so communicating was frustrating for him. He also displayed fears and compulsions that we weren't sure how to handle. Through counseling we realized that we had to use some different parenting strategies with Bob than we had used with Joanne and David. This counseling helped us to understand Bob and it also made us realize that he was a child with special needs. This realization was very sobering as we pondered what lay ahead for our bonny little boy. Would we be able to reach his needs? This affected the whole family. Joanne and David also had to try to understand and accept Bob the way he was. Even though there were times of uncertainty and frustration, we also grew to appreciate and enjoy the uniqueness of this child.

Unfortunately at this time, knowledge and awareness of special needs were limited. Parents were on their own for finding the proper resources and those resources were very limited. The word "retarded" was still being used. The community, I think, viewed him as an "odd" kid who had some strange behaviors and just didn't fit in with the so-called "normal" world. They didn't understand, just as we didn't at first. As a child, one of his favorite games was playing "Superman". He would don his rubber boots and a pair of shorts, hang a towel around his neck and 'fly' around the yard. In retrospect, I wonder if that was part of his desire to soar as other children did.

His specialness became more evident when he entered school. He showed signs of ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). They suggested that Ritalin might help and it certainly

calmed him down. Like any drug, Ritalin had side effects and his were depression, withdrawal and depressed appetite. To be honest, we missed our spunky, happy boy. Bob had always found it difficult to interact with other children and so now he became even more solitary and we hated to see that. He was only on that drug for a few years.

In his early school years teachers tried adapting programs, but school was so hard for him. He was always failing, always at the bottom of the class, daily facing things he couldn't do. How many of us could develop self-esteem in such a situation? The special ed. teacher provided a safe haven for him. She made him feel that he was O.K. and accepted him for who he was, with his fears, insecurities and compulsions. We were all learning how to understand a little boy who could not learn what dimes, nickels and quarters were or even what they stood for, but who, on the other hand, memorized all the multiplication tables in no time flat. Even today, at forty years, he has trouble understanding money and banking, but can quote sports scores from events all over the world.

Then when he was nine years old and Joanne and David were twelve and thirteen, their father died very suddenly of a heart attack and our world shattered. We felt like the rug had been pulled from under us and we weren't sure how to get up and get going again. My biggest fear in being alone was whether I would be able to give my children what they needed, emotionally and financially, without their father's strong support. The children really missed their Dad and they had to find their own ways of coping with that big emptiness in their hearts. And so we all pulled together, supported each other, determined that we could make it.

When Bob was in Junior High, we realized that our small town school couldn't fulfill Bob's needs and so we bussed him to Saskatoon to attend a special needs class in Aden Bowman. This was a good move for him. Going

to such a big school was very scary for him and it took a lot of courage on his part. He stuck it out and within this classroom of young people who all had special needs, he flourished. For the first time in his school experience he was succeeding and gaining some self-confidence.

Over the years I've learned some valuable lessons. I've made many mistakes and I'm glad my children have been tolerant and forgiving. We parents think we know what's best for our children, so we try to make that happen for them. With Bob, I was even more so (forgive me, Bob) because I wasn't sure he'd make good decisions. It became a power struggle between what he wanted and what I thought was best for him. That became evident to me when I was attending a retreat. I was walking along a creek and I saw two butterflies attached at the wing. As I watched them struggle to go their separate ways, all they did was go around in circles, getting nowhere. It reminded me that maybe Bob and I were attached that way and we were going around in circles. I imagined what it would be like for those butterflies to let go of each other. What freedom that would be for both of those winged creatures. It could be the same for Bob and me. Even though it's really hard to let go of your challenged child, all our children need to make their journey of life in their own way. I haven't always been successful in letting go, as Bob would attest to, but I'm trying and things are so much better between Bob and me.

Today Bob is in a group home and he's well cared for and he's happy. He goes every day to work at the Abilities Council where he's been for the last twenty years. Life with him has certainly been a learning curve, but throughout his 40 years in our family, he has been my greatest teacher. He's taught me about patience, about acceptance, about not judging and most of all about being content with the way your life is. I'm so grateful for his presence in my life.



Terri Lynn Paulson

Agricultural Education in The Gambia, West Africa

Serving with Christian Volunteer Movement in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of The Gambia



Agricultural Education in The Gambia, West Africa

Dear NPMC Folk,

Hope you are all doing well!

I'm partnering with the two organizations on front to teach agricultural practicums to grades 7, 8, 10 and 11. It is both a joy and a challenge to be here and I appreciate your prayers.

If you'd like to get an update on what I'm up to, my email is: terrylnnpaulson@gmail.com

Just drop me a line.

Peace,
Terri Lynn Paulson

“Y” WALK

Josef Beug
Acceptance

Our youth group gets together every Tuesday, and on one particular Tuesday I noticed something. It seemed that everybody had a place. What I mean is that some people were quiet, others spoke loudly wanting their opinions to be heard, and still others talked only a little making comments and jokes. But everybody was accepted, no matter what they had to say, nobody was left out or made fun of (beside the occasional joke, but nobody's feelings were hurt). It seemed that everybody had opinions and things to say and the people who said them, were all accepted for who they were. No one was discriminated against for any reason. And I know what discrimination is like. The point I'm trying to make is, everybody is accepted for who they are, no matter where they come from, no matter what their views on life or their religious views. When I lived in the States it was not the same way. People were made fun of. There were often racist jokes and rude comments. It is nice to meet people who choose not to be rude or unkind or cruel, though I am still working on improving my own behavior. It is good to have people who will treat you kindly and accept you for who YOU are.

And those are my personal thoughts on acceptance.



*The Youth Led the Worship Service at the Sherbrooke Community Centre
Top: Alex Zurevinsky, Joey Beug, Eric Epp, Josh Dahl, Peter Beug, Kyle Zurevinsky and Jaime Unruh*

*Youth Service Project: Compiling Good Food Boxes
Bottom: Lauren Hooge, Anita Retzlaff, Emily Hooge and Erika Hooge*

*Youth Service Project: Compiling Good Food Boxes
Top Right: Eric Epp, Josh Dahl, and Kristian St. Onge
Center Right: Kenna Forrester and Rachel Zurevinsky
Bottom Right: Alex Zurevinsky, Jordan Riekman, Kristian St. Onge and Josh Dahl*

photos courtesy of Wendy Harder

PACKING Good Food BOXES



Thank you

to all of you for a record-breaking fundraiser! The youth and Wendy are very grateful for your support. Just under \$4000 was raised on April 18. Thank you to those who donated silent auction items (\$1881). Don and Louella Friesen provided the sausage, Ruby Harder the buns and Denelda Fast the caesar salad dressing. It was a very delicious meal. The majority of the money will be going to help fund the youth to go to the Youth Assembly 2011 in Kitchener/Waterloo.

Wendy Harder

Why go to the MC Canada Assembly?

Renata Klassen

Mennonite Church Canada Annual Delegate assembly sessions are taking place in Calgary, beginning on the evening of June 29th and continuing until the evening of Friday, July 2. Saturday, July 3rd offers the possibility of joining a variety of tours that are not a part of the formal sessions. During the three days of the conference, you have the opportunity to experience morning and evening worship and communion, participate in 12 discernment sessions on a variety of topics including sharing our faith with persons from different faith backgrounds, discerning faithfulness to Christ's call to be peacemakers, and hearing about various MC Canada programs, choose from 36

seminar sessions ranging widely from art for peace, sexuality, peace and reconciliation and residential schools (led by Larry Plenert (son-in-law of Ernie and Irene Baergen), peace building in the Philippines, Macau or China to church finances and revenue Canada regulations! You will also attend a July 1st barbeque and entertainment evening at Menno Simons Christian School, visit with old friends from across Canada and make new friends. And that is only the beginning. If you are a child or junior youth, you get to take part in a variety of daily activities with peers and dynamic leaders from MC Alberta, led by Jon Olfert (son-in-law of our own Carl Wiens). Senior high

youth and young adults are invited to participate in the adult sessions, with additional interaction planned in the evenings. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about and participate in discussion of various issues at a national church level. It is a time to get to know the people who provide leadership of national and international programs, to hear about their priorities, and to interact with them. We are a part of MC Canada. We need to be there! Check the MC Canada web site for more information and registration. And contact Allan Klassen so that you can represent our congregation as a delegate.



Ruby Harder's Bun Recipe

6 cups water
1/2 cup chicken fat or butter
1/4 cup honey or other sugar
3 tblsp yeast - I use fermipan or instant yeast
2 eggs
1-2 tsp salt

14 cups approx. - to make a soft dough
whole wheat flour and Best for Bread white flour
can also add flax and other seeds

I use a Bosch mixer machine.

Add fat & honey to 4 cups hot water in the machine. When melted add the remaining water. Should be warm. Then add 6 cups flour & yeast & mix. Then add salt & eggs & mix. Add remaining flour & mix till soft dough Mix 3 minutes. Let rise in bowl till double in volume. Shape into buns & place on pans. Let rise until double.

Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes or desired brownness.
Serve - Makes about 6 dozen