



Connections

Mennonite Women Canada encourages women to:

- nurture their life in Christ
- acknowledge and share their gifts
- hear and support each other
- serve and minister across the street and around the world



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

Leaping Ahead from Shaky Ground

While waiting in the Toronto airport to fly to the Special Delegate Assembly in Winnipeg, I (Shirley) saw a poster on the wall saying, "When the ground beneath your feet is shifting, do you stand still or leap forward?" Since I was thinking about opening devotions for our Executive meeting, I felt a nudge from God saying this should be my focus.

Following the Assembly, Mennonite Women Canada Executive, plus several other women leaders met together to discuss what changes may happen for us. We chose ***Leaping Ahead from Shaky Ground*** as the theme for this newsletter.

We were relieved that the motion we presented resulted in a commitment from Mennonite Church Canada to continue to keep us under their administrative umbrella and to welcome our women's meetings at future nationwide gatherings. **Tany Warkentin** has been our administrative financial support staff at MC Canada. Her position will end at the end of November and we will miss her caring and helpful spirit over and above her financial help. Thanks Tany! God's blessings!

Coreena Stewart (CAO for MC Canada) was also a valuable support to MW Canada, helping with planning our Assembly and annual March executive meetings for the past several years. Coreena's position is also ending and we took some time to reminisce, share thanks, laughs and tears, and send her with a blessing for her new venture.

Waltrude Gortzen, a long-term executive rep for MCBC Women's Ministry, announced she will be stepping down from her leadership role in the spring. What a significant gift she has been in so many ways! We will miss her! Thankfully, she agreed to continue on the Communications Committee, along with our past president, **Liz Koop**.



Current Executive:

Kathy Giesbrecht (MB), Elsie Rempel (Secretary/Treasurer), Shirley Redekop (President), Kate Janzen (AB), Waltrude Gortzen (BC), Mel Harms (SK), Carmen Brubacher (ON).

Leaping Ahead from Shaky Ground *(continued)*

We were pleased to welcome **June Miller**, a staff person from MC Alberta, who also agreed to be a part of the Communications Committee. **Kate Janzen** is the executive rep for MC Alberta. **Mel Harms** continues as the rep for MC Sask. **Kathy Giesbrecht**, staff at MC Manitoba represented MW Manitoba, since they don't have a president as yet. Since WMCEC is also looking for a lead coordinator, **Carmen Brubacher** (program chair) joined us.

We are supporting two women through our **Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund (SGAF)**. **Hyunhee Kim**, a North Korean Christian who escaped to South Korea and is now studying Peace Studies at CMU, shared some of her story with us and thanked us for the support. **Marlene Wiebe** is in Chaplaincy Studies at CMU and sent her thanks in a report as she was unable to attend in person. Watch for their stories in video on our blog. <http://women.mennonitechurch.ca/SGAF>

With changes expected in the MC Canada Witness Program we will be making some changes in the ministries we support through our **Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund (PPLF)**. Recipients **Taryn and Nathan Dirks** have already returned from Botswana and **Christina and Darnell Barkman**, serving the Philippines, will return in 2018. We have chosen to support **Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park** in South Korea through PPLF until FYE 2019. <https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/mwcanada/pennies-prayer> We will continue supporting **Tom and Christine Poovong**, serving in Thailand, through our **International Ministry Project**. <https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/mwcanada/international>

We plan to continue producing the **Women's Bible Study Guides** although we need to adjust to new realities. MennoMedia can no longer ship our complimentary copies from Harrisonburg to each congregation. <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/30/6217> **CommonWord Bookstore** in Winnipeg is willing to order, distribute, and provide a discount for us. Please direct your group and individual orders to **Arlyn Friesen Epp**, director of CommonWord at afriesenepp@commonword.ca The 2017 BSG is **Live your Call** by **Anna Liechty Sawatsky**. Carol Penner from Vineland, Ontario is writing the 2018 BSG, **Every Day Worship**.

The Nationwide and Regional Churches are working on a joint **website** which will have a link to our blog at <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.ca/> Information from our current page on MC Canada website will be transferred there. If you would like to write for our blog please let us know. If you have ideas to share or have a story about your group, please share them on our **FaceBook** and **blog** pages.

Our income this year is down to about 80% of what we received in the first nine months of last year. Even as our denomination restructures, MW Canada's ministry will continue with only minor changes. As a matter of fact, we can be proactive in keeping International Witness Workers serving joyfully by committing to support them through MW Canada and by lobbying our congregations to come on board as congregational partners. **We continue to need your donations!**

MW Canada is exploring new ways for women to connect and belong. One of these ways is a **Women to Women: Sharing Together Tour to Tanzania in August 2018**. The participants will join with Tanzanian Mennonite Women leaders; learn more about Sister Care Seminars; building bridges between us. **Shirley Redekop** will be a tour leader. More information on the tour is available at <https://www.tourmagination.com/tour/2018-tanzania-women/>

The **next nationwide gathering** of MC Canada is planned for **July 2019**. MW Canada is leaping forward, anticipating a nationwide gathering of Mennonite women then. Please continue to pray for the painful changes at MC Canada and the staff that are affected; also for new beginnings for nationwide and regional churches as well as women's groups as we trust in God to be beside us as we leap.

May you find connection and belonging through MW Canada!

~ **Shirley Redekop (President)**
~ **Elsie Rempel (Secretary/Treasurer)**



Opportunities for Giving

- **Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund (SGAF)**
- **Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund (PPLF)**
- **International Ministries (Thailand)**
- **Publication and Communication**

For more information please visit our website at:
<http://women.mennonitechurch.ca/>

2017 Bible Study Guide **LIVE YOUR CALL**

by Anna Liechty Sawatzky

Live Your Call empowers and motivates women to name and share their gifts as they serve God. Author **Anna Liechty Sawatzky** draws deeply from stories in the Gospels to affirm and challenge women to live out their God-given calling and to empower them to share the good news with others.



Please direct your group and individual orders to **Arlyn Friesen Epp**, director of CommonWord at afriesenepp@commonword.ca.

2017 SGAF Recipients



HyunHee Kim, originally from South Korea, is working on a Masters degree in Peace Studies at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, MB.



Marlene Wiebe, from Gretna, MB, is working on a degree in Chaplaincy at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, MB.

International Ministry



Tom and Christine Poovong serving in Thailand

Our PPLF Recipients



Darnell & Christina Barkman (Philippines)
(returning in 2018)



Nathan & Taryn Dirks (Botswana)
(have returned)



Note: For full length articles and colour photos with captions please see our 'Stories' section on our website at <http://women.mennonitechurch.ca/stories>

Across our Country

Regional Events

April 20 & 21, 2018 ~ WMCEC Enrichment Weekend beginning at North Leamington United Mennonite Church and ending at Point Pelee National Park. Theme: Living Creatively. Speaker: April Yamasaki.

April 28, 2018 ~ MWM will explore Resilience together with Dr. Moira Somers at Charleswood Mennonite Church, 699 Haney Street, Winnipeg from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

May 5, 2018 – MCBC Women's Ministry Spring Inspirational Day. Details not available at this time and will be available at <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.ca/> or <http://mcbcwomensministry-bridgingthegap.blogspot.ca/> closer to the date.

Spring 2018 ~ MW Sask is planning to hold a spring event. Details not available at this time.

June 8 – 10, 2018 ~ MW AB will host its Annual Women's Retreat. Guest Speaker is Rachel Jacobs Miller from AMBS. Theme is Ordinary Forgiveness.

October 18, 2018 ~ MW Sask will host its Annual Women's Retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre on October 18. Details not available at this time.



Don't miss our new video!

Thanks to Kathy Giesbrecht and other staff at Mennonite Church Manitoba we are excited to share our first video with you! Kathy interviews our two SGAF recipients for 2017-2018:

Marlene Wiebe and HyunHee Kim.

You can find it at <https://vimeo.com/244880217>



Become a follower on our blog at <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.ca/> and get the latest updates on our projects and events. You can also follow us on Facebook.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. Due to reduced staff at Mennonite Church Canada, the financial services available to **MW Canada** will be reduced. As a result, Elsie Rempel, our Secretary/Treasurer is stepping down as Treasurer. MW Canada is actively looking for a person who has experience in bookkeeping to step into the role of **Treasurer**. Elsie will continue as Secretary. Please contact Shirley Redekop or Elsie Rempel (see below for contact information).

2. At present **WMCEC** does not have a **Coordinator**. If you or someone you know would like to share your gifts in this ministry please contact Marie Assad at mariegerassad@gmail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

President ~ Shirley Redekop
Phone: 519-669-4562 or cell 519-741-7638
Email: presmwcanada@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer ~ Elsie Rempel
Phone: 204-783-1869 or cell 204-960-1869
Email: elsiewrites1@gmail.com

MCBC Women's Ministry Rep ~ Waltrude Gortzen
Phone: 604-756-0707 or cell 604-788-0327
Email: waltrude@shaw.ca

Mennonite Women AB Rep ~ Kate Janzen
Phone: cell 403-921-6436
Email: kajanzen13@gmail.com

Mennonite Women SK Rep ~ Mel Harms
Phone: 306-292-2922
Email: cmharms3@gmail.com

Mennonite Women MB Rep ~ Kathy Giesbrecht
Phone: 204-896-1616
Email: kgiesbrecht@mennochurch.mb

Women of MCEC Rep ~ Carmen Brubacher
(Program Committee Chair)
Phone: 519-578-6517
Email: carmen.j.brubacher@gmail.com

Communications Committee

~ Waltrude Gortzen (BC) ~ waltrude@shaw.ca
~ Liz Koop (ON) ~ koopfarms@becon.org
~ June Miller (AB) ~ ajunemiller@gmail.com