



NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS!

YOUR NET WORTH WORKSHOP

With this Newsletter I wish to give you some sense of the events of the Canadian Women in Mission (CWM) Annual Meeting and Luncheon July 7 at the Top of the Inn in Edmonton. Since then, my husband Aldred and I have moved from Calgary to downtown Toronto, and I am feeling quite disoriented; the CWM luncheon seems long ago.

Approximately 25 persons attended the workshop sponsored by CWM at the MC Canada conference in Edmonton. The session, facilitated by Audrey Mierau Bechtel, began with two panelists, Marci Frederick (a mother, wife, church member and librarian) and Ev Buhr (wife, mother, church member and church secretary) of Edmonton, responding to the following questions: *What gives you a sense of worth? Have you ever felt devalued or sidelined? What messages did you hear growing up that helped or hindered your self-esteem? Do you have mottos, and if so what are they, that help you when you are tempted to doubt your worth?* This was followed by a short question/answer time.

The setting was lovely: a large room all to our selves, high windows with a fantastic view of the land, delicious food and, for grace, the 85 women present did a stirring rendition of "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow".

The participants then divided into four small groups to discuss: *Were you ever sidelined or devalued? Where was the church in this struggle? What helped you to regain/maintain a sense of value or worth?* Based on the discussion, the topic was relevant. To wrap up this part, some members of the groups shared key points of their discussion with the whole group.

Cindy Buhler, Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada) Witness worker in Macau was the guest speaker. Cindy spoke about her work, slowly building relationships with women and children, and learning to listen to the Spirit.

The offering went to support the work of Cindy and Tim Buhler in Macau and Bridging the Gap Ministries in Alberta. *by Erna Neufeldt*

(over)



Photos from Edmonton, clockwise from left: CWM Executive Evaluation Meeting at Ev Buhr's home; Workshop participant with Audrey Mierau Bechtel; Timbrel magazine editor and keynote speaker Laurie Oswald Robinson; Cindy and Tim Buhler, Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers in Macau.

"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

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The workshop concluded with a personal presentation by Laurie Oswald Robinson, editor of *Timbrel*, addressing the questions, "Where and how do we find value?" Her pilgrimage included counselling and faith in a loving, gracious God.

by Audrey Mierau Bechtel

"PENNIES & PRAYERS INHERITANCE FUND" UPDATE

You voted overwhelmingly to use the "Pennies & Prayer Inheritance Fund" for supporting women working with MC Canada Witness projects. This spring, the CWM Executive undertook to survey all CWM groups with a recommendation. Thank you for looking at the proposal, and sending in your responses. The first question, a recommendation that all annual interest from the \$70,000, and enough capital to total \$5000, be used each year to fund a project/s for a term of 3 years, received 88 out of 89 yes votes. The recommendation for supporting Anne Garber Kompaore in Burkina Faso, and Cheryl Woelk in South Korea for the first three-year commitment was supported by 87 of 89 groups.

On the question of replenishing the fund with undesignated donations made in honour/memory of loved ones, again there was overwhelming support. In fact, some groups argued that we should not let the fund be depleted; rather, we should seek to build the fund.

A few groups raised ideas about additional projects we could support. These we have taken note of.

As an Executive we feel we can move forward with implementing the recommendations. Our dream is to create a colour brochure that will give some of the history of the "Pennies & Prayer Fund", the legacy that it is to CWM, information on how to make donations in "honour/memory of", and how the Fund will be used.

One respondent wrote "*Our ladies group started 52 years ago, and we remember paying into this fund. Little is much when God is in it. What foresight our leaders had!*" Amen.

by Erna Neufeldt

NEWS:

- Five women receiving support from CWM through the Service/Internship program are Rita Braun who worked with MCC in Calgary January – April; Jennifer Loewen who taught English in China February – July; Laurel Koop will be doing Serving & Learning Together with MCC August – July, '07; Angela Bergen currently participating with Mennonite Voluntary Service in Paraguay; and Tara Dyck, pastoral internship at Toronto United Mennonite Church this summer.
- Alissa Bender and Rachel Siemens, both studying at AMBS are being awarded financial assistance from the Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund.
- Canadian Women in Mission is pleased to receive gifts in the names of women who have been important to you. A recent gift was sent in memory of Helen Harder.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **October 13-14:** Saskatchewan Women in Mission Fall Retreat. Please check with Audrey Mierau Bechtel for details.
- **October 13-14:** Manitoba Women in Mission Fall Retreat. Please check with Betty-Anne Hildebrand for details.
- **October 20-22:** British Columbia Mennonite Women in Mission Fall Retreat "*Set Fire to your Prayer Life*" with guest speaker Catherine Dagneau, Mission, B.C., song writer and gifted communicator.
- **October 21:** Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Fall Workshop at First Mennonite Church, Kitchener. Theme: "*Gifts of Arts and Crafts as Ministry*".