



CWM TEA & ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 4, 2007, ABBOTSFORD

“Be Thou My Vision”, beautifully played by **Marion Braun**, piano, **Barb Nickel**, violin, and candle lit tables welcomed 124 women to sing, pray and celebrate the day in the auditorium of Emmanuel Mennonite Church.

Guest speaker, **Lillian Haas Nicolson** shared her struggle as a rich, white person living in a country of poor people. Lillian has been living and working in Burkina Faso for six years. A question she asks herself is “Am I portraying that [wealth] is a gift from God which is to be shared so everyone can be blessed or am I portraying a reliance on my wealth apart from God”? Lillian challenged us to read the book “Money and Missions” by Jonathon Bonk.

A video celebrating 68 years of British Columbia Mennonite Women in Mission (BCMWM) was shown accompanied by the familiar and appropriate hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness”. We recognized that through working alongside their sisters in BC and the other provinces, they have developed a community rich in spiritual encouragement, fellowship and service.

In recognition of this history, a plaque designed and hand-stitched by **Fred Redekop**, husband of **Shirley Redekop**, president of WMCEC, reading “Our strength made perfect in weakness” was presented to BCMWM. This symbolic gift was offered as a remembrance and not a goodbye.

An offering of \$3630 was divided equally between **China Church Leaders**, an International Ministries project, and the **Mennonite Family Center** in Zaporozhye, Ukraine.

“**Pennies & Prayer Inheritance Fund**” brochure, hot off the press, was distributed. Copies will be available at all fall events.

CWM executive is recommending a **Task Force** be established to find ways of embracing and supporting new and diverse energies of Canadian Mennonite Women in the 21st century.



Photos from the Tea. Top: Lillian Haas Nicolson, guest speaker at CWM Tea. Middle: offertory music provided by Amy Dueckman, Barb Nickel and Irmgard Thiessen. Bottom: CWM Secretary Treasurer Ruth Jantzi invites us to give ourselves a pat on the back for a generous year of giving.

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU – Charitable Giving & Estate Planning

What does estate planning have to do with Canadian Women in Mission (CWM)? This was the query of one of the gentlemen attending the event, as **Ev Buhr** representing CWM, introduced this seminar at Assembly 2007 in Abbotsford, BC.

Sherri Grosz of Mennonite Foundation answered the question by stating that most women will likely have to manage their estate money toward the latter stage of their lives as women often outlive men. She also sees planning your estate as an intentional act of Christian stewardship.

Items touched on by Sherri included: what will happen if you don't have a will, incapacity planning (for your estate, finances and health), charitable bequests, and creating a personal information directory. She recommended reviewing your will every 3-5 years. Mennonite Foundation has many resources available for individuals and churches, and would be more than willing to present a seminar to your local women's group.

by Ev Buhr, Alberta Women in Mission President



Seminar chair Shirley Redekop (left) stands with Sherri Grosz, Mennonite Foundation Consultant at charitable giving and estate planning seminar.

NEWS:

- **Heidi Koop**, Vineland, Ontario, and **Emily Loewen**, Fort Langley, British Columbia, Canadian Mennonite University students will be receiving financial aid from the Service/Internship Assistance Fund. Heidi spent the summer at the Mennonite Center in Ukraine, and is now in the Internmenno Trainee Program in the Netherlands. Emily has spent 6 weeks in Louisiana with Mennonite Disaster Service.
- **Charissa (Reece) Retzlaff**, Langdon, Alberta, is receiving financial assistance from the Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund for studies at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.
- The redesigned *timbrel* made its first appearance with the July/August edition.
- **Barb Froese**, Rosthern, Saskatchewan will complete the last year of Melissa Miller's term on the Bible Study Guide Editorial Advisory committee.
- The **2007 Bible Study Guide** "Freely you have received, freely give – Women and the Stewardship of Gifts" by **Susan Classen** is in print. Every Women in Mission group should have received 1 free copy. Additional copies available at Faith & Life Press, Kitchener, ON.
- **Erna Neufeldt**, president and **Ruth Jantzi**, secretary-treasurer were affirmed for second terms in their respective positions.
- **Canadian Mennonite** has invited CWM to contribute a full page of articles 6 times a year.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **October 12-13:** Saskatchewan Women in Mission Fall Retreat at Shekinah Retreat Center with **Lois Siemens** "Growing into our Roots: How the Biblical Story Forms our Story".
- **October 12-13:** Manitoba Women in Mission Retreat at Camp Assiniboia with **Kathleen Rempel Boschman** and **Marge Warkentin** "Women as Caregivers".
- **October 26-28:** British Columbia Mennonite Women Retreat at Camp Squeah with **Laurel Hildebrandt**.
- **October 20:** Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Enrichment Day, Faith Mennonite Church, Leamington "Sharing our Heritage Stories".