



NEWSLETTER

**Manitoba Women & CWM Host Inter-Generational Activity Tent**

Inter-generational celebration and barbecue time on July 9th during the Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA Summit provided Canadian Women in Mission (CWM) with an opportunity to share our stories. Gorgeous blue sky and sunshine were the background with a lush green lawn serving as the floor for the 20 x 20 white tent. Our thanks go to Betty-Anne Hildebrand and other MB women for making this event possible.

The theme “*Freely you have received, freely give*” was demonstrated in various ways.

**Basket of apples.** Visitors freely received apples as a practical application of the theme.

**Card making table.** Maggie Wiebe arranged everything possibly needed for card making. Children and adults enjoyed creating greeting cards to be distributed to Mennonite World Conference participants next July. See pictures below. (**Note: More cards are welcome.** Please forward completed cards to Erna Neufeldt, 53 Shaftesbury Avenue, Toronto, ON M4T 3B3.)



**Prayer Shawl ministry.** Ruth Epp provided information on the Prayer Shawl ministry and how we can participate. At Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, a circle of 7 women and 1 man meet once a month to share stories and pray as they knit and crochet shawls. Go to [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com) for more details.

**AID/HIV kits.** What goes into one of these kits? Contents were displayed and brochures of this Mennonite Central Committee project were available. See picture upper right.

**Comforter knotting.** Visitors helped knot the comforter that was in place. See picture bottom right.



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

<http://mennonitechurch.ca/cwm/>  
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## TASK FORCE SET TO WORK – DREAM COMES TRUE

Over a year ago the CWM executive dreamed of establishing a Task Force (TF) that would help us discern how women today view their mission/vision and how we can embrace/support each other in carrying out our mission. We are pleased to announce that the TF on *Bridging the Gap/Enlarging the Tent* is now a reality.

Our goal was to have one representative from each province BC to Quebec on the TF, and this has happened. Members are Marguerite Jack, Calgary, AB, chair; Justina Heese, Winnipeg, MB, assistant chair; Ruby Harder, Denholme, SK, CWM executive liaison; Waltrude Goertzen, Abbotsford, BC; Irene Bartel, Drake, SK; Pamela Klassen, Toronto, ON, member-at-large; Liz Koop, Vineland, ON and Mylene Melacon, Montreal, Que.

Their first face-to-face working meeting is scheduled for September 18 in Winnipeg. As an executive we have asked for a work plan report by late fall of this year. Please pray for these women and this important work of discovering the many ways in which women exercise their talents in the work of the church today.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

- **October 17-18:** Saskatchewan Women in Mission Fall Retreat *For the Beauty of the Earth*, Psalm 8:3, with speaker Patty Friesen at Camp Shekinah, SK.
- **October 17-18:** Manitoba Women in Mission Fall Retreat “*Art: an Expression of our Faith*”, at Camp Assiniboia, MB.
- **October 24-26:** British Columbia Mennonite Women’s Fall Retreat *Wonder: The Call... to Living Creatively* with speaker Betty Spackman at Camp Sequoia, BC.
- **October 25:** Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Fall Enrichment Day, *Our Neighbours – Across the Street from Around the World*, at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church, Markham ON.

### NEWS:

- 2008 Bible study guide *Your Treasure, Your Heart: Women and the Stewardship of Money* is now available. Copies of the guide were mailed to WM groups in July. Additional copies may be ordered from Faith & Life Press, Waterloo, ON.
- Karen Martens Zimmerly, former co-pastor of Grace Mennonite Church, Regina, has been called to be denominational pastor for MC Canada. Karen, the first woman to be called to this role, begins in September. See the in-depth interview with Karen in the June 9, 2008 issue of *Canadian Mennonite*.
- Manitoba Women in Mission moved to close their provincial organization effective March 2009.
- CWM executive is exploring the development of an electronic newsletter to reach Mennonite women in Canada more directly.
- Carrie Martens, Winnipeg, MB, Kara Carter, Milverton, ON and Virginia Gerbrandt, Leamington, ON are receiving financial assistance for Seminary training for the school year 2008/09.
- Claire Bergen, Winnipeg, MB will be receiving financial assistance upon completion of her Service & Internship in Umtata, South Africa.
- CWM is pleased to receive gifts to the Pennies and Prayer Inheritance Fund (PPIF) in the names of women who have been important to us. Recently, two women have been remembered/honoured in this way. A donation to the PPIF in remembrance of Mary (Friesen) Regier, Tiefengrund, SK, and a donation in honour of Lydia Willms, Vineland, ON were received.

*Photos courtesy of Betty-Anne Hildebrand  
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