



# 62nd Annual Report Book

Wild  
hope  
faith for an  
unknown season 2014



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# MENNONITE WOMEN CANADA EXECUTIVE

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## Mennonite Women Canada Annual Report ~ March 2014

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

Mennonite Women Canada has a 62-year history of coordinating the women's ministry of the 5 area churches of Mennonite Church Canada. We are a place where women can connect nationally and our projects continue to provide encouragement and support to women at home and overseas.

Our mission statement (above) is our compass in deciding which projects to support and we believe that our projects are consistent with it. Even so there are still details that change within each project from year to year.

**Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund** – Every year we offer scholarships to women studying Anabaptist theology at a Masters degree level. Recipients this year are Iris Leung (Trinity Western University), Melody-Neufeld Rocheleau (CMU), and Jessica Reesor- McDowell (Toronto School of Theology).

**Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund** – \$5,000 from this endowment fund is used each year to support Witness workers overseas. Recipients are Christina and Darnell Barkman (Philippines) and Taryn and Nathan Dirks (Botswana).

**Annual Bible Study Guide** – We collaborate with Mennonite Women USA and MennoMedia to publish a 70-page Bible Study Guide. **Courageous Women of the Bible** was published in July 2013 and we sent 237 copies to MC Canada congregations and women's groups. The 2014 guide is called **Practicing Presence** and will be available this July. Every third year we invite a Canadian woman to be the writer.

**International Ministries** – With the guidance of Witness Council staff we choose an international project to support. This year we are continuing to support MC Canada's ongoing ministry among the Isaan people in northeast Thailand under the direction of recently installed Witness workers, Tom and Christine Poovong.

**Radical Journey** – This past year we continued to support this one-year program, a joint ministry between Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada, which provides a one year cross-cultural experience for young adults.

Our biggest challenge and also our focus continue to center on making connections and communicating with women across Canada. As an executive we communicate almost exclusively by email. Our spring and fall *Connections* newsletter is available to churches across Canada both electronically and in hard copy. We continue to work on creating a national database of women wanting to stay connected to MW Canada. Articles for our page in the Canadian Mennonite under the by-line "*Women Walking Together in Faith*" are published every other month. We also post links to *Connections* and these articles on our blog.

A highlight for me this fall was being able to attend the BC Women's Ministry Fall Retreat at Camp Squeah. I was inspired by the speaker, Rebecca Seiling, and met and enjoyed the company of many wonderful women. I was also encouraged by their support of MW Canada.

Our finances are in the capable hands of Lois Mierau and she ends her second 3-year term in July 2016. As president, my 3-year term is ending this July and I have agreed to stay on for 2 more years. With the change from annual to biennial assemblies we are proposing a change to our constitution so that terms of office will be 2 years instead of 3 years. Each year we compile an Annual Report Book with financial statements and detailed descriptions of our projects, which is distributed to churches and women's groups across Canada. It is also available upon request.

MW Canada started blogging in January 2009 and ventured into Facebook in March 2013. We are encouraged by the number of visitors to both our blog and Facebook page as we strive to make our posts relevant, informative and interesting. Visitors to our blog come from 71 different countries.

**For more Information:**

Mennonite Women Canada Web Page: <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/>

Mennonite Women Canada Blog: <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.ca/>

Mennonite Women Canada Facebook Page: <http://mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2009>

Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund: <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/ministries.htm>

Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund: <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/golden.htm>

Bible Study Guide: <http://store.mennomedia.org/Courageous-Women-of-the-Bible-P1525.aspx>

Radical Journey: <http://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/RJ/Pages/Home.aspx>

We realize that women's ministry today has a different look than in the past. We strive to connect with women of all ages across the different cultures represented in our churches. We continue to be challenged and pray that the women who connect with us will be blessed.

Submitted by Liz Koop  
President, Mennonite Women Canada  
905-562-5920 / [presmwcanada@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:presmwcanada@mennonitechurch.ca)

## 2013-2014 Executive



Left to right: Elsie Wiebe (Morden, MB), Myrna Sawatzky (Saskatoon, SK), Liz Koop (St. Catharines, ON), Lois Mierau (Langham, SK), Kate Janzen (Calgary, AB), Linda Wiens (St. Catharines, ON), Waltrude Gortzen (Abbotsford, BC)

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



***"Your Word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105***

Once again we had a busy year in 2013 filled with meetings to provide 2 events that the women would hopefully enjoy!

***First....***

***Inspirational Day*** – May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church in Abbotsford.

Our speaker was **Carole Smith-Wheaton**

- An avid blogger (<http://itsawonderfilledlife.net/>) A Pastor's wife, a Mom and a Special Education Assistant at Langley Christian Middle School.

Our theme was "**Beloved Before Time**" – based on Psalm 139.

For a full report with lots of pictures, check out this link

<http://mcbcwomensministry-bridgingthegap.blogspot.ca/2013/05/inspirational-day-2013.html>

- It was a good event and the women had fun!
- 133 women attended and we provided childcare for 6 children.
- 44 evaluations were handed in – some loved the new format others not so much. This is normal and to be expected but at least we can say that we gave it a try.
- 13 MCBC churches were represented and 11 guest churches.
- Our offering totalled \$3,535.00 with half going to Camp Squeah, one quarter to Mennonite Women Canada – International Ministries and one quarter to the Youth Unlimited.
- We also raised more funds by having fun with the first ever 'cake walk' at the Inspirational Day as well as hosting 'Ten Thousand Villages'. Will we do this again? Not sure! Still discussing it!
- Childcare and a workshop for the women were also on a first time trial run. Both were really appreciated.

***Second....***

***Retreat Weekend*** – October 18 – 20, 2013 at Camp Squeah with **Rebecca Seiling** author of

Mennonite Women Canada 2012 Bible Study Guide "**Let Justice Roll Down**" a study on the Book of Amos. We called our weekend "**Peace by Piece**" using the Bible Study Guide as a resource.

Rebecca is a great speaker, easy so listen to, with a quiet yet wonderful sense of humour. We really enjoyed our weekend with her and had a great time getting to know her. We also were privileged to have **Liz Koop** at the retreat – Mennonite Women Canada president.

It gave the women an opportunity to connect and learn a bit more about the Ministries of Mennonite Women Canada and.... she had a ton of fun experiencing a women's retreat since WMCEC doesn't provide a retreat for their women.

- The weather was absolutely gorgeous and it really felt like BC was showing its best side to our 2 Ontario visitors.
- 81 women participated over the weekend.
- We have no explanation as to the low attendance last year but we still had women from 13 of our MCBC Constituency Churches, 10 visiting churches and our 2 special visitors from Ontario.

- We now have 2 NEW Retreat Planning Committee members and we are ever so grateful!  
**Candice Corder** from Cedar Valley M. Church  
**Ka Moua** from Western Hmong M. Church

## Coming up in 2014...

### Inspirational Day – Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at Emmanuel Mennonite Church

This year we will be celebrating the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the Inspirational Day !!!

- Our special guest will be **Karen Martens-Zimmerly** – MC Canada Denominational Minister. We are working on all the details at the moment, such as times, cost, etc. We will keep you informed via our Women’s Ministry Facebook page and blog, as well as MCBC’s ‘News ‘n Notes’ so do stay tuned!
- Something else that you **need** to be aware of is that our attendance has been dropping over the last few years as our senior ladies are either going to their Heavenly Home or having age related health issues that keeps them at home. The few younger women that do come to the Inspirational Day are usually only those that belong to the hosting church. If you have any suggestions about how we can fix this, please get in touch with the Women’s Ministry Committee sooner rather than later!

### Retreat Weekend – Friday to Sunday, October 17 – 19, 2014

Speaker: **April Yamasaki** – author and Lead Pastor at Emmanuel Mennonite Church

Weekend theme will be – “Unwrap Your Gifts”

This will be a “Christmas Retreat” in October! ☺ More information will be coming, soon!

### *From Women’s Ministry Committee* – Rita Siebert, Cheryl Dyck and I

- We had a Committee meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 where we discussed, among other things, the future of our Ministry.
- We are not catching the younger generation with the Inspirational Day but we do see them at the Retreat Weekend.
  - ❖ Between the Inspirational Day and the Retreat weekend, which one is your favourite gathering?
  - ❖ If you could choose only one event, which one would you participate in during the year?
- If we keep going with our two events then Women’s Ministry needs **more** help! Are you willing to help?
- How would you feel if we were to discontinue the Inspirational Day? Not saying that it is going to happen but think about it and get back to us, please!
- *Our prayer is that God will shine His light on our path and help us to make the right decisions!*
- *On a personal note:* I am looking at how to lighten my load within Women’s Ministry.
- It will be 6 years this spring since I started with Mennonite Women Canada’s Task Force which led to MCBC’s Women’s Ministry.
- *Will keep you posted! Waltrude*

*Christ sends us out to bring others in!*

*~ Our Daily Bread – July 30, 2013*

*In His service  
 MCBC Women’s Ministry  
 Waltrude Gortzen  
 Cheryl Dyck & Rita Siebert*



## **Alberta Women in Mission – 2013 Report**

*“So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in faith” Galatians 6: 10*

Alberta Women in Mission groups continue to work among the five communities where we have groups. Our individual groups continue with many activities: quilting, Bible study and prayer, sewing, Mission projects, community service, retreats, book club, volunteer work, coffee groups, etc. as well as making countless quilts/comforters, MCC Health and School Kits. The projects that we supported in 2013 were: MC Canada Witness, MCC Global Family, and the Family Life Centre in Macau (George and Tobia Veith, and Tim and Cindy Buhler).

Our Executive continues to be made up of Ev Buhr, Edmonton, Kate Janzen, Calgary, and Ellie Janz, Calgary. We welcome suggestions for new/additional members.

Our retreat was on May 24-26, 2013 at the Sunnyside Christian Retreat Centre at Sylvan Lake. 50 women from across Alberta came to listen to Michelle Copithorne from Foothills Mennonite Church share on the theme *Designed in God's Image*. It was a wonderful inter-generational multi-cultural event and we look forward to our next retreat scheduled for May 23-24, again at the Sunnyside Christian Retreat Centre. Our guest speaker will be April Yamasaki from Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford, BC.

As we move into another year, we continue to be blessed by the legacy of women who worked so hard to support projects around the world and at home and to provide a caring support network for each other. We continue to expand our connections beyond our member groups to include all women of Mennonite Church Alberta.

Submitted by Ev Buhr, AWM President

## **Mennonite Women Manitoba Report 2013**

Mennonite Women Manitoba is in the stages of birthing a new creation, a discerning process of how we want to reconnect with all women in Mennonite Church Manitoba. Our beginning has had its birthing pangs but we are confident that a new reality will be the fruit of our birthing mission.

Several women from Southern Manitoba met in October 2013 for a conversation about the possibility of reconnecting as a provincial group. There were expressions of regrets and laments of the death of Manitoba Women in Mission but also realizing that chapter is closed and we need to find a new way ahead to move us into the future. This meeting resulted in a core group of seven to eight women willing to continue the conversation. We have had two subsequent meetings and are actively moving forward to having the first event in the Fall of 2014.

We are, together with Mennonite Women Canada, planning the women's gathering at the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly in July, 2014. Check the MC Canada website and your church bulletins for more information about the up-coming event.

The individual women's groups in MC Manitoba continue to be actively involved in MCC projects, serving at local Personal Care Homes, hospitals, providing food services for various church functions, learning to care for one another, inspirational study hours, testing new ways of gathering intergenerationally and much more.

We look forward to the year ahead with the promise that God's Spirit is leading and guiding us through this birthing process.

Submitted by Elsie Wiebe, MCM Rep.



## Saskatchewan Women in Mission (SWM) Report 2013

“For we are God's servants, working together: you are God's field, God's building.” 1 Corinthians 3:9

Our 71<sup>st</sup> annual meeting was held April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Eigenheim Mennonite Church, along with our annual Enrichment Day. There were 87 ladies in attendance. The theme was *Like a Watered Garden* using Isaiah 58:11 as the scripture. Our speaker was Lavonne Dyck. We were watered and continue to grow in our spiritual lives.

In 2014 Nutana Park Mennonite will be hosting our Annual Meeting and Enrichment Day, April 26<sup>th</sup>. We invite all women to come out, bring a friend, and be enriched as we celebrate Christ in our lives.

*I Heard Her Voice: Courageous Women of the Bible* was our theme for our fall retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre, October 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> with 66 ladies attending. Woo Hoo! I again heard comments, “The best yet.” Elsie Goerzen from MCC BC End Abuse, was our speaker. She looked with us at the life of Hagar whom Sara brought to Abram to bear his child. Val Wiebe gifted us with her special music and we were led through a session of laughter therapy, a physical exercise to greater health. Massages and craft gift buying were also a part of our retreat along with walks in our wonderful setting. More to come next year with the retreat scheduled for the same place, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

All women in Mennonite churches in Saskatchewan are members of SWM. We continue to support projects through Mennonite Women Canada (MW Canada) and Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC SK).

Thank you to Verna Olfert for your work as secretary of SWM, and to Glenis Koop from the nominating committee. We wish you both many blessings as you journey through life.

Executive: Myrna Sawatzky - President  
Marilyn Neufeld - Vice President  
Verna Olfert - Secretary  
Ruth Quiring Heppner - Treasurer

Program Committee: Naomi Unger  
Lois Siemens  
Vacant

Nominating Committee: Glenis Koop  
Denise Epp  
Vacant

We are looking forward to 2014 as a year of new opportunities, and new ideas as we continue to use our gifts in service and faithfulness.

I leave you with the words from Psalm 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God”.

Myrna Sawatzky  
President of SWM



## Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

### *Sharing our Gifts*

#### **WMCEC Interim Co-Coordinator's Annual Report 2013**

Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada met for our **Spring Enrichment Day** on April 20, 2013 at Tavistock Mennonite Church with 311 women attending. Terri J. Plank Brenneman from Goshen, Indiana was our guest speaker. She is the author of *Wonderfully Made: Women, Faith and Self-Care*, the 2011 Bible Study Guide of Mennonite Women USA and Mennonite Women Canada.

Terri divided her topic into two sessions: 1) Remembering God's Story, 2) Remembering Our Story. Her message began with a reminder that we are the resource for the world. Each of us is uniquely qualified to touch specific lives. "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Love your God with heart, soul and strength!" was the mantra for the morning. The afternoon session's mantra changed to "Hear, O Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada! Love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your strength. Learn to love your neighbours and yourself. Trust in God's plan for you and your uniqueness!" Terri reminded us to embrace our own legacy and to tell others our faith stories. "Close Connection," a ladies trio from Tavistock, brought the special music for the day.

There was no fall event planned for this year but we encouraged clusters to have a meeting or event in their local area. Since we usually lifted an offering at our fall meetings, we wondered if we would receive enough funds to meet our budget. We are pleased to report that our budget of \$32,000 was met for 2013. We want to thank you for your continued support and for those clusters that lifted an offering in support of our WMCEC projects.

This has been a year of transition with three new people joining the WMCEC Executive: Linda Wiens, Communicator; Marie Assad, Personnel Coordinator; Dorothy Hamm, Program Coordinator. Kathryn Good and Florence Jantzi served as Interim Co-Coordinator's and Lisa Blackburn as Treasurer. We are pleased that Phyllis Ramer from Zurich has consented to be our new Coordinator, beginning April 2014.

As we look ahead to 2014, we anticipate the following activities:

- **Spring Enrichment Day**, April 12: *Faith, Food and Friends* with special guest Bev Klassen, one of the authors of *Mennonite Girls Can Cook*, at St. Catharines United Mennonite Church.
- **Tulip Festival 2014**, May 2-4: A bus trip to Ottawa to enjoy the beautiful display of colours, tour the Parliament buildings and develop friendships with ladies at Ottawa Mennonite Church.
- **Sister Care**, October 3-4: This seminar validates women's gifts of caring and equips them to respond more effectively and confidently to the needs of others in their lives and in the congregation. This MW USA sponsored program has been shared globally and will be introduced in Ontario this October.

We give thanks to God for the many ways you are sharing your gifts in service to others. The WMCEC Executive and Committees appreciate your prayers as they continue with plans for activities in 2014.

Florence Jantzi, Kathryn Good  
Interim Co-Coordinator's

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSISTANCE FUND

The Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund (SGAF) assists women with the costs of academic and/or applied study at the Master's level in church related ministries (such as seminary, theology, peace and conflict resolution). Members of a congregation belonging to Mennonite Church Canada are eligible to apply. Funding may be granted for part of the tuition costs (payable to the institution) at the discretion of the executive of MW Canada. First time applicants are given priority, but applications for continuing support are also considered. The deadline for applications every year is June 30.



Application forms are available at our web site at Mennonite Church Canada <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/ministries.htm> under the heading Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund or by contacting Liz Koop at [presmwcanada@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:presmwcanada@mennonitechurch.ca)

Since 2002 we have been able to assist 21 women. They are: Melanie Neufeld, Melanie Steinman, Lois Siemens, Twila Epp, Rachel Epp, Leah Bueckert, Marla Langelotz, Melissa Miller, Alissa Bender, Rachel Siemens, Reece Retzlaff, Kara Carter, Virginia Gerbrandt, Sara Erb, Lydia Cruttwell, Alicia Good, Deborah Ferber, Annika Krause, Melody Neufeld-Rocheleau, Jessica Reesor Rempel, and Iris Leung.

The following are letters from our current recipients.

## **Jessica Reesor Rempel from Kitchener – studying at Toronto School of Theology and Conrad Grebel College, ON**



*March 11, 2014*

*Hello Liz (and all involved with Mennonite Women Canada),*

*It is good to hear from you and I hope you are all well, wherever you find yourselves.*

*In the next few weeks I will be finishing up my second of three years as a Master of Divinity student at Emmanuel College (Toronto School of Theology). This has been a rich year for me. In addition to taking classes on the Hebrew Prophets, Faith Formation, Church Music, and much more at Emmanuel College, last fall I also had the privilege of taking a class entitled "Church and Ministry" with Carol Penner at Conrad Grebel. This was a wonderful opportunity to integrate all that I am learning back into a Mennonite perspective.*

*Outside of the classroom I had the opportunity to apply what I am learning in*

*seminary through an 8 month placement at Parkwood Mennonite Home under the supervision of chaplain Bev Suderman-Gladwell. At Parkwood I have developed my skills in pastoral care, including care for those in the advanced stages of dementia.*

*Personally, my husband Steven and I continue to be involved and engaged at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, where we have particularly enjoyed volunteering at Saturday night "Out of the Cold" suppers. Steve and I also enjoy playing indoor soccer with the "Mennos in Black", a recreational co-ed soccer team that Steven has organized for soccer loving Mennonites in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.*

*In this busy time with the end of term approaching, it is such a blessing to know that I have your support, both financially and through prayer and encouragement. Thank you for all you do.*

*Grace and peace to you! Jessica Reesor Rempel*

### **Melody Neufeld-Rocheleau from Saskatoon, SK – studying at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg**



*December 26, 2013*

*Dear Liz,*

*I hope you are well and have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas!*

*I am writing to let you know that I have completed the course work for the class that I took through CMU this fall for which MW generously provided financial assistance.*

*The course was titled Violence, Scripture and God's Mission taught by Gordon Matties. Gordon was kind enough to work with me to complete the class as an independent study.*

*This fall I decided to change my program from Masters of Theological Studies to Graduate Certificate of Christian Ministries. I have two more classes to complete the requirements for this Certificate. I am enrolled for another independent study this winter with Irma Fast Dueck as my supervisor. The class has the title Discipleship as Pilgrimage. My final class will be in the Spring.*

*Once again thank you so much to Mennonite Women Canada for assisting me financially this fall. Your support was timely and appreciated greatly.*

*May we continue to share the one true God's truth, freedom, love and vitality to others!*

*Blessings in your work, Melody Neufeld-Rocheleau*

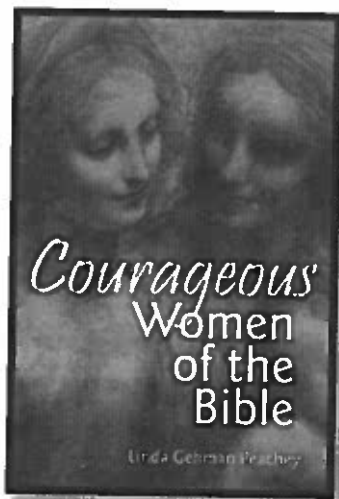
Iris Leung from Burnaby, BC – studying at Trinity Western University, Burnaby, BC



March 13, 2014

*This is Iris Leung. I am a student at ACTS seminary. I am glad to be the recipient of the Spiritual Growth Assistant Fund last year. I have one more year to go while I am taking summer off and serving in Asia. I have learned a lot from the school and had wonderful mentoring relationship.*

## Annual Bible Study Guide

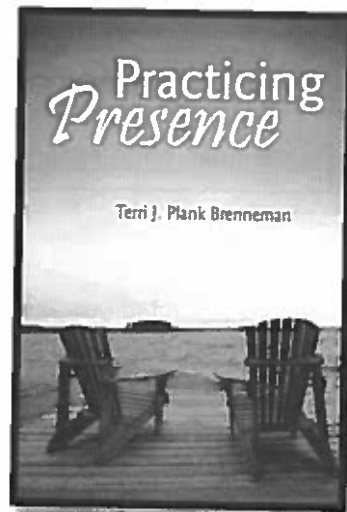


Since 1992 Mennonite Women Canada (MW Canada) together with Mennonite Women USA (MWUSA) has published an annual Bible Study Guide (BSG). Comprised of 12 or 13 lessons the guide is recommended for use in women's groups, Sunday School classes and for personal meditation. Every third year the writer is a Canadian woman. In July of each year a complementary BSG is sent to each MC Canada church across Canada and to the executives of the area church women's organizations. The 2013 BSG is called *Courageous Women of the Bible* authored by Linda Gehman Peachey. 237 Complementary copies were mailed out.

Additional BSG's are available through MC Canada's Resource Centre in Winnipeg at

<http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/> and MennoMedia at <http://www.mennomedia.org/> at a cost of approximately \$10.00. We have some back copies of older BSG'S and they are available for \$5.00 each through the President at [presmwcanada@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:presmwcanada@mennonitechurch.ca).

The 2014 BSG will be available in July and is called *Practicing Presence*, authored by Terri J. Plank Brennenman. *Practicing Presence* is a women's Bible study guide that uses biblical characters to demonstrate how women can be a companioning presence with each other. Being present and caring for one another during times of need, or in the daily tasks of life, is an important practice of spiritual journeys.



# PENNIES AND PRAYER



## PENNIES AND PRAYER LEGACY FUND

This endowment fund had its roots in a project begun by General Conference women's groups in the US and Canada in 1935. Women were invited to contribute "two Pennies and a prayer" which was directed to the needs of returning missionaries. In 1957 this Missionary Pension Fund officially became a Canadian Women in Mission (CWM) project and the fund continued to grow.

In 2003 when the General Conference separated into two national conferences, the respective women's organizations also separated into two separate entities – Mennonite Women USA and Canadian Women in Mission, renamed Mennonite Women Canada in 2010. At that time the Missionary Pension Fund was divided proportionately with the Canadian group receiving about 30% of the funds or \$70,000.

Each year up to \$5000 in interest and principal is used to support two programs of Mennonite Church Canada that involve women. Currently we are connecting with Darnell & Christina Barkman (Philippines) and Nathan & Taryn Dirks (Botswana) and helping to support them through MC Canada's Witness program.

### Darnell and Christina

Blog: <http://darnellandchristina.blogspot.ca/>

Email: [cdbarkman@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:cdbarkman@mennonitechurch.ca)



### Nathan and Taryn

Blog: <http://www.ntdirks.com>

Email: [ntdirks@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:ntdirks@mennonitechurch.ca)



In 2003 the name **Pennies and Prayer Inheritance Fund** was chosen to reflect what has been passed down over the years. In 2012 we decided to promote this fund by printing a new brochure. We also decided to change the name to **Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund**.

We are grateful for this gift - a remarkable legacy of caring and compassion from our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers who had the vision of how small gifts could grow and make a difference. It is a legacy that calls us to dream again. Contributions to the Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund will help carry forward our commitment of caring and compassion for future generations.

## Recent Donations to PPLF

### ~ In memory of Esther Mierau



Esther Mierau spent 91 years in Langham, a small town in Saskatchewan. She lived on a farm most of her married life with her husband Henry P. Mierau and raised 5 children. From the day she was eligible to join, Esther attended Ladies Aid and remained an active member as long as she was able. This group at Zoar Mennonite Church was her lifeline. Her best friends were there, her creative ideas were encouraged, and her gifts were accepted. Esther sang with five other women and they served at many different occasions.

She wanted young girls to feel that being part of a church women's group was important. Esther brought the first group of young girls to a Women's Conference in Drake Sask. The girls gave a report on their activities and were included in the discussions and worship. Esther was a Girl's Club leader and made this a fun experience for many girls. They learned how to cook, make MCC sewing projects and were encouraged to take part in the life of the church. Many mistakes were made during this learning process but Esther encouraged the girls to fix what could be fixed and not to worry about the rest! Her hearty laugh and bright smiles gave the girls courage to try again. She was a wonderful example of living the faith that guided her life. Esther believed that life was a gift. As her daughter I have made it my life ambition to be like her! --Kate Janzen, Calgary AB

- ~ **Women' Fellowship** of Lethbridge, AB
- ~ **MCBC Women's Ministry**
- ~ **The Goodwill Club** of Coaldale Mennonite Church, AB

We are thankful for all donations towards this fund. We encourage you to honour the life of a loved one by making a memorial donation or to recognize a milestone event in your family, congregation or community with a celebration donation.

You can send a cheque payable to **Mennonite Church Canada** (be sure to designate Mennonite Women Canada PPLF) to: Mennonite Church Canada, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Or you can make an online donation on our website at: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/golden.htm](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/golden.htm)





**Mennonite Women Canada**  
**Minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon**  
**& Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 14, 2012**  
**Sheraton Airport Hotel**  
**Vancouver, BC**  
**12 noon**

1. **Welcome and Lunch.** Waltrude Gortzen, MCBC Women's Ministry representative, welcomed the 130 guests to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon and annual meeting. The Worship Team led us in singing *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* and we enjoyed a lovely catered meal—salad, chicken, rice pilaf, vegetables and strawberry tarts.
2. **Introduction of MW Canada Executive.** Liz Koop, MW Canada President, introduced the executive members.
3. **Introduction of Special Guests.** Liz Koop introduced special guests attending: Tim Froese, MC Canada Witness Executive Minister; Karen Martens-Zimmerly, Denominational Minister; Deborah Froese, Director of News Services, MC Canada; Melissa Miller, MennoMedia board chair; Amy Dueckman, *Canadian Mennonite* BC correspondent and our photographer for the day; Dori Zerbe Cornelsen, Mennonite Foundation; Marguerite Jack, Task Force Chair; Valeria Silva, visiting from Recife, Brazil; Worship Team (names listed in bulletin); Mennonite Girls Can Cook (names listed in bulletin). Waltrude introduced former BC Women in Mission Presidents present at our celebration - Susan Kehler, Marie Rehler, Helga Rempel, Veronica Thiessen,
4. **Worship Singing and Stories from God's Kingdom.** The Worship Team led us in singing *Seeds, Scattered and Sown* and *Shine Jesus Shine*. Carol Penner from Vineland, Ontario joined the executive in reading "Stories from God's Kingdom", eight historical vignettes written by Naomi Unger from Rabbit Lake, Saskatchewan. Carol tied the vignettes together with a litany reading using the theme verses taken from Mark 4:26-29.
5. **Sharing.**
  - Tim Froese, Executive Minister for Witness Council extended words of greeting, thanking the women for their financial support over the years and blessing them for their work. He also gave strong encouragement to seek ways to connect inter-generationally and inter-culturally in this "new season".
  - Valeria Silva, a woman pastor from Recife, Brazil, shared how the leading of God's spirit through events over the 60 years of Mennonite Women Canada's history encourages her in her ministry with Latin American Mennonite women studying Theology together.
  - Several women shared during the open mike sharing session. Some had been supported in mission work overseas in the past by Mennonite Women Canada (then called Canadian Women in Mission) through funding but also with letters, cards and gifts which were really appreciated while they were far away from home and feeling lonely. One woman who is part of a Spanish ethnic church in BC challenged us to seek ways to include immigrant women. Several past presidents (national and provincial) also spoke.
6. **Offering.** Lois Mierau explained that the offering will be divided equally between a project chosen by the hosting province and one chosen by the executive. MCBC Women's Ministry has chosen their Retreat Bursary from which they subsidize women who need a bit of financial assistance in order to come to their Annual Fall Retreat at Camp Squeah. The

executive has chosen the MC Canada Youth Assembly Bursary Project which will subsidize and enable youth to attend the 2013 Youth Assembly at Camp Assiniboia in Manitoba. Cheques are to be made payable to MC Canada with MW Canada in the memo line. The Worship Team sang while the offering was taken and Lois Mierau led in prayer.

7. **President's Report.** Liz Koop highlighted portions of her written report (p. 5 in the report book). Copies of the report book were on every table.

8. **Proposed Constitutional Revisions.**

- Copies of the constitution with proposed changes as marked were on the tables.
- The constitution was last updated at the annual meeting in Calgary in 2010. The executive felt there were further updates required to bring the constitution in line with present practice, so the proposed revisions were brought to the annual meeting for ratification.
- Beginning on the first page, #2 "**Mission Statement**"—the four points in italics have been used in various brochures, on the website, etc. since they were first recommended by the Task Force, so the executive felt they should be included in the constitution.
- Moving to #3 "**Membership**"—we have no longer been using the criteria that a woman must be a member of a woman's organization to be a member of MW Canada.
- On page 2, #6B "**Voting**" – for the past several years we have not appointed delegates to vote at the annual meeting. Anyone present at the annual meeting has been eligible to vote, so this wording reflects what is presently being practised.
- The remaining proposals are wording changes to reflect current terminology.
- *Waltrude Gortzen/Eugenia Fernandez moved/seconded the adoption of the proposed changes to the constitution as proposed. Carried.*

9. **Financial Reports for 2011-2012.**

- Lois Mierau presented the financial reports as printed in the Annual Report Book. The fiscal year ending January 31, 2012 was a "break-even" year, with receipts coming in very close to what had been budgeted, and expenses being very close to that as well. The excess of receipts over disbursements was close to zero--minus \$52.82.
- Total receipts for the 5 budget items was \$29,544.25 of a \$36,000 budget (79%), which is up by about \$1000 over the previous year's receipts (\$28,558.00).
- **Pennies & Prayer Inheritance Fund payout.** The executive has chosen two new MC Canada Witness projects beginning January 2013. They are: **Christina and Darnell Barkman**, who with their sons Cody and Makai from Abbotsford BC, have accepted an invitation to help lead a church planting ministry in Metro Manila, Philippines. The Barkmans seek to develop a new church in Manila as an outreach of the Integrated Mennonite Churches (IMC) of the Philippines. The Barkmans participated in the 2011 Mission Seminar and their assignment began April 1, 2012, with Canadian ministry, and arrived in the Philippines on June 8. They previously did a 10-month intern assignment in the Philippines in 2008. **Nathan and Taryn Dirks** from Niagara-on-the Lake, ON will work together with African Initiated Church (AIC) leaders and the Kgologano College Faculty Team at developing an AIC Centre in the city of Gaborone, Botswana. They will also teach Bible courses at the college and develop relationships with the local AIC congregations. This work builds on decades of earlier Mennonite ministry of Bible teaching with various AICs in northern Botswana. Their assignment begins with Mission Seminar in July 2012. They depart for Botswana in the fall of 2012.
- *Lois Mierau/Shirley Hsu moved/seconded the adoption of the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended January 31, 2012 as presented. Carried.*

- 10. Proposed Opportunities for Giving – February 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013.**
- MC Canada is moving toward a fiscal year ending September 30, so we will also be ending our fiscal year on that date. Next year (2013) will be a short year of only 8 months and because a major amount of our funds are received in the fall, before Christmas, the executive is proposing that our budget projections be reduced by one-half for this shorter fiscal year. The total proposed amount is \$18,000; no changes have been made to the categories.
  - The executive will, in consultation with MC Canada Witness, determine the specific International Ministries project for the coming fiscal year.
  - Because MC Canada Assemblies will be held biennially instead of annually from now on, MW Canada will also be meeting every other year. We have been advised by MC Canada staff that the executive has the legal power to approve the budget in years when there is no Assembly. Financial statements and budgets need to be distributed in some way during those years as they will still be generated on an annual basis. More details are expected sometime this fall.
  - *Lois Mierau/Waltrude Gortzen moved/seconded the adoption of the proposed Opportunities for Giving in the amount of \$18,000 for the period February 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013 as presented.*
- 11. Minutes of July 8, 2011.**  
*Lois Mierau/Janet Buhler moved/seconded the adoption of the July 8, 2011 annual meeting minutes as printed in the Annual Report Book. Carried.*
- 12. Worship Singing.** The Worship Team led us in singing *Will you let me be your Servant* and *Days of Elijah*.
- 13. Introduction of 2012 Bible Study Guide.** Amy Gingerich from MennoMedia was not able to attend so Melissa Miller, chair of the MennoMedia bi-national board, introduced the 2012 Bible Study Guide, *Let Justice Roll Down* written by Rebecca Seiling and based on the book of Amos.
- 14. Mennonite Girls Can Cook Presentation.** Lovella Schellenberg shared about the MGCC journey and the project they support in the Ukraine. She reflected on the verses from 1 Peter 4:8-11. Eight of the 10 authors were able to attend and autographed copies of the cookbook, which were for sale.
- 15. Door Prizes and “Guess the Seeds” Game.** During the luncheon, a number of names were drawn for door prizes which were provided by the executive. There were also small packets of seeds on the tables, which women could try to identify and prizes were awarded to each guest at the table that correctly guessed all the seeds. Only one table identified all of the seeds, including the mystery seed!
- 16. Closing.** Karen Martens-Zimmerly closed with prayer and the Worship Team led in a closing song, *Let Your Glory Fall*. We adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Minutes recorded by Lois Mierau  
 Mennonite Women Canada Secretary/Treasurer

**CONSTITUTION  
MENNONITE WOMEN CANADA  
Proposed Changes July 2014**

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

**1. NAME**

"Mennonite Women Canada" (A partner with Mennonite Church Canada)

**2. MISSION STATEMENT**

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.

We commit ourselves to:

- a) Promote spiritual growth through Bible study, prayer, other Christian disciplines and fellowship.
- b) Discern and nurture women's gifts and skills for leadership and service in the local church, the community and the world.
- c) Build relationships and networks for support, affirmation, discernment, witness, service and celebration.
- d) Support and strengthen the missional outreach of Mennonite Church Canada.

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

All women who participate in a Mennonite Church Canada congregation are welcome.

**4. EXECUTIVE**

- a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Leaders of provincial/regional women's organizations or Area Church women's ministries. The Executive Committee may appoint a representative in consultation with the Area Church when there is no provincial/regional member organization or women's ministry.
- b) The President and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected ~~by ballot at the annual conference~~ *a biennial assembly* for a ~~three~~ *two* year term. They can serve a maximum of ~~two~~ *three* consecutive terms.
- c) A President Elect shall be elected ~~by ballot~~ for a one year term, prior to the President completing her term in order to work along side her for one year before becoming President.

**5. COMMITTEES**

- a) PROGRAM COMMITTEE shall be made up of
  - President
  - Provincial President from the province where the next assembly is to be held.
- b) FINANCE COMMITTEE shall be made up of
  - Secretary-Treasurer
  - President

- b) NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall be made up of
  - Provincial Presidents
  - Committee chairperson shall be the President of the province in which the next assembly will be held.
  - Nominees must be active members in a Mennonite Church Canada congregation.
- c) The Executive Committee shall appoint special committees whenever the need arises.

## 6. ANNUAL MEETING

### A. TIME

The **annual biennial** meeting shall be held in conjunction with the *biennial* sessions of the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly. *In the off-year, when there is no MC Canada Assembly scheduled, the MW Canada executive (which meets annually at Spring Leadership Assembly in March) has the authority to present and approve the financial statements including the budget.*

### B. VOTING

Anyone present at the **annual biennial** meeting and a member/adherent of a Mennonite Church Canada congregation or participant in a Mennonite women's provincial/regional organization has voting privileges.

### C. BUSINESS

The **annual biennial** business meeting must include the following agenda items:

- Adoption of the minutes
- Adoption of the financial report
- President's report
- Elections
- Other business

## 7. CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION

- a) A request for changes to the constitution must be submitted to the secretary four months prior to the **annual biennial** meeting. She will then send a copy of the proposed changes to the provincial/regional presidents or representatives for distribution.
- b) Any changes in the constitution must be approved by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the **annual biennial** meeting.

**MENNONITE WOMEN CANADA**  
**Statement of Receipts & Disbursements**  
**For the year ended January 31, 2014**

	Budget 2013-14	Actual Receipts 2013-14	Actual Disbursements 2013-14	
Radical Journey	5,000.00	3,029.12	3,029.12	Note 1
Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund	5,000.00	3,914.12	3,500.00	Note 2
International Ministries - Thailand, Living Water Church	10,000.00	7,572.91	7,572.91	Note 3
Publications & Communication	7,000.00	4,818.02	5,166.61	Note 4
Administration:				
Spring Leadership Assembly	4,721.00			Note 5
Bank Charges	10.00			
Freight & postage	842.08			
Office Supplies	75.16			
MC Canada Administration Fees	217.67			
Misc Expense - honorarium	50.00			
	<u>5,915.91</u>			
Where Needed Most	7,000.00	7,645.02	5,915.91	Note 6
Pennies & Prayer Legacy Fund	2,000.00	2,700.41	5,000.00	Note 7
Investment Interest - Mennonite Foundation		2,706.82		Note 8
Miscellaneous Income		221.00		
Bank Interest - Manulife Savings & Affinity CU		298.70		
Bank Interest - Manulife Bank - PPIF		59.20		
Designated Donations:				
Non Budget Designated Donations		6,816.38	6,816.38	Note 9
<b>Totals</b>	<u>36,000.00</u>	<u>39,781.70</u>	<u>37,000.93</u>	
<b>Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements</b>			<u>2,780.77</u>	

**Explanation of Notes**

- Note 1:** Radical Journey - MW Canada does not receive these funds; MC Canada distributes.
- Note 2:** Spiritual Growth Theological Scholarships - \$1500 each - Jessica Reesor Rempel and Iris Leung; \$500 - Melody Neufeld-Rocheleau.
- Note 3:** International Ministries - MW Canada does not receive these funds; MC Canada distributes.
- Note 4:** Includes cost of Bible Study Guide in amount of \$4308.94, a joint project with MW USA; MW Canada pays 30% of total bill.
- Note 5:** MW Canada pays for Spring Leadership Assembly expenses for provincial presidents/regional representatives as well as the President and Secretary/Treasurer - travel, accommodations and meals.
- Note 6:** Administration expenses (\$5915.91) are included in "Where needed most" budget line.
- Note 7:** Payout from Pennies & Prayer Legacy Fund - \$2500 each to MC Canada programs including Christina & Damell Barkman and Taryn & Nathan Dirks.
- Note 8:** This investment interest is dedicated to the PPLF payout each year.
- Note 9:** Non-Budget Designated Donations - donations to specific projects; MW Canada does not receive - MC Canada distributes.

**Mennonite Women Canada – Review Report**

I have examined the financial records and statements of Mennonite Women Canada and found them to accurately show the transactions from February 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014.

*Carmen Epp*  
 Carmen Epp
 

*March 21, 2014*  
 Date



## MENNONITE WOMEN CANADA OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS - February 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015**

PROJECTS	AMOUNT
<p><b><u>Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund</u></b> Mennonite Women Canada (MW Canada) encourages women to consider using their gifts and talents in various ministries of the church. This scholarship fund is available to assist with costs of academic and applied study in church related ministries such as seminary, theology, peace and conflict resolution at a Master's degree level. Funding may be granted for part of the tuition (payable to the institution) at the discretion of the executive of MW Canada.</p>	<b>\$5,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund</u></b> This endowment fund supports the involvement of women in Mennonite Church Canada mission work. Each year the interest and principal up to the amount of \$5,000 is sent to MC Canada to be used in two of its mission programs. These projects are chosen in consultation with staff at MC Canada Christian Witness Council. We also encourage memorial donations to this fund made in honour of a loved one or to celebrate a milestone event in your family, church or community.</p>	<b>\$2,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Publications &amp; Communication</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together with Mennonite Women USA and MennoMedia we publish a 70-page annual <b>Bible Study Guide</b> for use in women's groups, Sunday School classes and for personal meditation.</li> <li>• "<b>Connections</b>" is MW Canada's semi-annual newsletter available to churches across Canada by email and also by hard copy.</li> <li>• Our <b>web site</b> and our new brochures and banner inform women and promote our projects.</li> <li>• Our <b>blog</b> is a place where women can connect with MW Canada and with each other.</li> </ul>	<b>6,000.</b>
<p><b><u>International Ministries</u></b> Mennonite Church Canada's ongoing ministry among the Isaan people in northeast Thailand seeks to invite people into Anabaptist faith communities and build bridges with other Mennonite/Anabaptist groups in Thailand. Tom and Christine Poovong will provide pastoral care, Biblical teaching, preaching, income generation and entrepreneurial development with the goal of equipping new believers to take on leadership of the church.</p>	<b>\$10,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Radical Journey</u></b> Radical Journey, supported by Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA, is a one-year cross-cultural learning and service opportunity for young adults. Participants join local faith communities overseas in building and creating mutually beneficial relationships. Upon return they are encouraged to integrate what they have learned into their home congregations and community.</p>	<b>\$5,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Operating Funds</u></b> These will be used for various office, meeting and travel expenses.</p>	<b>\$6,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Undesignated</u></b> These donations will be used where most needed. Your generosity makes us partners in ministry.</p>	<b>\$2,000.</b>
<p><b>TOTAL</b></p>	<b>\$36,000.</b>



## Mennonite Women Canada PROPOSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS - February 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016

PROJECTS	AMOUNT
<p><b><u>Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund</u></b> Mennonite Women Canada (MW Canada) encourages women to consider using their gifts and talents in various ministries of the church. This scholarship fund is available to assist with costs of academic and applied study in church related ministries such as seminary, theology, peace and conflict resolution at a Master's degree level. Funding may be granted for part of the tuition (payable to the institution) at the discretion of the executive of MW Canada.</p>	<b>\$4,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund</u></b> This endowment fund supports the involvement of women in Mennonite Church Canada mission work. Each year the interest and principal up to the amount of \$5,000 is sent to MC Canada to be used in two of its mission programs. These projects are chosen in consultation with staff at MC Canada Christian Witness Council. We also encourage memorial donations to this fund made in honour of a loved one or to celebrate a milestone event in your family, church or community.</p>	<b>\$1,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Publications &amp; Communication</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together with Mennonite Women USA and MennoMedia we publish a 70-page annual <b>Bible Study Guide</b> for use in women's groups, Sunday School classes and for personal meditation.</li> <li>• "<b>Connections</b>" is MW Canada's semi-annual newsletter available to churches across Canada by email and also by hard copy.</li> <li>• Our <b>web site</b> and our new brochures and banner inform women and promote our projects.</li> <li>• Our <b>blog</b> is a place where women can connect with MW Canada and with each other.</li> </ul>	<b>\$6,000.</b>
<p><b><u>International Ministries</u></b> Mennonite Church Canada's ongoing ministry among the Isaan people in northeast Thailand seeks to invite people into Anabaptist faith communities and build bridges with other Mennonite/Anabaptist groups in Thailand. Tom and Christine Poovong will provide pastoral care, Biblical teaching, preaching, income generation and entrepreneurial development with the goal of equipping new believers to take on leadership of the church.</p>	<b>\$10,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Short-term Ministries</u></b> Mennonite Women Canada is expanding its support of Mennonite Church Canada's short term ministries to include service partnerships with Radical Journey, Eastern Mennonite Missions, Serve Nazareth, and Bethlehem Bible College. In addition, we will also include short term opportunities to serve alongside experienced, long term Witness workers (e.g. language teaching, trades mentor, etc.) and those involved in repeat short term teaching assignments.</p>	<b>\$5,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Operating Funds</u></b> These will be used for various office, meeting and travel expenses.</p>	<b>\$6,000.</b>
<p><b><u>Undesignated</u></b> These donations will be used where most needed. Your generosity makes us partners in ministry.</p>	<b>\$4,000.</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,000.</b>



## LOOKING FOR IDEAS?



Over the years we have published an idea page for those women looking for activities or projects to do together. We've tried to come up with some new suggestions for you to try at your church and also supply some resources which might help you get started. If you have something to add to this page, let any of us on the executive know and we'll gladly add it!



Pass on traditional family recipes to the younger generation by hosting cooking classes.

Bake cookies or muffins to share with seniors.

Have you ever thought of starting a Mennonite Cooking School? Linda Wiens [linwiens2@gmail.com](mailto:linwiens2@gmail.com) has some great ideas.

Learn how to cook other ethnic foods by inviting women from another culture to share their recipes and techniques.



Share your handcrafting skills with younger women and girls in your church!

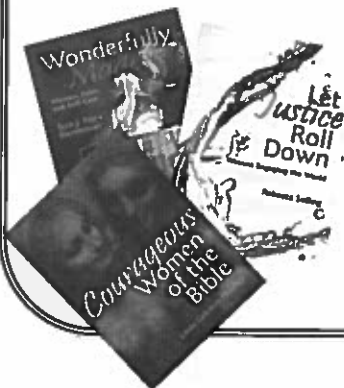


Is there a Prayer Shawl Ministry in your church? Join up or start one! Resources at: <http://www.shawlministry.com/> or [http://www.chreader.org/contentpage.aspx?resource\\_id=267](http://www.chreader.org/contentpage.aspx?resource_id=267)



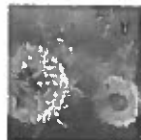
Host a perennial plant sale for your church family and community in the spring. Share gardening tips and stories with each other. Find out if there is a Community Garden in your neighbourhood and get involved! Help with preserving the produce grown.

Join or start a Book Club. Find book reviews and profiles of authors on our blog <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.com/> and resources at Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre <http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/Home>



Participate in or start a Women's Bible Study using our Annual Bible Study Guides available at MennoMedia <http://store.mennomedia.org/>

Find us on Facebook and become a follower!




Organize a bus trip to visit women in another church within your province.



# Better Together

Across the Street & Around the World

 Mennonite Church Canada

**Mennonite Women Canada supports:**

Mennonite Church Canada International Ministries  
Radical Journey - young adult service ministry  
Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund  
Pennies & Prayer Legacy Fund

 Mennonite  
Women  
Canada

**Area Church Ministry**

Women of Mennonite Church  
Eastern Canada

Manitoba is exploring a possible new  
women's ministry

Saskatchewan  
Women in Mission

Alberta  
Women in Mission

British Columbia  
Women's Ministry

**You & I**

connecting to our  
area churches'  
women's ministries