



CANADIAN WOMEN IN MISSION

—A place to belong—

SPRING 2009

NEWSLETTER

PENNIES & PRAYER INHERITANCE FUND UPDATE

Canadian Women in Mission created a fund in 2006 to encourage and support women in sharing their gifts while engaging with the world, and presenting the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ. We discerned a twofold purpose for this Fund: to use it in the support of women involved in Mennonite Church Canada's ministries; to be a home for gifts made in honour/memory of loved ones.

PAST RECIPIENTS

February 1/06-January 31/09

Cheryl Woelk

At the end of her Korean assignment, Cheryl writes: *Thank you again for the support of Canadian Women in Mission through the Pennies and Prayer Inheritance Fund. My time of service with MC Canada Witness was fruitful and a growing experience for me and for people I've encountered in Korea, I think too.*

Anne Garber Kompaore

Anne works in Burkina Faso as a linguistic consultant for the Burkina Bible Society and teaches Hebrew and Greek at the "Logos Christian University" in Ouagadougou.

RECOMMENDATION FOR NEXT 3-YEARS

February 01/09-January 31/12

Anne Garber Kompaore

Anne grew up in Listowel, ON. See description of her work above.

Middle East worker: Canadian Women in Mission supports a Witness International Volunteer in the



Middle East. The worker's first year is committed to language study and becoming familiar with culture in the area. After this time, they will work to build partnership with local Christians and organizations as a way of walking in solidarity with the community there. Through this assignment we will also facilitate opportunity for people in MC Canada congregations to learn about and experience the life of local people as we strive to create a positive, peaceful, and bridge building presence in a place that is very affected by a turbulent past and present.

For more information on go to www.canadianmennonite.org.

NEW COMMUNICATION INITIATIVE

Can we as women work together to be the church in a unique way? First of all, we need to talk to one another. Face-to-face meetings are more difficult today because of changing lifestyles, however, internet communication is easy, cost free and our younger women use it a lot. A blogspot on the internet is one vehicle that we are trying. You can find it at <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.com>. On it, we can share information about Events, Ministries, Resources, Projects, Food and other topics. At the same time conversation can happen because anyone can contribute a comment at any time.



Kathryn Lymburner

Please pray for this new venture; that young women will be found who will make this blog become a vital piece in helping us be the church.

Thank you to Kathryn Lymburner of Stouffville, ON who created the blog.

"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/>
email: cwm@mennonitechurch.ca



CWM Executive 2009 and guests: (l-r) Shirley Redekop, Ruth Jantzi, Betty-Anne Hildebrand, Evelyn Buhr, Waltrude Gortzen (Chair, MCBC Women's Ministries), Erna Neufeldt, Ruby Harder, Leona Dueck Penner (Liaison, Canadian Mennonite magazine)

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **April 18:** Saskatchewan Women in Mission Enrichment Day "New Hope – New Land", Hanley Community Center, Hanley, SK.
- **May 2:** Manitoba Women in Mission Enrichment Day "Celebrating God's Work" Springfield Heights Mennonite Church Winnipeg, MB.
- **May 2:** British Columbia Mennonite Women's Inspiration Day, Kelowna, BC. Check their blog for details.
- **April 18:** Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Enrichment Day "Scripture Interpreted Through Floral Design" Steinmann Mennonite Church, Baden, ON.
- **May:** Alberta Women in Mission Enrichment Day. Please check with Ev Buhr at pebuhr@telus.net for details.
- **June 5:** CWM Annual Meeting & Lunch, U. of S, Saskatoon, SK Register through MC Canada Assembly registration. Guest speaker: Yvonne Snider-Nighswander.

RECOMMENDING A NAME CHANGE

For some years the topic of a new name for CWM has come up, as it did again this year at our Executive meetings in March. We are recommending a change for two reasons. One, whereas the name Canadian Women in Mission at one time was inclusive that is no longer the case. Increasingly the name represents older women. Two, Mennonite is now not in our name and we feel it important to say who we are. The Task Force on Bridging the Gap – Enlarging the Tent is also suggesting a name change. Please discuss this at your Inspiration Days.

We are suggesting Mennonite Women Canada. It fits in with MC Canada and a delightful bonus, we can refer to ourselves as Mennonite Women Can!

A vote on the name change is scheduled for June 5.

NEWS:

- Visit the B.C. Mennonite women's blog at <http://mcbcwomensministry-bridgingthegap.blogspot.com> to read what is happening in that province.
- Mennonite Church British Columbia has created a Women's Ministry and appointed Waltrude Gortzen as Chair. CWM Executive invited Waltrude to be a guest at their Leadership meetings in Winnipeg March 5-7. It is great to have a direct connection to the women in B.C again.
- Your donations are assisting 10 indigenous persons to attend the Mennonite World Conference in Paraguay July 2009. Go to <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.com> for more information. Thank you.
- The 2009 Bible Study Guide *For the Beauty of the Earth: Women, Faith and Creation Care* by Patti Friesen, Saskatoon, SK is in print. Every Women in Mission group in AB, SK, MB, MCEC and every congregation in BC will receive 1 free copy. Additional copies available at Faith & Life Press, Kitchener, ON.