



CONNECTING . . .

A newsletter by and for EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH

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COPING WITH COVID

Here's my mom, Mary Derksen, waving from her fourth floor apartment at Primrose Gardens a few days ago. Our face-to-face visits now take place with me on the street and Mom on her balcony due to the coronavirus. We use the phone to talk so that we're not shouting at each other. On Easter Sunday 2020, Ernie and I went together to have another such visit. She said she would throw down her church offering for April and May in an envelope so that Ernie could look after it for her. She attached a small butterfly clip to it to add some weight. As it fluttered down, alas, it landed on the balcony of the second floor below. Mom called her apartment mate, asking her to please go out onto her balcony and throw down an envelope that she would find there. This time it made it to ground level. If only I had taken a video.

— Vanj Thiessen

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The Good of Corona Virus 19

By Mary Derksen

Yatta! I can finally attend the Japanese Mennonite Fellowship in Surrey without leaving my home!

Peter and I were part of this fellowship since we retired from Japan. We loved the 45 minute drive to Surrey every Sunday. Peter and George Janzen, also a retired missionary from Japan, took turns preaching Sundays. It was a small group of 15~20 people, some were Christians, others, seekers. We met in different places in the Living Hope Church, sometimes in the basement while Living Hope had their worship service upstairs.

One Sunday in the midst of our service, a few ladies ran to the kitchen for empty containers. Living Hope was having a baptism service, and the water was leaking down upon us. Most of us were baptized believers, but that didn't stop this "repeat baptism."

Due to Peter's health, we had to stop attending. That was many years ago, because he has been gone for almost six years already.

When the corona virus hit earlier this year, the service went virtual. Blessings! Now we can attend again. Our pictures are on the screen, and we can share with each other. Gerald Neufeld is pastor of this Japanese church in Surrey.

Recently I noticed a lady by the name of Koike in attendance. (our names are all on the pictures). Hmm. We used to have a Mrs. Koike attending our weekly English Bible classes in Japan. I wonder if they know each other, I thought. My friend and coworker from Japan, Greta Wiens who lives in Niagara, Ontario, is also attending the services. I discovered that Greta had invited Mrs. Koike who lives in Japan to attend our meeting. What a surprise!

Our virtual meeting now has folks from across Canada, and from Japan in attendance. This opens up a whole new way of doing evangelism in Japan; inviting our friends to attend the Japanese virtual meeting in Surrey! Pray that the Japanese Mennonite Fellowship in Surrey will catch the vision!

And not only the Japanese Fellowship. Do you realize that the same holds true for every church? We can invite family, friends, and neighbors who have resisted coming to a church building, to join our worship services wherever we are. What an open door! Don't just stand there! Pray and then do something!

REMEMBERING CROWDS AND CONCERTS...

(Originally submitted back in February) The Yarrow String Quartet favoured Primrose Gardens seniors with a concert on February 12th at 4 p.m. The bistro was crowded with music lovers. Probably no one was more excited than David and Mary Voth, the proud grandparents of Nicholas and William Voth who play violin and cello. It was fun to watch Grandma Mary nodding her head in tune to the music. The Voths are my neighbours at Primrose. The Yarrow String Quartet has played in our church a number of times. These four young people are dedicated musicians, and I was proud to tell my friends here that Nicholas and William are from our Emmanuel Mennonite Church. - **Mary Derksen**



WHAT IS IT? Keep in mind this is CREATION CORNER...

Submitted by Bill Klassen



1. Has an engine with a rotor and stator, and power source. Can run at 10,000 RPM, but output is normally 200 to 1000 rpm.
2. Can reverse rotation.
3. Drive passes through a wall with an inboard and outboard bearing and O-ring seals.
4. It is highly energy efficient.
5. It is relatively large speed to body length. (e.g. A running cheetah moves at 25 body lengths per second. This drive can reach up to 75 body lengths per second.

Look for the answer on page 4!

**Creation
CORNER**

THEATRE CORNER

COVID-19 UPDATE: GALLERY 7 (from www.gallery7theatre.com)

First, thank you for your patience and understanding with us at Gallery 7 as we figure out how to navigate these very challenging times. And challenging times they have been! In March, after about 2 months of rehearsals and production work, our production of *The Secret Garden* had to be postponed, and we had just finalized casting of *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* when it became clear that it was just not possible to safely proceed. We had hoped that by now we would have greater clarity about what the fall would look like, and we were anticipating that we would return to our productions starting in September, but recent announcements by B.C. Government officials regarding mass gatherings, have made it clear that our time to re-open has not yet come.

The safety of our volunteers, staff and patrons is our number one priority, and because there is still too much uncertainty as to when restrictions on gatherings might be lifted, **we've made the difficult and heart-rending decision to postpone our upcoming 30th anniversary season**, which was due to start in just a few months, until September 2021. Unfortunately, this includes postponing our productions of *The Secret Garden* and *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* once again. We recognize that this news is disappointing to all – to our artists, our volunteers, to us a staff, and to you are valued audience. While difficult to make, we believe this is the best decision during these uncertain times and gives us a much better shot of a strong re-opening in Fall, 2021.

We are happy to say that right now, **our team is working on launching a program we're calling G7 Lite: Service Pack 29.5**. It's an unofficial season that will act as a bridge between our 29th and 30th seasons and will include the following: A fix for Virus 2020; Several online and possibly in-person theatre experiences; An Online 'Original Works' Festival; A flexible season subscription pass; Opportunities to support us during these extremely challenging times; Hopefully, a whole new pack of emojis...

We're keeping things very flexible so we can adapt to ever changing conditions. The season may even include a play if restrictions lift and we feel we can offer a safe experience for all involved. Look for announcements about upcoming events through-out the year.

COVID-19 UPDATE: PACIFIC THEATRE (from www.pacifictheatre.org)

Hi there, Pacific Theatre audience! We know you may have questions about our shows, and what Pacific Theatre plans to do while our communities, from nations to families, navigate this unexpected time. Below are a few questions we've had from patrons we hope will be helpful.

- Is the box office open? Our physical box office is currently closed to help preserve your safety and the safety of our box office staff. We are operating reduced box office hours by phone: Tuesday to Friday, 12-4 PM at 604-731-5518. You can also e-mail us at tickets@pacifictheatre.org.

- I need my art fix! Where can I find my PT family online? Gather for soul food! Our resilient community has already exploded with art, music, and theatre-in-isolation. Current projects include the [Soul Food: The Ghost Light Season](#) Podcast, helmed by Ron and featuring some of your favourite PT voices.

- Will I be able to see Love/Sick or Trip To Bountiful at a future date? Jalen Saip's guest production of *Love/Sick* has been postponed and our production of *Trip To Bountiful* is cancelled, but we hope they can be a part of Pacific Theatre's upcoming plans. We are fully committed in particular to supporting the *Love/Sick* team as a guest production and to giving this smart, bittersweet show the runs it deserves as soon as we can safely do so.

- What about future Pacific Theatre shows? Like you, Pacific Theatre artists and staff are looking forward to the day we can safely gather in our theatre home and once again share live performances with you. From our homes, we are hard at work planning our 2020-21 season, which is full of exciting new theatre and which we'll be updating you on throughout April. If you'd like the scoop on theatre creation, you can join our [newsletter](#) or get in on the artistic action on the Pacific Theatre [Soul Food Vancouver](#) group.

"Lifting Hearts"

Submitted by Waldo Neufeld

Publisher gives rights to reprint from the publication.

In a publication by MC Canada, poetry from several aboriginal poets has been released, that contain some wonderful writings. It is difficult for me to fully understand the issues around oppression, but poet **Lydia Johnston** helps to give a picture of what it looks like to be seen as less than human. Her poems do not have titles so here it is....

*Am I uncivilized if I wear buckskin,
even while I pray for peace?
Are you civilized if you wear a wristwatch,
even as you wage war?*

*How do I quell the fears of my
sisters and brothers across the ocean?
How do I help them see that yes.
I am human.*

*How do I quell the anger in our hearts
when our humanness is questioned?
How do I replace this infinite frustration
with infinite forgiveness?*

*We will love in the face of bloodshed,
in the face of hardships inflicted on a people
because we were purported to not
be People.*

*We will hold fast to love,
to forgiveness,
to truth.*

*We anxiously await the day
when they don't need declarations
and articles to know yes.*

*indeed
we are human.*

A Note from the Editor:

The Emmanuel Mennonite Newsletter would love to receive submissions from the church community! We are looking for stories, articles, poetry, art, prayers and recipes under 800 words that are encouraging and promote community. Submissions may be edited and will be published depending on space. Thank you for reading and participating!

If you have something you would like to share please e-mail Joel at office@emmanuelmennonite.com.

**NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19**

YOUTH UNLIMITED UPDATE — with Greg Sawatzky



JUNE 2020:

In BC, schools opened up in June. I wasn't able to do my usual noon-hour supervision, coaching or clubs but I have gone a couple mornings a week to greet the students as they arrive. It has been fun to reconnect with a few youth but everything sure feels different than before. I have also enjoyed connecting with the faculty and teachers at the school again. This time sure has been challenging for all of us.

In February, I applied for two government grants to hire summer workers this year and received them both. Life was entirely different when I applied, but I decided to go ahead with the positions anyways. We have hired Jen Mascardo, who has volunteered with us for the last 2 years while attending Columbia Bible College. We will also be hiring Gurpreet Virk, the same high school student we hired last year, in July. She will have just finished grade 11. We have been connected with her since she was in grade 6.

What will we be doing this summer? Great question! As of now, the plan is to continue doing what has worked well the last three months: doorstep drop offs of encouragement notes and snacks, front door drinks and visits with youth and hopefully trying to do small group park events that could include badminton, bocce ball, frisbee and sitting around a propane fire. Jen and Gurpreet will also help with writing thank you cards, creating a video with youth interviews, connecting with families and possibly doing a fundraiser or two. Also, I am hoping to raise about \$2500 that would go towards the administration costs that go with having a summer worker and paying our summer workers a little above minimum wage. Please consider and if you are able to contribute any amount, go to <https://www.youthunlimited.com/donate> and select Program and then West Abbotsford.

I have thoroughly enjoyed our house visits with youth over the last month. We have been able to connect in person (at a distance) with more than a dozen youth. I have enjoyed hearing how their families are doing, learning about the youth's unique sleep schedules now and the extent of video gaming that they do and reminiscing with them about past summers, events and times together! Connection is so important!



Socially distancing at the beach!



Blueberry picking with Grandma and Grandpa!

JULY 2020: NEW OFFICE DIGS

We have worked hard moving our offices to the other end of our current building! A generous group of friends have helped us design and renovate an open and inviting space. We love our new digs! **Meet our staff at Youth Unlimited in Abbotsford and take a peek at our new office in this SHORT VIDEO. AND....YOU COULD WIN! We've included a little contest in the video.** The prize? Two deluxe lawn chairs! You have to send us the "hidden" names of those who volunteered their time or donated supplies/money to the office project. Those who find the most names will be included in a draw! Please enter by August 15. We will announce the winner and give you a full list of our office renovation sponsors after the contest.



A computer-generated model of the finished product

A NEW MINISTRY

The **Firetruck Mobile Drop In** has been under construction. We are excited to begin this new ministry and pray that God would provide the remaining \$45,000 needed to finish turning a firetruck into a mobile drop in center!

PRAYER REQUESTS

-Pray for our summer workers Jen and Gurpreet, that they would enjoy their summer with us and make many meaningful

connections with the youth and families.

-Pray for courage to embrace 'the smaller' in this season of ministry and to really invest in those who are most open.
-Pray for the Punjabi youth and families that we are connected to, that in this challenging time, they would be open to the love of Jesus.



Renovations begin on the old firetruck

Donations to Greg's ministry can be made by:

Mail Youth Unlimited - Greg Sawatzky

2760 Emerson Ave. Abbotsford, BC V2T 3J6

Email (finance@youthunlimited.com)

Online (www.youthunlimited.com/donate or [click here](#))