



# God, fill me now

Worship in February 2010

## February 7

### Immigration: Our Response

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt:  
I am the Lord your God.

Scripture focus is from I Peter 2. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Communion will be part of the worship service.

## February 14

### Immigration: Our Response

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt:  
I am the Lord your God.

Scripture focus is from Acts 10 & 11. Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader.

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Lent is an opportunity to draw near to God, to ponder God's words to us in scripture, to hold close what we value, and to identify with Jesus in his mission. This year's scripture readings focus particularly on calling back believers who have fallen away. In these passages we see two parallel invitations: (1) to hold on to what is most important and (2) to let go of what is peripheral or gets in the way of further growth.

Leader- Winter 2009/10

## SEASON OF LENT

### February 17

#### Ash Wednesday

My sin is before me, but I won't hold on to it. Instead,  
I release my desire to hide,

This service is the opening event for the Lenten season. As such, it serves as the foundation and introduction for the coming weeks. An Observance of the Ashes will be a part of this worship service. Jerry Truex will be the worship leader. Service starts at 7:00 p.m.

## February 21

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

#### Holding on & letting go!

I want to tell the story, to celebrate God's goodness.

I want to remember the terrifying display of God's power—the signs and wonders,  
the land of milk and honey.

Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Nita & Steve will be the worship leaders.

## February 28

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

#### Holding on & letting go!

*Even in deep darkness, our sheltering God holds us. We release our grip on earthly things and open ourselves to God's transformation.*

Scripture focus is from Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35. Pat Cameron will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader.

My band (Delores and the Pickin' Fretter) will be performing with The Sofa Kings at College Hill United Methodist on Saturday, February 20 from 7-9 pm. There is no admission fee, just a freewill offering, all of which will be sent to Haiti. I understand it will be set up kind of like a coffee house...a very casual environment. We play all kinds of covers and a few originals too. You'll hear accordion, guitar, bass, drums and some vocals too. We'd love to see you there!

Sincerely,  
Jenny Stover-Brown

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Sign the petition below to ask Haiti's creditors to act quickly and cancel Haiti's debts:

<http://one.org/us/actnow/drophaitiandebt/index.html?rc=haitidebtconfemai>

**Transformation Servant Group** will meet from 7:00 to 9:00, Sunday evenings. Our Servant Group is using *Take Our Moments and Our Days; an Anabaptist Prayer Book* for worship. Contact Lois if you would like to order a copy. Our name comes from Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect."

**Women's Bible Study** A six-session Bible study, "When Godly People Do Ungodly Things," will begin Monday, October 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m., and continue every other week through December 14. The study for women will include a 30-minute DVD session led by Bible study teacher Beth Moore, followed by discussion and prayer. The group will meet at Cindy Snider's home. Call 832-0050 for more information.

**If you like to ask questions....** *Cindy Snider/Feb. 2010*

As some of you may have noticed, I like to ask questions. Even my conversations are full of them. Now I've found some questions that I can ask myself! They are helping me as I try to practice spiritual disciplines. They might encourage you, too, as you seek to follow the way of Christ

1. What has been the general spiritual tone of your life lately? (This one reminds me of our check-in question at the beginning of church life gatherings.) You might express this in terms of colors, temperatures, aromas – anything that helps you articulate your experience.
2. What events, experiences, or relationships have communicated to you a sense of God's presence?
3. What events, experiences or relationships have communicated to you a sense of God's absence?
4. How well does your prayer life help you experience conscious contact with God?
5. What kinds of decisions have you searching for a sense of God's will?
6. In what area of life do you sense God calling you to growth? What lessons, values, or disciplines are you being challenged to grow into? What can you do to honor this?

Feel free to ask me one of the questions next time you see me. (Do I really mean that??) And I'll probably ask you one too. Come to think of it, why don't we all begin asking each other such questions?

News Service January 27, 2009

### **MWC calls for prayer and donations for Haiti**

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada – In the wake of the January 12 earthquake that devastated much of Haiti, Mennonite World Conference officials are calling on its global communion to pray for the suffering Haitian people and those who are assisting them. They are also encouraging financial donations for immediate and longer term support through Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA).

There are no MWC member churches in Haiti but there are five small Anabaptist-related groups in the country. Lesly Bertrand, a pastor and leader of this network of congregations and ministries attended MWC's General Council meetings in Paraguay in July 2009.

Bertrand, the presiding officer of Assemblée de la Grâce in Haiti, had been living in Carrefour, one of the areas most severely affected by the 7.0 earthquake just outside of central Port-au-Prince. His house was damaged in the quake that killed an estimated 200,000 people and left millions homeless.

MWC's Deacons Commission is following the situation in Haiti closely and is seeking counsel from MWC member churches in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic on the best ways for MWC to respond to the suffering Haitians.

MCC, which has had programs in Haiti since 1958 and had 23 workers in the country at the time of the earthquake, is also working with Anabaptist churches in Haiti, in the Caribbean, and with Haitian Mennonite churches on the east coast of the United States.

MCC is planning long-term assistance, focusing on sustainable community development organization and assisting in rebuilding homes, livelihoods and emotional well-being. Arli Klassen, MCC's executive director, said that gifts given now will be used over a five-year period. MCC also hopes eventually to send multi-national Work and Learn Teams to Haiti.

MEDA, a partner of MWC, began its work in Haiti in 1984 and works through FONKOZE, a Haitian partner whose focus is micro credit and savings (Fonkoze means shoulder-to-shoulder). Fonkoze has 39 branch offices across the country and provides access to credit to more than 190,000 Haitians. Fonkoze is working hard to enable those it serves to get small loans to begin rebuilding immediately, said Allan Sauder, MEDA president.

Klassen said on January 26 that MCC had already received nearly \$5 million (US). In addition to cash donations, MCC is requesting 20,000 relief kits, 10,000 heavy comforters and 10,000 large, flat, cotton sheets for immediate relief for earthquake survivors. A list of relief kit supplies and drop-off instructions can be found at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits).

Additional MCC response team workers, who arrived in Haiti on January 16, are assisting workers on the ground respond to immediate needs, including distributing food and water. One thousand water filters and two shipping containers of canned meat have been airlifted into Haiti and subsequent containers of meat are being shipped by sea. MCC is also purchasing thousands of tents and tarpaulins.

On January 23, MCC sent three structural engineers to Haiti for one to four weeks. The engineers will examine houses and other buildings to determine if they are in danger of collapse or safe for occupation. MCC is also seeking volunteers for a second crew to work for two to four weeks as well as a disaster coordinator to lead rebuilding efforts for up to five years.

- Ferne Burkhardt MWC News Editor Mennonite World Conference is a communion (*Koinonia*) of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service, and witness.

“Just One More Day: Meditations for Those Who Struggle with Anxiety and Depression”  
by Beverlee Buller Keck

This book offers encouragement, coping strategies, companionship in the journey for readers who, like the author struggle with depression and anxiety. Each of the books 40 daily meditations, framed with scripture and prayer, offers encouragement for “just one more day” and invites a modest but concrete step toward growth, hope and recovery. This book is available online, in bookstores or by contacting ADNet (Anabaptist Disabilities Network) or ask Sally how to get it for you.

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Please send an e-mail tell your senator or representative in the Kansas Legislature. Visit [www.invisiblekansans.com](http://www.invisiblekansans.com) and click on the graphic that says “Restore Cuts to Kansas DD Funding-Sign Your Name Now.” The message is already written in the e-mail for you – all you need to do is enter your name and e-mail address and hit send. Do it as soon as possible. Because of the state budget cuts, all of us in Sedgwick County have lost the safety net for people with Developmental Disabilities who do not qualify for specific waivers.

Please do this in honor of the members of our congregation who have physical and mental disabilities, and those of us who will need Medicare and Social Security as we get older. Our church has been very supportive of the these members with prayers, advocacy and actions in the past. I hope we continue.  
Sally

*The annual "Souper" Bowl party will be held on Sunday, February 7, from 4:30--the end of the game at Pat and Geneva's house. Soup and beverages are provided. Come and enjoy playing games, doing puzzles, FOOD, fellowship, and oh, yes, the game! The party is to benefit local hunger, so plan on bringing a donation. Pat and Geneva's address is 1337 Wellington Place and phone number 262-2644.*

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READ: [Ezekiel 12:21-28](#)

Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. — Joel 2:13

As a child, I learned to behave properly when adults rewarded my good behavior and punished my bad behavior. This worked pretty well because the reward or punishment generally came quickly after the behavior, making the relationship between the cause and effect unmistakable. When I became an adult, however, life got more complex, and the consequences of my actions were not always immediate. When I behaved badly without getting in trouble for it, I began to think that it didn't matter to God what I did.

Something similar happened to the children of Israel. When they disobeyed God and didn't suffer any bad consequences right away, they said, “The Lord has forsaken the land, and the Lord does not see!” (Ezek. 9:9), indicating their belief that God had lost interest in them and didn't care about their bad behavior. But they were wrong. Weary of their waywardness, God finally said, “None of My words will be delayed any longer; whatever I say will be fulfilled” (12:28 niv).

When God delays discipline, it's not due to indifference; it's due to His very nature—He is gracious and slow to anger. Some see that as permission to sin, but God intends it to be an invitation to repent (Rom. 2:4). — [Julie Ackerman Link](#)

A Prayer: Lord, thank You for being slow to anger and filled with compassion. May I not presume upon Your mercy by assuming that there will be no consequences to my sin. Help me instead to confess it. Amen.

The only way to make things right is to admit you've been wrong.

**The monthly potluck will be the first Sunday on February 7. Bring along food to share and join in the time of fellowship.**

# FEBRUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6  Happy BDay Nancy Hurd
7 Greeters: Nancy & Jen Childcare: Karissa <i>Potluck</i>  SOUPER BOWL	8	9	10  Happy BDay Tavyn McAdams	11  Happy BDay Karissa Truex	12	13
14 <i>No SS</i> Greeters: Vangie Childcare: Sally & Jenny	15  Happy BDay Geneva Hersberger	16	17  <i>7pm Ash Wed Service</i>	18	19	20
21 Greeters: Nita & Steve Childcare: Karissa  <i>Church Life</i>	22	23	24  <i>S</i>	25	26	27
28 Greeters: Doreene Childcare: Geneva & Alex						

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