

## Worship Blog and Seminars

Dr. Christine Longhurst, a Mennonite Brethren educator, has a blog: [re-worship.blogspot.ca](http://re-worship.blogspot.ca). Worship workshops and seminars for local churches can be found at [faithmatters.ca](http://faithmatters.ca).



## Consistent Life

Looking for a group of Christians and non-Christians working together on a “consistent life” approach (e.g., opposing abortion, capital punishment, and war)? Check out [www.consistent-life.org](http://www.consistent-life.org), based in the U.S. Contact information: **Consistent Life**, Box 9295, Silver Spring, MD 20916-9295, 866-444-7245, (fax) 413-485-2881, [info@consistent-life.org](mailto:info@consistent-life.org). Suggested by Pastor Layton Friesen (Fort Garry EMC).



## CMU Short Courses

Canadian Mennonite University offers 17 short courses (three or four sessions) on a range of topics to be held in area churches ([www.cmu.ca/portable.html](http://www.cmu.ca/portable.html)). It is possible that other educational institutions in your region do the same.

## Licensing Reminders

The denominational video license (which covers EMC churches) is purchased yearly from Audio Cine Films. ACF does *not* cover all films. Check the website ([www.acf-film.com](http://www.acf-film.com)) to see if a particular film is included. The license allows churches to use videos legally during services, children's church, youth events, and more. Local churches should *not* purchase a license from ACF.

The EMC national office CCLI music license covers musical uses at regional and national events. It does not cover music use by local churches. Such congregations need to purchase their own local license from CCLI.

## Key Links

- ♦ [www.acf-film.com](http://www.acf-film.com) (Audio Cine Films video licensing)
- ♦ [www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org) (Christian Education materials)
  - [www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice)
  - [www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome)
  - [www.faihandliferesources.org/Curriculum/vbs](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/Curriculum/vbs)
  - [www.mpn.net/worship](http://www.mpn.net/worship)
- ♦ [www.emconference.ca](http://www.emconference.ca)
  - [www.emconference.ca/ce-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/ce-resources)
  - [www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos](http://www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos)
  - [www.emconference.ca/catalogue](http://www.emconference.ca/catalogue)
  - [www.emconference.ca/worship-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/worship-resources)
- ♦ [resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver](http://resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver)
- ♦ [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca) (*What is an Anabaptist Christian?* booklet)
- ♦ [www.themeetinghouse.ca](http://www.themeetinghouse.ca) (*Inglorious Pastors* series)
- ♦ [www.foodgrainsbank.ca/video\\_harvest\\_for\\_hunger\\_2\\_0.aspx](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/video_harvest_for_hunger_2_0.aspx) or [www.youtube.com/user/foodgrainsbank](http://www.youtube.com/user/foodgrainsbank)
- ♦ [www.consistent-life.org](http://www.consistent-life.org)
- ♦ [re-worship.blogspot.com](http://re-worship.blogspot.com) (Dr. Christine Longhurst's worship blog) and [faithmatters.ca](http://faithmatters.ca)
- ♦ [www.cmu.ca/portable.html](http://www.cmu.ca/portable.html) (CMU short courses)

## Enclosures

- *What about war in the Old Testament? A survey.*
- *Parent-child dedications: what's really happening?*
- *Some useful writings on Arminian theology*
- *MennoMedia releases new Bible study series*

## Blessings on the teaching ministries within your churches!

Update written by Terry Smith, edited and designed by Rebecca Roman

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# Christian Education Update

April 2012



## Child Dedication, Conversion, and Education

Common, yet unresolved assumptions in Evangelical Anabaptist circles revolve around child dedication, conversion, and education. How do the practices of child dedication and Bible camp ministries fit our Evangelical Anabaptist views of a child's spiritual state and of conversion? Can a child of non-Christian parents be converted in a way that a child with Christian parents cannot?

When it is said that a young child (say, four to six years old) is converted, what is meant? When does a child stop being innocent and become responsible? At what age, if any, is a minor lost without conversion? Is there a spiritual difference whether a child is five, seven, or 13 years old? Should children be considered part of the church till they choose not to be?

**At what age, if any, is a minor lost without conversion?**

How we answer will openly or subtly influence how we educate within the congregation and elsewhere. An article on **parent-child dedication services** is enclosed to assist further thought.

## Resources for EMC Churches

- For Sunday School or Vacation Bible School materials, small group books, youth materials and more, check out **MennoMedia** ([www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org)) for a full product listing.
- A **List of Resources** is available at [www.emconference.ca/ce-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/ce-resources) to assist in your church's teaching ministries.
- **Ancient Future: A Mennonite Catechism**, an 18-lesson guide on Christian beliefs within an Anabaptist perspective, is available free from Fort Garry EMC (in electronic version). Contact Fort Garry EMC at 204-261-1084 or [fortgarryemc@mts.net](mailto:fortgarryemc@mts.net).
- A **2011 Peace and Discipleship Sermons by EMCers** booklet is available (pdf at [www.emconference.ca/ce-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/ce-resources))
- **Rejoice!** is an Anabaptist daily devotional guide produced by MennoMedia ([www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice)).
- **Theodidaktos: Journal for EMC Theology and Education** (editor Darryl G. Klassen) is available free on-line ([www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos](http://www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos))



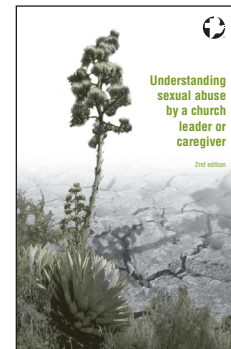
and in print. The *Journal* provides an in-depth look at issues and a voice for EMCers.

- **What is an Anabaptist Christian?** is a booklet from Mennonite Church Canada that can be downloaded free ([www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca), search "Anabaptist Christian"). It focuses on "Jesus is the center of our faith. Community is the center of our lives. Reconciliation is the center of our work."
- A free **Worship Guide** is available from [www.mpn.net/worship](http://www.mpn.net/worship), produced by Mennonite Church USA and MC Canada.
- **Close to Home** by MennoMedia is a contemporary series of pamphlets on many issues face by EMCers. Please check [www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome) for a full listing of titles printed and others being planned.
- **What about war in the Old Testament? A survey** (enclosed) might prove helpful to pastors, S.S. teachers, or small group leaders. It is *not* a full study, but a brief review to help people who ask, "How could God instruct Israel to wipe out the Canaanites?"
- The **EMC Video Resource Library** catalogue is online at [www.emconference.ca/catalogue](http://www.emconference.ca/catalogue). Rental fees are designed on a cost-recovery basis to help maintain and expand the library. Title suggestions are welcomed.
- Need helping in planning a worship service? A **Worship Service Handbook**, produced by Pastor Dave Wiebe (Taber EMC), reflects some of his MA studies at Briercrest Seminary. An electronic copy is available free, posted on the EMC website ([www.emconference.ca/worship-resources](http://www.emconference.ca/worship-resources)).



## Free Booklet to 'spare much grief'

An updated booklet *Understanding sexual abuse by a church leader or caregiver* is available free from MCC. Sexual abuse by church leaders is a topic many avoid, says MCC, but "the knowledge and understanding this booklet provides could spare so much grief in the church." Call 888-622-6337 or download it ([resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver](http://resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver)).



## VBS Curriculum

*Take Me to the Water: God's Love Flows*, includes flexible materials for age four through grade eight. The content may be organized for a traditional weekly plan or as a 12-week program. There is a song CD and individual MP3 song downloads are available. Free online are: a PowerPoint slide show with the Bible memory verses and a calendar for children to use at home after Bible school is over (see [www.faihandliferesources.org/Curriculum/vbs](http://www.faihandliferesources.org/Curriculum/vbs)).



## Inglorious Pastors

The Meeting House, a Brethren in Christ congregation in 10 locations across southern Ontario ([www.themeetinghouse.ca](http://www.themeetinghouse.ca)), has a seven-part 2010 video/audio sermon series called *Inglorious Pastors*, dealing with non-resistance, just war, and pacifism. The main presenter is Bruxy Cavey; one sermon is by Dr. Gregory Boyd. In whole or in part it might be useful, objectionable, a resource in content, an example of discussion, not an example of discussion. Decide as you will, but some issues are directly addressed. Suggested by Richard Klassen, EMC moderator.

## New Harvest for Hunger Video

Your Sunday School class can watch more than 100 combines harvest 160 acres of soybeans in record time (less than 12 minutes), helping to raise \$250,000 for Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The five-minute video is available at [www.foodgrainsbank.ca/video\\_harvest\\_for\\_hunger\\_2\\_0.aspx](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/video_harvest_for_hunger_2_0.aspx). The video is also available on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/foodgrainsbank](http://www.youtube.com/user/foodgrainsbank).



## Some Useful Writings on Arminian Theology

"Mennonites have been historically Arminian in their theology," said Dr. Harold Bender, "whether they distinctly espoused the Arminian viewpoint or not." A short list of Arminian materials is enclosed to assist leaders and teachings interested in further study.