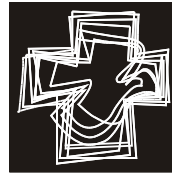


The London Mennonite Centre
*rooted in the Anabaptist tradition,
cultivating Christian discipleship
as a way of life*

- Cross-Currents seminars
- Bridge Builders –
Transforming church conflict
- Metanoia Book Service
- Library
- Prayer Hut
- Guest rooms
- Facility hire



Seminar Calendar
January – July 2007

Cross-Currents

The Teaching Programme of the
London Mennonite Centre



Photo: Martin Atkinson

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London Mennonite Trust
Registered Charity No. 227410

About Cross-Currents
January – July 2007

Cross-Currents seminars are a feast of learning, discussion, worship and fellowship – and, of course, good food! We invite you to participate, to bring friends and to pass this brochure on to others who may benefit from this teaching programme. We welcome enquiries about bringing all or part of a seminar to your congregation, college or organisation.

One-day seminars start with morning coffee, include lunch, and continue through teatime. At our evening table talks, presentations and discussion take place over a meal. All meals include vegetarian options. If you have dietary restrictions or food allergies, please note them on the booking form. Books, especially titles dealing with seminar themes, are offered for sale by Metanoia Book Service at www.metanoiabooks.org.uk or contact sales@metanoiabooks.org.uk. Please note the scheduled times for each seminar you choose, as starting and ending times may differ.

To book for seminars 265 - 269 please complete and return the enclosed booking form plus the full fee. A limited number of bursaries are available. To ensure a place and to help the staff in planning food and resources, please book at least five days prior to the seminar date.

Cancellations must take place five days in advance of a seminar in order for a refund, less a £5 handling fee, to be issued.

Please note that Bridge Builders courses 239, 248-250 require a special application process, and have a different cancellation policy.

The London Mennonite Centre is a Victorian building with access difficulties for non-ambulant people. However we want our facilities to be enjoyed by all people so please contact our hosts (hosts@menno.org.uk) if you have any special needs, to discuss how they can be accommodated.

If you do not want to receive future mailings, please tick the box on the booking form.

Friday 26 January 2007

Getting in the Way: A CPT Delegation to Israel/Palestine

A Table Talk at LMC

Kathy Thiessen & Dora-Marie Goulet

In November/December 2006, two members of the London Mennonite Centre staff, Kathy Thiessen and Dora-Marie Goulet, will be joining a delegation of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) to Israel/Palestine. CPT has had a team in Hebron since 1995, working with Palestinians and Israeli peace groups to develop action campaigns that expose the face of the Occupation, training in nonviolence, reporting on human rights, visiting families involved in the Campaign for Secure Dwellings and accompanying children to school.

Based the first several days in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, Kathy and Dora-Marie (along with twelve other delegates) will meet with human rights representatives and peace workers on both sides of the conflict. They will then travel to Hebron and join in CPT's ongoing work of violence-deterrence, accompaniment and documentation. A public witness that confronts the structural violence of the Occupation is also part of the experience.

The table talk will begin with an evening meal, after which Kathy and Dora-Marie, using photos and stories, will share their experiences with us. This will be followed by a time of questions and discussion on the work of CPT and the conflict in Israel/Palestine. Join us for an informative and challenging evening.

Friday 26 January
6:30 – 9:30 pm.
Fee: £10 (£5 unwaged)
Fee includes VAT and meal
C-C seminar No. 265

Kathy Thiessen has been working at the LMC since the summer of 2002. She is the LMC librarian, looks after the flowers in the garden, and works in the office. Dora-Marie Goulet is the new LMC Interfaith Peace and Justice Liaison, a position which includes working with CPT and with Christian/Muslim relations. Kathy and Dora-Marie are participants in the inaugural year of Peace School.

Suggested reading: *Getting in the Way: Stories from Christian Peacemaker Teams* edited by Tricia Gates Brown; *Hebron Journal: Stories of Nonviolent Peacemaking* by Arthur G Gish.

Saturday 24 February 2007

An Anabaptist, Trinitarian, Socio- Economic Spirituality

Dr Tom Finger

Anabaptists are good at promoting peace theology and critiquing war but few relate this to what many historic Anabaptists called “inordinate attachments to creatures”: the grasping for material goods, power and social prestige which results in the world’s vast unjust inequalities, protected and expanded by violent force or the threat of it. To create shalom, these grasping, striving, coercive behaviours must be undone at their roots, by the inward and outward work of the Holy Spirit, drawing people into inward and outward participation in Jesus’ life, death & resurrection. This will be an inherently communal journey, which participates in, and originates from, the self-giving interaction among Spirit, Son & Father in Jesus’ history.

To lead us in this fascinating look at Anabaptist spirituality and the value of economic sharing, we are privileged to have Tom Finger, one of our most prominent Mennonite theologians and author of the recent book, *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: Biblical, Historical, Constructive*. Using the works of early Anabaptists like Peter Riedemann, Tom will show how a personal and communal spirituality is extremely relevant to a world where the drive for ever-increasing production and consumption, unchecked by other values and goals, rules millions of lives and provides much of the energy for globalisation.

Don’t miss this opportunity to spend a day with a leading Mennonite theologian (who is also a dynamic communicator) on a key issue facing Anabaptists today.

Saturday 24 February
9:30 am. – 4:00 pm.
Fee: £20 (£10 unwaged)
Fee includes VAT and meal
C-C seminar No 266

Tom Finger, former professor of systematic and spiritual theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, has taught theology, church history and spirituality for many years. He now devotes his energy to writing and to participation in national and international ecumenical and interfaith work. Tom, a convert to both Christianity & Anabaptism, has also pastored urban Christian communities and now lives in one, seeking to live out the spiritual, social vision he will present.

Recommended Reading: *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: Biblical, Historical, Constructive and Self, Earth & Society: Alienation & Trinitarian Transformation* both by Thomas N Finger. “A Sixteenth-Century Anabaptist Social Spirituality” *The Conrad Grebel Review* 22:3 (Fall, 2004), 93-104 (available in the LMC library).

Monday-Tuesday 12-13 March 2007

In the Aftermath: Trauma Healing

Jayne Docherty

Have you ever wondered what to do after tragic events like the London Tube bombings, or how to respond to increased tension in your community?

After the traumatic events of September 11, 2001, a partnership was formed between Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) and Church World Service to support religious caregivers in the aftermath. This partnership was the beginning of STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience), a training programme in trauma healing which has since been offered around the globe. STAR provides training and resources for leaders in religious and civil society to transform conflict, build peace and security, and support justice, through healing trauma in their communities and around the world. STAR’s unique approach to trauma healing connects personal transformation with wellbeing in all sectors of society.

This March, we will be offering a two-day STAR-lite training programme which will introduce the concepts and approaches of STAR and what they could mean for your community. We are privileged to have Jayne Docherty from EMU, the world headquarters for the STAR programme, with us for these two days. Don’t miss the unique opportunity to participate in this important and life-transforming training programme.

Monday 12 March 10:30 am. – 5:00 pm
- Tuesday 13 March 9:30 am. – 4:00 pm.
Fee: £95 (sponsored) £70 (individual)
Fee includes VAT and two meals
C-C Seminar No 267

Jayne Docherty serves as faculty member at the Centre for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Jayne consults with organisations and communities about designing dispute resolution systems that promote social change and peacebuilding. She holds degrees in religious studies and political science, has studied theology at the University of St. Andrews and holds a Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University.

Recommending Reading: *Trauma and Recovery: From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror* by Judith Lewis Herman, and *The Little Book of Trauma Healing: When Violence Strikes and Community Security is Threatened* by Carolyn Yoder

Skills Training for Mediation and Facilitation for Senior Church Leaders

Venue: The Hayes conference centre,
Derbyshire

Alastair McKay, Colin Patterson & Sharon
Kniss

Bridge Builders is pleased to offer their
acclaimed mediation skills course specifically
for senior church leaders, for the second year
running.

The course is designed for senior church
leaders who want to equip themselves with
practical peacemaking skills in the service of
the church. The course explores conflict within
us, between individuals and within church
groups. It is geared to help senior leaders
develop the ability to work constructively
with conflict in the church, to assess levels
of intensity of conflict, and to identify
appropriate interventions.

Please tick the booking form to request a full
programme and application form. Spaces on
the course are limited to only 20, and priority
will be given to participants who can put this
training to practical use.

19-23 March
Course begins 9:00am on Monday, ends
2:00pm Friday
Fee: £675. Fee includes VAT, course
manual, style booklet, food and residential
accommodation.
C-C seminar No 239

*For Alastair McKay, Colin Patterson and
Sharon Kniss, see event dated 11-15 June*

continued from facing page

*Vic Thiessen is director of the London
Mennonite Centre. A lifelong film buff and
occasional film critic, Vic leads film nights
at the Guy Chester Centre and, for seven
years, has hosted a weekly movie night where
watching a film is followed by an hour's
discussion.*

Recommended reading: *How Movies Helped
Save My Soul: Finding Spiritual Footprints in
Culturally Relevant Films* by Gareth Higgins;
and some recent titles related to film and
spirituality: *Cinema & Sentiment: Film's
Challenge to Theology* by Clive Marsh, *Useless
Beauty: Ecclesiastes through the Lens of
Contemporary Film* by Robert K. Johnston, and
Religion and Film: An Introduction by Melanie
J. Wright

Film 2007: Finding God at the Movies: A Weekend on Film and Spirituality

Gareth Higgins and Vic Thiessen

Gareth Higgins writes: "Going to the cinema
can be a spiritual experience akin to worship,
which can inspire and convict as well as any
sermon." Discussing films, and the relation
between films and theology, is all very good,
but there is something magical, and potentially
spiritual, about dimming the lights and
watching films together before we move
into discussion.

This weekend residential conference will
provide the opportunity to do just that.
Throughout the weekend, Gareth Higgins, a
popular Greenbelt presenter and author of
the book *How Movies Helped Save My Soul:
Finding Spiritual Footprints in Culturally
Relevant Films*, and Vic Thiessen, whose
Greenbelt presentation was also popular and
who *plans* to write a book on films one day,
will share some thoughts on various aspects of
film and spirituality, but the focus will be on
the five films we watch and discuss together.

The film selection has not been finalised but
we will be choosing important films relating to
our theme, including films which people may
have overlooked.

If you've ever wondered how watching a film
together (followed by discussion) can enrich
our spiritual lives, then come join us for this
fun and stimulating weekend. Space is limited,
so please book early to ensure a place. Adults
of all ages are welcome, but we are offering a
20% reduction on the fees below for everyone
under 30.

Fri. 30 March 6:00 pm. - Sun. 1 April 2:00 pm.
Guy Chester Centre, Muswell Hill, London
Fee: £98 (double room); £118 (single room);
£68 (without accommodation); reduced fees for
those under 30.
Fee includes VAT, meals (and accommodation)
C-C seminar No 268

*Gareth Higgins is a peace activist in Belfast
and co-founder of the zero28 Project, a post-
sectarian peacebuilding initiative. He is an
occasional lecturer at the Irish School of
Ecumenics and a consultant specializing in
dealing with difference; art and spirituality;
theology and violence; and spirituality and
post-modern culture. Gareth is the author of
How Movies Helped Save My Soul: Finding
Spiritual Footprints in Culturally Relevant
Films and the forthcoming The Devil We
Thought We Knew: Naming the Antichrist in
an Age of Anxiety.*

Church Leadership and Family Systems

Venue: LMC

Richard Blackburn

We welcome Richard back to work with Bridge Builders for the twelfth year running.

This course on church leadership and family systems is designed to enhance the ability of participants to function as mature leaders. The focus is on exploring the impact on an individual's leadership within the church, of generational family ways of relating.

The course provides a safe space for processing challenging situations in ministry, while also offering reflections on a way of thinking about the human condition which has implications for all aspects of life. This builds on the work of Edwin Friedman, in his book *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*, which applies Murray Bowen's family systems theory as a tool for understanding congregational systems.

The course is being offered for the third time in the UK. As one past participant said: "This course is an invaluable resource for all church leaders and for the health and well being of churches. It offers a challenging opportunity to examine self – to self differentiate and see the implications for healing within the system."

Please tick the booking form to request a full programme and application form. Spaces are limited to only 16, so early booking is advised.

22-25 May

Course begins 11:00am on Tuesday, ends 2:00pm Friday

Fee: £295. Fee includes VAT, a book (*Extraordinary Relationships*), course handouts and one meal each day.
C-C Seminar No 248

Richard Blackburn is director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Chicago, USA. He has extensive experience as a trainer, mediator, and consultant with conflicted churches and their leaders. He has developed a transformational approach to mediation in the church, placed within the context of Bowen family systems theory. For several years he participated in a postgraduate clergy seminar run by Edwin Friedman, and also in the Georgetown Family Center's Postgraduate Program in Family Systems Theory and Its Applications.

Spirituality in the Anabaptist Tradition: Disciples who Pray and Sing

Alan Kreider and Eleanor Kreider

How do Anabaptists pray? Recent research has explored the profound spirituality of the early Anabaptists. They had ways of singing and praying that were distinctive, and that used the Bible in surprising and creative ways. Christians today are appropriating these ancient Anabaptist practices as they sing and pray. This seminar will explore historic and contemporary Anabaptist song and prayer and will practice them together.

To lead us in this very special day, we are thrilled to welcome back Alan and Eleanor Kreider, former directors of the London Mennonite Centre (1974-1991) and known to many in the UK. You won't want to miss this lively day with Alan and Ellie.

Saturday 2 June

10:00 am. – 4:00 pm.

Fee: £20 (£10 unwaged)

Fee includes VAT and meal

C-C Seminar No 269

Alan and Eleanor currently live in Elkhart, Indiana, where Alan teaches Church History and Mission at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Eleanor is one of the editors of Take My Moments and My Days, to be published by Herald Press in April 2007. Alan and Eleanor, along with Paulus Widjaja, also recently wrote A Culture of Peace, a marvellous book that expands on the Kreiders' popular booklet: Becoming a Peace Church. Between 1995 and 2000, Alan was founding director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture at Regent's Park College, Oxford University.

Recommended Reading: *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book*, edited by Arthur Paul Boers, Eleanor Kreider, John Rempel, Mary H. Schertz and Barbara Nelson Gingerich; *A Culture of Peace: God's Vision for the Church* by Alan Kreider, Eleanor Kreider and Paulus Widjaja; *Following in the Footsteps of Christ: The Anabaptist Tradition*, by C. Arnold Snyder.

Skills Training for Mediation and Facilitation in the Church

Venue: Guy Chester Centre, London N10

Alastair McKay, Colin Patterson & Sharon Kniss

Bridge Builders is offering their acclaimed mediation skills course in London, on a residential basis at the Methodists' Guy Chester Centre in Muswell Hill.

The five-day course is designed to equip participants with practical skills for responding constructively to conflict, particularly in church settings but with much wider application. The course explores conflict within us, between individuals and within church groups. It is geared to help church leaders and lay people develop the ability to understand conflict and its sources, and learn methods to facilitate its resolution and transformation using mediation and group facilitation.

Please tick the booking form to request a full programme and application form. Spaces on the course are limited to only 24, and priority will be given to participants who can put this training to practical use. There is the option of attending non-residentially.

11-15 June

Course begins 9:00am on Monday, ends 4:30pm Friday and includes two evening sessions. Fee: £595. Fee includes VAT, course manual, style booklet, food and residential accommodation. C-C seminar No 249

Alastair McKay is director of Bridge Builders at the LMC, offering consultancy, mediation and training services to British churches. He has been leading training in handling church conflict since 1995, working in the UK and the USA. Alastair has an MA in Conflict Transformation, and contributed a chapter on congregational decision-making to the book Making Peace With Conflict (Herald Press, 1999).

Colin Patterson is assistant director of Bridge Builders, and an Anglican priest. He is an experienced adult educator, who worked for 12 years as a training officer for the Diocese of Durham, and is author of the Grove booklet How to Learn Through Conflict.

Sharon Kniss is Bridge Builders' assistant. She is a Mennonite from the United States, with a degree in Justice, Peace and Conflict Studies from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia.

Congregational Conflict Consulting

Venue: LMC

Dave Brubaker, Alastair McKay and Colin Patterson

Following the success of this course in 2003 and 2005, we are pleased to welcome back Dave Brubaker to co-lead this week of advanced training.

The five-day course is designed to equip participants to work with congregations or large groups facing conflict. It will look at one main approach to congregational intervention work. A large-group role-play will be used to illustrate the processes being introduced. The course is geared to those who want to take their mediation skills further, and to be equipped to work with large groups as well as individuals in conflict.

Please tick the booking form to request a full programme and application form. The course is designed for those who have completed one of Bridge Builders week-long mediation skills training courses. Others will need to demonstrate suitable mediation training as part of their application.

As one past participant put it, the course "gives excellent insights into dealing with conflict in a congregation, and a realistic strategy for working to resolve it."

2-6 July

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm
Fee: £400. Fee includes VAT, course manual and lunches
C-C seminar No 250

David Brubaker teaches on the faculty of the Center for Justice and Peace at Eastern Mennonite University, having worked as a consultant and trainer for many years. He specialises in intervening in internal church and organisational conflicts.

Alastair McKay and Colin Patterson (see previous entries).

ADVANCE NOTICE:

**Church Mediation:
an ecumenical English conference
Wednesday 19 September 2007**

The conference will give an opportunity to hear from senior denominational representatives in England on their vision for the use of mediation in the church. Speakers will include: Revd Paul Hills, Baptist Senior Regional Minister; James Behrens, author of Church Disputes Mediation; Revd Will Morrey, former President of the Methodist Conference; Revd Elizabeth Caswell, current Moderator of the URC General Assembly; and, Major Mike Highton, Salvation Army Divisional Leader. See our web site for full details.

Root & Branch

The London Mennonite Centre is a member of Root & Branch: Radical Christian Vision Network. **Root & Branch** is a network of Anabaptist-oriented organisations. Its current members include: the LMC (with Bridge Builders and Metanoia), the Anabaptist Network, Workshop, Ekklesia, Urban Expression, SPEAK, Christian Peacemaker Teams UK, Wood Green Mennonite Church and Peace Church. To subscribe to the monthly email bulletin of Root & Branch, check on www.rootandbranch.org.uk or contact info@rootandbranch.org.uk

Anabaptist Network

Anabaptist Network events

The Anabaptist Network offers resources to Christians exploring what it means to be radical followers of Jesus in a world in which the church is now on the margins.

Saturday - Monday 26-28 May, Barnes Close, nr Birmingham

The AN Residential Conference with Alan Kreider and Eleanor Kreider
See www.anabaptistnetwork.com

Crucible: Creating Church on the Margins at Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham

24-25 February 2007

30 June-1 July 2007

See www.cruciblecourse.net

Bridge Builders

Workshop: Applied Christian Studies

One weekend a month for a year that will change your life! www.workshop.org.uk

Bridge Builders

offers a range of services including:

- coaching for leaders facing conflict
- consultancy for those intervening in church conflicts
- interpersonal, leadership team and congregational mediation and conciliation services for those needing outside assistance.

For further information, please contact Alastair McKay, director of Bridge Builders
Email: alastairMcKay@menno.org.uk

To receive further information about Bridge Builders mediation skills training courses, please contact Sharon Kniss, email: bb@menno.org.uk

Bridge Builders' Network Dates

Follow-up training days for "graduates" of the five-day mediation skills courses:

Thursday 18 January in Leeds

Thursday 22 February in Reading

Thursday 3 May in Coventry

Thursday 10 May at the LMC

Thursday 28 June in Durham

Thursday 6 September at the LMC

Thursday 13 September in Leeds

Thursday 19 September in East London

Thursday 25 October in Reading

Other future Bridge Builders events:

Wed 19 Sept: Church Mediation Conference

Mon-Fri 8-12 Oct: MFST

Tues-Thurs 13-15 Nov: Training of Trainers

Cross-Currents Booking Form January – July 2007

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS. IF MORE THAN ONE PERSON PLANS TO COME, PLEASE ALSO USE SECOND BOOKING FORM OVERLEAF.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please tick each seminar you wish to attend, and write the amount enclosed in the space provided. Please include full fees for seminars 265 - 269 with this booking form, to be returned at least five days before the seminar date.

265 **Getting in the Way**
Fri 26 January
Fee £10 (£5 unwaged) £ _____

266 **An Anabaptist Spirituality**
Sat 24 February
Fee £20 (£10 unwaged) £ _____

267 **In the Aftermath: Trauma Healing**
Mon 12 - Tues 13 March
Fee £95 sponsored (£70 unsp.) £ _____

268 **Film 2007: Finding God in the Movies**
Fri 30 Mar - Sun 1 April
Fee £68 (no accom.) £118 incl. single room;
£98 each in double room £ _____

269 **Spirituality in the Anabaptist Tradition**
Sat 2 June
Fee £20 (£10 unwaged) £ _____

Would you like to make a donation toward our work? (optional) £ _____

Total amount enclosed £ _____

Cheques payable to: "London Mennonite Centre". To help us plan for catering, tick if you are ___ vegetarian ___ vegan. If you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies, please explain:

Please tick the appropriate box below if you want further information about the following:

Skills Training for Mediation and Facilitation for Senior Church Leaders
Mon-Fri 19-23 March in Derbyshire

Church Leadership and Family Systems
Tues-Fri 22-25 May at LMC

Skills Training for Mediation and Facilitation in the Church
Mon-Fri 11-15 June in North London

Congregational Conflict Consulting
Mon-Fri 2-6 July at LMC

Becoming a Friend of the LMC

If you do not want to receive future mailings from us, please tick

If you would like to receive mailings by email, please tick

Please return to:
LMC, 14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ

Cross-Currents Spring 2007



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London Mennonite Trust
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