

January – June 2009

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

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 292 - 297 & 299 with this booking form, to be returned at least five days before the seminar date.

320 A Peacemaking Vision
Sat 24 January
Fee £30 (£15 unwaged) £ _____

317 Dealing with Difficult Behaviour
Sat 28 February (in Durham)
Fee £50 (£20 unwaged) £ _____

323 Church Planting and Urban Mission
Sat 15 November
Fee £30 (£15 unwaged) £ _____

319 Film 2009: Finding God at the Movies 3
Fri-Sun 3-5 April
Fee £95 with accom (£65 without) £ _____

321 Simply in Season
Sat 16 May
Fee £30 (£15 unwaged) £ _____

324 Response:Ability
Sat 20 June
Fee £30 (£15 unwaged) £ _____

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

Total amount enclosed £ _____

Cheques payable to: "London Mennonite Centre".

Card Number: ____ | ____ | ____ | ____ | ____

Valid From: __/__/__ to: __/__/__ Issue No: ____

3 digit CV2 (last 3 digits on signature strip) ____

To help us plan for catering, tick if you are ___ vegetarian ___ vegan. If you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies, please explain:

Bridge Builders Applications

Transforming Church Conflict
Sun-Fri 17-22 May

Church Leadership and Family Systems
Tues-Fri 2-5 June

Mediating Interpersonal Conflicts
Mon-Fri 22-26 June

Cross-Currents Spring 2009



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



Photo: Martin Atkinson

14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ, UK
Tel: 0845 4500 214 / 020 8340 8775
Fax: 020 8341 6807

International Tel: +44 20 8340 8775
International Fax: +44 20 8341 6807
Email: crosscurrents@menno.org.uk
Web: www.menno.org.uk

London Mennonite Trust
Registered Charity No. 227410



Seminar Calendar
January – June 2009

Cross-Currents

The Teaching Programme of the
London Mennonite Centre

Saturday 24 January 2009

A Peacemaking Vision: Risks and Realities in a Post-Christian Context

Gene Stoltzfus

Peacemaking is an inherent part of the Christian life. Gene Stoltzfus was involved in the founding of Christian Peacemaker Teams and was the director for 16 years until his retirement.

Peacemaking as worked out by CPT includes serious training in the arts of nonviolence, negotiations, human rights work, media, and the integration of Christian spirituality on a day to day basis. CPT also works hard at developing team work and appreciates the importance of diversity within team life including gender equality. Through their work peacemakers come to fresh and deep understandings of who God is. Peacemakers who engage in risk also develop new appreciation for Jesus ministry in the villages of first century Palestine and a witness that leads to conditions where their own death is a possible outcome.

This seminar will attempt to answer some of the following questions. How do peacemaker teams work as a practical process in the field? Is it possible to think about a global army of Christian peacemakers? How does Christian activism affect our faith? How does Christian peacemaking link into our post Christian culture, the individualism of the human rights culture? What might a Christian peacemaking vision look like in Europe? What is worship like in the context of peacemaking?

Saturday 24 January 2009, at the LMC

9:30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Fee: £30 (£15 unwaged)

Fee includes VAT and meal

C-C seminar No 320

Recommended reading: Christian Peacemaker Teams web site and Gene Stoltzfus blog: Peace Talk. Books: In Harms' Way: A History of Christian Peacemaker Teams by Kathleen Kern by Kathleen Kern, 118 Days: Christian Peacemaker Team Held Hostage in Iraq by Tricia Gates Brown, Getting in the Way: Stories From Christian Peacemaker Teams by Tricia Gates Brown (Ed.), At-Tuwani Journal: Hope and Nonviolent Action in a Palestinian Village by Arthur G Gish, Iraq: A Journey of Hope and Peace by Peggy Gish, Hebron Journal: Stories of Nonviolent Peacemaking by Arthur G Gish, Hostage in Iraq by Norman Kember

Recommended reading: We will draw on insights from the Mennonite authors David Augsburg, (Caring Enough to Confront) and Arthur Paul Boers (Never Call Them Jerks).

Saturday 28 February

Dealing With Difficult Behaviour

Colin Patterson (at Crossgate Centre, Durham)

Jesus taught us to be peace-makers, who pray for our enemies. But what does that mean when "the enemy" is someone you constantly rub shoulders with? Hostility from your family, your workmates, or your neighbours, can leave you feeling blocked at every turn - even under siege. Some people can appear totally unreasonable, wearing you down with a persistently negative attitude. It's hard then not to be sucked into a downward spiral of despair, blame, recrimination or counter-attack.

Being Christ-like in these circumstances is a real challenge. How can you want the best for someone else when you hate what they do? Some questions to ask ourselves might include: Am I jumping to hasty conclusions about another person's motives? Is it possible that my own behaviour is part of the problem? Should I just bite my tongue? What might it mean to take a principled stand against harmful behaviour? What can I do to break a cycle of scape-goating? During this workshop, you will be helped to recognise your instinctive responses to difficult behaviour from others, to build on your strengths, and to plan how to take a more considered approach.

The workshop follows the trusted Bridge Builders approach: training in practical skills, rooted in the example and teaching of Jesus.

Saturday 28 February 2009,

at Crossgate Centre, Durham

10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Fee: £50 (£40 if booked by 7 January or if a member of the BB Network), £20 unwaged/ low income.

Fee includes VAT, training materials and refreshments - but please bring your own lunch. Should you have to cancel, your fee will be refunded if we are notified at least 10 days before the event, but not thereafter.

C-C Seminar 317

Saturday 14 March 2009

Church Planting and Urban Mission

Karen Stallard and Phil Warburton

It sounds so exciting and gritty, moving to the city and exploring how to be church. Working with people from all over the world, with experiences so far removed from our own life experiences. Finding God at work amongst the tower blocks, seeing people discover freedom and life. But what are the realities of Church planting in the inner city, what issues are to be faced if we engage fully in Urban Mission?

Through story telling and reflection in this seminar we will explore together some of the complexities of engaging with Urban Mission, we will laugh and cry at some of the joys and sorrows we have experienced, and we will share some of the simple truths which have kept us going. Church planting and Urban Mission tend to be a bit messy so don't worry about coming all dressed up!

Saturday 14 March 2009 at the LMC

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: £30 (£15 unwaged)

Fee includes VAT and meal

C-C seminar No 323

Recommended reading: Church Planting in the Inner City: The Urban Expression Story by Juliet Kilpin and Stuart Murray; Planting Churches: A Framework for Practitioners by Stuart Murray

Friday - Sunday 3 - 5 April 2009

Film 2009: Finding God at the Movies: A Weekend on Film and Spirituality

Vic Thiessen, at Guy Chester Centre

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.

Back by popular demand, we are offering another weekend residential conference to provide the opportunity to do just that. Vic Thiessen, a regular speaker on film and theology at Greenbelt and other venues, 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. This year, there will also be the option of an outing to a nearby cinema on Sunday afternoon, followed by discussion in a coffee shop (not included in fees).

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. We had a great time last spring. Please note that you need not have any film expertise or ever have attended a film seminar - everyone who enjoys films is welcome. Space is limited, so please book early to ensure a place.

Fri. 3 April 7:00 p.m. - Sun 5 April 2:00 p.m.

at the Guy Chester Centre, London

Fee: £95 (single or double room);

£65 (without accommodation)

Fee includes VAT and meals

C-C seminar No 319

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: Theology Goes to the Movies: An Introduction to Critical Christian Thinking by Clive Marsh; Faith and Film: A Guidebook for Leaders, by Edward N. McNulty; Film & Religion: An Introduction by Paul V.M. Flesher and Robert Torrey; and The Religion and Film Reader edited by Jolyon Mitchell and S. Brent Plate.

Saturday 16 May 2009

Simply in Season

Kathy Thiessen

As Anabaptists we believe that God has created a wonderful world and that it is up to us to respect it and care for it. One practical way we can do this on a personal level is to consider how and where we obtain the foods that we eat.

Spring is a fantastic time to explore the foods that are beginning to grow again. In this seminar we will look at why one should consider eating foods that are in season, and that are grown locally. We will also renew awareness of what foods are in season at what time of year. As a part of this day we will do some cooking together and then eat a lunch made of spring-grown ingredients that have been bought from as local a source as possible.

Saturday 16 May at the LMC

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Fee: £30 (£15 unwaged)

Fee includes VAT and meal

C-C seminar No 321

Recommended reading: Simply in Season: Recipes that celebrate fresh, local foods in the spirit of More-With-Less by Mary Beth Lind and Cathleen Hockman-Wert; More-With-Less Cookbook: recipes and suggestions by Mennonites on how to eat better and consume less of the world's limited food resources by Doris Janzen Longacre; Simply in Season Children's Cookbook: fun with food from garden to table by Mark Beach and Julie Kauffman; Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: a year of food life by Barbara Kingsolver

Saturday 20 June 2009

Response:Ability

SPEAK

What is our response to a world in need and what is our ability to make a difference? How do we create a climate of change?

SPEAK will explore practical tools and the theological basis for campaigning for economic, social and environmental justice. They will focus in particular on the accountability of multi-national companies, and how we can use our voices collectively to pray and call for changes in European and international law to keep companies accountable and transparent where they impact vulnerable communities and the environment.

Saturday 20 June, at the LMC

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Fee: £30 (£15 unwaged)

Fee includes VAT and meal

C-C seminar No 324

Recommended reading: Seven Ways To Change The World: Reviving Faith and Politics by Jim Wallis; The New Conspirators: Creating the Future One Mustard Seed at a Time by Tom Sine; Micah's Challenge: The Churches Responsibility to the Global Poor by Tom Sine, and the European Coalition for Corporate Justice website has lots of brilliant material.

SPEAK is a network of young people across the UK and beyond who pray, campaign and share our hope for social change through our faith in a loving and just creator God.

Transforming Church Conflict: A Foundation Course for Leaders

Bridge Builders

Conflict is normal and inevitable – but Christians often feel ill-prepared to handle conflict in the church. Transforming Church Conflict: A Foundation Course for Leaders is a new training course intended for those in leadership positions in the church, and also for other Christians who want to deal better with conflict.

Attend this training course if you want to:

- Develop new skills for handling conflict
- Give time to personal growth as part of a worshipping community
- Be part of a movement that is changing the culture of the church
- Help put the church's energy to more creative use

This new five-day course is focussed on conflict in church settings, and serves as the foundation for further Bridge Builders courses. Held residentially, it builds on our experience of leading similar training since 1996. The course aims to raise self-awareness, to deepen understanding of conflict and to teach methods for transforming conflict. Spaces are limited and early booking is recommended as our courses are regularly over-subscribed. Course participants will be invited to join our Bridge Builders' Network, of Christians around Britain involved in transforming church conflict.

The course includes teaching, group work and guided practice. Active and practical in focus, the sessions provide hands-on skills training and use role-plays based on the kinds of conflicts encountered in the church. Each day includes times of prayer and worship. The course is intensive and includes some evening sessions; we strongly recommend avoiding any other commitments during the week.

Meals and Accommodation

The course is residential with accommodation provided from Sunday evening to Thursday evening, and with meals provided each day from Sunday evening until Friday lunch time, of breakfast, lunch and evening meal, in single room accommodation at Whirlow Grange Conference Centre, Eccleshall Road South, Sheffield S11 9PZ (see www.whirlowgrange.co.uk).

Cost, Application and Cancellation

The standard cost for the course is £725. Precedence is given to applicants sponsored by their church or organisation, and who may use the training for its benefit, or to enhance their own ministry. If you are on a very low income, then please contact us to see whether a bursary may be available. A training manual and a style profile are included in the fee.

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 24, so do apply early, as our courses are regularly over-subscribed.

To apply, download the brochure and application form, print out the application and mail it, with a cheque for £100 made payable to Bridge Builders, to

Bridge Builders
London Mennonite Centre
14 Shepherds Hill
London N6 5AQ

The balance of the fee is due eight weeks before the start of the course (i.e. by 23 March 2009). Once accepted, the £100 deposit is a non-refundable. The full fee is owed if a place is cancelled within six weeks of the course start date (i.e. from 6 April 2009 onwards).

Course Timings

Sun, 17 May: arrival from 5:00pm for dinner at 6:30pm

Mon, 18 May to Thurs, 21 May:
Either 9:00am-6:00pm,
or 9:00am-1:00pm, 3:30-6:00pm, 7:30-9:00pm

Friday 22 May: 9:00am-4:30pm

Course Objectives

By the end of the course we expect that you will have:

- Developed greater awareness about your own communication style and its impact on others
- Reflected on Biblical resources related to conflict
- Enhanced your skills for communicating effectively in times of conflict
- Practised and learnt skills to facilitate meetings
- Learnt ways of building consensus and working with resistance in groups
- Developed your ability to analyse conflict and to identify what intervention may be appropriate, such as mediation
- Considered ways to nurture a culture of creative engagement with conflict
- Reflected on the type of leadership needed in times of conflict
- Discovered ways that conflict can offer opportunities for growth

Church Leadership & Family Systems

Richard Blackburn

This course in Church Leadership and Family Systems at the London Mennonite Centre is designed to enhance the ability of participants to function as mature leaders within their churches. It will provide a safe forum for processing challenging situations in ministry, while also facilitating reflection on a way of thinking about the human condition which has implications for all aspects of life. Following successful courses since 2005, Bridge Builders is pleased to continue to offer the course in 2009.

Since the publication of *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*, by Dr Edwin Friedman, church leaders have found an understanding of Bowen family systems theory a valuable tool for understanding congregational systems. Dr Murray Bowen understood families as emotional systems impacted by two key factors: the level of anxiety within the system and the level of differentiation of family members. As a student of Bowen, Friedman saw the relevance of Bowen's ideas for congregations and their leaders.

With today's rising level of anxiety in society and its resulting impact on families, such anxiety will affect the church with increasing intensity in the years ahead. The resulting heightened pressures in congregations and the increasing demands which that places on clergy make it vital that leaders step back occasionally from the fray to assess their own capacity to manage themselves in a calmer, more differentiated way. This course provides an opportunity for such reflection, in the light of new learning.

Presenter

Richard Blackburn is Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Chicago, USA. He has broad experience as a trainer, mediator, and consultant with conflicted churches and their leaders. The congregational mediation model he has developed represents a transformational approach, placed within the context of Bowen family systems theory. For several years he participated in Edwin Friedman's Postgraduate Clergy Seminar in Family Emotional Process and the Georgetown Family Center's Postgraduate Program in Family Systems Theory and Its Applications.

Meals and Accommodation

A main meal and refreshments will be provided each day, with an additional evening meal on Tuesday. Participants will need to arrange their own accommodation and other meals. Contact the London Mennonite Centre if you need help in finding accommodation.

Cost and Application

The cost for the course is £310 if your booking is received by 31 October 2008, or £350 thereafter. Precedence is given to participants sponsored by their church or organisation. Those on low incomes can apply for a bursary of £75, but these are limited. Training materials and a copy of the book *Extraordinary Relationships* by Roberta Gilbert (required course reading) are included in the price, as are refreshments and a main meal each day.

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 16 in 2009, so do apply early. To apply, download the flier and application form, print out the application and mail it, with a cheque for £100, to

Bridge Builders
London Mennonite Centre
14 Shepherds Hill
London N6 5AQ

The balance of the fee is due eight weeks before the start of the course (i.e. by 7 April 2009). Once accepted, the £100 deposit is

non-refundable. The full fee is owed if a place is cancelled within eight weeks of the course start date. Cheques will not be banked until acceptance onto the course.

Programme Overview

Tuesday 2 June 2009

11:00-11:15 Opening worship

11:15-12:45 Opening session on Bowen Family Systems Theory

12:45-1:45 Lunch

1:45-6:30 3 sessions on Bowen Family Systems Theory

6:30-7:30 Dinner

Wednesday 3 June 2009

9:15-9:30 Opening worship

9:30-12:45 2 sessions on Bowen Family Systems Theory

12:45-1:45 Lunch

1:45-5:15 2 sessions of Family of Origin Groups

Thursday 4 June 2009

9:15-9:30 Opening worship

9:30-12:45 2 sessions on Emotional Process & Congregational Systems

12:45-1:45 Lunch

1:45-5:15 2 sessions of Ministry Case Study Presentations

5:15-6:15 Optional informal party

Friday 5 June 2009

9:00-9:15 Opening worship

9:15-10:45 Session on Emotional Process and Congregational Systems

11:15-12:45 Ministry Case Study Presentations in smaller groups

12:45-1:00 Closing time in large group

1:00-2:00 Lunch

Concepts to be studied will include: triangles; differentiation of self; nuclear family emotional system and family projection process; multigenerational transmission process; sibling position; societal regression; and emotional cutoff. Reflection on such concepts will include implications for one's nuclear and extended family system, and the congregational family system.

Mediating Interpersonal Conflicts: Skills Training for Christians

Bridge Builders

What can you do when a relationship between fellow Christians is strained? While you can pray for them, you may also be in a position to bring them together to try to overcome the tensions. If your training with Bridge Builders has given you an appetite for practical peace-making, and you want to be equipped to mediate between individuals, then the Mediating Interpersonal Conflicts course is for you.

Building on what is learnt during the Bridge Builders' foundation course, Transforming Church Conflict, this new, non-residential, five-day course offers a more thorough grounding in interpersonal mediation than Bridge Builders has provided before. The course will introduce you to a carefully-structured process that you practise step by step. Focusing on transforming conflicts among Christians, the skills that you learn can also be used wherever there is a role, formal or informal, for intervention by a third party.

Bridge Builders is the training and mediation service of the London Mennonite Centre (LMC), where the course is being held. We hope to have a breadth of denominations represented, as in previous courses. Participants will be able to join our network of Christians around Britain involved in church mediation work.

The course will include teaching, group work and guided practice. Active and practical in focus, the sessions will emphasise hands-on skills training and use role-plays based on the kinds of conflicts encountered in the church. Each day will include times of prayer and worship. The course is intensive; significant other commitments are best avoided during the week.

Venue

The course will be held at the London Mennonite Centre, 14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ. The LMC is five minutes walk from Highgate tube station in North London, just off the A1. Please note the 10:00am prompt start on the first day: you may want to stay in London the night before.

Meals and Accommodation

Lunch and refreshments will be provided each day. Participants will need to arrange their own accommodation, breakfast, and evening meal. Contact the London Mennonite Centre if you need help in finding accommodation.

Cost, Application and Cancellation

The fee is £500; a training manual is included. Please note that the course is only open to those who have previously completed either the foundation course, Transforming Church Conflict, or the earlier Skills Training for Mediation and Facilitation in the Church. A £100 discount is offered in June 2009 for those who have completed the Skills Training for Mediation and Facilitation in the Church. Precedence is given to applicants sponsored by their church or organisation, and who may use the training for its benefit, or to enhance their own ministry. If you are on a very low income, then please contact us to see whether a bursary may be available.

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 16, so do apply early, as our courses are regularly over-subscribed. To apply, download the brochure and application form. Print out the application and mail it, with a cheque for £100 made payable to Bridge Builders, to

Bridge Builders
London Mennonite Centre
14 Shepherds Hill
London N6 5AQ

The balance of the fee is due eight weeks before the start of the course. Once accepted, the £100 deposit is a non-refundable. The full fee is owed if a place is cancelled within eight weeks of the course start date (i.e. from 27 April 2009 onwards).

Tentative Programme Overview

Monday 22 June, 10:00am - 6:00pm
• Introductions • Foundation & Vision for Mediation • Jesus the Mediator • Overview of Interpersonal Mediation • Getting People to the Table

Tuesday 23 June, 9:00am - 6:00pm
Power and Mediation • Mediators' Listening Skills • Introduction & Story-Telling • Identifying Common Ground & Issues • Mediation & Your Style Profile

Wednesday 24 June, 9:00am - 6:00pm
• Drawing Out Underlying Concerns • Problem-Solving & Healing Strategies • Teamwork in Mediation

Thursday 25 June, 9:00am - 6:00pm
• Problem-Solving & Healing continued • Reframing • Private Meetings • Making Agreements • What if...? • Putting it All Together

Friday 26 June, 9:00am - 4:30pm
• Ethical Dilemmas in Mediation • Completing the Tool Box • Adapting the Process • Guidance for New Mediators • Reflection, Conclusion & Review

About the presenters

Gene Stoltzfus has been involved in Christian peacemaking efforts since before that word was used in the modern peace vocabulary, beginning with five years as a civilian worker in Viet Nam in the 1960s, continuing with several years in the Philippines and elsewhere in South East Asia with Mennonite Central Committee in the 1970s. He lived in Chicago IL for 25 years where CPT began in the 1980s. He now lives in Canada with his Canadian wife Dorothy Friesen.

Phil Warburton is a Baptist Minister and is currently leading E1 Community Church, a church which has emerged through the joining together of 3 Urban Expression Church Plants. He has lived and worked in Tower Hamlets for 11 years. Phil is also a trustee for Urban Expression.

Karen Stallard co-ordinates the Spiritual and Cultural Care and the City Mental Health Trust; she is also involved with, a charity that promotes mental well being that was established through an Urban Expression Church Plant. She has lived and worked in Tower Hamlets for 9 years.

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

Kathy Thiessen has been working at the London Mennonite Centre since the summer of 2002. She works in the garden, the library and the office, and she does a lot of cooking. Kathy has been using the Simply in Season Cookbook regularly since its publication in June, 2005 and she loves exploring the Alexandra Palace farmer's market on Sunday mornings (before church).

The Bridge Builders Team:

Alastair McKay is director of Bridge Builders at the LMC, providing training, mediation and consultancy services to churches since 1996. Alastair is studying for a Doctorate of Ministry, and has contributed to the books *Making Peace With Conflict* (Herald Press, 1999) and *How to Become a Creative Church Leader* (Canterbury Press, 2008).

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

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

The London Mennonite Centre is a member of the Root & Branch network and its events are sponsored by Ekklesia

