

Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

May 2009

A Piece of NWMC History Remembering Ada Hackman

Linford and Ada Hackman were a colorful part of our Northwest history.

They were born in Pennsylvania and married in 1929. Linford had been reading about the Canadian North in hunting and trapping magazines and he talked Ada into a northern honeymoon together with another couple. They made it almost to Lesser Slave Lake when muddy roads and weeping wives turned them back.

Linford's love of the North led them to Christian ministry in Minnesota and then Alberta. From 1946-1965 they lived in Carstairs, Alberta where Linford served as Assistant Pastor of West Zion Mennonite Church. He became a pilot, bought a plane, and traveled extensively in the north, being instrumental in the founding of some of our northern churches and recruiting Christian workers for the north.



Linford loved adventure and was an avid story-teller. He flew all over the north making contacts and later became the itinerant pastor for the Northern Alberta churches.

Ada had some challenging times as she had primary responsibility for their five children during these years and was far away from her home and family. In 1965 they moved to Edmonton and with their children raised, Ada was free to join Linford in his travels. She considered this one of the most enjoyable times of her life.

Their home in Edmonton became a meeting place for northern workers. They picked up and delivered supplies, met workers at the train or plane, provided hospitality and generally became mom and dad to many.

Linford passed away in 1983. Ada spent her last years at the Devonshire Care Centre in Edmonton. She went to be with the Lord on March 24, 2009 at the age of 101. A private family memorial is planned on July 11 in Cochrane at which time Ada's ashes will be buried in the family plot at West Zion Church in Carstairs.

Carol in Gambia



Our NWMC Office Administrator Carol Gelleney went to Gambia, West Africa in Feb/March with the Christian Volunteer Movement. CVM is a Christian organization led by Steve

Hewko which sends volunteers to work alongside missionaries, tailoring the work to suit the gifts of the volunteers and the needs of the missionaries. Projects are planned according to the people available.

Carol's task was to visit the 36 different projects, do program audits, and confirm that the resources go to the appropriate project. Projects typically include training of local nurses, midwifery training, setting up and organizing a pharmacy, training local pastors, providing a children's program, etc.

CVM is hoping to set up a Seminary using professors from Wycliffe College in Toronto. Students in Gambia have tried to take Bible training in Ethiopia but have had difficulties with getting visas which will allow them to stay the full length of the training period.

Carol is enthusiastic about the creative work done by CVM and the positive effect it has on those served.

**Did we miss your church news?
Send it to malellie@telus.net .**

Newspoint

Did you know...

***Pastor Luis Vega** of the Spanish Mennonite Church in Red Deer spoke at the Duchess Mennonite Church on April 19th. He brought an interpreter along!

***Pastor Trevor Kiriaka** spoke at the graduation services of Millar College of the Bible in Pambrun, SK. Pastor Trevor took some of his training there, and also taught at the College for 6 years before coming to West Zion in Carstairs.

***Jodi Tse**, wife of Pastor Ken Tse of the Edmonton Chinese Church, had surgery for bowel cancer in April. She is recuperating and feeling positive about the outcome.

***Our sympathies** go to Pastor Joe and Cathy Mrak, pastor at Smith, AB. Cathy's mother passed away in Surrey recently.

***Bluesky Mennonite Church** held a Visioning Seminar on May 2nd, led by Conference Minister Mal Braun. It was attended by the majority of adults in the church.

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