



YPBC News

June 2011

WILLIAM MADDOX COMPLETES FIFTEEN YEARS AT YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

The month of June brings to completion another successful season for the Yorkminster Park Choir. In addition to the weekly morning and evening services, highlights this year have included Carols by Candlelight, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, the CHUM-CP24 Christmas Wish Concert, three Choral Evensongs, A Service of Hymns, Music for Passiontide (with strings) and Easter Sunday (with brass). This June also marks the completion of fifteen years' service by William Maddox as Director of Music.

A former student of our former Director of Music, Catherine Palmer, William Maddox came to Yorkminster Park in 1996, having already had twenty years' experience in Church music. He was at that time Organist and Master of the Choirs of Bridge Street United Church in Belleville, Ontario, and had for ten years also served as an Associate Organist at St. George's Cathedral in Kingston. He was an adjunct instructor of organ at Queen's University and Conductor of the 100-voice Bridge Street Concert Choir, which presented yearly performances with orchestra.

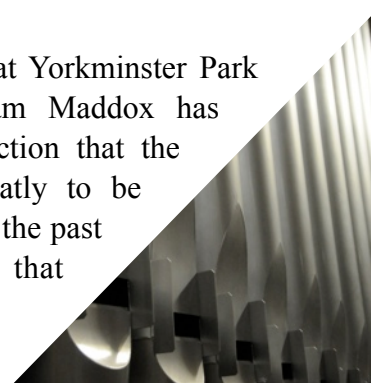
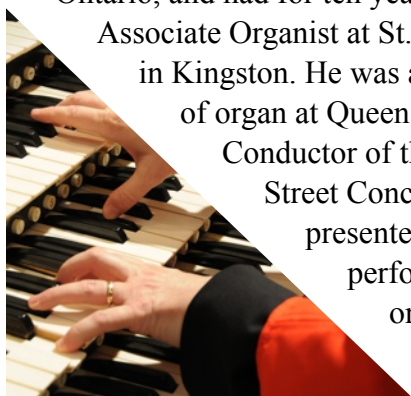
In addition to his

duties at Yorkminster Park, William has remained active as an organ recitalist, and has played recitals across Canada, in the United States and at the Sao Bento Organ Festival in Brazil. He has also acted as consultant to a number of organbuilders and played the inaugural concerts on many new organs throughout Canada. He has been honoured with elected and honorary Fellowships from a number of learned societies for musicians, and helped found the Honourable Company of Organists in 2003.

William seeks a meaningful and sensitive interpretation of the music, both by the Choir and at the organ, at a consistently high standard for the worship services here at Yorkminster Park. Throughout the year, he works to correlate the music in the services to the sermons and liturgical seasons, and makes an ongoing effort to expand the repertoire of the Choir by finding and introducing worthy new music. He has also led the Choir in two major summer tours to Scotland and the

United States, as well as various venues throughout the city.

Throughout his tenure at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, William Maddox has been led by the conviction that the Lord is great and greatly to be praised. His work over the past fifteen years reflects that supreme calling.



Published by:

Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church
1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON
M4T 1Z9
www.yorkminsterpark.com

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

Minister of the Congregation

The Rev. Carolyn King

Associate Minister-Pastoral Care

The Rev. Cheryle Hanna

Associate Minister-Discipleship

The Rev. Sam Lee

Assistant Minister, Youth

Mr. William Maddox, B.Mus.

FTCL - Director of Music

Mrs. Miriam Little

Director of Children's Ministries

Mrs. Heather Hetherington

Parish Nurse

The Rev. Dr. William Sturgess

Minister Emeritus-Pastoral Care



In this issue:

	Page
15th Anniversary	1
Dear Friends	2
Face of Poverty in Lebanon	3
Book Review	4
Summer Reading	4
Recognition - Esther	5
Transitions	5
YPBC Women	6
Bible at The Globe	7
Pastoral Care Committee	8
When I Die Love	9
YPBC Gallery	9
Mission to Bolivia	10
Happenings	12

Dear Friends

Our time at Yorkminster Park is flying by. Let me say again how very grateful Jenny and I feel for this time among you. We have found so much friendship and we have always been thrilled in sharing the worship Sunday by Sunday. It is a privilege to work with fine colleagues and to be part, however briefly, of a church with such a deep and wide grasp of the Christian calling. Thank you for asking me to come and minister while Peter is away.

I am in a position to comment on just how hard Peter works in ministry. I hope and pray that these sabbatical months are rich for him in body, mind and spirit. Every day we think of him in thankfulness for his gifted friendship and that he is our minister. God bless him, with Janet and the family this special summer.

We have been visiting Yorkminster Park since the early 1990s. Perhaps it is only occasional visitors like us who note how the church has developed. That it should develop is a sign that it is alive and responsive. The social context and culture is always changing, of course, and the living church knows it must respond to that. Bluntly, it is the choice of change or be changed. But the living church seeks always to respond above all to the call and vision of God, not just the cultural variations of the day. However, this relationship between the church and its contemporary culture has been a perennial issue for missionary congregations – you can see the tension being worked out within the pages of the New Testament.

Over the years the church has learned wisdom and from our history we have much to receive. We have discovered that paying attention to the Bible can lead to surprises in what God is saying to us. We have learned to discern the difference between tradition and traditionalism. As someone has put it, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living while tradition is the living faith of the dead!

continued Page 6

It was a June day at a time of sabbatical many years ago. Rev. Dr. Leslie Newman, a great orator and preacher in the Methodist tradition, was with us. At the morning service he preached a sermon with the title “June Blindness”. That memorable sermon began with the story of an incident involving physical blindness against the backdrop of the beauty of an early summer day in Central Park, New York - proclaiming the “light of the gospel of Christ” as opposed to the blindness of the world.

The tradition of sabbatical preaching excellence continues. We welcome, and appreciate the words and work of Rev. Dr. Brian Haymes. Thank you for being with us.

Comments and suggestions are welcome - pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

Paul R. Hill

A REPORT FROM RUPEN DAS -

PROFILES OF POVERTY: THE HUMAN FACE OF POVERTY IN LEBANON

As a member of YPBC and one of our global partners-in-mission, we continue to pray for Rupen and his team as an “unusual door” has opened for them in Lebanon. His team’s poverty assessment has attracted the attention and interest of government officials in Lebanon and they now have access to the directors of government programs who report directly to the Cabinet of Ministers. As Rupen may be involved in conversations regarding a future poverty alleviation program that the Lebanese government and the World Bank are planning he and his team are proceeding carefully and prayerfully.

Here is how Rupen describes his report, *Profiles of Poverty: The Human Face of Poverty in Lebanon*:

“Canadian Baptist Ministries along with its partner, the Lebanese Baptist Society (LSESD), also YPBC’s STEP partner, have just completed an extensive study of poverty in Lebanon. The report is in the process of being made public. The twofold objective of the study is to try and understand the dynamics of poverty and why the poor remain poor. Secondly, the study was designed to give the poor a voice so they could explain their own reality and their experience of poverty.

A 2008 UN report states that 28% of Lebanon lives below the upper poverty line and 8% below the lower line – not counting the Palestinian refugees who are another 10% of the population. In a land teeming

with Ferraris, Lamborghinis and Jaguars, it’s hard to see the poor because the face of poverty is very different than the poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Since the end of the civil war twenty years ago new vulnerable groups have emerged. These include gypsies, Bedouins, migrant workers from nearby countries, foreign domestic workers, refugees, and the children of migrant workers, prisoners, as well as children who are abandoned and in rural areas. The poor are concentrated in urban areas and

as a result most of the resources are focused there at the expense of the rural areas.

Some of the causes of poverty include the following: Many of the poor live in the most remote and isolated parts of the country with few services and limited resources. Others belong to vulnerable groups who do not have the right of access to the basic services offered by the government. Many of the poor belong to marginalized groups who are discriminated against and despised by society. Others live in areas of the country like the southern border and have been regularly displaced because of war, occupation and violence.”

The poverty study is being used by CBM/LSESD and by World Vision to identify and design projects to address both the root causes of poverty as well as some of its symptoms. The hope is that the poverty study will also provoke discussions about vulnerable groups and society’s attitudes towards them. The Lebanese Government’s Council of Ministers (Cabinet) have asked for results of the study and also for assistance from CBM/LSESD in developing targeted social interventions addressing the needs of the poor.

submitted by the Board of Mission



Rupen with Peter, Thanksgiving 2010 - photo Donna Willett

BOOK REVIEW

Free-Range Knitter, Stephanie Pearl-McPhee

Two of my favorite pastimes are reading and knitting. It is not often that these pursuits can be achieved together, so imagine my joy in finding the writing of the 'yarn harlot' (her words not mine) in the knitting section of the book store. The author watches knitters, semi-professionally, and writes in such a warm and friendly style that I am sure knitters and non-knitters alike will enjoy. I laughed out loud during her description of care-giving a very active almost five year old.

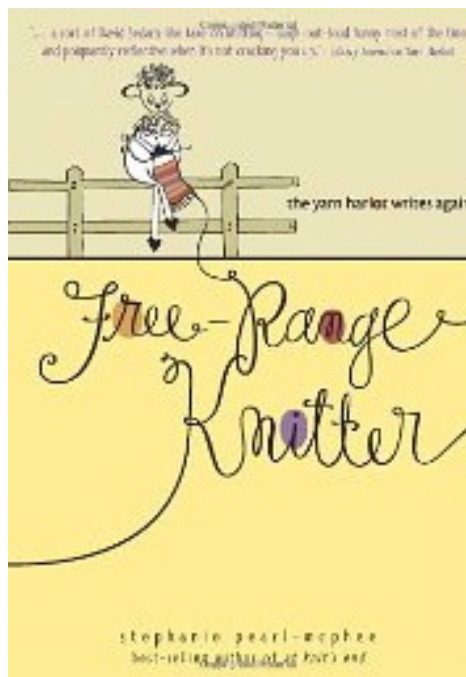
"Down the hall there is an entire roll of unwound toilet paper that I haven't cleaned up yet, and frankly, if I keep her alive (and from

setting fire to that roll or trying to flush it down the toilet in one big wad) until her mother comes back, I will feel that I have done an excellent job while babysitting." (pg. 3)

I was hooked! Pearl-McPhee manages to share the stories of women and men who just happen to be knitters. She shares the joys and frustrations of parenting and the proud moments in between. More than once I saw myself, my friends and other persons I love woven within these pages, and smiled and cried.

I checked and although this is not Stephanie Pearl-McPhee's only work in print, this is the most recent. Not only will I be reading all the others but I am sharing this one with a friend with great assurance that she will laugh out loud, because she too is a woman that just happens to knit.

submitted by Cheryle R.C. Hanna



FOR YOUR SUMMER READING PLEASURE!

Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec recommend...

Plan B – Paul Wilson; *Going Missional* – Karen Stiller; *Extending the Invitation* – John Forrester; *Fifty-seven Words That Changed the World* – Darrell Johnston; *One Thousand Gifts* – Ann Voskamp; *Coming Together* – Esther Barnes (a member of YPBC and former editor of the Link and Visitor). All of these books are available in the YPBC Gladstone Library or from the CBOQ, READ ON Bookstore www.readon.ca books@readon.ca 416-620-2934. Also from CBWOQ, Canadian writer Lynn Smith writes on *Mentoring: Leaving a Legacy* (Also available from READ ON Bookstore).

From other YPBC-related women authors...

Joan Weston – Joan's third book, *The Shortlist*, is now available and marks the end of the Trans-Geo-Tech story. Joan recommends that the three books be read in sequence: *Outsourced*, *Make Believe*, *The Shortlist*. These are available in a single volume, *The TGT Murders*. To read excerpts or to buy any of the books in paperback or for Kindle, please go to Joan's blog <http://greater-than-riches-mysteries.blogspot.com/>. These books are real page turners!

Rosemary Aubert – Rosemary is the internationally acclaimed author of the Ellis Portal mystery series. *Rough Wilderness* – *The Imaginary Love Poems of the Abbess Heloise* is a new book and coming soon is *The Light in Trieste*, a thriller about illegal immigrants featuring three different women in three different time periods. Find other titles and information on Rosemary's website <http://rosemaryaubert.com>. Her books are available at some Chapters stores, online at Amazon and some are available directly from her plus readers can contact her at roseaube@ister.ca.

Anne Margaret Hines – Anne is the daughter of YPBC member, Otha Sim and is an ordained United Church minister in southern Saskatchewan. She has been a contributor to *Chatelaine* and *Canadian Living* with articles also appearing in *Today's Parent*, *Reader's Digest* and the *Sunday Star*. Some of Anne's titles include: *Fishing Up the Moon: A Year*

in Hines Sight; The Spiral Garden; Come Away-The Song of Songs; Parting Gifts-Notes on Loss, Love and Life. Chapters have carried some of Anne's books.

From the YPBC Ministerial Team...

Carolyn King *The Breath of the Soul, Reflections on Prayer* – Joan Chittister

Cheryle Hanna *Love Wins* – Rob Bell

Brian Haymes *The Naked Anabaptist, The Bare Essentials of a Radical Faith* – Stuart Murray

Sam Lee *Desiring God* – John Piper

And just published...*Going Global – A Congregational Guide to Mission Beyond our Borders* – Gary Nelson, Gord King, Terry Smith. Tony Peck of the European Baptist Federation writes that “this book is essential reading for any local congregation that seeks to develop a truly global dimension to its life and ministry..” Available in the YPBC Gladstone Library and READ ON Bookstore.

submitted by the YPBC Women's Executive

MATTHEW HOUSE RECOGNITION

At the Matthew House annual Christmas Party, hosted by YPBC, Esther Lovrics was presented with tokens of appreciation for nearly ten years of faithful service as a volunteer.



Anne

Esther

Astar

TRANSITIONS

Since the last newsletter there have been several milestones in the life of the church.

Infant Dedications

Harden Cruz Wareham-Browne, son of Shannon Wareham-Browne and Harden Browne

Sophie Margaret Tigert, daughter of Helena and Bryce Tigert

William Kato Hanna II, son of William Hanna and Jasmine Houston

Baptisms

Sakasha Hewitt

Emily Knope

Emma Speller

New Members

Shara Benavidez

Pamela Brand

Mark Heinmiller

Sakasha Hewitt

Dexter Jonas

Emily Knope

Funmi Ogun

Emma Speller

Deaths

Mary Williams

Robert Montgomery

Joan Rogers

Olga Wilson

It was you who set out the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

Psalms 74:17



It is a faithful church that learns to value what God has given and to be aware to what more God has yet to give. Let me give you two illustrations of what I mean.

First, this year is the four hundredth anniversary of the King James Bible, the Authorized Version. This is a valued treasure, a wonderful gift, even if its

origins were as much as in political matters as issues of faith. As might be expected, it received a mixed reception, as with anything new. But what a gift we received! Now, we have admittedly better translations, for we have discovered more manuscripts and our knowledge of the languages has increased. So, as lovers of the Bible we are grateful for new translations. The King James Version was a huge step forward for the English-speaking church. Its influence remains massive. But there have been further steps to take and we thank God for the Word in words of our day.

Then second is a story from England in the eighteenth century. Early in those years Baptist life had become stuck in a very dull, doctrinaire understanding of the faith. There was little enthusiasm and no serious sense of mission. However, a group of young ministers began meeting for prayer and study in the Midlands, among them Andrew Fuller and William Carey. As they read the Bible they were led to see that, for all that the church affirmed the sovereign reign of God, they had a calling to respond, to go and tell the good news, to shape their congregational life for God's mission purposes. This led to important changes in the ways Baptist churches began to understand themselves, to practice their life together and worship. New Associations were formed. The Missionary Society was begun. The late eighteenth century became a time of renewal, of scripturally shaped change. New understandings of God led to new practices and new commitments.

God is never finished with us. It is the living church that is always open to "ways known and to be made

known". Making the journey of faith together, grateful for what has been, longing for what shall be in the gift of God, these are the marks of the faithful church. I am so glad I have seen them here in Yorkminster Park. May God go on granting us wisdom and courage for the living of these changing days.

Brian Haymes

YPBC WOMEN

The Yorkminster Park Baptist Church Women are planning to start a new evening group for women interested in knitting and crocheting. This group will meet the fourth Tuesday evening of the month at 7pm in the Friendship Room. We know there are women who are unable to attend Dorcas Group on Tuesday mornings for various reasons but are interested in doing handwork so we want to provide this evening group. If you are unsure of your expertise there will be people available to assist you. More information about the new group will be available in September.

The Dorcas group meets every Tuesday at 10am for a time of doing handwork and fellowship. Everyone brings a sandwich and tea and sweets are provided. We encourage people who are free at this time to consider joining this group and certainly welcome new members.

The focus of both groups is making items for people who have need of them. We make scarves and hats for Out of the Cold guests and children's sweaters and other items as well as baby items for those in need.

We also want to start a Prayer Shawl Ministry as part of both groups. This Ministry started in the United States in a church where there were many people going through difficult times. The women started knitting and crocheting shawls which were dedicated in a church service and then given to people who were undergoing cancer treatment, who were recently bereaved, who could no longer get to church and take part in the usual activities or who were in need of comfort for other reasons. We believe this could be an important ministry in our church.

We invite you to consider becoming part of either the weekly morning group or the monthly evening group, or both if your time permits.

submitted by Rhoda Hill

THE BIBLE AT THE GLOBE

400 years since the publication of the **King James Bible** - **Holy Week, 2011**, Palm Sunday to Easter Monday.

What better time for the company of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London to recite the whole Bible, from start to finish?

The sessions ranged from 3 1/2 to 7 1/2 hours in length. The idea was that people could come and go; the assumption was that very few would want to sit for six hours at a stretch.

We went on the Monday after Palm Sunday; the evening was clear but chilly. In the audience were people still in business attire, obviously stopping in on their way home from work. There were a few teenagers. There were people who obviously meant to be there until midnight; they had blankets, special contraptions to make the wooden benches more comfortable, and their own copies of the Bible open at the book of Joshua.

The actors and actresses took turns, coming out one at a time, standing on the empty stage. They were all wearing unremarkable clothes, neither shabby nor flashy. And they spoke the Word, in a way that showed their familiarity with, and love for, the language. They spoke the Word, engagingly and respectfully.

And we listened, intently. We laughed sometimes. We marveled at how alive it was, spellbound by the words, not noticing how cold it was getting. Looking ahead at the program for the week it was impossible

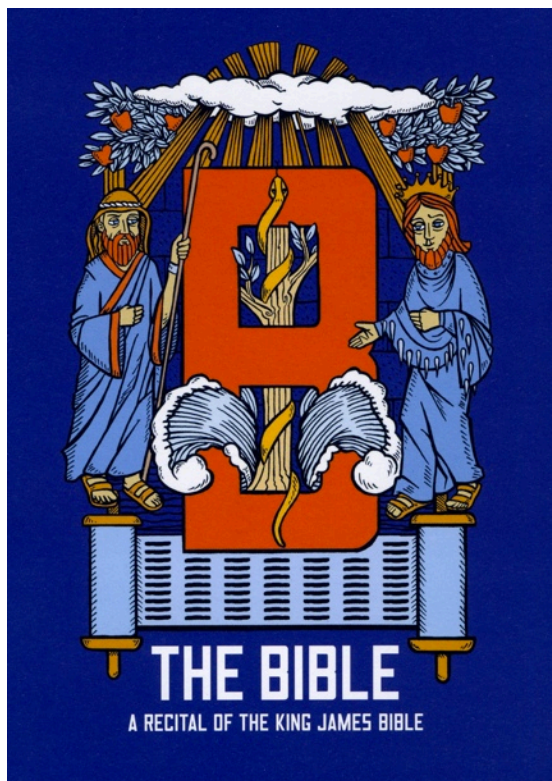
not to think, "Wow. I would love to hear the Psalms here. And at least one gospel. And the Book of Revelation. And..."

As the program emphasizes, "the King James Bible was written to be read aloud. It was a performance text or it was nothing...It is true that the translators felt their responsibility to render the Word of God to the point that literal qualities prevailed over literary. Yet literal qualities were not their sole concern." In 1611 it was absolutely the exception rather than the norm for a person to own their own copy of the Bible. The Word of God was read aloud, in public, in church. Reading the Bible was a corporate act of worship.

It was the same in the early church. Paul took it for granted that his letters would be read aloud and heard by whole congregations. As he writes at the church at Colosse, "After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea." (Colossians 4:16)

The idea behind this recitation was avowedly literary and theatrical, not religious. And yet it is not possible to escape the mystery. It is not just a collection of words. As the Bible itself says, "The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) Who knows what this recitation of living truth meant, and means, for the actors and actresses, and the spectators? Who knows what started in London during Holy Week when God's Word was publicly declaimed?

submitted by Susan Hill Carlén



PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Committee has held two events in May both of which were quite successful. The first was a luncheon for caregivers. We recognize that



there are many in our congregation who are caring for loved ones; an ill spouse, aging parents, grandchildren or other family member. We wish to provide events where these people can meet as a group and spend time together.

On May 12th a luncheon was held in the Friendship Room and was attended by about 25 caregivers who had an opportunity to have a lovely lunch, relax and talk with friends. The lunch was beautifully catered by Inga Fjuk and was enjoyed by all who attended. We asked for feedback from the attendees and will take that into consideration when planning the next event. We are

very pleased to be able to start a series of events for caregivers.

The second event was the Homecoming Service held May 19th (photos by Donna Willett).

This was also a successful event with about 15 invited guests

attending along with their drivers. We thank the other people who attended in support of those who rarely get to church.

The Rev. Dr. Brian Haymes preached the sermon and it was an excellent opportunity for the guests to hear him. For the first time, choir members who attended sang an anthem in the service which I think was wonderful, for music has always been an important part of every service. Music is one thing the invited guests miss when they cannot get to church and we thank Bill Maddox and choir members for making this happen. Communion was celebrated at the end

of the service and again this is a very important part of our faith in which the attendees no longer have the opportunity to take part.

The service was followed by a tea in the Friendship Room catered by Mary Stevens. This was a time when invited guests and drivers had the opportunity to enjoy tea, sandwiches and sweets



and talk with friends they no longer see regularly. It was an afternoon enjoyed by all and I thank those who helped make it a success.

I thank Carolyn King and the Pastoral Care Committee members who assisted with both of these events. They could not have happened without your help.

submitted by Rhoda Hill,
Chair, Pastoral Care Committee

‘WHEN I DIE ... LOVE ONE ANOTHER’

When I die
If you need to weep
Cry for your brother
Walking the street beside you.
And when you need me
Put your arms around another
And give them what you need to give me.

I want to leave you something
Something better than words or sounds
Please look for me in the people I’ve known and loved.
And if you cannot give me away
At least let me live in your loving eyes for others
And not just in your mind.

You can love me most by letting hands touch hands
By helping others,
By giving yourself away.

Even the dearest memory fades
But Christ lives on forever.
A present help and friend is He
His very soul is love.

I may have failed in this life’s quest
But I sought to help and love my fellow man.
I know so little, am so weak, fail so often...yet,
If there has been any good in me
It came from the ‘Him’ in me.

Love does not die
People do.
Christ lives on forever in their love,
So when all that’s left is love
Give me away....

by Rev. Suzanne Wilkinson

YPBC GALLERY

The Summer Art Show continues until 20 August.

The photos below are of our member Doug Brown, and one of his paintings, at the opening of his recent YPBC Gallery show.



photo by Donna Willett



MISSION TO BOLIVIA

This past February I had the joy and privilege to go on a Short Term Mission trip to Bolivia with some other pastors from our Baptist denomination. This



trip was part of a year-long commitment that I have made to a working group called “The About Integral Mission Group” that was organized by our denominational leaders Brian Craig and Clint Mix. Six pastors from across Ontario were chosen to be part of this group and part of the mission team. Our group has met for five day-long meetings at the CBOQ offices for discussion and collegial learning about the term ‘Integral Mission’.

This is mission that fully engages our communities and addresses not just the spiritual but the economic, social and justice issues that so many face within the communities around our church buildings.

Our trip to Bolivia from Feb. 8-22 was also part of this journey of learning. We travelled to Cochabamba to visit various ministry sites and churches. We also had the opportunity to dialogue (often through a translator) with Christian leaders as well as our own CBM missionaries Jim and Diane McBeth about how they are addressing the needs of their communities in Bolivia. We also travelled to La Paz for a few days to visit CBM economic

initiative projects and the Integral Mission Centre that is in its early stages of development. We also visited Duane and Carin Guthrie who are our CBM missionaries in La Paz and El Alto.

It was an amazing, though short, experience.

Though Bolivia may be listed as the poorest country economically in South America, it is vastly rich in the beauty of the mountains and the generosity of spirit of the people. Our team was blessed deeply by the welcome we received everywhere we went. The local Baptist pastors welcomed us to a breakfast with them and sang Spanish worship songs for us. The children at Casa de la Amistad dragged us around to play with them. Members of a rehabilitation home proudly showed us the ways they make bread and art to help support the home and themselves as they recover from struggles with alcohol.

Micro-credit loan recipients welcomed us into their homes and described their business ventures to us. Our CBM missionaries shared their learning and wisdom with us and laughed with us. CBM staff-member Ivan Gutierrez drove us around, made sure we found good places to eat and made sure we were all taking care of ourselves. And one little girl at a Compassion school housed in a local church not only played with me, but shared her precious bun with me at snack time.





I learned so many things on this trip and will treasure each moment. I am so thankful for the experience. I am also excited to find ways to apply my learning to my own work in the Jane- Finch community. Thank you for your prayers and for your support. And if you would like to know more about my trip or see my pictures, please be in touch and I would be happy to share!

submitted by Rev. Karen Robinson





goodbye to Eha.



*Salt
and
Leaven.*



photos by Donna Willett