

# Check It Out

Charity Kropf Memorial Library  
Zion Mennonite Church

March 2009

## FROM THE LIBRARIANS:

We continue to encourage everyone to check those shelves and hidden corners where books you have taken from the library may be hiding. There are several still missing from our shelves that are important to us. Thank you.

Also, there are some changes coming soon to the library. STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT.



The winner of the brain exercise in November's newsletter is Von Hershberger. She listed 484 words found in ZION MENNONITE LIBRARY. Runners up were Lexy and Jordan with help from Grandma Linda Peters; and Margaret Shetler; these tallied 281 and 235 words. Thank you for taking up the challenge!

**"Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body."** Ecclesiastes 12:12 NIV

And we continue to add books to the library. So come check out these new additions as well as older ones while there is still time to enjoy a chilly evening with a good book to read.

- *LIKE A MUSTARD SEED – MENNONITES IN PARAGUAY* by Edward Stoesz. This book is particularly relevant with the upcoming Mennonite World Conference being held in Paraguay this year.
- *CREATION CARE – KEEPERS OF THE EARTH* by Luke Gascho is one of MMA's Living Stewardship Series. It takes a look at the complicated topic of the environment and how we live in it. Why MMA sponsored? Many of the issues about the environment we are faced with are rooted in money and materialism.
- *WHAT WE BELIEVE TOGETHER* by Alfred Neufeld explores seven convictions shared by the 1.5 million members of Mennonite related churches. It has been noted as one book every Mennonite should read.
- *THE CAROL OF CHRISTMAS* – The life story of author Christmas Carol Kauffman. See book review on next page.

### Novels including:

- *THE LONGING* by Beverly Lewis
- *THE OUTSIDER* by Ann Gabhart
- *RACHEL'S SECRET* by B.J. Hoff
- *SOPHIE'S DILEMMA*, *A TOUCH OF GRACE* and *REBECCA'S REWARD*, numbers 2, 3 & 4 in Lauraine Snelling's Daughters of Blessing series.
- Also the last two in Janette Oke's Prairie Legacy series, *A QUIET STRENGTH* and *LIKE GOLD REFINED*. Number one in that series is on order.

### For children:

- *REUBEN AND THE BALLOON* – another episode in the life of the Amish boy, Reuben, by Merle Good, illustrated by P. Buckley Moss.
- *PHILIPOK* is the re-telling of Leo Tolstoy's children's tale by Ann Beneduce. It is the story of a boy determined to go to school like his big brother.

### COMING SOON!

Jane Kirkpatrick's new book, *A FLICKERING LIGHT*, the first in her "Portrait of a Woman" series is due to be released in April.



## BOOK REVIEW

*The Carol of Christmas* is the biography of Christmas Carol Kauffman written by her daughter, Marcia Kauffman Clark. The story of Carol opens the window of the past as seen through the eyes of a Mennonite woman. Born in 1901 into a home of relatively comfortable circumstances, Carol's life would encounter hardship and tragedy as well as hope and success. The realities of life in the earlier 1900s included the threat of diseases such as diphtheria, typhoid fever, polio, scarlet fever and rheumatic fever; Carol's family was affected by each of these.

The death of her first husband after two years of marriage marked a turning point in her life as Carol chose to leave Elkhart, Indiana to attend Winter Bible School at Hesston College. It was here that her English teacher encouraged her to submit a short story to the *Youth's Christian Companion*, marking the beginning of Carol's very successful writing career.

At Hesston she would find a new husband and a new life, but fewer comforts and luxuries as the Great Depression engulfed the tiny town there. In time she and Nelson accepted the call to start a mission at Hannibal, Missouri, where the work was hard and the pay extremely low. They depended on God to supply their needs. Along with the very demanding work of the mission, Carol took time to write several books, the stories always based on true accounts that she gleaned from a variety of sources. You will find several of her books in the church library today.

The main criticism I have of the book is that the author chose to insert much of her own beliefs and faith around the story rather than simply allowing the story to tell its own truth. Nevertheless, I found reading the story and history through the eyes of a Mennonite woman born in 1901 worth sifting through these additions. The historical account is one I found both informative and interesting.

The author has obviously done much research and included a substantial amount of material taken directly from Carol's letters which adds to the authenticity of the account. I highly recommend it to those interested in Mennonite history, especially those interested in a woman's perspective.

Review by Carolyn Hockman

### Worth Thinking About

Lead me from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth.  
Lead me from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
Lead me from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts,  
our world, our universe.  
peace, peace, peace.

—Satish Kumar

### Palin...WHAT?!

#### ~ Palindromes

Do you know what they are? Can you identify what makes the following words palindromes?

- racecar, deed, level
- rotor, noon, solos, kayak

Now some palindrome phrases:

- never odd or even
- madam, I'm Adam
- A man, a plan, a canal--Panama
- Was it a car or a cat I saw?

If you noted that these words and sentences are the same when read backward or forward, you got the idea! That is a palindrome.

There is so much good in  
the worst of us  
And so much bad in the best of us  
That it little behooves any of us  
To talk about the rest of us.

Author unknown