



## COLOMBIA BACKGROUND:

Why would the Angulo family leave the beautiful port city of Buenaventura, Colombia and their beloved extended family behind to seek a new home in Canada? The answer lies in the long-standing civil war in Colombia, which some say began in the mid-1960s between the Colombian government, paramilitary groups, and left-wing guerrillas, such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), fighting each other to increase their influence in Colombian territory.

According to a study by Colombia's National Centre for Historical Memory, 220,000 people have died in the conflict between 1958 and 2013, most of them civilians (177,307 civilians and 40,787 fighters) and more than five million civilians were forced from their homes between 1985 and 2012, generating the world's second largest population of internally displaced persons (IDPs). 2.3 million children have been displaced from their homes and 45,000 children killed, according to national figures cited by Unicef (Wikipedia).

The conflict arrived in Buenaventura, the Angulo's home city on the Pacific Ocean, in the early 1990s when the various armed groups began fighting to gain control of the port for use in the lucrative drug trade. From the early 1990s on there has been fighting, threats, kidnapping, bribery and brutal killings. Sandra and Don Ri find this time very difficult to talk about. Two years ago they decided to flee to Ecuador with their daughters, Vivian and Dalia. They had a 27 hour journey and were grateful when they finally arrived. However, Ecuador was not very welcoming of the Colombian refugees and the family faced strong racism and their living situation was very difficult. The one light of hope was the Mennonite Church in Ecuador that opened its doors in welcome to the Angulo family.

Sandra, Don Ri, Vivian, and Dalia were very grateful when they learned that they had been accepted to come to Canada. They say that their welcome here has been overwhelming. They said to write that they "feel accepted and loved by the people at Emmanuel and are grateful for all the kindness they have received". Something that has given them much joy is volunteering at the MCC Centre Thrift store four mornings a week. Sandra and Don Ri said "it feels very good to do something that will help others who find themselves in difficult situations like we were in both in Colombia and Ecuador". They have enjoyed getting to know people at Emmanuel Mennonite Church and at the MCC Centre.

The Mennonite Church in Colombia, together with other groups, has been working and praying for an end to the conflict in Colombia. The Colombian government and the FARC on November 24 signed a revised peace deal and the agreement was submitted to Congress for approval. The House of Representatives unanimously approved the plan on November 30, a day after the Senate also gave its backing.

Let's continue to pray for the people of Colombia and for the Angulo family's adjustment to Canada. Thank you for your prayers and support.

*Ingrid Schultz on behalf of VELCRO*

### Burning Hearts Art Walk: Call for Submissions!

*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road...*

Our theme for this year's Easter celebrations will focus on the Emmaus Walk from Luke 24:13-35. Along with our regular worship services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we would like to explore this theme through the arts.

We are calling for submissions of art in all forms: poetry, storytelling, music, visual arts (painting, photography, textile arts, multi-media work, sculpture, wood work, etc.), dance and drama. Artwork should be themed around the Luke passage and/or the theme "burning hearts."

In order to help us prepare, **we are asking for artists to submit their intent to contribute art by February 28th, 2017**. Final artwork that needs to be displayed must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, performance pieces will be incorporated into our various worship services on Easter weekend.

For more information or to indicate your intent to contribute, please contact Angelika Dawson by February 28<sup>th</sup> at [ajdawson@telus.net](mailto:ajdawson@telus.net) or call 604 870 0494.

**EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH**  
3471 Clearbrook Rd., Abbotsford BC V2T 5N1  
Phone: 604-854-3654

Email: [office@emmanuelmennonite.com](mailto:office@emmanuelmennonite.com)  
Website: [www.emmanuelmennonite.com](http://www.emmanuelmennonite.com)

# A Sermon in Rhyme

Anonymous

Submitted by Karmen Sawatzky

If you have a friend worth loving,  
Love him. Yes, and let him know  
That you love him ere life's evening  
Tinge his brow with sunset glow;  
Why should good words ne'er be said  
Of a friend—till he is dead?

If you hear a song that thrills you,  
Sung by any child of song,  
Praise it. Do not let the singer  
Wait deserved praises long;  
Why should one that thrills your heart  
Lack that joy it may impart?

If you hear a prayer that moves you  
By its humble pleading tone,  
Join it. Do not let the seeker  
Bow before his God alone;  
Why should not your brother share  
The strength of "two or three" in prayer?

If you see the hot tears falling  
From a loving brother's eyes,  
Share them, and by sharing,  
Own your kinship with the skies;  
Why should anyone be glad,  
When his brother's heart is sad?

If a silver laugh goes rippling  
Through the sunshine on his face,  
Share it. 'Tis the wise man's saying,  
For both grief and joy a place;  
There's health and goodness in the mirth  
In which an honest laugh has birth.

If your work is made more easy  
By a friendly helping hand,  
Say so. Speak out brave and truly,  
Ere the darkness veil the land.  
Should a brother workman dear  
Falter for a word of cheer?

Scatter thus your seed of kindness,  
All enriching as you go—  
Leave them, trust the Harvest-Giver;  
He will make each seed to grow.  
So, until its happy end,  
Your life shall never lack a friend.

# Humans of Emmanuel



Interviewed  
by Karmen Sawatzky

### **Share a happy childhood memory.**

Going camping at Rolley Lake as a child. We went there many times and it was where my dad taught me to fish. I loved walking around the lake as well; it's a beautiful hike.

### **What is your greatest accomplishment?**

I feel that my greatest accomplishment so far has been going back to school multiple times and doing well at it. I did not do well in high school, so to go to post secondary and to get good grades has been a big achievement for me.

### **If you could choose to go back in time to 1900 or forward in time to 2100, which would you choose and why?**

1900. I've always had a passion for history and would love to see the world as it was back then. I would really like to see the Fraser valley as it was 100 years ago.



### **Newsletter theme for March: Lent**

Lent is a season of preparation before Easter, and this year, the first Sunday of Lent is the first Sunday of March. What are you giving up for Lent this year? Or are you adding something? Why or why not? Your Lenten reflections are welcome for our **Feb. 20th deadline**.

The maximum suggested length for submissions is 800 words. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity, and due to limited space, less time-sensitive submissions may also be held over to the next issue. To ensure we have a well rounded publication each month, you are invited and encouraged to submit your news, stories and photos to [karmensawatzky@yahoo.com](mailto:karmensawatzky@yahoo.com)



# Creation Care Chat With Stan Olson

## Canada, Climate Change and Indigenous Reconciliation

In the last year and more, a lot has changed: a new federal government, a new international reputation, a new tone around First Nations and the environment. But when it comes to concrete action on lowering emissions and respecting land rights, much remains the same.

Our new government has now adopted the utterly inadequate climate targets of the previous government. Alberta has a climate plan that would allow tar sands emissions to increase by 43 per cent, wholly incompatible with the goals of the Paris climate agreement to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees C and avoid climate disaster, disaster which scientists tell us is becoming increasingly inevitable unless we start making serious changes, and fast.

Other countries are moving ahead with policies that begin to reflect the scientific realities and keep carbon in the ground. So why is it so hard for Canadian political leaders, across the political spectrum, to design climate policies that are guided by climate science? There are many factors, of course—the need for jobs in an economic downturn, the power of the fossil-fuel lobby, to name a couple. But we are hardly the only country contending with these forces.

There seems to be something deeper at play, something that brings us back to the founding narratives of this nation. The story begins with the arrival of European explorers, at a time when their home nations had slammed into hard ecological limits – great forests gone, big game hunted to extinction. In this context, the so-called New World was imagined as a sort of spare continent, to use for parts. From the start, Canada was conceived as the place of endlessness, a wilderness of such bounty that the idea of ecological limits seemed gone for good.

This country was built on voraciously devouring wildness. Canada was an extractive company—the Hudson’s Bay Company—before it was a country. And that has shaped us in ways we have yet to confront. Because such enormous fortunes have been built purely on the extraction of wild animals, intact forest and interred metals and fossil fuels, our economic elites have grown accustomed to seeing the natural world as their God-given larder. When someone or something—like climate science—comes along and says, “Actually, there *are* limits, we have to take less from the Earth,” it doesn’t feel like a difficult truth. It feels like an attack on who we are.

This dependence on commodities continues to shape Canada’s politics – and for our new government, it will continue to confound attempts to heal relations with First Nations. Indigenous culture and relationships to the land were always a profound threat to the lust for extraction, which is why attempts to end those relationships were so systematic. Residential schools were one part of that system.

Today, federal and provincial governments talk a lot about reconciliation. But this will remain a cruel joke if non-Indigenous Canadians do not confront the *why* behind those human-rights abuses. And the why, as the Truth and Reconciliation report states, is simple enough: “The Canadian government pursued this policy of cultural genocide because it wished to divest itself of its legal and financial obligations to Aboriginal people and **gain control over their land and resources.**” The goal, in other words, was to remove all barriers to unrestrained resource extraction. This is not ancient history! Across the country, Indigenous land rights remain the single greatest barrier to planet-destabilizing resource extraction, from pipelines to clear-cut logging.

And there can be no reconciliation until this issue is seriously and honestly addressed.

Adapted from an article by Naomi Klein. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canadas-founding-myths-hold-us-back-from-addressing-climate-change/article32022126/>

[creationcarechat@gmail.com](mailto:creationcarechat@gmail.com)



In every act of kindness, every gift, and every sacrificed hour, there exists a common thread of **hope**—a hope that together we can make a difference in the lives of those that need it most.

Thank you Emmanuel Mennonite Church for your support throughout the year! From all of us at the Abbotsford Food Bank & Christmas Bureau!

Greetings to you all!

Back in the prairies with warm thoughts of a great week with you in Abbotsford.

I want to send this note to express my appreciation for all the work that you all did to organize and host my visit to Abbotsford. I am so humbled by your care and interest.

Thank you so much for the time that we were able to spend together. Thanks for the good conversations and the wonderful hosting, Bernie and Delores! Thanks for the time together Sue, and your good planning for the evening at Menno Home! Thanks to Stan and Marijke for your encouragement and now for the good connections with A Rocha . . . in Chinese! I will respond to that soon! Good to have some time with you, as well, April. Really meant a lot to me.

I am impressed with the spirit of the people that I have met at Emmanuel. It says a lot about how you are being church together.

May God bless your service at Emmanuel, in Abbotsford and beyond.

*Peace be with you, Jeanette Hanson*

## Convicted by Love

April Yamasaki

For the last number of months, the Kingdom Builders group has been using Marlene Kropf's *Faith Travels* Bible study guide. I was glad to lead a couple of their sessions since they're a wonderful group, and I always learn a lot too. At their most recent gathering, John Krause read a poem written by Leona's cousin that I thought would fit well in this issue of our newsletter. The poem appears below with permission.

### LOVE

L. Marie Enns

How tender, devoted, sustaining and precious  
Is the love between husband and wife;  
Faithful, considerate, constant and gracious,  
Abiding and lasting through life.

How gentle, compassionate, kind and forgiving  
Is the love between parent and child;  
Patient, protective, trusting and loyal  
In a bond that can not be denied.

How trustworthy, frank, unassuming and steadfast  
Is the love between sisters and brothers;  
Caring, accommodating, defending, enduring,  
A unique kind of love like no others.

How amiable, courteous, considerate, sincere  
Is the love between neighbor and friend;  
Generous, benevolent, unpretentious and true.  
On each other in trust they depend.

How much greater and deeper, how flawlessly pure  
Is the love of our God for us all;  
Excellent, perfect, unfailing, eternal,  
Forgiving when on Him we call!

How loyal, devoted esteeming and faithful  
Should our love for the Lord ever be;  
Grateful for his mercy and love sacrificial  
That sent Jesus to save you and me.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EMMANUEL

To see all meeting and events, check out our [online calendar](#)

**Feb 4: 8:30am** registration, **9:00am Annual General Meeting** for all Emmanuel members. Included on our agenda will be a review of our worship/education time change experiment, the new children's worship ministry staff position, Being a Faithful Church, and more. Report books are in members mailboxes today! For members who do not have a mailbox and would like a report book, please contact the office 604-854-3654. If you would like childcare, please sign up by Thursday.

**Feb. 4: 5pm – Vietnamese Christian Church Lunar New Year Celebration** in the gym. Everyone is welcome!

**Feb. 10-13 – Mennonite Central Committee IVEP annual conference** at Emmanuel.

**Feb. 12: 7:30pm—International Worship Festival—**Join MCC's IVEP (International Volunteer Exchange Program) participants at Emmanuel Mennonite Church for an evening of song, dance and worship from around the world. A wonderful opportunity to worship together and learn about other cultures.

**Feb. 13: FAMILY DAY—**Office will be closed

**Feb. 18: 6:30 pm—Mennonite Central Committee Winter Banquet** takes place here at Emmanuel Mennonite. Scott Campbell, MCC's new Advancement Director will speak, and there will be special music. See Ed Janzen (Louise) for tickets. The cost is \$20 each.

**Feb. 25: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm – Mennonite Church BC Annual Meeting.** This year's MCBC Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford from 8:30am-5pm.

## MCBC Presents a Live Comedy Event

# The Panic Squad

Improv Comedy - Fresh, Clean, Funny.

March 31st - 7pm  
Emmanuel Mennonite 3471 Clearbrook Road  
12 & under-FREE  
\$10-Youth/Young Adults(13-21)  
\$20-Adults(22+)

Tickets available at the church office or at [www.mcbc.ca](http://www.mcbc.ca)

## AROUND TOWN

The Mennonite Heritage Museum is pleased to announce the return of the Along the Road to Freedom exhibit, featuring works by Ray Dirks. Along the Road to Freedom tells the stories of mothers, daughters, grandmothers, & sisters who led their families out of persecution & suffering to lives of freedom and peace. The exhibit will be available for viewing until April 1.

**Feb. 11: 7pm—Concert at South Abbotsford Church—**Violin soloist Calvin Dyck will be featured in a pairing of Vivaldi's famous Four Seasons with the virtuosic Four Seasons of Buenos Aires by Piazzolla. Some of the proceeds from the concert will benefit Abbotsford Hospice. Calvin will be joined by members of the Canada West Chamber Orchestra and the Abbotsford Youth Orchestra. Tickets (\$22 including tax/fee) available online at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) or at House of James or King's Music.

**Feb. 24 - Mennonite Church BC LEAD Conference** at Langley Mennonite Fellowship (20997 40th Avenue, Langley, BC )



Pacific Theatre presents a Classic Chic production: **Corleone: The Shakespearean Godfather.**

A classic tale of power, destiny, betrayal and honour: what if Shakespeare had written The Godfather? This brilliant comic pre-

mise takes on surprising dramatic power as Coppola's movie masterpiece shows itself to be true Elizabethan tragedy. Performed by Classic Chic's all-female cast, this mash-up of classic film and classical theatre ultimately charts the dizzying fall of a human soul. **Feb. 3rd to Feb. 25th at Pacific Theatre. Tickets \$23.95-\$34.95. Call 604.731.5518 or visit [www.pacifictheatre.org](http://www.pacifictheatre.org) to book.**