

FAST FACTS

Mosaic has expanded! We now have 10 part time EAL classes in 5 neighbourhoods

Mosaic offers parenting programs for newcomer parents all year long

Mosaic volunteers have been working Bingos to support the work of Mosaic. Thank you Bingo Volunteers! Thank you Manitoba Lotteries!!

• Thank you to our many generous Funders and donors!

• Thank you Volunteers!

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Mosaic Goes to Africa!

Jean Tinling



This summer I had the incredible opportunity to go to Kenya to train Save the Children staff who work and live in Dadaab refugee camp, the largest refugee camp in the world. The training was planned for the city of Garissa which is about 60 km from Dadaab. Joan Durrant who wrote the parenting program: "Positive Discipline, What it is and How to do it" invited me to do the training which was sponsored by Save the Children.

I had been trained in Positive Discipline in the spring and had offered it to two groups of newcomer parents. The newcomer parents were very pleased to have the opportunity to take the training and found it very helpful. When the group of Somali parents in the group Mosaic was running at Sister MacNamara School learned of my impending trip they were able to give me a great deal of support and suggestions for interacting with the Somali parents in Dadaab. When I asked what would be most helpful one Somali mom said, "Take a picture of us with our Positive Discipline books and give it to the parents in the camp, then they will see that learning this program will be valuable to them when they come to Canada and this will give them hope; they have so little hope in the camp" These women also wanted me to take the women and children in the camp presents from them. They very generously collected money and I headed off to Africa with fifty beach balls emblazoned with the Canadian flag and photos of the group with their Positive Discipline books in my suitcase, and consequently very few clothes.

Making the decision to go was tense and difficult with the events that occurred just prior to my flight on July 4th. On June 29th five days before my departure four foreign aid workers were kidnapped from Dadaab and their Kenyan driver killed. Two days later twelve people were killed and many injured in two church bombings in Garissa, the planned location for the training. After much turmoil, re-organization and planning for our safety, the decision was made to move the training to Nairobi and I chose to go; very aware that I was fortunate enough to have a choice unlike many others who had to flee their homes and go to the refugee camps.

I have to admit to more than a little trepidation as I arrived in Nairobi where there was a security advisory because of the increased threat of terrorist attacks in Kenya. I adjusted to travelling in a "safe car" no hot running water in the taps, 3 or 4 power failures a day, sleeping on a box spring with no mattress, drinking instant coffee and carrying a water bottle with me. I learned to expect seeing guards with guns. I was amazed by no traffic lights or traffic signs and cars inching forward almost touching each other as they pushed their way in the desired directions. I learned that it was important to keep the car windows up and the doors locked but wearing a seatbelt was optional and often considered unnecessary.

I spent the first few days travelling by safe car between the guest house and Save the Children offices, where I worked long days in preparation for the training; in Kenya the average work day is 8AM to 6 PM and it is not unusual to work even longer. We struggled the night before the training to make handouts with an old Xerox machine that kept overheating and a stapler that jammed every second staple. (Oh, but what we take for granted in Canada!)

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Upcoming Events

- Thursday, September 6—All Staff Meeting
- Monday September 10—First day of class, all locations
- Coming Soon! Complete Schedule of Fall Family Programs which will include:



Nobody's Perfect



Positive Discipline



PlayBack Theatre



Wiggle Giggle & Munch



FLAG (Families Learning & Growing Together)

Annual EAL Picnic—June 25



Once again the students, children and Mosaic staff enjoyed a lovely morning in Assiniboine Park, playing, visiting and of

course eating! What a great way to end off our busy school year.



The world comes to the farm

Reprinted with permission from Canadianmennonite.org

By Elsie M. Epp

Most often people think of crops from our prairie farms going abroad to feed the world. So it was a bit of a shift on June 15, when 20 women and 15 children representing 10 different countries of the world boarded a school bus in Winnipeg to visit one of these farms in Springstein.

The group consisted of an English-as-an-additional-language class that meets together four mornings a week at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. On this particular outing, the “world citizens” came from Argentina, Israel, Egypt, Somalia, Eritrea, Iran, Afghanistan, India, South Korea, China and Russia. They were accompanied by two teachers, six volunteers and three child-minders. The field trip was organized by Reynold Friesen, associate pastor/community minister at Bethel Mennonite.

The farm visited was 4-D Farms, which is owned and operated by Gerald and Susan Dyck and their son Eric and his wife Sandra. As the third and fourth generations of Dycks on this land, they have expanded the 100-hectare farm tenfold, and diversified to include mixed grains, forage crops, leaf cutter bees, laying hens and a few broilers. This was no virtual tour, but a hands-on encounter with the sights, sounds and smells of a real farm. For most, it was a first-time experience.

The students readily entered the chicken barn to see the hens up close, to pick up an egg or two, and to hear the sound of the automated feeders. In the shop, they passed around plastic bags of grain samples and even cocoons of bees. Eric was faced with the challenge of explaining—in the most basic English words—the workings of an air seeder and sprayer. The shiny, green combine proved to be the perfect backdrop for numerous group pictures, while the most adventurous climbed up into the cab for a better view and more pictures. Walking into a field to survey a crop of oats and to gaze toward the distant horizon probably came as close as possible to capturing the pulse of the farming experience.



Gerald said he was so pleased for this opportunity to share about farming, identifying with the guests while briefly recounting how his ancestors had been newcomers to this country, too. He made a point of telling this group of women that, at 4-D Farms, the women are by far the best at operating the combines at harvest time!

After gathering up the children from the play structure, some of whom were reluctant to leave, the group was served a delicious lunch at Springstein Mennonite Church. Following the meal, Friesen presented a brief overview of “Who are the Mennonites?” which raised interesting questions and comments.

Special thanks to Mosaic staff—Susan McDougall, Marina Grinko, Melinda Pascual, Friba Gharfuri, and Paulina Katz



Photos—Canadianmennonite.org

mosaic
Newcomer Family Resource Network

Mosaic is teaming up with Green Bean to sell Fair Trade Organic Coffee!

**green
bean**
coffee imports

If you would like to order some for you or your office, please call Val at 774-7311.

Mosaic Goes to Africa Continued...

I became very aware of my "Canadian" need to have everything totally prepared before the workshop and tried to adjust to the much more relaxed, live in the moment "Kenyan style" of don't worry it will all be okay. I learned that if I could just relax that line ups were opportunities to meet people and could be lots of fun. I was also so very impressed with how helpful friendly and tolerant the African people were. They always offered a friendly smile and a helping hand whether they knew you or not.



After several days of feeling quite isolated in the luxurious garden of the guest house and eating many meals alone in the elegant dining room, the workshop participants arrived from the camp to stay in the guest house with me. This was the beginning of learning much about the camp life. The participants who were mostly Somali shared details of their life in the camp. They worked long days, 5 ½ days a week for ten weeks and then would get ten days off to leave the camp and spend time with their own families.

They live in tents or temporary structures in the camp where the temperature is usually in the high 30's with little relief even at night and the daily menu of rice, plain spaghetti, cabbage and a little goat meat seldom varies. They went on to tell me about their work. Some worked with abandoned children of which there are many. They would try to locate and identify these children and then attempt to find a relative or match them with foster families. Others worked primarily with child mothers who were trying to parent their babies when they themselves needed mothering. Two of the participants worked at developing child friendly spaces which would be safe for children and respect their right to play even in such a difficult living situation. Three others spoke of their challenging work with the foster mothers who would take in abandoned children and try to parent them along with their own large family.

These women and men are attempting to do what seems impossible with very limited resources. I was stunned by the many heart wrenching stories they told me. However what they may have lacked in resources and support they made up for in their genuine caring and empathy for the families.

Hopefully the training which we provided for these dedicated Save the Children staff will give them some of the skills needed to support parents in Dadaab Refugee camp and give them a clearer understanding of how to use Positive Discipline as explained by Joan Durrant

After the training I was rewarded by the Somali women in the training who approached me to thank me for looking after the Somali mothers in Canada and then for sharing Positive Discipline with them so that they could now better look after the Somali mothers in Dadaab. They then asked me to take their photo back to Canada in greeting and in thanks. I have spent many hours in the past years listening to the painful stories of newcomers about the challenges, sadness and fear they experienced as they lived in and finally left their home countries, often by way of years in a refugee camp, and thought I understood and empathized with their experience.

I went to Africa to do the training on Positive Discipline; however, this experience has been a gift in taking me to a whole new level of understanding and respect for the amazing strength and courage of the newcomer families that I work with in Canada.

For this, I want to sincerely thank the African woman and men in the training.

Jean Trilling



Positive Discipline Group at Sister MacNamara School in Winnipeg with their wishes for hope



Women's Group in Dadaab refugee camp Kenya