morally unacceptable. Landmines are just as morally repugnant.

Virgil Wiebe, Manhattan Fellowship, New York, consultant to the MCC Peace Office, is working to further the banning of landmines by focusing on cluster bomb and landmine legislation. He will represent MCC at the United Nations Review Conference on Conventional Weapons to be held in April in Vienna.

FLP cuts staff positions

Newton, Kan. (GCMC)—With a mandate "to bring Faith & Life Press into long-term financial viability," the Leadership Task Force, appointed by the Commission on Education (COE) at a March 8-12 meeting, took immediate action to reduce operating expenses by $114,000 U.S. by cutting several staff positions. FLP is the publisher for the General Conference Mennonite Church.

"Over the years, the COE board had approved additional staff in hopes of increasing sales," said Norma Johnson, FLP publisher and COE executive secretary. However, FLP had a net operating loss of $183,367 U.S. for the 1995 fiscal year and, consequently, had to borrow $180,000 from the General Conference to cover its expenses.

"While staff cuts are always painful, our financial situation made these reductions a necessity."
Jeff Wright

Three positions were eliminated. Director of marketing and sales, held by Mark Regier, Newton, since June 1990, and mail clerk, held by Galen Harms, Whitewater, Kan., since March 1990, ended as of April 5. A support services position, currently vacant, will not be filled.

"The mandate for the Leadership Task Force is, in part, to use every means necessary to reduce FLP operating expenses. While staff cuts are always painful, our financial situation made these reductions a necessity," said Jeff Wright, Leadership Task Force member and COE chair. "Also, as the task force examined industry standards for a publishing house of our sales volume, we realized we were

"This consolidation from 13.7 FTE to 9.85 FTE, places us well within industry standards, without compromising our commitment to publish and sell quality curriculum and congregational resources that are creative and thoroughly Anabaptist."

"Marketing has had an important role in raising and redefining FLP's image with our constituent groups. My hope and prayer is that some of that can continue," said Regier. "I am concerned about the future of Faith & Life Press. Its future is based on the people who work with Faith & Life Press on a day-to-day basis. It is their vision, their strength and their passion that will make things happen."

Staff cuts also occurred in the editorial division. The children's editor position, which is held by Elizabeth Raid Pankratz, Newton, will be reduced from full-time to half-time effective May 1. Two secretaries—Lela Mae Sawatzky and Delia Graber, both of North Newton, Kan.—had their positions reduced as well.

"These staff members have served the conference well. These cuts were necessary to stem the flow of red ink," said Johnson. "In addition to cutting costs, work will be done to increase sales. Faith & Life Press staff are committed to serving our congregations, the wider Anabaptist family, and the community at large."

Abuse victim speaks out

Winnipeg (*Mennonite Reporter*)—Last November the Western District Conference of the General Conference Mennonite Church, and South Central Conference of the Mennonite Church suspended Hubert Brown's credentials as a Mennonite minister after they received a written testimony from Bradley Sawatzky of Winnipeg.

Sawatzky claimed Brown had sexually violated him while they shared a dormitory room at a conference in Los Angeles in October 1994; they first met in 1990 while Sawatzky was a student at a Mennonite high school in Manitoba.

On Oct. 26, 1994, Brown resigned from his position as dean of students at Hesston (Kan.) College, a Mennonite Church college. Brown was executive secretary of the Commission on Home Ministries of the General

The Lombard (Ill.) Mennonite Peace Center is offering three mediation skills training institutes in 1996. Dates and locations are as follows: Birmingham, Mich., May 6-10; Lombard, Ill., Aug. 5-9, and Kansas City, Nov. 11-15. The institutes focus on individual styles of response to conflict, win-win negotiation skills, skills to mediate conflict between individuals, and tools to manage congregational conflict. For information contact LMPC, 528 E. Madison, Lombard, IL 60148; (708) 627-5310.

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The Lombard (Ill.) Mennonite Peace Center is sponsoring its fifth "The Ministry of Reconciliation" conference June 13-15. The conference will be held at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. The theme for the conference is "Ambassadors for Christ in Church and Society." Speakers for the conference include Carolyn Holderread Heggen, Speed Leas, Karen Mains, Peter Steinke and Berk Sterling. For information contact The Ministry of Reconciliation, 528 E. Madison, Lombard, IL 60148; (708) 627-5310.

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Bluffton (Ohio) College, the Swiss Community Historical Society and ArtSpace Lima (Ohio) will sponsor an exhibition this summer featuring examples of the decorative arts made or used in the local 19th-century Swiss settlement and Swiss communities in Wayne County, Ohio, and Berne, Ind. The exhibit at the college will be open June 27 through September. A related exhibit at ArtSpace Lima will be June 28-Aug. 16. The college will also host a symposium on Swiss Mennonite decorative arts in the social context June 28-29.

The Menno Simons 500 Essay Contest has awarded a second and third prize. The winners were announced Jan. 12. Gerhard Ratzlaff from Paraguay won second prize, and Gerke van Hiele of Holland won third prize. The jury did not award a first prize since none of the writers had occupied themselves enough with the question of the relevance of Menno Simons for our time. (*Mennonite World Conference*)

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Goshen (Ind.) College's English department is sponsoring a conference, "Mennonite/s Writing in the U.S.," to be held Oct. 23-26, 1997. Speakers will include Julia Kasdorf, Jeff Gundy, Jean Janzen and others. Proposals for papers, readings and performances are due September 1996. For information write Goshen College, English Department, Goshen, IN 46526.

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"I think of two hopes for 'India 1997': transformation and formation," says Mennonite World Conference executive secretary Larry Miller. "A primary need of churches in North America and Europe is renewal and reconversion—transformation. Living for a week with the world church in Calcutta and throughout India may help transform us and our congregations. Churches in the Southern Hemisphere and the East need rootedness and training—formation. In Calcutta they will be able both to receive and give wisdom through messages, songs, seminars, discussions and councils. I hope India 1997 moves us all a step closer to developing Anabaptist identity, accountability and solidarity across national boundaries ... giving us the opportunity to become more fully the church." (*MWC*)

Conference Mennonite Church from 1988 to 1992.

After reviewing the allegations received, the committees responsible took joint action on Nov. 14, 1995, to suspend Brown's credentials "due to acts of clergy sexual misconduct as indicated in the 'guidelines' [Guidelines for Discipline Regarding Ministerial Credentials]."

Marvin Zehr, Western District conference minister, and Richard Headings, South Central conference minister, said in a February telephone interview that their decision was based on the written allegations submitted by Sawatzky.

When asked if they were aware of other alleged victims, they said that

"I wish more would be done toward accountability."
Bradley Sawatzky

during the investigation of Sawatzky's allegations, they became aware of two others who considered themselves victims.

"The conference was very sensitive, thorough and merciful toward Hubert," said Sawatzky in a written response submitted at an interview with *Mennonite Reporter* on Jan. 25. "Although I agree with their findings, I wish more would be done toward accountability.

"The reason I'm speaking out now is [because] healing is far from over. Not only for myself, the other [alleged] victims and Hubert Brown, but for all the people Hubert was accountable to. This is a betrayal of trust of his position of pastor. Letting people know there's a problem is an important step toward Hubert's accountability," said Sawatzky.

"We did not require participation in an accountability group ... but are now inviting him to participate in an accountability group," said Zehr.

When asked in March for an update on the case, Zehr said they have had no contact with Brown. Zehr said that since February they have written Brown indicating a desire to re-establish contact, and invite him to consider participating in an accountability group. As of April 4 Zehr had no response from Brown.

Zehr encouraged people who feel they are victims to take steps to contact their conference minister.
Aiden Schlichting Enns

Would Jesus join the Christian Coalition?

Elkhart, Ind. (AMBS)—"Any Christian in politics should constantly hold up the poor and measure every new initiative against how it will affect the poor," Ron Sider told a group gathered at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary on March 14.

In the middle of this year's primary season, with issues of family values, abortion, immigration and the environment at the forefront, the evangelical Christian author and speaker asked the question, "Would Jesus join the Christian Coalition?"

Sider, professor of theology at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, Pa., and an ordained minister in the Lancaster Conference (Mennonite Church), led the audience in a discussion of how Christians should approach political questions.

The biggest mistake Christians make, Sider said, is they "jump into their decisions without doing their homework." He cautioned that all Christians must have humility in asserting their positions on political issues. "I believe God has a position on each issue. But you and I don't know what it is. We have to find it out by a long, painful process."

Before attempting to answer the title question of his presentation, the president of Evangelicals for Social Action first shared his own political philosophy. Sider noted concerns such as sharing not only governing power but also economic power; evaluating every political action according to what it does to the poor, and valuing both freedom and justice. In addition, Sider said, "We ought to be internationalists first and nationalists second. My Savior died for every person in the world, so I must consider every person as important. We need to resist nationalistic pride."

The limitations of politics also play a part in his philosophy. "Politics isn't the only way to change the world," he said. In fact, some problems are not appropriate for the government to solve, such as the breakdown of the family in our culture. "It's not up to the state to solve this problem. It's up to synagogues and churches."

Finally, Sider called for political balance. Opposed to one-issue politics,