

# Connections

Virginia Mennonite  
Conference &  
Board of Missions

June 2002  
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## Something new from an antique shop

Can something authentically new come from an antique shop? Ask Pietro Del Guacchio of Salerno, Italy. As an antique furniture dealer in this city near Naples, his real passion is sharing the Good News with his clients and seeing them transformed into new persons in Jesus Christ. Pietro had not purposed to establish a church or to be a pastor. However, in the last two years, nearly 40 persons have gathered spontaneously around him, drawn by the Holy Spirit to seek God together in Bible study and prayer in Pietro's antique shop.

Those who know Pietro well find him to be a man of great compassion who listens with warmth and empathy. His spontaneous way of showing God's love opens hearts to the Truth he inevitably shares. The Jesus he recommends offers forgiveness and acceptance—the answer to each person's unique needs. The Bible he opens to his friends gives birth to living faith, a relationship with God, and freedom from spiritual bondage.

Although in earlier years Pietro had been part of an independent church without denominational ties, he came to the conviction that this group needed connection with a larger body—a clear identity. As he prayed, studied, and did research, the Lord led him to discover the Mennonite churches in Sicily. Much conversation ensued with Francesco Picone, president of the Italian Mennonite Church, and others. After visiting the group several times, Picone commented, "I sense their zeal and witness the love of Christ that radiates from their faces." These exchanges between Palermo and Salerno (an 8-hour train trip apart) confirmed to Pietro that he had truly found common faith and fellowship.

At their last annual conference, the Italian Mennonite Church officially received Pietro Del Guacchio and the emerging church into fellowship. Four of the group were baptized and Pietro was recognized and commissioned as their leader.

Paolo and Rosi Ribaud and Francesco and Martha Picone accompanied Willard and me on a recent visit to this youngest Italian Mennonite fellowship that now meets in a small, rented hall. They have out-



grown the antique shop! Pietro spoke passionately with us about his vision for planting a network of congregations in the numerous towns surrounding the city of Salerno where he already has friends and contacts. This is an area nearly void of evangelical churches. He urgently requests that VMBM send missionaries to collaborate with him and his church in evangelism, discipleship, and pastoral care! While Francesco Picone also shares this vision, he asserted, "Hopefully an Italian couple will answer this missionary call!"

Assunta Massa, a lady with a radiant smile, shared about her baptism at Palermo and gave us a written testimony of faith. "My heart was clouded by loneliness, oppression, bitterness, spiritual blindness, and hatred of myself and the whole world around me. I felt deeply distressed and my life seemed destined to total failure. Finally, I'm beginning to walk toward a new life! The words 'Jesus' and 'Father,' pronounced for the first time in my entire life, have penetrated my heart. He is my only rock, salvation, and hope. He alone strengthens my faith, gives me love, understanding, humility... May I follow in His steps as I await His return to take me to live eternally with Him" (translation by Eva Eberly). Throughout that day our hearts were stirred as other new believers recounted similar stories of God's transforming grace, evidences of new life frequently birthed in Pietro's antique shop.

Believers in the newest congregation in the Italian Mennonite Church share in the joy of the Lord with Willard Eberly, Francesco and Martha Picone, and Paolo and Rosi Ribaud. Pietro Del Guacchio is in the blue-striped shirt.

• Eva Eberly

## Thanks and farewell

This is the last column I will write for *Connections*. On July 1, 2002, Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions will have a new president. Loren Horst will continue the leadership role I was privileged to fill for nearly twelve years.

The change of president is a mixed blessing for persons involved with VMBM. Fresh vision and enthusiasm will propel ministries forward, but there are adjustments that create uncertainties for mission staff and partners.

This is an appeal to all VMBM friends to stand together to make the future a bright one for the ministries entrusted to our care. Some suggestions:

- Commit yourself to prayer for Loren and the staff.
- Tell them of your care and interest in making VMBM succeed.
- Advocate for VMBM with your congregation and friends.
- Increase your financial support each year.
- Take an active interest in someone serving with VMBM.



**David D. Yoder**  
President of VMBM

- Offer your skills and time to a VMBM activity.
- Visit a site of VMBM ministry.

As president, I have appreciated the many people who affirmed VMBM with their trust. Thank you for assuring me personally of your confidence and affection. Thank you for generously giving money to VMBM for annual operations, personnel support, and endowments. Thank you for your prayers that sustained administrators and field workers in trying times. I urge you to continue this tradition in the years ahead.

In the presence of change, the VMBM board has charted a reassuring direction as a collaborative agency for service-minded families and churches. VMBM is committed to extending the love of Christ to God's children everywhere, from the nearest neighbor to those of other cultures around the world. Engagement with VMBM is a legacy that can enrich your life and inspire those who follow in your footsteps.



## Engaging God's mission



Courtesy of Paul Godshall

Approximately 60 Mennonite mission leaders from USA and Canada met in Dallas, TX, April 20-23, to consider the theme, "Engaging God's mission from across the street to around the world: strategies and stories." Virginia Mennonite Conference was represented by (l-r) Paul Godshall (pastor of Durham Mennonite Church and Urban Ministry Director, Eastern Carolina District), Barry Loop (pastor of First Mennonite Church, Richmond), and Joe Bontrager (VMBM).

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# Retreat in Trinidad enhances marriages

Nestled against the lush green mountains of the Northern range and over-looking the ocean, Jasmin's Ocean Resort provided an exclusive hide-away for the biennial marriage retreat of the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago. The weekend in mid-March was anticipated by many. It



Lalmon and Rafina John of the Mennonite Church of Chaguanas participate in the retreat sessions.

was a chance to escape from busy work schedules, studies, and household duties. It was an opportunity to spend quality time with our spouse and discover new ways of enhancing our relationship. It was a time to

enjoy the warmth of Christian fellowship and to soak in sound teachings on marriage and family life.

The sessions were conducted by Lonnie and Teresa Yoder of Virginia. The Yoders were effective presenters and shared personal experiences, thereby setting the foundation for open discussion and making it easy for couples to identify similar situations. The sessions brought to light some problematic areas often encountered in marital relationships, and ways in which they can be dealt with and used to strengthen and deepen our marriage relationships.

One concept that really stood out was that of comparing marriage to a bank. As a couple, we need to make “deposits,” that is, spend time with each other, do things that are mutually enjoyable, and share spiritual experiences. There will be times for “withdrawals,” when hardship and conflict arise. Another meaningful concept was that of developing rituals for our family life. These are repeated activities that we can look forward to. In one way this provides a form of stability to the relationship, yet affords the couple the opportunity to be creative in developing new rituals.

As we reflected on the weekend, we saw that marriage is a partnership—its success depends on us. The foundation of what makes a strong marriage or family life was clear. The key involved continual appreciation for each other, spending time together, and being committed to the relation-

ship. The need for effective communication cannot be exhausted—we depend on it as a constructive tool in dealing with conflict and for successful growth in marriage. Lastly, no marriage can be successful without God. John M. Drescher in his book *For the Love of Marriage* writes, “Imagine marriage as a triangle with God at the top. The closer a husband and wife move toward God, the closer they are drawn together.”

• Ganesh & Risha Kallou

## Jamaica Festival: fun and funds

On April 6, Springdale Mennonite Church, Waynesboro, Va., hosted a Jamaica Festival which raised approximately \$8,000 for the benefit of Omar and Dolores Beiler, VMBM missionaries serving in Jamaica. The Beiler's support team, coordinated by Dick and Louise Alderfer, organized the fundraiser to raise awareness and financial support for continued medical mission work in Jamaica.

Omar, a physician, and Dolores, a medical technologist, have operated a medical clinic in association with Joylands Mennonite Church in St. Elizabeth for the past two and a half years. Their Missionary Support Team (MST) at Springdale Mennonite is dedicated to providing emotional, spiritual, and financial support.

The evening's meal featured authentic Jamaican fare of jerk chicken, rice and peas, hot beef patties, spice bun and cheese, and tropical fruits. The festival also included a fund-sponsored 8-mile bike ride, hair braiding, donkey rides, and a soccer game.

Guests were encouraged to view the many colorful displays and craft items representing

Jamaica's culture and beauty. After the meal, Kathy Weaver Wenger, Springdale's co-pastor, presented a slide show about her visit with the Beilers in February. The festival concluded with prayer for Omar and Dolores and their medical ministry.

• Lynley Culbertson

Young women at Springdale get their hair done Jamaican-style in tiny braids with beads.



Gloria Lehman



A trip to Treasure Beach was a memorable time—the first combined field trip with North Americans and the Jamaican students and staff. *Photo by Lonnie Yoder.*

## EMHS mini-term bonds with Maranatha

A group of not yet energetic Eastern Mennonite High School students, along with leaders Steve Rittenhouse and Gloria Lehman, met at EMHS at 2:45 a.m. on April 12. Every other year at our school, all students have the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom for one week. Our group of students, ranging in age from fourteen to eighteen, were meeting to head to Maranatha School for the Deaf in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica.

When we landed in Montego Bay not quite ten hours later, we were all a little more energetic. We loaded up the vans, stopped for a short swim, and

headed down to the southern part of the country to the school. From the time we got to the school that night until the time we left the school on Thursday morning, we were with the students almost constantly. We played four-square and soccer, went to Treasure Beach, struggled to communicate with sign language, laughed, and had

an all-around very meaningful time with the students. Four of the days that we were at the school, our group presented chapel for the students. We usually performed a skit, sang a song, and had prayer. On the first day and the last day we gave chapel, we did something a little different. The first day we introduced ourselves by signing our name and something we liked to do. On our last day at the school, we all signed our good-byes. Both of these events were very special because we felt a connection with the students.

While in Jamaica, our group also had the chance to be tourists. We visited YS Falls, Dunn's River Falls, beach shops, Ocho Rios, Bamboo Avenue, Fern Gully, and a market where we bargained for what we bought. All of this was a lot of fun, but

being with the students at the school is what we'll all remember. They taught us to appreciate what we have, to be patient, and to always wear a smile and have fun. We all enjoyed getting to know the students at Maranatha and we will miss them. One of the most touching moments we experienced was on the last day at Maranatha as we were leaving the school. Although we had only been there for six days, one student got tears in his eyes as we said our good-byes. This was hard for us to see as we loaded the vans to head to Ocho Rios. We will always cherish the memories, however, of the wonderful children we met and the awesome experience we had.

• Bridgett Campbell  
EMHS student



Lonnie Yoder

Adam Shank and Kimone share grins and fun at the Kids' Club on Monday night. Earl and Kathy Moyer lead this bi-weekly activity for children in the Top Hill community.

## Missional church means revival

It has been said there is no missional church without revival. Revival means renewed life and growth; it means that we hear God's voice anew and respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. It means we commit ourselves to follow God's leading and realign our priorities with God's will.

Revival begins with repentance. Attitudes that are obstacles to being God's people are sin. We are tempted to align ourselves with economic and political powers in order to protect our own security at the expense of community well-being. We are tempted to rely on organization in ways that minimizes spiritual discernment and guidance. Attitudes of racism and cultural superiority are failures to affirm and accept the gifts of ethnic groups and age groups that are different from our own. Any action or attitude that is an obstacle to building God's kingdom is a sin that must be repented so we can experience the grace and fullness of being a missional church where God reigns.

• Joe Bontrager

## Generations Crossing: care, respite, support

After two years in the making, Generations Crossing, a nonprofit adult daycare center, celebrated a May opening in Harrisonburg, Va., marking the first of its kind for the city. Betsy Hay, the center's executive director, received a \$100,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Aging to start the organization. After several months of searching for a location, Park View Mennonite Church offered Generations Crossing space to begin their services.

Generations Crossing is specially designed for adults who require supervision and are unable to function independently. The program is designed to engage adults while giving their caregivers support. Activities include mental stimulation, such as word games and singing, and exercises. According to Hay, Generations Crossing was heavily encouraged by the Elder Alliance, an organization that seeks to promote Harrisonburg as a senior-friendly place. Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community is also very supportive of Generations Crossing and has been a key player since the beginning.

Hay's complete vision for Generations Crossing daycare services stretches beyond those fulfilled at the current facility. Upon relocation to a permanent home in about one year, Hay hopes to expand Generations Crossing to include integrated adult and child daycare services. The expanded facility will include activities for adults and children, such as cooking and reading. "No matter what your age, you have things to contribute to another age," said Hay. "We hope to create a setting to share these gifts and talents."

Generations Crossing heavily depends on the support of volunteers and keeps an RN and a CNA on staff. The center is located in the basement of Park View Mennonite Church and operates weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

• Lynley Culbertson



Generations Crossing client Mary Strawderman (r) enjoys a good laugh as she plays a game of bingo with Alfreda Johnson, CNA.

## Living Biblically in the world today

"Living Biblically in the World Today" was the theme for the Conference on Biblical Interpretation, held in Harrisonburg, Va., April 5-6. The conference was convened by the Faith and Life Commission for the purpose of bringing conference pastors together to hold conversations about our understanding of how interpretation unfolds.

The weekend consisted of five presentations, with time given after each for round-table conversation or question and answer time. It was in this spirit that the rich diversity of Virginia Mennonite Conference could constructively hold conversation exploring the presentations. This was a model of the hopes of the Faith and Life Commission for Virginia Conference.

We began with the affirmation of the Scripture's trustworthiness and authority for the church today. The remaining sessions dealt with current issues around the interpretation of scripture, and how the community of faith is given responsibility, by the leading of the Spirit, to interpret the text. Tapes and manuscripts are available from Virginia Mennonite Conference.

• Howard Miller



### George R. Brunk II, evangelist and educator, dies at 90

George R. Brunk II, a widely-known evangelist and church leader, died April 21 at his home in Harrisonburg, Va., at the age of 90. Dr. Brunk served more than 65 years in pastoral ministry and was active in churchwide crusades, writing, and Bible conference work.

## Valley Haven: a friend indeed

“Pregnancy is a terrible time to feel alone... What a difference a friend can make.” This is the tender message Valley Haven’s brochure uses to introduce its unique mentoring program. According to director Julie Sacra, the Harrisonburg, Va., organization’s purposes are to “walk with women through pregnancy” and to form relationships that draw them into a home church.

Women are paired with a volunteer friend who offers spiritual discipleship and support. Valley Haven serves women who have decided to carry the baby to full term, as well as those who make the choice to abort. “We promote two things—our mentoring program and adoption as a positive option,” said Sacra.

Valley Haven’s mentors are volunteers who complete a one-day training provided by BirthMothers, an organization in McLean, Va. As churches increase their support and the need for Valley Haven decreases, Sacra hopes the relationships with the mentors will continue to develop.

Valley Haven also offers an incentive program in which women can earn points by working with their mentor to use in the organization’s “closet.”



Gloria Lehman

Brenda Early Layton, Board chair, and Julie Sacra, Executive Director, show some of the items that are available for mothers and babies.

The closet, which provides free items for both baby and mother, is made possible by donations.

In the future, Sacra hopes Valley Haven will be able to provide support groups and classes covering labor and delivery, nutrition, and budgeting. Valley Haven is also actively working toward establishing a maternity home for minors.

Six mentors are currently committed to Valley Haven, but the need for more volunteers is increasing. For more information on the next training scheduled for June 22, contact Valley Haven at 540-442-7176 or [jsacra@valleyhaven.org](mailto:jsacra@valleyhaven.org).

• Lynley Culbertson

## Congregational Resource Center

Are you running low on ideas for children’s ministry? Do you need some creative suggestions to add excitement to your children’s summer church time? One of these resources might be just what you need:

- **101 Creative Worship Ideas for Children’s Church** by Jolene Roehlkepartain
- **Children’s Church Specials** from Group Publishing
- **Kid’s Own Worship: Children’s Church**
- **Hands-On Bible Curriculum Learning Lab & Teacher Guide**
- 4 books of **Sunday School Specials** designed for multi-age groups by Lois Keffer
- **Extra-Special Bible Adventures for Children’s Ministry** by Christine Yount

We also have books to help you in planning for a dynamic youth program:

- **The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending in Youth Ministry** by Dean & Foster
- **The Ministry of Nurture: How to Build Real Life Faith into Your Kids** by Duffy Robbins
- **Low Cost, No Cost Ideas for Youth Ministry**
- Group’s **Blockbuster Movie Illustrations**

We have **Youth Specialties’ Ideas Library for Youth Groups**, including these titles:

- **Crowd Breakers & Mixers**
- **Creative Meetings**
- **Drama Skits & Sketches**
- **Special Events**

The Resource Center is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with a key available at the EMU Information Office for use after 5:00 p.m. Visit our website at [www.emu.edu/mcrc](http://www.emu.edu/mcrc) to browse our catalog. Contact us at 540-432-4219 or [wengerkw@emu.edu](mailto:wengerkw@emu.edu).

# June 2002 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>30</b> Tomorrow, Lonnie, Teresa, Shannon, and Nicole Yoder leave Jamaica and return to Virginia. Pray for God's strength as they make the transition to the US after spending a year with the Jamaica Mennonite Church.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Pray for Stanley, Carol, and Alberto McMahon as they bring closure this week to their missionary service in Italy. Pray for emotional and physical strength as they say their goodbyes and make this transition back to N. Ireland.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Several of the VMC staff will be taking time off for vacation this month. Pray for Owen Burkholder, Kimberlee Greenawalt, Jill Landis, Rachel Smith, and Ken Weaver as they assume heavier workloads in each others' absences.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Various churches in the Potomac District are doing projects to reach out to their community in the DC area. Pray that their ministries will be effective and that unity among the churches will be strengthened.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Several participants from EMU's Summer Peacebuilding Institute are visiting the Knoxville area Mennonite churches. Pray for clarity and creativity as they share stories and insights about peacemaking around the world.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Pray for Darrel and Sherill Hostetter of EMM as they travel to Europe today and tomorrow. They will serve as resource persons at the Mediterranean Missionary Retreat. Pray for strength and discernment in ministry.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Tomorrow, a Partners in Mission team leaves for Italy. They will lead worship and provide activities for the children at the annual Missionary Retreat. Pray that God will use this team to bless the missionary children.</p>
<p><b>9</b> Pray for safety as the missionaries who serve in Albania and Italy travel to the annual missionary retreat in southern Italy for a week of refreshment, fellowship, and team building.</p>	<p><b>10</b> David &amp; Shirley Yoder, John &amp; Mary Ann Heatwole, and Chris, MaryBeth, and Mynor Heatwole Moore are visiting the Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica. Pray that they will make good connections there.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Potomac District pastors gather tomorrow with overseers Frank and Evelyn Nice for fellowship and sharing. Pray that this will be a time of spiritual refreshment and mutual support in their urban ministries.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Thank God for Sheriza, who leads a Friendship Bible Coffee in Trinidad and has led six people to Christ in four and a half years. Margaret Keeler trained Sheriza for FBC leadership.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Omar &amp; Dolores Beller are working with the Joyland Mennonite Church board to chart a vision for the future of the medical clinic. Ask for God's clear direction and motivation for this group.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Tomorrow, Huntington Menn. and Bethel Menn. will have orientation for their Partners in Mission teams going to Puerto Rico. Pray that this time together will prepare them well for their work projects this summer.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Pray for Marvin Slabaugh, chair of the VMBM board, as he leads the board and committees in providing quality governance for VMBM mission endeavors.</p>
<p><b>16</b> Fathers have a large impact on children's lives. Pray for them today, that they may have God's wisdom and patience for the enormous task of fathering.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Pray for the immigrant communities in Virginia Conference. May God open our understanding about the kinds of hurdles that immigrants face.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Today Kendra Nussbaum returns from Trinidad after five weeks of relating to the Mennonite churches there. Thank God for the mutual sharing that occurred.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Kenny &amp; Stephanie Stoner are in Pennsylvania this month as a time of transition between assignment locations. Pray for their family as they prepare to move to Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica on July 1.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Staff and other individuals are continuing preparations for the Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly and Missions Festival next month. Pray that all of the details would come together to provide a meaningful Assembly.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Tomorrow, the Partners in Mission team from Huntington Mennonite leaves for Academia Menonita Betania in Aibonito, Puerto Rico. Pray for safety in travel and during the time of their work project.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Throughout the summer, many congregations hold Vacation Bible School. Pray that God will enable the teachers to give the Gospel message clearly, and that God's Word will take root into hearts and lives.</p>
<p><b>23</b> Join Richard Keeler and the leaders of the Mennonite Church in Trinidad in prayer for a long-term church planting team for Esperanza. May God's chosen leaders be discerned.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Pray for Tony and Marlenna Ceraulo as they lead the Termini Imeres congregation in Italy following the departure of the McMahons. Pray for a smooth transition and for wisdom and stamina in leadership.</p>	<p><b>25</b> Thank God for Earl &amp; Kathy Moyer's service at the Maranatha School in Jamaica these past two years. Their work made a big impact both on the hearts of the people and on the school grounds.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Pray for a Partners in Mission team leaving tomorrow for Lezhe, Albania. The team will be working with the youth in the congregation, and will focus some of the time on evangelism training.</p>	<p><b>27</b> David D. Yoder is attending a Menn. Mission Network board meeting in California this weekend. Pray for unity among the group as they provide governance for Mennonite Church USA mission activity.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Thank God for David Yoder's exemplary leadership of VMBM. As he closes his term of service, pray for him and his wife Shirley in the period of transition that is ahead.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Loren Horst will be taking office as VMBM president on July 1. Pray for wisdom and vision as he assumes this new responsibility.</p>

**Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.**

**Proverbs 17:6 (NIV)**

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by Richard & Wanda Good.

*If you would like to sponsor one or more months of the prayer calendar, contact Gloria Lehman at 540-434-9727 or 1-800-707-5535.*

## Announcements

**Lindale Mennonite Church**, Harrisonburg, VA, average attendance of 282, is seeking a full-time lead pastor, beginning in Spring 2003. The candidate should be gifted in preaching and congregational leadership. Contact Irv Hershey, 11159 Morning View Rd., Singers Glen, VA, 22850, 540-833-2118, vahershey@cs.com.

**Harrisonburg Mennonite Church** invites you to attend "Celebrating 30 Years" on September 28-29. Saturday's events will include "A Time to Remember" and on Sunday we will "Remember the Past and Anticipate the Future." Plan now to participate. More details will follow.

Older adults are invited to join in the fun at the **Mennonite Senior Sports Classic 2002**, a games and fitness event for older Anabaptist adults, to be held June 20-22, in Harrisonburg, Va. The event welcomes participation by all MMA members, people attending an Anabaptist congregation, or those affiliated with any Anabaptist organization who are 50 years old or older by July 1.

People of all physical skill levels are eligible. Activities include bowling, cycling, golf, horseshoes, walking, running, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, and other fitness events. To receive information and a registration form, call 1-800-348-7468, ext. 269, e-mail [stewardship@mma-online.org](mailto:stewardship@mma-online.org), or visit [www.mma-online.org](http://www.mma-online.org).

The **VMC Peace Committee** awards a **Peace Mug** each year to an individual or church group working for peace. The mug will be presented at Conference Assembly. Do you know of persons or a group of persons in your church that are leading the way in focusing their lives on Peacemaking? We want to especially recognize those persons or activities that focus on peacemaking that emerges from our faith in Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace. It might be conflict mediation, or work with marginalized persons or witnessing to the Peace of Christ. It might be work within the church or in the local community.

To submit nominations, contact Jim Hershberger at 5647 Wengers Mill Road, Linville, VA, 22834, 540-833-8033, [hershberg1@aol.com](mailto:hershberg1@aol.com).

**Steak Barbecue & Auction Fundraiser** at Highland Retreat will be held, June 22. Special activities include a bicycle tour of the Bergton/Criders community, horse-drawn wagon rides, zipline and super swing, children's activities, funyaks at the pond, dipped ice cream, and more. The auction and special activities begin at 2:30 p.m. The barbecue will be served at 5:00 p.m. Bring a potluck salad and dessert. Special music by Blue Mountain Sunrise. A-frame cabins and campsites are free for families and individuals. Advance reservations are required. Donations at the meal benefit the summer youth camp program. For reservations and information contact the camp office at 540-852-3226 or [highlandrt@juno.com](mailto:highlandrt@juno.com).

*The commissioning of*  
**Loren E. Horst**  
*as President of*  
*Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions*  
*will be held on*  
*Sunday, July 7, 2002, 4:00 p.m.*  
*Lindale Mennonite Church*  
*(6 miles N. of Harrisonburg, Va., off Rt. 42)*  
*Everyone is welcome to attend this*  
*service of commissioning and celebration!*

Virginia Mennonite Conference  
Assembly & Missions Festival  
**"Thy Kingdom Come"**  
**July 18-20, 2002**  
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Newport News, VA

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