

# Connections

Virginia Mennonite  
Conference &  
Board of Missions

November 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 1

## One love... in the Lord

Reflections on a year of service in Jamaica by Lonnie & Teresa Yoder

From the Jamaica Mennonite Church praise song entitled “Get Together in the Lord” to Bob Marley’s song “One Love,” the theme of unity pervaded our ten month sojourn in Jamaica—both the presence of and the longing for unity.

Our primary assignment in Jamaica was leadership development in the Jamaica Mennonite Church (JMC). When we first arrived on the island, we were asked to visit all twelve congregations on consecutive Sunday mornings before we began our formal leadership development work. That insightful request from JMC leaders prepared us well for a second and third round of visits to the churches.

Because of their initial request and the follow-up request to work primarily in the congregational context, we had a genuine and rich grass-roots experience of the Jamaica Mennonite Church. We experienced the strength and vitality of JMC worship services (particularly their music), an emphasis on a clear and immediate faith relationship with Jesus Christ, and a warm and gracious hospitality which was balm for our souls as we decompressed from the stressful lives we had come from in the United States.

In addition to these strengths, we experienced twelve individual congregations in need of a unifying vision to focus their mission in the Jamaican context. One of the topics we presented in each of the congregations was that of Mennonite history and theology. Jamaican Mennonites responded with intense interest to the Anabaptist/Mennonite story which found its way to Jamaica in 1954. Time and again we were told that further teaching on this story was needed to help clarify Mennonite identity and mission for the JMC into the future.

Could this Mennonite identity, developed in a truly Jamaican style, serve as one unifying reality for the JMC as it lives into the future? We come away from our experience answering that question with a resounding “yes.” One of our repeated challenges to the JMC was “to plant the gospel in Jamaican soil.”

Not all of our time in Jamaica was spent engaging the leadership development agenda. We lived on the

campus of Maranatha School for the Deaf where all four members of our family taught computer classes.

Teresa, Shannon, and Nicole also taught a cooking class. The challenge of connecting with students and staff using our emerging sign language skills was a humbling experience. Helping with the annual Christmas program at the school as well as seeing a new playground emerge were two of the highlights at Maranatha in the context of warm and friendly interaction with staff and students.

The development of the new playground at the school has led to an emerging sense of unity within the larger Ridge District community in which we lived. In the past, relationships between the school and community were challenged by the language barrier as well as a misunderstanding about the use of a foot path or “track” through the school grounds. We praise God that the new playground which was built with the hard labor of many persons under the direction of Earl Moyer is now being shared by both Maranatha students and young people from the Ridge District community.

Another expression of unity for which we are deeply thankful was the relationships among VMBM personnel on the island. The Beilers, Moyers, Stoners, and Yoders met together as a group three times during our time there. We also met in various configurations at other times as well. God blessed us with harmonious and supportive working relationships which enabled us to celebrate our victories and endure our hardships. May these positive



courtesy of Lonnie Yoder

Teresa, Nicole, Shannon, and Lonnie Yoder served in various ways during their 10-month assignment in Jamaica.

continued on back page

# God, the All-Powerful

As a baby-boomer, I have been fascinated by the uses of power. I have done my share of reacting to authority figures (remember, I was a university student in the late 1960s). So, the journey of submitting to God has been a constant challenge.

It has been helpful to me to see the expressions of God's power. What would you do if there were no limits to your power? I have sometimes tested myself by asking what I would do if I could change something and no one would know who had done it. Would I destroy someone? Would I enrich myself? It was certainly about humans that it was said, "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Back to God. In the two texts below we have statements about climactic moments in history where one would expect the power of God to be at work.

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes'..." (Rev. 21:3-4 NRSV).

God, the All-Powerful, has triumphed over every rebellion in the cosmos. We could expect some great parade where prisoners are displayed and subservience is demanded. Instead, we find God breaking out the tissues and entering into the pain of the faithful.



**Owen Burkholder**  
Conference Minister

It is less difficult to submit to such a One.

"Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist" (John 13:3-4 NIV).

Jesus knew that evil was coming for him. Jesus knew that God would receive him back. The All-Powerful had entrusted this moment in history to him. Jesus took that power and invested it in an act of love and service to those who were nearest him. He then called their attention to this act as an example. Those who would be followers of Jesus are invited to use their power in similar fashion.

In this time when the powers rage, let us look to our source of life. To which power will we offer our ultimate love and loyalty? What does being ultimately comforted by the All-Powerful mean for our times?



**Connections** (USPS 007-205) is published monthly by Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference to connect congregations with each other and conference agencies.

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*Connections* is distributed free to each household of supporting congregations. Subscription rates: \$5 per year, 2 years for \$9. Send subscriptions to *Connections* Circulation Manager, 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

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**POSTMASTER** Send address changes to 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Periodical postage paid at Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

## Bike Shenandoah



Wayne Gehman / MMN

Riders of every age and skill level enjoyed participating in the fifth annual Bike Shenandoah in Harrisonburg, Va., on September 28. Bike Shenandoah raised more than \$13,000 to be divided between Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Mission Network, Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, and the Harrisonburg Pregnancy Center.



# Reading for peace

*“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God”* (Matthew 5:9).

The Bible teaches us much about peace, love, and justice. We believe that Christ mandated a new perspective and practice in response to these issues. The Hebrew word for this is *shalom*.

In an effort to promote peace education and shalom living at First Mennonite Church, Richmond, Va., church librarians Dorcas Good and Jenni Dorsey invited children and youth ages five to fifteen to become Shalom Readers.

Participants were asked to read ten peace-related books between June 5 and September 1 to help them become more aware of a variety of religious, social, and cultural issues. The librarians compiled lists of books for kindergarten to second grade, third to fifth grade, and sixth to eighth grade. Many of these books were available in our church library and others could be checked out at local public libraries.

Participants were given a list of age-appropriate books, a Reading Log to record the books they read, a peace bookmark, and ten puzzle pieces. The name of the book and the person who read it were written on each puzzle piece. The pieces were then hooked together on the wall outside our church library to make one large “peace puzzle” for all to see.

Prizes given after reading five or ten books were coloring sheets, a peace sticker, and the peace pledge. A peace t-shirt was given upon completion. Recognition was given and certificates were awarded to all readers during the worship service on September 8. The librarians and those who completed the program wore their peace t-shirts. Of the 23 young people who signed up, 18 completed the program.



Shalom Readers proudly display the certificates they were awarded for reading books about peace.

Gloria Snider

Initial information for this project came from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Western District Conference of the Mennonite Church USA which had promoted Shalom Readers in their conference. Additional information was received and materials were purchased from Susan Mark Landis, Peace Advocate for Mennonite Church USA.

• Dorcas Good  
First Mennonite Church

## Zion commissions workers for Lithuania

Steve and Betsy Dintaman arrived in Lithuania on August 16 to begin a three-year term of service at Lithuania Christian College (LCC). The Dintamans, long-time members of Zion Mennonite Church, Broadway, Va., were commissioned for service at Zion on August 11.

The morning event began with a fellowship breakfast followed by a service of worship, commissioning, and blessing. David Shenk, dean and professor of theology at LCC for the past four years and veteran missionary with Eastern Mennonite Missions, delivered an inspiring and compelling challenge for the work in Lithuania.

LCC is a Christian liberal arts university in the former Soviet Union with 625 students from a dozen countries. Some students are Christian and are preparing for church leadership. Others are new Christians who are developing their faith foundations, and still others are not Christian, but are attending LCC to get a quality liberal arts education from an accredited institution. Steve will be teaching theology classes, and Betsy will be working in the library and teaching English.

The Dintamans are the first missionaries appointed under the new Mennonite Mission Network formed by the Mennonite Church USA. A group of seven individuals from Zion, called LCC Partners, covenanted together earlier in the year to provide support and coordination for fundraising. Financial support for the assignment is being provided by a combination of individual, institutional, and congregational sources.

The Dintamans can be contacted at [sdintaman@lcc.lt](mailto:sdintaman@lcc.lt).

• Ron Piper  
Zion Mennonite Church



Jim Rush

Members of Zion Mennonite Church pray God's blessing on Steve and Betsy Dintaman as they begin their term of service in Lithuania.

## Recipe for a youth retreat

### Ingredients

Prayer, scripture, Conference Youth Minister, speaker, worship leader, youth, and youth leaders.

### Steps

1. Pray.
2. Add one Kimberlee Greenawalt to organize.
3. Add one Mark Bartsch to bring a message from God.
4. Add one Doug Vogt to lead music.
5. Take many car- and van-loads of Jr. High youth.
6. Mix in a few youth leaders—as many as you can get!
7. Stir for 24 hours continuously.
8. Observe the results. Some are immediate and others may show at age 20, 30, 40, or beyond.

There were many activities, lots of food, very little sleep, and great worship times at this year's Jr. High Retreat. Youth from all over Virginia Conference came to this 24-hour spiritual retreat. While the retreat did provide fun activities like canoeing, miniature golf, basketball, and an opportunity to get to know youth from many other churches, the main focus of the retreat was to invite youth closer to Christ.

In Mark 8:29 Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" This year's speaker, Mark Bartsch, asked Jesus' question to the youth. During the first session Mark focused on the youth seeing themselves as the branches with Christ as the vine. The second session focused on the meanings of names and identifying names we associate with ourselves. The final session focused on going to God, getting a new name, and better understanding how God views us.

Everyone who attended the Jr. High Retreat heard God's

loving invitation to come to Christ through Mark's messages. I encourage you to pray that the youth who attended the retreat would continue to grow closer to God.



Nate Barker

Jr. High youth and youth sponsors participate in a time of worship during the annual retreat at the Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center.

## Mission accomplished



courtesy of Darrell Zook

Darrell, Gwen, Kristina, and Brianna Zook recently brought to closure their missionary assignment with VMBM in the region of Bari, Italy. They are now

relocated in the Harrisonburg area, where they are busy in re-entry adjustments, retooling for ministry and work, and involvement in assignments related to missions.

Although the Zooks had originally planned to return during the summer of 2003, family needs made it necessary to terminate earlier. During the past six months they have worked very deliberately to transfer the leadership of the congregation to a local Italian couple, Rino and Anna Coscia, felt to be capable and called to lead the congregation on into the future.

VMBM wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution that the Zooks have made to the task of extending God's Kingdom in the Bari area and more specifically in helping to establish the Toritto congregation. They have served a total of six years in Italy and have left the sweet perfume of Christ in many places and on many lives. Their passionate love for the Italian people and friendly hospitality has opened many hearts to the Gospel.

We encourage individuals and congregations to take the opportunity during the coming months to welcome the Zook family into your homes and churches. They have many wonderful stories to share regarding God's work in the lives of their friends in Italy.

Everyone is invited to a housewarming for Darrell and Gwen on November 10, 2002, 3-6 p.m. at 1542 N. College Ave., Harrisonburg, Va. For gift sugges-

tions or more information, contact Rita Eby at 540-434-9880.

• Willard Eberly  
Mediterranean Regional Director

• Kyle Stutzman

Waynesboro Mennonite Church

## Augsburgers honored for a lifetime of ministry

For more than 51 years, Myron S. and Esther K. Augsburgers have freely shared their gifts in a host of settings around the world, touching and changing many lives. Each step of the way they have sought to give God the recognition for their efforts and achievements.

Several hundred of the Augsburgers' friends, family members, and colleagues from their ministries over the years gathered on the Eastern Mennonite University campus during the weekend of September 13-15 to celebrate the couple's contributions to the university, the broader church, and the global community.

Using the theme, "That the World May Know," the full slate of activities included inspirational meetings, special ceremonies, a banquet, workshops for pastors and lay leaders led by associates of the Augsburgers, numerous tributes, singing, displays from the couple's careers, and reunions of groups they have worked with over the years.

Eastern Mennonite University, where Myron was president from 1965 to 1980, marked the occasion by formally establishing the Augsburgers Endowed Chair of Theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and by naming a newly-expanded art facility the Esther K. Augsburgers Art Building.

"The Augsburgers chair is a symbol of the mission mandate to carry 'the whole gospel to the whole world'—that the world may know," EMU President Joe Lapp said. "It recognizes Myron and Esther's services to the church in the past and helps project their vision for mission into the future," he added. Myron continues his interdenominational evangelistic crusade work under the auspices of Inter-Church, Inc.

In a ceremony naming EMU's newly-expanded art building after Esther, art department chair Scott Jost said, "This building dedication serves as a marker of growth and energy characterizing EMU's art program. We believe that the art program has a vital role to play as EMU seeks to fulfill its mission, and this building signals that perhaps the arts are finding a home within the Mennonite Church."

The three-day celebration "was a wonderful affirmation," the Augsburgers said. "We were humbled and thrilled that so many friends far and near took part in the entire weekend's activities, and we were encouraged by the focus placed on ministries to which we have committed our lives."

• Jim Bishop  
Eastern Mennonite University



Jim Bishop

Myron and Esther Augsburgers stand in front of the expanded art facility which EMU has named the Esther K. Augsburgers Art Building.

## 36th annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale



photos by Jim Bishop

Danelle Hostetler and daughter Jenna, 4, sort coins for the Penny Power project. The money raised—more than \$16,000—will be divided between Mennonite Central Committee and Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions.



Torri Bridge offers a slab of homemade wheat bread lathered with apple butter fresh out of the cauldron.



# 60 years at Warwick River Christian School

Nearly 500 present and former students of Warwick River Christian School, Newport News, Va., along with their extended families, registered for the Sixtieth Anniversary celebration on September 20-22. The largest gathering had 400 picnickers in the food tent for the Saturday evening cookout.



Marion DeLaGrange

Warwick River Christian School students from the 1940s gather together at the school's 60th anniversary celebration. For names of each of the individuals pictured above, visit [www.vmconf.org/connections/nov02.shtml](http://www.vmconf.org/connections/nov02.shtml).

Saturday evening also featured "Tattle Tales" from each of the school's decades, presented by a drama troupe scripted and directed by former teacher Kaye Bates. In addition there was singing by 40 members of the Grade School Honors Chorus and by two dozen participants in an alumni choir. The anniversary circle was complete when both groups joined, under the direction of music teacher Jeri Field, to sing a long-time school tradition: "I Owe the Lord a Morning Song."

Friday evening reminiscing took life in a multi-media presentation written by June and Levi Weber, the latter a brother of first teacher/principal, Eva Carper. Curt Holsopple, principal for a year in the early 90s, lent his technical skills.

The WRCS float in Saturday's annual Denbigh

Day parade was loaded with a former student from each decade and a current student from each grade. An earlier morning road run attracted 28 five-kilometer runners and 44 one-milers. The road runs were directed by 80s alumnus Charles Sneddon.

Sunday worship at the three sponsoring congregations had alumni as speakers and singers. At Huntington, former teachers Rose and Al Huyard of Grottoes, Va., focused on continuing education. At Providence, Herb Troyer, a student from the early 60s now living near Indianapolis, preached and Susan Mazza Traner of Newport News reflected on her years at WRCS in the 80s.

Gerald and George Brunk, sons of school founder George R. Brunk II and students during the 40s, led singing and preached at Warwick River. Also speaking was Jeff Rice, a student from the 80s and a U.S. Park Ranger in Newport News. Tammy Shenk Driver, from Waynesboro and a student in the 60s, sang the offertory. A 24-voice women's chorus, mostly alumni, sang both Sunday morning and Friday evening. And a string ensemble, mostly alumni, graced Saturday and Sunday gatherings.

In its 61st year, Warwick River Christian School has an all-time record enrollment of 320 students. This includes 107 registered in pre-school and kindergarten, 178 enrolled in Grades 1-5, and 35 in Grades 6-8, which were added in just the past three years.

• Gordon Zook

Warwick River Christian School

## Congregational Resource Center

Prepare the way for the Lord! Prepare your hearts for His coming!

The Congregational Resource Center has assistants and resources that will help you take some of the stress out of the upcoming holidays.

- **Celebrating Holidays and Holy Days In Church and Family Settings**
- **Creative Ideas for Thanksgiving**
- **Christmas Programs for the Church** (includes Thanksgiving material)
- **The Story of the Advent Wreath**
- **Jesse Tree Devotions:** A Family Activity for Advent
- **Scripture Scenes for Advent**
- **Dramatic Resources for Advent**
- **It's Jesus' Birthday!** A Christmas Eve Service

- **Christmas Ideas for Families** by Phyllis Pellman Good and Merle Good

- **Whose Birthday Is It Anyway?** A Children's Christmas Program

- **Christmas on Stage**

- **Joy to the World!** A variety collection of six Christmas programs for the church family

- A lot of worship, family and children's Advent ideas in our vertical file

The Congregational 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 4:30 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).

# November 2002 Prayer Calendar

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

**Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.**

Matthew 9:38 (NIV)

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by Harold & Ellen Martin.

*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.*

**3** Richard and Margaret Keeler guide the prayer time each Sunday evening with the pastors of the Mennonite churches in Trinidad. Thank God for their Spirit-led devotional thoughts and support of the congregational leaders.

**4** What "wounded heart" may Dr. Omar Beiler treat today in Kingston, Jamaica? Both heart aches and heart pains need the Great Physician. May Omar be His hands today.

**5** Thank God that fourteen individuals from Virginia Conference attended the churchwide young adult retreat in September. Pray that the young adults in your church will be actively involved in congregational life.

**6** The Health & Mutual Care Commission is creating a curriculum on aging to be used in a congregational setting. Pray for the writers and others as they complete this valuable resource.

**7** Pray for Steve Carpenter and his wife, Chris, as he concludes his role as church administrator at Washington Community Fellowship. Pray for Steve as he prepares for the position of Conference Coordinator for VMC.

**8** Stewardship University, a program of Mennonite Mutual Aid, will be held tomorrow at Park View Mennonite Church. Pray that the people who attend will grasp important concepts for living.

**9** Showers of "too many" blessings came down when three days of rain affected Jamaica. Pray that residents of Jamaica and other Caribbean islands will be safe from potential harm during hurricane season.

**10** Pastors Flinn and Karen Ranchod give leadership to Calvary Community Church of Chesapeake. Pray for wisdom for the leadership team, for their contacts in the community, and for the growth of the church.

**11** Pray for the new church planting effort in Bari, Italy. Pray for important decisions that are being made regarding the renting of a worship facility. Pray for Phil Lehman as he provides leadership to this new endeavor.

**12** Be in prayer about how you may be involved in service in 2003. There are many opportunities to share your gifts with others. Call the Partners in Mission office to see how your family or church group can be involved.

**13** "Nurse! Nurse!" Karen Brunk hears this often as she sees patients at the clinic and in their homes. Pray that God's strength will enable her to minister to both body and spirit of the people she sees.

**14** Chia Yang is a young pastor who plans to begin a Himong church plant in Hickory, NC, in January. Pray for Chia's preparation and for Hickory and Mtn. View Mennonite churches as they prepare to support the new ministry.

**15** Loren and Earlene Horst meet with Ramesh and Babes Jaimani each Friday night in Charleville, Trinidad. Pray that God will bless this time spent together as pastor couples.

**16** Give thanks for our congregations' children's Sunday school teachers. Pray that God would continue to use and guide them as they minister to the children in our churches.

**17** Today and tomorrow the Missional Church Team meets in Hampton, Va., with representatives from across VMC. Pray for unity of purpose and for discernment about the opportunities we have to engage in God's work.

**18** Operation Restoration is a ministry of Fellowship of Christ to reach youth in Princeville, N.C. Pray for pastor Ronnie Pride as he leads the effort and for youth from Rocky Mt., NC, who are involved in the outreach.

**19** Pray for the congregations in Albania as they show Christ's love in practical ways to the many Albanians who were affected by floods which ravaged many towns in late September.

**20** The 2020 Vision advisory group meets tomorrow in Williamsburg, Va. Pray that the pastors will own the vision for church planting and that the congregations will be agents of God's love in their communities.

**21** Tomorrow a PIM team of 9 individuals from Dayton Mennonite Church leave for Spanish Town, Jamaica, to help with the building of a new church. Pray for safe travel and a good work experience with the local believers.

**22** Taking time for relationships is very important in Jamaica. Thank God for Dolores Beiler's heart for both young and older people. May she experience God's presence in the occasions for sharing that she has.

**23** Pray for Joe Bontrager, USA Regional Director, as he preaches at Powhatan Mennonite Church tomorrow on a mission theme. Pray also for Powhatan as they clarify their vision for outreach.

**24** Pray for the congregations and candidates who are engaged in the pastoral search process. Pray also for the interim pastors who are serving Virginia Conference churches during these times of transition.

**25** Out of 731 applicants, Virginia Mennonite Conference was not one of the 47 selected to receive the Lilly Grant for "Sustaining Pastoral Excellence." Pray as Conference Council explores additional options to expand the ministry of VMC.

**26** Pray for Owen Burkholder and Ken Weaver as they work with congregations on the COMB health insurance plan. Pray also for congregations as they consider purchasing long-term care insurance for their pastoral staff.

**27** Jesse Bergey plays soccer with the deaf students and community youth after school in Jamaica. Pray that Christ's love will flow through him to these young lives.

**28** Pray for the growth of the new Mennonite congregation at Salerno, Italy. Pray for discernment as the Italian Menn. Church responds to the call for an Italian missionary/church planter to help develop this congregation.

**29** Paul Godshall is one-fourth time Urban Ministry Director in Eastern Carolina District and coordinates efforts to expand the Mennonite presence in the region. Pray that the churches' vision and planning will be effective.

**30** NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center, a ministry of Harrisonburg District, helps immigrants in the area to access community services. Pray for wisdom and strength for director Susannah Gerber Lepley.

# Announcements

**World Mission Prayer Fellowship** meets on the first Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon at Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg. Come hear a current or former mission worker speak, followed by a time of prayer for the nation where they serve and the church around the world. All are welcome to attend the next WMPF on November 3. For more information, contact Joe Bontrager at 540-434-9727 or [joe.bontrager@vmbm.org](mailto:joe.bontrager@vmbm.org).

**Festival of Praise** will be held Sunday, November 17, 4:00 p.m., at Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg. The event will feature seven men's quartets or octets. An offering will be taken to provide music training by VMBM workers in Italy, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

Registration forms for those wishing to be listed as hosts in the new **Mennonite Your Way Hospitality Directory** are available. Contact MYW Directory, 80 West Sylvan Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060; 847-949-6179; or [myw@mywdirectory.com](mailto:myw@mywdirectory.com). The directory organizes a hospitality network so travelers can enjoy fellowship and travel more economically.

**Mennonite Relief Center**, Hinton, Va., is collecting relief kits to stock the empty warehouses at Mennonite Central Committee. Relief kits provide valuable supplies to thousands of families traumatized by war and natural disasters. You are encouraged to assemble a kit and take it to either the Mennonite Relief Center, Hinton, Va., or the Virginia Mennonite Conference Center, 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, Va., by December 10. A list of contents for the kit is available at [www.mcc.org/respond/kits/relief\\_kits.html](http://www.mcc.org/respond/kits/relief_kits.html).

You may also send a check to the Mennonite Relief Center, PO Box 519, Dayton, VA 22821, by November 10. They will buy the supplies in bulk and assemble the kits. \$40 covers the cost of one kit. For more information, contact Leon Rhodes, director of the Mennonite Relief Center at 540-867-9751.

## Leadership Updates

**Dana B. Blauch** was licensed as associate pastor for youth at Harrisonburg (Va.) Mennonite Church on October 6.

**Dale Mast**, Chesapeake, Va., was licensed for his role in special ministries in Norfolk District on September 29.

### One love... in the Lord continued from pg. 1

relationships grow and mature as new personnel go to the island.

Finally, it is with great joy that we hear of the development of a new worshipping Mennonite community in the chapel at Maranatha. A first worship service was held in mid-August with 18 persons present. Since then the weekly attendance has climbed into the 30s. If there is a testimony to unity, this emerging church work is indeed that. Brother Damien Hines, a young Jamaican

Mennonite leader in training, has spearheaded this effort with the substantial support of Ridge District

people as well as the Stoners and Beilers.

Three of our primary communities while in Jamaica (JMC, the Ridge District, and VMBM personnel) are working together to give witness to the redeeming love of Jesus Christ in one community in Jamaica. It warms our hearts to hear of this development. We invite your prayers and support for that effort as well as the ongoing work and life of the Jamaica Mennonite Church.



Lonnie Yoder

Teresa Yoder chats with Indiana Lyttle, the youth leader at Calvary Mennonite Church in Retreat, Jamaica.

Connections (USPS 007-205)  
Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions  
Virginia Mennonite Conference  
901 Parkwood Drive  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498



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