

Connections

Virginia Mennonite
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Shining God's light in the nation's capital

In the nation's capital and in neighboring Baltimore, Md., Mennonite Mission Network's City on a Hill program aims to plant churches—and a whole lot more—to shine God's redeeming light into the city.

Sang Jin Choi, an ordained minister in Virginia Mennonite Conference, said the Holy Spirit led him to scripture, which helped him find his way into the wounded heart of Washington, D.C., where he follows the example of Jesus in his struggling urban ministry. With impressive educational credentials in conflict resolution, Choi said scripture taught him that “peace means serving the poor people—sacrificing.”

Pastor Choi, a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va., was very close to obtaining his doctorate in conflict resolution from the prestigious George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., when he broke off his studies and moved across the Potomac River and into the heart of the “bad” part of the District of Columbia.

He said he was moved to take on an urban pastorate in the Adams-Morgan neighborhood after reading about the stubborn cultural strife that exists between his fellow Korean immigrants and African-Americans who live in the neighborhoods where many Koreans operate small businesses. Choi said he was shocked at the death rate stemming from that strife and was determined to do something to help. But he didn't know what to do until he read Hosea 10:12: “Sow... in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord...”

“At that time, my spiritual mind was changed,” Choi said. “I went home and read John 14:27: ‘I give you peace ... let not your heart be troubled or afraid.’

“Peace means serving the poor people, sacrificing,” Choi said he learned. “I decided to sacrifice my life. I prayed for 10 days. I confessed, ‘Here I am. Send me now. I am ready to go.’ So I came here to search for resolution of the conflict. I planned an inner-city mission based upon racial harmony. I stopped my Ph.D. study. I stopped



Charles T. Jones

everything. I'm not interested in a Ph.D. right now; maybe in the future.”

Choi founded the Fourth Street Community Fellowship and APPA (Action for Peace Through Prayer and Aid), named for *appa*, a Korean word for pain. His efforts are headquartered in a row house in the neighborhood, where he and his wife live upstairs while drug dealers ply their trade on the sidewalks below.

The Baltimore-Washington City on a Hill Committee selected Choi's ministry for a \$1,500 grant to help with long-term strategies in church planting and urban ministry development. This year, the Mission Network worked in partnership with Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions to support several projects in the area.

City on a Hill, established in 1994 by the Commission on Home Ministries of the General Conference Mennonite Church, was so named because Jesus told his followers: “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14, 16).

• Charles T. Jones
Mennonite Mission Network



Above: Sang Jin Choi, a Mennonite pastor in Washington, D.C., makes his daily rounds of neighborhood parks where he and members of his staff feed the homeless each evening. Choi asks only that those who eat first gather together in prayer.

Inset: Sang Jin Choi

Who knows where things will go?

“Stacey Isaac is serving with MCC in Bolivia.” As with most announcements, there are many significant details hidden behind these few words. For me, these words evoke memories and remind me of warm friendships. This announcement also gives a hint of the emerging nature of mission.



Loren Horst
President of VMBM

Stacey is of East Indian background, born and raised on the island of Trinidad. Along with our daughter, she became a Christian in 1989 through the ministry of Anil Solanki, a professor originally from India. Anil was teaching at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and serving a short assignment in Trinidad. Stacey followed her mother and preceded her father and two brothers in finding faith in Jesus Christ. I baptized Stacey in the warm waters of the Caribbean.

Stacey is a bright young woman who received a full scholarship to study environmental science at North Carolina Central University in Durham. During her four years of study there she became active in the Durham Mennonite Church. Paul and Cathy Godshall were close friends and Earlene and I tried to serve as something of surrogate parents—not that she really needed any. Stacey received her bachelor’s degree with honors this past year.

Now Stacey is working with Mennonite Central Committee in Bolivia, supporting and encouraging children to stay in school. Such efforts counteract the

tendency of children from poor families to leave school and move into menial labor for the short-term, but dead-end, economic gain.

So a recipient of God’s grace becomes a servant of God’s grace. One who benefited from mission is now a missionary. A “product” of mission becomes an “instrument” of mission. It’s not so surprising, really. Such is the story of all of us who accept the responsibility to share the Good News. Receiving it makes a good personal testimony. Sharing it allows God to accomplish his intentions for his people and his world. Once more, we are reminded of the way things ought to be with God’s people. Stacey joins millions of Christians everywhere who join Isaiah in saying, “Here am I, Lord. Send me.”

And then, who knows where these things will go? The mission field becomes missionary. Receivers become senders. Senders become partners. Partners become senders. And senders become receivers.

Confusing at times, but very exciting!

Loren Horst

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Mennonite Central Committee

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From Nicaragua to Virginia and beyond

What does a small, urban, Spanish-speaking Brethren In Christ (BIC) church in Managua, Nicaragua (Central America), have in common with a 650-member Mennonite congregation in Virginia? That's what some Harrisonburg Mennonite Church (HMC) members asked two years ago when they learned that the Santa Rosa BIC congregation had been named a sister church.

Mennonite Central Committee introduced the Virginia congregation to ENLACE ("connections"), a program envisioned by Nicaraguan Anabaptist churches as a way for congregations in North America and Latin America to be partners. The Santa Rosa congregation became HMC's sister church.

HMC was looking for a cross-cultural partner to establish lasting relationships between members; manifest unity as one body of Christ by mutual sharing; learn about the culture, accomplishments and challenges of Christians from another place; and promote the reign of God through a world without borders.

After getting acquainted by correspondence, Beryl Jantzi, HMC pastor, visited Santa Rosa; later Santa Rosa's pastor, Efrain Hernandez Marengo, and two lay persons visited Harrisonburg. The Nicaraguan Christians learned about the North American context and also got acquainted with Virginia Mennonite Conference in Harrisonburg, Mennonite Central Committee in Akron, Pa., and the BIC missions headquarters in Grantham, Pa.

On December 1, 2001, HMC members began an eight-day exchange visit to Nicaragua. The group included Dana Blauch, the HMC youth director, high school students Alice Hampton and Patrick Weaver, Mark Keller, an associate pastor with overseas mission experience, and Victor Silvera, a Hispanic HMC member. In exchanging stories, the two groups learned that they shared Anabaptist faith and had similar problems and joys.

When the HMC youth learned that the Santa Rosa youth needed money to start a puppet ministry, they offered to sell 100 necklaces and bracelets in Harrisonburg made by the Santa Rosa youth. This arrangement promoted an equal/reciprocal rather than a donor/recipient relationship. So far, sales have generated \$500 (US) for the Santa Rosa youth ministry.

In response to the request for worship assistance, the HMC group took along three donated guitars. They used these "gifts of friendship" during worship, then left them with the Santa Rosa youth.



courtesy of Mark Keller

Pastor Beryl Jantzi (center) of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church visits with Pastor Efrain Hernandez Marengo (left) and another member of the Santa Rosa Brethren in Christ Church in Nicaragua.

Santa Rosa's gifts for their guests included hand-crafted wooden cups and plates which HMC will use in communion services.

A further connection is being considered around Africa 2003, the Mennonite World Conference assembly in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, in August. HMC is interested in enabling Pastor Jantzi to attend for a time of refreshment with a focus on the global church, and to arrange for Pastor Efrain from Santa Rosa to join him there. Efrain would return home via Harrisonburg for another visit and to participate in reporting on the assembly to the HMC congregation.

• Mark Keller and Ken Weaver
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church

Stephens City stitches comforters by the dozen

After the events of September 11, 2001, Stephens City Mennonite Church gathered together after a morning worship service to discern what responses we as Anabaptist believers could "do" and "be" here in this community. The "heartbeat" of the group was a desire to be obedient to what Jesus would ask of us in times such as this.

One of the ideas was to make a comforter to send to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for Afghanistan. Most of us attending Stephens City at the present time had not grown up making quilts or comforters. We liked the idea of a comforter bringing comfort and warmth to someone in need.

A few women rose to the occasion and got word out about taking a first step. A year later, to our amazement, not only had one comforter been completed, but 12 tops were ready to be knotted and prepared for MCC.

During our fall series, "On Being a Missional People," the comforters were displayed and prayers were offered for the people who will receive them.

• Aldine Musser
Stephens City Mennonite Church



Aldine Musser

Stephens City Mennonite Church completed twelve comforters during the year following September 11, 2001. The comforters will be sent to Mennonite Central Committee.

Christmas around the world

Maranatha School for the Deaf, Jamaica

Puffs of white Christmas bushes and bunches of red poinsettias line the winding road to the Maranatha School for the Deaf in the Ridge District of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. At night the large star on the end of the classroom building shines its message that Jesus lives here to all who see it in the valley below.

The teachers and students spent two weeks practicing for the Christmas program given on Sunday afternoon, December 8. Songs, poems, and dramas were memorized and rehearsed. On the day of the program, parents, relatives, and friends filled the chapel at the school.

The centerpiece of the program was the play "Tell Us Again, Grandpa." The grandfather and grandmother told the Christmas story to the grandchildren (students) who asked questions about this intriguing happening. Angie Shaw, a teacher at the school, played the role of the grandmother, and VMBM worker Jesse Bergey played the grandfather role. His costume of a stuffed shirt, a fake, gray beard, and a cap created a lot of giggles among the students and the audience.

The message of the gift of salvation through Jesus was evident throughout the program. "Joy to the World" resounded by voice and by signs at the conclusion.

Students received gifts at the end of the program that were provided by their sponsors in the US. The students are always delighted to see what their gift bag holds for them! In addition to a toy and a practical item, this year they each had three books provided by Powhatan Mennonite Church. The students glowed with happiness when they saw what was given to them with love and care.

If you are interested in sponsoring a student at Maranatha School for the Deaf, contact Gloria Lehman at 540-434-9727 or gloria.lehman@vmbm.org.

• Gloria Lehman



Galen Lehman

Leesha Stoner (center) sings "Joy to the World" by voice and sign. The Christmas program at Maranatha School for the Deaf was attended by many parents, relatives, and friends.

Good Tidings Mennonite Church, Jamaica

Christmas is the season when the angels proclaimed that they were bringing good tidings of great joy to all people.

The Good Tidings Mennonite Church at 5 Whitehall Avenue, Kingston, Jamaica, seeks to bring good tidings to all as our name implies, not just at Christmas time but indeed throughout the year.

In addition to our regular ministry in our community, we have been involved in the following ways during the season.

- A special treat for all the recipients of our welfare program, including a cooked meal and bags of groceries.
- Our Boxing Day (December 26) treat for all the children in the community.
- A candlelight service on December 22 where our members lined Whitehall Avenue to sing carols.
- Our Christmas service that began at 5:30 a.m.
- A Watch Night service on December 31 which began at 10:00 p.m. and ended at midnight.

• Janet Moore

Good Tidings Mennonite Church

Bari-Sud and Palermo, Italy

This year the new church plant in Bari-Sud, Italy, faced the challenge of how to celebrate Christmas in a land that is focusing more and more attention on the commercial and materialistic aspects of the holiday. This becomes an even more delicate issue since most evangelical churches refuse to celebrate Christmas in any form. They make a clear break from what is considered a pagan festival to the sun god and a religious ritual of the Catholic Church in which the Holy Family seems to replace the Holy Trinity.

We decided, however, to use this wonderful opportunity to proclaim the true message of Christmas. We invited our friends, neighbors, and recent contacts to a rented room in a restaurant-pizzeria (a neutral environment). The evening was filled with singing, a children's program, an artistic presentation of the Christmas story by Jason Martin, and lots of special foods prepared by the women of the congregation.

We were grateful for the attendance of several families who previously had never come to one of our meetings. Several new youth indicated that they would return. One young man said that when he is among us he feels an overwhelming peace. New Testaments were available for those who had no Bible. Each family unit received a small gift, which included a Scripture calendar. We praise God for this unique opportunity to not only celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world but for the open door to share love with new people in a tangible way.

The Centro Agape church in Sicily did something similar, combining a program given by the children of the "SOS Famiglia" social service center and children of the congregation, to create a setting for reaching the unchurched. As Pastor Francesco Picone wrote in a recent Christmas greeting, "True Christmas is the Birth of Christ in our hearts."

• Willard Eberly



Willard Eberly

Left: Jason Martin draws a chalk illustration as he shares a Christmas meditation in Bari-Sud.

Below: Missionary children and Italian children in Bari-Sud participate in the Christmas program through songs and a skit.

Lezhë, Albania

The first year that Paul and I were in Albania, we left to spend Christmas in Italy. Some of the believers wondered why we left and did not stay to teach them how to celebrate Christmas here in Albania. Albanian believers are just beginning to learn how to celebrate Christmas since the Church in this country is so new. Since then, we have spent every Christmas here, except when we were on furlough.

Before commercialism took over Christmas, we wanted the believers to understand why we celebrate the Savior's birth. We helped them understand the meaning of Christmas by introducing

them to the story of Jesus' birth. We enjoyed teaching them how to do Christmas dramas and plays, and taught them Christmas carols in their language. Each year we enjoy developing creative ideas to celebrate Christmas. We often have the children's group sing in a choir and they love to do drama. The children

invite their parents, the majority of whom are unchurched.

We have introduced the youth and adults to the Advent season and the church participates in the lighting of the Advent candles each Sunday. As in other years, this year the church was invited to a special Christmas program with refreshments following. After reading Luke 2, a short meditation was given about these scriptures and the recently-arrived YES team presented a drama and songs about the celebration of Jesus' birth.

• June Kropf



Willard Eberly

Faithful couple travels far to deliver message of Jesus

Can Ngoc Le and his wife, Lisa Pham, have walked long, difficult roads from their homeland in Vietnam to the horse country of Fairfax in northern Virginia. In 1964, Le, the son of a Christian Missionary Alliance pastor, was taking law classes at the University of Saigon and found his spiritual mentors at his part-time job in the Mennonite library there.

He became a lawyer and was elected to the city council in what was then the capital of South Vietnam. He was an officer in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam when communists took over the south in 1974 and Le was sent to a “re-education” camp, where he spent three hard years. He said faith and prayer fortified and preserved him there.

“God spared my life. I decided to do something for him. It was very clear,” Le said. “I thank the communists for their camp. It was there that I

learned about God. He prepared me to become a pastor through the camp.”

In 1985, Le and Pham made their way to a refugee camp in the Philippines, where they spent six months. They emigrated to the United States,

and Le graduated in 1989 with a master’s degree from Eastern Mennonite University. He said he became a Mennonite “because they emphasize deeds, not words.”

Le and Pham are dedicated church-planters. They’ve been holding services in a borrowed Lutheran church. Their parishioners are fellow Vietnamese émigrés, who Le said are “very young in Christ.” Many cling tenaciously to their native



courtesy of Mennonite Mission Network

Pastors Can Ngoc Le and Lisa Pham lead the Vietnamese Christian Fellowship in Fairfax, Va., which received a grant through Mennonite Mission Network’s City on a Hill program. **Left to right:** Can Ngoc Le, Lisa Pham, and their son, Sam.

religion—a mix of Buddhism and ancestor worship—and find it “very difficult—very difficult, to accept Christianity,” he said. Still, 60 to 100 people continue to come together under the couple’s persistent leadership. Through Mennonite Mission Network’s City on a Hill program, the Vietnamese Christian Fellowship received \$1,500 to re-start a tutoring program for children and adults.

• Charles T. Jones
Mennonite Mission Network

Congregational Resource Center

In the wilderness of winter, we listen for God’s voice as we journey toward Jerusalem for Holy Week. We will need the strength that we gain on the way for what lies before us. Here are some resources to help make this Lent a spiritually meaningful six weeks of preparation:

- **Stages on the Way: Worship Resources for Lent, Holy Week & Easter** by the Iona Community
- **The Courage to Say No: 23 Songs for Lent and Easter** by the Iona Community
- **Journey to the Cross: The Complete Easter Story for Young Readers** by Zonderkidz
- **Show Me the Way: Readings for Each Day of Lent** by Henri Nouwen
- **A Way of the Cross** by Tolbert McCarroll
- **The Many-Sided Cross: Sermons and orders of service for Lent** by Cynthia E. Cowen
- **Shadows to Sunrise: Worship Resources for Holy Week**

Pre-marital videos that look closely at building strong relationships might be a good investment of time:

- **Mentoring Engaged and Newlywed Couples** by Les & Leslie Parrott
- **The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate** by Gary Chapman
- **So You’re Getting Married** by H. Norman Wright
- **Complete Book of Wedding Vows** by H. Norman Wright
- **Premarital Counseling Handbook** by H. Norman Wright

The Resource Center is located at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A key is available at the EMU Information Office for use after hours.

Visit our website at www.emu.edu/mcrc to browse our catalog. Contact us at 540-432-4219 or wengerkw@emu.edu.

February 2003 Prayer Calendar

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

May your unfailing love rest upon us,
O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.
Psalm 33:22 (NIV)

1 Pray for the VMC staff meeting with the MC USA management team working on a new health care plan for those with major medical conditions. This plan is very important to the staff of several VMC congregations.

Charlene Kiser, Randy and Sharon Kiser, Linda and Dwight Burkholder, Roy, Jr. (Danny) and Jenny Kiser, and Jeff and Becky Kiser sponsored this month's prayer calendar in loving memory of their husband and Daddy, Roy D. Kiser, Sr. Roy left a legacy of ministry to God and the church. He died on February 4, 1989.

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.

2 Worship leaders in many congregations are making preparations for Lent. Pray that God would guide the planning process. Pray also for the staff of the Congregational Resource Center as they provide assistance.

3 Mennonite World Conference in Zimbabwe is just six months away. Pray for these committees: transportation, catering, accommodation, local tours, children's program, information and guest services, facilities, and medical.

4 Pray for Conference Minister Owen Burkholder as he attends an MC USA consultation. They will discuss the implementation of the Membership Guidelines by area conferences as it relates to "disciplined congregations."

5 World Mission Prayer Fellowship meets tomorrow noon at Park View Mennonite Church. Pray for VMBM President Loren Horst as he shares about his recent time of service in Trinidad.

6 Pray for the VMC Missionary Church Team as they meet tomorrow afternoon to consult on Conference vision to become more missional. The Team plans to meet with each VMC District before the summer Assembly.

7 The VMBM Board and program staff are meeting in a retreat this weekend. Pray that God's wisdom will be known as strategic plans are made. Worship and interaction will shape teambuilding for the group.

8 Eastern Mennonite University is hosting Mission and Service Days tomorrow through Wednesday. Pray that God would guide the VMBM staff as they talk to individuals and groups about service opportunities.

9 Eastern Mennonite University is hosting the adult Sunday School for the Deaf in Jamaica, Omar Beiler teaches the adult Sunday School class. Pray for him as he leads the class in applying God's Word to everyday life.

10 Pray for the delegates from the Italian Menn. Church who will meet with other evangelicals in Rome this weekend. This gathering promotes fellowship and united activities among evangelical groups throughout Italy.

11 Pray for the youth who will attend the Mennonite Youth Convention in Atlanta this July. Pray that those who are to be there will be compelled to go, and that God would give the youth leaders wisdom as they prepare.

12 Dolores Beiler, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, a 13-year-old girl in the Malvern community. Thank God for this connection and ask for His guidance as they continue to relate to each other.

13 Pray for members of the Hope Mennonite Church, Esperanza, Trinidad, as they relate to their friends, neighbors, and relatives. Pray for them as they seek to wholeheartedly follow the Lord.

14 Jesus Christ is the best example of unconditional love to all people. May we imitate this love to everyone we meet, by God's grace.

15 Joe Bontrager will preach at Crest Hill, Wardensville, WV, tomorrow morning. Pray for the ministry of the church in the Wardensville area and give thanks for the increase in church attendance that has occurred.

16 At the Ridge Menn. Fellowship on the campus of Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica, Omar Beiler teaches the adult Sunday School class. Pray for him as he leads the class in applying God's Word to everyday life.

17 Pray for Conference Coordinator Steve Carpenter as he gets acquainted with the 66 congregations in Virginia Mennonite Conference and engages in administrative tasks.

18 Richard Keeler in Trinidad reminds us to thank God for physical protection. There has been an increase in kidnappings, robberies, and murders; missionaries are taking precautions but are living in the security of God as protector.

19 Pray for the Atlanta 2003 staff as they prepare for this summer's Mennonite convention. There are still many decisions to be made and logistics to be worked out. Pray that God's plans for the convention will take place.

20 Jesse Lucke helps the students at Maranatha School for the Deaf learn about how computers work and the purpose that they serve in various vocations. Pray for grace as he meets with students in the computer lab.

21 The Young Adult Committee is hosting a retreat in Williamsburg this weekend. Pray that God would bless this time of inspiration and fellowship. Pearl Hoover will speak on the theme "Who We Are: Exploring Our Identity."

22 Virginia Conference pastors and their spouses are meeting for the annual Ministry Retreat this weekend at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center. Pray that this retreat would be a time of renewal and inspiration.

23 Praise the Lord for the new persons who attended the special evangelistic Christmas event that was held by the Bari-Sud congregation in Italy. Pray that they would continue in their friendships with the local believers.

24 The staff of VMC and VMBM are busy making plans for the upcoming Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly and Missions Festival. Pray that the preparations would go smoothly as they pull together many details.

25 Many high school seniors are currently making decisions about what they will do after they graduate. Pray that God would grant them wisdom as they plan for the future.

26 Ken Stoner and the students at the Maranatha School for the Deaf make sturdy lawn chairs from the beautiful wood available in Jamaica. Thank God for this creative work.

27 Pray for members of the Hope Mennonite Church, Esperanza, Trinidad, as they relate to their friends, neighbors, and relatives. Pray for them as they seek to wholeheartedly follow the Lord.

28 The Young People's Christian Association at EMU sends work teams to various locations during Spring break. Pray for safety as these teams and other students travel; may it be a time of refreshment for all.

Announcements

A **retreat for young adults** (age 18-30) will be held at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center on February 21-23. Pearl Hoover will speak on the theme "Who We Are: Exploring Our Identity." There will also be worship, recreation, free time, and fellowship. For more information contact the Virginia Conference Young Adult Committee at 540-434-9727 or youngadult@vmconf.org.

"Plowing Outback," a folk opera of local oral histories of change and community, will be performed at the Yoder Barn in Newport News, Va., on weekends between February 21 and March 9. Contact the box office at 757-249-4187 or yoderbarntickets@aol.com.

Beef canning for Mennonite Central Committee will be held at the Mennonite Relief Center, Hinton, Va., March 3-7. The designated day for members of Virginia Mennonite Conference to volunteer is March 4, but you are welcome to help on any day. For more information, contact Leon Rhodes at 540-867-9751.

"Hospitality and Spirituality: Creating a More Caring Church and Society Following Sept. 11," a one-day New Life Ministries workshop, will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harrisonburg (Va.) Mennonite Church on May 16 and at Huntington Mennonite Church, Newport News, Va., on May 17. You are encouraged to register with others from your congregation to receive the group discount. Brochures are available from your pastor. The event is sponsored by the VMC Nurture Commission and VMBM USA Ministries.

Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly and Missions Festival will be held June 12-14 at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va.

Books Abroad continues to receive many requests for Bibles, Bible resource and study books, and other Christian books. In the past six months books have been sent to pastors, Christian leaders, and church and school libraries in Nigeria, Kenya, Benin, Lesotho, India, Philippines, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Belize. Books can go where we cannot. If you have

books that you would be happy to share with Christians in English-speaking countries overseas, bring them to Books Abroad, located in the red barn next to the Virginia Mennonite Conference Center in Harrisonburg.

Books Abroad is seeking teachers' and pupils' books from the **Herald Summer Bible School Series** used in the 1950s and '60s. They are helpful for teachers preparing for Bible School in Jamaica.

If you have books available or want more information, call Melba Heatwole, Director of Books Abroad, at 540-828-2999 or 540-434-9727.

World Day of Prayer is March 7. This year's theme is "Holy Spirit, Fill Us." The material in the World Day of Prayer packet is written by the women of Lebanon. To order the packet, call Church Women United Distribution Center, 1-800-298-5551. Ask for item #1901, price \$2.75 + S&H.

The Community Shopping Day at Ten Thousand Villages, Dayton, Va., on December 7 raised \$1,334 for the work of Omar and Dolores Beiler in Jamaica.

The Admissions Office at Eastern Mennonite University invites all interested high school students and parents to visit campus. Campus Visit program dates are February 20-21 and April 10-11. If these dates are inconvenient, EMU will be glad to set individual visits at a more convenient time. Please contact the Admissions Office for further information and reservation at 1-800-368-2665 or register online at <http://www.emu.edu/admissions/brochure/cv.html>.

Joseph and Edith Shenk, Harrisonburg, Va., are beginning a three-year assignment with Mennonite Central Committee as leadership development coordinators in Tanzania. They are jointly appointed with Eastern Mennonite Missions. The Shenks previously served as pastors at Weavers Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg.

