

# Connections

Virginia Mennonite  
Conference &  
Board of Missions

May 2005  
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## Supporting our ever-changing families

courtesy Lou Emswiler

Growing up in the 1970s, I enjoyed watching television shows like “Little House on the Prairie” or “Leave it to Beaver.” As a child back then, I had no idea that most of my friends didn't live in homes similar to that of Laura Ingalls or Beaver Clever.

Today many children find themselves being raised in single-parent homes. While the U.S. Census Bureau in 2002 predicted that approximately 50% of marriages that take place each year will end in divorce, many children today know very little about what it means to have their mother, father, and their siblings home each night at 5:00 for a family meal. In American homes today, it is not uncommon for a child to be raised by a single parent, a combination of one biological parent and one step-parent or by two adults who have not married.

Up until the past 100 or 150 years ago, several generations of a family lived close to one another or often in the same house. This is hardly the norm today! Another big change in America relates to where people die. While at the turn of the 20th century, most Americans died at home in their own beds surrounded by their family members and closest friends, in the 21st century more people are dying in an institutional setting like a hospital or nursing home than ever before.

When people experience change in their lives, loss accompanies those changes. As individuals age and move toward their retirement years, there is loss. When divorce takes place, there is loss. And when someone we love dies, loss is all around us.

Rose Huyard, Child Therapist at Family Life Resource Center writes, “With many changes in the constellation of the family system, such as less contact with extended family as well as the breakup of the nuclear family, children frequently have less of a sense of roots, connectedness with their own family history, and of their identity in relation to the extended family.”

As a result of all these changes, some Christians may be asking themselves a number of questions like the following: “Where is God in all



of this?” “How can we love our neighbor as ourselves?” “How might we be Christ to our hurting neighbors?”

One of the most meaningful things I learned in graduate school was “to refer.” By “refer,” I mean that I was taught to give people names and phone numbers of people in “the helping professions.” Perhaps you might refer a family friend or neighbor to a pastor, a Licensed Professional Counselor, a physician, or perhaps a psychiatrist. Perhaps your neighbor might benefit by a local support group where others are experiencing a similar kind of loss. As the Grief Specialist for the Shenandoah Valley Grief Center in Harrisonburg, I invite you to check out our website for the Family Life Resource Center [www.flrc.org](http://www.flrc.org) or call us at (540) 434-8450 if you need help with a referral.

As things continue to change in our families in the months and years ahead, I encourage all believers in Christ to not only “refer,” but also to pray. Pray for our children. Pray for our elderly. Pray for our families. And pray for ourselves! A final prayer request-- please pray for FLRC's new community initiative--the Shenandoah Valley Grief Center. Thank you!

The Family Life Resource  
Center, located at 273  
Newman Avenue,  
Harrisonburg, Va.

• Cynthia Long Lasher  
Grief Specialist, Shenandoah Valley Grief Center

# Ordinary turned extraordinary

From first appearances, it looked like an ordinary Sunday—bright sun in a clear sky, blooming spring flowers, parishioners entering the doors of the Lindale (Harrisonburg, Va.) meeting-house. But it didn't stay ordinary long.

The sanctuary filled with Lindalians as usual, and they were joined by Ukrainian brothers and sisters. In the 1980s, Lindale sponsored several Ukrainian immigrant families, helping them find housing and employment. In the morning worship services then, the order of worship was projected on the wall in both English and Russian, and the Scripture was read in both languages. In the following years, the group became large enough to have their own service, and formed a growing nucleus of worshippers that normally meet in the Lindale fellowship hall on Sunday afternoons.

On April 10, for the first time, the Ukrainian church and the Lindale church worshipped together. We sang songs with tunes that both groups know—words in both languages filled the sanctuary. Pastor Duane Yoder preached from Acts 1:1-8, and Pastor Petr Mazur interpreted. This lively presentation kept everyone interested! Sharing of prayer requests was



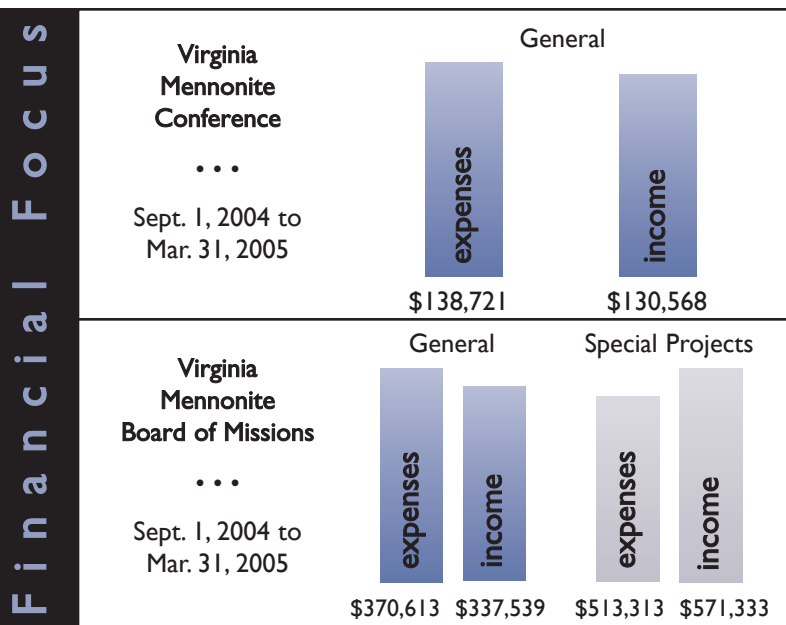
**Gloria Lehman**  
Director of Public Relations

spoken in mother tongues, and we prayed kneeling forward. The fervent inflection of the voices led us close to God's throne.

Following the service, everyone was invited to the fellowship hall for a meal of delectable Ukrainian foods. This presented an opportunity for persons to give a donation for an orphanage in the Ukraine. The interaction of the two congregations was a blessing to all.

When the possibilities for being a missional church are considered, the ones that are close by shouldn't be ignored. Brothers and sisters met across language and cultural differences on Sunday, and an ordinary day turned extraordinary.

*Gloria L Lehman*



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If you have peace stories to share, please send them to Dave and Krista Powell at [ecopow@ecollc.net](mailto:ecopow@ecollc.net)

## Taxing Dilemmas

I graduated from college in 1981, just as unemployment had soared to its highest post-depression levels. Jobs were hard to come by. After a couple of months of job searching, I noticed an ad in the newspaper for temporary positions with the Internal Revenue Service. Now I knew that working with the IRS was not a very “Mennonite” thing to do, but these positions involved helping people understand how to fill out the various income tax forms. As a business major, I had recently completed tax accounting courses. While I certainly had no interest in this as a career, I thought it might be good experience that could help me in the future.

The first day on the job, we plunged right into classroom orientation and training. That afternoon, we were informed that it was time to take our oaths. Desiree, Bill, and I were ushered into a small room where we were instructed to hold up our right hands and repeat, “I swear, or affirm, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against any enemy, foreign or domestic.” Desiree said, “I swear...”; I said, “I affirm...”; and Bill said, “I swear or affirm....”

Almost immediately, this oath I had repeated itched at my conscience. Sure, I could rationalize that this wording was only figurative. I could verbally defend parts of the Constitution. Also, I really needed this job, at least until I could find another. And I didn’t want to be known as a quitter. But down deep, I knew that I could not literally “protect and defend” in the same way that many other readers of that statement would interpret it. On one hand, I felt that I was taking some simple words too seriously. On the other hand, I felt convicted that this was not compatible with what I had been taught about following Christ.

Finally, at noon the next day I had made my decision. I approached a manager and told her that I wanted to quit. To make it official, I had to complete a resignation form, explaining why I was leaving. Upon reading it; she stated, “That’s the first time I’ve heard that one!”

• David Powell  
Peace Coordinator, Waynesboro, Va.

## Eggmans to teach in China

I have been approved by VMBM to return to China with my wife Lisa (Suter) and our son Jeremy in July to teach for a year. When I was in the Sichuan province of China visiting different universities last November and December, I found that all my gifts and talents came together. I was very surprised how well I mixed and connected with the students. I felt like God had been preparing me to this point to touch university students in China.

courtesy Andrew Eggman

I made many Chinese friends over the past nine years when they were visiting scholars in the US. I work with Friendship Network, which supports and relates to internationals, and through that, I am blessed to have friends all around the world.



Andrew, Lisa, and Jeremy Eggman are starting a one-year teaching assignment in China.

Some of the visiting Chinese scholars at EMU that I had befriended over the years invited me to come to China. I followed up on this invitation, and I was asked to lecture in English at their schools on subjects like family life in the US, American education, homeschooling, and welfare in the US.

I am excited to return to China and teach English. It will be wonderful to rekindle old friendships and create new ones.

• Andrew Eggman  
Park View Mennonite Church

## Women convene in Italy

In Calabria (the “toe” of Italy) a sleepy, seaside village dozing among orange and olive groves on the cliffs of the Mediterranean awakened to the invasion of more than 70 exuberant women. They convened by ship, train, bus and car from all over the south, including the islands of Sicily and Sardegna. The occasion that created all the excitement was the 15th annual interdenominational convention for wives of pastors and missionaries and women active in church ministries, held March 14-16. It was reportedly the largest group ever.

Marcia Lehman and Eva Eberly joined them from Bari, a 7-hour train trip. Six participants represented the Mennonite church in Sicily. Besides practical, stimulating Bible studies on the theme,

**Women convene** continued on page 5



# Landstown group helps in Sri Lanka

courtesy Merlin Miller



Pastor Merlin Miller prays with new believers in Ambalangoda, Sri Lanka.

When the tsunami struck Southeast Asia on December 26, our first response was “How do you even begin to help?” Numerous calls to various agencies resulted in “send money.” At a January prayer meeting at Landstown Community Church, it seemed as if the spirit was saying, “Go to Sri Lanka; you need to be involved.”

Debbie Bergey, former Mercy Ship missionary made contact with Mercy Works, the land-based ministry of Mercy Ships. A team was leaving the end of January to assess the needs and a second team in

March would go for ministry and outreach. That seemed like the answer for us. The first team made contact with a Christian pastor in the town of Ambalangoda, a city which prided itself in being 100% Buddhist. This pastor had been there for four years and had suffered much persecution including threats on his life. After the medical clinics of the first team, people were coming to him and asking for help—wondering where was the aid from their religious community. God was beginning to open their hearts for His message through the devastation of the tsunami.

Our team (Merlin and Linda Miller and Debbie Bergey from Landstown and 19 others) held medical clinics for several days where upper respiratory infections, skin conditions, intestinal worms, infected/neglected wounds and post-traumatic stress disorders were treated. The clinics were held in refugee camps; two in Buddhist temples that were located next to these camps. We were privileged to hear the people's stories, cry with them, and pray with them. A one-day Bible school was held for the children. We were expecting around 100 children; 160 showed up! On two evenings we held what the local pastor called miracle services. Merlin had the privilege to preach at one of these services. A total of 30 persons came forward for salvation—indeed a miracle.

A women's meeting at the pastor's home was also requested. Seven of the ladies from North America and about 18 of the local church ladies experienced friendship and fellowship first hand. After a time of teaching, the North American women washed the Sri Lankan ladies' feet; what a blessing! A few minutes later one of the translators came to us and said that the Sri Lankan ladies

wanted to wash OUR feet. They had taken this lesson by example to heart! Afterwards, the ladies surrounded us and blessed us in a symphony of prayer.

With the money team members brought with them, approximately 72 businesses were restarted. We know that God has called us to minister His love and care to our new brothers and sisters in Christ in Sri Lanka. Will you join us?

• Linda Miller  
Landstown Community Church  
(757) 468-6509 for more information

## Tsunami relief supper at Crossroads

The Crossroads Mennonite Church junior youth hosted a community-wide tsunami relief supper at a restaurant in their hometown, Timberville, Va. In addition to the immediate financial response by Crossroads Mennonite to Mennonite Central Committee, leadership persons saw this appeal as an excellent teaching opportunity for junior youth—a fundraising project solely for the benefit of others.

A local restaurant was reserved for January 29. Posters were placed around town. Ads were placed in the newspapers. Tickets were sold or given away by sponsoring individuals. An area business donated the cost of the food and supplies in order to maximize the funds to MCC.

Junior youth served as servers, bussers, and cleanup crew. People arrived early due to the anticipated sleet and snow. Approximately 300 dinners (take out and eat in) were served. There were many positive compliments from the community concerning the junior youths' ability to organize such a large event, and their positive attitude, friendliness, and manners.

The outpouring of support from the community was impressive for this first-time event for Crossroads--\$2,075 presented to Owen Burkholder, VMC Conference Minister, during a Sunday morning worship service for delivery to MCC. If a group of middle-schoolers can raise this much money in three weeks to relieve suffering in the name of Jesus, what are the possibilities for the rest of us?

• Bill Greene, Pastor  
Crossroads Mennonite Church

## The year-long gift



One unique way evangelical Christians in Italy share their faith and encourage others to “taste and see that the Lord is good” is giving a Scripture calendar each New Year. A boldly-printed Bible verse adorns each daily

page, with a brief meditation on the back. This year the believers of Centro Koinonia (Bari) distributed more than 100 such calendars to relatives, neighbors, and friends.

Responses to this gift are as varied as the persons who receive it, but most accept it with surprise and joy. Our pizzaiuolo (pizza chef) on the street below our apartment hangs his calendar on a prime spot in his shop where all his clients can easily read it. The lady at the fruit market says, “This calendar gives me strength and courage each day. One morning when I was feeling despondent, the verse, ‘Have faith in God,’ lifted my spirits immediately!” Another person says that often the Scripture meets her felt need in that particular day.

The other day out on the street, I was surprised when someone I’d met only briefly before, called to me, “Signora, signora, wait a minute! Do you happen to have another of those calendars? I’d love to have one!” (having seen the one I’d given to her friend). One believer testifies that during the time she was desperately seeking God, she actually went almost daily to a business where our Scripture calendar was hanging, just so she could read the verse for that day! The manager referred her to the pastor who’d given it. She attributes this incident to one way that God answered the cry of her heart to know Him.

This gift is given, “wrapped” with prayer that the Holy Spirit will use this daily “word” to stir up hunger for God and build a personal faith that will make a difference in our friends’ lives now and for eternity.

• Eva Eberly  
Bari, Italy

## Jamaican church holds annual conference

The 47th annual conference of the Jamaica Mennonite Church was held in Kingston, Jamaica, March 4-6, 2005. The theme was “Jesus Heals and Forgives.” Delegates gathered on Friday afternoon and Saturday to give reports from the 12 congregations and to discuss the business of the church.

Ganesh and Risha Kalloo who give pastoral leadership to the Mennonite Church of Chaguanas, Trinidad, served as delegates from the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Saturday morning they presented a devotional meditation on forgiveness, reading and reflecting on several scripture passages, and telling the story of Corrie ten Boom’s forgiveness experience.

Sunday morning 500 people met in a large auditorium for worship, preaching, communion and anointing with oil. Glen Thompson, professor at the Jamaica Theological Seminary, brought a powerful message on the theme of healing. Many persons came forward to receive anointing by the pastors.

Sunday afternoon the congregation participated in spirited singing and heard Pastor Liston Aiken, Good Tidings Mennonite Church, preach on forgiveness. This message penetrated hearts and minds, challenging all to forgive as Christ has forgiven us.

Bro. Richie Tyson served six years as president of JMC; he and his wife, Verna, were recognized for their leadership during these years. Bro. Liston Aiken was elected president for a three-year term.

• Gloria Lehman  
Caribbean Regional Assistant

### Women convene *continued from page 3*

“Living Our Faith in Daily Life,” these two refreshing days were filled with group discussions, prayer, worship, fellowship over food and walks overlooking the sea. Each activity contributed to encouraging, discipling, and equipping women to serve God more effectively in their local settings. It was a time to renew old friendships and form new ones. It was a time of commitment to cultivate and express a vibrant, active faith, from which all fruitful ministry and service flow.

• Eva Eberly  
Bari, Italy

# Two VMBM events raise funds for ministries

## Hunt Family Fiddlers



The Hunt Family Fiddlers from Chesapeake, Va., performed to nearly 650 people on March 20.

An adventure bursting with energy and inspiration impacted almost 650 people as they sat back and, with rapt attention, enjoyed the Hunt Family Fiddlers on March 20 at the new Eastern Mennonite High School auditorium. This Christian family of nine engaged in fiddling, Irish dance, and

vocal pieces, all interspersed with personal comments about their family and ministry. This refreshing, top-quality family entertainment was enjoyed by young families and grandparents alike. Featured were “Riverdance” and Celtic favorites, blue grass fiddling, along with selections from “The Sound of Music.” Among their many performances in churches, weddings, and auditoriums over the last several years, this gifted family has opened for the Virginia Symphony and traveled as far as Scotland.

Sponsored by the Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, this concert helped to raise funds for NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center in Harrisonburg. Partially supported by VMBM, NewBridges helps to bridge the gap in understanding and learning and served 320 families last year. Even before the event took place, enough money was raised to cover all expenses. All told, more than \$3,700 was cleared. Thank you to everyone.

If you would like to find out where the Hunt Family Fiddlers will be performing through 2005

you may check their web site: [www.huntfamilyfiddlers.com](http://www.huntfamilyfiddlers.com). Plan now to attend next year's performance by this talented family on the afternoon of February 5, 2006 in the EMHS auditorium.

• Ed Bontrager

Director of Development and Church Relations

## Shenandoah Valley Men's Chorus

On Good Friday evening, March 25, the new auditorium at Eastern Mennonite High School resounded with the close harmonies of the Shenandoah Valley Men's Chorus. Ninety men from western and central Virginia and various churches, some other-than-Mennonite, joined their voices under Jay Hartzler's direction. Opening the program, the men sang hearty praise hymns, concluding that section with “How Can I Keep from Singing?”

The next section of songs recognized Passion Week and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ with “Shall I Crucify Him?” and “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name.”

The audience of approximately 600 people worshiped with the chorus as they sang. An offering of \$2,500 was received for the work of Phil and Marcia Lehman, church planters in Bari, Italy.

Mark your calendars now for the Shenandoah Valley Men's Chorus programs on March 25 & 26, 2006.

Thank you to Jacob Heatwole, Les Helmuth and Jay Hartzler for their organization of this event.

## Congregational Resource Center

Together, the Congregational Resource Center and EMS make available an opportunity to provide access and awareness of a spiritual direction ministry to Virginia Mennonite Conference.

Spiritual direction is one way to assist in soul care and companionship, offering one-on-one time between a spiritual director and person seeking discerning companionship. Spiritual directors, trained to listen and recognize God's presence in peoples lives, assist people in deepening their awareness and response to God's presence and encourage the integration of spiritual life, discipleship and service, releasing a person's gifts in the church and the world.

The ministry of spiritual direction is designed to support the ongoing spiritual formation of congregational life and ministry and is now being made available through the Congregational Resource Center at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Over the past 10 years

EMS has been providing training for persons who have embraced a call to provide the ministry of spiritual direction to the church. Persons available to offer spiritual direction will either have completed training or are presently in training at EMS and follow the guidelines required by the Mennonite Church USA Office of Congregational Life for Spiritual Directors.

If you sense a desire to experience spiritual direction or have any questions regarding this ministry resource, please feel free to contact the Congregational Resource Center or Kevin A. Clark, Spiritual Direction Coordinator, 540-423-4217, [clarkka@emu.edu](mailto:clarkka@emu.edu).

The Resource Center is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Jill Landis at 540-432-4219 or [crc@emu.edu](mailto:crc@emu.edu) to make arrangements for evening use. Visit our website at <http://www.emu.edu/seminary/crc/>



# May 2005 Prayer Calendar

## Sunday

**1** Pray for the today's graduates of Eastern Mennonite University. Ask that they may find their calling as they seek God's purpose for their lives.

**8** In April and May, Stuarts Draft Mennonite Church is hosting a four-week series on hospitality. Pray for Pastor Harold and Christine Wenger as they seek growth for their congregation.

**15** Pray for the Congregational Resource Center Advisory Board as they meet on Monday morning at Eastern Mennonite Seminary to encourage and advise Director Jill Landis.

**22** Central District is holding their Youth and Adult Mission Rally at Weavers Mennonite Church early this week, led by Wendell and Melanie Nofziger. Pray that persons will be called to missions and ministry.

**29** Phil and Marcia Lehman have responsibilities at the Centro Koinonia church today. Ask for God's Spirit to lead them as they lead others.

## Monday

**2** Margaret Keeler teaches women of all ages and family situations and makes Christ's teachings understandable and practical for them. Pray for her that Christ's strength will flow from her to the women who rely on her counsel.

**9** Dan and Mary Hess and family returned to the US after serving in Albania four years. They welcome your prayers as they adjust to life in the US and seek the Lord's direction for next steps.

**16** Galen and Gloria Lehman are leading a cross-cultural experience for nine students from Bluffton (OH) College in Trinidad this month. Pray that strong connections will be made with the church members and for nurtured spiritual growth.

**23** Jason Martin's friendly approach with neighbors and strangers opens doors for him to widely share God's love. Pray for Jason as he relates to a variety of people.

**30** Today is Memorial Day. Let's join in prayer for peace in the world and remember our responsibilities as citizens to promote peace in our country and communities.

## Tuesday

**3** Conference leaders from PA, NY, & VA meet for consultation on mission along the east coast tomorrow. Pray for the growth of God's kingdom from Boston to Richmond.

**10** Richard Keeler is finishing the semester of the Old Testament Survey class that he teaches at West Indies Theological College. Thank God for his faithfulness as a teacher and as an encourager for the students that he relates to at WITC.

**17** Pray for Executive Director Herb Lantz as he gives leadership to Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center as it holds its annual golf classic to raise funds for ministry to those seeking spiritual and physical refreshment tomorrow.

**24** Today Allen Umble leaves Lezhe, Albania after teaching English for seven years there. His ministry of friendship and Bible study will be greatly missed.

**31** Missionaries from the Mediterranean region are making travel plans for the missionary retreat next month. Pray that details will work out and anticipations will be realized.

## Wednesday

**4** Mennonite Women of Virginia gather tomorrow at Lindale Mennonite Church. Each year women gather from across the conference for prayer, worship and fellowship. Their annual offering raises support for VMBM missionaries' needs.

**11** Calvary, Norfolk and Warwick District pastors meet tomorrow in Hampton to discuss the progress of the 2020 Vision church planting initiative. Karl McKinney, church planting consultant with MMN, will provide input.

**18** The Harrisonburg District Council will meet tomorrow. Pray for chair Kathy Hochstedler as she guides their discussions. Ask that the decisions they reach together might be honoring to the Lord and advance His work.

**25** MCTT President Rawl Gunpath gives leadership to the four congregations on the small island of Trinidad. Pray for him and his wife Linda as they counsel individuals and churches toward deeper growth in discipleship.

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by **The family of deceased parents, Clayton and Edna Godshall.** The family honors their parents' commitment and example as church planters in eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Hickory, North Carolina. If you would like to sponsor the prayer calendar, please contact gloria.lehman@vmbm.org or call 800-707-5535

## Thursday

**5** Today is World Day of Prayer. Join with brothers and sisters around the world in praying for families, churches and governments that God's work in the world will move forward.

**12** Omar and Dolores Beller leave St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, today after serving at the Joyland Clinic for six years. Pray for safe travel as they return to their home in Stuarts Draft, Va., and for a smooth transition period for them.

**19** Hold to the throne of grace a new Christian from Centro Koinonia in Bari, Italy, as he begins his journey with Christ.

**26** Willard Eberly has many contacts with evangelical church leaders in Italy and beyond. Pray for insight and anointing for connecting with groups that are spreading the Good News.

## Friday

**6** Eastern Carolina District Council meets tomorrow. They will continue to discuss ways to strengthen outreach in the "Triangle" and "Triad" regions of NC, a rapidly growing area with many opportunities for witness.

**13** Pray for pastor Chaiya Hadtasunserm and his efforts to train leaders for the Hickory Hmong Mennonite Church in Hickory, NC.

**20** Pray for several pastoral search committees in congregations of Eastern Carolina District—for leaders who will be able to move the churches forward in effective witness and service.

**27** Thanks to God and our many supporters for the designated financial gifts that have come over the last months. Pray that the Lord will provide funding for administrative and USA ministries in these last months of our budget year.

## Saturday

**7** Today 20 people will leave on a 16-day Mission Fellowship Tour to Italy and Albania led by Ed and Edie Bontrager. Pray for them as they learn more about VMBM's work, and encourage the mission workers.

**14** VMBM Board members, both at-large and district appointees, meet today to review ministries and finances. Pray that they may follow God's direction as they make decisions.

**21** The Catholic world is grieving the passing of a beloved leader. May the recent thoughts of death lead people to find the Source of Life and Living.

**28** Pray for the graduation service of West Indies Theological College, Santa Cruz, Trinidad, being held today. This college provides theological education for the Mennonite leaders in Trinidad and students from the Caribbean region.

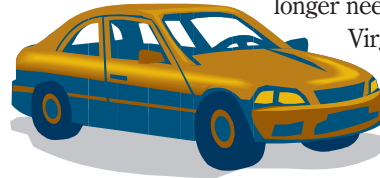
**"I am telling you the truth: whoever hears my words and believes in him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be judged, but has already passed from death to life." John 5:24 (TEV)**

## Announcements

The Jamaica Mennonite churches use a wide variety of hymnbooks for their worship services. Almost all were used books donated by churches here in Virginia and many were sent by Books Abroad. With some mending, those books have served well over the years, but many are now in poor condition.

**Books Abroad** has access to hymn books that the publisher has discontinued printing. The only cost for these hymnals is the \$2 each which is the postage for shipping. Jamaican leaders previewed these books at the annual conference, found them very suitable for their needs, and are eager to receive the 800-900 books they need. As they are new books, they will likely need to pay some customs duty to receive them. **Books Abroad** would like to make these books available to them, but we need your help with the postage. This would be a good summer project for Sunday School classes, Bible Schools, small groups, individuals or churches. Checks can be made to Books Abroad, and sent to 901 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg VA 22802. For more information call Melba Heatwole at (540) 828-2999 or Gloria Lehman at 434-9727.

**Virginia Mennonite Conference** is now accepting donated cars. If you have a used car or truck that you no longer need, why not give it to Virginia Mennonite Conference? VMC will go through the hassle of selling it and you will receive



a tax deductible receipt for the full selling price. It's a great way to recycle an underused car while supporting the ministries of the Conference.

Contact Steve Carpenter at (800) 707-5535 or (540) 434-9727 or [steve.carpenter@vmconf.org](mailto:steve.carpenter@vmconf.org).

You are invited to **First Mennonite Church**, Richmond, on Sunday June 5th at 1:30 p.m. when their new worship, fellowship and educational facility will be dedicated. The new church building is located at 601 East Parham Road, just 3/10ths of a mile off Interstate 95 at exit 83A. For further information contact the church at (804) 264-3200.

## 2005 Penny Power



**Collect coins for Penny Power!**

This year's projects will help children from Italy to Bolivia, with VMBM and MCC.

Churches: Pick up a blue water jug from the Va. Mennonite Conference Center and place it prominently in your church.

Help us raise \$16,000!

## Sent! Across the Street

Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly

July 28-30, 2005  
Richmond, Va.

Pick up a registration form from your church or go to [www.vmconf.org](http://www.vmconf.org) to register online.

Workshops, worship sessions, speakers, delegate sessions, Bible studies, youth activities, and more!

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