

Peace Jam shows youth an alternative to violence

By **JASON GERLACH**

Conference Youth Minister

Photos by Grant Rissler and Steve Carpenter

On Saturday, September 8th, the first-ever Peace Jam took place in Newport News, Va.; Peace Jam 2007 was sponsored by Virginia Mennonite Conference and the LEAP program (Learning, Exploring, and Participating) of Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Nearly 100 youth, sponsors, presenters, and recruiters from Mennonite mission and peace agencies gathered at the Yoder Barn Theatre.

Those in attendance were blessed by a



Goshen, Indiana on what is considered the opening tour for the band, Fletcher, to lead worship and conclude the evening in a concert.

Hip-hop artist, Cruz Cordero, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, challenged those in attendance to recognize that the Christian faith is not a culture; rather it is a way of life that impacts everything around it. Through hip-hop music,

Virginia Mennonite Conference's former Interim Youth Minister, Sarah Bixler, commented that, "It was invigorating to hear from Mennonites representing many different walks of



Glen Guyton

life. They showed us how following Christ in peacemaking is both relevant and essential in all situations. From urban to rural, local to cross-cultural, and corporate to personal settings, Christ's message of peace applies. I believe all the youth heard something specific that they can take to heart and apply in their own personal situations."

Sarah continued, "As a youth minister, I was reminded that youth culture is not some evil power that needs to be avoided. It can be effectively used as a medium for communicating Christ's message. Who ever imagined that Mennonites could preach peace through rap, hip hop and rock music? At Peace Jam, they did just that, and it was immensely inspiring."



variety of talented musicians. Two groups from Calvary Community Church presented their musical talents. During the first session, a female vocal trio named Vision sang three songs; and PROOF, a rap duo, provided special music for the second session.

Nelson Groom, Zane Shenk, and Dalton Snead from Warwick River Mennonite Church formed a band just prior to the Peace Jam event, and were not only warmly welcomed to the stage but highly appreciated as they brought much energy to classic praise songs. Former members of the band Thirstborne made up the final musical act to appear at Peace Jam. Jeremy and Erin Kempf, Kyle Baker, and Neil Richer traveled from



Cruz proclaimed the love of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Glen Guyton spoke about striving for peace in all situations. Referring to Jesus' calmness amidst the storm on the Sea of Galilee, Glen called for Mennonites to preserve peace in all disputes and live a life directed by peace.



Joe Mininger: "a quiet giant"

Joe and Eleanor Mininger had begun their family in 1958 in eastern Pennsylvania, and were very busy with a masonry business, when they were drawn to a very different life in West Virginia. Dr. Samuel Bucher was married to Joe's sister, Margaret, and had begun the medical work in Harmon. The Buchers invited the Miningers to come and do maintenance for the clinic.

So began a sojourn of 49 years in the mountains of West Virginia that now includes Joe's burial on the edge of the Mountain Farm Retreat—the Central District venture which Joe and Eleanor tended for many years. Joe died on August 30, 2007 at the age of 83. A grain miller, bus



Joe and Eleanor Mininger



Owen Burkholder
Conference Minister

driver, farmer, mason, and pastor, were the venues for connecting to the communities.

Joe's parish ministry began long before he was credentialed as a pastor. Their youth ministry connected small groups of young people over several ridges and valleys. This ministry extended beyond the Mennonite congregations.

The ecumenical aspects of the Mininger ministry included an annual community revival service that rotated among the various churches rather than each congregation doing its own thing. A son-in-law now sees

Joe as the "abbot" for the ecumenical community.

Joe's life of integrity, deep spirituality, and respect for persons gives us an example of "incarnational" faith. All eight of Joe and Eleanor's children are believers and committed to their various congregations. One of the sons recalls putting his ear to the door, when the ministers of the area were gathered in the Mininger front room, "to hear the prayers." Joe was known to pray aloud with the children on his school bus (an outrage these days), and it was received as a genuine extension of who he was.

The Miningers' love for the community they served meant they were never going to leave. So, arrangements were made with a small family cemetery on the edge of the farm where they lived and there Joe is buried. This unassuming, deeply spiritual, hospitable man built relationships that made faith attractive for hundreds. He turns out to be a quiet giant.

Owen Burkholder

3 VMC SALTERS serving in 07-08

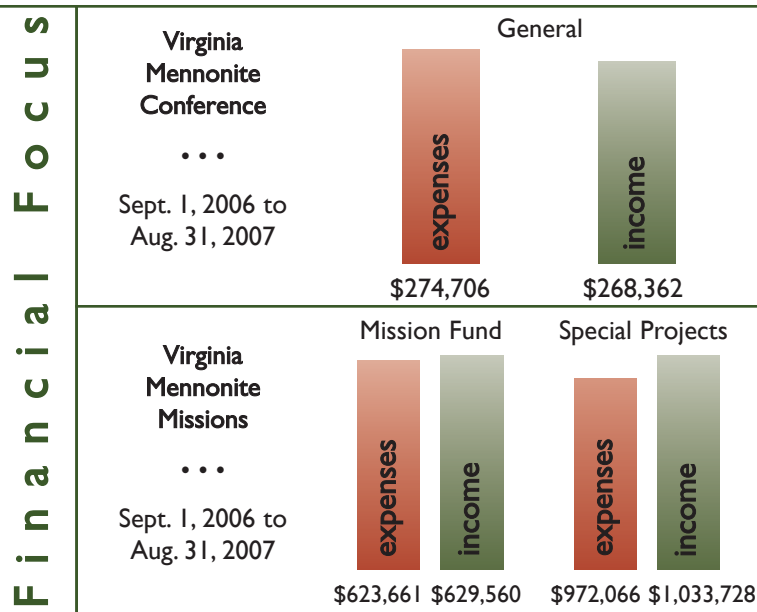
Dan Baker serves with MCC's SALT program as Co-Facilitator and Co-Administrator of a Club for Young Adults in Naucalpan, Mexico. He is a member of Zion Mennonite Church, York, Pa., and attends Zion Mennonite Church, Broadway, Va.



Hannah Miller serves as Education Assistant at the Buena Tierra Preschool in Cuernavaca, Mexico. She is a member of Lindale Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va, and attends Waynesboro Mennonite Church, Waynsboro, Va.



Aubrey Helmuth serves as Youth Orchestra and Choir Facilitator in Santiago de Chiquitos, Bolivia. She is a member of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, and attends Fellowship of Hope, Elkhart, Ind.



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CHOICES gives “the other side” of military enlistment

By DAVID POWELL

Since 1997, Dennis Boos has been involved in counter-recruitment efforts at a local High School in Raleigh. Dennis is the co-founder of the CHOICES program, which stands for Committee for High School Option and Information on Careers, Education and Self-Improvement.

At the beginning, Dennis worked at this through the previous Jubilee Peace Center of the Raleigh Mennonite

Church, and in concert with a local organization called Raleigh Peace Action. Through this program, volunteers like Dennis have set up a table during lunch periods 6-8 times per year where students pass and read brochures asking such questions as, “Do you know enough to enlist?” The goal has been to distribute information giving the other side that is not told by the military recruiters—exposing the reality of being in the military,

the truth about education and personal benefits received, and the reality of war.

Options to military service are also provided. Being personally at the tables allows for conversations with young people who may have not wrestled yet with what it really means to be a soldier. Students are sometimes surprised to hear that there are alternatives such as the Peace Corps, Job Corps, AmeriCorps, and other service organizations.

Through this program, a student contest has been held to design a peace-oriented book cover, and peace-related books have also been donated to a number of local high schools. Dennis serves as the Congregational Peace Advocate for Raleigh Mennonite Church. At the July Virginia Conference Assembly, he was awarded a Peace Mug in recognition of his work.

PROMESA in Peru: strengthening the cord of school ministry

By RON SHULTZ

Ron and Regina Shultz, and their children Hannah, Jeremiah, and Bethany, are serving the church and working at the school in Cusco, through EMM. Initiated by the vision of the Mennonite Church in Cusco, Peru, PROMESA is a Christian bilingual school. Regina's home congregation is Powhatan (Va.) Mennonite Church.

When Maria* began first grade at PROMESA (the Spanish word for promise, also an acronym for *Programa Menonita de Educación en Sabiduría y Amor* (Mennonite program of education in wisdom and love), she wasn't even able to write her name. There were concerns about the possibility of learning disabilities and how she might “survive” in a bilingual



school. We prayed for wisdom and decided that we would do our part, and then see how God would bring about changes in her life.

She began the school year as a very quiet little girl. Maria is the youngest of four children raised by a single mother. In search of work, Maria's mother has traveled to the jungle area on the

backs of produce trucks—desperate to bring a meager income back to her family. As months went by, Maria's steady progress amazed us. The affirmation that she received enabled her to spread her newfound wings. At the end of the school year, Maria was reading and writing not only in Spanish, but in English as well.

Maria is one of twenty students at PROMESA who receives a quality Christian education because of the sponsorship program. Her mother is able to afford little more than the cost of the public bus that brings Maria from her small town to the school each day. With the dedicated support of her sponsor family and the loving commitment of the teachers and staff, Maria's future is much brighter than just a year ago. We continue to work at strengthening the three-fold cord that provides the safety net that our students need: the school, the family, and the church, working together to minister holistically to our students.

*Name is changed. This is adapted from an article printed in *Missionary Messenger*, February 2007, by permission.

Photo courtesy of Angela Kline

MKs make unique contribution

By WILLARD and EVA EBERLY
VMM Mediterranean Regional Directors

Three MKs returned this summer to serve among the Italian churches. All of them spent a significant period of their growing up years fully immersed in the culture—studying in the Italian school system and actively involved in churches founded by their missionary parents. All of them would probably say that their identity has a definite Italian component that makes them feel right at home. Language and cross-cultural skills enable them to communicate with ease and quickly find their way into the lives of the people, making immediate impact.

Maurita Eberly (daughter of Willard and Eva) served two months this summer as a “music missionary” in three different locations in Italy. She comments, “It’s amazing how easy it is to fit back into this culture and to call it ‘home.’ I can flow naturally with things from day one. It was also gratifying this summer to build on what I’d taught on previous assignments.”

Eric Blosser (son of Floyd and Janet) and Shawn Green (son of Tim and Karen) spent nearly two weeks in Italy. Along with their wives, Crystal and Laura, their assignment was organizing children’s activities at the “Young Adult Vacation/Retreat” in Calabria, Italy. A special part of being in Italy was introducing their wives to people and places where they grew up.



Shawn and Laura Green (l) and Eric and Crystal Blosser (r) with kids at the retreat.

Photo by Willard Eberly

Retreat in Italy exceeds expectations

By WILLARD and EVA EBERLY
VMM Mediterranean Regional Directors

“This retreat was a taste of heaven!” How thrilling to hear this enthusiastic response. For several years we’d dreamed, prayed and planned for a week-long event for young adults and families of the Italian Mennonite Church. We envisioned a time to draw apart to focus on what is truly important and listen to God’s voice.* God brought it to reality August 20-26, in Calabria (the “toe” of Italy), the halfway point between Palermo and Bari. A small hotel in a mountain village overlooking the sea hosted us.

The theme, “In Step With God’s Design,” was woven through morning devotions and the afternoon worship, presentations, and discussion groups. Mornings were free for sightseeing and recreation. Much joyful fellowship happened over 3-course Italian meals. Conversation, sharing and ministering to each other typically lasted late into the night.

Other comments by those attending:

- “I was afraid to participate because of a physical problem I struggle with (what would I do if I needed a doctor and none was available!) But I’ve felt wonderful here. I feel refreshed!”
- “At this retreat an enormous wound inside me began to heal. God used several persons who’ve passed through the same sorrow to minister deeply to me. After three years of struggle, I’m

experiencing God’s peace and fullness and am ready to serve Him once again with my life.”

- “This is the first vacation my wife and I ever had! It’s been a marvelous, unforgettable experience enjoying this time with other believers!”
- “At first we refused the invitation, thinking that we were too busy and financially stressed. But at the last minute another room became available in the hotel. God gave us another chance to enjoy this time of spiritual and physical rest that we desperately needed.”
- A new believer said, “I’ve never experienced anything like this before. Thank you!”

**One of the Eberlys’ assignments in Italy is providing opportunities for spiritual and leadership formation in a variety of settings. Gifts to VM Missions helped to make this event possible for some with financial need, as well as fund input speakers.*



Shawn Green (back) joins Franco and Ina Arena in leading worship at the retreat in Italy.
Photo by Willard Eberly.

A summer “vacation” spent in service

USA: Counselor, NM Team

By GAYL BRUNK

It was that time of year again; time to plan for our family summer vacation. As usual, the focus started out with each of us asking the questions “where do I want to go? What do I want to do?” As the list of self-absorbed options began to grow, Ken and I struggled with our own feelings of wanting to do something meaningful, something beyond ourselves, something that would have a lasting effect on our two daughters, and be a tangible way to show that life is not always about us.

We have had the goal of doing a family service trip at some point focusing on Native American people. We decided this was the year to fulfill this goal. We contacted VMM and told them our ideal was to live among Native Americans and be involved in some form of service that engaged the whole family. VMM connected us with Christ For All Nations in Counselor, New Mexico, where we would work with a

Brianna Brunk and a Navajo friend in New Mexico.



Navajo Church to do a Vacation Bible School and assist in other church-related activities. This seemed like the perfect fit—Ken and I could help with the teaching of VBS and the girls could be directly involved.

It turns out this was a great experience for our family. We spent eight days in New Mexico. We had the privilege of living among the Navajo people and working with them. The girls were part of the VBS and assisted in teaching crafts and games. The greatest joys for our family were the ability to be immersed in a different culture, have the girls be actively involved, and work alongside the Navajo people in sharing the gospel of Jesus. The experiences we had have affected us all in different ways and some that I’m sure we have yet to see.



(above) Members of the team from Trissels Mennonite Church that served in Nashville, Tenn.

Becoming servants for the poor

USA: Nashville, TN Team

By MARGARET RICHARDS

The Senior High Youth of Trissels Mennonite Church had the wonderful opportunity to go on a week-long mission trip. This group, consisting of four leaders, nine youth, and baby Jordan, went through Partners in Mission to The Center for Student Missions site in Nashville, Tennessee. The group came away with new understandings of different cultures, the homeless, those battling drug addictions and a number of other topics. Through a number of projects, the group experienced moments that will forever be cherished. Each event contributed to an overall grand experience.

Each morning was spent studying the Bible, reflecting upon past experiences and preparing for upcoming

events. Before lunch, the group helped at Family Affair Ministries, a day camp. Each person was assigned to an age

group and assisted the teachers in serving breakfast to the kids and helping to oversee small projects.

Everyday after lunch, the sites varied. The group worked in a warehouse packing boxes for Feed the Children, an organization that distributes emergency pack-

ages during times of disaster. Driving around for the Prayer Tour, the group was introduced to different sections of Nashville and prayed over each section of the city. At the Halfway House, where male drug addicts resided after jail, the group helped clean up the remains of a kitchen fire and listened to testimonies. The group connected with the homeless through Urban Exposure and Operation Hydration by handing out lunches and water. At the Campus for Human Development, the group heard testimonies from men who had made drastic changes to their daily abusive, addictive behavior. At The Next Door ministry site, an organization that helps women move back into society after jail, the group cleaned rooms that would soon house women. After these sites, the group was usually hungry, and various ethnic restaurants satisfied the appetites and gave each a taste of a different culture.

Since there was a lot going on in just a week’s time, each evening the group bonded during debriefing. Some shared personal experiences and how projects changed their perspective. Through different activities, such as foot washing, the group was able to refocus on the theme of being a servant.

The mission week was a wonderful experience for the group, both for the leaders and youth. Everyone learned to be flexible and to be a servant. Each event contributed to a wonderful missions week.

Pleasant View, Inc. offers Specialized Day Support

By **MATT RING**
Day Program Instructor

Specialized Day Support (SDS) at Pleasant View Inc. began May of 2006 to assist Josh Hoover in preparing for the "real world" and working towards holding a job on his own. This program was developed because the traditional school curriculum and settings were not working for him. Josh is the only person that this program serves at this time. However, we would love to further develop this program and add more clients to it in the near future.

The SDS program is part of transitional programming through Rockingham County Schools under the direction of Kendel St. John. This program is funded by the school system and has been uniquely individualized for Josh. He will learn skills he will need to prepare him for employment when he graduates. Another goal for Josh is independence. We would like him to become as independent as possible through the wide variety of day support



Josh loves woodworking. He and Matt had a great time making a hat rack.

services offered through the SDS program.

I recently started working with Josh as Day Program Instructor. Josh and I work Monday through Friday from 9-3 or 9-2 for 27 hours a week, depending on the day.

Everyday, Josh works on different programs towards fulfilling his Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals. On Mondays, Josh and I assist with the community Soup Kitchen in Harrisonburg. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Josh and I cook lunch for the staff

at the Harrisonburg Day Support Services building, where my office is located.

On Wednesdays, Josh and I complete his transit program. This program is necessary for Josh because with it, he will learn to get around Harrisonburg on the bus—in case he ever needs to use the bus system. Recently on Fridays, Josh and I have started traveling to Pleasant View's main office in Broadway. We help out at the Broadway Day Program with woodcrafts. Josh loves wood-

working and was thrilled with the idea of helping his peers.

Josh and I constructed a hat rack for his room. It was our first project together and it turned out okay but we had a blast working on it together. Josh also loves animals and chose to volunteer at the SPCA on days when we have extra time in our schedule or when he requests that we work there since we want him to be able to make some decisions on his own and be as independent as possible.

I have learned a lot from Josh through my position as Day Program Instructor. I couldn't ask for a better job!

Josh is only one of our many success stories at Pleasant View. We welcome the opportunity to share them with you. If you would like any more information, feel free to contact Matt Ring or Peggy Secrist at the Harrisonburg Day Support Services (540) 437-9259. For general information about Pleasant View, Inc. visit us at www.pleasantviewinc.org

Congregational Resource Center

LOOKING AHEAD FOR FALL PROGRAMMING

New items are arriving at the Congregational Resource Center each week. Among them are: "Body Talk: Speaking the Words of Health" by Ingrid Friesen Moser - This is the 4th book in the Living Stewardship Series by MMA. The 12-chapter book is designed for group study, as activities and questions are included.

"Health, Healing and Wholeness: Engaging Congregations in the Ministries of Health" by Mary Chase-Ziolek - Build your congregation's capacity to be a healthy body of Christ! Helpful

appendices include a congregational assessment guide and a litany of health and healing.

"A Night in Bethlehem: Family Christmas Event" - by Group Publishing - This event planning kit includes everything you need to help an intergenerational mix experience a hands-on Holy Land experience, followed by a family devotional book to take home and use.

"The Spirituality of Art" by Lois Huey-Heck and Jim Kalnin - Assist the "visual people" in your group

to worship in their own language. Arrange worship centers and choose church artwork with depth and soul, not just with matching colors!

Visit us in person or via the online catalog to see what else is new. www.emu.edu/seminary/crc and "Search the Catalog" or visit Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Room 110.

Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon-Fri
Linda Alley, CRC Director, 540.432.4219

OCTOBER 2007

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

7 Richard and Margaret Keeler are ministering today in the Gospel Lighthouse Mennonite Church in Trinidad. Thank God for giving them insight and compassion for this group of committed believers.

Monday

1 Invite God's presence as Conference Minister Owen Burkholder preaches in renewal meetings today through Wednesday at Mt. View (VA) Mennonite Church where Earl Monroe is pastor.

Tuesday

2 The Mennonite Foundation's biennial planned giving conference "Managing Gifts to Honor God" takes place in Lancaster, Pa., this week. Pray for those who will attend.

Wednesday

3 Greenmonite Mennonite Church, Stuarts Draft, is building an addition that will double the size of their present structure. Pray for this congregation as they continue to reach their community for Christ.

Thursday

4 Thank God that Aaron, Laura and Abby Kauffman have welcomed baby Anna into their family. Pray for them as they continue working with school and church events in La Mesa, Colombia.

Friday

5 The MCC Relief Sale happens this weekend at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Va. Pray that God may bless the efforts of the many volunteers who have labored to make this event a success.

Saturday

6 Pray for Rawl Gunpath, pastor of Hope Mennonite Church, Trinidad, as he nurtures the growing congregation and oversees the church building project.

7 Richard and Margaret Keeler are ministering today in the Gospel Lighthouse Mennonite Church in Trinidad. Thank God for giving them insight and compassion for this group of committed believers.

8 On this Columbus Day, pray for Mennonite pastor Steve Ceramic Risingsun and others who are seeking an apology from the US government for the injustices suffered by Native Americans.

9 Emily Huffman is preparing for her *TravelSend* assignment at a Bible school in Rome, Italy. She studies Italian and participates in activities with other students. Praise God that prayers for her visa last month were answered!

10 Today Mennonite missions agencies meet EMU students and invite them to hear God's calling through the doors that these agencies open. May God direct both the agency representatives and the students in these conversations.

11 Last month, Clyde Kratz and Mary Nisley visited Steve and Betsy Dintaman in Lithuania. Thank God for the Dintamans' commitment to serve as professor and librarian at Lithuania Christian College.

12 The Missions Endowment distribution committee meets this month to consider grant requests from many ministries in and beyond VMC. Pray for wisdom as they seek to advance God's kingdom.

13 Patrick Weaver, *TravelSend* participant in Costa Rica, continues to be challenged by the work he is doing with Pura Vida. Ask for God to abundantly guide and bless him today.

14 Pray for Centro Koinonia and the missionaries as they seek God's will together for expanding their ministries and outreach in Bari, Italy—a city known for few believers' churches.

15 Pray for VMC Moderator Beryl Jantzi and others meeting with the MC USA Constituency Leaders Council in Colorado today through Wednesday. Invite discerning grace as leaders consult together.

16 Several congregations are undergoing pastoral transitions including Community and Immanuel Mennonite Churches. Pray for these pastors and lay leaders as they find a way forward.

17 Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance at the annual AEP meeting in Montenegro, where more than 60 mission agencies work together for reaching Albania for Christ. EMM and VMMissions are participants.

18 Willard and Eva Eberly arrived in Virginia yesterday for "home leave" from Italy. Ask God to bless this time of exchange with mission staff, family and churches.

19 There is renewed interest in our conference in new church development and in witness that extends God's kingdom. Pray congregations and individuals will hear God's call.

20 Pray for David Brubaker as he leads a strategic planning process with Virginia Mennonite Missions this fall and winter. A re-focused vision is needed in a rapidly changing mission world.

21 Ed Bontrager, USA Ministries Director is preaching at the Stephens City Korean Community Church. Pray for him and for James and Sharon Rhee, as they relate to a growing Korean population.

22 Paul Kratz meets with the leadership teams in the Mennonite congregations in Trinidad for support and encouragement. Thank God for Paul's love of both Christ and those who are in the body of Christ.

23 Anita Rhodes, *TravelSend* participant, is working at Nazareth Village. Pray that the tourists that come to the village will see Anita's love for Christ.

24 Pray for Chris and Melody Riddle as they are settling in Bari, Italy, learning more Italian and communicating more with their neighbors. May the Spirit guide their answers to probing questions about being a follower of Christ.

25 Crystal Lehman is enjoying school at the Black Forest Academy in Germany. Pray that she will learn a lot in both the classes and in the interaction with teachers and students.

26 Pray for an EMS event tonight and tomorrow planned by VMMissions and John Coffman Center. "Leading a Changing Church in a Changing World" will include intergenerational input and conversations.

27 Pray today for our brothers and sisters in places of conflict. May God's presence give them peace and strength in difficult circumstances.

28 Nancy Marshall, Orange Walk, Belize, drives 3 hours to pick up youth and adults for Jesus' Deaf Church. Pray for God's protection on this travel, and for good participation in the church service.

29 Pray for Ardi Shahini as he begins his *TravelSend* assignment in Palermo, Sicily among the Mennonite churches, in youth ministry and teaching English.

30 Commit a Bible verse to memory and thank God for His word. Seek ways of sharing the Bible with someone you interact with today.

31 Remember someone today who has impacted your life. Celebrate their life and extend to others your own positive influence upon their lives.

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:



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Announcements

VMC seeks a **Regional Conference Youth Minister** for eastern Virginia. This salaried half-time job includes benefits. Responsibilities: encouraging youth pastors and sponsors and providing programming for regional and conference-wide events for Middle School and Senior High youth. Recent experience in congregational youth ministry is required and candidates must live in, or relocate to Richmond/Hampton. Send resume and completed Personnel Record Form to VMC, 901 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Va. 22802 attention Steve Carpenter by Oct 15. Position description and PRF are available from Laura Campbell at laura.campbell@vmmissions.org

"Women of Worth—WOW!" is the topic for the Mennonite Women of Virginia's annual retreat November 9-11 at Holiday Inn Koger South Hotel in Richmond. Angie Williams is the speaker for this dynamic event. Watch for registration information in church mailboxes this summer. Plan to join women in your congregation and from all around Virginia Mennonite Conference for worship and fellowship.

"Let the Women Sing!" A Journey of Faith Through Music concert will be performed Saturday, November 17, at 7 p.m., at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, Bridgewater, Va. An offering will be taken during the concert for Blue Ridge Ministries, Inc.

You're invited to join the conversation between young adults, pastors, and other church leaders at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Friday, October 27, 7:30-9 p.m., and Saturday, October 28, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Martin Chapel. "Leading a Changing Church in a Changing World" will evaluate tradition and the impact of emerging churches and what is to come.

The trip of a lifetime! Enjoy a trip next spring that will make the Bible come alive in a new and exciting way. Dave and Joyce Eshleman invite you to join them and others from the local area on a trip to Israel & Jordan, April 1-14, 2008. A visit to Nazareth Village is included. For a brochure with all the details, email DEshleman1@comcast.net or call (540) 434-0844.

Mission Fellowship Tour to Trinidad
April 29-May 7, 2008
Experience the charming culture of Trinidad as you meet our Virginia Mennonite missionaries and national leaders. Discover the fascinating flora and fauna of the Asa Wright Nature Center, the Caroni Swamp Bird Sanctuary, Turtle Beach, and Botanic Gardens. Make a stop at all of our six churches, and worship at one of them on Sunday. For more information, contact Ed Bontrager at ed.bontrager@vmmissions.org or call (540) 434-9727.

"The Adolescent and the Family," a conference at the Eastern Mennonite Seminary, will be held Friday, October 12, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Speakers are Michael and Kathy Kerr, frequent speakers on understanding family processes and problems. To register, visit www.shenfamilysystems.org

sixth annual Festival of Praise

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Featuring 10 singing groups and a mass choir directed by Jay Hartzler

For more info • 540-434-9727
info@vmmissions.org

Hmong Meal

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Fellowship Hall

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A conference of
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