

Middle School Retreat: a marker for growth

By JASON GERLACH

Although the annual Virginia Mennonite Conference Middle School Retreat lasts only twenty-four hours, it has significant impact upon the lives of middle school age youth groups (JYF) and sponsors. “Coming [to the Retreat] has really helped me to grow and examine my relationship with Christ,” one youth commented through an evaluation. Another youth mentioned, “I loved the weekend. Thank you. I can’t wait till next year.”

Middle School youth from Virginia Mennonite Conference spent the last weekend of September at Smith Mountain Lake on retreat. Luke Hartman, the speaker, invited those in attendance to picture their lives as an “amazing race” in which youth and sponsors are relentlessly pursuing who God made them to be. Focusing on Hebrews 12:1-2, Philippians 3:12-14, and passages from Matthew’s gospel, Luke suggested that the “cloud of witnesses” which surround persons on their life-journeys is profound. For all persons the question remains: is that “cloud of witnesses” supportive or detrimental as we “press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ



Middle School youth enjoy the retreat. Photos courtesy of Nadia Ramsey.

Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). Luke shared dynamic stories from his childhood, as well as explored various types of nuclear and church families. The appreciation for Luke’s sessions was evident throughout the retreat but was recorded in comments like the following, “Luke was absolutely fantastic! So engaging and spoke right to my heart.” There was much appreciation about the relevance and practicality of Luke’s challenges which stirred a lot of discussion during the scheduled small group times and in post-retreat conversations. In addition to Hartman’s input, youth joined together to worship, to participate in a large group game of Capture the Flag, and choose from a variety of outdoor activities including a climbing wall, canoeing/kayaking,

miniature golf, and basketball amidst drizzling rain.

For youth who attended the retreat for the first time, and for those who have returned, the retreat serves as a marker; it is an anticipated event to begin the year, and it helps connect youth from across Virginia Mennonite Conference with

one another. A sponsor commented, “I thought the retreat provided a great opportunity for middle school students to get a sense of being part of a larger church body.” The annual retreat once again brought many church middle school groups together, invited those in attendance to engage with a gifted speaker, and assess how together we can support one another in this amazing race—all in twenty-four hours.



Heaven is four people ahead



Loren Horst
President of VMM

I recently attended four funerals. I'm not a professional mourner, just a person who deems lives worth remembering—especially the lives of

saints whose paths crossed mine.

June Ramer of the Chestnut Ridge congregation in Ohio was my parents' generation and a founding member of that congregation 55 years ago. She raised her children, served the Lord and the church, and functioned as the affectionate reigning matriarch of a family scattered in many places. June had one of the last conversations with my mother before my mother died and she always had a warm word for Earlene and me when we visited my home church. June has lived. She was loved. She has now joined her husband John in the more immediate presence of the Lord.

More tragic in terms of age and stark abruptness was the sudden departure of Lowell Ulrich through a farm accident west of Harrisonburg. Lowell was my college classmate and remained a friend through the years. That, in itself was no real distinction. He awarded that status

to so many that the crowd had trouble getting into the relatively large Weavers Mennonite Church. Memories multiplied as people shared and I found out what I observed before—the death of a saint can be a tremendous encouragement to those left behind.

I first met Galina Mazur at Lindale Mennonite Church 16 years ago, a relatively new immigrant from Ukraine. I learned much more in the years that followed. It became apparent that in our midst lived a product of the fearful history of persecution against Christians in the former Soviet Union, but also an awesome testimony of God's amazing grace. I'm not sure she ever shared that story herself personally. It was told to me by family. Galina survived the extended imprisonment of her husband, faced being uprooted in her old age to an entirely new country, and lived her final years as faithful to the God she had served and surrounded by family she loved.

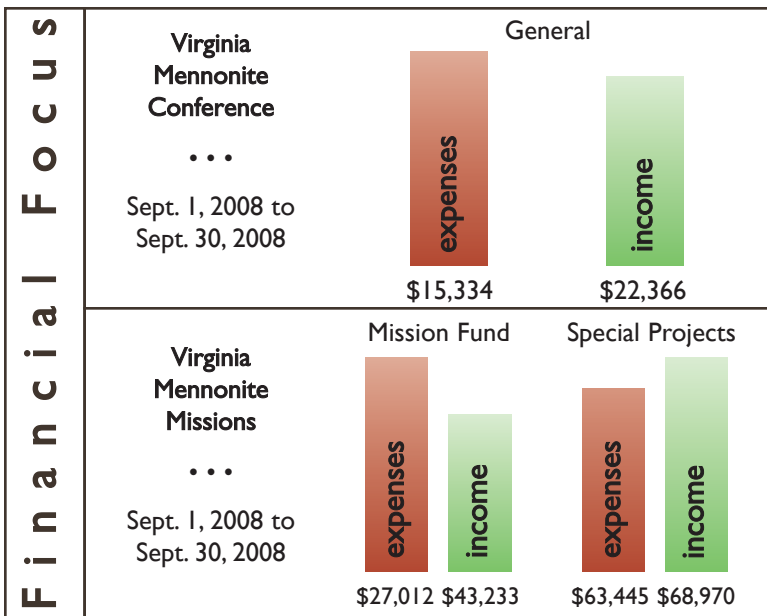
Arlene Eshleman was half of "Harold and Arlene Eshleman." She never seemed to lead the discussions, leaving that to her church leader/school teacher husband. She rarely, however, failed to join in the conversation at some point. Arlene and Harold were the ones who called Earlene and me into our first pastoral assignment in the DC area and then faithfully encouraged and supported us through 9 years, and more. At 98, she

had apparently "encouraged and supported" enough and found her way Home.

Four saints! I was privileged to be a small part of their lives. They were a much larger part of mine. The Christian community moves on, but we are four people short. Heaven is four people ahead!

Loren Horst

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Can we talk?

A Muslim/Christian Dialogue

By **TERESA AESCHLIMAN**
Peace Advocate of Asheville Mennonite Church, NC

If what happened at Asheville Mennonite Church on September 20 is any indication, it looks a lot like people listening to each other; it looks like strangers becoming friends.

It looks like 70 people from diverse journeys coming together to learn from each other, to find they are not alone in their desire to set fear and hate aside and to engage with their neighbors, in spite of differences.

“Can We Talk? A Muslim/Christian Dialogue” was the first event sponsored by Asheville Peace Builders, a group initiated by City View Quaker Church, Asheville and a small group from Asheville Mennonite Church.

Those gathered represented many religious traditions, including Mennonite, Quaker, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist, Jewish, Muslim, Baha’i, Hindu, Buddhist, atheist and others.

The dialogue was led by Pat Hostetter Martin, recently retired director of the Summer Peacebuilding Institute at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. She was joined by three Muslim panelists, all graduates or current students in the masters program in conflict transformation at the university’s Center for Peace and Justice.

“If religion is not a part of the solution, it will be part of the problem,” Martin said, quoting Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. “We need to lessen our fears, create space to talk together and build friendships and understanding.”

At the dialogue, building understanding centered on learning about Islam.

Fatemah Darabi, of Tehran, Iran, explained “Islam” means “peace.” She explained the origins and make up of the Quran, along with the five pillars of the faith from the Shi’a perspective.

Islam encompasses prophets from Adam, through Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad. Many Christians do not realize that stories of Jesus are included in the Quran, Darabi said. Chapter 19 in the Quran is about Mariam (Mary) and tells of Jesus, his birth and



his miracles. “Many Christians don’t know anything about Islam. But Muslims have basic, good and positive ideas about Christians and their beliefs,” she said. “In the Islamic world there is great respect and love for Jesus, his mother and Christians.”

Hamida Hudda, of India, explained there are many sects in Islam, just like there are many denominations in Christianity. The diversity that exists within Christianity is mirrored in Islam. Both religions have extremist groups that foster fear and hate among peoples.

While researching his presentation, Islam and Nonviolence, Hamid Arsalan, of Afghanistan, said he was dismayed at the lack of academic

research in the West on the positive, nonviolent aspects of Islam. He found only 4-5 books on nonviolence in Islam. “There were tons on Islam and violence.”

Arsalan believes there is a lack of academic research about Islam partly because it may serve to derail the foreign policy objectives of certain countries in the West. It is politically beneficial for some governments to keep people divided and fearful. He noted selective reporting by the press and media as contributing to fear among mainstream Muslims of sharing their faith.

Arsalan suggests islamfortoday.com as a good web site to learn about Islam.

Mountain View Mennonite Church shows support and enthusiasm for Penny Power

By **NAOMI BROOKS**
Mt. View Mennonite Church, Lyndhurst, Va.

Our congregation began filling the Penny Power jug right after the 2007 Va. Relief Sale. The jug is brought into the sanctuary each Sunday and the children walk to the front and drop in the coins they have collected from their parents or another person sitting near them. By spring 2008, the jug was placed on a wagon to be brought in because it was too heavy to carry. In early summer, the first jug was full, and a second jug was used.

The children thoroughly enjoy being a part of worship each Sunday. *Editor’s note: The Mt. View (Va.) congregation raised \$1,344. The total funds are approximately \$31,595 for the 2008 Penny Power projects.*



Penny Power funds will be divided equally between MCC and Virginia Mennonite Missions (VMM). MCC’s portion will be used to help MCC community workers promote peace projects. VMM will use its portion to support church planting and community efforts in underserved neighborhoods of Harrisonburg and Graham, N.C. See your congregational total at www.vmmissions.org

Thrice saved to serve God

By EVA EBERLY

VMM Mediterranean Regional Assistant

"We're sorry, but nothing can be done to correct this congenital birth defect. Your son's life will no doubt be brief," the doctors in Palermo, Sicily, told Dario's mother at his birth. She refused to accept this hopeless prognosis and began searching desperately for a specialist who could solve his problem. Meanwhile the Palermo Mennonite Church began praying. God gave a twofold answer: Dario's mother found a capable surgeon in Bologna, Italy, who promised to help Dario and later committed her life to Jesus!

Thus began a long series of trips to Bologna, a 20-hour train trip from Palermo, to undergo many tedious surgical procedures. But hope grew stronger each time. Arriving at the airport on one of their final trips home when Dario was 12 years old, they found their flight already full. With great disappointment, they waited for a much later flight! At home that night they discovered the shocking news that the plane they'd so

wanted to take, had crashed and no passengers had survived! This, another dramatic evidence of God's care, left a profound impression on Dario. Early in his teens he accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord.

In high school Dario met Francesca, an attractive, vibrant girl who soon became more than a friend. She sensed he was different from other students and was drawn to his kind, sincere ways. He soon began sharing his faith with her. Eventually she began attending church with him. As their relationship grew, Dario's prayers intensified for Francesca. Recognizing the importance of marrying a believer, he cried out to God one night, "If Francesca doesn't choose to follow You and become one with me spiritually, I'm willing to break this relationship!" The following week, completely unaware of his prayer, Francesca felt deeply convicted of her spiritual need and in the quietness of her bedroom invited Jesus into her life!



Francesca and Dario. Photo courtesy of Willard Eberly.

Since marriage, they serve God and the church with unusual commitment. Dario has a passion to teach God's Word to children. He says, "As a child my life was greatly impacted by Biblical teaching in the Sunday School program. Now I want to pass it on to others." They are both involved in the worship team at Centro Agape and Dario is chair of "Sfida," the missions commission of the Italian Mennonite Church. They've served on three mission teams to Centro Koinonia in Bari to assist in an outreach to children called "Settimana Felice," where they are greatly appreciated.



Youth gather for a picture at the Italian retreat. Photo courtesy of Willard Eberly.

By EVA EBERLY

VMM Mediterranean Regional Assistant

"What struck me from the very first moment of this retreat was the strong sense of God's love that united us! You could breathe it in the air. I observed how the brothers and sisters cared for each other and enjoyed each others' company. This week I understood what it means to be "family in Christ" and enjoyed it thoroughly, realizing that's what I've been missing!"

Italian retreat like a family reunion

What this young adult shared, expresses the sentiment of many participants at the second annual vacation/retreat for Italian Mennonites, August 24-30. Other comments:

"During these days God recharged my 'battery'; the very purpose for which I came!"

"The love I felt here drew me to the Lord. I've dedicated my life to Him," says a middle-aged man who grew up in Sunday school but only now responds.

"The joyful singing during afternoon worship was heavenly!"

One teenager says, *"The best part of this week was the testimony evening when we shared stories of what God has done in our lives!"* It lasted until 1 a.m.

"This retreat gave me just what I needed—spiritual rest! The Bible studies reminded me that we can rejoice even in the difficulties of life," shares a young

adult who is the only believer in her family.

"I saw light shining from the faces of my brothers and sisters and felt their love—clear evidence of the Spirit's presence," a first-time participant says.

Through the years VMM missionaries faithfully taught and attempted to model church as "family" (Eph.2:19). Since traditionally, family is highly valued in the Italian culture, this concept of the church feels at home in their hearts, giving Mennonites a unique identity amidst the believers' church movement in Italy.

What we experienced at that vacation center in the shadow of the active volcano, Mt. Etna (Sicily), went far beyond the organized activities of recreation, eating together, Bible teaching, and discussion groups. By the Spirit of God we celebrated loving relationships in Christ. It was truly like a family reunion!

Follow the path

Partners in Mission 2009 short-term service opportunities



Albania

Evangelism, July

Belize

Work and evangelism, TBA

Canada

Work and evangelism, Summer

China

Teaching English, July

Colombia (La Mesa)

Work team, Summer

Costa Rica

Serving with *Pura Vida*, Summer

Counselor, NM*

Serving with *Christ For All Nations*,
Summer

Dominican Republic

Work team, July

England

London Mennonite Centre, TBA

Ethiopia

Meserete Kristos College, TBA

Guatemala*

Work and service, June/July

Haiti

Work and evangelism, TBA

Honduras

Work team, Summer

Italy

Youth work, July

Jamaica

Work team/VBS, Summer

Montenegro

Sports ministry/evangelism, Summer

Nashville, TN

Inner city ministry, Summer

New Orleans, LA

Work team, TBA

New York City, NY

Inner city ministry, Summer

Nicaragua

Work team, March/Summer

Palestine/Israel (Nazareth)

Work team, May
Teaching English, July

Philadelphia, PA

Inner city ministry, Summer

Philippines

Work and evangelism, Summer

Puerto Rico*

Work team, July

Thailand

Work and evangelism, Summer

Trinidad

Construction, TBA
Teaching Bible School, July

Ukraine

Teaching English, June/July



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*excellent location for families

Ground broken for new Gift & Thrift facility

By DEB KING

Gift & Thrift, Inc.

Photos courtesy of Deb King

Excitement was in the air on Tuesday morning, August 26. Nearly one hundred people gathered as supporters of Gift & Thrift held its groundbreaking ceremony for a new facility which will be built on the southwest corner of the 5.5 acre lot. Mennonite Central Committee Executive Director Ruth Clemens, Mayor Rodney Eagle and Chamber of Commerce President Keith May were among the special guests who spoke at the ceremony. Dorothy Kreider and Marjorie Guengerich were present and recognized as two of the first managers of Gift & Thrift. Board Chair Allon Lefever gave an overview of the project and introduced the various parties who will be leasing space from Gift & Thrift.

The new facility will house several new offices and businesses: Artisans' Hope, will be expanded and will move from its present location in the existing building. Artisans' Hope is a partner store with Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade organization that was recently named one of the world's most ethical businesses by Forbes magazine and Ethisphere Institute. A Bowl of Good Café, owned and operated by Katrina Didot and Rachael Dorsey will feature



healthy, hearty food with an international zing. This will be a quick-casual café offering breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as take-home meals and catering options. Mennonite Central Committee will open an information center where the community can access educational materials as well as meet with a representative to explore the possibility of service with MCC. Mennonite Mutual Aid will be providing one-stop financial services for its customers, with the sharing of office space with Mutual Aid Exchange, and banking services provided by its alliance with the Mennonite Financial Federal Credit Union. A community conference room will be available to be rented by the public, and can seat

thirty people with the possibility of catering by A Bowl of Good Café. In addition, the new facility will provide office space for current Gift & Thrift operations.

Our main objective in building this new facility stems from our desire to make better use of our campus to fulfill our mission. The vacated space in the current building will create additional retail and processing space for the ever-expanding programs of A World of Good Thrift Shop and Booksavers of Virginia.

We are excited to offer these new organizations and activities to our campus, and hope to collaborate with them in offering broader services to Harrisonburg and nearby communities.

Congregational Resource Center

The Congregational Resource Center has ADVENT and CHRISTMAS resources! You'll find...

...26 copies of "The Christmas Promise", a Christmas program in 3 Suites for S.A.T.B. voices, 2 Narrators, Congregation and optional Children's Choir

...a kit for a family Christmas event called "A Night in Bethlehem: A Hands-on Holy Land Experience"

..."From Humbug to Hallelujah" Pastor's Manual for a biblical series with key illustrations from "A Christmas Carol"

...music CDs including "Christmas Around the World"

...14 drama resources, including "Christmas On Stage: An Anthology of Royalty-Free Christmas Plays for All Ages"

...17 programming resources, including "Simply Wonderful: Five Children's Sermons and Activity Pages for Advent & Christmas"

...20 worship resource books & collections, including "Celebration Services for Christmas" by William Null

...Christmas movies including "The Legend of the Three Trees"

...Children's books such as "The ADVENTure of Christmas," a guide to holiday traditions

...Sermon & worship service preparation magazines including "Leader" and "Homiletics"

...and a helpful resource center director to make suggestions for your specific focus.

Make the Congregational Resource Center at Eastern Mennonite Seminary your first stop in planning for Advent and Christmas 2008!

Open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 540.432.4219 or go to the online catalog at www.emu.edu/seminary/crc to browse.

Your contributions through Virginia Mennonite Conference enable this center to operate. Take advantage of it!

NOVEMBER 2008

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

30 Today The Early Church in Harrisonburg will meet for the first time on Sunday morning. This is a significant step for this group. Thank God for the members' commitment to being church in the community.

Monday

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by
Dan Smucker
in loving memory of his wife, Frances,
who served along with him in various outreach locations through the years.

Tuesday

3 Pray for Pablo Fernando in Charlotte, NC, VM's most recently commissioned church planter. With an already established core group, it is his aim to start an English-speaking Mennonite congregation in this rapidly growing city.

Wednesday

4 Tonight, Calvin Shenk teaches "How Shall They Hear?" in the *Perspectives* class in Harrisonburg. Thank God for his breadth of knowledge and ask God to speak clearly to the students through his teaching.

Thursday

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."
Proverbs 19:20-21

5 EMM workers, Leon Zimmerman's oldest children, Hannah and Caleb, travel from Lezhe to Tirana, Albania to attend high school. Pray God's guidance and protection over them.

Friday

6 Pearly Mast is volunteering at the Maranatha School for the Deaf, Jamaica, for 3 months. She assists with tasks at the school and demonstrates Christ's love to the students and staff. Pray that she will have strength for each day.

Saturday

1 Tomorrow, the annual Festival of Praise will be held at the EMHS auditorium at 4:00 p.m. Enjoy the harmony of men's singing voices and contribute to hurricane disaster relief in Haiti and other areas of the Caribbean.

7 VM Missions Board and committees meet this weekend. They chart the vision and consider financial concerns in addition to supporting workers on the field. Pray for God to lead them as they meet.

2 Pray for Italian Mennonites meeting for their annual conference this weekend that the Spirit will draw them together in warm fellowship and unity.

8 Lift up Steve and Laura Campbell, *Traveler* participants, in prayer as they study the Serbian language. May they soon begin communicating with the new friends they are making in Montenegro.

9 This morning, Lindale MC is holding a special prayer focus for the ministry of Michael & Ruth Hershey, going to South Asia to witness. Thank God for this concentrated prayer and ask that He will act mightily.

10 Pray for Pastor Rawl and Linda Guppath and daughter Sydney in their church leadership roles. May God meet their needs and encourage them as they reach out to persons who are seeking Christ.

11 Tonight, Dan Shaw from Fuller Seminary School of Intercultural Studies will teach "Building Bridges of Love" in the Harrisonburg Perspectives class. May all learn together the important lessons from this topic.

12 Klotilda Stojani and Lorisa Mallkazi, Albanian believers, serve cross-culturally with YWAM and Campus Crusade. Pray the Lord will anoint them for effective ministry in Jesus' name.

13 Allen Umble's prayer is that in Lushnje, Albania, a city of 50,000 he will help others to take steps closer to God and to heaven. Allen is assisting with church leadership and discipleship formation.

14 Tomorrow evening a Celebration of Ministry will be held to honor the legacy of Jacob and Lucy Shenk who served Va. Conference in various ways. Thank God for the influence they had in and outside of the church.

15 Seminary interns at The Table, Harrisonburg, are extending our ministries in prayer, hospitality and meditation with scriptures. One participant speaks for the group, seeking to know the reality of God in our lives.

16 Recently, Art Smoker led a leadership commissioning at the Hickory Hmong MC. Pray for the new leaders to see the vision that the Lord gives; that the church becomes self-supporting. Pray for 4 new families who attend.

17 Willard and Eva Eberly teach conversational English in their home in Bari, Italy, as a way to build "bridges" for sharing the Gospel. Pray God will bless their friendship with the students.

18 Tonight Craig Cole from Five Talents Int'l will teach "Christian Community Development" in the *Perspectives* class in Harrisonburg. May students' minds and hearts be open to the great possibilities God is showing them.

19 Richard and Margaret Keeler visit families in the community around the Gospel Lighthouse MC in Sangre Grande, Trinidad. This is encouraging for everyone and opens conversation about Jesus and His plan of salvation.

20 Christopher Kennedy pastors the Joyland Mennonite Church in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. Ask for God to give him energy and insight for his pastoral role, and ask also that God will bless his family—Precious, Nikao, and Deja.

21 Paul Kratz asks us to pray for those in Trinidad & Tobago who have not come to know the only true God. David Ford, evangelist, ministered recently on both islands and the evangelical churches supported these services.

22 Tonight an ethnic meal is being served at the Lindale MC to support Michael & Ruth's ministry. They will be going to South Asia in January. If you have reserved your meal, plan to attend.

23 Shawn and Laura Green, *Traveler* participants, are developing the worship team at the church in Termini Imeresi, Italy. Pray that others will be blessed as they use their gifts of worship leading.

24 Ask God to help us remember the sermons we heard yesterday and to put into practice what He is calling us to do.

25 Tonight Scott Buresh, Towson Univ., teaches "The Spontaneous Multiplication of Churches" in the *Perspectives* class in Harrisonburg. Dynamic input and discussion will flow—pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint each part.

26 Pray for Phil Lehman as he trains others to assist in worship and music at Centro Koinonia, Bari, Italy. The goal is that the believers may become true worshippers!

27 Lord of all, to you we raise our hymn of grateful praise—for the beauty of the earth and sky, for the joy of human love, for the church that lifts holy hands. Amen.

28 It's Friday, and Girls' Bible study is held in Nancy Marshall's home in Orange Walk, Belize. Nancy's influence in these young deaf women's lives is important. Pray for all that they will experience spiritual growth.

29 Tomorrow the first Sunday of Advent encourages us to ponder the coming of Jesus into this world in human form. We can also consider ways of honoring him without the usual consumerism all around us.

Announcements

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center's **Quilting Retreat** is planned for Nov. 14-16. Instructor Lorraine Moody will conduct workshops; quilters may also bring their own projects. Start quilting on Thursday for an additional fee. Registration deadline is November 10. Details available at www.wcrc.info or call toll-free (866) 566-9272.



You are invited to Virginia Mennonite Conference's **Celebration of Ministry banquet**

honoring the legacy of the late Jacob A. and Lucy B. (Wenger) Shenk. Their ministry accomplishments will be highlighted in this special evening of remembrance and reflection through word and song on Saturday, November 15, at Eastern Mennonite High School dining hall in Harrisonburg, Va., at 6 p.m. To RSVP, contact Diane Bowman at (540) 434-9727 or diane.bowman@vmconf.org

Middle East Travel Opportunity! Registration is now open for "Places, People, & Prayers: 2009," a Middle East study tour to be offered in conjunction with Eastern Mennonite Seminary (with or without seminary credit) from April 30-May 23, 2009. This tour is a rich offering of opportunities to see the biblical sights (Places), to speak with Palestinians and Israelis about the world they live in (People), and to worship together as a group and with

local Christians and Jews (Prayers). Tour co-leaders are Dr. Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New Testament, EMS, and Rev. Kevin A. Clark, Seminary Campus Pastor, EMS. "Places, People, & Prayers: 2009" is open to all interested persons on a first-come, first-served basis (maximum group size, including tour leaders, will be 26). If interested, please contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at (540) 432-4276 or at weaverdj@emu.edu at the very earliest for further information and to reserve your spot.

Donate your car: If you have a used car or truck that runs and you no longer need it, please consider donating 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. If you prefer, you may designate up to 50% of the vehicle's net selling price to another charity, e.g. Virginia Mennonite Missions or your local congregation. Call Steve Carpenter toll free at 1-800-707-5535 or (540) 434-9727 or e-mail Steve.Carpenter@vmconf.org Act now to get a charitable deduction for 2008.

Give your books and financial gifts to Books Abroad

Shipping costs have gone up, but when you consider the value of Christian literature in countries where it is either non-existent or very expensive, is it too much for us to pay the postage on books of great value to them? Sending money is not the answer, but money for postage will send them donated books.

Consider a Christmas or winter project for you, your family, Sunday school class, or group of classes so that others have opportunity to read and learn. Send your gift to Books Abroad, 901 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Call (540) 828-2999 for info.

Pearly Mast has begun a three-month service assignment at the Maranatha School for the Deaf, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. She



assists with the care of the young students and the boarding students. Pearly's home congregation is Greenwood (De.) Mennonite Church.



Reach out in love to a child who needs your support!

- Children ages 3-5 in the Joshua Centre in Albania
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