

Celebrating the Muria Javanese Mennonite story

By LAWRENCE M. YODER
Park View Mennonite Church

May 26, 2010, was a red letter day. On that day Pustaka Muria publishers of Semarang, Indonesia, delivered the first 750 copies to the GITJ Synod office in Pati, Indonesia, of *Tata Injil di Bumi Muria, Sejarah Gereja Injili di Tanah Jawa--GITJ* (the history of the Javanese Mennonite Church) which Sigit Heru Sukoco and I have been working on for many years.

The image on the cover shows how Jepara and the Muria Mountain appeared to someone entering the harbor as Dutch Mennonite missionaries Pieter and Wilhemina Jansz first did 158 years ago.

Forty years ago last month Shirlee and I first set our feet on Javanese soil. We were assigned to teach in Wiyata Wacana Theological College in Pati, with an addi-

tional mandate slipped into our pocket by MCC administrators to do whatever we could to bring about the researching and writing of the history of this, the oldest Mennonite church outside Europe and North America. I had no idea that this assignment would take 40 years, but that is another story.

To get the first copy of this book into my hands that day was a moving experience, one that I will not quickly forget. On May 29 the book was “launched” during the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the forming of the Javanese Mennonite Church Synod (*Simode Gereja Injili di Tanah Jawa*). This day-long celebration took place in Kelet, the very place where the synod was formed back on May 29, 1940, 86 years after the first baptisms occurred and the first congregation was formed in Jepara in 1854. Though the first chair and vice chair of the new synod were missionaries, organizing the synod was the first concrete step toward the self-governing of these churches. It had been occasioned by the arrest of the other two Mennonite missionaries (from Germany) by the Netherlands Indies government in response to German forces invading the Netherlands.

Drawing together 500 representatives from the 103 congregations in the synod, the celebration began with a worship service featuring a 90-voice choir from the Kedungpenjalin Church, the second oldest congregation in the synod. It was my honor to preach the message for this service drawing inspiration from Psalm 126.

Next, co-author Sigit Heru Sukoco and I led a “*bedah buku*” moderated by associate executive secretary of the synod, Zefanya Adi Walujo, in which we exchanged stories about our experiences of researching and writing the book.

The third major feature of the celebration was a Wayang Shadow Play performance by two puppeteers, accompanied by a twenty-piece gamelan orchestra and several singers. The first puppeteer, drawing from the repertoire of classical wayang stories which are full of conflict, introduced scenes where characters debate ways of resolving their conflicts peacefully instead of through warfare that only leads to further conflict. The second puppeteer, a Mennonite pastor, drew stories from our book, dramatizing them using a variation of classical wayang puppets. In this dramatization they used “Duh Pangeran,” which is “O Prince of Peace,” number 15 in the *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, originally written by pastor Saptajaadi, which I translated into English for use by the Mennonite World Conference. Saptajaadi and I joined the wayang singers to sing this song in Javanese and English.

Tata Injil di Bumi Muria is in the Indonesian language. I am currently preparing an English version of this book which will hopefully go to press before the end of the year. This English version,

Zefanya Adi Walujo and co-authors
Sigit Heru Sukoco and Lawrence
Yoder.

Photos courtesy of the author



Engaging in Eastern Carolina



Owen Burkholder
Conference Minister

What a warm welcome (101° on Friday) we were given to Raleigh, N.C., for our annual Conference Assembly, June 24-26! Home of multiple institutions of higher learning, the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill region has been blessed with capable leaders. They engaged our request to host VMC assembly in a remarkable way. From helping shape the theme, “Jesus: God’s Love Made Flesh,” to leading in exuberant worship, to the creation of a beautiful banner, our sisters and brothers from Eastern Carolina District served us well.

As stories of God’s love unfolded, the themes of deliverance from addictions, ministry with homeless, and ministry with immigrants, were given voice.

From the Hickory area in the west came two stories of young men who were cared for by their families and congregation through the devastation of their addictions to becoming transformed leaders in their homes and striking witnesses to their former drinking buddies. One of these was a descendant of the Davis fami-

ly who first responded to ‘Pop’ Godshall’s ministry initiated through a loudspeaker on top of his car. *Jesus: present to every generation.*

From Rocky Mt. in the east came witness to transformation through the ministry of Bethesda House, a structured environment for women needing the longer term re-learning of self-esteem and practices that enable reconciliation with family, or, establishment of new relationships in the family of God. *Jesus: faithful, healing presence.*

During the delegate session (of all things) we were introduced to Hugh Hollowell from a ministry he calls, “Love Wins.” A successful accountant, Hugh gave up one life (his mother says Jesus ruined his life) to share deeply with the homeless in the Raleigh area. He emphasized the Incarnation—Jesus being with us—as the model for our living with others. *Jesus: Incarnate.*

In a Saturday morning workshop, Sang Jin Choi, from Washington, DC, explored the concept of Jesus as ‘homeless’ and shared several ways of relating including providing legal services so people can get access to assistance that will fundamentally change their circumstances. *Jesus: homeless.*

During Thursday evening’s rich, full service, we heard a marvelous account from the Raleigh congregation where

attorney Ann Robertson has been working with persons who need help navigating the immigration system. We were introduced to a young African man whom Ann had helped and whose ‘naturalization’ was celebrated by the whole congregation. Ann also shared the agony of having to say to some that their cases were likely never to be successfully negotiated and they would have to leave. *Jesus: welcoming the stranger.*

The emphasis on ministry with homeless and immigrants was blended poignantly in the sermon Isaac Villegas preached on Friday where he noted that one of his homeless friends had been killed, and their attempts to wash the feet of ‘undocumented’ in the process of being deported were thwarted. *Jesus: God’s love made flesh.*

Finally, we had a conversation with noted theologian Stanley Hauerwas from nearby Duke Divinity School. While I’m not sure I understood all he was saying, his confession of need for the sacraments left me with the impression that he deeply affirms the life and ministry of pastors in congregational settings. *Jesus: mediator, access to God.*

Financial Focus	Virginia Mennonite Conference Sept. 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010	Data is not available due to a change in accounting software and personnel.																	
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Mission Fund</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Special Projects</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Virginia Mennonite Missions</td> <td style="text-align: center;">contributions & income</td> <td style="text-align: center;">contributions & income</td> <td style="text-align: center;">expenses</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">...</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Sept. 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$298,496</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$949,130</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$826,997</td> </tr> </table>		Mission Fund	Special Projects		Virginia Mennonite Missions	contributions & income	contributions & income	expenses	...				Sept. 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010	\$298,496	\$949,130	\$826,997	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">expenses</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$461,302</td> </tr> </table>	expenses
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A crazed calling

By **NICHOLAS DETWEILER-STODDARD**

Gerald Shenk has made a habit of pursuing Jesus and drawing others along, leading students and congregations after Jesus. At VMC's Assembly in June, the annual peace mug was awarded to Shenk in recognition of his many years studying, teaching, and living out the whole gospel in our conference and beyond. Most recently, Shenk's work took shape as director of **Abraham's Tent**, building bridges of relationship and understanding in the midst of ethnic and religious tensions within our own communities. But his encounters with deep religious conflict stretch back to his decades in the volatile former Yugoslavia. The following story, recounted in greater detail as "Crazy Like Jesus" in *Hope Indeed: Remarkable Stories of Peacemakers*, is illustrative of Shenk's commitment to Christ's "crazy" way.

In 1991, as Serbia and Croatia hurtled toward civil war, Gerald Shenk received a call from a former seminary student saying he was the keynote speaker for a

church forum on Jesus and war taking place that very weekend. Two years earlier this same Serbian student had announced that, because of Shenk's biblical teaching, he had become a pacifist. He had also stated the impossibility for him to directly teach pacifism in his pastorate but would "just preach and teach the New Testament and let people figure it out for themselves." At the time, though, the pastor had conceded that there would come a point when Jesus' non-violence would have to be stated outright. Now, on the brink of war, he was calling Shenk to do just that.

Crossing the lines of tanks, Shenk arrived at a packed congregation. Beginning with a balanced historical treatment of Christian responses to war he was soon interrupted by a youth named Lazar, "This is all interesting, but I'm about to be drafted. What would you actually do in my place?" Shenk answered that he would refuse to serve, but noted that it would be easier for him because his faith community—and the laws of his country—would support his decision. It would be much

harder for Lazar. After mulling over the dilemma, Lazar decided he would try to be a good soldier and a good Christian.

Yet over the next few years, Shenk kept hearing snippets about Lazar. One day Lazar's unit commander ordered him into a tank to attack a Croatian border city. He refused simply and calmly, "Jesus won't let me kill." The enraged commander even threatened his life, but again Lazar responded calmly, "I know you may kill me, but then I'll be with Jesus."

The commander was dumbstruck, marching off in exasperation, "Get this crazy guy out of here!" Lazar was given tests and eventually returned as a non-combatant, but his conscientious stand gained the respect of his unit, even leading some to follow Jesus. With earlier words from Gerald Shenk and ongoing support from his congregation, Lazar took bold and crazy witness in a time of unhinged ethnic and religious warfare.

Javanese church continued from cover

which will probably bear the title *The Way of the Gospel in the World of Java* will make this history accessible to Dutch, German, Swiss, and Russian Mennonite readers whose forebears sent most of the early Mennonite missionaries to Indonesia up to World War II. It will, of course, also make it accessible to US and Canadian readers who have served in Indonesia under MCC or who have friends or family members who have supported and participated in the development of these churches.



Saptajaadi and Lawrence singing "Duh Pangeran" (O Prince of Peace)

REGISTER NOW

Join the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement class in Harrisonburg! Registration details at www.perspectives.org/harrisonburg

Contact Phillip Rhodes with questions at philip.rhodes@vmmissions.org

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement
Tuesdays, August 31 - December 7, 2010
7:00 - 9:45 pm
Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Box 123
Harrisonburg, Va.



Why Mennonites gather (or should)

Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly

July 24-26 at North Carolina State University, Raleigh

By **DIANE BOWMAN**
Conference Staff Assistant and Receptionist

Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love, a beautiful banner was created by Susie Hershberger to fit with the theme **“Jesus: God’s Love Made Flesh,”** the fourth and final theme in a series, **“Centered in Christ.”**



(above) **Brenda North Martin** opened the worship service with lighting the lamp, representing Christ.

(below) **The Durham Mennonite Church Worship Team** led worship Thursday evening.



Photos by:
Steve Carpenter
Galen Lehman
Gloria Lehman

Over the past three years that I have served in the role of staff assistant for Virginia Mennonite Conference, I have sometimes reflected that VMC Mennonites are a peculiar people. I thought this when two van-loads of Harrisonburg folks gathered at 6 a.m. one icy morning in 2008 to travel to Washington, D.C., spending their Saturday at a “winter delegate session.” I think this when I witness numerous commission and committee members regularly attending meetings that require significant commitments of time and travel, to do work for which they are not paid. I thought it again when I saw the energy and commitment of those willing to brave complicated logistics, dorm room lodging, and long walks in 100-degree heat to host and attend Assembly 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Much of my work involves managing logistics to enable people from around VMC to gather. Why do we do such things? Why do we go to the trouble to gather with each other in these various places and settings? Why do we lament when we notice that attendance is perhaps lower than in the past? Why is gathering together so important? I’m sure you will have your own reflections to add to my ponderings here:



Peace Advocates gathered during lunch to share stories and ideas of peacemaking in Conference churches.

We gather because we are the church, and by definition the church is a gathered body of believers. We as Mennonites understand deeply that a group of individuals separately relating to God cannot be the church. We gather because we are a community, and that is what communities do.

We gather because we care about the church and its future. On that winter Saturday in 2008, VMC delegates assisted Virginia Mennonite Missions with strategic planning for the future. They listened with concern as Conrad Kanagy shared a statistical analysis of what our church’s future might look like. (This conversation continued with energetic response in two subsequent Assembly workshops.) They engaged in conversation with denominational leaders about how to care for the future healthcare needs of our pastors (through the Corinthian Plan).

We gather because we are different and we need each other’s different-ness. Just as a single congregation made of unique individuals is only healthy when different gifts are shared and various voices heard, so the larger church is made of diverse congregations and districts who bring gifts, stories, insights, and perspectives that we need. At Assembly 2010, hosted for the first time by the small congregations of the Eastern Carolina District, we were blessed with a unique experience that could be found nowhere else. We heard stories and voices we might have missed if we did not gather there. We engaged in conversations, sometimes



Owen Burkholder, Conference Minister (center), prays with **Beryl Jantzi**, outgoing Moderator, and **Shirley Yoder Brubaker**, incoming Moderator.



Ed Bontrager and **Owen Burkholder** listen to **Peter Eberly** share his vision for church planting during the delegate session.

challenging, with others different from ourselves.

We gather because in our different-ness, we are united around one center, Jesus Christ our Lord. We gather to worship. Even in our “business” meetings, our songs and prayers testify to the One who is, ultimately, the reason we gather.

In Hebrews 10:25, the writer offers an admonition and another reason to gather: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” May we never forget our habit of gathering together, not only with our own congregations, but with the larger church community as well.



Jennifer Davis Sensenig led the Bible Study on Friday.



(above) **Peter Dula** interviewed Stanley Hauenwas during a plenary session on Friday.

(below) **Children’s activities** led by **Tami Nice**, of Outlet 10.27, and assisted by **Mary and Joe Johnston** and **Abeba Merga** included Jamaican stories by **Linda Campbell**, delegate from Jamaica Mennonite Church.



From Raleigh Mennonite Church, **Erin North Martin, Rosene and David Rohrer**, and **Julie Burress** led worship music on Friday evening.

During Friday worship, **Communion** was shared, led by **Spencer Bradford**, Durham Mennonite Church.



(right) **Joanna Marshall** led the workshop on “**What in the world is God doing?**” on Saturday morning.



Plan to attend the Relief Sale

By **KIRSTEN PARMER**
Relief Sale Publicity Committee

The 2010 Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, held October 1 and 2 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds kicks off Friday evening with a by-donation bbq beef dinner, music from local groups and the first portion of the live and silent auctions featuring handmade quilts, wall hangings, artwork, woodcraft and other items.

The auction continues into Saturday's events along with some new and exciting options. The first annual 5K Race for Relief will be held Saturday morning and is open to runners, joggers and walkers. T-shirts are given to those who register by September 18. Sporting clays, children's activities, and a farmers' market are sure to be a big draw.

Homemade glazed donuts, Brunswick stew, barbecued chicken halves, homemade potato chips, apple butter, pies and bread top the list of sought-after goodies at the sale. And of course there will

be the traditional pancake and cooked-to-order omelets at breakfast as well as the turkey tenderloin lunch all on Saturday. Applebutter boiling will be held prior to the sale on September 11 and 18 at Friendship Park in Stuarts Drafts.

The tech-savvy will be pleased to find a redesigned website, official facebook and Twitter pages, and e-newsletters are now available. Go to www.vareliefsale.com

The annual sale raises money for Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) work around the world. The Penny Power project—where coins are collected and brought to the sale—will benefit both MCC's Global Family Program and Virginia Mennonite Missions' projects in Italy and Albania.

Other special projects include assembling MCC School Kits and responding to local need by providing funds to Roberta Webb Childcare Center in Harrisonburg, Va.

Mennowood celebrates 25 years

By **MARION SHACKFORD**
Mennowood Retirement Community

Mennowood Retirement Community opened in 1985 on 12 ½ wooded acres on Warwick Boulevard in Newport News, Virginia with 24 one-bedroom Independent Living apartments. The three-story Assisted Living building was completed in 1997 and contains 71 suites. Each of our apartments and suites has a private bath. We offer Dementia and Alzheimer's care in a safe, secured environment: "Comfort Cove". We offer respite care for those who may be recuperating after a medical procedure or whose caregivers are away.

At Mennowood, our philosophy of care is as significant as its practical aspects. Staff members here realize the preservation of human dignity is as important as the maintenance of good health. We strive to maximize our residents' abilities and level of independence.

Our challenges are those that are faced by all retirement communities seeking to

provide residents with the best possible care in this economy. Prospective residents, especially those whose financial plans include the sale of a home to help fund their stay in a retirement community, are putting off the transition to a retirement community hoping to see home values rise again.

Although the current economy is a challenge, we continue to provide residents with the care and environment that is our mission. We seek ways to lower our expenses in ways that are transparent to our residents. With the entrance into the market of the baby boomer generation, we must gain insight and understanding of what the demands and expectations of that generation will be and how we can best meet those needs. In 2010, Mennowood Retirement Community will embark on its first market research and feasibility study and strategic planning initiative in order to position us for the future.

Congregational Resource Center

NEW ADDITIONS

Several congregations have donated directly to the CRC and a new fiscal year began July 1, so there is budget for new resources!

Purchases so far include:

Seek Peace and Pursue It: Women, Faith and Family Care by Elizabeth Soto Albrecht (13 group lessons)

Intimacy With God: An Introduction to Centering Prayer by Thomas Keating

Creative Aging: Rethinking Retirement and Non-Retirement in a Changing World by Margory Zoet Bankson

Green Church: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rejoice! by Rebeckah Simon-Peter

Retreats for Renewal: 5 models for intergenerational weekends by Nancy Ferguson

Training Staff to be Spiritual Leaders: Activities and Resources for Christian Camps by Nancy Ferguson

Journey to the Heart: Centering Prayer for Children by Frank X. Jelenek

These resources will be catalogued soon. Come to the CRC at Eastern Mennonite Seminary to borrow these and many other excellent titles. We're open 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment at other times.

Linda Alley, Director, CRC

Email: crc@emu.edu

Phone: 540.432.4219, 540.432.4698

www.emu.edu/seminary/crc

AUGUST 2010

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

1 USA Ministries Director, Ed Bontrager, preaches at Waynesboro Mennonite Church today. Remember to pray for our congregations that are finding new ways to reach out to their neighbors.

8 The six congregations of Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago gather today for worship and a fellowship meal. MCTT is growing! Praise God! And continue to pray for the churches' well-being.

15 Pray for the Centro Koinonia congregation in Bari, Italy, today. Chris Riddle has given guidance to the congregation through the summer. Pray for this growing group of believers.

22 PDavid & Shirley Yoder are on a short leave in Pa. and will return to their service in Trinidad soon. They are an encouragement to the church leaders and members there. Ask God to doubly bless them.

29 Thank God for Sunday school teachers in your congregation, and pray that God will give them a special portion of His insight and love for the children/youth/adults in their classes.

Monday

2 Thank God for the year of service that Richard, Barbara, Olivia and Roxy Gehring gave in Trinidad. They returned to Kansas last month. Their teaching, preaching and music ministry was mutually beneficial.

9 Norma Teles has returned to Lezhe, Albania, after several months of home leave in Brazil and a visit in Va. Thank God for her commitment to the children of Joshua Center, and pray for her daily strength.

16 Shirley Yoder Brubaker has been selected as VMC's next moderator. Pray for a smooth transition as she meets with the Executive Committee to prepare for her responsibilities beginning September 1.

23 Dino & Mara Colonna terminate their *translators* assignment this month in Bari, Italy where they were involved in many aspects of Centro Koinonia. Pray that they will find jobs as they return to their home in Turin.

30 Eastern Mennonite Seminary resumes classes tomorrow. Pray for those preparing for ministry at the seminary, that they may grow in faith and be capable leaders of God's people.

Tuesday

3 On Sunday, Valley View Mennonite Church, Criders, Va. as they celebrate their history along with sister churches in the Highland cluster of VMC's Northern District. Thank God for their presence in that community.

10 Youth camp for Jamaica Mennonite Church is held this week on the Maranatha School grounds. It's a great time for worship, sports and drama. May God bless the campers and leaders as they grow in Christ-like ways.

17 Allen Umble has returned to Lushnje, Albania, where he encourages new believers and witnesses for Christ. Give God thanks for his dedication to this small corner of the world where Christian witness is clearly needed.

24 Family seminar/vacation for Italian Mennonites is happening this week in Sicily. Pray the Spirit will be powerfully in their midst to touch, restore, and renew.

31 *Perspectives/Harrisonburg* opens this evening. Come to this first session free (!) and see for yourself how this course describes God's plans for the nations. The instructor is Vani Lancaster; the topic, *The Living God is a Missionary God.*

Wednesday

4 Join Nancy Marshall in thanking God for a successful VBS in Orange Walk, Belize, with assistance from the Moore family (Staunton, Va.) May the tiny seeds of truth that they planted grow into large plants of faith!

11 Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti who face continual suffering from the earthquake in January, a poor economy and difficult governmental policies. May God sustain them daily.

18 Pray for the 2010 class of *translators* who are making final preparations for their overseas service these weeks. May God help them with the details and prepare their hearts and minds for living in another culture.

25 Pray for Gianfranco Giuni, well-known Christian counselor and author, input speaker at the seminar/vacation, and especially for the un-churched persons participating in this special event.

Thursday

5 August is a time for family vacations. Pray for pastors and church leaders that they may return with renewed energy for God's work.

12 Please pray for Manantial de Vida's children's ministry. Pastor Juan Carlos Malvaez also requests prayer for immigration reform which can affect the lives of many people in Harrisonburg and other areas.

19 Thank God that the ministry among women in Bari, Italy, and surrounding towns has greatly increased due to Eva Eberly's untiring efforts. May the women grow in understanding and acceptance of the Word.

26 Several will gather tomorrow to evaluate VMC's assembly, held in Raleigh in June. They will consider ways to improve future gatherings. Pray for a willingness to move as the Spirit directs.

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by
Rosalie & Robert Eshleman
in loving memory of their son Lee Edward
whose birth day was August 28, 1963.

Friday

6 On Sunday, Zion Hill Mennonite Church celebrates its 85th anniversary. Pray for Lowell Haarer, pastor, and the congregation, that they may faithfully proclaim "the kingdom of God is here!"

13 In South Asia, Jacob & Hosanna ask us to pray for the boys in the youth group to grow in spiritual maturity and obedience to the Gospel.

20 Do you have a neighbor who has come from another country to live in the US? If so, you have the opportunity to show Christ's love to them. May God show you the best way to do that.

27 Rodney & Lindsey Nice are preparing for the new school term at Maranatha School for the Deaf, Jamaica. Ask God to give their family health and strength for each day.

Saturday

7 Donovan & Maxine Smith, delegates from Jamaica Mennonite Church are attending the Annual General Meeting of the Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago today. Thank God for this connection between the islands.

14 Pray for the worship/music team at New Song Anabaptist Fellowship in north Harrisonburg led by Diane Marin, wife of Pastor Basil, as they lead the congregation into the presence of God each Sunday morning.

21 Pray for VMC Coordinator Steve Carpenter as he leads a Sunday school discussion at Park View Mennonite Church tomorrow on the film *Silent Light* which portrays a Mennonite colony in Mexico.

28 Richard Keeler asks us to keep praying for spiritual development of young believers in Trinidad, that they will love Jesus, hunger and thirst for righteousness, and become increasingly like Jesus.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."
Matthew 5:5-7 (NIV)



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 Virginia Mennonite Conference
 901 Parkwood Drive
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Announcements

As the celebration of Virginia Mennonite Conference's 175th anniversary continues, **Valley View Mennonite Church**, in Criders, Va., will host a celebration of the history of the four churches in the Highland Cluster of VMC's Northern District, on Sunday, August 1, 2-4 p.m. There will be displays from each congregation (Big Spring, Crest Hill, Valley View and Zion) and light refreshments will be served.

Vesper services continue each evening in August in the amphitheater at the CrossRoads Heritage Center, beginning at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair. In case of rain, meet in the nearby Whitmer School. For details, see www.vbmhc.org or call (540) 438-1275.



Regional celebrations of **Virginia Mennonite Conference's 175th anniversary** continue with two events in September.

- On Sunday, September 12, there will be a hymn sing at the historical **Hildebrand Mennonite Church** building from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- On Sunday, September 26, beginning at 6 p.m., **Springdale Mennonite Church** will host an ice cream social with a display of historical items, followed by a video presentation of Springdale's history at 7 p.m. These events are free and all are invited to attend.

You are invited to attend a **fundraising event** for **David Shenk, who will be serving in Quito, Ecuador**, for two years through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions' *transEnd* program Saturday, September 4, at Community Mennonite

Church in Harrisonburg, 5 to 6:30 p.m. This event will include Joe Yoder's Barbeque Chicken, Ecuadorian food and guests, music by David, and a silent auction.

All are invited to a **fundraising meal** for **Phil, Terry, Destin and Nathan Witmer**, September 18 at Weavers Mennonite Church Shady Oak, at 6 p.m., featuring Colombian dishes. Donations will support their ministry in La Mesa, Colombia through VMM and Mennonite Mission Network.

Mark your calendar to attend the **annual Harvest Day festival** sponsored by the CrossRoads Heritage Center on September 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Enjoy old time fun for everyone!

Music Weekend will be October 22-24 at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center. Participants will focus on Harmonia Sacra selections. The weekend will culminate in a performance at Warwick River Mennonite Church on October 24 at 3 p.m. Visit www.wcrc.info or contact Jenn Hill at (757) 566-2256 for more information.

Experience a **"Wonders of Greece and Turkey"** tour, November 3-14, 2010. See the world of the the Apostles Paul and John as we visit Troas, Pergamum, Smyrna, Ephesus, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, Athens, Corinth, and present-day places like Istanbul, Kusadasi, the island of Santorini, and more. For a brochure, contact Ed and Edie Bontrager at eebontrager@comcast or call (540) 438-8304. Visit the web site at www.travelventuretours.com

Zion Mennonite Church in Broadway, Virginia is seeking a half-time **Associate Pastor** to provide leadership in the area of faith formation of youth, young adults and families and provide complementary pastoral leadership to the lead pastor in other areas of the congregation's ministries. Master of Divinity preferred. Pastoral or church leadership experience accepted in lieu of M. Div. Send letter of interest, resume and references to Marv Nisly, 2310 Maple Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22802 or fmnisly@comcast.net

PENNY POWER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010

Matching funds are encouraged!

Spare change
makes a difference!

Bring jug to:
Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale
 Rockingham County Fairgrounds
www.sallefair.com

Project administered by:
 Mennonite Central Committee
www.mcc.org
 Virginia Mennonite Missions
www.vmm.org