

Indonesian Mennonites promote interfaith dialogue

By **ROSS ERB**

Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families
Park View Mennonite Church

From mid-January to the end of March 2010, my wife Cathy and I were in Indonesia on a short-term Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) assignment during our sabbaticals, mine from Park View Mennonite Church, Cathy's from Eastern Mennonite University. We stayed on the island of Java, in the city of Salatiga, centrally located on the island between the cities of Semarang on the north coast and Yogyakarta on the south coast. It is the home of the MCC Indonesia office, where Jeanne and Dan Jantzi are the country representatives. Much of the work of MCC in Indonesia focuses on education and peace-building. MCC has a remarkable team in Indonesia who are working hard and developing deep relationships that extend the Kingdom of God through peace-building and capacity-building. My focus there was to learn about Christian-Muslim relations and to engage with the Mennonite churches of Indonesia.

In general, the Mennonite churches in Indonesia seem to be quite healthy. Worship is enthusiastic. Youth are heavily involved in all aspects of the service. It was striking to meet young Indonesians who had been a part of the MCC International Visitor Exchange Program (IVEP) and to note that they are heavily involved in the life of the church. I also noted that the process whereby young adults are put forward for the IVEP program is not driven by the individual. The Synod and the congregation must be involved for MCC to consider a young person for IVEP. As I reflected on this, I wondered if the result of this process was that former IVEPers were more likely to use the experiences they gained in service to



Sunday School at a Mennonite church in Indonesia.
Photos courtesy of author.

their home church. Might we benefit from such an approach?

In Indonesia, pluralism is a basic tenet of the constitution. Given that Christians are such a minority, it is not surprising that many Christians view pluralism as a value to be pursued. They must get along with their Muslim neighbors or they will be crushed. While visiting an interfaith agency in Yogyakarta, I asked the agency assistant director why Muslims are involved in interfaith dialogue when they are such a majority. His response was that interfaith dialogue was consistent with the teachings of the Quran and that it was also consistent with the basic Indonesian value



The Mennonite church in Srumbung Gunung hauled fill away from their church expansion to be used as fill at the village mosque—true interfaith cooperation!

of harmony. He went on to say that interfaith dialogue enriches one's own beliefs. The goal is not to become one faith, but to understand and respect the other. He also said that the bridges they build between faith groups start in the middle, with moderate Muslims and Christians, and intentionally work toward drawing in the

more radical or extreme groups through persons who have credibility with those more radical groups.

Overall, I found Christians and Muslims to relate and cooperate very well together. Violence, when it occurs, is often instigated by radical members of one group or another who come in to communities from outside. Over and over I was told that relationships work to prevent violence and promote understanding. Villages seem most capable of fostering these cooperative relationships, while in the cities it is more common to hear of radical groups. Many of the people involved in the peace-building efforts have received some training through the Summer Peacebuilding Institute at EMU. In many instances I was amazed by the attitudes of openness and conciliation held by both Christian and Muslim. Coming back to the U.S., it is my hope that I can adopt that same attitude with all of the people I meet, regardless of race or religion.

**Meet these people
at Virginia Mennonite
Conference Assembly
pages 4-5**

Friendships



Loren Horst
President of VMM

Studies have shown that people on Facebook have more friends. This is good news for Mark Zuckerberg, although we do well to remember that such a simple state-

ment does not say which is the cause. Does Facebook make people more friendly, or do already friendly people simply join Facebook? Either way, the association is good for Facebook (and bad for me, a member of a dwindling number of hold-outs). Friendship and Facebook tend to go together.

Here is one that makes me look better. I suspect that church attenders have more friends. This of course begs the same kind of question—does church make one more friendly, or do already friendly people go to church? It also begs another sort of question as we see the emergence of many innovative new forms of coming together for Christian worship, “What is church?” Still, the fact that

friendship and regular gathering for worship tend to go together is a good thing.

Let me speculate further. I think Mennonite Church USA and VMC Assembly attenders have more friends. Whether the gatherings make you friendlier or already friendly people are the ones who attend, either way, this is good. Friendships and Assembly attendance tend to go together. This year at VMC Assembly such friendships will circle the globe as we welcome workers and guests from many places.

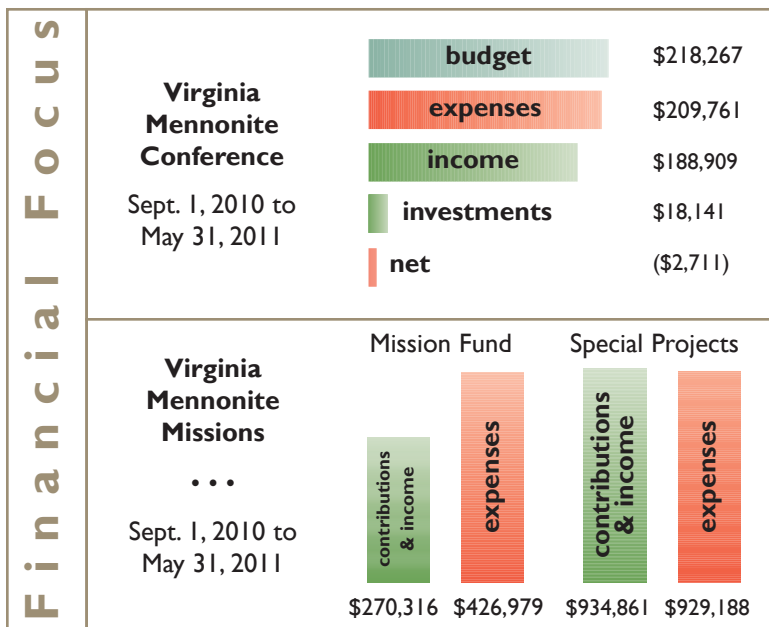
We expect to encounter the Lord at VMC Assembly too. This begs one final question. Does friendship with God and Assembly attendance go together? I think they do, although I don't know whether VMC Assembly makes me friendlier with God, or, since I am already on friendly terms with God, I attend Assembly. Either way, or both—it is good.

I'll hazard a guess, and an expectation—that VMC Conference Assembly this year will make me friendlier with God. And too, I expect it will make me friendlier with the world with whom God is a friend.

Loren Horst

Correction:

In the June issue, the article “Valley View Mennonite Church, the next chapter” was written by Aldine Musser, Northern District overseer. Paul Beiler provided the photo.



Conference Coordinator Steve Carpenter has resigned effective Aug. 5

By **SHIRLEY YODER BRUBAKER**
VMC Moderator



Steve, who had served as church administrator at Washington (D.C.) Community Fellowship, began working for Virginia

Mennonite Conference in 2003. During his first three years in office, he visited all of the then 68 congregations on a Sunday morning, preaching in 49. This he calls his most enjoyable activity as Conference Coordinator.

Two responsibilities brought significant satisfaction. One was helping to determine the distribution of the funds that came to VMC when the Property and Auto Aid Plans became part of MAX. The second was establishing Ministerial Training Trust Funds for the four VMC Districts unable to establish their own.

And where was the fun? Selling 46 donated used cars, a task that earned \$55,000 for VMC.

Steve's two-thirds position allowed him to enroll at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, graduating in April with a Master of Arts in Religion with an emphasis in leadership and communications. He's not sure what is next and hopes to stay in Harrisonburg. Steve and his wife Chris are members at Immanuel Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg.

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Bishop Martin Burkholder speaks from the past into the future

By PAUL J. YODER

Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians

“For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Bishop Martin Burkholder certainly never heard these or any other words in Finnish in the antebellum Shenandoah Valley. Yet as the Eastern Mennonite High School Touring Choir sang these words from Psalm 100 at Lindale Mennonite Church, they seemed a fitting prelude to this Virginia Mennonite Conference 175th year celebration event.

On June 1, Elwood Yoder, history teacher at EMHS, presented from his study of a collection of letters from Martin Burkholder, a Virginia bishop and minister who lived from 1817-1860. Yoder spoke from research, illustrating his talk with pictures taken at the CrossRoads Valley Brethren Mennonite Heritage Center, home to the relocated Burkholder-Myers house. Yoder also released his book *The Bishop's Letters*, commissioned and published by the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians.

Yoder shared from Burkholder's "preacher letters," which highlighted the transitions taking place in the 1850s among American Mennonites. While Burkholder communicated comfortably in English, he frequently wrote in German when corresponding with fellow ministers in Pennsylvania. Recognizing the importance of these interstate bonds, Burkholder advocated the formation of a Mennonite general conference, a development that he would not live to see.

Yoder estimates that 500-700 Mennonites called the Shenandoah Valley home in these years preceding the Civil War. With seven congregations in place, these "outsiders" were dwarfed by their Methodist neighbors who had organized some 112 churches. Yet from this community came Joseph Funk's English-language hymnals. The first of these, the *Harmonia Sacra*, still finds use today.

After Yoder spoke, the EMHS Touring Choir unveiled the work of Jim Clemens,

who used the *Loud Hallelujah* tune from the *Harmonia Sacra* to set Burkholder's words to music. The resulting song, "I love to hear the shepherds call," integrates lyrics first published by Joseph Funk & Sons in 1858. After the choir

sang, director Jay Hartzler led the audience in the four-stanza melody. The music continued with Trent Wagler and the Steel Wheels performing at a coffeehouse following the program.

How shall we then love?



Stories of Peace

sponsored by the Peace Coordinators
of the Virginia Mennonite Conference

Told by MICHAEL BRISLEN

Ameha is a gifted speaker. As a young man in Ethiopia, the opposition Marxist party in his region recruited him because he could attract followers by speaking eloquently about the communist way. Eventually the ruling government, also a Marxist party but with ethnic conflicts with the opposition, found out about Ameha, arrested him and threw him in prison where he was tortured.

Years later, after Ameha came to Djibouti, I was helping him with his repair work. As we worked on a wall, Ameha was unable to lift the cement blocks above his waist. Part of his earlier torture in prison involved hanging him from his arms and years later the tendons and muscles in his shoulders were still so damaged he could barely lift them.

After being imprisoned for a number of years, Ameha finally made it out by an amnesty from the Ethiopian president. Political prisoners were routinely let out by general amnesty, but Ameha knew these were usually just short-term political ploys to publically show the ruler as a forgiving person. A few weeks later, the authorities would secretly re-arrest all the freed prisoners. So Ameha quickly fled to Djibouti where thousands of other Ethiopian refugees lived. Once in Djibouti, he attended refugee evangelistic meetings and gradually made Jesus Christ his Lord and Savior.

A few years later my family moved to Djibouti, met Ameha and became good friends. At that time the Ethiopian government was overthrown and the new opposition rulers caused a new wave of refugees from the former ruling party to join the opposition refugees already in Djibouti.

One day as Ameha walked down the street, he saw his former prison guard coming towards him, the one who had tortured him so much. The hair on Ameha's arms and head stood on end and his fists clenched. Their fortunes were now reversed. Ameha had a decent job—for a refugee—and had many Ethiopian and Djiboutian friends to protect him. The guard who had tortured him was now the vulnerable one.

By the grace of God, Ameha approached his former guard, greeted and invited him to sit for some coffee. The man was nervously sweating as he encountered his former prisoner whom he had tortured, not sure what was going to happen. Ameha let him sweat it out for a bit—it was very tough to sit in the presence of his former torturer. But then, miraculously, he offered his forgiveness to the guard and shared his faith. Somehow Jesus had transformed Ameha. With God's embracing love, he found a way to forgive the man who had tortured him without mercy. This is the love to which Jesus calls us. It is a love like God's that allows us to embrace enemies. It cannot be forced or enforced. It is a love that comes as a result of being transformed by Christ through the work of God in the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' words, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Mike is a former missionary in Djibouti and Kenya. He is currently a member of Community Mennonite Church with his wife Cindy and youngest daughter, Alia. This story is from Michael's February 6, 2011, sermon by the same title.

Meet these people at Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly, July 28-31

By **GLORIA L. LEHMAN**
VMM Director of Public Relations

What a joy to have VMMissions workers and guests present with us at Conference Assembly 2011! Workers who have recently completed their terms, along with workers who are in Virginia on

home leave, and guests from our partners in various countries are here, sharing their faith journeys, inspiring us to deeper faith in Christ.

They will be introduced during worship on Thursday evening, and will be sharing throughout the delegate sessions

and worship services. Meet and greet them at the country displays in the EMHS auditorium. Join their commissioning during Saturday evening's worship service and enjoy Taste of Missions on the lawn immediately following the service. Participate and be blessed!

Workers



Steve & Betsy Dintaman
Serving with LCC
International University,
Klaipeda, Lithuania
Returning in late summer



Willard Eberly
Serving in Bari, Italy
Returning August 8



Michael & Ruth and family
Serving in South Asia
Returning in October



Richard & Margaret Keeler
Serving in Trinidad
Returning August 2



Harry & Kris Kraus family
Serving in Kenya and a
sensitive area
Returning in late summer



Peter Lehman
Served in Costa Rica with
Pura Vida
Returned July 28



Nancy Marshall
Serving in Belize
Returning August 1



Philip & Betsy Fisher Rhodes
Served in Israel with Nazareth
Village and Jesus Trail
Returned July 26



Chris & Melody Riddle
and family
Serving in Bari, Italy
Returning in August

Guests



Vladimar & Marijana
Cizmanski
Serving in Montenegro



Giovanni & Fiorella Greco
Serving in Vasto, Italy



Ganesh & Risha Kalloo
Serving with the Mennonite
Church of Trinidad & Tobago

Introducing the 2011-2012 class of



Kaitlyn Bontrager
Serving in Lezhe, Albania

Kaitlyn will teach at Lezhe Academic Center in Lezhe, Albania. She will specialize in English.



Rodney & Eve Knepp, Maya, Micah
Serving in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica

Rodney, Eve, Maya and Micah will serve at Maranatha School for the Deaf as assistant teachers.



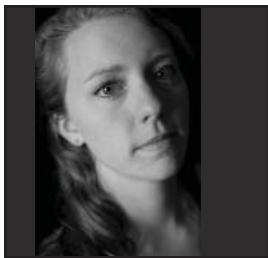
Peyton Erb
Serving in Guatemala City

Peyton will serve as an assistant for CASAS. Her responsibilities will include assisting students with housing arrangements and translation work.



Kristina Reinhardt
Serving in Lezhe, Albania

Kristina will teach at Lezhe Academic Center in Lezhe, Albania. She will specialize in math.



Jessica Hedrick
Serving in Lezhe, Albania

Jessica will teach at Lezhe Academic Center in Lezhe, Albania. She will specialize in science subjects.

commissioning
of *transSend* participants and mission workers

saturday, july 30, 6:45 pm
eastern mennonite high school auditorium
801 parkwood drive, harrisonburg, va.

Welcome by Carol Tobin, VMM Global Ministry Associate
Worship music by Stephen Horsl and team
Children's story by Nancy Marshall
VMM/EMM worker in Belize
Proclaiming Christ in a sensitive area
by Michael & Ruth Hershey, VMM/EMM workers
Sermon: "Proclaiming Christ" by Giovanni Grace,
evangelist/church planter with Italian Mennonite Church for CEMJ
translated by Willard Eberly

Long-term workers commissioned:
Richard & Margaret Keeler
Nancy Marshall
Michael & Ruth Hershey family

transSend participants:
Kaitlyn Bontrager
Peyton Erb
Jessica Hedrick
Rodney & Eve Knepp family
Kristina Reinhardt

Guests:
Lloyd & Janet Moore
Ganesh & Rishi Kalloo
Vladimir & Marijana Cizmanski
Steve & Dolsy Dinlaman
Francisco & Martha Picone

Commissioning litany
Prayer at country stations



Lloyd & Janet Moore
Serving with Jamaica
Mennonite Church



Francesco & Martha Picone
Serving with Chiesa Evangelica
Mennonite Italiana

taste of missions
saturday, july 30

on the lawn
of Eastern Mennonite High School
following the commissioning service
for mission workers (see other side)

music by
Dill Pickers
from Stephens City, Va.

Enjoy delectable foods from around the world, such as:
Plantain empanadas Baklava Margarita pizza
Pita and hummus Pineapple Honey cake Coffee

Discovery 2011: extending the classroom across America

By **MARY GOLDEN HUGHES**
Eastern Mennonite School

Ah, sweet summer time! For most high school students, the relaxed summer pace allows time for getting together with friends, for working full or part time jobs, for taking family vacations, or for just enjoying the freedom of unstructured days. For forty Eastern Mennonite High School students on Discovery 2011 however, the first few weeks of summer means something completely out of the ordinary—including being part of a mobile classroom studying sustainable and restorative living. The catch, however, is that this “classroom” is a traveling experience that extends across to the Pacific Northwest, up to Alaska, across Canada and back into the lower 48.

Conceived and led by Eastern Mennonite School biology teacher, Myron Blosser, Discovery seeks to provide students with experiential education, guided exploration and reflection, exposure to current research, and interactions with professionals in various fields of study. Additionally, Discovery trips explore the need for sustainability and focused management of national and global natural resources in ways consistent with Anabaptist convictions. Past EMS Discovery trips have explored the journey and history of the Lewis & Clark



Kansas Day 4: The entire group pictured with Wes Jackson of the Land Institute.

expedition, have studied natural resource management in the Southwest with a focus on Native American culture impact, and have explored individual and corporate land use across America.

Discovery 2011 embarked from the Shenandoah Valley on June 7 in a customized motor coach. The coach includes internet access, enabling the group to post reflections from the road on Facebook, as well as recording and sending first person audio accounts which are later re-broadcast in the Valley on WBTX 1470AM. This Discovery trip’s mission is two-fold: first, to engage the nation in conversation and exploration concerning our role in sustainable and restorative living and secondly, to give voice to our students’ proposals and ideas on responsible decision making.

Funded by students (many of whom worked or initiated fundraisers to pay for



Sleeping under the stars in Kansas on Day 5.

the trip), the experience offers immeasurable benefits and life lessons outside of the classroom including: working as “family group” for tenting, cooking and daily chores; managing time and resources wisely and independently; strengthening interpersonal communications skills and employing all of the critical thinking “Gifted Behaviors” that EMS intentionally teaches to enable our students to be successful lifelong learners.

The Discovery team welcomes your prayers for their journey which concludes on July 4, and invites you to share in the experience by reading student reflections at facebook.com/emhsdiscovery2011.

You may also learn more about previous EMS Discovery trips at www.emhsdiscovery.com/archives.

Congregational Resource Center

This is your invitation to **visit the Congregational Resource Center display at VMC Assembly!**

I would love to put faces and names together for those of you who have called with questions or to request materials through the mail. I can also arrange to have the Congregational Resource Center itself open during part of the Assembly so that you may visit in person!

There will be a representative selection of materials on the table at Assembly, but remember that there are about 3,000 possibilities on the shelves of the Center!

To see what’s there online, you may go to emu.edu/seminary/crc. When you do a library search by author, title, or subject, you’ll find lists of possibilities for both the main Hartzler Library and the Center.

Everything with a call number beginning with the letters CRC is available to you through the Center. Call me at 540.432.4698 if you have difficulties.

If you are doing the “Taste and See” VBS, I recommend that you consider using some additional materials such as the “FoodBasket Kit” from MCC. “Simply in Season,” “Just Eating? Practicing our faith at the Table” and the video or

DVD called “Coffee, Corn, and the Cost of Globalization.” MCC might also be supplementary resources.

The Congregational Resource Center exists to help equip your ministry. How may we serve you?

-Linda Alley, Director

Location: Eastern Mennonite Seminary Building, 1181 Smith Ave, Harrisonburg

Phone: 540.432.4698

Email: crc@emu.edu

Hours: Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; other hours by appointment

JULY 2011

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

31 This morning, many congregations of VMC are gathering in EMU Yoder Arena for worship with int'l guests, a sermon by Danisa Ndlovu, uplifting singing followed by lunch together. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

3 This is "Happy Week" at Centro Koinonia, Italy. Pray for those giving time, talent and energy for significant impact on the children from "unreached" families.

10 This evening an Indian meal is held featuring delectable foods and sharing by Michael & Ruth at Lindale Mennonite Church. Thank God for their commitment to return to South Asia to serve among unreached peoples.

17 Today Maurita Eberly leaves for Italy to begin a music ministry during July and August, for training and encouraging worship leaders. Pray for protection in travel and God's anointing for ministry.

24 Today Richard & Margaret Keeler share about their ministry in Trinidad with the Huntington Mennonite Church. Thank God for this congregation's support of their service and for the fellowship they share.

Monday

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:

Jim & Dorcas Good
in celebration of their
50th wedding anniversary

4 MC USA convention opens this evening with worship and exhibits. Many Mennonites are gathered in Pittsburgh to learn, worship & fellowship. Pray God's guidance over the 5-day event on the theme "Bridges to the Cross."

11 Thank God for the thousands of youth that attended Pittsburgh 2011 who heard God's Word, sang praise songs, learned new truths—may they tell others about how they experienced Christ in a new way.

18 We lift up Randy & Lea Ann Coblentz today as they share Jesus among their unchurched neighbors. May the Lord Jesus help them as they continue to work at building a new missional community in the Williamsburg area.

25 Rafael & Solange Tartari, Brazilian missionaries in Albania, expect the birth of their first child this week. Pray they will rest in God's protection and blessing for this important moment.

Tuesday

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."
Matthew 16: 24b-25

5 Pray for Byron & Hilda Pellecer as they lead the Iglesia Discipular Anabautista (IDA), a growing Hispanic congregation that meets at Harrisonburg Mennonite. May they have God's help in being a loving and learning community.

12 In Thailand, every two weeks Mark & Sarah Schoenhals meet with teammates across the border via skype for accountability and encouragement. Pray that these meetings will nurture each one and help them grow in faith.

19 Today Rodney & Lindsey Nice and family leave Jamaica and return to Va. Thank God for their service at the Maranatha School for the Deaf and ask Him to guide their transition to the US.

26 On Thursday, Peter Lehman, VMM *travSewd*, returns to Va. from Costa Rica where he has served with Pura Vida. Ask God to make the transition to the US smooth and encouraging.

Wednesday

6 VMMissions has an exhibit at MC USA convention with the theme of "transformed, transforming." Pray that persons who are interested in serving with *travSewd* or in long-term missions will come and speak to the staff there.

13 In South Asia, Jacob & Hosanna connect with neighbors, co-workers and shopkeepers each day which opens doors of friendship and love. May God enable them to be a consistent light in the community.

20 Join Grace Schrock-Hurst in thanking God for leading her and her teammate to a church community where they can worship and fellowship. May God make this mutually beneficial.

27 This evening and tomorrow the Board of VMMissions meets to process decisions and set direction and to hear from returned workers and guests. Pray that God will bless and inspire in a mighty way!

Thursday

7 Pray that the Holy Spirit will give insights during the delegate sessions at Pittsburgh 2011. Also ask that the worship services will be filled with His presence.

14 Pray for Chris & Melody Riddle who have a full summer in the US promoting missions in churches in Pa. and Va., and with their supporters and family. They are preparing to return to Italy in August.

21 Pray for international guests traveling to Va. Mennonite Conference Assembly, representing churches founded by VMM missionaries. May we welcome them warmly and listen carefully as they share.

28 This evening the opening of 2011 VMC Assembly is held in the EMHS auditorium with a sermon by Mary T. Nation followed by Philip & Betsy Fisher Rhodes presenting a documentary of their journey on the Jesus Trail.

Friday

1 On Friday nights, Terry Witmer joins with 25 women in a Spanish version of *Breaking Free* by Beth Moore. Ask God to bless this group as they meet and study together.

8 Tomorrow in Bari, Italy, the children who attended "Happy Week" give a program for their parents; a party follows in the garden of Centro Koinonia. May the parents' eyes be opened to who Jesus is and sense His presence!

15 Norma Teles asks us to pray that the new Lezhe Church Council will lead the church with God's grace. May the Spirit guide them every step of the way.

22 Remember the YES team today in Albania as they will soon finish up their service under the guidance of Allen Umbel and return to the US.

29 After delegate sessions and workshops, this evening's worship will include music led by Ruel Burkholder, message by Steve Dintaman and commissioning of conference leaders. See how God is moving us forward.

Saturday

2 Marsha Kanagy, VMM *travSewd*, asks us to pray for strength and perseverance for her as she experiences daily life in Germany. Thank God that her German relationships are growing and deepening.

9 Today the young adults of Jamaica Mennonite Conference are holding Mingle—a time of fun and fellowship in Oracabessa. Ask God to bless them as they strengthen each other in friendship and faith.

16 Let's agree with Chris & MaryBeth Moore of Signs of Life, a deaf fellowship in Staunton, that as a leadership group they will continue to move forward together.

23 A Mediterranean 'serata' happens this evening at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church with Italian foods, fellowship and the opportunity to hear Chris & Melody Riddle and sons before they return to Italy. [see back page]

30 This evening at Assembly, worship music led by Stephen Horst, sermon by Giovanni Greco, and commissioning of VMM *travSewd* and long-term workers and guests takes place, followed by Taste of Missions. Join the movement of missions!



Connections (USPS 007-205)
 Virginia Mennonite Missions
 Virginia Mennonite Conference
 901 Parkwood Drive
 Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498

Announcements

Come to an **Indian meal** on Sunday, July 10, 5:00 p.m. at Lindale Mennonite Church fellowship hall. Taste delectable Indian foods, hear Michael & Ruth share about their work, and support them with prayer and finances. Reserve your meal by contacting Peg Engle at englepj@aol.com or (540) 433-9889 by July 5.

Mark, Sarah and Heidi Schoenhals' MST invites you to an event marking the half-way point of their first term serving as missionaries in Thailand on Sunday, July 17, between 12-2 p.m. at Shady Oak, Weavers Mennonite Church. **Stop by** to enjoy a Thai snack, receive updates about their ministry and to send a word of encouragement and refreshment to them. Contact Ellen Blosser for more information at (540) 383-0255 or ellen.blosser@hotmail.com

Come to a **Mediterranean "serata"** on Saturday, July 23, at 6 p.m. at the Harrisonburg Mennonite Church fellowship hall. Enjoy delicious Italian foods, hear from Chris and Melody Riddle and family about their service in Bari, Italy. An opportunity for supporting Riddles with prayer and finances will be given. To reserve your meal, contact Suzy Kanode by July 15 at suzkanode@aol.com or (540) 234-8937.

You're invited to the **MennoMedia office** on Friday July 29 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. to celebrate the opening of our new media agency. Tour our warehouse and shipping area, meet and see offices of our new expanded staff, look at our newest books and videos, and talk to staff about this new agency which brings together Mennonite Publishing Network and Third Way Media. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration is open for Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly until July 11, 2011: **register and pay online** at www.vmconf.org

You are invited to visit the historic Breneman-Turner Mill just three miles north of Harrisonburg during the first and third Saturdays in July, August, and September, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. You will be able to tour the mill, see corn being ground into meal on the Pony Stone, and hear stories about the mill, including how the mill was saved during Gen. Phillip Sheridan's burning of the valley in the fall of 1864. To visit the mill, follow Route 42 north of Harrisonburg two miles, turn left on Breneman Church Road and go one mile to the mill on the right.

Vespers at the CrossRoads Amphitheater 2011:

Each event begins at 7:00 p.m.

- July 3: Wendell Eller, meditation
- July 10: Dan & Catherine Longenecker, meditation
- July 17 Phil Kniss, meditation
- July 24 Gerald Brunk, meditation
- July 31 David Miller, meditation
- Aug. 7 Mary Cline Detrick, meditation
- Aug. 14 Jim Lehman, meditation
- Aug. 21 Brian Gumm, meditation
- Aug. 28 George Cornelius, meditation

Myron and Esther Augsburgers invite you to join them for **Footsteps of Paul's Journey**, May 26-June 8, 2012. The trip will include 8 days in Greece visiting, Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, Philippi, Berea and Delphi. The final 4 days will be a cruise on the Aegean stopping at Ephesus, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete and Santorini. Dave & Joyce Eshleman are tour coordinators. For a color brochure, call (540) 434-1796.