

With Pedal Power, cyclists of all ages gear up to support community development, missions

By **LARS AKERSON**
Bike Shenandoah Planning Committee

A year ago, Calvin and Eve Bixler were the youngest riders in the annual Bike Shenandoah. The siblings, six and two-years-old, respectively, completed the five-mile ride with their parents, Sarah and Ben, whose bikes were outfitted to bring the little ones along. “We really enjoy biking,” Sarah, who attends Eastside Church, said recently. “It’s good for our health, the environment, and it’s fun. But as a family right now, we don’t ride far.” So, she and her husband look forward to the five-mile ride as a time to enjoy the outdoors and physical activity as a family.

Bike Shenandoah, now in its fifteenth year, will feature five different rides between five and 100 miles for cyclists of all ages and abilities on September 22. Cyclists will raise funds for four nonprofit agencies: Mennonite Central Committee, MennoMedia, Virginia Mennonite Missions, and a local community agency. This year, the fourth recipient is the Northend Greenway, an initiative to develop a linear park that doubles as a bike and walking path, connecting several economically and socially diverse neighborhoods in north Harrisonburg.

This focus is attractive to Jon Trotter, a young professional who attends Lindale Mennonite Church with his wife Meredith. “We haven’t done Bike Shenandoah before and aren’t experienced cyclists, but we plan to do the 15-mile route. It’s fun and challenging, while being a great area to ride and for a good cause.”

A new effort this year for the ride will be the Pedal Power initiative. Similar to



Sarah Bixler rides with daughter Eve. “We really enjoy biking,” she says. They will do the five-mile ride as a family this year at Bike Shenandoah. Photo courtesy of Sarah Bixler

the more familiar *Penny Power*, VMC and Harrisonburg area churches will be challenged to ride their bikes to support community development work at home and abroad. The contributing church with the highest participation rate—either in Bike Shenandoah or in riding to church the next day—will win ice cream for their MYF.

The event planners hope that this initiative will promote a stronger connection with congregations beyond the event itself. In their view, the simple act of bicycling is congruent with their Anabaptist values. While “cycling is fun,” says Ben Wyse, who attends Community Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, it also helps him put wheels on his beliefs. “Riding,” he says lightly, despite the statement’s weight, “especially for transportation, is an expression of a life concerned with caring for creation, and living in a world at peace.”

To say that Wyse, a bicycle mechanic by trade, is no stranger to bikes is a statement almost comical in its inadequacy to capture his and his family’s lifestyle. Even so, supporting Bike Shenandoah is not

about “hardcore” biking for the Wyse family. It “benefits agencies doing work that we want to support,” Ben says, and it has a unique community draw. “I like the fact that there’s a really short ride that works for kids and families, and people who can’t ride 25 or 50 or 100 miles.” Plus, he adds, “it has the best food of all the cycling events in the area.”

Wyse is musing about riding with his two young children this year. With the older being five, he’s not sure whether he will be ready to ride his own bike the whole five miles yet, but this year, Calvin and Eve may have some age-mates to join them on the road.

Learn more about Bike Shenandoah and its beneficiaries, and register online at: www.bikeshenandoah.org

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Paid to serve the Lord?



Loren Horst
VMM President

I have no bone to pick with those who are paid to serve the Lord. After all I do know the Bible says that, “those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” And too,

I am one such person, which probably biases me in a particular direction. Being paid to serve God, or “being paid to be a Christian” as I sometimes call it, does have its advantages. One advantage is that it increases the available time for service. In some cases too missionaries have no other option.

I am, however, interested in others who, like Paul, “haven’t made use of any of these rights.” We call them “tentmakers,” a description that comes directly from Paul. These folks figured out how to support themselves and went out to serve God. Occasional hospitality or love offerings were their material rewards. Rather than simply serving for a day here and there or a week-long service trip from time to time, these people made it a lifestyle.

Yesterday I sat with one such couple. They are retired farmers, and they were

very good ones too! Then they were called into ministry. They retained a hired hand to hold things together when they needed to be gone, and then they went, serving in churches nearby and in fields further away. “We never got paid,” they said, but it was still obvious they were devoted to this life of service to God. I specifically asked the wife how she experienced those years. “We loved it,” was her reply. Interestingly, I believe all of their children have been in some kind of Christian ministry too, a testimony to this family’s ongoing service.

Sometimes I do wonder if Christian ministry is improved when a dollar value is affixed to it. I am aware that not all children of unpaid ministers have equally fond memories of their overworked or too-often absent parents. But I am also aware that such issues have applied to families of paid professional pastors, or any busy family for that matter.

In our own world of Virginia Mennonite Missions we are increasingly exploring new ways of supporting ourselves as we move out into ministry. Or are we simply rediscovering old ways? Providing financial support from the congregations and supporters of the sending church will still be a very important way of doing missions. Increasingly, it is not the only way. Some scholars are now even suggesting that the paid professional mis-

sionary of the last 200 years is really the exception in Christian missions, not the norm. More often, “normal” were the people who simply went out into the world in the multitude of ways that people do (work, education, migration, etc.) and while doing so, they bore witness to Jesus.

That sounds like my retired farmer friends.

Trumbo is new chair of FLC

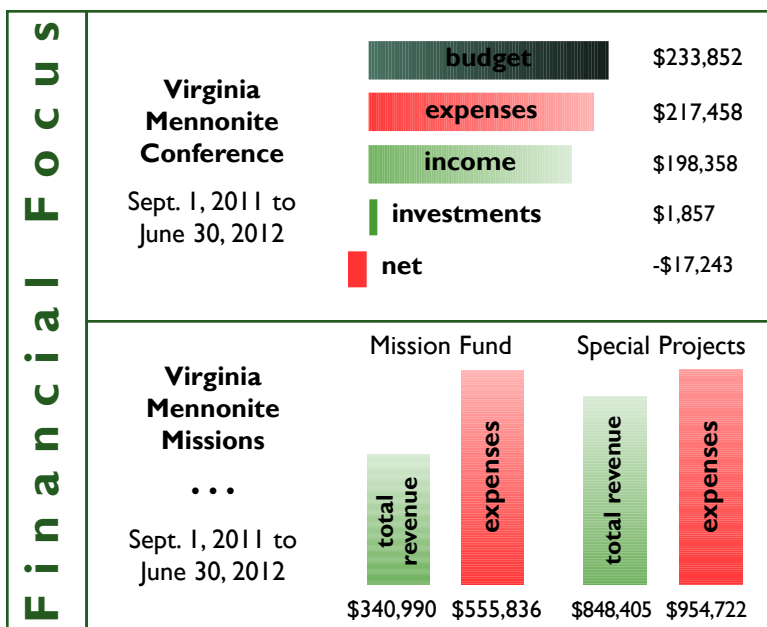


Judith R. Trumbo has been appointed as Chair of the Faith & Life Commission, beginning Sept. 1, 2012. A member of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, she was formerly chair of the Church

Council. Judith has also served in various leadership capacities for Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, Va., currently Director of Perioperative Services and Organizational Excellence. She is on the EMU board as an Associate Trustee and has served many community agency boards including VMM and EMHS.

Judith is married to Brent Trumbo, President of Trumbo Electric. Her parents are Herman & Mary Reitz.

We give thanks for the service of Joe Longacher who was chair of FLC for the past six years.



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Mission and money musings

By JANET STUTZMAN
VMM Director of Development



Is there a rise in donor fatigue? We at VMMissions are pleased that so many gifted persons are sensing a call to serve in mission here at home and overseas. In conversations, I sense that family, friends and congregations are pleased as well, yet have mixed feelings. “Does this mean yet another fundraising letter in our mail boxes?”

Donors continue to give generously and we are grateful! We are very much aware of the financial challenges of sending out workers and undergirding them with support. Potential workers are aware

as well. I wonder if perhaps we would see even more persons wanting to serve if it were not for the “money” factor!

Our staff at VMM is working on how we can better position missions in the future. We already are providing substantial grants to our workers.

However, we are developing a plan to increase grants to alleviate some of the “burden” on individual families, friends and congregations. This vision will be shared with congregational delegates at Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly. Information will be further shared in an upcoming *Connections* magazine.

And still another appeal ...

Contributing to the general Mission Fund continues to be the opportunity in which individuals and congregations together own the church’s mission



mandate. The Mission Fund IS what funds the “cost of doing mission” and enables VMM staff to support and serve our workers.

As we near the end of our fiscal year on August 31 and still facing a sizable budget shortfall, we work, we hope, we pray and we **invite** you to consider a gift to the Mission Fund!

Thanks for considering!
Janet

FMC ‘cyber Sunday school’ connects with mission workers abroad

By STAN NICKEL
First Mennonite Church of Richmond, Va.

For the month of May, the youth of First Mennonite Church of Richmond participated in a cyber Sunday school class, in which the Internet served as a classroom resource and as a global window to visit Mennonite missionaries and young people, worldwide.

The first Sunday we familiarized ourselves with use of the Internet in the classroom. The next three Sundays the class visited with various people overseas via Skype. On May 13, we became acquainted with Caleb Benner and three students at Lezha Academic Center in Albania. On May 20, we visited with “cradle Mennonites” in Taiwan, who are cousins of Judy Yoder from First Mennonite Church. On May 27, we visited with the Chris and Melody Riddle family in Italy.

Considering the fact that his students were of Catholic and Muslim background, Caleb had this to say about his experience, “I thought it was a cool idea and it was interesting to see how the students reacted very shy at first. But they got more



The youth Sunday school class at First Mennonite Church visit with folks around the world through Skype video calls.
Photo courtesy of author

comfortable and curious about each other as the time went on.”

Chris also made the comment that, “I thought that this was a good idea and can be a good thing for missionaries and churches alike... We can fill people in on what is happening and get feedback from the church communities at the same time. For the churches in the US, you get to see and hear about what is happening in the field.”

Ideas for the future might include:

- Organizing an international Bible contest with multiple internet connections



- providing a method for shut-ins to participate in regular Sunday school classes
- playing Kinect-style Bible games;
- designing cyber Sunday School study materials and how-to handbooks
- introducing a cyber missionary effort.

Conclusions: Networking with one another, transcending borders and physical barriers is relatively easy for us today. Consequently, Christian churches can use today’s technology to expand their horizons in ways never before possible. For details, visit: <http://bit.ly/cyberss-fmc>



Rafael Tartari and Allen Umble bless the baptism candidates: Katrina, Eviana, Flora and Anton, just before going into the flowing river for baptism. Photo by Galen Lehman

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

In June, the Eastern Mennonite High School Touring Choir traveled to Eastern Europe for a three-week tour of Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and Italy. Galen and I accompanied this group of lively, talented young people and listened to them singing in both big and small worship spaces.

On June 17, we were privileged to

Flowing river baptisms provide firm foundation for faith

attend the worship service of the Lezhe, Albania church that we've heard about for years. The building is quite small, but adequate for the group that gathers there on Sunday mornings. This morning, the group of 30 including children waited for a bus to take them to the place where they held the worship service and four people would be baptized.

A half-hour bus ride took us to a rural area with mountains on all sides of the flowing river. Imagine our surprise to see a flock of sheep and several cows getting water from a pool of still water! The shepherdesses herded the animals away. We were reminded of Psalm 23—*beside still water*.

Rafael Tartari opened the service. Norma Teles led worship songs. Rafael gave a brief message, emphasizing that

these four people were being baptized because they believe in Jesus. We should not be ashamed to be followers of Jesus, he said, because Jesus was not afraid to die on the cross. Rafael has a young son, and he knows the love of a father and understands that he would give his life for his son. God gave His Son for us.

Each person to be baptized stated their heart's desire. Allen Umble and Rafael walked into the river with the baptismal candidates, one by one, and then lowered them gently under the water. After each had been baptized, Norma gathered them in a circle and prayed.

A wonderful time of fellowship followed with grilled sausages, friendly conversation, games, swimming—a great time together for this congregation!

The firm foundation of belief in Jesus was girded by baptism on a hot day in June in rural Albania. To God be the glory!

"Sister Care" retreat is coming to Virginia

By **DEONA LANDES HOUFF**
Mennonite Women of Virginia Retreat Committee

Sisters seeking spiritual renewal and a fun getaway will get both at "We are God's Beloved Daughters," the Mennonite Women of Virginia Fall Retreat Sept. 21-23 at Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center in Lynchburg, Va. Guest speakers Carolyn Heggen and Rhoda Keener will present "Sister Care: Equipping Women for Caring Ministry." Early registration deadline is Aug. 31, with final registration due Sept. 10.

Sister Care seminars explore claiming identity as God's beloved, caring for self and others, compassionate listening, and transforming loss and grief. The seminars are a ministry of Mennonite Women USA. Keener is co-director of Mennonite Women USA. Her background includes mental health and teaching in various settings. Co-editor of *She Has Done a Good Thing: Mennonite Women Leaders Tell*

Their Stories, Rhoda is a member of Marion Mennonite Church and lives in Shippensburg, Pa..

Heggen is a psychotherapist specializing in trauma recovery. A frequent speaker and workshop leader on personal and communal healing, personal boundaries, gender issues and PTSD, she is the author of *Sexual Abuse in Christian Homes and Churches*. Carolyn lives in Corvallis, Oregon, and is a member of Albany Mennonite Church.

Beautifully set in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Eagle Eyrie is a new site for the retreat that features hotels and lodges. Lodges include kitchens; many have screened porches with mountain views.

The weekend also features worship, music and ample opportunity for fun and fellowship. Saturday afternoon options



Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Holderread Heggen, guest speakers at Mennonite Women of Virginia's Fall Retreat. Photo courtesy of author

include hiking, music making, knitting, Zumba, silent meditation and journaling, a scavenger hunt and "Healing from Within...Your Kitchen Cupboard," which explores the health benefits of specific foods and spices. A talent show is scheduled Saturday night.

Registration brochures and posters have been mailed to congregations. Questions and scholarship requests may be directed to Kathy Zehr Rhodes, retreat committee chair, at (540) 843-0763. Brochures are available at <http://wp.me/P2AxnQ-8s>

MCTT's mentoring move!

By DEOLAL RAMDIAL

Treasurer, General Church Council, Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago

What an uplifting worship of praise and fellowship! The five congregations of the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago (MCTT) gathered for a joint service held on Sunday, April 29 in the Diego Martin Mennonite Church to install Bro. Ronald Latchman as Pastor Mentoree.

The moderator of the service, Sis. Linda Gunpath gave everyone a warm welcome followed by the call to worship. Participations from the wider membership included scripture reading, special songs and benediction.

The Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago has embarked on a mentorship process for those who are called to serve in pastoral ministry. "It is a process and we are moving forward with it as we seek to equip our local leaders here!" said the Overseer, Pastor Ganese Gunpath. It is such an inspiration to sense God's mighty hand moving in our midst as each congregation now has some form of pastoral care couple. God works when we open ourselves to His divine call to serve.

The message delivered by Pastor Ganesh Kalloo, longest serving pastor in MCTT, highlighted Five E's on the theme, "Equipped for Good Work."

1) We need to **e x h i b i t** Christ-like-ness by being exemplars of God's Word as we teach it.

2) We need to **expect** trials and don't be **s u r p r i s e d** when we are faced with hardships. It is vital to be sifted in the process to help mold us to be used for God's glory.

3) We need to **encourage** each other for it is vital for us to encourage our pastors, leaders and those who faithfully serve among us in God's Kingdom.

4) We need to **empower** ourselves in God's Word by knowing and using it in our daily lives to share and help others to grow.

5) We need for **everyone** to be involved in equipping. Drawing from his own personal experiences, Ganesh said, "During my fifteen years of being a pastor, I had an official mentor for nine months but the



The five congregations of the Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago pray a prayer of blessing on Bro. Ronald Latchman (third from right) as he was installed as Pastor Mentoree.

Photo courtesy of author

remaining mentorship was done by my dear Christian brothers and sisters who have demonstrated commitment in their walk with God. They have truly equipped me and still continue in so many ways!"

Pastor Ganese Gunpath, Overseer, installed Bro. Ronald Latchman as Pastor Mentoree for one year, along with his family, as they affirmed the vows read to them, followed by a pastoral prayer. The service ended with a very popular traditional hymn, "Savior like a Shepherd Lead Us" led by Sis. Lourine Latchman, wife of Ronald. It was a joy for all to give their blessings and encouragement to this couple. Equipped to serve God in spirit and in truth—yes, equipped for good work!



Margaret and Richard Keeler cut the cake for their farewell celebration at Sangre Grande Mennonite Church, Trinidad, on June 24. The congregation and guests blessed the Keelers with tributes and gifts, thanking them and God for their years of ministry. The Keelers are retiring from service through Virginia Mennonite Missions, but are not retiring from the Lord's service! Photo courtesy of Ramesh Jaimaini



On June 17, Eastern Mennonite High School Touring Choir presented a concert at the Lezhe Academic Center, Albania. They sang from the steps of the new school building. After the concert, choir members were hosted in homes of the LAC students. This experience opened the doors for learning about cultures and building relationships. Photo courtesy of Galen Lehman

How amicable divorces can hurt children

By HARVEY YODER

LPC, Family Life Resource Center

At the Family Life Resource Center, we find that amicable divorces can often cause more distress for children than angry ones, at least when that anger is the result of bad parental behaviors like abuse, addiction or adultery. In such cases, children clearly understand the reason for the separation and may even feel some relief when it happens.

But when two otherwise loving, caring parents insist on having a nice, friendly and painless divorce, children are confused. Why can't these good people simply work things out, just as they expect them to do?

In his book "Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce the Sandcastles Way" (all about the virtues of amicable divorce), M. Gary Neuman claims that divorces usually happen "because one or both partners believe that ending the marriage will free them to create happier, emotionally healthy lives for themselves and their children." He insists it's all about how parents handle their divorce that determines whether children are hurt by it.

Sounds nice, and yes, many children do well in spite of their parents' breakup, but at FLRC we are committed to supporting the kind of serious marriage



Alex Bruda

preparation and maintenance that provides for both "happier, emotionally healthy lives" and the stability of an enduring family.

Adapted from a post on the "Harvspot" blog: harvyoder.blogspot.com

Mark your calendars for the 2012 Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale

By LISA LEHMAN

Publicity Chair, Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale

Mark your calendars now for the 46th Annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale on Oct. 5-6 at the Rockingham County Fair Grounds! You won't want to miss the delicious food, 5K Race for Relief, sporting clay shoot, corn hole, auction, farmer's market, children's activities, silent auction, craft items, and of course catching up with friends and family! A Petting Zoo will be a new feature of the sale this year.

This year the sale will benefit the following organizations and projects: Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Global Families project, Harrisonburg and Rockingham Thermal Shelter (HARTS), and Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry (WARM). Penny Power funds will be donated to tornado destruction relief in West Liberty, KY (VMM project) and Middle East Crisis Relief in Syria and Lebanon (MCC project).

NOW is the time for you to get involved! Start collecting coins for *Penny*

Power, finish those projects to donate to the live or silent auctions, make plans to have a pie/bread/cookie/cake/etc., making party with some friends (to donate), volunteer with apple butter boiling, or help with set-up and tear down. There are numerous volunteer opportunities for all!

For more information or to sign up to receive a monthly e-newsletter update, go to vareliefsale.com and follow us on Facebook!

Congregational Resource Center

Planning for Fall Ministries

The Congregational Resource Center Director, Linda Alley, is happy to set up a personal appointment with you to discuss your needs for the coming months.

For example, suppose you teach an adult Sunday School class and are looking for study materials. Come in with some ideas of what works for your group and leave with a half-dozen possibilities to show to the class.

Or suppose you are planning a worship series and would like to have some ideas from up-to-date com-

mentaries, drama sources, prayer & litany books, children's story or music resources. Linda can point these out to you and help you find the ones that relate to your theme or scriptures.

Borrowing CRC resources is FREE, and so is your time with the Director. To be sure she is available, call 540.432.4219 before stopping by.

Some new additions worth a second look:

-*Creature Feature: Devotions for Children's Ministry*
- by Group

-*Bridges: 15 Session to Connect Teenagers & Adults on Issues*

-*Body & Soul: Healthy Sexuality and the People of God*

-*77 Ways to Energize Your Sunday School Class*

-*Discover Who You Are*, from Lifekeys

About 3,000 more items are waiting to be checked out. Come in and see...

Contact info: crc@emu.edu or (540) 432-4219

Location: Eastern Mennonite Seminary Building,
1181 Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA

AUGUST 2012

Prayer Calendar

Connections

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

5 Centro Koinonia, Bari, Italy, was privileged to touch the lives of “un-churched” families and their children during 2 weeks of VBS. Pray God will breathe life into the seed sown in their hearts!

6 The fraternal delegates from Jamaica, Arthur & Linda Campbell arrive in Trinidad today to attend the annual conference of the MCTT. Ask for safe travels and good interaction with the church leaders.

7 In South Asia, Michael & Ruth are preparing to go to a new location for witness and ministry. Pray that all the details work out, and that their three children will make the transition smoothly.

8 It's time to register for a 15-week course, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, held in Harrisonburg designed to impart vision for God's mission. Pray that potential workers will be drawn to the class.

9 Norma Teles is presently on home leave in Brazil and will be coming to Va. in the early fall. Pray for her travels in Brazil to visit churches. May her passion and vision for sharing the Gospel in Albania be contagious!

10 Development staff members from agencies connected to VMC meet this morning in Harrisonburg. Ask God to provide for these organizations' financial needs as they seek to carry out their God-given mission.

11 This morning all 5 congregations of MCTT gather in the Hope Mennonite Church to worship and to dedicate the building to God's honor and glory. This is a significant milestone for MCTT—join them in thanking God.

12 This week Jamaica Mennonite Church holds senior youth camp on the Maranatha School grounds. Pray for all the youth who attend and for the leaders who prepare dynamic activities. May all meet Jesus in a new way.

13 Steve & Laura Campbell are preparing to go to Montenegro in September. Ask God to direct them as they make plans to move there with their two daughters. May these last weeks be fruitful in many ways for them.

14 Pray for Micah, Adam and Isaiah Riddle as they get ready for a new school year in Carbonara, Italy. Thank God for the many friends they have who know them as believers in Jesus' way.

15 As students return to the classroom, pray for God's Spirit to infuse their school year. May our young people shine with Christ's light and let God direct their paths.

16 In VMC congregations, as youth and children's ministry teams prepare for a new group of young people, pray that they will be attentive to the Spirit and each child. May their efforts be fruitful and valued.

17 Christian musicians give a free concert tonight at EMU, sponsored by Eastside Church. Pray that attendees will respond to the Spirit working in each heart.

18 Pray this week for the annual retreat/seminar for Italian Mennonites and their friends. May it be a time of recreation, restoration, rest, as well as learning.

19 Most churches expect greater attendance in September; after summer vacation ends. Pray for new enthusiasm and commitment as members gather to worship, fellowship, learn and care for one another.

20 This evening, a “service of thanks” is held to honor Richard & Margaret Keeler's many years of mission service in Trinidad, 5:00 p.m., Ridgeway MC. Join in giving God glory for the great things accomplished in this island country.

21 Jacob & Hosanna have had a full summer visiting family, friends and churches, relating stories of their work in South Asia. Pray for them as they prepare to return to their place of service with their two children.

22 All are invited to the opening session of *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* tonight, Seminary room 123, with Leonard Dow, Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, Pa., for an introduction to this dynamic course.

23 Pray for the children that are going to school for the first time or are making changes in school location. May they feel loved and protected by Jesus every day.

24 Klementina Shahini directs the preparation for a new school at the Lezhe Academic Center, Albania. Pray for her to have times of refreshment amid the intense schedule she keeps and for wisdom in making many decisions.

25 Centro Koinonia congregation may need to leave their present facility. Pray as they seek God's leading for the right location and with accessible rent, a real problem in Bari!

26 Pray for Eve Knepp as she prepares for teaching in the new school year at the Maranatha School for the Deaf, Jamaica. Her creativity and love of learning is contagious! Ask God to give her insight for every day.

27 Today closes the fiscal year for VMC and VMM. Give thanks for the generosity of volunteers who serve and donors who share in these ministries. Ask God to provide for the upcoming year.

28 Pray for the children and churches this summer and communicating the needs of Albania. Pray the Spirit will renew and refresh him for another term of service there.

29 So many children and youth enjoyed Christian camping this summer! Thank God for the staff that organized and carried through meaningful activities, and ask Him to remind the campers of new truths they learned.

30 Mennonite schools with connections to VMC, especially remembering the teachers and administrators. As they set goals for the year, may becoming more Christ-like be a central theme.

31 Today closes the fiscal year for VMC and VMM. Give thanks for the generosity of volunteers who serve and donors who share in these ministries. Ask God to provide for the upcoming year.

32 Pray for the children that are going to school for the first time or are making changes in school location. May they feel loved and protected by Jesus every day.



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 Virginia Mennonite Conference
 901 Parkwood Drive
 Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498

Announcements

Mark and Sarah Schoenhals, with their daughters Heidi and Hannah, are currently on home leave here in Virginia. Come join them for a meal on Friday August 3, at 6 p.m. at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church to celebrate what God is doing in Thailand! Please contact Ellen Blosser with questions and/or to RSVP at (540) 383-0255 or ellen.blosser@hotmail.com

A **Women's Community Bible Study** at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church uses Beth Moore's study: *BREAKING FREE: The Journey, The Stories*. This updated edition features brand-new video/member book. Based on scripture from Isaiah, Beth explains "anything that hinders us from the benefits of knowing God is bondage." Study dates are Tuesdays, Aug. 28 - Nov. 6. Morning sessions are 9-11:00 and evening sessions are 6:30-8:15. Registration and \$20 fee are due by August 14. To register, contact Jeannie Smith at (540) 434-4361.

Don't miss out on *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, a 15-week course designed to inform, inspire and impart vision for God's mission. All invited to opening night session on Tuesday, August 28, with Leonard Dow from Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, Philadelphia. The class meets at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, room 123, from 7:00 to 9:45 pm. Course registration/books are \$280. Credit is available through EMU or EMS for an additional \$270. For more info, visit perspectives.org or contact Carol Tobin at perspectives@vmmissions.org or (540) 435-9887.

The **Mennonite Women of Virginia Fall Retreat** will be held Sept. 21-23. Be adventurous and bring a friend or two to a new location, the Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center in Lynchburg, Va. Brochures are available at <http://wp.me/P2AxnQ-8s>



The Keeler Missionary Support Team invites you to a

Service of Thanks

for

Richard & Margaret Keeler

retiring from mission service with Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Sunday, August 26, 5:00 p.m.

Ridgeway Mennonite Church
 546 E. Franklin Street
 Harrisonburg, Va.

A program will be followed by light refreshments.

No RSVP needed; please come and celebrate with us!