

## VMC introduces Clyde G. Kratz as Executive Conference Minister

By SARAH BIXLER

On June 26, VMC's Conference Council announced its selection of Clyde G. Kratz as the new Executive Conference Minister. On September 1, Clyde will succeed Owen Burkholder, who has nurtured the conference faithfully for 18 years.

This new role incorporates executive responsibilities that were previously part of the Conference Coordinator position, which Sarah Bixler vacates in late August. One of the initial tasks Conference Council will give the Executive Conference Minister is to lead a conference visioning and strategic planning process.

Clyde is an experienced pastor and gifted administrator with a strong commitment to the Mennonite church. He says, "I could not envision myself separate from the work of the church." He is excited by the opportunity to be a leadership resource for "congregations engaging in being the body of Christ that is transforming people and communities."

Clyde's call to pastoral ministry began during a high school missions experience in New York City. In response, Clyde served in ministry at Franconia (Pa.) Mennonite Church. Franconia sent Clyde and his young family to Harrisonburg, Va., where he earned a degree in Biblical studies and theology from Eastern Mennonite University and a Master of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary. During this time, Clyde also served as lead pastor of Weavers Mennonite Church.

Clyde spent the next 24 years in full-time pastoral ministry as lead pastor of New

Holland Mennonite Church (Pa.), and most recently Zion Mennonite Church in Broadway, Va. He has served as an overseer in the Northern District since 2006, including the past six years as vice chair of the Faith and Life Commission. He has also led several congregations in mediation. Clyde's training includes a Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Clyde and his wife, Eunice Kolb Kratz, live in Broadway, Va. Their three adult children, Jonathan Kratz, Jennifer Kratz, and Rebekah Brubaker, also live in that area. Clyde enjoys biking, traveling abroad, and woodworking.

As Executive Conference Minister, Clyde will serve as the primary staff person for Conference Council and the Faith and Life Commission, and will work with the Congregational Life Commission and Finance Committee.

Clyde's goals are "to meet with each overseer to learn about their missional leadership approach to oversight ministry, each district to learn about their vision for being a missional district, and each pastor or pastoral leadership team to learn about the missional impulses that they are seeking to foster within their congregation. The relationships developed and the insights gained will provide clarity and

direction for my role in Virginia Mennonite Conference."

Current Conference Minister Owen Burkholder has worked with Clyde as Northern District overseer and in congre-



Outgoing Conference Minister Owen Burkholder, who has served in that position since 1996. He will step down August 31.  
File photo



Clyde and Eunice Kratz.  
Photo courtesy of Clyde Kratz.

gational consulting. Owen affirms, "Clyde's calling is to be the best minister he can be. Ruth Ann and I have been deeply touched by the care for us demonstrated by Clyde and Eunice. We are grateful for their willingness to pick up this particular leadership mantle."

Join VMC in welcoming and praying for Clyde as he assumes the role of Executive Conference Minister.



Sarah is Conference Coordinator of Virginia Mennonite Conference.

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# Why short-term missions?

By LOREN HORST



We are in the midst of another summer, the typical peak season for short-term missions (STM). With the dollars reportedly spent by Americans on STMs now exceeding

those spent on longer-term missions and with some congregations and families experiencing financial strain from the repeated requests to fund a two-week service trip half way around the world, some are wondering whether it is worth it. Should we declare a moratorium STMs? Through many years of experience VMissions' *Partners* program has developed guidelines that make STMs better. Among them:

- We encourage congregations to include STMs and service opportunities for their members, preferably beginning with experiences close to home. A congregation may even be well advised to make a local STM experience a prerequisite before an overseas experience.
- We are guests when working in other communities. All STM experiences should work by invitation from the appropriate host church or organization.
- Particularly when planning overseas mission or service opportunities we strongly discourage groups and congregations from "going it alone." There are a number of agencies that specialize in STMs. *Partners in Mission* is one such program.
- Normally a successful STM experience requires a significant time in planning and preparation. We suggest a minimum of six months lead time before any STM experience.
- STM experiences can provide excellent opportunities for growing in discipleship and global awareness.

Intentional planning should be given to preparation before hand and then reflection upon the experience.

- STMs can build transformative relationships between members of the sending community and the host community. Intentional time for interacting with and learning from the host community should be built into the STM experience.
- STMs are less effective and more problematic as a way of delivering a service. This is ironic since this is usually the presenting reason for going on a mission trip. We go to *do* something. Leaders and participants however should keep in mind that their efforts should promote local resources and sustainable solutions, reduce dependencies, and strengthen the local church and community.
- STMs may fundamentally alter the life of participants in powerful and positive ways. This is more true of participants than hosts. Accordingly VMissions understands that the value of STMs accrues disproportionately to the ones who go rather than the ones who receive.

At their best STMs provide a deeply transformative experience to participants, builds positive relationships with people in another community and culture, and in the process may provide some helpful service.

If you or your congregation are thinking of a short term mission experience, get in touch with us early here at VMissions so we can help you turn a good idea into an excellent experience. Along the way we might also help you avoid the kind of mistakes that have sometimes given STMs a bad name.

Loren Horst  
President  
Virginia Mennonite Missions

## Connections August 2013 – Volume 23, Number 10

© 2013 by Virginia Mennonite Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference. *Connections* (USPS 007-205) is published monthly to connect congregations and agencies with each other. Editor: Gloria Lehman Assistant Editor: Jon Trotter

*Connections* is distributed free to each household of supporting congregations. Subscription rates: \$8/year, 2 years/\$15. To subscribe, contact: *Connections* Circulation Manager, (540) 434-9727 • (800) 707-5535 info@vmmissions.org

Websites: www.vmmissions.org www.virginiacommunity.org

POSTMASTER Send address changes to: 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Periodical postage paid at Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

## CONFERENCE RESOURCES

### Dove's Nest a resource to protect children and youth in congregations

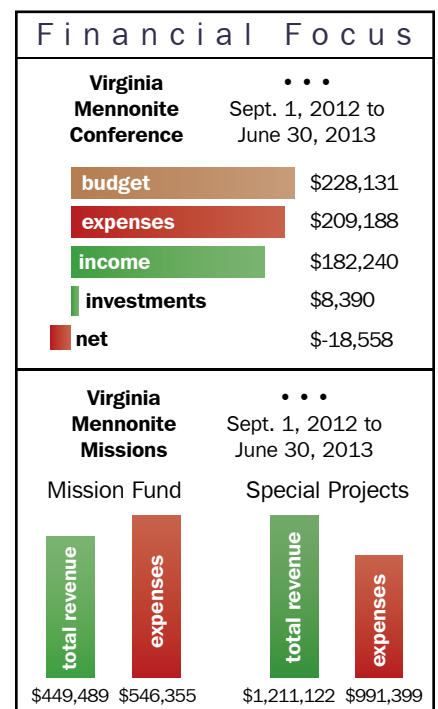
On July 5, delegates to the Mennonite Church USA convention passed a resolution to protect and nurture our children and youth.

The purpose of this resolution is to "raise awareness of child abuse and neglect and to encourage the adoption of policies and practices to protect children and youth in the church and community."



Congregations are encouraged to visit [www.dovesnest.net](http://www.dovesnest.net) for related resources. Dove's Nest offers congregational resources such as: sample child and youth protection policies, a guide for safely including persons with a sex offense record, and a link to the Circle of Grace curriculum.

Circle of Grace is a church curriculum for grades K-12 which is offered free of charge to Mennonite Church USA congregations, and you can order yours by following the link on the Dove's Nest website.



# Partners “Walking the Nile” learning tour to Egypt ‘a pilgrimage;’ engages with Coptic community

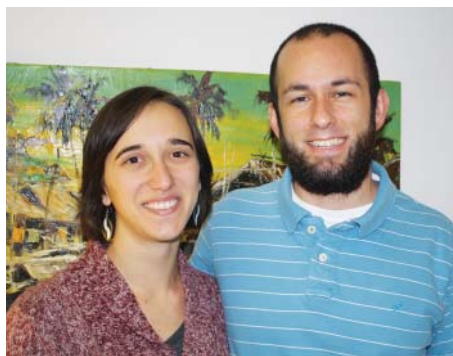
By KEN SEITZ and AUDREY METZ

More days before the end of June and the outbreak of current unrest, the VMM-sponsored “Walking the Nile” Partners learning tour to Egypt returned to Harrisonburg.

The tour, perhaps better called a pilgrimage, was led by Matthew and Greta Bucher. Others in the group were Fr. Joe Goldsmith, Renee Lehman, Ken Seitz, and Audrey Metz. Our last group member joined us in Egypt: Angie Atef, an Egyptian Christian whose participation enriched the twelve-day immersion into Egyptian life and culture with its focus on Coptic Christianity.



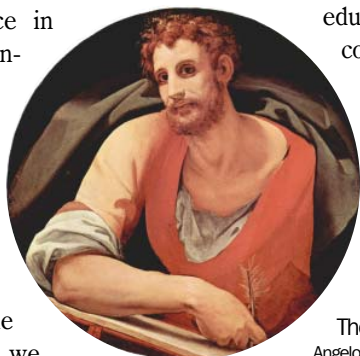
The Partners learning tour participants in the cave church at Moqattam in Cairo. From left: Angie Atef, Greta Bucher, Ken Seitz, Audrey Metz, Renee Lehman, Joe Goldsmith, Matthew Bucher. They are joined by MCC worker Hisham Rasmy and his son Yusuf Hisham (front center). Courtesy of Greta and Matthew Bucher



Greta and Matthew Bucher, leaders of the Egypt learning tour. Photo: Jon Trotter

The learning tour was billed as “two weeks of reflection, intentional discipleship, and cross-cultural encounter.” Since the 1960s, Mennonites, primarily through Mennonite Central Committee, have been partnering with the Coptic Orthodox Church in educational, development, and peacebuilding efforts. Matthew and Greta both brought their prior MCC experience in Egypt to the planning and implementing of the tour.

Egypt’s Coptic Christians have taken as their own part of the Christmas story we



tend to neglect: the time spent in Egypt by the holy family in response to King Herod’s infanticide (Matthew 2:13-15). Furthermore, Egypt’s Christians associate the coming of the Gospel to Egypt in A.D. 62 with the Apostle Mark. In Cairo the group visited the chapel honoring St. Mark at the Coptic Cathedral. It was good to connect with Christianity’s deep roots there.

Meeting and visiting with Bishop Thomas, who built the Anafora Retreat Center outside Cairo and often is in residence there, as well as with our new friend Martha and her family in Cairo were highlights of the trip. The bishop’s stories of formative friendships, a love of books at a young age, and how he was educated and blessed by rich international connections, remain as a spiritual lesson.

On the last night we were in Egypt, the group was invited to Martha’s home for dinner. Her whole family befriended Matthew while he had lived in Egypt. We had been alerted to the fact that this would not be a sit-down-eat-run event even

The Apostle Mark took the Gospel to Egypt. Angelo Bronzino, ca. 1525

though we needed to leave for the Cairo airport by 1:00 in the morning. After several hours of warm, energetic conversation and tasty, abundant food, we jounced our way home, six of us accompanied by a member of the family to show us the way.

The Egyptians we met made this “learning tour” memorable: Angie, who joined our group and provided excellent insights into the Orthodox Church and life in Egypt; Bishop Thomas at Anafora who reinforced the importance of friendship with all; and Martha with her family who exuded warm acceptance of the stranger. Though three of us knew no Arabic, the evening in her home was one of much laughter and camaraderie; we came away with a feeling of being “family.”

Yes, we saw some ancient, fascinating sites in Egypt. But it was the people we met who made all the difference. Now, watching the news from Egypt takes on a whole new dimension. Now, our prayers are fervent and specific.



Audrey Metz and Ken Seitz. Courtesy of authors



Ken and Audrey attend Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va.

# New MHI project mentors leaders in missional discipleship

By MARVIN LORENZANA

Mennonite Hispanic Initiative (MHI) has joined forces with Mennonite Mission Network in a project called *Missional Discipleship & Leadership Mentoring* (MDI).

This project asks a number of key questions, such as: What is Church? What is its mission? How do we create a culture of effective missional discipleship and mentoring? What is the relationship between fruitful discipleship and meaningful Christian service? How do we develop missional leaders from the ground up within the local congregation?

Racial/ethnic churches across Mennonite Church USA have sounded a call for resources to help them grow and train leaders in their churches through intentional disciple-making. Mennonite Mission Network is responding to that call by implementing this pilot program.

Christian Service program leaders at Mission Network wondered how they could make their service programs more appealing to youth of color. But when program leaders asked racial/ethnic congregations for ideas, the churches said they would prefer to engage with youth in their own

communities instead of sending them into voluntary service across the country.

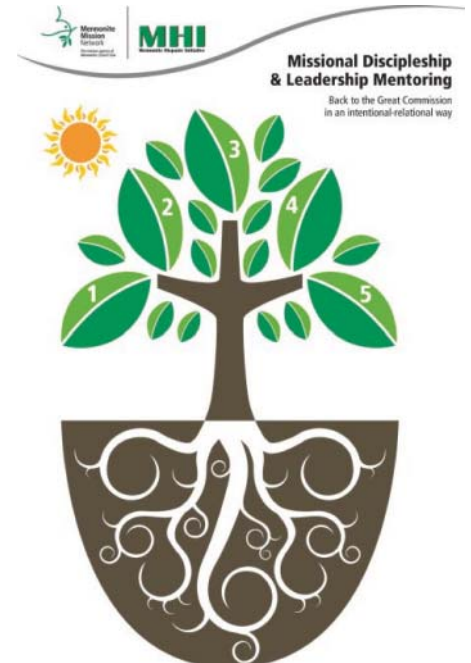
This sentiment was expressed in congregations from many different ethnic and racial backgrounds. Christian Service Director Del Hershberger and Marvin Lorenzana, in conjunction with congregational leaders from racial/ethnic churches, created a pilot discipleship initiative to help develop young leaders.

Our hope with the MDI is to create not just conversation about what it means to be the Church in the twenty-first century; this is also an urgent call to action!

Our goal is to nurture and resource a culture of relational disciple-making that will in turn produce a new generation of mission-minded leaders.

Right now, six racial/ethnic churches that are part of Mennonite Church USA are implementing the MDI. Three of these churches (one Haitian, one Garifuna and one Latino) are in Miami, Florida. Two are in New York City (Garifuna churches in Manhattan and Brooklyn). The last one is a multi-racial church in Harrisonburg, Va.

All churches will work together as a learning community for one year, after



which, implementing leaders will get together to summarize learnings and to explore next steps.



Marvin is a church planter and leader of Mennonite Hispanic Initiative, Harrisonburg, Va.

## tranSend orientation held

By GLORIA L. LEHMAN

The morning of July 9, tranSend participants gathered in the VMC conference room along with the VMM staff, providing a time of getting acquainted with each other. Orientation for service is multi-faceted; it includes heart, mind and soul. Each morning the group engaged in “Soul Care” where the participants listened for God’s voice in silence, watched for Him in nature, and walked the prayer labyrinth at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Input sessions included “Trends in Mission” by Loren Horst; “New Testament Theology of Missions” by Linford Stutzman, EMU Bible professor; “Becoming Apprentices of Jesus” and “Being Sent in the Way of Jesus” by Skip & Carol Tobin respectively; “Becoming Third Culture People” by Janet Blosser; “Worldview and

Cross-Cultural Communication” by Carolyn Stauffer; “Apostolate to the Poor” by Ron Copeland; “Prayer” by Ken Horst; “Facing Stress & Trauma” by Mary Thiesen Nation; and “Anabaptism & Mission” by Mark Thiessen Nation.

Wrapping up the orientation experience was a 24-hour retreat, July 17-18, at Highland Retreat where newly-appointed and long-term workers joined together for rest, worship and meditation. They are remembering that God is their source of



The tranSenders enjoyed a full eight days of orientation and retreat. Photo by author

strength for every circumstance.

These persons are commissioned at Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly on Friday, July 26, during the worship service. Read their blogs, pray for them, send them encouraging e-mail messages, support them with financial assistance—in these ways you are partners with them.

# Stories of transformation at church planters retreat

By CAROL TOBIN

Imagine a relaxed setting where folks who are following God to the fringes and carrying hopes for new expressions of church can come together to build relationships, share questions and glean wisdom from those who have “been there, done that.” This year’s annual church planter’s retreat at Highland Retreat drew almost 60 persons from six different districts in VMC: a handful of singles, seven couples, over twenty children, and the resource persons and care givers who came to encourage them.

The group resonated deeply with the straight-shooting street wisdom about church planting shared by this year’s resource persons, Clair and Beth Good, from Columbia, Pa., and Kirk and Marilyn Hanger, from Alexandria, Va.

Their stories as couples hit the mark. Clair and Beth shared how they had been deeply invested in fruitful ministry when Clair was arrested by a compelling

observation: He had no relationships with unbelievers.

Somehow, in the swirl of serving God, the central call to be connecting with those who are lost was being neglected. Emboldened by the encouragement of their adult children, Clair resigned his role at EMM. They sold their home and moved into the troubled city of Columbia.

They began praying, actively looking for how God was moving in the community.

“I just walk my dog, meet people, and ask them how they are doing. And I listen,” he said. “Do you know that listening can be evangelism?”

Relationships moved from the street, into our home, and then into the abandoned church building, not because we expected to move into “sacred space,” but simply because we outgrew our house.

Similarly from Kirk and Marilyn: “Our initial contacts were at the laundromat. Now, those Latino guys that we met are being disciplined as leaders.



Participants at the church planters retreat in a prayer circle. Photo courtesy of author

We’ve seen incredible transformation in lives that were a wreck. We’ve seen God do amazing things, despite our weaknesses and in the midst of our discouragement.”

Running like a current throughout the event was one riveting reality evidenced in the many stories of extraordinary direction and provision, a well as during a powerful time of prophetic prayer: The Holy Spirit is in charge!

Said organizer Skip Tobin, “The event is building every year. Designing it as family friendly is part of the draw. We want to recognize that a family on mission together is central to what God wants to do. This is one way that we are building a shared missional culture.”



Carol is Asia Regional Director for Virginia Mennonite Missions.



Youth enjoyed a time of fellowship and input at the retreat. Courtesy of author

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# Don't miss the Relief Sale, Oct. 4-5

By LISA LEHMAN

Mark your calendars now for the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale on Oct. 4-5 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds!

You won't want to miss the delicious food, 5k Race for Relief, sporting clay shoot, auction, farmer's market, children's activities, silent auction, craft items, and of course catching up with friends and family!

This year the sale will benefit the following organizations and projects (in addition to MCC): *People Helping People* (Harrisonburg & Rockingham) and *Love INC* (In the Name of Christ) (Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro), both organizations helping those in emergency and ongoing crisis with resources and guidance.

*Penny Power* funds will be used to meet the needs of the displaced around the world, and will be given to places such as Ecuador, Indonesia, Thailand, and Jordan.

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), volun-



Making delicious donuts! File photo

teer with apple butter boiling, or help with set-up and tear down. There are numerous volunteer opportunities for all!

Pictures of auction items are already on the website, with more being added each week. You can also now sit front and center at the auction on a padded seat! Reserve your seat online for just \$15!

For more information or to sign up to receive a monthly e-newsletter update, go to [www.vareliefsale.com](http://www.vareliefsale.com) and follow us on Facebook!



Lisa is on the Relief Sale board in charge of publicity and communications.



Persons meeting with *El Camino Discipular*. Courtesy of author

## MHI launches *El Camino Discipular*

By MARVIN LORENZANA

Mennonite Hispanic Initiative has launched a new church plant in Harrisonburg, Va., called *El Camino Discipular* (The Disciples' Path). This new church celebrates nine months of ministry in August.

Hosted by Community Mennonite Church, the ECD meets Saturday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

"We are excited by what is happening at ECD," Marvin said, "We are being intentional about disciple-making which is at the heart of our work."



Marvin is a church planter and leader of Mennonite Hispanic Initiative, Harrisonburg, Va.

## Congregational Resource Center

### RESOURCES FOR FALL

The Congregational Resource Center, located in the Eastern Mennonite Seminary building on Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg, is open to ALL congregations of Virginia Mennonite Conference and their members at no cost! Library cards for the Center are free. Simply request one. You will find several thousand resources for your child, youth, and adult ministries, worship planning and special events.

### NEW ITEMS INCLUDE: Adult Studies

**Embracing a Life of Meaning**, a five-session book & DVD by Kathleen Norris

**Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture**, a six-session book & DVD by Walter Brueggemann

**Embracing an Adult Faith**, a five-session book & DVD by Marcus Borg

**Embracing Emergence Christianity**, a six-session book & DVD by Phyllis Tickle

**Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life: 7 gateways to spiritual growth** by Thibault & Morgan

**Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal** by April Yamasaki

**Covenant Bible Study: Women in Luke & Acts**

**Covenant Bible Study: I John**, the believing community

### Arts/Worship

**Creating Holy Spaces: Worship Visuals for the Revised Common Lectionary** by Halverson & Appleby

**Praying in Color, kids edition** by Cybil MacBeth

**Contemplative Vision: A Guide to Christian Art & Prayer** by Juliet Benner

**The Artist's Rule: nurturing your creative soul with monastic wisdom** by Chritine Valters Paintner

**Spiritual Formation A Spiritual Formation Primer** by Richella Parham, Renovare

**The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction** by Eugene H. Peterson

These and many other useful resources are available for browsing Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Linda Alley, Director of the Center, is often present to assist you and suggest options. Or you may call with questions or specific needs at 540.432.4219. Resources will be mailed to any VMC church. Email: [crc@emu.edu](mailto:crc@emu.edu).

Hope to see you soon!

# AUGUST 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by</p> <p><b>Rosalie &amp; Robert Eshleman</b></p> <p><b>in loving memory of their son Lee Edward</b></p> <p><b>whose birthday was August 28, 1963.</b></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Our Muslim neighbors conclude Ramadan on Aug. 9, a season of fasting. May we as Christians remember to pray for them so they will know and accept the love of God through Jesus.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Thank God for the teaching that Lois King and Eunice Showalter provided at Lezha Academic Center these past 4 weeks. They return to Virginia tomorrow. Pray for safe travels; may God bless them for their tireless service.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Today David, Rebekka and Immanuel Stutzman return to their place of service in Germany. Pray for safe travels and a smooth transition into their responsibilities there, and good health as they anticipate the birth of their second child.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Senior youth camp of Jamaica Mennonite Church opens today on the grounds of Maranatha School for the Deaf and resound with singing, games, and laughter. Pray those experiences will nurture youth toward deeper commitment to Christ.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Fraternal delegates, Valda Salmon and Natalie Kerr, from Jamaica Mennonite Church arrive in Trinidad today to participate in the Annual General Meeting of the Menonite Church of Trinidad &amp; Tobago. Thank God for this interchange.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Today a Mediterranean soiree is held at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church to benefit the Riddle family's mission service in Italy. If you have served your space, come and enjoy good food, and be inspired by what God is doing in this corner of the world.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>This morning all five congregations of Mennonite Church of Trinidad &amp; Tobago gather for worship, preaching and fellowship, rejoicing together for a year of God's blessings and looking toward to another year of God's guidance as they grow in faith.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Staunton Mennonite Church in Virginia seeks to provide a warm atmosphere where people feel a sense of belonging as part of God's family. Ask God to bring persons into their fellowship to be nurtured in faith.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Allen Umble returns to Albania after home leave, reconnecting with friends and families and speaking in churches. His ministry has many facets and he is beloved by the Albanian people. Thank God for his continuing service.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Ask God to bless Hebron Mennonite Church's ministry. As this rural congregation reaches out to the community in Fulks Run, Va., invite God's Spirit to stir hearts to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>VMM tranSender, Sarah N. Schoenhals asks us to pray that she will have openness to how God is calling her to be light in every new day in Thailand.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Northern Virginia Mennonite Church in Fairfax "desires to be a place where people are invited to faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ." Pray that disciples would be formed and sent to serve the world in Jesus' name.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>New tranSenders are going to their place of service this month. Pray for them as they navigate travel schedules, meet new people and settle into a place that is going to be 'home' for a year. May God give them all they need in these circumstances.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>"Our family can be your family" is the motto of Stephens City (Va.) Mennonite Church. Praise God for the embrace this congregation has extended to its community. May their witness bear fruit for God's kingdom.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>This is Sarah Bixler's last week as Conference Coordinator. Lift Sarah up in prayer as she transitions from VMC to study at Princeton Theological Seminary, and her husband and three children as they prepare to move.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>At the end of July, Michael &amp; Ruth and three children returned to their place of service in South Asia after two months of home leave. Thank God for this time of rejuvenation, and pray that He will give them energy for the work ahead of them.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Invite God to continue to grow the ministries of VMC's <i>Congregations in Formation</i>: the exchange, Fourth St. Community, No Longer Forsaken International, Peace Fellowship Church, Signs of Life, and Stephens City Korean Community Church.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Harry &amp; Kris Kraus and son Sam have returned to Virginia from their service in Kenya. Thank God for their dedicated service and ask Him to guide their next steps, especially as Sam enters college.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thank God for the baptism of 11 people on June 9 in Lezhe, Albania. Remember each one as they continue to grow in discipleship since this important day of public confession of Jesus as their Savior and Lord.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Families with young children are adjusting to school schedules, new demands on time and attention and various responsibilities that may create stress. Pray for the young families in your congregation, that they will experience patience, love and grace.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Thank God for Rehoboth Mennonite Church's presence for over 60 years in Scottsville, Va. Invite the Holy Spirit to renew their witness as each member shares Christ's light with friends and neighbors.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>This week marks the end of Owen Burkholder's 18 years as Conference Minister. Thank God for his faithful service to VMC and invite God's Spirit to guide Owen and Ruth Ann as they seek God's unfolding call.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Raleigh Mennonite Church in NC "is a community growing as disciples of Jesus, the Christ." Pray for them as they nurture spiritual growth, practice reconciliation, serve, and share God's love and forgiveness.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Michelle Swartley teaches at PROMESA, a bilingual Christian school in Cusco, Peru. Pray for her as she manages her classroom and instructs young minds in academics and character growth.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Today Rodney &amp; Eve Knepp and three children return to Jamaica for another year of service. Pray for safe travel and for a smooth transition to their home in Top Hill, on the campus of Maranatha School for the Deaf.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pray for the Riddle family as they prepare to leave for Italy on Sept. 3. There are many details to cover; may they experience God's grace as they take care of these and say 'goodbye' to family and friends.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Today marks the end of the fiscal year for VMC and VMM. Ask God to guide the leaders of these ministry organizations as they listen to those whom they serve and seek to be faithful financial stewards.</p>
<p>1</p> <p>Nancy Marshall is concluding VBS for children of Deaf adults (CODA) tomorrow. This is a good opportunity to touch a variety of families with God's grace and peace. Thank God for Nancy and her assistants as they teach, play and serve.</p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.</b> Romans 1:16 (NIV)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Nancy Marshall is concluding VBS for children of Deaf adults (CODA) tomorrow. This is a good opportunity to touch a variety of families with God's grace and peace. Thank God for Nancy and her assistants as they teach, play and serve.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Thank God for the new life of Jayden Zane, born to Rodney &amp; Eve Knepp on June 23. Pray for him and older siblings Maya and Micah as they prepare to return to Jamaica for another year.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>During July, the believers at Vasto/Termoli, Italy, dedicate time for sharing their faith with persons in their town. Pray that persons who heard about Jesus will ponder and respond to the call on their lives.</p>		



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 Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498

## Announcements

Join the Everence Federal Credit Union Harrisonburg office for their annual **youth savings event**, August 12-16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 841 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, Va. It's a great chance for adults and kids to learn about the value of saving money, and join the staff for a fun-filled event with games and prizes. And as an exciting bonus, Everence will deposit an extra \$5 whenever a child or youth deposits \$15 or more in a new savings account or an existing account. Contact (540) 437-0672 to learn more!

Mennonite Hispanic Initiative invites you to an **MHI Friends Dinner** fundraiser on August 30 at Park View Mennonite Church, 7-9 p.m. Twenty-three tables will be "sold" to table sponsors, who can invite seven guests. This event will mark four years of MHI and its transition this September to a Latino-focused ministry of Virginia Mennonite Missions.

**Women's Community Bible Study** will be offered at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church using Beth Moore's study: *Beloved Disciple Life and Ministry of John*. Explore the life of John and legacy of love he left for future believers. Sessions will be Tuesdays Sept. 3 to Nov. 12 (9-11 a.m. and 6:30-8:15 p.m.) Registration form with \$20 fee is due by Aug. 20. Contact Jeannie Smith: (540) 434-4361.

**Harrisonburg Mennonite Church** is seeking a full-time youth and young adult director. A Master of Divinity degree and ministry experience preferred. We are looking for a candidate with a passion for God and young people. Interested persons may contact lead pastor Craig Maven: [cmaven@hmcchurch.org](mailto:cmaven@hmcchurch.org), (540) 434-4463 ex. 104.

### UPCOMING TOUR

## Walk Where Jesus Walked



12 day trip to Israel  
 March 18 - 29, 2014

Israel - *Caesarea, Nazareth Village, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Qumran, Masada, Bethlehem, Jerusalem*  
 Optional 3 day Jordan extension - *Jerash, Mt. Nebo, Petra*

Contact: Dave & Joyce Eshleman  
 540-421-1651  
 DEshleman1@comcast.net

Middle school youth in grades 6-8 and adult sponsors are invited from all VMC churches to the **Middle School Retreat** at Smith Mountain Lake, September 28-29. The theme is "**The me I was meant to be,**" presented by speaker Lesley Francisco. Join us for a weekend of worship, faith stories, energetic activities and friendship-building! Learn more and register at: [virginiaconference.org/ministries/youth-ministry/middle-school-retreat](http://virginiaconference.org/ministries/youth-ministry/middle-school-retreat)



**PENNY POWER**  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013  
 ROCKINGHAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
 Meeting the needs of the **displaced**  
 Ecuador • Indonesia • Jordan • Thailand • other locations  
 projects of and