

Encouraging our brothers and sisters in Trinidad

By **SAM & BEVERLY SCAGGS**
Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church

Our journey to Trinidad & Tobago actually began in Orlando, Florida! Sam was privileged to attend a church planter's and pastor's conference, "Exponential," in April 2012, thanks to the generosity of VMC, VMM and our Eastern District.

One of the highlights of this trip was meeting the pastor of Charlieville Mennonite Church, Ganesh Kalloo. We became friends quickly and continued our friendship after the conference with email exchanges and phone calls. We were blessed to receive an invitation to come and serve Charlieville as well as the rest of Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago (MCTT) in October.

Upon our arrival and meeting all of the leaders of MCTT, as well as Richard & Margaret Keeler, Beverly began to reflect with them that she had many childhood memories of hearing first hand reports of the mission work there including the



Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago leaders at a pastors retreat: from left: Ramon & Kamla Goodridge, Overseer Raul and Linda Gunpath with daughters Sydni and Zion, Ramesh & Babes Jaimani, Ganesh & Risha Kalloo, Ronald & Lurine Latchman with daughters, Navin & Sunita Benny with daughter Anna Leah, and Sam & Bev Scaggs.



Sam Scaggs teaches a leadership class in Charlieville Mennonite Church. The sessions were videotaped so that others could view the classes later.

beautiful location in a central part of the island. Those sessions stimulated many hours of discussions, storytelling, laughter and special prayer times where everyone, including us, received

encouragement through the Holy Spirit to continue our work strengthening our various congregations. The other key event was a leadership seminar for MCTT leaders. There were over 30 leaders present. Topics addressed were *transactional vs. transformational leadership*, *dream-based coaching*, *leading change* and other topics. The entire time was exciting and stimulating. To see firsthand what God has done and is doing in Trinidad left us energized for what God has called us to do in our part of His vineyard!

medical practice of Dr. Keeler who treated many people afflicted with Hanson's disease. When Sam met Richard the first evening he said, "I feel like I'm meeting a 'living legend.' Richard replied with a laugh, "I'm living but I'm not so sure about the legend part!"

Sam was the guest speaker at the pastor and leaders' retreat located at a

Pray for the believers in Trinidad & Tobago! They are praying for you!



Bev Scaggs and Babes Jaimani discuss topics raised in the leadership classes held in the Charlieville Mennonite Church. Photos courtesy of author

Cultivating healthy sexuality in our conference



Owen Burkholder
Conference Minister

It was months in the planning. Representatives from the Congregational Life Commission and the Faith & Life Commission pondered how to model a way of talking about healthy sexuality

in the congregational setting.

One hundred people from 24 congregations gathered at Waynesboro Mennonite Church on Saturday, November 3, to worship, listen, share around tables, and worship again.

As we acknowledged God's gifts of creation—culminating in the human, male and female, we also confessed our brokenness (not living up to God's wonderful intentions for us).

Duane Beck, pastor of Raleigh Mennonite Church, then led in setting a Biblical foundation for our reflection. Using the story of the woman anointing Jesus (Luke 7:36-50), Duane noted the

difference between relational sexuality and genital sexuality.

That story leads easily into a definition of sexuality: *The God-given drive to relate to another person in loving, caring, and trusting ways. We have the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual capacities to care for another person.* (Duane Beck, 2000)

Distinguishing between relational and genital sexuality can be more readily understood by considering sexuality on a continuum.

Finally, Duane offered some safeguards for congregational leaders as they work with their own sexuality. The core task is to guard one's heart. Maintaining an honest journey with the Lord that acknowledges our temptations in prayer—recognizing the valued personhood of those to whom we are drawn in unhealthy ways—will help us to love as Jesus loved instead of using others for our own gratification.

Ken L. Nafziger, VP for Student Life at EMU, followed with a review of the cultural context in which congregations must do their nurturing work. He gave eloquent witness to the healing power of compas-

sionate congregations in the midst of an alienated, misdirected culture. With the pervasiveness of pornography, parents now must work with establishing controls for TV and internet usage for their children—unknown to previous generations.

A key part of the day was time spent around tables where participants confidentially considered questions like:

1. What would you say is the most formative memory in your development in human sexuality? Who or what was the source? In what ways was it timely and accurate information?

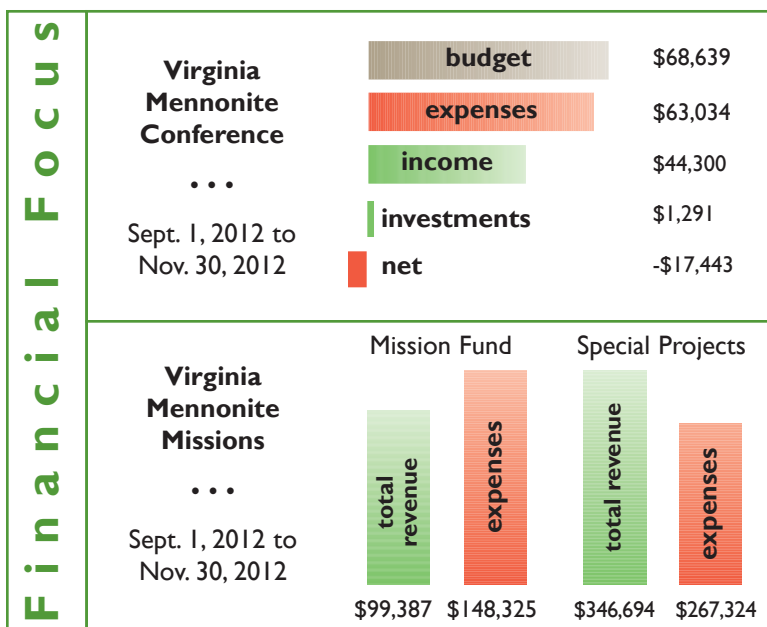
2. What do you wish you would have heard from home and the church?

3. What from your growing up experience in your family of origin has shaped your adult view of human sexuality?

4. If you are a parent, how have you tried to teach your children about healthy understandings of human sexuality? What might you have done differently?

We tried to model a way to engage this sensitive subject. In the evaluations, participants overwhelmingly said 'thank you.'

CONTINUUM OF SEXUALITY



Connections (USPS 007-205) is published monthly by Virginia Mennonite Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference to connect congregations with each other and conference agencies.

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Salvation history is theme of Joint Ministry Retreat

By JON TROTTER
Assistant editor

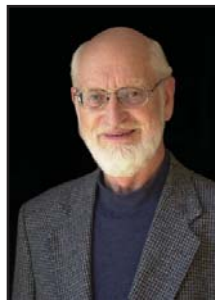
“How has God worked in history to solve the sin problem and bring everything under the Lordship of Jesus Christ?”

That is the question that the *heilsgeschichte*, or salvation history, seeks to answer.

Participants at the upcoming Joint Ministry Retreat, a time of learning and fellowship for ministers and youthworkers, will learn more about how the stories of the Bible create an overarching drama of God’s redemptive work that becomes our own story today.

Marion Bontrager, Bible and Ministry professor at Hesston College, and Terry Shue, Mennonite Church USA Director of

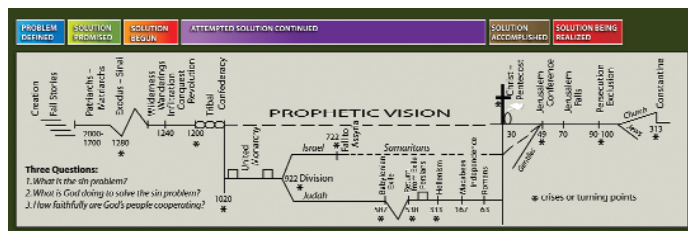
Leadership Development, will present *Learning the Bible in Life-giving Ways: History, Hooks, and Heilsgeschichte*. The study of the *heilsgeschichte* has been the subject of Biblical Literature, a required course at Hesston for many years.



Marion Bontrager



Terry Shue



Emphasizing God’s saving acts throughout history as well as for today, the March 1-3 retreat at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center will provide numerous opportunities to view Jesus Christ as central in redemption.

The retreat theme connects directly to Mennonite Church USA’s emphasis of 2013 as the *Year of the Bible*. Additionally, the retreat will provide tools that congregational leaders and youth workers can use to translate this material back into our various congregational settings.

Register at virginiainconference.org by Feb. 11 or mail a printed registration form to Virginia Mennonite Conference.

Walking the Nile: summer learning tour will explore Egypt

By MATTHEW BUCHER
Team co-leader to Egypt with *Partners*

In this season of remembering Jesus’ birth and childhood, the Egyptian (Coptic) Church celebrates the special place that Egypt holds in the Christian story. They remember the Holy Family’s pilgrimage in Egypt as they fled from the wrath of Herod (Matthew 2:13-15). Since that time, the Coptic Orthodox Church has been growing and worshiping faithfully in the lands around the Nile river. To this day, many pilgrims travel in the steps of the Holy Family through this changing and beautiful land.

Though we are geographically distant, Mennonites share deep roots of faith with the Coptic Church. New strength of connection was built in the late 1960s when Mennonites worked with the Coptic Church during regional unrest. Since then, Mennonite Central Committee and other Mennonite affiliates have been a consistent presence in Egypt, partnering with the Coptic Church on projects of development, education, and peacebuilding.

Virginia Mennonite Missions is offering the opportunity to explore those roots

of connection and to build relationships through a new *Partners* learning tour in June 2013.

Led by Matthew Bucher and Greta Shenk, the Learning Tour will be two weeks of pilgrimage and reflection, intentional discipleship, and cross-cultural encounter. Bucher served with MCC in Egypt from 2007-2011, teaching and facilitating peacebuilding workshops with the Coptic Orthodox Church. Also with MCC, Shenk taught English in Cairo and Beni Suef.

Bucher and Shenk are looking forward to introducing people to the rootedness that they experienced during their work in Egypt. As Emmanuel Katongole wrote in *Reconciling All Things*, “The goal of a pilgrim is not to solve but to search, not so much to help as to be present...The pace is slower, more reflective. Pilgrims set out not so much to assist strangers but to eat with them.”



Egyptian Coptic nuns and priests (in background) have a long and rich history in Egypt. Mennonites have connected with the Coptic community since the 1950s. Courtesy of author

The learning tour, entitled “Walking the Nile,” will endeavor to build and reflect upon relationships, stretching across the distance that separates us through the faith that connects us.

If you are interested in more information about the tour and the possibility of participating, contact Matthew Bucher, mbucier@gmail.com or (717) 644-2078; or contact VMM at (800) 707-5535 or partners@vmmissions.org

God remains faithful to Italian church through trials and loss

By **CHRIS RIDDLE**

VMM worker in Italy

The 25th annual conference of the Italian Mennonite Church (CEMI) was held at Centro Agape in Palermo, Italy, November 3-4. It was an opportunity to celebrate the life of the church and the faithfulness of the believers through the years.

Yet, this year's conference, with the theme "Faith in God," took place in the midst of difficult trials and challenges for the "mother" church of Centro Agape.

Two weeks before the conference, Dario Crocivera died after a nine-month battle with cancer. Dario was only 23 years old and was an established leader among the young people in the church and a wonderfully gifted musician who played on the worship team at Centro Agape. Dario's death was a hard blow to the church.

Then, less than 48 hours before the conference, Francesco Picone, long-time president of CEMI, entered the hospital with heart problems. This caused a flurry

of last-minute changes for the Conference in Palermo. It was another blow to the church as this would be the first conference without Francesco present!

The opening song was "Lord, we lift your Name on High" and it began a time of deep, heart-felt worship. Close to 200 voices were lifted together to praise God for His faithfulness even during difficult times. It was truly a beautiful experience! Franco Bosio, the main speaker, taught about putting our faith in God who is faithful, how God sometimes takes us on roads less traveled, and how He brings us peace



Participants at the annual conference of the Italian Mennonite Church worship together. God's faithfulness through storms and "roads less traveled" was the subject of speaker Franco Bosio's message. Photo courtesy of author

even in the midst of the storms of life.

The Mennonite Church in Italy is growing and we see this growth in the faithfulness of the Italian leaders and believers. It is a faith in God that will take the church through the next 25 years and beyond!

Join us in praising God that Francesco Picone is recovering well from his stay in the hospital!

Nine persons, including six baptized, join Hope Mennonite Church

By **SUNITA BENNY**

Hope Mennonite Church, Esperanza, Trinidad

The building of the Hope Mennonite Church has been in process for years—that is the bricks, mortar, windows and doors. It is almost completed, and it is a lovely facility for worship. The Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago conference was held in the building in August.

In addition to the bricks and mortar, the true church, the bride of Christ, is being built! On Sunday, November 25, nine people were added as members to the congregation. Six youth were received through baptism: Anna-Leah Benny, Jaylene Basdeo, Peta Beddeo, Tyler Ramlal, Kerry-Ann Bajnath and Joshua Lalchan. Two were received by covenant renewal, Maura and Rodney, and one was received by transfer, Alex Jangiesingh.

A total of 54 people gathered at the Las Cuevas beach to witness this event.

Pastor Navin Benny's sermon was on faith from Hebrew 11:1. He stated, "baptism is one day but how we live the rest of our life is important."

Sister Sunita Benny and Brother Pat Bajnath joined Pastor Navin in the water as one by one they were immersed. What a glorious day for all of us at Hope Mennonite



Anna-Leah Benny, Jaylene Basdeo, Peta Beddeo, Tyler Ramlal, Kerry-Ann Bajnath and Joshua Lalchan were baptized and three additional persons joined the membership of Hope Mennonite Church. Photo courtesy of author

Church! We give God thanks for transforming these lives and look forward to them participating in the congregation.

Parenting Project engages Waynesboro Mennonite Church

By **KAREN TREACY**

Waynesboro Mennonite Church

Waynesboro Mennonite Church recently engaged in a presence ministry activity, blessing us as much as the people with whom we were serving. As part of the Parenting Project, several families who had poor relationships with their teen-aged children had been ordered to take a 10-week course, one night a week, both parents and teens, with the Youth and Families division. Our church offered our church as the meeting location.

Pastor Howard Miller suggested that we volunteer to come early and fix a hot meal for the families and eat with them in a spirit of friendship. The first evening our guests were wary and reserved. They expressly did not want to be there. We sat among them, offering no criticism or

advice, but looked instead for common ground. The meals were appreciated. As the program progressed, they grew more accustomed to us, but remained cautious.

The representative for the Parenting Project came to a Sunday morning worship service to tell us that whether we saw it or not, our presence was indeed making a difference. Those families who felt forced into the program were amazed that we would go to this trouble to make them feel welcome. "These are families who don't get a lot of positive reinforcement otherwise," she said.

That thought stuck with me. We all have experienced encouragement that meant a lot to us, perhaps more than the person speaking the words intended. And it doesn't take much effort to pass encouragement along. The Preacher tells us "Cast your bread upon the waters: for you

shall find it after many days." We will receive 'good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over' for encouraging words, sincerely and lovingly spoken.

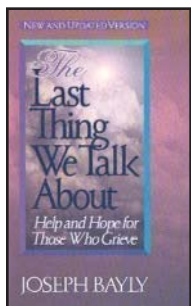
I recently saw a couple who probably fall into the category of families who don't get a lot of positive reinforcement when we were seated in a restaurant near a very Goth couple and their baby. The babe crowed at me, jabbered, kicked and slapped the table. I told the parents, "You are obviously doing a great job with him—he is so friendly and outgoing." It was a holy joy to see defensiveness drain from them, to be replaced with pleasure and surprise.

If your church, or you personally, are not practicing 'presence ministry,' you are missing one of the simplest ways to feel and pass on the joy of the Lord.

Waynesboro's 'ministry of presence'

By **HOWARD MILLER**

Pastor, Waynesboro Mennonite Church



Joseph Bayly authored a book entitled *The Last Thing We Talk About*. Joe and his wife Mary Lou lost three of their children. They lost one son following surgery when he was only 18 days old. Their second son died at age five from leukemia. They lost a third son at age 18 after a sledding accident.

He writes, "I was sitting, torn by grief. Someone came and talked to me of God's dealings, of why it happened, of hope beyond the grave. He talked constantly; he said things I [already] knew were true. I was unmoved, except I wished he'd go away. He finally did. Another came and sat beside me for an hour and more; listened when I said something, answered briefly, prayed simply and left. I was moved. I was comforted. I hated to see him go."

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WMC and a ministry of presence:

We are offering to bless people who are in various stages of grief.

Our presence is our way of saying we care for you even if we don't know you or the situation you face.

What can we do? First, learn to know their names. Second, pray for those you meet. Third, ask the Holy Spirit to help your life reflect God's love. Fourth, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." I Peter 3:15

We do not have to be brilliant, articulate, biblical scholars; it is true that the greatest ability as a friend is availability. Just show up—and you exercise the ministry of presence.



"More and more, the desire grows in me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on

their doorsteps, ...to have the time to practice this simple *ministry of presence*. It is not as simple as it seems.

My own desire to do something significant is so strong that my time is taken up by meetings that prevent me from walking the streets. It is difficult not to organize people around an urgent cause, and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress.

But I wonder if the first thing should be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly *love them*."

—Henri Nouwen



The 2012-13 EMS Student Ambassadors show their school pride. Courtesy of authors.

EMS Student Ambassadors welcome and lead

By **MARTHA NELSON**, Principal
and **LINDA CLARK**, assistant

Eastern Mennonite School welcomed a new Admissions Counselor at the start of the 2012-13 academic year.

Kate Nussbaum Bergey joined the school Advancement Department to lead admissions and recruitment activities for all grades, K-12. Kate comes to EMS with a background in marketing, event planning and youth leadership, making her a solid fit to help grow the school's enrollment.

One of the EMS Advancement department's primary objectives for its new Admissions Counselor was to revamp the school's existing Student Ambassador program in order to augment peer connections for new students.

In the past, the EMS Student Ambassadors have aided solely with admissions events, such as serving as hosts at open houses and leading tours for new families. In addition to these roles, Ambassadors now also serve as peer mentors for new EMS students, in order to make transitions to a new school as seamless as possible.

Each Ambassador is assigned 2-3 new students to mentor, reach out to and check in with on a regular basis. Much like the successful Senior/6th grade "Big Brother & Big Sister" program already in place, the Ambassadors serve as both a friendly face and as a friend to newcomers.

Nominated by faculty members who recognized qualities of leadership, maturity, emotional intelligence and a commitment to EMS in each student, the Ambassadors attended an all-day training event prior to the start of school, where they learned more about the history of EMS, the roles and expectations of Ambassadors as well as basic customer service and communication skills.

The Ambassadors meet monthly with Kate Bergey to plan Admissions events and to give feedback on how well new students are connecting with peers, clubs and co-curricular activities. They also are "on-call" as extra hands needed for fun events, such as running horse and carriage rides at the elementary school Fall Festival or

planning an impromptu hot chocolate bash after school on a chilly day.

EMS is thrilled with the direction the Student Ambassador program is heading and recognizes the vital link these students make in outreach and retention efforts.

This year's Student Ambassadors are: Freshmen: Luke Burns, Olivia Smucker and Leah Wenger; Sophomores: Esther Ghale, Lillian Hughes and Andrew Johnson; Juniors: Kendall Dean, Grayson Mast and Katherine Mumaw; and Seniors: Grace Driver, Nathaniel Oberholtzer and Olivia Resto.

For more information on the Student Ambassador program or upcoming Admissions events, including Student Visitation Days/Open Houses January 21 and February 18, please contact Kate Bergey at (540) 236-6026 or bergeyk@emhs.net.

JANUARY 2013

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
Matthew 22: 37-39 (NIV)

Monday

6 Big Spring Mennonite Church is nestled in the mountain valley of Luray, Va. May God use this “little church with a big heart” to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the surrounding community.

13

Remember Mt. Clinton and Weavers Mennonite churches, congregations on the western edge of Harrisonburg. Invite God to bless their ministries in order to disciple attendees and impact their communities.

20

Pray for the believers at Vietnamese Christian Fellowship just west of Washington, DC, and Pastor Nguyen as he leads the congregation. May God bless their fellowship and use them in mighty ways.

27

Ask God to fulfill the visions of our congregations in Stuarts Draft, Va: Greenmonte offers “real community for real people,” and Stuarts Draft is “bringing the love of Jesus to a thirsty world.”

Tuesday

1 In this New Year, listen for how God is calling you to follow boldly in Christ’s way. What new thing (Isaiah 43:19) does God want to do in your life or your congregation?

8 The Task Force for a Financially Sustainable VMC continues its work of listening and analysis. Pray for wisdom and insight as they develop a recommendation for Conference Council.

15

VMM *tram Sender*, Sarah Schoenhals arrived in Thailand in November where she is serving the Life Enrichment Church. Thank God for her continued enthusiasm for His Kingdom work.

22

Pray for “English Club” at Centro Koinonia every Tuesday. Each week 20-25 students attend from various schools in Bari, creating new relationships with people who normally do not come to our facilities.

29

Today Harry Kraus may have the opportunity to speak to someone about the difference Jesus makes in a life given to Him. Pray that Harry will have the words and presence to make an impact on this life.

Wednesday

2 Recall the resolutions you made last year and see how you’ve done with accomplishing your goals. Perhaps God is calling you to a dynamic change in one area of your life—strive for it!

9 Jacob & Hosanna in South Asia meet challenges with a steadfast spirit and deep commitment to serving God daily as they work in discipleship, outreach, Bible teaching. Hold them up in prayer today.

16

Pray for Steve & Laura Campbell as they serve the Brethren Assembly church in Podgorica, Montenegro. May they shine Christ’s light into every situation.

23

The children of Joshua Center are so glad to have “Tete” back with them—Norma Teles returned in December as director of this place of love and learning. Cover Norma, the assistants, and the children with prayer.

30

If your congregation has Wednesday evening meal/activities/study, take part in this wholeheartedly, creating community in the fellowship this brings. It builds the body of Christ!

Thursday

3 On Saturday evening, a benefit piano concert with Jonathan Keener will support Steve & Bethany Horst as they prepare for service in Thailand. Enjoy great music and encourage the Horsts as they move forward.

10

VMM/EMM workers, Mark & Sarah Schoenhals engage in Bible teaching and leadership development with the Life Enrichment Church, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. May they have God’s strength today.

17

VMC is currently discerning the next phase of Conference Youth Ministry following Jason Gerlach’s resignation. Pray for God’s guidance for the future of this important ministry.

24

Two mission worker couples, the Keelers and the Eberlys are in a time of transition from their former roles into different roles in their retirement. May God’s grace see them through this time.

31

Shawn & Laura Green are preparing in step-by-step for serving in Italy. They need prayer and financial support. Can you help them? Prayerfully seek how God wants you to assist in their ministry.

Friday

4 Tomorrow Grace Schrock-Hurst and Yugo Bekti celebrate their wedding in Southeast Asia. Pray that God will bless this occasion and the couple as they move forward serving Christ together.

11

As Conference Council meets this weekend, invite God’s Spirit to be present. May our VMC leaders recognize where the Spirit is already moving and listen to where the Spirit is leading us.

18

VMM/Mission Network worker David Shenk had a few weeks in the US with his family for the holidays. His work as a refugee coordinator in Ecuador is stressful. Pray for him to experience health in every way.

25

Pray for Dimi Shahini as he serves the church in Lezhe, Albania, and has multiple interests and connections. May he be a good role model for young men in that culture to follow Christ daily.

Saturday

5 Pray for the Ministerial Counsel of the Italian Mennonite Church as it meets this evening in Palermo. Loren Horst, VMM President, and Chris Riddle, VMM worker in Bari, will be present.

12

Tribe’s Impact (Youth Group) meets twice a month at Centro Koinonia. Pray for the relationships that are growing within the group and for Dino & Mara as they lead these events, teaching the love of Christ.

19

Pray for the preaching class at Centro Koinonia in Bari, Italy, taught by Nicola & Chris, enabling members to explain the Word of God clearly to people both in and out of church.

26

VMM/EMM worker Nancy Marshall hosts “Boyz Night Out” on Saturdays when several young men gather for fellowship and Bible training. Ask God to transform these lives for His purposes.

This month’s prayer calendar is sponsored by

Richard & Wanda Good

in appreciation for Eastern Mennonite School and Eastern Mennonite University, where eight of our grandchildren are studying this year.



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Virginia Mennonite Conference
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Announcements

Support Steve and Bethany Horst's service in Bangkok, Thailand: blank Christmas cards of Bethany's artwork are available by contacting her at (540) 560-5867. A silent auction of Bethany's original artwork is hanging in the VMM conference room at 901 Parkwood Drive. The auction closes January 5, so get your bids in soon! You can preview the cards and silent auction pieces at www.bethanytobin.com. Join us for a piano concert featuring Dr. Jonathan Keener to benefit Steve and Bethany Horst on January 5, 7 p.m. at EMU Martin Chapel. Admission is \$10; Kids 12 and under are free. A light reception will follow the concert.

The church witnesses the voice of God in the Bible. Sometimes, though, it is our own voice we hear—we read into the text what we want it to say. Trissels Mennonite Church is hosting five Sunday evenings (6:30-8pm; Jan 20, 27, Feb 10, 17, 24) to look at disciplines that help us **Read the Bible for all it's worth**, i.e., read God's ideas out of the biblical text. Harold Miller will lead the sessions.

VMC Delegates, plan now to attend the annual **Winter Delegate Session** on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9:00-3:00 at Springdale Mennonite Church, 170 Hall School Road, Waynesboro, VA. Coffee and pastries will be served at 8:30am and lunch is provided. The session will focus on the theme of Stewardship, and the full agenda can be viewed at www.virginiainconference.org (click on "Delegates").

Singers wanted! Please join us for two concerts of the **Melodious Accord Cantata** by Alice Parker. A delightful set of tunes taken from the *Harmonia Sacra* hymn

collection, this concert is being organized as a choral recital for a doctoral degree from the University of South Carolina, sung in the Harrisonburg area as a tribute to its heritage.

Concert schedule: Friday, Feb 22, 2013, 7:00 pm at VMRC, Harrisonburg; Saturday, Feb 23, 2013, 7:00 pm at Donovan United Methodist Church, Singers Glen. For more information, including rehearsal schedules, please contact Raymond Hebert (415) 260-2878, or at rh64@pacbell.net.

The **Mennonite Central Committee meat canner** is coming to the Hinton Mennonite Relief Center in Dayton, Va. The week of February 25-March 1 has been designated as Virginia Mennonite Conference week. Individuals and groups are needed to help; if available, please contact Gerald Knicely at (540) 478-4203.

Visit the Balkans (Albania & Montenegro) on a Mission Fellowship Tour, May 6-16, 2013. Led by Ed Bontrager, and with Virginia Mennonite Missions' President Loren & Earlene Horst, the tour will visit mission workers, the new Lehza Academic Center, Shkodra, Tirana, Berrat Village, old castles, stunning Adriatic coastlines, ancient monasteries, Lushnje, Durres, and much more! Price (incl. taxes and fuel surcharge) only \$2498 from D.C. Contact Ed at (540) 438-8304 or eebontrager@comcast.net for a brochure.

"The Christian Movement in the Mediterranean" offers an opportunity to study with Linford Stutzman exploring the context of Acts in Turkey and Greece, May 16-June 1, 2013. For registration, visit emu.edu/secondary/cross-cultural/Christian-movement/

Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity

How do you inspire generosity?

A **Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity seminar** will be hosted by Everence on April 12-13 at the Gathering Place, Harrisonburg, Va.

Pastors and ministry leaders will explore steps for energizing congregational generosity through this seminar led by Beryl Jantzi.

Congregational ministry teams of 3-5 persons are invited to register by March 1 for a \$100 fee plus workbook costs. This seminar may also be held in other locations according to interest.

Call (800) 442-7930 for more information and registration.