

Eastern Carolina churches connect immigration and faith

By KELSEY HOCHSTETLER

An immigration checkpoint, near Durham Mennonite Church, stands ready to catch undocumented churchgoers on some Sundays. But Mennonite churches in the surrounding area are standing up for their undocumented neighbors.

An immigration seminar was held at Durham Mennonite on Saturday, June 8. The event was sponsored by Eastern Carolina District of the Virginia Mennonite Conference and the North Carolina Council of Churches.

Why? “Because immigration rights are human rights,” said Ann Robertson, one of the guest speakers, who also believes this to be a faith issue. Robertson is one of 23 immigration-law specialists in North Carolina and attends Raleigh Mennonite Church.

“The only difference between me and you, is that I lack a piece of paper,” said Isabel Castillo, an Eastern Mennonite University graduate who also spoke at the seminar. “The time to speak up is now.”

Castillo urges both U.S. citizens and undocumented immigrants, like herself,



Isabel Castillo

to speak up fearlessly. She believes that if undocumented immigrants have good character and the community knows their immigration

status, community members will rally to stop the deportation process, if necessary.

Castillo is the founder of Dream Activist Virginia and co-founder of National Immigration Youth Alliance. By supporting the Dream Act, introduced to Congress in 2001, she advocates for undocumented immigrants to gain citizenship if they have lived in the U.S. for five years, are of good



Panelists (from left) Jackie Aguilar, Mauricio Castro, and Raul Pinto share why immigration reform is important to them.

moral character, apply as a minor before the age of 16, have earned a high school diploma, and attend college or enroll in the military.

If passed, the Dream Act will only affect two of the nine million people who meet the requirements. Undocumented immigrants wanting higher education will still have to pay out-of-state tuition, with no government aid, at an average of \$22,000 a year. Then the only path to citizenship for those unable to afford tuition will involve military enrollment.

“How can we call ourselves a peace church, if by not supporting immigration reform, the only real path to citizenship includes joining the military?” asked Robertson. Part of U.S. Senate bill 744 advocates for in-state tuition costs for undocumented immigrants, as well as revoking the law that requires a social security number to apply for a driver’s license.

Seminar panelist Raul Pinto, a North Carolina attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, described how minor traffic violations can result in deportation. Each day, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deports 1,100 undocumented immigrants, for a total of 400,000 under the Obama administration.

On May 15, 2011, at 5:00 a.m., a seat-belt checkpoint stood between a small agricultural town and its tomato-filled rolling hills just as workers arrived at the fields.

But in addition to a police officer, an ICE officer was also present. Reports say that while white workers were waived through the checkpoint, an officer stopped a car full of persons of color. Although each was wearing a seatbelt, the officer asked for each person’s driver’s license. The driver was the only person with a license, because undocumented immigrants have been unable to obtain driver’s licenses in North Carolina since 2006. Two people were deported as a result.

“We must join the table of conversation,” said Mauricio Castro, another panelist and director of immigration and community policies at the North Carolina Latino Coalition. “Our senators are hearing from their constituents, and 10-1 are not in favor of immigrant rights.”

In response, seminar speakers explored the audience to stand for immigrant rights. Participants were encouraged to become educated on local immigration issues, educate their congregations, make it personal by befriending an undocumented person, contact elected officials, donate towards immigrant rights campaigns, and sign petitions at www.dreamactivist.org.



Kelsey is attending Raleigh Mennonite Church this summer, while her husband, Jeff, serves there as a seminary intern.

“What would you say to your successor?”

By OWEN BURKHOLDER



That public question, toward the end of a congregational meeting, caught me emotionally and it took some time before I could venture an answer.

“Learn to know and love the leaders throughout the conference,” I choked out. I was sitting beside the overseer of the particular district of this congregation and we had been exploring the relationship of the congregation to the district and Virginia Mennonite Conference.

It has been a huge privilege to walk with the bishop/overseers, people who care deeply for the pastors and people in the congregations.

Perhaps we call into leadership persons who have demonstrated some capacity to manage the challenges of personal and family life and yet are able to purposefully stay engaged with the larger community of faith. In any case, having walked with the VMC oversight system through the retirement of a whole generation and the installation of successor bishop/overseers, I feel great hope for the church because of the character of these dear friends.

“Work at self-definition because you will be pulled in every direction,” likely

this is why I was so emotional. Because I am a bridgebuilder, I try my best to find the possible ways to keep people with differences connected to each other. That means listening closely to hear the heart of folks whose interpretation of Scripture on the large issues of the day is widely spread. In addition, serving as conference minister for one conference means sharing the journey with all the other conference ministers in Mennonite Church USA.

Within VMC we have built major service institutions to carry our mission, formation, and retirement ministries. During these challenging economic times, it has been a privilege to walk with these leaders as well.

At times, I have absorbed too much of the pressure of the leadership challenges within myself, not adequately accepting the presence of the Spirit of Jesus whose church this is. So, I say to my successor and to the whole VMC constituency, “from your heart, keep singing, *Jesus, be the center.*”

Owen Burkholder
Conference Minister
Virginia Mennonite Conference

Signs of Christ's Kingdom



Has your congregation created its Assembly poster? Upon arrival on July 25, delegates will be asked to hang up their poster, made with the shape of a road sign, that depicts how their congregation or agency is pointing to Christ's kingdom. VMC's poster (above) resembles an interstate sign symbolizing our identity across states, and features photos of enrichment events, celebrations and gatherings that demonstrate how VMC is “pointing to Christ's kingdom.”



Calling all motorcycle enthusiasts! *Motorcycle for Missions 2013* will be held July 24-25, with a tour planned from Powhatan to Roanoke to Harrisonburg, with a welcome at VMC Assembly. Riders are encouraged to find sponsors for their journey and all funds will benefit Virginia Mennonite Missions. Learn more: vmmissions.org/support/motorcycle-for-missions.

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Financial Focus

Virginia Mennonite Conference		Sept. 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013
budget		\$205,318
expenses		\$190,342
income		\$163,956
investments		\$6,761
net		-\$19,625

Virginia Mennonite Missions		Sept. 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013
total revenue		\$403,965
expenses		\$493,459
total revenue		\$1,120,673
expenses		\$857,482



Bike Shenandoah looks to grow

By AARON KAUFFMAN

This September, bike riders from across the Shenandoah Valley and beyond will once again take their faith on the road.

In its 16th year, Bike Shenandoah “offers a relaxed ride atmosphere for cyclists of all ages and abilities to appreciate the area’s natural beauty, while enjoying the company of other riders and supporting global and local service, relief and development,” according to the event website.

Participants frequently cite the ride’s family friendly feel. As Paul Yoder of Park View Mennonite Church puts it, “Bike

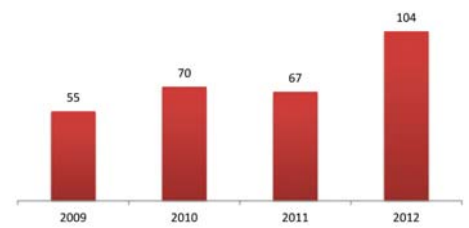
Shenandoah represents a focus on bicycling from an early age.” Routes include options of 5, 15, 30, 62 or 100 miles.

Three Mennonite agencies partner each year to organize the event: MennoMedia, Mennonite Central Committee and Virginia Mennonite Missions. The proceeds support their ministries, as well as those of a local faith-based nonprofit. Bridge of Hope, a ministry with homeless mothers and their children, is this year’s beneficiary. Last year’s ride brought in \$15,380.

“It is wonderful to collaborate with VMM and MennoMedia on a community biking event that brings together businesses, bikers, and individuals to support global ministries of Christian compassion and witness, as well as one local ministry each year,” says Luke Schrock-Hurst, Virginia representative for MCC.

“MennoMedia is a ‘bike friendly employer,” adds Steve Carpenter. “Our CEO is a biking enthusiast who pedals around

Bike Shenandoah Riders



2,000 miles per year. We have a bike rack at our front door and often participate in local ‘bike to work day’ events. Bike Shen is a fun-fundraiser which fits our corporate culture.”

As bicycling increases in popularity among creation-conscious Christians, events like Bike Shenandoah are poised to grow as well.

More information and registration are available at bikeshenandoah.org.



Aaron is Global Ministries Director and Advancement Associate of Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Forming missional DNA in our congregations

By CHRIS SCOTT

“If you want to dig a new hole, don’t dig the current one deeper.”

Alan Hirsch shared this at Atlantic Northeast Conferences of Mennonite Church USA, a conference leaders and church planters resource event on May 16 in Lancaster, Pa. Hirsch is an author, speaker, and the founding Director of The Forge Mission Training Network, an international organization. Hirsch discussed ideas on reinvigorating and envisioning the church around the mission of God.

There are some pretty sobering statistics around life in the institutional church. George Barna writes in his book, *Revolution*, that if current trends continue, attendance at churches will drop by 50% by the year 2025. Skip Tobin led a group of church planters, pastors, and VMM staff from Virginia to Pennsylvania to spend the day with Alan Hirsch.

“If we fall in love with our solutions or traditions, we’ll never try to change or improve,” Hirsch said. There is nothing

wrong with being proud of our heritage, but the question arises as to whether we will press on to follow where God may lead, in the reality of our present situations. Hirsch warned as well of the “mesmerizing power of institutions.”

Hirsch’s central thought is that God has implanted a missional DNA in every church that seeks to follow Jesus in any time and place; this missional DNA is made up of six simple but connected elements and builds a living structure:

1. Christology as the center of our lives
2. Discipleship
3. Missional incarnational impulse (sending forth and going deep)
4. Apostolic empowerment
5. Organic systems



Alan Hirsch discusses ways to reinvigorate the church through six “missional DNA impulses” instead of institutionalism. Courtesy of Vimeo.com

6. *Communitas* (a form of community that arises in the midst of a cooperative task)

This event, along with continued reading, discussion, and prayer will hopefully lead Virginia Conference to that greater faithfulness to God, which may look different from where we are, but will be where God wants us to be.



Chris is a church planter and director of *the exchange*, Winchester, Va.

Taking bold steps of faith and obedience in Palermo

By SHEILA CROCIVERA

Aurora, 23, and her brother Manuel, 21, grew up in the Centro Agape church of Palermo.

Through the years they've participated in the church's youth group and other initiatives for young believers. They have become an important part of the church's youth group, and both contribute to it in their own unique way. They are also involved in *My Space*, the after-school outreach program for teenagers. Though they have known hurt and difficulties in their family over the years, God has been their faithful sustainer.

As these two young people have grown as believers over the past couple of years, they both desired to be baptized as an expression of their faith in Christ.

On a sunny Sunday morning in May, the church was filled with regular attendees, extended family, and many friends from throughout Sicily as Manuel and Aurora took a bold step of faith and obedience.



Manual and Aurora smile after their baptism at Centro Agape. Courtesy of author

Their baptism was a joyful and emotional event! The service began with worship songs and then continued with an introduction by Andrea, the leader of the church's youth group, describing what baptism is. A letter was then read to Aurora and then to Manuel describing how God

has gifted them and encouraging them to seek Him wholeheartedly as they move forward in their relationships with Him and service to Him. The pastor gave a message, and then they boldly shared their testimonies and declared their faith in Jesus as their Savior. Finally, with great joy, they were baptized!

The festive event continued after the service with a church potluck, and then a group of about 20 young people enjoyed a walk in a park and then some of Palermo's delicious ice cream.

But the story does not end here! Their grandmother has also expressed her desire to be baptized! Praise God for His work in each generation of believers in the church in Palermo!



Sheila serves with her husband Andrea at Centro Agape, Palermo, Sicily.

Mennonite Women's retreat to explore the Mennonite soul

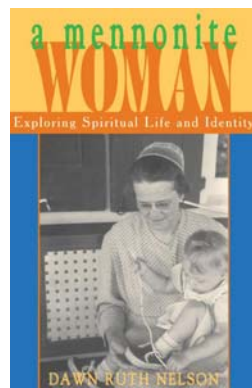
By DEONA LANDES HOUFF

Dawn Ruth Nelson explores the Mennonite soul as leader of the Mennonite Women of Virginia retreat Sept. 27-29 at Eagle Eyrie Virginia Baptist Conference Center in Lynchburg. Early registration deadline is Aug. 31, with final registration due Sept. 16.



Dawn Ruth Nelson

A Mennonite pastor and spiritual director, Nelson focuses on "Familiar Blessings, Blowing Spirit." Through the story of her grandmother's life and her own life growing up in suburban America and then spending 12 years in peace work in Catholic Ireland, Nelson encourages sisters to explore the spiritual resources of their own traditions and come to terms with their own images of God. Lead pastor at Methacton Mennonite Church in Norristown, Penn., Nelson is the author of



the 2010 book, *A Mennonite Woman: Exploring Mennonite Spiritual Life and Identity*.

"It is important to look at the Mennonite tradition, as well as other traditions, for spiritual roots and resources in this time of spiritual hunger in our culture," she writes in her book.

"Though the communally embedded agricultural spiritual formation of my grandmother was mediated by 'place,' and many Mennonites no longer live in those holy 'places,' we need to remember that this more traditional spirituality has the same themes the world needs now – mutual aid, simplicity, *Gelassenheit*, generosity, relationship, visiting, hospitality, feeding the enemy, separation from evil. The forms

will be different, but the content will still be shaped by the same Gospel." Copies of her book are available to purchase with retreat registration.

Beautifully set in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Eagle Eyrie features hotels and lodges. Lodges include kitchens; many have screened porches with mountain views. A shuttle bus for those needing a ride from their lodging to the retreat sessions or meals is provided. Sisters from Harrisonburg Mennonite Church will lead music. Songs will be projected; bring your own hymnal if desired (hymnals not provided.)

Saturday afternoon options include hiking, knitting, silent meditation and journaling and perhaps Zumba.

Registration brochures and posters arrive in congregations in early July. Questions and scholarship requests may be directed to Karen Guisewhite, retreat committee chair, at (757) 870-6176.

Deona Landes Houff serves on the retreat committee of Mennonite Women of Virginia

tranSend

class of 2013



Jonathan Cannone serves as Recovery Mentor and Garden Manager at Our Community Farm, New Market, Va.



Joel Dollarhite serves as Recovery Mentor and House Co-coordinator at Our Community Farm, New Market, Va.



Casey Johnson will serve as an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter in Orange Walk, Belize. (pending approval)



Chelsea Kobylarz will serve as an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter in Orange Walk, Belize. (pending approval)



Cindy Moyer will serve as school counselor at Lezha Academic Center, Lezhe, Albania. (pending approval)



Valentina Pastoressa will serve as a language teacher at Lezha Academic Center, Lezhe, Albania. (pending approval)



Vince and LaVonne Ramella (Sid, Bradie, Justin) plan to work with youth and teach English to eager students, and find felt needs in their community in Kosova, building on previous worker relationships.



Robert and Jessica Russo are cultivating discipleship-based missional communities in Asheville, N.C. Their partnering congregation is Asheville Mennonite Church.



Adam and Jeanette Strode will be in full-time language and culture study in order to be prepared to participate in a missional community-based ministry in Bangkok, Thailand.

Join us in commissioning these tranSend participants, as well as long-term workers and VMC leaders on July 26, 6:45 p.m. at Eastern Mennonite School auditorium as part of Conference Assembly.

EMS soccer coach Kendal Bauman ends 20 year post

By MARY GOLDEN-HUGHES

Kendal Bauman has chosen to resign from his coaching duties as EMS Boy's Varsity Soccer Coach after 20 years of service to the school. A beloved coach, mentor and advocate for soccer in the Shenandoah Valley and state, Bauman chose to end his coaching career this year in order to give rise to a new generation of coaching at EMS. Ben Roth Shank will assume Bauman's coaching duty beginning with the Fall 2013 season.

Under Bauman's leadership from 1992-2012, the Flames had an overall record of 321-99-17. Their record in the VIC during Bauman's time was 209-25-4. Other major accomplishments include:

- NSCAA Region IV Coach of the Year: 2011, 2007
- VIC Coach of the Year: 2006
- 13 VIC Championships: 2010, 2009, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1996, 1995, 1993

- 2 VISAA State Titles: 2011 Division II, 2007 Division I
- 3 VISAA State Final appearances: 2011, 2007, 2005
- 6 VISSA State semi-finals: 2011, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2002, 2000
- 6 VISSA quarter-final appearances: 2006, 2004, 2003, 2001, 1999, 1998
- 3 Menno Classic Championships: 2011, 2006, 2005
- 2 St. Vincent Invitational Championships: 1997, 1996

Additionally Bauman created the VISAA boys state soccer tournament in 1998 and served as chairman from 1998-2012.

"Coach Bauman has led EMS with great energy and vision over the past 20 years," state EMS Athletic Director Dave Bechler. "One of his greatest gifts and the cornerstone of his career has been his abil-



Coach Bauman (left) received a special recognition from EMS Athletic Director Dave Bechler (right) at the 2013 EMS Spring Sports Reception where he became the first coach inducted into the EMS Sports Hall of Fame. Courtesy of author

ity to form relationships with his players in order to build team unity. He has been a true friend and an excellent mentor to our student athletes, as well as a supportive colleague to all at EMS. His contributions on the field will be missed, but we are happy he is remaining at our school in our Physical Education department."

Mary Golden-Hughes is Director of Advancement at Eastern Mennonite School.

Warwick River Christian School celebrates active year

By MABEL NELSON

Warwick River Christian School has experienced many blessings in this, its 70th year. The strong Christian foundation on which the school began continues as the basis for our mission and vision today.

In the fall, our Middle School students participated in the local 'Get Real' Conference where we rejoiced as 15 WRCS students accepted Christ and nine rededicated their lives. These changed hearts and lives blessed the student body for the remainder of the year.

Living on the peninsula, the ship building industry is major. This year a group of 11 middle school students, sponsored by two parents, participated in the VA Regional Ship Repair LEGO competition. This competition builds on team work, presen-



The WRCS middle school chorus that toured around Virginia including stops in the Waynesboro and Harrisonburg areas. Courtesy of author

tation skills, computer skills (everything is done digitally), and science and math. It was a growing experience, and the team was blessed with earning first place in the regional and finals!

Capitalizing on the heritage of music at WRCS, Mrs. Jeri Field, chorus director, along with several parents, took the middle

school chorus on their first ever tour! Everyone was so excited! The chorus was amazed by the hospitality shown to them. The group of 16 students sang at Springdale Mennonite, Waynesboro; Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community and White Birches, Harrisonburg; and an impromptu performance at the Dayton Farmer's Market. It was a blessing to those who heard them, as well as to those who performed.

Many things, like the facilities, have changed over the 70 years existence of Warwick River Christian School. But one thing has remained constant: teaching and modeling the Word of God to those who grace our classrooms. We feel very honored to be a part of His ministry.

Mabel Nelson is Principal of Warwick River Christian School.

JULY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Last week, Chris & Melody Riddle and sons arrived in Va. for two months home-leave. Pray that God will guide them as they interact with a variety of people, especially as they raise support funds. (Look for them at Conference Assembly.)	2 This week, members of Mennonite Church USA gather in Phoenix for the biennial convention. Invite God's Spirit to guide the worship, fellowship and discernment that occur during this gathering of our denomination.	3 This is Tribe's Impact week at Centro Koinonia. Youth worship, fun, fellowship and inspiration. Assistants from Palermo and Vasto help the church in Bari with this outreach. Pray that all will be enriched by being together.	4 Yesterday, Allen Umble arrived in Pa. for home leave. He asks us to join him in prayer that he may discern God's leading in location as he returns to Albania, should it be any different from where he is now.	5 Lois King and Eunice Showalter have arrived at the Lezhe Academic Center for teaching summer school with students who want to gain a better command of English. Pray for them as they meet a variety of people and show them Christ's love.	6 Two churches just outside of Harrisonburg, Va. reflect Christ's promise of new life in their church name. Ask God to continue making new creations among those at New Beginnings Church and New Song Anabaptist Fellowship.
7 Today seven persons will be baptized at Vasto, Italy. Pray for them as they share their own stories of faith in Jesus. May these be a strong witness for Christ.	8 Thank God for the new life of Emmanuel Joseph, born to Shawn and Laura Green on June 6. Pray for him and older brother Lucas as they transition to growing up in Italy when the family arrives there in a few months.	9 Today transSend participants begin orientation for service this coming year [see p. 5]. Ask God to direct the sessions and for Martin Rhodes, transSend director, to have His leading in all the details. Orientation closes on July 18.	10 Pray for Nicola as he gives leadership to Centro Koinonia during the Riddles' home leave. May he experience God's loving presence as he prepares sermons, witnesses to others and brings hope to those who are seeking.	11 Pray for unity and vision in the Brethren Assembly in Podgorica while pastor Vladimir Cizmanski is on leave. Pray for Steve Campbell to determine priorities for his involvement in teaching during the time of the pastor's absence.	12 Pray for the annual children and youth camps in July and August at Palermo, led by Andrea and Sheila Crocivera and other youth. May this be a dynamic experience for the participants—unforgettable in many ways.	13 Vince & LaVonne Ramella and sons are in orientation during June and July for ministry in Kosovo. Pray that the remaining financial support will come in so they can leave in early September.
14 Please join Jacob & Hosanna and the local believers in prayer that the house churches grow in size and that more people in these neighborhoods come to faith. Pray that the believers are equipped with the right words and the Holy Spirit.	15 Ben & Rebecca Tyson are embarking on a <i>Partners</i> experience in Trinidad, assisting the Mennonite Church of Chaguanas with VBS. Thank God for their availability, and for the hosting by the congregation with Sis. Sheriza Sookharry's leadership.	16 This evening a fundraising meal for the Riddle family is held in Pa. Pray that many will attend and be touched by the ministry that the Riddles are doing in Italy, and that they will provide strong financial support.	17 A mini-retreat for transSend appointees and missionaries on home assignment is held today and tomorrow at Highland Retreat. Pray that God will grant each one a special blessing, including rest and relaxation.	18 Grace & Yugo Prasetyo arrived in the US from Indonesia; they are visiting with family and friends and visiting churches until October. Meet them at Conference Assembly and hear their stories of working with 'the least of these.'	19 Next week, Nancy Marshall will hold VBS for the Jesus' Deaf Church in Belize. Carol Rhodes and Lois Rhodes are going to assist. Pray that it will be a blessing for all as they learn together.	20 Phil Kniss, pastor of Park View Mennonite Church, will lead an Assembly Bible study on Ephesians 3:16-21; 4:7-16. Read this passage and pray for Phil as he prepares thoughts about "God's Provision."
21 Carmen Schrock-Hurst, Bible and Religion instructor at Eastern Mennonite University will lead an Assembly Bible study on Ephesians 3:1-12; 4:1-6. Read this and pray for Carmen as she prepares thoughts about "God's Intention for the Church."	22 Loren Horst, president of Virginia Mennonite Missions, will speak at Assembly worship on "Participating in the Vision of God." Pray for Nelson as he shapes his message and ask the Spirit to prepare hearts to respond.	23 Nelson Okanya, president of Eastern Mennonite Missions, will speak at Assembly worship on "Participating in the Vision of God." Pray for Nelson as he shapes his message and ask the Spirit to prepare hearts to respond.	24 Several meetings occur tomorrow prior to VMC Assembly. Pray for the Faith & Life Commission, Virginia Mennonite Missions board, and Conference Council as they provide vision and leadership for various aspects of conference life.	25 VMC Assembly begins this evening! Rejoice as this gathered body of believers comes together to share what God is doing among us, and consider what it means for us to have a holistic Christian witness.	26 During delegate sessions today and tomorrow, participants engage reports sharing how congregations are pointing to Christ's kingdom. This evening, VMM workers and VMC leaders will be commissioned for service.	27 Norma Teles asks us to pray that the summer activities—camps, Bible clubs and evangelism—in Lezhe will bring a strong presence of Christ in the community. Pray for Norma too as she shares Christ's love to all she meets.
28 This week the Jamaica Mennonite Church holds junior camp on the grounds of Maranatha School for the Deaf. Ask God to bless each camper and all the staff members as they learn, play and live together.	29 Jay and Sheri Hartzler leave in mid-August for a year of service in Shighisoara, Romania. They are serving with the Nazarene Missions Corps and are an approved ministry with VMIM. Join them in thanking God for the financial support received.	30 This evening, VMC staff connects with conference supporters through the annual phone-a-thon. Thank God for the generosity of so many who contribute financially to our conference mission.	31 In Thailand, Mark & Sarah Schoenhals ask us to pray that young people in Life Enrichment Church will find believing spouses—very important for establishing Christ-centered families.	This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by Ken and Ruth Heatwole in honor of their 65th anniversary, married June 12, 1948. Their commitment to each other and to God gives us a good example to follow.		



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Announcements

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.

Mark the dates for **Ladies Community Bible Study** at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church this fall, Tuesday mornings and evenings, Sept. 3-November 12. Study material will be “John—Beloved Disciple” by Beth Moore.

PENNY POWER
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013
 ROCKINGHAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Meeting the needs of the **displaced**
 Ecuador • Indonesia • Jordan • Thailand • other locations

projects of Mennonite Central Committee and Virginia Mennonite Missions

FINDING TREASURE

2013 Conference Assembly Children's Art Camp

for children who have completed grades K-6



Barbara Gautcher

The discarded, used, and thrown away is what God often redeems for treasure in Christ's kingdom. Led by Eastern Mennonite High School's seasoned art instructor Barbara Gautcher, children will take broken, discarded objects from consumer society and create new treasure. In this creative process, children will discover what God can do among us.

Participating children will:

- **Create assemblages** from found and discarded objects
- **Make clay pot mosaics** from leftover stained glass and broken mirrors
- **Make collaged molded bowls** by raiding recycled paper boxes

Register online at virginiaconference.org/assembly/childrens-art-camp/ or with an Assembly registration form.

CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY, JULY 25-27

Online registration and payment is available at
virginiaconference.org/assembly

Register by July 8. Registration not required to attend evening worship.

Come to worship at Assembly 2013!

Gather at the Eastern Mennonite School auditorium at 6:45 pm on Thursday and Friday, July 25 & 26.



Loren Horst

Thursday: “Imagine God’s Power at Work in Us” with speaker **Loren Horst.**

Friday: “Participating in the Vision of God,” a commissioning service with **Nelson Okanya.**



Nelson Okanya

Both nights: Music by the **Walking Roots Band.** Nursery and preschool childcare available.

Unable to attend? Tune in to WBTX at 1470-AM on Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27. The worship services will be broadcast at 7:00 pm. Hear Thursday’s service on Friday evening, and Friday’s service on Saturday.

UPCOMING TOUR

Biblical Turkey: In the Steps of Paul and John tour will be April 28-May 10, 2014. Led by Ed Bontrager and Richard & Jewel Showalter, this tour will visit Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Pamukkalee, Ephesus,

Philadelphia, Pergamum, Troas, Troy, and much more. Package: \$2,996 (includes first class hotels, most meals, airfare from Dulles, taxes/surcharges, etc.) Contact Ed at (540) 438-8304 or email eebontrager@comcast.net for detailed brochure.