








Seven ways to serve with tranSend this year

Location	Context	Assignment	Qualifications
 <p>Lezhe, Albania</p>	<p>Lezha Academic Center (LAC) offers rigorous academics with a Biblical worldview to over 50 students in grades 9-12.</p>	<p>Teaching: Join the teaching staff of LAC. Support the long-term vision and ministry of the Albanian Mennonite Mission, including church planting, leadership training, community development, and education. Study Albanian language and culture.</p>	<p>Licensed secondary education teachers in the areas of history and science; TESOL training preferred</p>
 <p>Orange Walk, Belize</p>	<p>St. Peter's Anglican School has 265 students, including one class of deaf students, and combines quality education with strong Christian teaching.</p>	<p>School Counseling: Serve as a school counselor by helping students with their emotional problems related to sexual abuse, fighting, depression, bullying, and anger management. Study Spanish and/or Sign Language.</p>	<p>Masters in Counseling degree; one year of school counseling experience preferred</p>
 <p>Alajuela, Costa Rica</p>	<p>Pura Vida Missions, is a mission and discipleship ministry that relates to a network of 30 churches and organizations across Costa Rica.</p>	<p>Cross-cultural Discipleship: Participate in Vida 220, a 10-month discipleship program from October to August. Join Latin Americans and North Americans as they disciple one another and grow in missional leadership through outreach in local churches. Study Spanish.</p>	<p>A commitment to discipleship formation and willingness to serve and learn in local churches</p>
 <p>Nazareth, Israel</p>	<p>Nazareth Village brings to life a farm and Galilean village, recreating Nazareth as it was 2,000 years ago.</p>	<p>Christian Presence: Relate to visitors from many cultural and religious backgrounds. Participate in the operation of the farm and village. Worship at a local church. Study Arabic and/or Hebrew.</p>	<p>Willingness to live and learn in a conflicted society and relate sensitively to people of other faiths</p>
 <p>Bari, Italy</p>	<p>Centro Koinonia is a small but growing urban congregation of the Italian Mennonite Church.</p>	<p>English Teaching: Partner in the outreach of a Mennonite congregation by teaching English to middle and high school children in Centro Koinonia's after school program and sharing the love of Jesus in the local community. Study Italian language and culture.</p>	<p>TESOL training and/or experience in teaching English language learners</p>
 <p>Mindanao, Philippines</p>	<p>Peacebuilders Community, Inc. ministers in a context of religious polarization, poverty, displacement, and ongoing violence.</p>	<p>Peace-building: Engage as a peace-building intern with Peacebuilders Community, Inc. Use interests and skills to partner with local agencies and entities in a variety of peace-building activities. Study local language(s) and culture.</p>	<p>Skills and training in biblical peace-building, workplace mediation, and/or corporate conflict transformation</p>
 <p>Bangkok, Thailand</p>	<p>A small Catholic-run refugee center provides English-based 9-5 services for urban refugees and asylum seekers in the city.</p>	<p>Refugee Ministry: Serve as a volunteer at the center and cultivate relationships in the broader refugee/asylum seeker community. Teach refugee children, serve in the medical clinic, or provide social work assessments and help clients connect with social services. Study Thai language and culture.</p>	<p>Bachelor's degree in education, nursing, or social work or appropriate experience</p>

Contact tranSend@vmmissions.org for more information.

What would the prophets say?



Owen Burkholder
Conference Minister

I finished reading the Old Testament Apocrypha a couple of weeks ago, the New Testament just before that.

The Kings, Chronicles, and a few Minor Prophets are what remain for my devotional reading through the Bible. This particular journey has taken nearly seven years.

The Prophets make me uncomfortable. While the Judges were helpful in guiding the people of Israel in settling their newly-conquered lands, the Prophets spoke into a situation that had been guided by kings—they had become a dominant power for a period of time. The prophets didn't flinch from pointing out how the powers had strayed from God's vision for the peoples of the earth. That is what makes me uncomfortable.

You see, they gave me a standing ovation at the VMC delegate assembly early in February! This, after I had briefly reviewed some of the journey of 17+ years as conference minister.

I began by noting that all of the bishops/overseers who were in office when I started my work are now retired or

deceased. While the districts of VMC are responsible for choosing replacement bishop/overseers, it is the conference minister's responsibility to cultivate this group and serve them as they provide theological and ministry leadership. Shall we say I have had my share of influence?! Now, how would some of these prophets rate my work?

If we were to go by the numbers, I have seen the best of times during my tenure. In the 1998-99 report booklet we list 9701 members in 82 congregations in 12 districts. However, it has been all downhill from there. The 2011-12 book reports 7758 members in 70 congregations in 9 districts. I am pleased to say that the number of congregations is increasing but the number of members and participants has not yet begun an upward trend. I long for us to be baptising persons into a living relationship with Jesus, and adding to the church.

What about the "faithfulness" index? In my very first delegate session as conference minister, we were wrapping up a major consideration of military and membership. We affirmed article 22 of the confession of faith, and we invoked a position that persons "would not teach contrary to..." our long-held beliefs and practices. What is the result of that action? Some of our congregations are ministering to more military personnel and families. Some are

responding to the wounds of war. Our peace teaching is strong. I think it would be fair to say we lost one congregation which did not heed the counsel of not having active military persons on their leadership team.

That does not exhaust the faithfulness index. I'm sure my ruminations will continue. Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, have mercy upon us, draw us after you.

Trumbo new VMRC CEO

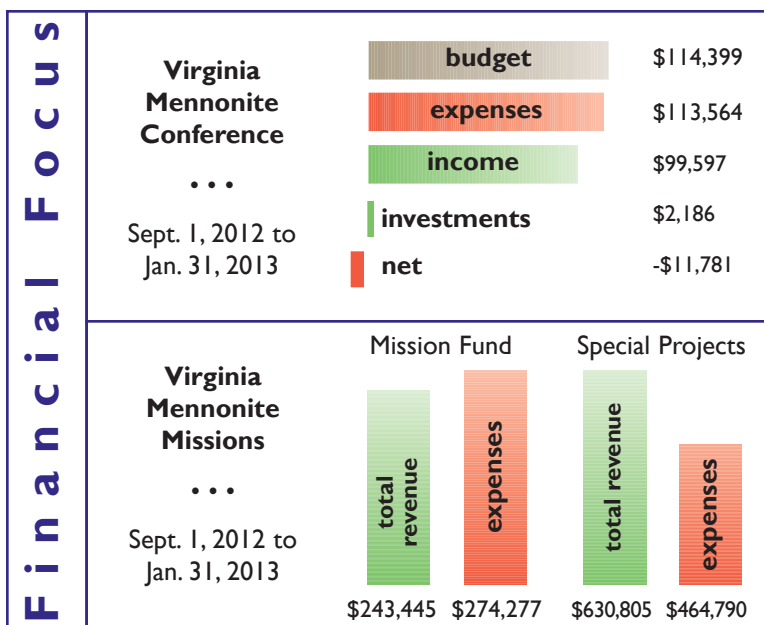


Judith Trumbo has been selected as President and CEO of the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community effective April 8. Judith's selection comes by unanimous decision

of the CEO Search Committee and a unanimous vote from the VMRC Board of Directors.

"Judith has the financial astuteness, strategic planning experience, knowledge of our industry and strong communication skills to lead VMRC," said Sheryl Wyse, VMRC Board of Directors chair. "In addition, Judith is well respected for her

continued on pg. 3



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Delegates Harold Miller, Trissels Mennonite Church, Erica Stoltzfus and Lee Martin, Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church, Michael Shenk III, Valley View Mennonite Church, and Ron Pierantoni, Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, engage in conversation during Winter Delegate Session. Photo by Sarah Bixler

Delegates gather around stewardship theme

By SARAH BIXLER
Conference Coordinator

On February 2, 103 delegates from 40 congregations gathered at Springdale Mennonite Church in Waynesboro, VA to focus on stewardship, among other agenda. To put this into practice, delegates did not receive packets by mail ahead of the session, but rather, received a reminder postcard, accessed the agenda online and were given limited handouts upon arrival. Presentations utilized visual projection and engaged delegates verbally, both with the content and one another, rather than in written format.

Applause was the recurring sound of the first hour. Treasurer Glen Kauffman's report of VMC's 2011-12 fiscal year ending in the black was cause for rejoicing.

The ministry of Owen Burkholder, Conference Minister, was affirmed by a standing ovation after he shared that this 18th year as Conference Minister is his last. Delegates voted to express appreciation for Owen's "listening skills, intuitive leadership, compassionate coaching and missional leadership practices."

Moderator Shirley Yoder Brubaker introduced a search committee that will recommend a candidate for the Conference Minister vacancy, and delegates approved Janet Blosser as Faith and Life Commission member-at-large.

James Akerson, chair of the Task Force for a Financially Sustainable VMC, reported on feedback from districts, Conference Council, VMC staff and Virginia Mennonite Missions. The task

force will provide an extensive report to Conference Council in early March, which will inform future directions for VMC staffing. Task force members working with James are Daryl Brubaker, Matt Hunsberger, Glen Kauffman, Joe Longacher, and Regina Schweitzer.

Beryl Jantzi, Everence Director of Stewardship Education, introduced delegates to a holistic approach to financial stewardship in addressing "the 100%" of congregational members' financial resources rather than just a 10% tithe. Groups of pastors and laypersons discussed perceptions of stewardship and how to talk about money within the church. Afterward, attendees gave a generous offering of \$969 to VMC.

Following lunch provided by Springdale, Virginia Mennonite Missions engaged delegates in their strategic planning process. VMC staff introduced the holistic Christian witness theme of Assembly 2013: "Look What God is Doing! Signs of Christ's Kingdom Among Us." Congregations brainstormed ideas for a poster highlighting ways they point to Christ's kingdom, to be displayed at the next gathering, July 25-27.

Eastern Carolina District had the highest percentage of delegates in attendance—91%!

Trumbo new VMRC CEO continued

professional and volunteer leadership contributions."

Judith has had a long tenure at Rockingham Memorial Hospital where she served in several executive capacities. Judith is serving as Chair of the Faith and Life Commission of the Virginia Mennonite Conference, and as an Associate Trustee of the Board of Directors of Eastern Mennonite University.

"I've always enjoyed interacting with persons whose years have provided life experience and wisdom, so it is an honor to be chosen to lead VMRC particularly in these times when the aging population is growing and the healthcare environment is changing," said Trumbo. "I look forward to cultivating the type of relationships that will foster a continuum of care to help us all age well."

Judith and her family live in Broadway and attend Harrisonburg Mennonite Church.

Conf. Council appoints Search Committee for Conference Minister

A search committee of five persons appointed by Conference Council will begin work in mid-March. Chaired by Assistant Moderator Kevin Gasser, this committee will review applications, conduct interviews and recommend a candidate to Conference Council for the upcoming Conference Minister vacancy.

Conference Minister Search Committee



Kevin Gasser, chair



James Akerson



Aldine Musser



Lynn Suter



Isaac Villegas

2013 School for Leadership Training on churches hearing, holding, and hoping amid mental health challenges

By **JOAN K. KING**

Joan J. King Consulting and Counseling LLC

We tend to see mental illness as something that happens out there, when in fact mental illness affects “us” and our loved ones, not just “them.”

This was the recurrent theme of the 2013 School for Leadership Training (SLT) at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Jan. 21-23, titled “Imagine Church as Healing Space.” The event attracted over 270 participants and resource persons who sought to “hear, hold, and hope” amid mental health challenges. Hosted and planned by EMS, the event felt historic: multiple participants said this was the first time in a public church context instead of feeling stigmatized they had felt part of the group, not in spite of but amid depression, anxiety, addictions, bipolar diagnosis, hearing voices, and more.

Another gift was space to share the pain mental illness causes its sufferers and their loves ones. Earl and Pat Martin

offered moving glimpses of their journey through their son’s development of schizo-affective disorder symptoms. Earl shared journal entries written during sleepless nights when Hans was first hospitalized. In these laments, Earl raged at a God who treats his creatures like vermin, snapping off their limbs, leaving them soaked in their own blood. Earl railed at this God as the one who should get treatment for insanity. But after he stopped writing of his own volition, spent, his pen kept going and offered words from God, who said that God’s own son was in treatment and was the roommate in a neighboring bed whom Earl had feared would hurt Hans.

A third gift was hope. This was not a cheap hope. From participants through resource persons, many told of confronting the anguish ranging from painful symptoms through effects of suicide. Yet hope was offered through stories of persons seeking to live recovery-focused lives even amid diagnosed illnesses once

thought to be virtual death or prison sentences. A panel of men and women told of enduring addictions, joblessness, homelessness, and more. They also spoke of finding hope—often from peers confronting their own illnesses—enabling them to live meaningfully amid bi-polar episodes or hearing voices.

And hope was offered when Tilda Norberg modeled what can happen when we attend to the “God icons” in dreams. She risked a live Gestalt pastoral counseling session with a courageous Sherill Hostetter. Drawing on insights from one of Sherill’s dreams, Norberg led Sherill in working through how her mother’s undiagnosed and untreated mental illness had affected her as a child and even now as a leader. Sherill more fully claimed her own voice as ordained minister and congregational consultant.

When we asked Martins whether our references to their stories were acceptable, Pat mentioned, “An SLT statement that stuck with me, spoken by Joan or Ijeoma Achara that first night, pulled us all into the common task of being human: ‘Recovery is about claiming one’s story. The tools are the same for all of us whether struggling with mental illness or an overwhelming job.’” At EMS we’ll continue to ponder how we help each other claim our stories.

Joan K. King is Senior Integration Consultant, The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, and owner of Joan J. King Consulting and Counseling LLC.



Tilda Norberg presents at a plenary session during the School for Leadership Training. Photo by Lindsey Kolb



Members of the Life Enrichment Church perform on the stage set up for the Christmas event.
Photo courtesy of author

Thai-ing together culture and Christmas

By SARAH N. SCHOENHALS

VMM *trans*ender in Thailand

What does Christmas look like in Thailand? Christmas isn't anything special for the majority of the population in a county that is less than 1% Christian. On Christmas day, schools and businesses are open, the streets just as lively as any other day. The holiday on most people's minds is the coming New Year's Day.

But Christmas is a special time for believers in the Life Enrichment Church in Det Udom and surrounding villages. The Sunday before Christmas was the church's "big meeting." There are many clusters of believers spread out in the surrounding villages; each Sunday they meet in their villages for a house-church type of gathering, and once a month they gather in two main locations for a "big meeting" to worship together. Twice a year, for Christmas and Easter, the two large groups meet together as one church body to celebrate. The celebration began on Saturday with lots of preparations for the next day's big meeting and Christmas pageant. Christmas is a great time of bonding for the church as they enthusiastically come together to celebrate the birth of their Savior and share the good tidings of great joy with unbelievers. Many people slept overnight at the church, myself included, and energy on Sunday morning was high, beginning with worship team practice at 5 a.m!

The morning worship began with the baptisms of six new believers and a prayer of blessing over new trucks of two believers. The time of worship, prayer, teaching, and tithing was held in the church building which was so full that there wasn't even room to dance!

Christmas in Thailand falls right after the time of the rice harvest; during the Christmas service there were first-fruits offerings with many church members tithing portions of their rice harvest to the church. After the service a meal was eaten in traditional Isaan (the northeast region of Thailand) style, sitting on rice mats on the ground and sharing communal bowls of food. The church made good use of the new addition to their pavilion that was completed in the month before Christmas.

Because Christmas is often considered a "Western" holiday and not celebrated in Thailand, it gives the church a special opportunity to share why they celebrate Christmas, and the true meaning behind the holiday. The church put on a big Christmas event on Sunday evening—a fun taste of Thai/Isaan culture. The Life Enrichment Church contextualized Christmas and created an event that shared the Good News. Big celebrations are close to the heart of Thais, complete with big speakers, festive clothing, and lots of laughing. So that's what the church did! There was a big stage set up in the church yard; church members sang, the children shared, and the young adults acted out a drama of the nativity story with a little added comedy. Two of the church members emceed the pageant and told of the meaning and significance of Christmas. It was a very fun and non-threatening way to draw in unbelieving friends and family members.

Christmas in Thailand was definitely different than any Christmas I've ever experienced, but sharing it with the believers at the Life Enrichment Church was a blessing!

Alternative Gifts exceed expectations

By GLORIA LEHMAN

VMM Caribbean Regional Assistant

The Alternative Christmas gifts listed in the November issue of *Connections* drew an exceptional response from readers near and far. VMMissions' workers will benefit from receiving funds for various projects which enhance their ministry.

The top gift was food rations for Colombian refugees with 261 gifts purchased. David Shenk will manage the distribution of these rations in his work in Ecuador. The next popular gifts were baby chicks and laying hens for the poultry project at the Maranatha School in Jamaica. Rodney Knepp will continue growing chickens for meat and laying hens for eggs, both for the school and for sale. Eighty-six dental health kits will provide needed items for the Deaf church members and their families, organized by Nancy Marshall. All the other gifts will find their way to their places of use.

Children in one family brought money for their own specially-selected projects, giving from their own allowances or earnings. They genuinely wanted to help others less fortunate than themselves. Two children in another family chose gifts to honor their grandfather.

It was a big surprise to get a check for over \$500 which covered four of each of the gifts listed. The donors said they are blessed and want to pass on the blessings to others. This generosity is deeply appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alternative Christmas Gift project! Watch for another opportunity to give next November.

EMU President backs U.S. Education Secretary at D.C. event for gun safety

By **ANDREA SCHROCK WENGER**
Director of Communications, EMU

Congress needs to be forced by Americans outside Washington, D.C., to take steps to curb gun violence, said U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan at a Capitol Hill press conference on Feb. 4, 2013, where he shared the stage with Loren Swartzendruber, president of Eastern Mennonite University, and 25 other college presidents.

“College Presidents for Gun Safety” - drawn together after the Sandy Hook school killings in December - organized the press conference, visits with Congressional officials, and an evening meal with Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

“It was an energizing and hopeful gathering,” said Swartzendruber about the day’s events. He reported that the Education Secretary shook his hand at the close of the news conference and leaned in to offer this remark to one ear, “We can do this!” Swartzendruber said he felt heartened by Duncan’s words.

“I don’t know of a time when so many college and university presidents have spoken collectively, with one voice, on any issue of such public importance,” Oglethorpe University President Lawrence Schall said at the press conference. Schall hosted the event and was a co-author of the recent open letter on gun safety signed by hundreds of college presidents, including Swartzendruber.

The press conference featured speakers from the United States Student Association, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, and Mayors Against Illegal Guns, all of them calling for gun-reform legislation that will:

- *Require that every gun buyer pass a criminal background check*
- *Get military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines off our streets*
- *Make gun trafficking a federal crime*

“We are not making a statement about the second amendment nor do we oppose the legal use of guns for hunting purposes,” Swartzendruber said afterwards. “We are calling for common sense steps to make this country safer for all of us.”

Visit emu.edu/now/news/?p=15936 to read more.



U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan speaks at a Feb. 4, 2013, press conference organized by College Presidents for Gun Safety. Eastern Mennonite University President Loren Swartzendruber (partly visible in the center back row) is among 25 higher-education presidents at the event. Beside Duncan is Hunter Rawlings III, president of the Association of American Universities, former president of Cornell and the University of Iowa. Photo by Tim Swartzendruber



Ron Yoder presents Bill Thomas, M.D., with a table made from white oak trees cleared from the site of Woodland Park during the grand opening of Woodland Park in January. Thomas is the founder of The Green House Project®. Courtesy of author

Thirty residents moved into VMRC’s Woodland Park in a phased move throughout January and February. Woodland Park features private homes in a residential setting offering complete living care and are the first of their kind in Virginia affiliated with the national Green House Project®.

Designed as culturally normal homes,

approximately 6,500 square foot.

“We know that as people age, they want to remain at home or at least in a physical environment that is culturally normal to a home in which they would have lived,” said

Ronald E. Yoder, president and CEO of VMRC stated, “Woodland Park is the

VMRC opens new complete living care community

By **MAUREEN PEARSON**
Director of Communications, VMRC

Woodland Park offers private rooms and baths, a hearth, den, courtyard and open kitchen for family-style meals. Each house is approximately

answer to the consumers of aging services who desire a non-institutional environment to receive full care while continuing to enjoy their interests and hobbies.”

The homes are fully licensed as nursing homes and are staffed by certified nursing assistants who have additional training in CPR, first aid, house operations, culinary skills and safe food handling. People living in Woodland Park will receive support from a clinical support team made up of nurses, social workers, activities coordinators, therapists, nutritionists and a physician.

MARCH 2013

Sunday

31 Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new!
Sing the Story #89

Easter

3 Members of Jamaica Mennonite Church gather in Kingston today for the 55th annual conference worship services with the theme "Godly Fellowship: United in Spirit, United in Purpose." Ask God to bless these brothers and sisters.

10 On this Sunday during Lent, may we quiet our hearts and minds as we remember Jesus' last days before his crucifixion. How are we like his disciples? What transformation do we need?

17 Remember the VMC congregations in Newport News, Va: Huntington, Providence and Warwick River Mennonite Churches. Invite God to bless and strengthen their fellowship and outreach in the name of Jesus Christ.

24 We enter Holy Week contemplating Christ's suffering that made it possible for us to be reconciled with God. All honor and praise be to Him!

Monday



4 Maureen Bodington, fraternal delegate from Trinidad, attended the conference of JMC over the weekend and is enjoying good fellowship with the brothers and sisters there. Pray for good relationships to grow.

11 This week, Conference Council receives the Task Force for a Financially Sustainable VMC's final report. Pray for Conference Council as they process these findings and discern the future model for VMC executive staff.

18 Bible Studies meet in the homes of various members of Centro Koinonia different weekday evenings. These meetings strengthen the walk of the members and also reach out to new people in the community.

25 Pray for the baptismal preparation going on at Centro Koinonia as there will be at least one baptism in the month of April. Pray that others will commit to baptism as well.

Tuesday

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:

Let us serve you!

www.pvfcu.org
(540) 434-6444



Park View
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Uncommon Service.

5 Gospel Hill, Valley View, Woodland and Zion Hill Mennonite Churches are located among the mountains on the western edge of the Shenandoah Valley. Invite God to inspire these congregations ministering in their rural communities.

12 Almost 40 years ago, Roy Kiser wrote of Mt. View Mennonite Church: "[God] has done a great spiritual work among the people." Pray that this work continues with the congregation in Lyndhurst, Va.

19 If you have reserved your meal, be sure to attend the *Celebration of God's Mission* at Springdale Mennonite Church today at 6:30 pm. Myron Augsburgberger speaks on "Christian witness." Come and celebrate what God is doing!

26 Today Steve & Bethany Horst and daughter Anjali leave for Thailand after weeks of orientation and months of preparation. Ask God for traveling mercies and for a good transition as they settle into life in Bangkok.

Wednesday

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21
(NIV)

6 The country where Jacob & Hosanna live and serve experienced unrest in the past weeks. Pray for peace to be realized and for safety for their family members and their community.

13 In Montenegro, Steve & Laura Campbell continue Serbian language learning and ask for prayer for acquiring fluency quickly. Also pray for daughters Ruth and Esther as they learn to talk with their neighbors and church family.

20 The search committee for a new Conference Minister is now launching their search. Pray for the future of VMC's leadership, trusting God to call a new leader to this position and guide the committee's discernment.

27 Conference Minister Owen Burkholder pastored at Community and Park View Mennonite churches. As VMC reflects on Owen's ministry, pray for the continuing witness and ministries of these congregations in Harrisonburg, Va.

Thursday

1 This afternoon, pastors new to VMC are gathering for orientation and fellowship with VMC staff. Praise God for calling gifted persons to minister within our congregations!

8 It is Women's Day in Europe! Pray for the events that Centro Koinonia has planned that reach out to many women in the Bari area.

15 Tonight friends and family celebrate the long-time ministry of Owen and Ruth Ann Burkholder within VMC. Give thanks for their commitment to the church, and pray for God's leading in upcoming transitions.

22 Thank God for Carla Zook's service with Lezha Academic Center, Albania, where she teaches students who need to learn more English for their studies. Ask God to give her patience, wisdom and perseverance for her role.

29 It's a good day to reflect on Jesus' crucifixion and what that means to us in the Church and in the world. Spend some time in quietness with Him.

Good Friday

Saturday

2 This weekend, pastors and youth workers gather at the Joint Ministry Retreat. Speakers Marion Bontrager and Terry Shue are exploring "Learning the Bible in Life-Giving Ways." May God's presence anoint the gathering.

9 This weekend a Couples Conference is held in Campobasso, Italy focusing on strengthening marital relationships. Pray for the members of Centro Koinonia and others that will attend.

16 In South Asia, Michael & Ruth ask us to pray for their family's adjustment to a new neighborhood and to new relationships as they settle into life in a large city. May God open doors for witness in this place.

23 In Thailand, Mark & Sarah Schoenhals ask us to pray for meetings led by Henry Madava as the Life Enrichment Church helps to facilitate the event and follow up. Pray that there will be much fruit for God's Kingdom realized!

30 Some congregations here in the US and some in other countries are preparing for sunrise services tomorrow, to commemorate Christ's resurrection. May He receive all glory!



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Virginia Mennonite Conference
901 Parkwood Drive
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Announcements

Everyone is invited to attend the upcoming **Celebration of God's Mission event** on Tuesday, March 19, **Springdale Mennonite Church** at 6:30 p.m. To reserve your space for dinner and program, contact Nancy at office@springdalemennonite.org or (540) 949-8945. Myron Augsburg will give the address "Christian Witness: Lessons from the past, Vision for the future." Come celebrate how God is moving in the world!

New Beginnings Church is raising funds for Shawn & Laura Green's ministry in Italy by selling homemade chocolate-covered Easter eggs. Each egg weighs 5 oz.; cost is \$6. Choose a flavor: butter cream, chocolate, strawberry, coconut, maple and peanut butter. Send an e-mail order to Laura Green at kydpook@hotmail.com or call (540) 271-0401 including: name, address and phone number, flavor, quantity, and total cost. Checks are made to New Beginnings Church. All money and orders must be received by March 10. Eggs will be available after March 17.

A Women's Community Bible Study is coming to Harrisonburg Mennonite Church using Beth Moore's study: *JAMES: Mercy Triumphs*. Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. Study dates are Tuesdays, March 5 to April 30. Sessions will be 9:00-11 a.m. and 6:30-8:15 p.m. For registration details, contact Jeannie Smith at (540) 434-4361 by February 19.

Ryan and Friends, family-friendly ventriloquist and comedian, will perform March 21, 6:30 p.m., at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, benefitting VMRC Auxiliary Bus Fund. Family and group rates available. Contact Sandra Rush at (540) 833-2405 or (540) 478-7802 for details.



NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center invites you to the 7th annual **Taste of the World**, celebrating our East African neighbors living in the Shenandoah Valley, on Saturday, March 23, at 6 p.m. at Park View Mennonite Church (1600 College Ave, Harrisonburg). This year includes a silent auction! The cost is \$60 per plate, RSVP by March 11 to info@newbridgesirc.org, or call (540) 438-8295. You can pay online at newbridgesirc.org

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

Visit the Balkans (Albania & Montenegro) on a Mission Fellowship Tour, May 6-16. 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 to June 1. Visit: www.emu.edu/seminary/cross-cultural/Christian-movement/ to register.

Calling all motorcycle enthusiasts! Motorcycle for Missions 2013 will be held July 23-25, with a tour planned from Roanoke to Harrisonburg, welcomed at Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly. Riders will find sponsors for their journey and all funds will benefit Virginia Mennonite Missions. Watch for more details soon.

Dawn Ruth Nelson, M.Div., D. Min., author of "A Mennonite Woman: Exploring Spiritual Life and Identity," will lead the **Mennonite Women of Virginia Retreat**, Sept. 27-29, at Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center in Lynchburg, Va. Nelson is the lead pastor of Methacton Mennonite Church in Norristown, Pa. Look for registration brochures in August.

The British Isles, a trip to England, Scotland & Wales is planned for September 13 - 25, 2013 with hosts Dave & Joyce Eshleman. This trip planned by TourMagination will include points of interest in the lives of Charles Spurgeon, C. S. Lewis, John Bunyan and John Newton. Other points of interest will include: Snowdonia National Park in Wales, the Lake District of England, the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh in Scotland and much more. For details go to: TourMagination.com or call (800) 565-0451.