

Alternative Christmas Gifts bless mission workers

Invest in people and projects around the world through relationships, creativity and sustenance

Virginia Mennonite Missions is pleased to again offer the Alternative Christmas Gifts for giving this holiday season.

The items listed below represent important outreach opportunities our workers have in the communities in which they live. Your generosity supports these ministries of hospitality and connection which offers

compassion and sustenance to those in need.

Over the past four years, giving in this way has provided nearly \$20,000 for these gifts that provide joy, hope, light and health around the world. We are so grateful for the individuals, families, Sunday School classes, small groups and

congregations who have chosen to give towards these projects to make a difference in communities around the world.

As you go about your holiday preparations, whether as a family or congregation, please consider these mission alternatives to the frenzied consumerism of American Christmas.

Give RELATIONAL POSSIBILITIES



\$5
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE DISTRIBUTION

MONTENEGRO (Campbell family)



\$10
HOST A REFUGEE FAMILY FOR DINNER IN BANGKOK

THAILAND (Horst/Tobin family)



\$10
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND NETWORKING OVER COFFEE

GERMANY (Stutzman family)



\$10
A PIZZA-MAKING PARTY FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN BANGKOK

THAILAND (Horst/Tobin family)

Give CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES



\$5
ART CLUB SUPPLIES FOR SCHOOL

ALBANIA (Lezha Academic Center)



\$10
ART SUPPLIES KIT FOR MARANATHA SCHOOL STUDENTS

JAMAICA (Caleb & Roni Kiefer)



\$10
BASIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR COLOMBIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN

ECUADOR (David Shenk)



\$20
GUITARS FOR THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND CHURCH

ALBANIA (Lezha Academic Center)

Give SUSTENANCE



\$1
BABY CHICK FOR SCHOOL LIVESTOCK PROJECT

JAMAICA (Caleb & Roni Kiefer)



\$8
SNACKS AND MATERIALS FOR A WEEK OF CHILDREN'S BIBLE CLASS

BELIZE (Nancy Marshall)



\$15
CRAFTS AND SNACKS FOR A CHILD AT DEAF VBS (15 needed)

BELIZE (Nancy Marshall)



\$45
LIGHT, HEALTHY MEAL FOR MONTHLY FIRST FRIDAY FUN NIGHT (for 12 months)

BELIZE (Nancy Marshall)

How to CONTRIBUTE

Contribute online to the Christmas gifts project at vmmissions.org/support/alternative-christmas-gifts/ or contact Sarah Showalter: (540) 434-9727 • (800) 707-5535 • sarah.showalter@vmmissions.org

A great cloud of witnesses

By CLYDE G. KRATZ



The writer of Hebrews states, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the*

sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 (NRSV)

The writer of Hebrews begins Chapter 11 with “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” He then recites the accounts of individuals who lived some aspect of their life by seeking to honor God in the midst of difficult life circumstance. The beginning of chapter 12 recognizes these folks as “a great cloud of witnesses” that have persevered and provide a historic perspective of people who have succeeded in adversity because of their commitment to God.

In preparation for participation in the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago, I read Glendon Blosser’s “The Church Made Simple: A History of the Birth and Growth of the Mennonite Church in Trinidad 1967-2002,” a narrative account of the history of this vibrant church.

I became aware of the role that numerous people from Virginia Mennonite Conference had in the mission work guided by Virginia Mennonite Missions. I valued the historic knowledge that put names to the medical mission,

radio broadcasts, theological education, and leadership development as well as the names of children of mission workers that were formed by their experiences in mission.

Each one of us has our own cloud of witnesses that contributed to our faith and vocational formation. Frank Shirk, the Lancaster Conference bishop that participated in my call to serve New Holland Mennonite Church in 1989, passed away recently.

I appreciated the opportunity to share with him, two weeks before his death, the significant impact he had in my early formation of pastoral leadership. He contributed to my ministry as a mentor who guided my leadership formation and coached me through difficult leadership challenges, seeking to understand cultural dynamics and social change practices. He held an abiding trust in the Church even in the midst of concerns and balanced the role of scripture and human experience in leadership. I am grateful for Frank and other persons that make up the cloud of witnesses that contributed to my own formation.

As Virginia Mennonite Conference navigates this period of time of rapid social change, it is my hope that not only are we surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, but that we are creating new clouds of witnesses because of our commitment to be discerning disciples of Jesus, while also making new disciples in our community and around the world. I challenge congregational leaders to explore with their congregation ways that they are engaged in making disciples and celebrate the cloud of witnesses that contributed to their formation as a people of God.

Clyde G. Kratz
Executive Conference Minister
Virginia Mennonite Conference

Relief Sale proceeds increase by 12%

By JIM BISHOP

Initial figures indicate this year’s sale raised about \$340,200 for the worldwide relief and service program of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Last year’s effort raised \$303,456.

Activities began Friday evening, October 3, at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds and ran through Saturday afternoon with nearly 1,000 volunteers giving of their time and talents.

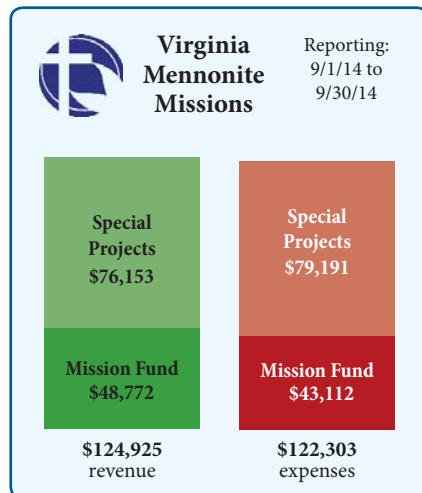
The annual auction of handmade quilts, wall hangings, knotted comforters and afghans, artwork and wooden handcrafted items accounted for \$122,722 of the total funds raised, up more than \$5,000 over last year.

Other popular food items included 180 gallons of Brunswick stew made on the premises by members of Springdale Mennonite church in Augusta County, homemade potato chips from 20 bushels of potatoes, caramel popcorn, apple butter and fresh cider, 3,000 barbecued chicken halves, chili, Laotian and Indian dishes and homemade chicken corn and potato soup.

“We had a great year and a huge success, thanks to all the volunteers and the many people who came and spent money on this worthy cause,” said Dave Rush, chair of the Relief Sale Board.



Jim is a freelance writer and photographer based in Harrisonburg, Va.



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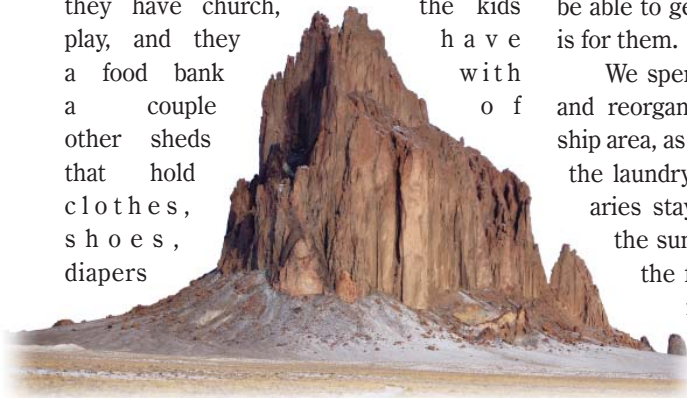
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Lynside Mennonite Church sends team to Navajo reservation

By PAULA SHIFFLETT

At Lynside Mennonite Church, we heard the story of how the Navajo reservation in New Mexico came to be, and we felt the call to help in any way that we could. My husband, Jeff, and I also thought that this would be the perfect chance to have our youngest son serve others with his time and energy at the age of eight.

When we arrived at the reservation, we were amazed with the beauty of the land there. We learned that the very place we were staying was the space where they have church, the kids play, and they have a food bank with a couple of other sheds that hold clothes, shoes, and diapers



and basic items for a family. It was heart-breaking to see that this was their means of living. Most of them have no running water or electricity, and in some cases neither.

On Sunday, we attended church where we sang a few songs in English to the Navajo people, and then they sang some songs in Navajo as we tried to follow along in a hymn book. During the service, our son went to the Sunday School class with all the local kids and had a lot of fun playing and running around with them. After the service, we were able to talk together to be able to get a better idea of how this life is for them.

We spent the week painting, cleaning and reorganizing the church and fellowship area, as well as the dome that provides the laundry area and place that missionaries stay when they come to help in the summer months. We helped with the food truck that comes twice a month, and put up a play set for the kids. Our son was a great helper, handing

food out at the food pantry, and playing with all the other kids there like they had always been friends. Seeing this happen through him made me wonder why as adults we can't, or don't, always do the same thing.

This experience really made me think about how we live. These people don't live close to anything, don't have running water, electricity or much food or clothing. Something that I took away from this trip is how much we really take for granted.

We met some wonderful people during our stay, and they all are an inspiration to me because even with all the challenges they face on a daily basis, they still serve and worship God with all of their hearts. It is very obvious that they have a huge amount of faith in Him. We don't worship the same way as they do, but we all worship the same God, carrying Him with us everywhere we go and in all that we do.

Paula is a member of Lynside Mennonite Church, Stuarts Draft, Va.

A banner year for

By STEVE CARPENTER

A record 128 riders enjoyed a trek through the Shenandoah Valley on a beautiful fall day as they "cycled for service" in the 17th annual Bike Shenandoah on Saturday, September 20.

Cyclists chose a ride between the challenging 100 mile journey and an easy 5 mile jaunt as they traversed Harrisonburg's back roads. The event raised approximately \$25,000 before expenses, continuing the upward trend of the last two years.

These funds benefit three agencies, whose work is international in scope, including: Virginia Mennonite Missions, Mennonite Central Committee, and MennoMedia. In addition, four local agencies receive a smaller portion of the funds: Bridge of Hope, NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center, Our Community Place and Roberta Webb Child Care Center.

This year, for the first time, the committee advertised with the Washington

Area Bicycle Association, which has 30,000 members. That ad drew several new riders including John Dell'Osso who remarked, "The Century ride goes through some spectacular country. This was my first time in the Shenandoah Valley. I'll definitely come back again."

Three bicycle technicians, six HAM radio operators, two vehicle support drivers, rest area hosts, volunteers from the boards of most of the supported agencies, students from an Eastern Mennonite University missiology class and the coordinating committee provided assistance throughout the day to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants.

The fun and camaraderie were palpable as individual riders, couples and families gathered at the start or returned after their ride to enjoy a hot meal. Each year riders comment on the excellent snacks

available at the three rest areas: Mole Hill Bikes, Lindale and Mt. Clinton Mennonite Churches. Many business sponsors also contributed to the success of this year's ride including LD&B Insurance, our Diamond Sponsor.

Ken and Judy Nafziger, who rode with their adult daughter, Rachel, remarked, "It was a great way to start the morning and fun to do as a family. Bike Shenandoah is a great opportunity for mission-minded individuals, families and groups to do something that's healthy for themselves, builds a sense of shared accomplishments with others, and benefits the broader world through the funds that are raised for missions."



Steve is Development Director of MennoMedia, based in Harrisonburg, Va.



Is that you, Jesus?

By MIKE METZLER

Do any of these names ring a bell—Greg Boyd, Meghan Good, Nelson Okanya, Cherith Fee Nordling, or David Fitch?

Two vanloads of pastors and church leaders from Harrisonburg traveled to Carlisle, Pa., on September 19 to hear these speakers (and many more) at a conference entitled “Church & Post-Christian Culture: Christian Witness in the Way of Jesus.”

Missio Alliance sponsored the event as the first gathering of its Once and Future Mission Series, which will continue over the next two years. Virginia Mennonite Missions is a participating sponsor of Missio Alliance and coordinated transportation from Harrisonburg.

The main sessions focused on three centralities to Anabaptist Christians: Jesus, community, and the work of reconciliation.

In the first, Meghan Good showed how Jesus’ most defining characteristic is his call to come and follow. How does Peter distinguish whether the lake-top stroller is Jesus or a Galilean ghost? “Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come out on the water!”

As we pondered Jesus’ call to radical community, Dennis Webb told stories of how the game of cricket transcends cultural differences in the multi-cultural congregation where he pastors and transforms them into playful, mischievous children.

The story of Jesus engaging the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 shaped our third session. Anton Maisonet-Flores pointed out how Jesus crossed boundaries and began the conversation with his own deficit—thirst.

The conference gave me much to ponder and attempt to live out at home. As a father of three young children, the event reminded me that discipleship starts at home. Children are our most ardent disciples. They embody Jesus’ call to come and follow by mimicking parents and older siblings everyday. What do they see us doing as individuals, families, and congregations who proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and Savior? Where we go, they will follow.



Mike is pastor of Zion Mennonite Church, Broadway, Va.

‘Insight and fresh articulation’ at area Cherith Nordling events

By CAROL TOBIN

It was a gift to experience Cherith Fee Nordling’s Holy Spirit animated insistence that we recognize Jesus for who He is. The core of her message, according to Park View pastor, Phil Kniss: “Jesus wasn’t a split person who acted out of his human side some of the time, and out of his divine side at other times. Jesus was, and still is, the one who shows us how to be truly and fully human. He didn’t get rid of his body as soon as he could on the way back to heaven, but continues to be the Incarnate One, our ‘first-born’ elder brother, interceding for us, and encouraging us as we seek to align our lives now with our future redemption and glorified body.”

A missional pastors’ group within VMC reports, “We felt Cherith’s insight and fresh articulation of the gospel was helpful and might provide some deeper common ground as we wrestle together with the implications of being embodied disciples of Jesus.” Nick Meyer is a seminary student who says that he is still reflecting on the implications of this powerful Christology. “There is a huge invitation embedded here for us

to consider how ‘alive’ we are. She views massive consumption of media and various addictions as symptomatic of humans who are not fully alive. Life is found when we mimic Christ in his self-giving love; being fully human is existing for the sake of others. This self-giving love is not only faithful to the pattern of Christ, but is the very essence of the Trinity.”



Cherith Nordling. Courtesy photo

Our few days with Cherith created a lively ‘buzz’ and confirmed that Jesus is front and center of discernments: about human wholeness, about being church, and about our ‘sentness’ into the world. May we discern - in the winds of change - the wind of the Spirit who continues to point us to Jesus!

Presentations in mid-September were made possible by a partnership among Eastern Mennonite University, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Virginia Mennonite Conference, VM-Missions and Park View Mennonite Church. Cherith is Associate Professor of Theology at Northern Seminary.



Carol is Asia Regional Director & Global Ministry Associate for Virginia Mennonite Missions.

PENNY POWER proceeds increase

- **At sale total of \$28,210, up 11%** over last year’s sale total of \$25,404 (final total about \$28,000). This year’s final Penny Power total is also likely to be higher with some matching funds and other gifts expected.
- **Ridgeway Mennonite Church** in Harrisonburg topped the list of 42 participating congregations with \$3,092.02, followed by Harrisonburg Mennonite Church with \$2,607.37 and Park View Mennonite Church with \$2,344.45.
- All sorting and tabulating done by employees of **Park View Federal Credit Union**.
- **Funds will be divided** between Mennonite Central Committee’s Global Family projects in Honduras and Kenya and Virginia Mennonite Missions’ Joshua Center in Albania and Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica.

Settling in

By LAURA GREEN

Ciao from Italy! We arrived here in Termoli the first week in March and are still settling in, meeting new people, and forging new friendships.

One of my prayers before we left was that our boys, ages 2 1/2 and 1, would be able to transition well. During our first six weeks here, I was really beginning to question our calling overseas, because to be honest, it was just rough. Our kids suddenly (for them) changed location, language, culture, family, friends, and church. It was traumatic for the whole family. They weren't secure when one of us left to go to Bible study or even the grocery store.

However, God is gracious. Many people here and in the States were praying for us, and we saw them finally begin to adjust.



Shawn and Laura Green, with Lucas and Emmanuel. Courtesy photo

One of the people God placed in our lives is Paola, an English teacher for small children. She has made time in her schedule to come nearly every week and work with the boys on language as well as babysit and give us a chance to go to offices, take a state mandated cultural adaptation class, and run other errands.

We have also been blessed by the believers at the church in Vasto, especially the interactions by the young adult group with our sons. I am so grateful that God has given them friends, and also for those that are making the effort to help them and us acclimate. We knew that Lucas was finally becoming more comfortable with his surroundings and recognizing this as home, when we passed the ice cream shop and he was upset that we didn't have time to stop

LAC student wins Bethel College art prize for poem on Anabaptist faith

By JUSTIN ERB

One of Lezha Academic Center's (LAC) students, Ms. Inda Piroli, entered a contest last year that was held by Bethel College. The contest required participants to artistically represent the Mennonite faith from their point-of-view. They could use drawing, film, writing, photography, or any other medium. Inda chose to write a poem on a hand-drawn scroll. She won third place and a prize of \$100.

She explained that she discovered the contest on LAC's announcement board. Frequently, LAC faculty and administration will post events, opportunities, and contests on it. Inda said that she always checks the board for new opportunities.

Her poem was inspired by the life of Dirk Willems. She explained that the project was difficult, not because she does not enjoy the Mennonite faith, but because finding out about the faith



was difficult. A teacher taught her about the Mennonite faith, and one story touched her heart most. The story was about a man who saw his enemy fall into the water; and without caring for his own life he rescued that enemy. Inda explained that the story illustrated the meaning of loyalty and having deep spiritual values.

She was inspired to write a poem about that story. She also drew a scroll, which

• • • • •
on our way to church. God has definitely provided us with "family" here and we are so thankful for His provision for our boys in this time of transition.



Laura serves with her husband Shawn and two sons in Termoli, Italy.

for her, relates to the history of the faith. Along with the poem and the scroll, she wrote words that reminded her of the Mennonite faith and the lessons she learned from Dirk Willems.

She likes writing essays and poems, but finds her introverted self sometimes struggling to share her work with others. Before the Bethel College competition, she entered another writing competition (Write On! Competition). That one required her to write a fictional essay. The first round was between students within Albania; and she won second place.

The second round was international, between students from 15 European countries. She won second place again! She explained that it was those successes that gave her the courage to enter her poem into Bethel's competition.



Dirk Willems rescues his pursuer, 1569.

She said, "I didn't expect to win; just the idea of participating and them knowing my name as a participant gives me courage and inspiration for the future." With a smile, she reported that even if she had not won, she would have been proud of her poetry and the courage it took to enter it.

View the poem at <http://goo.gl/78sN0y>



Justin serves with his wife Melanie at Lezha Academic Center, Lezhe, Albania.



Inda Piroli

Green Valley Clinic closing after more than 60 years

By KENT KAUFFMAN

In our conference community, Bergton is often recognized as home to Highland Retreat and Valley View Mennonite Church. However, another ministry with

strong conference ties is recognized even more by the local community.

The Green Valley Clinic was established in the early 1950's by Dr. Charles Hertzler, who cared for patients in and out of office hours, regularly writing off payments or bartering services.

Dr. Hertzler had another dream, inspired by spending time at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center. In the late 1950's, he acquired 82 acres of land so that it could be purchased by Mennonite Missions Properties Inc. and become Highland Retreat.

In 1967, Dr. Linford Gehman purchased the Green Valley Clinic and carried on its compassionate vision. For Highland, he cared for the sick or injured camper or guest at any hour. Now, at 81, Dr. Gehman will reduce his hours and transition his practice and patients to a clinic in Mathias, West Virginia. Linford and Becky Gehman will remain in their residence, but the clinic will close as early as January 2015.

We are glad the Gehmans will remain as neighbors. However, with the rest of the community, we'll dearly miss their ministry across the road!



Kent is the Executive Director of Highland Retreat.



An early photo of the Green Valley Clinic, located across from Highland's main office, from 1958. Courtesy of author

Camps help kids stay the course

By BOB BRISCOE

We often see articles about why young people are leaving the church, so when I saw the title, "Why Young People Stay in the Church," it got my attention. Author Jon Nielson explained that there are three factors that can help.

The first is a genuine faith. When young people understand that faith is a personal relationship with God, and it's not something that happens to them, but rather a step that each individual must take, they can gain an ownership of their faith that is not easily shaken.

The second factor is becoming equipped for ministry. When young people are not only walking with the Lord, but helping others learn to walk with him too, their faith becomes even more stable and enduring. Learning to share their testimony, share the gospel, lead small groups, and serve in a ministry, young people become a valuable asset to the church and they can more easily find a place in the

church to offer their gifts and blossom and grow.

Finally, parental reinforcement helps young people stay in the church. When families worship together and reinforce one-another's convictions, doing life together in an intentional way, young people become more resilient and steadfast in their faith.

The camp environment offered at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center and Highland Retreat offers all three of these components. As young people attend camp and are mentored by camp counselors and staff, they see the Christian life lived out strongly in an up-close-and-personal way, and they see that it is indeed a personal faith. As they go through leadership programs and become staff, they are equipped for ministry, learn their gifts, and see God work through them. As families come away



Kids at WCRC's Discovery camp enjoy a group activity. Courtesy photo

for retreats, family reunions and family camp experiences, young people find that they have the support of those closest to them to help them stay the course.

Camp and retreat ministries are valuable church-strengthening tools that God uses to help young people become tomorrow's leaders!

Bob is the Executive Director of Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center.

NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”</p> <p>John 13:34-35 (NIV)</p>	<p>3 Join us as VMM staff in asking God to provide renters for the open office suite in the Virginia Mennonite Conference Center. We are trusting God to supply the right people!</p>	<p>4 The Bangkok team is discerning how to go about securing long-term visas. Ask God to give them wisdom and to open the doors wide for a successful visa approval.</p>	<p>5 Justin Erb serves as Guidance Counselor/Administrator at Lezha Academic Center. Ask God to grant him many opportunities to share Christ as he relates to students through teaching career and life skills classes and leading the Bible club.</p>	<p>6 The Keifer's continue to take on teaching and work responsibilities at the Maranatha School for the Deaf. Pray that they would be renewed and refreshed each day by their heavenly Father.</p>	<p>7 Shawn and Laura Green are working on activities for outreach in Termoli, Italy. Pray that God would inspire them with creative approaches and lead them to persons whose hearts are hungry for the Gospel.</p>	<p>1 Brook Hostetter teaches English at PROMESA in Cusco, Peru. Ask God to nurture the relationships Brook is forming, that she might be blessed and be a blessing.</p>
<p>2 Lift the pastors and ministries of Eastside Church, Harrisonburg, Va., up in prayer. This vibrant congregation seeks to be radically Christ-centered, service oriented and mission minded in their community.</p>	<p>3 Gracie and Yugo Prasetyo ask for prayer for those sick with tuberculosis in their neighborhood. Give thanks for the TB testing and treatments, made possible through contributions from Penny Power 2013.</p>	<p>11 Katrina Schmid teaches Earth Science and Algebra II at Lezha Academic Center. Ask God to give her insight into how to best teach and relate to her students.</p>	<p>12 Pray for Mitch and Lauren Yoder as they transition to life in Nicaragua while studying Spanish in preparation for teaching at Nicaraguan Christian Academy and serving at the Fortress of Hope orphanage.</p>	<p>13 The Riddle family will return from Italy in December after seven years of serving with the Centro Koinonia congregation in Bari. Pray for the many goodbyes and transitions that will be part of this move.</p>	<p>14 Pray for the Pastoral Leadership Consultation today at Weavers Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg. This VMC event will include presentations and discussions on “The Role of the Bible in the 21st Century.”</p>	<p>8 Celebrate that the Campbell's have found a more suitable apartment to rent in Montenegro. Pray for their landlord and his father who seem interested in friendship. Pray that this relationship would be an open door for sharing Christ's love.</p>
<p>9 Ask God to nurture and bless Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship, Chapel Hill, N.C., and pastor Isaac Villegas. May this light in the Research Triangle bear fruit in its community and beyond, seeded with the Word of God and love.</p>	<p>10 Praise God for the good relationships Whitney Specht is building with her host family in Kosovo. Ask God to give Whitney many opportunities to share Christ's love in word and deed.</p>	<p>18 Praise God for the newly formed church planting committee of the South German Mennonite Conference. Ask God to guide Dave Stutzman as he gives leadership to the developing vision and structure of the group.</p>	<p>19 Praise God that Joel's Chinese friend “M” is expressing an interest in sharing the Good News with his friends. Celebrate his heart for discipleship and ask God to equip him as a powerful witness.</p>	<p>20 Remember the men's Bible Study led by Steve Campbell in Montenegro. Ask God to deepen their understanding of the Word and ignite a passion for sharing Christ's transforming power.</p>	<p>21 Pray for the coffee farmers that Jonathan Cranston works with through his transSend assignment in the Philippines —may they experience Christ's Kingdom through the PeaceBuilders work that Jonathan is a part of.</p>	<p>15 Nancy Marshall is in the process of adopting Sulmi, a teenage Belizean girl who has lived with her for many years. Pray that God would bless them as a family.</p>
<p>16 Pray for Armando Sanchez and other leaders of the Iglesia Enciende Una Luz (Light the Light Church) as they guide this congregation in Harrisonburg, Va. Ask God for His blessing on their ministries and outreach.</p>	<p>17 The Horsts and Strodes long to see God's will be done in Bangkok. Pray that Steve, Bethany, Adam, and Jeanette will be agents of God's love and power in their city.</p>	<p>25 The Ramella's long to see their friends in Kosovo come to know Christ. Pray with them for opportunities to share the hope and joy of knowing Christ as Lord.</p>	<p>26 Ask God to bless the work of each of the Virginia Mennonite Conference Endorsed Ministries, who work in various ways to enrich and enlarge the Kingdom of God.</p>	<p>27 Pray for Joel's Chinese friend “Mike” who has studied the Bible for two years but has not yet given his life to Christ. Ask God to transform his heart and bring him to relationship with Christ.</p>	<p>28 Laura Green continues to study the Italian language while caring for her two little boys, Lucas and Emmanuel. Ask God to bless her studies as well as her time with the boys.</p>	<p>22 Richard and Elsie Bowman have committed to serving at the Lezha Academic Center in faith that God will protect their physical health. Ask God to give them more strength than they could ask or imagine.</p>
<p>23 Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have yourselves, and be at peace with one another.</p> <p>Mark 9:50</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Pray for Justin Rittenhouse, in his 3rd year of teaching at Lezha Academic Center, as he offers leadership, encouragement, and support to the new first year teachers.</p>



We can serve you and your immediate family.

540.434.6444



Friday

Thursday

Wednesday

Tuesday

Monday

Sunday

