

Partners team visits Schoenhals family in Thailand

By STEPHANIE LAYMAN

When the invitation went out at Weavers Mennonite Church for people interested in going on a *Partners in Mission* trip to visit Mark and Sarah Schoenhals and their family, I rushed to sign up. In addition to knowing Sarah basically my whole life, I worked with Mark at Highland Retreat for two summers during college.



The team from Weavers with the Schoenhals family: Stephanie Layman, Abby Byler with Hannah, Sandi Good, Sarah & Mark Schoenhals with Heidi.

So not only were the Schoenhals my friends, but I had heard and read about their ministry in Thailand since the beginning, and I was thrilled for an opportunity to see it for myself. A three-person team came together: Sandi Good (team leader), Abby Byler, and myself. For two weeks in June, we visited with Mark, Sarah, Heidi, and Hannah, and got to experience a bit of what life is like in Thailand.

The primary focus of our trip was to support and encourage the Schoenhals in their ministry. The time flew by. Between planned activities, the business of everyday life kept us occupied. We spent time just hanging out with Heidi and Hannah—doing crafts, reading, playing games, and going to the park. We also went to the market and helped prepare meals.

Team members receive blessings from Thai believers during a string-tying ceremony. String-tying is an old Isaan custom that the church has adapted as a way of extending blessings.

I found all the “down time” with the family to be a real blessing. We could simply be present and learn about the Schoenhals’ life by osmosis. Meal times and car rides were a great time to learn by peppering Mark and Sarah with questions—about Thai language and culture; about people, places, and things; about the challenges in their ministry; about the climate, environment, and plant life; about the girls and their school—so many questions—all of which Mark and Sarah answered graciously.

Another aim of our trip was to meet the people with whom Mark and Sarah work, worship, and play.

Our first opportunity was at a Bible study with Mark and the church leaders in the Phalancai district. It was difficult not to be able to talk to the Thai believers due to the language barrier. Still, we attempted the correct “wai” greeting, and we were welcomed with many friendly smiles. On that occasion we were fortunate to have Lucille Zimmerman, an EMM missionary living in a nearby village, to translate for us.

Later, we met more Thai believers at a Bible study with Sarah and her co-workers



Believers pray at the baptism of a new believer during the “big meeting” worship time. Everyone prays out loud at the same time, the Isaan style. Photos courtesy of author

at Micro Enterprise Development (MED), and also at two different Sunday church meetings: a small village worship gathering held at Pastor Joi’s house, and the once-a-month “big meeting” when believers from surrounding villages all meet at the church center in Det Udom for worship.

Despite the language barrier, we felt the warm acceptance of our new Thai friends. Thanks to translators, we heard many people share whatever was on their hearts, from struggles and prayer requests, to what God is doing in their lives. We shared a Bible story with Heidi’s class at school, witnessed a baptism, and were blessed with an Isaan string-tying ceremony on our last day in Thailand.

The team shared encouragement with Mark and Sarah during a family worship and prayer time. I know the Schoenhals family appreciates your support and prayers.

Now that I’ve met the people and seen the places, my understanding of how God is at work in the hearts and lives of our Thai brothers and sisters is much deeper.



Stephanie is a member of Weavers Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va.

In step with the Spirit

By AARON KAUFFMAN



“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”
– Galatians 5:25

On a warm January evening in Colombia, our church planting team gathered under a campground pavilion, with pastor Martín González leading us in worship and prayer as part of our retreat time.

While we were praying for each other in small groups, an image suddenly popped into my head. In my mind’s eye I saw a large hand reaching down, a small hand reaching up to grasp it, and the large hand giving the small hand a sharp tug. Somehow I sensed that this message was for the young man seated to my left, a recent high school graduate named Andrés.

Now getting pictures in my head from God is not a regular occurrence for me. But I felt an inner sense of urgency, so with my heart pounding, I told Andrés about the vision. “I think God is reaching out to you, Andrés, and he wants you to take his hand. But get ready. I think you’ll need to hold on tight.”

A week later, Andrés heard about a short-term mission opportunity in another city, over 400 miles away. He had never been away from home, and he had valuable musical gifts for our team. But his parents and the church were supportive, and the funding fell quickly into place. Within weeks, he left for a six-month assignment on the coast of Colombia. It turned out to be a life-changing experience for him, helping him grow up as a young man and as a disciple.

Are we attentive to the Holy Spirit? How do we tell what the Spirit of God is saying to us? Those are key questions, whether we’re discerning our personal vocation, making a major decision, or charting a course as a church.

The early Anabaptists wrestled with this question, too. Like Martin Luther, they saw the Scriptures as a firm foundation. But unlike him, they didn’t think the written Word alone was enough. They believed only Spirit-renewed disciples of Jesus could discern God’s will. Yet even that was insufficient. Charismatic leaders sometimes made crazy claims, leading to disaster. So the Anabaptists learned to “test the spirits” more carefully. According to historian Arnold Snyder, a consensus eventually emerged among the Anabaptists about how to discern God’s will: the leading of the Spirit had to be tested with the Scriptures, weighed in the community of faith, and measured against the life and teaching of Jesus Christ (From Anabaptist Seed, pp. 12-14).

In practice, discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit may not look as neat and tidy as Snyder outlines, but I believe our Anabaptist forbears gave us a pattern worth emulating.

We can trust God’s Spirit to speak in all kinds of ways to the church, when genuine believers committed to the Scriptures seek the guidance of the living Lord Jesus. Are we listening?

Aaron Kauffman
President
Virginia Mennonite Missions



Thank you for a year of faithful support

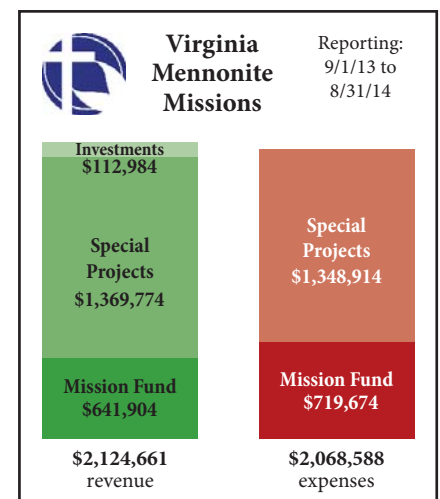
By SHERAH-LEIGH GERBER

As we reflect on the fiscal year we just completed (September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014), we are humbled by God’s provision. Overall income exceeded expenses by \$56,072.78, as indicated in the chart below. This year, God’s provision took the form of generous gifts from congregations and households, as well as robust investment income.

What did we accomplish with these resources? In many ways, the kingdom work we engage in is hard to measure. But our primary work is calling, forming, sending and supporting people in mission. So here is one limited measure of God’s work through us this past year: *VMMissions supported 95 adults and 42 children serving in 19 countries including the United States.*

We are grateful for the outpouring of support that makes this work

Thank you continued on page 3



All figures are pre-audit.

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Leaders needed!

By CLYDE G. KRATZ

As part of the Listen and Learn Initiative whereby I sought to visit with each lead pastor in Virginia Mennonite Conference, I had a startling discovery: two-thirds of the 60 lead pastors whose birth date is on record in my office will turn 70 in the next 15 years.

Broken down in five year increments, I calculated the number of current pastors who will turn 70 or be beyond that age:

- In 2014-2019: 13 pastors
- In 2020-2024: 15 pastors
- In 2025-2029: 15 pastors
- 43 of the 60 pastors leading congregations in VMC will have reached age 70 by 2029

This data creates some anxiety for me because it means most of the key leaders of VMC will no longer be in a leadership role. *Now* is the time to call forth persons within our congregations to pursue leadership development for congregational leadership.

There are three ways that leaders can be developed. First, each congregation may

Two-thirds of current VMC pastors will reach age 70 in the next 15 years.
How can we help prepare for future leadership?

need to identify and equip a number of persons to pursue leadership development for a volunteer organization. This can occur by a pastor or elders shoulder tapping individuals for mentoring for ministry opportunities within the congregation that allows for continued development.

Second, a congregation could enable one of their members to pursue formal education in one of our Mennonite seminaries (Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) through financial assistance for the duration of their education. VMC has Ministerial Training Trust Funds that can assist an individual within our Conference in the pursuit of ministerial training.

Finally, a congregation could intentionally seek to provide a ministry opportunity to a seminarian to engage in ministry in their context. As congregations utilize a seminarian, additional financial assistance may be important due to the financial burden that formal training creates for ministry students. Ministerial leadership

in the future may require greater skill development as our members hold high expectation from the office of pastor within our congregations.

It remains my hope to challenge persons and congregations to prepare for the future leadership needs of Virginia Mennonite Conference. The vision is here! It requires people and money.

Will you and your congregation rise to the challenge to prepare your gifted followers of Jesus to consider the leadership opportunities of the Church, even in these challenging times?

I hope so, because it will make all the difference in our Conference in five years, 10 years, and 15 years as these 43 leaders respectfully step aside for another generation of leaders to engage in ministry as servant leaders for the kingdom of God.



Clyde is Executive Conference Minister of Virginia Mennonite Conference.

Thank you continued from page 2

possible. Thank you to the 1,278 households and 87 congregations who gave specifically toward the people and ministries they care about, which is what we call collectively, Special Projects.

We also want to express our gratitude to the 284 individuals and 52 congregations who gave generously toward our Mission Fund. Our Mission Fund undergirds all that we do as an agency, providing the staffing we need to resource and support pastors, church planters, and mission workers.

It has been a year of change and transition at VM Missions, and we are deeply grateful for the people and resources God has given us to continue the work of making disciples in the way of Christ. Thank you for your continued partnership and support.



Sherah-Leigh is Director of Advancement for Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Eastern Carolina congregations collect 'alternative taxes' for CPT peace work

By DAVE NICKEL

District congregations do not always agree with one another. Along with discussing how we may be at variance with one another, the district council for Eastern Carolina District decided to focus on one way our congregations are united: we are called to live Christ's peace, and we are frustrated by our complicity in the United States military industrial complex.

Using Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) materials, the council chose to educate the congregants through a series of bulletin inserts which showed that almost 50% of our federal tax dollars go to military spending.

As the capstone of the education, Isaac Villegas, pastor of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship, proposed that each of our congregations take up a special offering for Christian Peacemaker Teams during tax season. He said "Call it an alternative tax

for those of us who want to be more complicit in peacemaking efforts."

It was a successful endeavor, with all five congregations taking up special offerings. The offerings were collected and sent to Lowell Miller, the treasurer of ECD. Lowell cut a check on behalf of the district for \$3,394 in support of CPT's peace work.

We hope this will become an annual practice among ECD congregations, and we hope other ways of supporting and doing peace work will continue to unite our congregations.

Disagreements and all, the congregations of Eastern Carolina District strive to support and encourage one another in the peacemaking work of Jesus Christ.



Dave is a chaplain and member of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Internship explores supporting and sending side of mission

By LORI DOLL

As part of my MDiv studies at Eastern Mennonite Seminary I have been given the opportunity to take part in an internship at Virginia Mennonite Missions.

I began my position last fall and will continue through December 2014. One of my goals of working with VMM was to gain a better understanding of what it looks like to help persons get on the field and what support is provided for them in their mission.

Having previously served in missions overseas in The Gambia from 2008 to 2010 with Eastern Mennonite Missions, I was aware of what being sent was like but I wanted to gain a better understanding of what it means to send and continue to be a supporting sender.

I have also spent several years in service stateside through various Mennonite organizations, including Mennonite Disaster Service, Mennonite Voluntary Service, Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), and Service Adventure. Through

this position I hope to join with VMMissions staff in raising awareness of the work they are doing nationally and internationally.

I receive support in my position through regular meetings with my mentor, Janet Blosser, Mediterranean Regional Director and Ministry Teams Coordinator.

I am so excited to be a part of the VMMissions community and working closely with their staff to be part of what God is doing in our world.

Events such as Bike Shenandoah (September 20), Family Missions Festival (May 3, 2015), the *Perspectives* course (Fall 2015), and building relationships with EMU students are some of the ways in which VMMissions is inviting the local community to join in on God's mission near and far.



Lori Doll traveled to The Gambia in 2012, visiting the community where she had worked from 2008 to 2010. Courtesy photo

My goal is to make myself available to help the staff in any way that I can in their day-to-day work as an agency, as they continue to make disciples in the way of Christ.



Lori is an intern at VMM, as part of her MDiv program studies at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

A time of prayer and discernment for Kosovo ministry

By LAVONNE RAMELLA

This past month, the Ramella family has been dedicated to prayer and discernment as they seek God's leading in their ministry. Below is an excerpt from LaVonne's blog reflections:

The more time we spend here, the more heavy my heart is for the people here. We have been taken in as family and loved more than we could have imagined during the last year. The closer we become, the greater our desire is to be able to share the love and hope of Christ with our friends here.

We are in a country that currently has no economic hope. Unemployment floats between 60-70%. People have completed their bachelor's and maybe even master's degrees and are still unable to find work in their professions. Working in a local coffee bar may be as good of a job as they can find. For those who are fortunate enough to have work, the average monthly income is somewhere between €300-400



The Ramella family serves in Istog, Kosovo: Vince, LaVonne, Sid, Bradie, Justin. Courtesy photo

(\$400-\$500). "Minimum wage" is €150 per month, or about \$200.

During the war in 1999, factories were destroyed and never rebuilt or repaired. Little to no industry remains. Many Albanians (the largest people group here) have sought employment outside of the country due to the lack of opportunity here.

Many businesses that attempt to exist, are often faced with the strong-arm of corruption, where the only option is to

participate or perish. There are some who fight hard to not allow this to infiltrate their systems, but it is very difficult to keep ahead of its grasp.

After having lived under dictatorships for so many years, the people aim to please—at least by what they say. Traditional gender roles are still dominate in the culture, and jealousy and judging along with gossip are very common issues as a result.

So here we are, asking God to take all of these "influencers" and potential obstacles, and break through them. We want to bring His light into the darkness. His call was as clear as daylight to both of us to come here. Now we are waiting for Him to reveal how we can make a difference in His Kingdom. We've been seeking and praying, asking others to pray, for God to show us what His plan is.



LaVonne serves with her husband Vince and sons Sid, Bradie and Justin in Istog, Kosovo.

Coffee for Peace encourages sides in conflict to talk

By JESSICA PEACHEY

Joji Pantoja is a change agent and the CEO of Coffee For Peace in Davao, Philippines. She brings a personal understanding of federal guidelines for business establishment and has proven successful in business development, marketing, and peacebuilding. She started working in Mindanao, Philippines with her husband Dann as a Mennonite missionary with a vision to help in peacebuilding, working with PeaceBuilders.

They were trying to better understand one of the longest armed conflicts in the world—the war between the government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

While doing their peace and reconciliation work among the conflicted groups in Mindanao, they began offering coffee to both

disagreeing parties. The goal was to try to encourage them to resolve their issues through dialogue over a cup of coffee. It seemed that as long as coffee was available, peaceful talk would continue. Since then, they coined those events “Coffee for Peace.”

Their dream expanded as they saw the need for a safe place to talk about peace issues in Davao City. Their small coffee shop was established and became known among peace workers and non-government personnel.

The need for coffee supplies increased over time and they were brought to various tribal communities who had been marginalized. Their lands were reluctantly leased for 25 years to big companies and multinational corporations at a very low price. The lease payments were not enough to sustain the tribal people, even for basic needs. They, in turn, needed to borrow money from those same big businesses, which left them dependent and impoverished.

Coffee for Peace is now a social enterprise that seeks to help advance justice and

peace through finding a market that will pay fair prices for the farmers’ labor and produce. They strive to protect their environment by planting more trees side by side with Arabica trees and are committed to building peace in Mindanao.

Editor’s note: Virginia Mennonite Missions recently sent Jonathan Cranston to serve with PeaceBuilders in Mindanao for a year with tranSend. He works closely with Dann and Joji in their ministry.



The Coffee for Peace coffee shop in Davao, Philippines. Courtesy of author



Joji Pantoja



Jessica is an artist and entrepreneur, and member of Grace Mennonite Fellowship, Lacey Spring, Va.

o Snapshots from Albania Faculty settle in for new school year in Lezhë



“All the pencils are sharpened, worksheets are printed, and word walls are made—it’s time to teach some art!” —Melanie Erb, art teacher



The 2014-2015 faculty of Lezha Academic Center.

Photos: Justin & Melanie Erb, Richard Bowman



Lezha Academic Center faculty enjoy fellowship before students return to the school. They went out for pizza and were joined by Loren and Earlene Horst on a visit (right photo). The faculty also traveled to Montenegro (photo at left) and had coffee in beautiful Shkodër, Albania, on the way.

Washington Community Scholars' Center opens door to D.C. employment

By LAUREN JEFFERSON

Stephen Quenzer was always intrigued by the idea of living in a “big city.” So right after earning his bachelor’s degree in computer science in May, the Visalia, California native spent the summer on his cross-cultural experience at the Washington Community Scholars’ Center (WCSC).

What he discovered in those 10 weeks as an intern surprised him – and prepared him make the commitment to begin his career in Washington D.C.

“I finished the WCSC program on Friday and started my new job on Monday,” Quenzer said, shortly after an evening commute to his newly rented apartment in the Northwest neighborhood of Petworth. “I thought WCSC would be a great experience of living in a big city for two and a half months. I couldn’t imagine doing it for a long period of time, and I was never expecting to stay.”

Now director of technology at Financial Education and Literacy Associates (FELA), Quenzer manages the outsourced development of the D.C.-based start-up company, which offers personalized online programs that teach consumers how to improve their financial situation.

In an odd twist, Quenzer’s new job isn’t a result of his summer internship with *Sojourners*, working on the Christian publication’s website. Instead it was the result of networking opportunities provided by WCSC alumnus Joel Murray ‘14 and the program’s former associate director, Sheldon C. Good.

WCSC internships regularly lead to offers of full-time employment, according to program director Kimberly D. Schmidt.

This was the case for Murray, a business administration major who had in-



Two 2014 graduates of EMU – Stephen Quenzer (pictured) and Joel Murray – were hired by Financial Education and Literacy Associates upon completion of a stint at EMU’s Washington Community Scholar’s Center. Photo by Erica Grasse

terned the previous semester with FELA. After graduating in May, Murray accepted full-time employment with the company. He then contacted Quenzer about doing freelance web design and consulting.

“I came in several times throughout the summer and got to know the company better,” Quenzer said. “And it turned out they needed someone with my skills.”

Quenzer had some real concerns, however. “Ninety percent of start-ups fail, so there was a real risk for me to take out an annual lease on an apartment in Washington D.C. without some assurance of financial stability,” he said.

Discussions with Good, who was a friend of the company’s founder, allayed his concerns. “That was really helpful,” Quenzer said. “The connections I had through WCSC, and the networking opportunities, really helped me make that decision and feel it was a good one.”

Quenzer also feels more comfortable in Washington D.C. than he ever imagined, thanks to the immersive, cross-cultural experience of living in WCSC’s intentional community as an independent, working adult.

“Organizing house jobs, sharing money to buy food, learning how to get along with people from different backgrounds – all of that was a really valuable experience,” Quenzer said.

“We are proud of Stephen’s accomplishments,” Schmidt said. “He will join many former students who, through the WCSC, have come to the city, found good work, and are now making valuable contributions to our local neighborhoods.”



Lauren is a freelance writer from the Harrisonburg, Va, area.

13th annual
Festival of Praise

Sunday, November 2 • 4:00 p.m.

Eastern Mennonite School auditorium • 801 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Va.

A concert of men’s *a cappella* groups featuring a combined chorus finale, conducted by Jay Hartzler

Offering will benefit a project of Virginia Mennonite Missions

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by</p> <p>Lila Mae Janzen</p> <p>in loving memory of Samuel and his prayer ministry, during this month of his birth and his home-going.</p>						
<p>5 Pray for Vernon Moyer, pastor of 3:16 Christian Community Church in Hickory (NC), as he provides leadership to be a witness for Jesus in the community, workplace, and supportive missions beyond the congregation.</p>	<p>6 Melanie Erb teaches art and technology to the students at Lezha Academic Center. Pray for strong relationships with her students through which she might share her love for Christ.</p>	<p>7 Pray for the Rumah Harapan school where Gracie Prasetyo teaches in Indonesia. The school offers morning preschool, afternoon lessons, and middle school lessons.</p>	<p>1 Give thanks to God for His provision and the many supporters He has blessed Virginia Mennonite Conference and Virginia Mennonite Missions with, as both agencies have begun a new fiscal year.</p>	<p>2 Pray for Older Brother Koke, whose wife died recently and whose daughter, Beng, is friends with Heidi Schoenhals, daughter of VMM workers in Thailand. Pray that in his searching, Koke will discover Jesus as Savior.</p>	<p>3 Tomorrow the Albanian Mennonite Mission Foundation will meet. Pray for the leaders of this mission movement as they seek the Lord's direction for their work.</p>	<p>4 Celebrate God's work in the world by attending the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale today. Pray that God will multiply the generosity to touch many people with His love.</p>
<p>12 Pray for James Rhee, pastor of the Stephens City Korean Community Church, as he seeks to provide leadership to multiple Korean ministry opportunities.</p>	<p>13 Praise God for Steve and Bethany Horst's commitment to the Kingdom through their work in Bangkok, Thailand. Ask God to further fuel their hunger and discipline for prayer.</p>	<p>14 Join Joel in asking God to reveal which of his Chinese students he should share the Good News with this semester —and to open the doors for them to believe.</p>	<p>8 Thank God for Lois Maust's many years of service to Virginia Mennonite Missions. Ask God to provide the right new person to join VMM's staff.</p>	<p>9 Pray for EMU President Loren Swartzendruber as he seeks to provide executive leadership to a denominational ministry that is equipping young adults for leadership and service in a global environment from an Anabaptist faith perspective.</p>	<p>10 Marko is a friend to Steve and Laura Campbell in Montenegro. He is being treated for bipolar disorder. Ask God for his healing.</p>	<p>11 Pray for Caleb and Roni Keifer as they continue to learn sign language while serving and teaching at the Marantha School for the Deaf in Jamaica.</p>
<p>19 Pray for Clyde G. Kratz, Executive Conference Minister, as he is in the midst of a busy month of congregational visits and a time of discernment in the larger church. Ask God to give him energy for the many tasks ahead.</p>	<p>20 The Schoenhals family leaves Thailand tomorrow for two-and-a-half months of furlough. Pray for smooth travels and a meaningful and energizing home leave.</p>	<p>21 Pray for Rafael Tartari as he provides leadership to the church in Lezhë. Ask God to direct his steps and decisions concerning his ministry.</p>	<p>15 Pray for Klodi, a young Albanian man that Allen Umbles mentors. Praise God for his pastoral gifting, and ask God to equip him for his first semester of Bible school.</p>	<p>16 The 40th anniversary of the Mennonite Church in Trinidad and Tobago is being celebrated this week. Praise God for His faithfulness over the years.</p>	<p>17 The women's Bible study in Belize, led by Nancy Marshall, is spending a year memorizing Bible verses. Pray that God's Word will stick in their minds and transform their hearts.</p>	<p>18 Pray for tranSender Whitney Specht as she works to establish relationships and trust among the dairy farmers in Kosovo.</p>
<p>26 Give thanks to God for the staff of Virginia Mennonite Conference and the good working relationships they enjoy. Ask God to bless their work as the Conference seeks to grow His kingdom.</p>	<p>27 Praise God for leaders of the Life Enrichment Church in Thailand and their passion for His kingdom, and ask for much wisdom as they deal with difficult and sensitive issues.</p>	<p>28 Praise God for the faith and hope of Michael and Ruthy in South Asia. Ask God to answer their prayers for a great movement towards Christ in their city.</p>	<p>22 Sid, Bradie, and Justin Ramella are doing school work from home this year. Pray that they would have many opportunities to grow in friendship with other children in the neighborhood as their family serves in Kosovo.</p>	<p>23 Josh Kirkman teaches history and literature at Lezha Academic Center. Pray for wisdom and creativity in lesson planning and for trust and respect among his students.</p>	<p>24 Pray for the Strodes in Bangkok, Thailand, as they continue to learn language and build relationships. Ask God to give them energy and vision for His kingdom.</p>	<p>25 Pray for Jacob and Hosanna as they disciple people in the way of Jesus. Ask God to give the believers in South Asia joy and hope in the face of persecution.</p>
<p>31 Give thanks to God for the staff of Virginia Mennonite Conference and the good working relationships they enjoy. Ask God to bless their work as the Conference seeks to grow His kingdom.</p>	<p>29 Pray for James Musser, pastor of Stephens City Mennonite Church, as he provides leadership to a congregation that is giving who they are and what they have so that their community and the world may know the love of Jesus.</p>	<p>30 Pray for Chris and Melody Riddle as they support local leadership in the Mennonite church in Bari, Italy.</p>	<p>31 Praise God for the new child that David and Rebekka Stutzeman are expecting. Pray for a healthy pregnancy and wisdom for David and Rebekka in discerning their ministry roles.</p>	<p>31 Praise God for the new child that David and Rebekka Stutzeman are expecting. Pray for a healthy pregnancy and wisdom for David and Rebekka in discerning their ministry roles.</p>	<p>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.</p> <p>Philippians 2:3-4 (NRSV)</p>	



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Announcements



**Virginia
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Called. Sent. Transformed.

Virginia Mennonite Missions seeks an **Executive Assistant and Human Resources Manager**, a full-time position beginning January 15, 2015. This position provides administrative support to the President and manages human resources matters and personnel. A job description can be seen at vmmissions.org/serve/employment-opportunities. Send resume/cover letter to Lynn Suter at lynn.suter@vmmissions.org or mail to 901 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center's Music Weekend will be October 24-26. This is a retreat for adults who like to sing choral music. We will look back over the last 20 years of music weekends and celebrate God's faithfulness through our performance at Warwick River Mennonite Church on October 26 at 3 p.m. It's a great weekend of music, fellowship, and renewal. Marvin Miller will be our director; he has directed Music Weekend for 18 years and will retire at the end of this year. Everyone is invited to the concert with the Music Weekend choir performing. A reception will follow. For more information, visit www.wcrc.info or call 757-566-2256.

Join friends of Highland Retreat at the **Annual Banquet** on Tuesday, Oct. 28 from 6:15-8:00 p.m., in the dining hall of Eastern Mennonite School. Enjoy a delicious meal followed by a celebration of a special 56 year relationship with the Bergton Clinic. Child care (ages 4-12) including pizza dinner is provided. A freewill offering will be taken to support Highland Retreat. For more information and reservations visit highlandretreat.org, call (540) 705-0554, or email info@highlandretreat.org by October 17.

"Live Life Fully, Prepare to Die Well" is the title of a presentation to be given by Glen E. Miller, MD, of Goshen, Indiana, at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 23 at the Eastern Mennonite High School Dining Hall, 801 Parkwood Drive. Everyone is invited, including persons from all health-care disciplines. The meeting is sponsored by Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship. More information is at mennohealth.org or call (540) 564-3410.

Everyone is invited to **Mennonite Women of Virginia annual Fall Retreat** at the Richmond Marriott West in Glen Allen, Va., (Richmond) on November 7-9. Registration starts at 4 p.m. Our speakers will be Brenda Walton, Mabelle Bender, Sharon Miller and Marian Buckwalter. Our theme for this year's retreat is "Being a Positive Woman in a Negative World," based on Proverbs 31. There will be a prayer room for everyone to use, as well as a professional counselor on hand. Come and see what the Lord will do among us!

UPCOMING TRIP

Middle East travel opportunity: Registration is now open for "Places, People, & Prayers" (April 30-May 23, 2015), an **Israel/Palestine study tour** sponsored through Eastern Mennonite Seminary and co-led by Dorothy Jean Weaver (Professor of New Testament), and Kevin A. Clark (Campus Pastor). This tour is open to all interested travelers, with the potential of 3 study hours of seminary credit for those who desire it. Interested pastors may apply for \$500 travel grants through the "Come and See" program of MCUSA. Registrations will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis. For more information and a brochure, contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at (540) 432-4276 or at weaverdj@emu.edu