

Making disciples as we go!

Theme guides 2014 Conference Assembly in Charlottesville, Va.

By JON TROTTER

Hundreds gathered for worship, delegate sessions and workshops to engage a fundamental call of Jesus: *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.* This theme also guided each Bible study, testimony, worship message and delegate table conversation over the two-day Assembly, July 24-26, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Va.

Clyde G. Kratz, Executive Conference Minister, brought the message Thursday evening, in which he outlined some of

the ways the people of Virginia Mennonite Conference have been instrumental in bringing people to faith and discipling them.

“To be a disciple is to provide hope to those without hope. That hope comes from having a unique relationship with God and offering that possibility to another person,” Kratz said. Faith development and discipleship should start in the home. “Making disciples in our families is an important opportunity. If we are unable to articulate and express our faith in this most intimate setting in our life, how

will we share the message of hope that carries both truth and grace in equal measure to the stranger, emotionally unstable, the outcast, the wealthy, the powerful, and the highly educated?”



Shirley Yoder Brubaker, VMC Moderator, guided the sessions in her final Assembly as Moderator.

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truth and grace in equal measure to the stranger, emotionally unstable, the outcast, the wealthy, the powerful, and the highly educated?”

Aaron Kauffman, President of Virginia Mennonite Missions, gave the Friday evening message. Emphasizing both the commandment to go and make disciples and the method by which it should be done, Kauffman said, “It is because of who Jesus is—Immanuel, *God with us*—that we can

dare to make disciples, because it is the rightful Lord of heaven and earth who commands it. And we seek to do so by following His courageous, peaceable, grace-filled footsteps. And we never do it alone. Jesus promises to be with us—always—whenever we make disciples the way He did.”



Aaron Kauffman, President of Virginia Mennonite Missions, preaching at Friday's worship.



Delegates discuss and discern around tables. All photos by Jon Trotter

Along with worship, the work of the Assembly delegates was a main factor of the gathering. The tone was positive throughout, though delegates expressed regret around the release of three congregations that requested withdrawal of their membership from the Conference.

Shirley Yoder Brubaker completed her final Conference Assembly as Moderator of Virginia Mennonite Conference.

“As moderator, I appreciated the thoughtfulness with which the delegates approached the difficult decision to accept the request of three congregations to terminate their relationship with VMC. One of



Ervin Stutzman led a workshop on “Communal Discernment in the Face of Strong Disagreement.”

Assembly continued on page 3



(left) Terry Shue, director of leadership development for Mennonite Church USA, sharing greetings from the denomination.



Pastoral and missions workers were commissioned for their assignments on Friday evening.

Spirit instinct!

By CLYDE G. KRATZ



And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may

be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

—Philippians 1:9-11 (NRSV)—

A fifth scripture text that I have selected to guide my leadership practices is this prayer found in the opening chapter of Philippians.

Acts 16 provides a historic account of the founding of the church at Philippi on Paul's missionary endeavors. Philippi was the location of an imprisonment for Paul and Silas, the conversion of the jailer and his family, and the hospitality of Lydia, a business woman who worshipped God, who along with her household were baptized by Paul.

As he writes to this congregation that he loves deeply, he provides insight into a key communal activity: Spirit-led ethical discernment.

Paul experienced the challenge of upholding the Law of Moses and representing the good news of Jesus Christ. As he ministered in the Gentile world, he was confronted by the tension in which some of the deeply-held religious traditions (beliefs and practices) associated with the people of God were important for the new converts and the emerging faith communities.

He recognized some of the inadequacy of the Law of Moses to be the primary determinant on living out faithfulness to God. However, to remove the boundary of the Law from the faith community also had significant risks.

Paul's prayer provides the awareness that a faith community is led by the Spirit of God to determine appropriate responses to the challenges that are encountered.

In Paul's time, there were no easy answers to the challenges thrust upon them, but they had the Spirit of Christ, a commitment to exemplify love through their life and to assess the outcome of their actions in relationship to bringing glory to God. The advantage Paul modeled was a Spirit instinct in the mission of representing God.

I am encouraging pastors and congregational leaders to engage in ethical discernment about the challenges facing their elders, pastoral teams, and congregational life.

It is a type of discernment that accepts real life and leadership challenges, applies scripture, theological reflection, and accumulated knowledge to the circumstance, and moves forward with confidence that God's Spirit is a participant in the outcome.

There will always be the tension of balancing tradition and contemporary challenges within our community of faith. However, we cannot become overwhelmed in doing nothing, nor frozen by fear.

Trusting in the providential care of God, we move forward with humility and confidence that God's Spirit guides our instincts for life in the world.

Clyde G. Kratz
Executive Conference Minister
Virginia Mennonite Conference



Galen and Gloria Lehman Photo by Sherah-Leigh Gerber

Lehmans honored at VMM board meeting

At their July meeting, the Virginia Mennonite Missions' Board of Directors recognized Galen and Gloria Lehman for their many years of service to the organization.

Engraved plaques were presented by Board Chair, Phyllis Miller, along with words of affirmation and appreciation for the Lehman's service of inviting people to faithful living in Jesus Christ.

Gloria retired in May after 16 years of work in the areas of public relations, events and ministry in the Caribbean.

Galen has worked for VMM since 1997, retiring at the end of August. For much of his tenure he was Caribbean Regional Director, and more recently, Deaf Ministries Specialist.

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Virginia Mennonite Missions	
Reporting: 9/1/13 to 7/31/14	■ revenue ■ expenses
Mission Fund	Special Projects
\$524,045	\$1,157,688
\$660,146	\$1,230,035

Assembly continued from cover

the congregations had been a member for 101 years, another 94 years, so there was much to lament. I am grateful for the stability our conference has in a denominational time of instability.” The meetings were punctuated by prayer, singing, and fellowship over meals that contributed to a collaborative atmosphere.

Helpful stories from the past illuminated and paralleled some of the current issues in the church, as Elwood Yoder highlighted several examples of key leaders who navigated large issues of their days.

Testimonies by church leaders and mission workers gave examples of how disciples are being made in their contexts by incarnational ministries and building bridges of trust. Workshops engaged questions of how the church can promote discipleship among lesser-reached demographics and amidst strong disagreements.



Jon is Communications Associate for Virginia Mennonite Conference and Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Service celebrates Bowman retirement and commissioning for service in Albania

By FLOYD BLOSSER

In February, Central District Overseer Richard Bowman and his wife Elsie took a three-month sabbatical to teach at Lezha Academic Center in Albania.

This experience was so positive for both the school and the Bowmans that they decided to return for the 2014-2015 school year. As a result of this extended absence, Richard gave his resignation as overseer, and the district decided to call an interim overseer.

A Celebration of Ministry for Richard’s eleven years of service to the district was held at Shady Oak (Weavers Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg) on July 27.

Co-overseer Robert Wenger and the district pastors shared memories and expressions of appreciation. Richard was presented with a beautiful framed photo of sheep, a gift commemorating Richard’s passion of being a shepherd to the pastors to whom he had given oversight. Virginia Mennonite Missions personnel joined the



Elsie and Richard Bowman, serving for a year at Lezha Academic Center in Albania. Richard served Central District for 11 years. Courtesy photo

pastors in commissioning Richard and Elsie for service in Albania. The service included the commissioning of J. Mark Frederick as Interim District Minister for the next year.

Follow Bowmans’ Albania experiences at: edtechbybowman.net/blogs/Albania



Floyd is the chair of Virginia Mennonite Conference’s Central District Council.

Prayer is the greatest role for Mission Support Teams

By CAROL TOBIN

In Acts 2, we find a description of church in its most fundamental form: *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.* (v. 42-45)

I remember some years ago when I had one of those “a-ha!” moments: this is what happens in Missionary Support Teams (MSTs). We are drawn into the dynamic of God at work, where community forms around God’s mission.

work go forward. MSTs are invited to focus on prayer and to experience joy when the “many wonders” begin to unfold.

“Prayer really does make a difference as we join with God in His work. It makes a difference in the spiritual realms as we live in the authority and power that we have been given through Jesus,” says Mark Schoenhals, worker in Thailand. I am certain that all of our workers resonate with that.

Sarah Kalichman, chairperson for Yugo and Grace (Schrock-Hurst) Prasetyo’s MST shares, “There is something beautiful and powerful about gathering together with other believers in prayer for a common purpose. Grace’s request from the beginning was for us to pray, so I set a time length and make sure to make prayer the main agenda for almost all of our meetings.”

Some MST prayer coordinators have launched separate monthly gatherings that provide a context for focused prayer.

Lisa Hawkins solicits an update from her sister Sarah Schoenhals (wife of Mark) serving in Thailand, so that when we gather around her kitchen table at 7:30 one Thursday each month, we have the “inside scoop” as we pray.

Despite being a young professional with her own demanding ministry involvements, Kalichman is emphatic, “Prayer is the most important type of support we can give. In our busy schedules it is all too easy to neglect this discipline. Having a monthly time set for prayer is vital.”

The question before us as we serve on MSTs is: Are we experiencing the Acts 2 kind of life? Might that life be enhanced by an increased focus on prayer together?



Carol is Asia Regional Director for Virginia Mennonite Missions.



Deaf young people enjoy VBS

By NANCY MARSHALL

Every summer our church has a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program primarily for Deaf people ages 10 and up, including hearing siblings in that age range who want to come. This year, we had 14 or 15 participants each day from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The theme came from an old Mennonite curriculum called, "Resolving Conflict the Jesus Way." I heavily supplemented this with conflict resolution activities and concepts from *Adventures in Peacemaking* by Kreidler and Furlong. I praise God for leading me to this theme,



Nancy Marshall helps VBS participants make a framed verse of Romans 12:18—*If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.* Courtesy of author

because it was the perfect way and time to teach this age group about conflict resolution.

The VBS schedule included worship, reciting memory verses, teaching Bible stories and the thematic lessons, which usually included some kind of drama to make it clear. Participants learned new memory verses and played games to learn them. They also made crafts, did outdoor activities (while I prepared lunch), had lunch,



"Tie us together Lord. Ties us together with cords that cannot be broken." A game illustrates how the Holy Spirit binds us together with love. Courtesy of author

and they got to go swimming. I then drove everyone home.

Jesus' Deaf Church also has a second VBS from August 4 through 8, called CODA VBS, for young Deaf children and Deaf parents who have young hearing children.



Nancy serves in Orange Walk Town, Belize, with VMM and Eastern Mennonite Missions.

Temples of the Holy Spirit

By STEVE HORST & BETHANY TOBIN

Bethany was walking down the road one day when a motorcycle taxi driver buzzed by, then turned around and came back. He asked, "What's your religion?"

"We believe in the Lord Jesus," Bethany answered. He nodded and buzzed away, only to circle back, asking, "What temple do you worship in?"

Bethany said, "Well, we believe that each person is a temple where God lives, and believers in Jesus can gather anywhere to worship." He looked confused, so Bethany said, "But actually, yes, we usually pick a building of some kind to meet in."

He nodded and drove off, but then again came back. "Do you have a sacred book?" he asked.

"Yes, we do. The Bible." Bethany thought this was a strange

way to make conversation, so she asked, "Why are you asking, do you want to read it?" He gave the enigmatic Thai smile and sped off.

On his commute to school, Steve admires the devotion of Thai animistic Buddhists as they present offerings and prayers before the patron spirit houses, morning and evening. He meditates on the temple imagery of 1 Corinthians 3:16.

Buddhism distinguishes between the *viharn* (temple) and the *boht* (gathering place), with two different buildings inside the complex. Buddhist believers, in turn, gather in a *boht*, not a *viharn*.

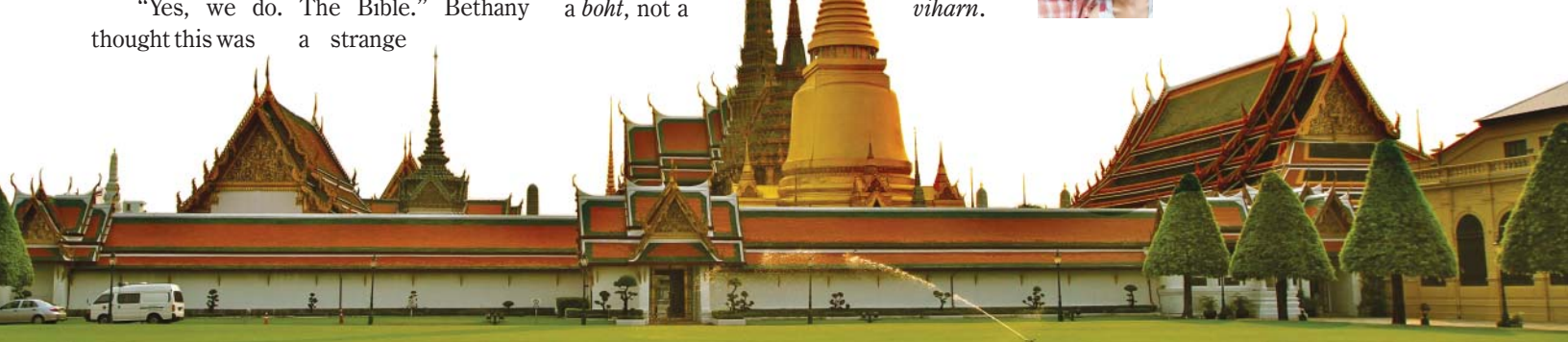
"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" 1 Corinthians 3:16

We are where God dwells, and just as Paul stressed to the Corinthian pagan-background believers, this has a very pertinent emphasis here. God honored us by making His dwelling place among us.

How does this amazing gift impact our motorcycle-driving friend and the many others who revere each spirit house they pass by? How does it impact us as we relate with others, bearers of the image of God? Ten chapters later, Paul shows the most excellent way.



Steve and Bethany serve on a VMM ministry team in Bangkok, Thailand, with their two children.



Put your best foot forward

By LAVONNE RAMELLA

Last month we were with some friends, winding down from a day full of activities like walking, basketball, Frisbee, and stairs.

As I stood up to go home, I experienced a sharp pain in my foot for the first time – I wasn't able to bend my foot or put pressure on it. Sensing a real problem but not wanting to draw attention to myself, I hobbled the half mile home, and held my tears until the kids were in bed.

Over the next few days, we learned that I had a bone fragment from an earlier injury lodged in my ankle joint. Surgery would be necessary. Unfortunately, the time frame of the medical community didn't reflect that of our own, because surgery was scheduled nearly two weeks out.

This event has put us face to face with some new experiences:

Many people we encounter have a medical opinion, regardless of occupation, education, experience, or past interest (even disputing the evidence on the X-ray and CT scan report).

The public hospital's first available non-emergency surgery date wasn't until

after the tourists had all returned home (sometime in September), leaving me befuddled. My "injury" occurred on July 18!

Our community loves injections. Even though oral medication is available, it is not the preferred method.

Opting for a private hospital nearby, we arrived the day of the surgery to be greeted by two and a half flights of stairs and no elevator.

After what felt like scaling a small mountain, we were greeted by the information desk, with rooms on either side of the desk labeled "Ambulance 1" and "Ambulance 2." I actually laughed out loud.

What was most spectacular to me, was that leading up to the surgery, I felt as calm as if we were planning a day to go out for ice cream. I literally felt nestled in the palm of God's hands.

We had discussed at length the possibility of utilizing the health care in various other nearby countries. God gave us peace in our decision to use this doctor, peace with the hospital, and confidence of His presence with us.



Originally, I was disappointed that I didn't have a good story to tell regarding my injury. Instead, I have realized that I have a fantastic story to share with the comfort of Christ's peace in my life. Sure I don't know how or why the bone pieces settled like they did, but being reminded of God's presence in my life is beautiful.

I had just read a summary of some scripture with the boys the night before; "You trust in Me, and I'll take care of you." And one of my favorite verses was the focus of my devotional the day of surgery: Isaiah 41:13—*For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, "Do not fear; I will help you."* Experiencing His presence is one of the greatest gifts on earth.



LaVonne serves with her husband Vince and three sons in Istog, Kosovo, with Virginia Mennonite Missions.

A challenge to model a widow's hospitality

By GRACIE PRASETYO

At church one Sunday in July, the pastor preached about the story of the prophet Elijah and the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-24).

Why is it that Elijah has to seek help and housing from a poor widow? Why does this widow, who is not from the same religious tradition as Elijah, take care of the prophet?

She has nothing left but a little oil and a small amount of flour, but she is willing to share it. She shows radical hospitality. She gives out of poverty.

As I reflect on this ancient story, I cannot help but think of our friend, Nenek (*nenek* means "grandma"). She is 79 years old and has been a widow for years, living with her daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren.

Nenek works as a scavenger, climbing the mountain of trash each day to pick through it for recyclables. Her daughter's work as a maid does not provide enough money for the family to eat and pay rent. They live in a tiny one-room space barely big enough for a queen mattress on the floor. In such intense poverty, however, Nenek teaches us about hospitality and generosity.

When we go to visit, she gives us bowls of precious food and cold water to drink. On Idul Fitri, she brought us a bag filled with goodies: homemade cookies and special sweets. I pray that the Lord will bless Nenek and her family, who continue to be people of peace for our team.

Perhaps Elijah was sent to the widow of Zarephath as a continued lesson that God would provide for him in the most unlikely

of ways (previously ravens brought him food in the desert). Elijah was not to rely on his own strength or money or power; in his vulnerability, God had room to work and be glorified. I pray that one day Nenek and our other neighbors will be able to see Jesus. But in the meantime, their lives continue to challenge me with my own selfishness, stinginess, greed, and lack of faith.



Nenek Courtesy photo



Gracie serves in an East Asian slum with her husband Yugo and their infant son with VMM and Servants to Asia's Urban Poor.

VMRC celebrates 60th anniversary with new look

By MAUREEN PEARSON

Timed with Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community's 60th anniversary this year, the senior living community is rolling out a new logo and tag line. The new logo reflects the vibrancy of VMRC and the opportunity for growth and new life. The image of the dogwood shows the flower in the center surrounded by four petals, called bracts.

"The flower could represent the resident in the center of our community, surrounded by family, friends, employees and the broader community," said Diane Weaver, chief marketing officer. "The symbol fosters VMRC's culture of connections,



Elbert Detweiler, former CEO, and Judith Trumbo, current CEO, celebrate the launch of VMRC's new look. Courtesy of author

with the open stem that reflects deep roots in the Mennonite heritage and values. As Virginia's state flower and tree, the dogwood is symbolic of leadership, innovation and tradition."

"Through compassionate care, relationships, hope and service to humanity, VMRC cultivates a spirit and an environment in which adults can 'age well and live fully' in the place they call home."

The new logo – the third in the organization's history – was unveiled to employees and residents of the senior living community this summer.

The Virginia Mennonite Home, as it was known 60 years ago, was dedicated July 4, 1954, with residents moving in two days later. Twenty-six residents moved into the original community, which had the capacity for 38 people.

George B. Showalter, a Rockingham County businessman, farmer and minister, bequeathed \$1,000 in his will for the



Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community

Age well, live fully

establishment of a home to care for older adults. The funds were not used within two years and went to general use by the Virginia Mennonite Council. Marc (M.C.) Showalter, George's son, gave the Virginia Mission Board \$6,000 for a home for older adults and continued his father's dream.

Today, the campus covers more than 54 acres and offers inpatient rehab, an on-site wellness center and outpatient therapy. It is the 10th largest employer in the city of Harrisonburg and boasts an operating budget for 2014 of \$26 million, according to its CEO Judith Trumbo.

Maureen is Director of Communications for Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community.

Music and activities are vital components at Mennowood

By MARCIA A. ROBERTSON

Music has long played a vital role in Mennonite history. From four-part *a cappella*-sung hymns to praise band led contemporary songs, music lets both singers and listeners worship God and express their faith.

At Mennowood Retirement Community, this musical heritage is preserved through the many programs residents and guests regularly enjoy.

"Music is huge here," said Karen Todero, Activity Director. "I don't think our residents ever get tired of good music."

Mennowood's music presentations are varied. From barbershop quartets to concert pianists to folk guitarists, residents can easily find a program to their liking.

These musical performances allow residents social time but also strengthen cognitive function as familiar lyrics are recalled. The sacred music adds a chance for spiritual reflection.

While music is a vital component to life at Mennowood, other activities are available. Because physical fitness is a concern at any age, exercise sessions are held three times a week. Outdoor walks occur regularly and with the addition of the newly built gazebo, residents now have a shady destination for their strolls.

"The day after the gazebo was finished, our residents were out there," said Karen. "They couldn't wait to enjoy it."

One of the most attended events at Mennowood is the historical interpretation


program. A costumed historian takes residents back in time to the Colonial and Civil War periods with tales of local happenings. Off-property adventures to summer outdoor concerts and area museums are popular.

And the community is always ready to add programming. When the corn-hole game became popular, Mennowood held a tournament.

"We are always on the lookout for something new," Karen said. "We try to keep changing things up each month so our residents have something to look forward to."

Marcia is the Community Relations Coordinator for Mennowood Retirement Community.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 Pray for Mak-gee and his desire to be delivered from alcoholism. Pray for wisdom for Mark Schoenhals in Thailand as he develops a friendship and supports Mak-gee on this journey.	2 As work towards church planting and missionary life in Kaiserslautern, Germany continues, remember the Stutzmans and the network of relationships they are nurturing.	3 Pray for the health and well-being of Rafael and Solange Tartari's children as they live and minister in Lezhë, Albania.	4 Pray for Lee Martin, pastor of Mount Clinton, as he provides leadership to a congregation seeking to help people experience God's grace and forgiveness in our world today.	5 Pray for young Jacob, son of Steve & Laura Campbells close friends in Montenegro. Pray for wisdom as they pursue medical care for his enlarged heart.	6 Hold Gracie, Yugo and baby Jeremi in prayer as they continue to minister to children in a slum community in Indonesia.	
7 Pray for Kevin Goertzen, pastor of Springdale Mennonite Church, as he provides leadership to grow the congregation's ministry to the local community.	8 As the Thailand team continues to grow together, pray for Steve Horst as he gives leadership to the group. May they be invitational but also challenge others to experience transformation through Christ.	9 Remember David Shenk and his wife, Eliana, in this beginning time in their marriage. Ask God to bind them as a family and to equip David as he parents Kaeth.	10 Pray for good health and stamina for Richard and Elsie Bowman as they support the teachers at Lezha Academic Center in Albania.	11 Give thanks for Caleb and Roni Keifer's passion for Christ and energy for ministry at Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica.	12 Pray for the ministry of VMM's workers and local leaders in Italy. Give thanks for the church leadership, who are being empowered to reach others in their communities.	13 Give thanks for Jonathan Cranston and his passion for working at peace building in Mindanao, Philippines.	
14 Pray for Robert Wenger, co-overseer of Central District, as he provides counsel and guidance to pastors in the rural communities of Virginia and West Virginia.	15 Pray for LaVonne Ramella as she mentors Whitney Specht in her work in Kosovo. Give thanks for these women and their commitment to sharing Christ.	16 Praise God for the certification that the Joshua Center, a ministry to Roma children in Albania, received recently. Pray for Norma Teles as she strengthens the organizational structure there.	17 Pray for Laura Campbell as she supports and encourages a new ministry of Bible lessons and songs for the nearly 20 young children that gather in Montenegro.	18 Praise God for the positive experience that preschool has been for Anjali, daughter of Steve and Bethany, in Thailand. Pray this happy growth continues.	19 Pray for Jerry Sebastian, pastor of Riverside Mennonite Church in Harman, W.Va, as he provides inspiration and spiritual insight to the congregation.	20 Pray for great weather and safety for the participants in the annual Bike Shenandoah ride happening today. Give thanks for the seven local agencies supporting this event.	
21 Pray for Aldine Musser, an overseer in Northern District, as she provides guidance and counsel to four congregations and women in ministry associated with Northern District.	22 Give thanks for the teaching ministry of Justin Rittenhouse in Albania. Pray for creativity and encouragement for him as he teaches math and leads special after school clubs.	23 Pray for Al Huyard, pastor of Mt. Vernon (Grottoes), as he seeks to lead the congregation to share Christ and serve the world.	24 Praise God for the connections and positive impact the Russos are having as they reach out in the Asheville, N.C., community.	25 Pray for Nancy Marshall as she continues her ministry in Orange Walk, Belize. Pray for local leaders to surround and support her in her work.	26 Praise God for the many pennies collected that make a significant difference for the children who receive care through <i>Penny Power</i> funds, which will be tallied in a week.	27 Pray for Jim Mellinger, pastor of Greensboro Mennonite Fellowship (NC), as he provides leadership to explore what it means to live life in the way Jesus modeled.	
28 Pray for Spencer Bradford, pastor of Durham Mennonite (NC), as he provides leadership in removing the dividing wall of hostility in all areas of life thus seeking to create a new humanity focused upon Christ.	29 Pray for wisdom and direction for the church in Albania as they discern what space would facilitate their expanding reach.	30 Give thanks for Rebekka Stutzman and the growing ministry she has in Germany among young mothers.	 <p><i>Prayer calendar sponsored by:</i></p>			<p>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.</p> <p>1 John 5: 11 (NRSV)</p>	
<p>Insurance and Financial Services</p>							



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Virginia Mennonite Conference
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Announcements

Pleasant View's annual **Community Pork Barbeque** will be September 6, 4-7 p.m., at the Harrisonburg Day Support building, 151 Commerce Drive. The pork barbeque meal is \$8; sandwich only \$3.50; \$12/lb. Pork provided and prepared by Maynard Weaver. Come and enjoy good food, lively music, and more. For more information, call Pam Miller at (540) 560-1134.

Looking for missional church resourcing with an Anabaptist perspective? Join us for the **"Church and Post-Christian Culture" Conference**, Sept. 19-20, in Carlisle, Pa. Speakers include Anton Flores, Greg Boyd and Nelson Okanya. Contact Skip Tobin for details regarding travel and hotel details at skip.tobin@vmmissions.org or (540) 434-9727 • (800) 707-5535. Learn more and register at missioalliance.org/event/church-after-christendom-christian-witness-in-the-way-of-jesus/

The **Mennonite Hispanic Initiative Annual Friends Dinner** will be Sept. 26 at Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, from 7 to 9 p.m. Consider sponsoring a table by contributing \$100 and invite seven guests to enjoy the evening program with you. If you are interested, please contact Marvin Lorenzana at MarvinL@mennonitemission.net.

The **Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale** will be October 3-4 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg. Proceeds go to the work of Mennonite Central Committee. Keep collecting for *Penny Power* and consider matching your church's total! Learn more at www.vareliefsale.com and vmmissions.org/support/penny-power/

Everyone is invited to **Mennonite Women of Virginia annual Fall Retreat** at the Richmond Marriott West in Glen

17th annual
bike shenandoah
saturday, september 20, 2014

location: 801 parkwood drive, harrisonburg, va
(540) 434-9727 • (800) 707-5535 • bikeshen@vmmissions.org





Scan to learn more and register
bikeshenandoah.org

bike shenandoah is a cycle for service offering 100-mile, 62-mile, 30-mile, 15-mile and 5-mile rides for all ages and abilities, supporting seven local and regional agencies working at home and around the world.

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Allen, Va., (Richmond) on November 7-9. Registration starts at 4 p.m. Our speakers will be Brenda Walton, Machele 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!

Virginia Mennonite Missions seeks volunteer receptionists who can volunteer one morning or afternoon each week to sit at the front desk answering phones, greeting visitors, and assisting the administrative assistant with occasional office tasks. If you are interested in supporting the work of VMM in this way, please contact Sarah Showalter at (540) 434-9727 or sarah.showalter@vmmissions.org

PENNY POWER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2014



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