

Connections

Virginia Mennonite
Conference &
Board of Missions

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DC Pastor Responds to the 'Cost of Doing Business'

Sometimes late at night I hear noises on the street below our DC row house apartment. Quartets of kids conducting a cussing competition. A trunk lid cringing with every distorted thump of the oven-size subwoofer. A thoughtful someone sharing his favorite hip-hop hit. A mostly empty malt liquor bottle sounding its signature percussion stroke against the curb. Police sirens marking the outer limits of civilization.

The static of urban life. Nothing out of the ordinary. Until July 24, 2004. On that Saturday evening just before midnight my wife and I sat on the couch in our front room. Something mindless played on the television, as I tried to muster the energy to go to bed.

Then, all of a sudden, I heard a rapid burst of miniature explosions. In the Fourth of July aftermath, even these had become rather common. Less common was the chunk of drywall which landed at my feet.

Cindi dove to the floor, and I scrambled to the kitchen to call 911. The operator asked me if anyone was hurt. It had not occurred to me to look out of a window through which bullets were passing in the opposite direction. Just as I started to say I was unsure, there was screaming in the street.

I went downstairs to see if I could help. It's less than 30 feet from our front door to the curb. There, parked directly in front of our house, sat the full-size, pinkish purple car belonging to our neighbor. The windows were shattered and nearly blown out. Glass littered the sidewalk. Huddled hysterically against a half-dead tree were two young ladies who had just moments before occupied the car. One of them lived next door.

"Are you okay?" I asked, helping one of the girls to a standing position. They were too overcome to carry on a conversation. A third young lady lay motionless in the back seat.

"She's dead!" came the survivor's sobbing shriek. "She ain't got no pulse. An' I seen her brains."

The sidewalks were soon jammed with the scared, the curious, the concerned.

Police poured in. Then paramedics. The press was not far behind.

Myesha was her name. Myesha Lowe. Just fifteen, an honors student. Once had her picture taken at school with the First Lady. She was going to Niagara Falls the next day with members of her pre-college program. Instead, she languished on life support for a day and a half. But there was never any real hope.



Scott Garber, pastor of
Washington Community
Fellowship, Washington DC.

That fateful night three young men drove by and opened fire with an automatic weapon and a large caliber revolver. Twenty-some rounds in a couple of seconds. Myesha was not the target, just the victim.

She was the seventeenth teenager murdered in our city this year. People brought flowers and posters and teddy bears. Now they're gone.

They caught the guys. My window is fixed. Life goes on. With some exceptions.

Just the cost of doing business in the greatest country on earth. But we can afford it. Because she's not our daughter.

Sixteen of these murders made me sad. The seventeenth hit home. Maybe because it happened in front of my house. Maybe because I got to know Myesha's mom. Maybe because the makeshift shrine reminded me every day. Maybe because God chiseled a hole in my heart to match the hole in my window. The bottom line is that a teenage girl I'd never met became my daughter.

So this time I reacted. I preached about it. Our congregation got involved, taking some twenty meals to the girl's family. I organized a Sunday evening rally outside our home on the one-month anniversary of Myesha's murder, called "A Christian Stand Against Violence in Our Neighborhood." One of our members, who works with an organization dedicated to ending murder in DC, pitched in. Six other Capitol Hill pastors came and spoke and prayed with us. A couple hundred community residents gathered in the street.

"DC Pastor Responds"
continued on pg. 4

Opposition

Laban Peachey once told me as a candidating pastor that I should not expect more than a 70% vote. Ten percent vote “no” on everything. Ten percent aren't clear what they are voting on. And ten percent genuinely don't like you. According to that, a 70% vote is good.



Loren Horst
President of VMBM

I think Laban's tongue was in his cheek but I was still troubled by the potential of 30% opposition to my pastoring. “If God be for us, who can be against us?” was of some comfort. I also liked the idea of attaining a higher percentage favorable vote. I don't care for opposition.

Such, however is the experience of Christians in the world today. Whether we personally feel it or not, whether we intend it or not, whether we like it or not, much of the world is not particularly fond of Christians. Add to your identity that of being an American Christian and the numbers rise dramatically.

At least two reasons for opposition to Christians existed all the way back to those early years. At times we do blunder and make mistakes, bringing disrepute on the name of Christ and trouble down on our own heads. I'm acquainted with that. We must also recognize that there is a genuine opposition between righteousness and wickedness, light and darkness, Christ and Belial.

Even here in America, one person observed that we as Christians, “no longer play with the home field advantage.” I might add, “if we ever did.”

The newer difficulty for those of us in mission has been the dramatic increase of opposition to American Christians. We might endure in silence with the smug satisfaction that we are on the right side after all. We might stamp our feet and declare, “It's not fair, or right, or true!” We might point out our good intentions and benevolent actions. We might try not to be so American.

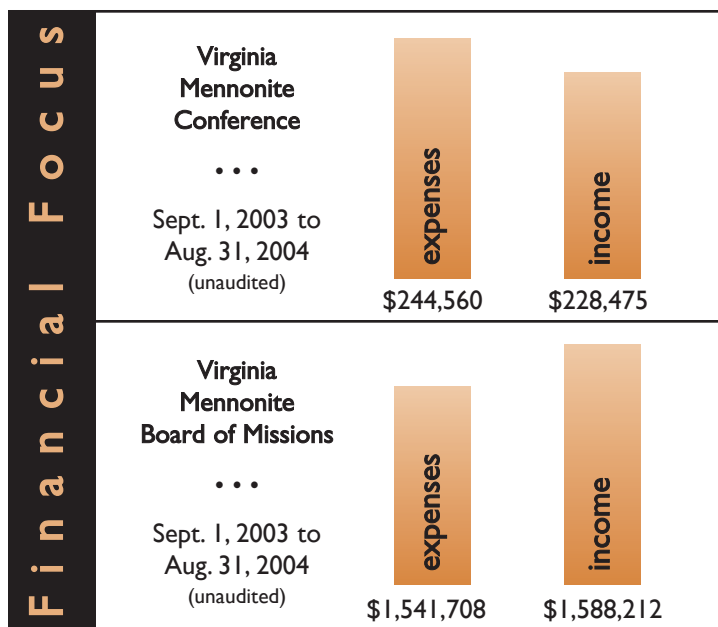
We might begin by accepting that it is so, that the stock of American Christians has plummeted in recent times. Many reasons can be offered, some of them fair and some of them not, some of them right and some of them wrong, some of them plain and many of them complex.

We might start with humble recognition that not only is it so, but we American Christians share the responsibility for such a state of affairs.

In fact, we might start with humility, that Christian attribute too often lacking in American Christianity. Oh, and there might be the beginning of an answer.

Loren Horst

Correction: The finances reported in the Sept. issue incorrectly included restricted and unavailable funds.



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When a friend betrays

Jesus knew the deep hurt of a friend's betrayal. So too does Rodney Lebron, pastor of Woodland Mennonite Church in Basye, Va. About four years ago Rodney began getting calls from creditors seeking payment on debts he hadn't incurred. After more than two years of being harassed by creditors Rodney realized this wasn't just a case of mistaken identity, he had become a victim of identity theft. The perpetrator applied for at least 12 credit cards in Rodney's name, then went on to amass more than \$20,000 in debt. After countless calls from creditors and letters demanding payment for credit cards he didn't use, Rodney went to the authorities looking for help. According to Rodney, "Three years ago (in 2001) identity theft wasn't a recognized crime. It is today." Using his notes and letters, the Virginia Commonwealth attorney for Rockingham County was able to identify the thief. Rodney was shocked when he learned it was his close friend Bob (not his real name) who had done this to him. At the time Rodney was attending Ridgeway Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg. Leaders there encouraged him not to engage in a vengeful response but to seek God first. He did. "That's when I began the process of trying to heal my own hurts," he recalled. In 2002, with help from the state attorney, Rodney was able to solicit a confession from Bob, who was then charged with obtaining funds under false pretenses. According to Rodney, "Since there were a lot of smaller charges, all under \$1,000, Bob was slapped on the wrist and let go." Unfortunately, he fled the state and continued stealing.

Rodney experiences not only the pain of a betrayed friendship but the constant harassment of duped creditors. "Sometimes I don't want to answer the phone," Rodney said, "because it might be a creditor." He went on to say, "This past week I got a letter from Bob from the jail in Harrisonburg. He was asking me for forgiveness. I wrote a response saying 'One year ago the Lord started me on the process to forgive you. I'm in the process but I'm not there yet.'

This journey isn't over but Rodney is walking it with the help of the Lord and bolstered by friends who share his convictions about peace, forgiveness and reconciliation.

• Steve Carpenter
Conference Coordinator

A glimpse of God's family

The last week of June, we had the privilege of taking the Albanian children and youth to summer camp in Lezhe, about five miles away from their homes. Norma Teles directed the camp, and Steve Campbell and I were there to minister in different roles.

The staff met at the camp on Monday, June 21 to get the first two floors of the seaside boarding house ready and to pray throughout the rooms and to prepare ourselves. From Tuesday to Friday we had the first group

of younger children, followed by the 12-14 year-olds from Saturday to Wednesday.

Norma followed the theme of Christian heroes such as Daniel from the Old Testament and Hudson Taylor, the missionary to China. Their activities included group meetings with singing and worship, Bible lessons, games, and stories. The campers were divided into groups for discussion and for preparing and presenting dramas. We got to see some good acting, with the Albanian youth and children together and their unusual creativity and love for performing. We were often rolling with laughter! They also wholeheartedly sang praise songs to God.

Outside space was limited at the building where we stayed, so the nearby sea and beach served a good purpose for Steve Campbell, who directed the sports activities. Despite music blaring annoyingly loud from neighboring coffee bars, and wondering why they played their music so loud, we later learned that campers up on the second floor balcony were motioning for the neighbors to turn up the music louder!

My role as kitchen helper to Flora, the cook, proved to be quite satisfying as we prepared meals for between 25-36 people. As the children left for their homes, where many of them would not have any support to follow God, I had a great sense that every bit of energy, finances, stress and prayer that went into this camp was worth it to give these children a glimpse of what it means to live together as a family of God, and yes, to even give them a glimpse of heaven.

• Allen Umble
Lezhe, Albania

Allen Umble



Three Albanian youths, Izoli, Klodi, and Gezim (back row) pose with the children dressed in Indian attire at camp in Lezhe.

The world got smaller and God got bigger

My family and I spent seven weeks in Trinidad this summer, working with the Mennonite Church of Chaguanas. Dad was on sabbatical leave from his pastorate at Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church, and he wanted to do something cross cultural. We talked with Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, and we were invited to go to Trinidad. While we were there, Dad mentored Navin Benny, a man who was identified as a future church leader. His wife, Sunita, was part of the worship team that Mom and Dad helped with. My brother, Curtis, and I made friends with their children, Nathanael, 9, Leah, 2, and their niece, Krystal, 15. We had lots of fun with the whole family—talking, eating, playing Pictionary, and teaching Leah how to say my name. She called me “Meow.”

One of the other things Mom and Dad helped with was teaching Bible School with the Mennonite Church of Chaguanas and Hope Mennonite Church in Esperanza. In the morning we drove to Esperanza, had our lesson, drove back to our apartment in Curepe, drove back to Chaguanas, and had another lesson. I really enjoyed Bible School and getting to know some of the other kids there. One of the ways I served was playing my flute and singing for special music in worship services—this is called a “special” in Trinidad.

Much too soon, it was time to go home. We had loads of fun this summer. Mom said, “The world got smaller and God got bigger.” We met lots of wonderful people who went out of their way to help us. I hope this will help us know how to make visitors feel welcome when they come to our home. We really enjoyed our time in Trinidad this summer, and I would like to go back someday! It was great!

• Maria Martin
Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church

Richmond VS closes after 40 years

A gathering to say goodbye to the current volunteers and to formally close the unit was held at First Mennonite Church, Richmond, on Sunday, June 20.

Richmond VS began in 1965, and since then approximately thirteen different unit leaders and 150 VSers have given time in service there.

Many times during the service, a VS experience was recognized as changing its participants, through the challenges of group living and being in touch with the needs of others, to become more committed to God and to be in further service to the church and the world.

courtesy of Lee and Peg Martin



Maria Martin plays dominoes with Leah Benny, daughter of Navin and Sunita Benny

30 years of pressing on

On the morning of August 15, the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago (MCTT) celebrated 30 years of witness. One hundred and sixty five people attended this celebration at the Diego Martin Mennonite Church, near Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. The theme “Pressing On” taken from Philippians 3:13-14 set the tone for an energetic time of worship and fellowship.

This milestone marked 30 years of Mennonite witness on this small Caribbean island, which began in the home of Paul and Evelyn Kratz, missionaries sent by Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions in 1974. Since then, four Mennonite congregations have been birthed, and are growing.

In the celebrative service marking 30 years, lively singing, worship and prayer expressed the thankfulness persons felt for God’s movement among them. A long time member, Joseph Sookran, recounted the history of the church. Paul Kratz preached the sermon. President Raul Gunpath shared the vision of MCTT for the years ahead, of seven new congregations by the year 2015.

Over a typical Trinidadian meal, the attendees shared memories of past days, renewed acquaintances, and viewed a video of Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions involvement with the churches.

While looking ahead is the main focus of these young congregations, glancing behind gives perspective. MCTT is truly “pressing on” to enlarge God’s kingdom.

• Gloria Lehman
Caribbean Regional Assistant

“DC Pastor Responds” continued from the cover

Television cameras took the message to thousands more.

Connections were made. Solidarity was established. Programs were highlighted.

But it was more than that. Much more. Myesha became our daughter, and the cost of doing business suddenly became too high a price to pay.

• Scott Garber
Washington Community Fellowship

This story is an adaptation of Scott’s article entitled “The Cost of Doing Business” that appeared recently in his e-mail essay series called “Unconventional Wisdom,” available for free subscription at www.scottgarber.com.

Dedicating a second chance for ex-offenders

It was a day of beautiful weather, uplifting music, good food, and praise for what God can do through His faithful servants.

That was the theme of the August 7th dedication ceremony and open house of Conquest House in Washington, DC. The 4-unit apartment building turned transitional rooming house was dedicated today after a 5-year struggle to renovate the property and bring it up to District of Columbia code.

In a two-hour ceremony on the front lawn of the property, Louis Jones, Executive Director of Conquest Reintegration Ministries (CORM), told approximately 50 guests about the struggle to repair the property after years of neglect had left it vacant and dilapidated. He noted that many times he had to work on the building by himself, with little help, almost no money, and an attempt by the owner to reclaim the property. He was tempted to give up, but God would answer by sending people and money at the right time. "God's faithfulness to us inspires our faithfulness to Him, and there are many blessings in that transaction," notes Jones, who also serves as assistant pastor of Christian Conquest Fellowship, the major partnering congregation in the project.

Paul Gaskins, pastor of Christian Conquest Fellowship, praised Jones and his team for their work on the building, and speaking out of Matthew 25: 31-46, stressed the importance of reaching out to those who society has rejected. The District of Columbia has approximately 1,400 persons on parole or probation per 100,000 people, the highest per capita rate in the nation. With 2,500 ex-offenders returning to the District each year from Federal correctional facilities all around the country, the need is overwhelming. As Gaskins noted, it is better to welcome them to a home where they can receive help, rather than reject and judge them.

The ceremony ended with a prayer of dedication for the property, after which guests were invited to tour the property and to enjoy a scrumptious meal, prepared by sister church No Longer Forsaken Ministries International. The property was purchased

by CORM in February 2004 and was issued its occupancy permit in April 2004. Currently two residents are residing there, with Laverne Brewster and her husband, Michael Brewster, serving as live-in resident managers.

With all the praise for the work done on the project, the icing on the cake came later. Shortly after the ceremony and open house were over, one of the residents pulled Jones to the side and said, "I want to thank you and Mrs. Brewster for allowing me to stay here. I have been in about four facilities before this one. This is the best one I have ever been in."



Louis Jones speaks at the dedication ceremony of Conquest House, a transitional home for ex-offenders. The house was renovated over the course of five years.

• Louis Jones
Conquest Ministries



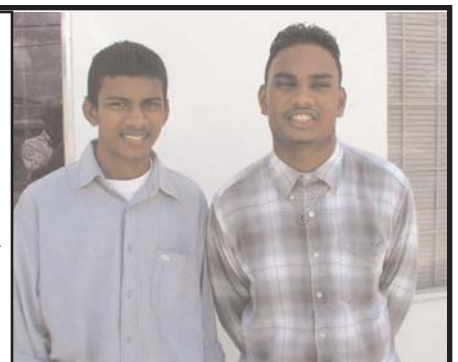
An identical neighboring building that shows the condition of Conquest House when it was first purchased.



The renovated Conquest House at the time of dedication.



For the first time, an exchange of youth from the Jamaica Mennonite Conference and the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago took place this summer. Aleph Woods and Damion Hines (l) went to Trinidad for the youth weekend and shared in worship, Bible study, and a banquet. Fitzroy Shirvan and Arvin Jaimani (r) went to Jamaica for the youth camp held on the campus of Maranatha School for the Deaf. They participated in games, dramas, Bible study and deep fellowship. Both groups were enriched with the addition of members from the sister conference.



Birth of Hickory Hmong Mennonite Church

Sunday, September 5, was the official opening of a new Hmong Mennonite church in Hickory, NC, the fifth Hmong Mennonite congregation in North America and the result of more than five years of consulting, praying and planning. Funding for the church plant is provided primarily by TCK District churches and VMBM.

Nearly 60 persons from the Hmong Mennonite churches in Ontario, California, Colorado and Minnesota traveled to Hickory to share their support. They included several youth and adult choirs.

The celebration began with a Saturday evening evangelistic program with teaching and singing. Sunday afternoon was more singing, greetings, a

sermon and a prayer of dedication for the new church. The celebration culminated with a feast. A steer had been purchased to provide meat for the occasion.

Pastor Chaiya and Aranya Hadtasunsern arrived in Hickory in early 2003 and as the result of their leadership, the Hmong congregation now includes 5 families. Worship and Bible study is held Sunday afternoon in the Hickory Mennonite Church building. There are also children's and youth activities during the week.

Hickory Hmong Mennonite Church expressed their appreciation for assistance received from VMBM and TCK District and asked for continued prayer for their growth.

• Joe Bontrager
USA Regional Director



Joe Bontrager

The Hickory Hmong youth present a special song for the opening of the new congregation.

Congregational Resource Center

The Congregational Resource Center has resources for teachers:

- **The 7 Laws of the Teacher** Video series or books by Dr. Howard Hendrick
- **Psalms, Parables, Promises:** A workbook of spiritual development for church school teachers by Judy Gattis Smith
- **The Religious Potential of the Child:** 6-12-years-old by Sofia Cavalletti
- **Where Faith Seeks Understanding:** Planning for adult education in the church by Melvin G. Williams

Resources for youth workers:

- **Youth Ministry Management Tools** (Youth Specialties)
- **Youth Workers & Parents:** Sharing resources for equipping youth by Karen Dockery

- **Postmodern Youth Ministry** by Tony Jones

Don't forget your church leaders:

- **In Tune with God:** The art of congregational discernment by Sally Weaver Glick
- **Training Ministry Teams:** A manual for elders and deacons by Anne Stuckey

What are alternative options for Halloween at church and at home? Check out these two new books for a variety of ideas:

- **The Un-Halloween Book** and **Redeeming Halloween** by Kim Wier & Pam McCune

The Resource Center is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Kathy Weaver Wenger at 540-432-4219 or wengerkw@emu.edu to make arrangements for evening use. Visit our website at www.emu.edu/mcrc to browse our catalog.

October 2004 Prayer Calendar

Sunday

31 The annual conference of the Italian Mennonite Church begins today in Palermo. Pray that it would be a rich time of fellowship, worship and renewal.

3 In the Jamaican village of Salter's Hill, Donovan and Maxine Smith have welcomed baby daughter, Ruth Ann, into their family. The Smiths are lights of God's love on this hill in the mountains of Jamaica. Ask God's blessings on them.

10 On September 1 George Dupuy moved from one-quarter time Associate Pastor to lead pastor on a half-time basis at Big Springs Mennonite in Luray, VA. Pray for George and his wife Abbey as they make this transition.

17 Pray for Ministry Sunday, a time for congregations to celebrate the office of pastoral ministry and invite others to consider the ministry. Thank God for the dedication of the new Lindale Mennonite Church building today.

24 How blessed we are to have Christian counselors among us! Ask God to renew their strength for each session, that healing and hope will be experienced.

Tuesday

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by Layman, Diener, & Bontrager Insurance, Inc.

If you would like to sponsor one or more months of the prayer calendar, contact Gloria Lehman at gloria.lehman@vmbm.org, 540-434-9727 or 1-800-707-5535.

4 An English teacher is needed to continue the ministry of Allen Umble in Lezhe, Albania when he leaves in Dec. Pray that the voice of the Lord would be clearly heard in the heart of the right person.

11 Paul and June Kropf just returned to Albania following home leave in the US. Ask God to give them special wisdom and stamina as they resume their roles in a post-athletic setting. Kropf's partner with VMBM workers.

18 Pray for the new Calvary Community Church West church plant in Smithfield, VA. Karla Francisco is giving effective leadership since the death of her husband Steven. Pray for insight and for unity among the fellowship.

25 Margaret Keeler in Trinidad welcomes opportunities to teach the Bible to a wide variety of people. Thank God for her gift of teaching and nurture, and ask God to provide continued energy for this task.

Wednesday

Jesus said, "I was born and came into the world for this one purpose, to speak about the truth. Whoever belongs to the truth listens to me." John 18:37 (GNB)

6 Tomorrow will be the first meeting of the new "peace committee." Pray that all will have vision and excitement for what can and should be done in Virginia Conference to encourage peace efforts.

13 Pray for the new Hmong Mennonite fellowship in Hickory, NC, that was officially opened on September 5. The ministry is strongly supported by Hickory and Mountain View Mennonite churches and the TCK District.

20 Ramesh and Babes Jaimani, pastor couple of the Charlottesville Mennonite Church in Trinidad, recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. Thank God for their witness of Christ's love in their home & outreach to the community.

27 Please keep Highland Retreat and Administrator Paul Beiler in your prayers as they gather tomorrow night with sponsors in an annual banquet. Pray that Highland's financial needs will be met.

Friday

1 The Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale Auction Chair Dwight Wyse would like your prayers as he pulls together many elements for the sale at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds this weekend.

8 Pray for the MC USA Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) as they meet at Laurelville this weekend, and for the work they do for the church. VMC representatives are Beryl Jantzi, Anna J. Stutzman, and Owen Burkholder.

15 Richard Keeler's life of service as a doctor, teacher, mentor and overseer in Trinidad has been a blessing to many. Give God thanks for his ability and availability in these roles.

22 The Va. Mennonite Conference Council meets today and tomorrow, the first meeting with the new moderator, Beryl Jantzi. Pray for this meeting and for their work in the Va. Conference.

29 The Boards of the Virginia Mennonite Auto and Property Aid Plans will have their annual board meeting tomorrow. Pray for guidance and wisdom as annual reports are reviewed and the future is planned.

Saturday

2 In the summer, Paul and Esther Kniss studied the Bible each Friday morning in the home of an elderly gentleman in Trinidad who recently accepted Christ. Thank God for his commitment and ask that God will reach others through him.

9 Conference Coordinator Steve Carpenter will bring the message, drawn from his prior military experience, at Community Mennonite Church tomorrow. Please hold him up in your prayers.

16 Today the Board of VMBM is meeting to set a vision and policies for present and future endeavors of VMBM. Ask God to guide and bless all efforts to enlarge God's kingdom.

23 Willard Heatwole requests our prayer for persons to serve as long-term church planters in Albania, and also for Albanian believers who are young in Christian faith.

30 Please remember the many people gathered at Eastern Mennonite University this morning who are learning about God's principles of stewardship at MMA's Stewardship University. Pray that they may gain insight.

Announcements

You are invited to join a **Mission Fellowship Tour to Italy and Albania** May 6-22, 2004 sponsored by the Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions. Travelers on this exciting and inspirational trip will visit places where VMBM has been serving, such as Palermo on the Island of Sicily, Bari, Lushnje and Lezhe, as well as many other fascinating and historical sites such as Pompeii, Rome, and Vienna, Austria. For a brochure contact Ed Bontrager at VMBM, 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Call 540-434-9727, or email ed.bontrager@vmbm.org

Third annual
Festival of Praise

The third annual **Festival of Praise** will take place Sunday, November 7, at 4 p.m. at Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg. It will feature performances by several men's acappella groups, and Jay Hartzler

will direct them together as a mass choir to conclude the evening. An offering will be taken that will benefit the ministries of VMBM.

Dynamic and nationally acclaimed **Stewardship University** returns on Saturday, October 30, to Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Stewardship University is designed to help us cultivate our God-given gifts of time, talents, health, relationships, and possessions so that our lives honor God and extend His kingdom. This event consists of three 90-minute teaching sessions, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and full-day (with lunch) or single-course options about marriage, parenting, classes for the 'baby boomer' generation, financial planning and investing, discipleship and church growth, and more for a wide range of ages and life situations. Ask your MMA church advocate for information or call Barb Borntreger at (540) 434-3666 or (800) 442-7930.

Gift and Thrift, Inc. seeks a full-time manager for a World of Good Thrift Shop and a part-time manager for Artisan's Hope. Experience in business and management is desirable. Responsibilities include demonstrating Christian principles and promoting the mission of MCC, training and supervising volunteers, and marketing. Full-time salary/benefits include health coverage and retirement plan. For more information contact Glendon Blosser 540-434-0657.

David Evans, of Washington, D.C., is beginning a one-year MCC assignment as MCC East Coast Community Development coordinator in Washington, D.C. Evans obtained a master's degree in Theological Studies from Wesley Theological Seminary. He is married to Faith Evans, and they have a son, Isaac, 4. They are members of Washington Community Fellowship, Washington, D.C.



Ministry Sunday will be observed throughout the Va. Conference on October 17, and will highlight pastoral ministry as a vocational calling. Our conference joins other area Mennonite conferences in partnership with Eastern Mennonite Seminary in the celebration of God's call on the lives of those among us involved in this significant vocation.

Highland Retreat Annual Fall Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 28, 6:30 p.m. at Eastern Mennonite High School, Harrisonburg, Va. All who are interested in the ministry of Highland Retreat are welcome. To make your reservation call 540-852-3226 or e-mail: info@highlandretreat.org.

School kits, health kits, and comforters for MCC should now be deposited at Gift and Thrift, 731 Mt. Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, and not at Red Barn, the previous drop-off location.

