

Connections

Virginia Mennonite
Conference &
Board of Missions

May 2006
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Doorways into God's mission

First in a series of five articles on Doorways in Mission

The broad themes of mission in the 21st century are beginning to take shape already. Mission initiatives from the "majority world" will take their place alongside of, or in place of, efforts from the West. The Gospel will go forth with little human power and privilege, choosing the way of peace to the engines of war. The servants of God will face peril and opposition at the cost of their own lives. Christ-centered witness will be unapologetically proclaimed a global competition for the minds and hearts of humanity. And, the Western church will choose between agendas of self-survival and self-sacrifice, the one leading to irrelevance, the other leading to renewal.

Here at home, individual Christians and whole congregations are already beginning to make decisions which will affect their place in the emerging world of God's mission for years to come. Some trends are alarming. Western Christians too often confuse their allegiance to God with their allegiance to a particular nation. Resources needed to maintain western Christians and churches continue to skyrocket, with little net gain, in numbers, in depth, or in witness. Western Christians, under the guise of cultural sensitivity, too often compromise the clear message of hope and changed lives in Jesus Christ.

Against this backdrop, there are hints and movements of the Spirit in our congregations pointing in different directions. Many years hence, our historians may look back on this time and note two significant sets of events and decisions. One is the decision of the Mennonite Church, USA, to adopt a missional identity. The term is still not universally understood or appreciated. The priority of mission, however, is still one of the most widely-embraced values and activities of the church. The missional priority of MC USA reflects accurately an Anabaptist heritage that saw mission as the essential character of the church. Further, the missional character of the church most aptly applies and attaches to congregations. Congregations are the doorway into mission.

If the first set of events and decisions feels like it comes "top down," the second is definitely "grass-roots." Many, many individuals and families are personally making decisions to become involved in mission, both short-term as well as longer term. Sometimes these individual missional decisions are made apart from the congregation and directed in any number of directions. Better are those individual decisions that are discerned and prayed into existence through the life of a congregation. The congregation is then a doorway into mission.



Both of these movements, the denominational missional priority and the multitude of individual missional decisions, find their most natural place in and through the life of the congregation. Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions has identified and prioritized this way of working in Virginia Conference. VMBM comes along-side congregations who are determined to do God's mission. Sometimes VMBM leads. Sometimes the congregation (or a group of congregations) gives leadership with VMBM enabling the vision. Either way, congregations and VMBM are becoming the doorway into God's mission.

The convergence of these twin movements could become the catalyst that renews the church for another generation. Congregations and mission agencies do well to pay attention.

• Loren Horst
President, VMBM

Loving others with our lives

Christians always find themselves paying attention to two different sets of priorities. We have always tended to our own well-being and we have tried to care for the welfare of others. We see the necessity of both in the Bible and we experience the importance of both in our own lives and congregations. We feed our bodies and we do meat-canning for MCC. We build new churches and we support Habitat for Humanity. We hire chaplains and we support VMBM mission workers. We nurture those already in God's family and we share the Gospel with those who aren't.



Loren Horst
President of VMBM

Granted, sometimes it gets a little out of whack. We always tend to care more for the needs we feel and see than the needs we only hear about. The sense of urgency attaches to what is immediate and near at hand. And further, failure to attend to various needs brings different kinds of responses. Fail to feed my body and I get hungry. Fail to feed the world and I may hear nothing. Starving people aren't very noisy. Fail to adequately pastor the flock and a congregation grumbles. Failure to share the Good News with your neighbor brings little complaint. Left to our own devices, we tend to become more and more self-centered. Loving our own lives comes easily. Loving the lives of others is a bit more difficult.

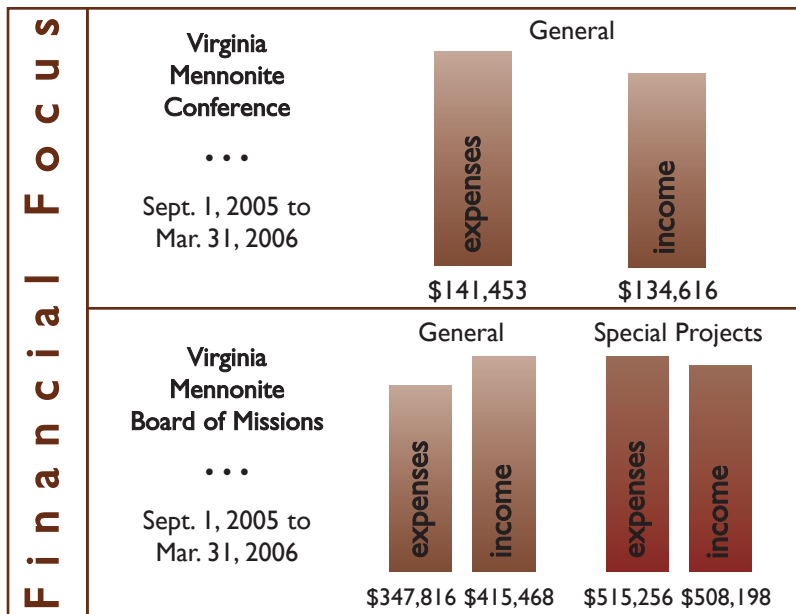
So, when I see movement in the opposite direction, I'm inclined to pay attention. When I see and hear about the missional engagement of congregations like Mountain View Mennonite Church,

Hickory, N.C. (see page 4), I become interested. They are doing something that doesn't really come naturally. They reverse the congregational and human tendencies to look out for number one. They are loving God with their lives.

I attended a memorial service for Tom Fox recently. I didn't know the man personally. I'm only minimally aware of what he was actually doing in Iraq with Christian Peacemaker Teams. I'm told he loved children. I'm told he was a quiet unassuming man who disliked attention centered on himself. I'm told that Tom was willing to live and die for peace. So he did. He has joined a multitude of those who have gone before, and many who will come after, who have been willing to love others with their very lives.

Which is what Christians do. They love others with their lives. They introduced the Source whence that love flows. In so doing, their lives give profound evidence of their love for God.

Loren Horst



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Tom Fox: an ordinary man who listened

A lot has been said and written about Tom Fox these days; how exceptional he was, how he is the example of peacemaking for our time. Tom, as I have known him, would be the first to deny it. He was not exceptional; he was regular. He was an ordinary man: setting out vegetables on grocery racks, playing the clarinet for a livelihood, walking on the roof top in Iraq for exercise, proudly telling about his children's accomplishments.

What is exceptional is that he listened to God. When Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person," Tom listened. When Jesus said "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," Tom took Him seriously. This is nothing more than is asked of any of us when we gather for worship. It is no more exceptional than is true for any of us who claim Jesus as our Savior and Guide.

God has a lot to say to this world. The question is, are we listening? Tom was.

The past few days Jesus words to the experts of the law have been going through my mind. "Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them. So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs." It is far too easy to turn Tom Fox into a saint and believe in doing so we have done something righteous. It is the way to distance ourselves from hearing what God is still saying.

The real question waiting to be answered is, "Who is going to accompany the 42 Palestinian children Tom walked with to the Jordanian border? Who is going to walk with the Muslim Peacemaker Team as they follow their own faith's call to be peacemakers? Who is willing to live through mortars falling on their roof and ask the question, "If this was happening in my home town in America, how would folks respond?"

This was Tom's daily life. And every couple of months he returned to the nation who unleashed this fury trying to find his way between the violence of one country and the greed and arrogance of another.

Once at a meeting at Langley Hill Friends Tom was asked, "What do you think the U.S. should do?" He was quiet for a moment and then he said,



March 25 & 26 the Shenandoah Valley Men's Chorus, directed by Jay Hartzler, sang in the Eastern Mennonite School auditorium. Approximately 80 men sang a cappella hymns of faith and praise. Offerings amounting to \$4,000 benefited Family Life Resource Center and VMBM's USA church-planting ministries.



Richard and Margaret Keeler served as delegates from the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago to the Jamaica Mennonite Conference meetings March 3-5. They were hosted by Lloyd and Janet Moore, church leaders at Good Tidings Mennonite Church, Kingston, shown here in front of the banner used at the conference.

"I think we should apologize." It's rather simple really. It's what Lent and confession are all about. And it doesn't take a spiritual giant to do it. All it takes is one person listening to God.

• Pearl Hoover

Northern Virginia Mennonite Church

Northern Virginia Mennonite Church supported Tom's work.

Tom shared with the congregation after each CPT tour.

Wengers combine vacation and service

The amount of planning was formidable—six young adults in three different locations, with six schedules dictated by work and school. But it had been a long time since the entire family had a vacation together, and that goal was worth working for.

Robert and Lois Wenger, VMBM workers in Jamaica, eagerly anticipated the visit of their four daughters and two sons-in-law to their place of service. Benjamin and LaVonne Heatwole from Zion Hill Mennonite Church, Aaron and Danae Amstutz from Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship, Melissa Wenger from Poarch Community Church in Alabama, and

Rebekah Wenger from Weavers Mennonite Church flew from different airports and arrived in Montego Bay the beginning of March.

The family's first excursion was to the Jamaica Mennonite Conference in Kingston. Despite some vehicle complications, the family experienced the joy of worshiping with Jamaican brothers and sisters. Then they drove to St. Elizabeth, where they stayed on the campus of the Maranatha School for the Deaf. Here they ate Jamaican foods, played games, walked through the community, and related to the students and staff at the school.

One afternoon, the students and staff participated in an extra-curricular activity: flying kites.

Ten kites were brought as gifts to the students by the Wenger family. These colorful kites caught the strong breeze on the hill above

the school building and flew very high. Some of the students experienced kite flying for the first time, and delighted in controlling it. Some community people walked up the hill to see who was flying all these kites!

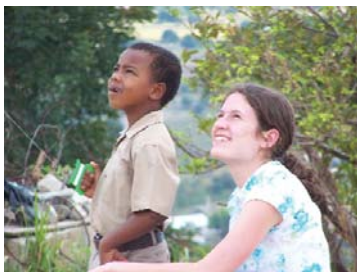
On Friday, the students had a new experience: churning the crank of an ice cream churn! The flavor was orange-pineapple-coconut, which tasted delicious! And it added to a birthday celebration for the housemother that day.

The Wenger family enjoyed Jamaica's beauty: the beach, the falls, and the mountains as they enjoyed each other's company. They also did what came naturally to them—participating in acts of service. It's possible to combine both service and a family reunion, for the benefit of all.



Kites that students at Maranatha School for the Deaf flew one breezy afternoon. Some students experienced it for the very first time.

Below: Kimron Orridge and Rebekah Wenger enjoy that high-flying kite!



If your family would like to plan a vacation/service trip, please contact VMBM for suggestions and more information.

Doorways in Mission:

Mission is contagious at Mountain View (N.C.)



Mission trips are catching on at Mountain View where we've mostly done traditional outreach such as Vacation Bible School, MDS, food distribution, and sending an occasional individual into service. We've always known there's a bigger world out

there but most of us haven't seen it.

However, in 2004, six young adults began praying about a mission trip. They began with doubts about missing work, raising funds, and boarding an airplane. But still they began.

Pastor Chuck Hostetter connected them with Ken Horst at VMBM. Ken linked them with Pura Vida, a discipleship/outreach program in Costa Rica. In July 2005, fourteen youth and young adults boarded the plane, many flying for the first time. Over the next nine days they had other firsts—street dramas, prayer walks, and going house-to-house to pray for strangers.

They returned so excited that envious adults began making plans for their own trip. They too, began fundraising. And Chuck and Ken met with them to explore options.

As a result, in May, two of our women will join a Virginia Conference mission team to Israel to work at Nazareth Village and learn about Israeli-Palestinian struggles. Ten other adults are preparing for a June trip to Trinidad where they'll encourage church workers and remodel a house for a local believer. Meanwhile one of our men went to China for three months to help set up a hospital and another is teaching seminary for a term in Kiev, Ukraine.

Recently our Sunday School began sponsoring a child in India through Compassion International. Even our children are learning to care about the larger world!

Based on our experience, congregations interested in mission trips should:

- tell God you're willing to go,
- seek your pastor's support,
- contact Ken Horst
- and sell donuts!

• Joyce Moyer Hostetter
Mt. View Mennonite Church, Hickory, N.C.

Christmas in the Gulf



“Christmas in the Gulf,” a project led by the Stuarts Draft (Va.) Mennonite Church was organized in December to share

Christmas with families of Gulf States Mennonite churches impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It was a resounding success because of the generous hearts of so many—churches in the Virginia Mennonite Conference Southern District and Augusta County, employees of VMBM, students from local schools, Wal-Mart and others. Conversations with Mennonite churches in the Gulf States Conference led to aid three churches that were hardest hit by these storms: Native Christian in Houma, La., Amor Viviente in Metairie, La., and Lighthouse Fellowship in Buras, La.

Through fund-raisers, offerings and donations, almost \$17,000 was collected which was used to buy gift cards for 143 adults. In addition, 72 children were “adopted” and toys were purchased and wrapped for them. These gifts were delivered by Stuart Draft members to these three churches the weekend before Christmas. The recipients expressed their sincere gratitude to all those who helped share God’s love with them in this manner. Those delivering the gifts were touched again and again by the resiliency and positive outlook of those who had lost so much. Over and over again, their message was “we’re down, but not out and we will be back, even stronger than before.” Lasting friendships were made during this gift-delivery trip.

The hardest hit congregation, Lighthouse, was met at Pine Lake Retreat in Meridian, Miss., as Buras was still uninhabitable and church members were spread out over the South, living with family and friends. This small congregation has many needs and rebuilding efforts are just now getting underway. A project, “Relight the Light,” has been started to help members from this church get their church, homes and lives rebuilt. Fund-raising activities, as well as a trip to help rebuild, are being planned. If you have an interest in helping with this project, call (540)943-2398 or email cramwade@aol.com.

• Cindy Wade
Stuarts Draft Mennonite Church

Miracles for Maddalena

Maddalena Arena and her parents are members of Shalom Mennonite Church in Palermo, Sicily.

At her recent baptism Maddalena began her testimony with these words, “The very fact that I stand before you today is evidence of God’s miraculous intervention in my life! At only 3 months old, I suffered a cerebral haemorrhage which could have meant either death or severe mental and physical handicaps.” Thanks to nine different surgical procedures and to the many prayers of God’s people in Italy and in Virginia, the Lord brought healing to Maddalena. But that is not all! Touched by the loving support and concern of Christian people during that difficult time, her parents opened their lives to Jesus Christ.

Maddalena’s restoration however, was not instantaneous but a long struggle. With extensive physiotherapy she learned to walk at age three. Growing up in the Mennonite church in Sicily, Maddalena’s faith, as well as her musical gifts, were nurtured. She studied piano with Maurita Eberly at the school of music, begun in partnership with VMBM. When participating in the Mennonite children’s choir, *Le Note d’Amore*, she discovered her natural gift for singing. Now a young woman of 15, she is studying voice privately.

Maddalena gratefully recognizes God’s marvelous healing and salvation and has committed her life to Him. At school she is known for her faith and her compassion for students who struggle with special needs or disabilities. At her baptism she encouraged those present, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and He will accomplish powerful things in your life just as He has for me!” As a concluding exclamation of praise, her lovely voice lifted up this song, “*Il Signore mi ama, Egli ha cura di me e risponde al mio pianto con amor. . .*” (“The Lord loves and cares for me; He responds to the cry of my heart with love . . .”)

• Eva Eberly
VMBM Mediterranean Regional Assistant



Maddalena Arena with the banner of Shalom Mennonite Church in Palermo, Sicily.

Aging with quality



A caretaker and resident at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, Harrisonburg.

Aging with quality is a multifaceted endeavor. It is comprised of both physical and spiritual dimensions and is concerned with the individual as well as the community within which individuals live. It is not inevitable that health will decline as we get older. People of any age can improve their health by adopting healthy behaviors. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) suggest six strategies that contribute to “aging with quality.”

- Healthy lifestyles are more influential than genetic factors in helping older people avoid decline associated with aging. People who are physically active, eat a healthy diet, do not use tobacco, take on new mental and physical challenges, and have extensive loving and supportive human relationships reduce their risk for chronic diseases and have half the rate of disability of those who do not.
- Early detection through regular screening for chronic diseases can prevent premature death and sustain quality of life.
- Immunizations reduce a person’s risk for hospitalization and death from influenza and other diseases preventable by immunizations.
- Injury prevention by removing tripping hazards in the home and installing grab bars are simple measures that can greatly reduce older adult’s risk for falls and fractures.

- Self-management techniques can reduce both the pain and costs of chronic disease. For example, the Arthritis Self-Help Course, offered by the Arthritis Foundation, has been shown to reduce arthritis pain by 20% and visits to physicians by 40%.

The quality of community life at VMRC is the shared responsibility of residents and staff. It is created and nurtured by the capacity to express and extend love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in all our interactions and relations with each other. The hard work of creating quality in our community life requires the commitment to create, maintain, and repair friendships and positive relationships. It requires each of us to speak the truth and keep our promises. It is achieved through imagining and understanding the feelings, emotions, and sensitivities of each other, and responding to each other in ways that affirm and care for each other. Quality of our community life is greatly increased by prayer. Prayers offered for ourselves and our neighbors bring comfort and healing and express caring.

The quality of community life at VMRC emerges from sharing and celebrating what we have in common while affirming each other’s uniqueness and creativity. The same can be true for your community.

• Ron Yoder
President & CEO, VMRC

Congregational Resource Center

Gather 'Round the new curriculum! It's finally here.

Training workshops for Virginia Mennonite Conference congregations: **June 10** (Time to be confirmed) at Huntington Mennonite Church, 785 Harpersville Rd., Newport News, VA 23601.

July 8 (Time to be confirmed) at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va., at VMC's annual summer assembly.

New Resources

FOR WORSHIP • **Out of the Ordinary: prayers, poems, and reflections for every season** by Joyce Rupp. A wonderful worship resource. Prayers, litanies, and other readings for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Lent, Pentecost, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Valentines Day, Mary, difficult times, justice, ministry and service, the new year, transitions and other.

FOR ADULT EDUCATION • **God is closer than you think**, by John Ortberg. DVD, book and participant's guide. Did you know that God loves to connect with ordinary people? The author helps you to realize God's presence in your life and enter into a more fulfilling relationship with God. Take this opportunity to open your eyes to God's presence!

• **Network**, Bruce Bugbee, Bill Hybels. "Do people in your congregation have a passion for service? Here's a dynamic program that will help them fulfill their unique calling! Bill Hybels's 6-session Willow Creek curriculum motivates church members to discover their personal gifts, style, and ministry so they can give back to God what He has given them. Includes leader's guide, participant's guide, DVD, and PowerPoint CD-ROM."

• **When God Weeps** by Joni Earekson Tada and Steve Estes. The authors reveal a God big enough to understand our suffering, wise enough to allow it, and powerful enough to use it for a greater good than we can ever imagine. 13 sessions with VHS, DVD, book, leaders & participants guide.

The Resource Center is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Jill Landis at 540-432-4219 or crc@emu.edu to make arrangements for evening use.



Connections Prayer Calendar May 2006

Sunday

"We who were formerly no people at all, who knew of no peace, are now called to be a church of peace."

7 Pray for Mauricio Chenlo of Raleigh, N.C., as he works especially with Hispanic church planting and training in our Conference, and nationwide through Mennonite Mission Network.

14 Today is a joyous baptismal celebration at Centro Koinonia, in Bari, Italy, for at least two persons. Pray for friends and relatives who will be present who do not yet know Jesus Christ.

21 World Neighbors Missions Festival will be held on July 6 as the kickoff for the Va. Conference Assembly. Pray that many people will come and meet our international guests, and learn about our world neighbors with food and music.

28 Spring is an active time for many. Pray God's blessing on our daily activities, the transitions of our students after another year of school, and the special times of fellowship and family.

Monday

1 Pino and Rosanna Arena from Palermo were ministering to Centro Koinonia (Bari, Italy) this past weekend. Pray God will enrich the fellowship between the Mennonite churches in Italy through such exchanges.

8 Pray for the Leon and Naomi Zimmerman family, missionaries with Rosedale Mennonite Missions / Eastern Mennonite Missions, as they adjust to the Albanian culture and study the Albanian language in Tirana.

15 Monica Unzicker interacts with the students at Maranatha School for the Deaf, Jamaica, and her humor and affection win over even the shyest students. May they catch a glimpse of Christ in Monica's life.

22 Partners in Missions teams are preparing for service in the coming months. Pray for PIM participants, for Ken Horst, PIM Director, and Philip Rhodes, Assistant, that details will be complete and that Christ's love will be spread to many.

29 On Memorial Day, pray for all who have lost a loved one, from sickness, old age, accident, suicide or war. As Anabaptists we proclaim, all life is precious and only God has the right to call someone home.

Tuesday

2 In Graham, N.C., Keith Greensboro pastor Jim and Ruth Mellinger are gathering area folks for worship, Bible study, prayer and fellowship on Sunday evenings. Pray for God's leading.

9 Pray for Ernie Godshall, who is serving a one year assignment as the interim Bishop/Overseer of the Warwick and Norfolk Districts. Pray for wisdom as plans proceed to merge these two districts.

16 Plans for Virginia Conference assembly are progressing well: worship, delegate sessions, children's activities and evening worship meetings. Thank God for directing these plans for *Sent! Around the World*. Make plans to attend!

23 Robert and Lois Wenger are instruments of Christ's peace at the Maranatha School for the Deaf, Jamaica. Their gentle ways of relating to others are good examples to those they meet. Ask for God's blessing on them today.

30 On April 9, Peter S. Nguyen of the Vietnamese Christian Fellowship of Falls Church, Va., was ordained. Praise God for his gifts as he brings together Vietnamese people in this growing fellowship.

Wednesday

3 Tomorrow Mennonite Women of Virginia meet at the Warwick River Menn. Church for worship, fellowship and giving to various missions and service needs. Thank God for this part of Virginia Conf. that joins together for acts of service.

10 On March 25, Brenda North Martin was installed as the Bishop/Overseer for the Eastern Carolina District. Pray that God will give her the wisdom and grace she needs to fulfill this important responsibility.

17 Each day, Roy and Joanne Hunsberger, Trinidad, encounter persons who are seeking for life's deeper meaning. May their lives show that Christ is the answer to the many dilemmas of life.

24 The Roy Kiser family will be collaborating in evangelistic outreach events with the Centro Koinonia congregation at Bari, Italy today. Pray that the gospel/bluegrass music will communicate well and draw many people.

31 Pray that God will nudge the hearts and lives of those persons He is calling into service. VMBM has numerous openings for assignment through doors that are wide open to the Gospel.

Thursday

4 The Conference Council of Virginia Conference gathers tomorrow and Saturday at Eastern Mennonite University for church business. Ask for God's presence as they prayerfully and worshipfully work.

11 The board of VMBM is made up of your representatives who carry a passion for God's mission. Pray that they will discern the leading of God's Spirit in important decisions in their quarterly meeting, held tomorrow and Saturday.

18 The Women's Dept. of the Jamaica Menn. Church is meeting for their annual day of fellowship and learning on Saturday. Pray for safety as women travel from around the island, and for God's blessing to be poured out on them.

25 Today the pastors of the districts of Calvary, Warwick, and Norfolk meet together to lay plans for a new church to be established in the Hampton Roads area. Pray for feet to be put under this vision.

Their hearts overflow with peace, their mouths speak peace, and they walk in the way of peace.
Menno Simons, 1552

Friday

5 Pray for wisdom for the Conference Council as they wrestle with the issue of the loss of more than 20 congregations which have withdrawn from Virginia Mennonite Conference during the past decade.

12 Recently women in Trinidad attended a retreat planned by the "In Your Hands" ministry, part of the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Pray that all who attended will continue to grow spiritually from what they learned.

19 Conference mission leaders meet in Colorado Springs tomorrow. The theme is "Empowering Conference and Congregational Leadership." Pray for Ed Bontrager, USA Ministries Director, as he attends these meetings.

26 This is a good time for Christians to give witness to Jesus in the Balkans through business efforts, ministries of reconciliation, and assisting small churches emerging in this war-torn area of the world. Pray for persons willing to serve.

Saturday

6 A significant percent of Koinonia grew up without a father or a father's love and guidance. Pray that the Holy Spirit will heal and fill this empty space in their lives and God will become a loving Father to them.

13 Pray for Justiniano Cruz, pastor of the Iglesia del Evangelico Completo Alfa y Omega, a Hispanic congregation which meets in the Hyattsville Mennonite Church sanctuary on Sunday afternoons.

20 Thank God for eight deaf persons who have been attending the Jesus Deaf Church in Belize, who will be baptized tomorrow. Nancy Marshall, *Trav Sema* participant, will assist Pastor Chon of the Belize Evang. Menn. Church with the service.

27 Today Ramesh Jaimani and Reena Mohammad graduate from West Indies Theological College, Trinidad, after studying theology and Christian education, respectively. May God give them a happy day, and clear direction for ministry.

If you would like to sponsor the prayer calendar, please contact Gloria Lehman at (540) 434-9727 • Toll free (800) 505-7735 • gloria.lehman@vmbm.org

Announcements

Register now! The Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly "Sent! Around the World: New Perspectives on Mission" will be



July 6-9, 2006 at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg. Ask your church office for a registration form, or register online at www.vmconf.org/assembly

Donate your car to VMC! Why go through the hassle of selling? Steve Carpenter can sell your vehicle for you and the proceeds will benefit Virginia Mennonite Conference! You will receive a tax deductible receipt for the full selling price. It's a great way to support the ministries of the Conference. Contact him at (800) 707-5535 or (540) 434-9727 or email steve.carpenter@vmconf.org.

Pastoral Transition



James Rhee will be licensed by Virginia Mennonite Conference for pastoral ministries on April 30. He has taken leadership in developing the Stephens City Korean Community Church in the Winchester/Stephens City area which meets in the facilities at Stephens City Mennonite Church.

Service Transition




Sara Ulrich is serving in England with Young Life International, in partnership with the *transSend* program of VMBM and Mennonite Mission Network.

Highland Retreat 2006 Youth Camp Schedule

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| June 26-27 | Camp Bear Paw: Ages 6-8 |
| June 28-30 | Camp Foxtail: Ages 8-9 |
| July 2-7 | Camp Cottontail: Ages 8-10 |
| July 6-9 | VMC Assembly Youth Camp |
| July 9-14 | Camp Cardinal: Ages 10-12 |
| July 16-21 | Camp Coyote: Ages 11-13 |
| July 23-28 | Teen Camp: Grades 9-12 |
| | Wilderness Explorers: Ages 11-13 |
| July 24-28 | Day Camp - Acorn: Ages 6-12 |
| July 30-4 | Girls Soccer Camp: Grades 7-12 |
| | Wilderness Pioneers: Ages 13-15 |
| July 31-4 | Day Camp - Beechnut: Ages 6-12 |
| August 6-11 | Guys Soccer Camp: Grades 7-12 |
| August 7-11 | Day Camp - Chestnut: Ages 6-12 |

For more information, contact:
540-852-3226 • youthoffice@highlandretreat.org

2006
Penny Power



We are hoping to raise **\$22,000** for this year's *Penny Power* projects. In 2005, congregations contributed **\$22,834.09!** We hope to continue the effort and momentum from last year.

- Collect jugs for your church from the Conference Center, 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg.
- Highlight *Penny Power* during your Sunday morning worship service. Involve the children in your church. You can borrow "Rhythm of Change" from the Conference.
- Contact Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions at 540-434-9727, 800-707-5535, or info@vmbm.org.

