

*Pursuing God's dreams
by the power of the Holy Spirit
in the way of Jesus Christ*



September 2012

ZING!

Voice of Mountain States Mennonite Conference



Dates to Remember

September 15-16, 2012

50th Anniversary Celebration of
Glennon Heights Mennonite
Church

October 13-14, 2012

50th Anniversary Celebration of
Perryton Mennonite Church

October 19-20, 2012

MCC Sale in Rocky Ford, CO

October 22, 2012

Pueblo Mennonite Church
Closing Service at 4:00 PM

October 26-28, 2012

Region III Annual Mennonite
Disaster Service Meeting at
Rocky Mountain Mennonite
camp

November 9-11, 2012

Conference Pastors' Retreat at
RMMC

November 17, 2012

*It's Your Money? Creating a
Trail of Love and Hope.*
Sponsored jointly by Mountain
States Mennonite Conference

Hmong Mennonite of Denver, Colorado ***What's new...?***

By Maytia Moua, aka May (Nam Nou Xou Xiong), Hmong Mennonite Church
Treasurer

This article will provide a brief summary of our current situation and exciting
future...Some changes that occurred within our congregation were:

- Our new leadership role as of February 1, 2012
- The resignation of current pastor
- Our new website
- And our pastor search committee in planning.

Every two years, the congregation members appoint new executive leadership
to help manage, plan and assist the congregation's Christian faith through
support and awareness. This year's new leadership teams are:

Moderator: Teng Thao

Secretary: Julia Vang –aka, Nam Txaw Pao Xiong

Treasurer: Maytia Moua (May) –aka, Nam Nou Xou Xiong

Education: Yeudi Xiong –aka, Nam Za Teng Thao

Elders: Pao Thao, Ga Neng Yang, Koua Xiong

The previous leadership team was:

Moderator: Teng Thao

Secretary: Pao Thao

Treasurer: Thai Moua

Education: Mao Vang

Elders: Cheng Moua

We are excited as new leaders to make positive faithful decision for our
congregation by implementing some changes in the up-coming months. We
are young leaders and hope that we can fulfill our member's expectations
according to faith, beliefs and trust. We thank the previous leaders for their
hard work and spiritual support for the past two years. Teng Thao has devoted
so much of his effort during his prior years as Moderator; his understanding,
loyalty and experience is another reason why the congregation voted another
two years for more faithful contribution.

As many of you know, the Hmong Mennonite Church of Denver, Colorado
began in 1997 in Arvada, Colorado. Over the years, we have seen many
changes within the congregation. When the Hmong Mennonite Church (HMC)
was left without a pastor in 2006, God gave us a purpose and led our
congregation to find a pastor who lived on the other side of the country. No
one said it was easy to find a pastor; they're either in front of us, next to us or



07/22/2012 Certificate of Gratitude from Dr. Herm Weaver



07/22/2012 Service plaque from Hmong Mission Church Mennonite



05/20/2012- Farewell Event, Lunch feast



Hmong Mennonite Church of Colorado, homepage website

across the ocean, like our pastor, Pastor Vang Kou Yang, aka Komin. He came to us with little English knowledge but strong Christian belief and showed us a different way of leadership. Pastor Vang Kou started his ministry with us in 2007 up until May 31, 2012. His leadership and dedication towards our congregation pulled together new leadership style and awareness. During his stewardship and ministry, the HMC of Colorado along with the Mountain State Conference and other Mennonite Congregations was able to assist Pastor Vang Kou with his green card process to allow him to continue his ministries further. The result of the green card process was accomplished in 2010 and was one of many other accomplishments by HMC of Colorado. Aside from his ministry devotion with the HMC of Colorado, Pastor Vang Kou also envisioned to raise his family in the U.S. to obtain educational knowledge with anticipation of achieving a higher education degree. On May 31, 2012, Pastor Vang Kou resigned his pastoral ministry with HMC of Colorado in order to achieve his higher education for future engagements. A formal Farewell Event was attributed to Vang Kou to show our appreciation; which included a recap of his ministry, open-mic and a large lunch feast. Moreover, a plaque was issued in honor of his ministry service from 2007 to 2012 from the Hmong Mennonite Church Mission President Pastor Jonah Yang on July 22, 2012. Pastor Vang Kou Yang continues to minister our congregation as an Interim pastor, supporting and pledging his devotion to our HMC of Colorado until a new pastor can be administered. The farewell event and plaque honor occasion can be found online as

indicated in our next paragraph.



07/22/2012 – Pastor Jonah's Visit to HMCCO presented a plaque in honor of Pastor Vang Kou Yang's ministry

In addition to our new leadership team and the end of pastor Vang Kou's ministry, we have implemented a new website to match the current trend and its rapid increase in technology. The website is design to bring in each congregation closer spiritually, virtually

and to show other congregation who we are, where we are and what we do. You may visit the website at: <http://www.hmcco.org/>, abbreviated for Hmong Mennonite Church of Colorado. The site includes information about our annual schedules, current and past events or activities; our member ministry and directory, contact; donation, HMC blog and comments. Our brothers and sisters in St. Paul Minnesota also created their congregation website and can be found at <http://www.hmongmennonitechurch.org/>. This is another way of reaching out to everyone with updates and resources.

In conclusion, the pastoral search committees are currently searching for a new Pastor to sow more families to our congregation with dedication, endurance and commitment. We are excited about the new changes, the website and what God has in place for us. God always has a plan for everyone, including our church; let's put our faith in our Father in Heaven and support each other through this trial.

Correction

Last month we ran a news release about a local resident receiving an Everence scholarship. The recipient of the scholarship was incorrectly identified in the article as Rachel Boehs. Rachel is the mother of the recipient, **Jenny Boehs** of Fort Collins. Thank you, Betsy Headrick McCrae, for noting this error. Betsy is Jenny's proud aunt.



Farewell to Pueblo Mennonite Church

Pueblo Mennonite Church invites you to a closing service on Sunday, October 21 at 4:00 PM.

Please come and join us in celebrating the works of God through Pueblo Mennonite Church 1942-2012.

With your help, we would like to fill Pueblo Mennonite Church one more time. Come to worship, pray, sing, celebrate, hear the word, remember, laugh, cry, transition PMC assets to the conference, celebrate communion with Bread and Cup and a catered meal. All are welcome.

More information will be available soon.

“With Care...”

By Alice M. Price

With local and national election campaigns heating up – literally – it is hard to find many examples of open and honest dialogue on issues of social and economic concern. Instead, various “hot button” issues seem to command most of the media attention, inducing either a “fight” or “flight” mode in most of us. We hug our opinions close to our chests, avoiding confrontation at all cost. Or perhaps we decide to enter the fray, only to experience our own and others’ reactivity and polarization, rather than sharing and listening from the heart.

If you want to have a good read, glean some practical ideas, and feel inspired about the power of true community dialogue, I highly recommend Parker Palmer’s most recent book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*. Palmer, a Quaker, has released many wonderful books over the years, focusing primarily on integrity and courage within our vocations. This time, however, he explores how diversity and societal tension are normal and needed for real democracy, and how certain habits of the heart can collectively move us towards healthy ways to address these tensions and refocus conversations towards our common good.

“The heart,” he maintains, “is where everything begins: that grounded place in each of us where we can overcome fear, rediscover that we are members of one another, and embrace the conflicts that threaten democracy as openings to new life for us and for our nation.” The five habits outlined by Palmer are: 1) we must understand that we are all in this together; 2) we must develop an appreciation of the value of “otherness”; 3) we must cultivate the ability to hold tension in life-giving ways; 4) we must generate a sense of personal voice and agency; and 5) we must strengthen our capacity to create community. Palmer calls for us to live with hearts that are not just broken, but are “broken open” to the world at large and to those across the street. While his book focuses primarily on civic discourse, it holds powerful ideas which can also be integrated into our faith communities. Will we remain invested in our habits of “fight” or “flight”? Or do we have the courage to practice new habits that treasure the common good? As we are reminded in Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Conference leadership is working to formalize a Dialogue Resource Team. Stay tuned for more ideas and information. Please contact me (alicep@amigo.net) or Barry Bartel (barry.bartel@gmail.com) with your ideas and possible contributions to such a team.

We also welcome input from others who might be willing to contribute to future “With Care” columns.

News from Rocky Ford Mennonite Church

Rocky Ford welcomes their new pastor, **David Mourn**, and his wife **Jean**. David began September 1.

Lorene Roth, a member of Rocky Ford Mennonite, celebrated her 100th birthday on July 7.

Reflections from the Sound of Silence

By Herm Weaver, Conference Minister

It is another early September morning in the mountains. The sunlight is just beginning to stream through the trees and the temperature this morning is in the mid 50's, with just a very small hint of fall in the air. As you know I love mornings, I love listening to the stillness, or to use an old Simon and Garfunkel line, I love to listen to the "sound of silence." In the stillness it is not hard to reflect across time, to feel deeply, and to revel quietly in the gift of life. I am grateful.

This morning I was reflecting on all the people who have become a part of my life since coming to this work. So many people from our churches, so many people from across the country who work in other Conferences, so many people who are connected to the national work of Mennonite Church USA. What a gift. Then there are the many many people who come to mind that I have met through this work with Mountain States Mennonite Conference that are either very

loosely connected or not connected at all to the formal Mennonite world. Some have grown up Mennonite, some don't even know enough to distinguish Mennonite from Mormon, some are not even Christian. So many people. I am deeply grateful for the blessing of so many new people in my life over the past 6½ years.

I don't think I have ever used this column to introduce you to anybody but I'd like to do that this morning. Several weeks ago I got up early on a Tuesday morning and left the house a little after six. I had a 9 AM appointment at the home of Mary and Peter Sprunger Froese on the south side of Colorado Springs. Some of you know them. Most of you don't. They were wonderful hosts and we had a delightful breakfast of fruit and cereal and toast and tea.

I don't know much of their story but here is a snapshot and perhaps when you meet them they can correct the details and fill in the missing pieces. Mary grew up in Berne, Indiana and Peter grew up on a farm near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in the 70's, good old 70's (that must be where the Simon and Garfunkel reference came from). They met at Anabaptist (formerly Associated) Mennonite Biblical Seminary where Peter assures me he has taken almost every class offered without getting a formal Masters of Divinity.

Somewhere along the way they wandered out to Colorado seeking a way to be of service and landed in a

small intentional community in Colorado Springs. In community they strove to live simply, below the taxable income rate, so as not to contribute more monies to the war efforts of this country. In community they strove to address the needs of the homeless and needy in the city. In community they strove to speak up consistently against the war machine in this country. In community they strove to speak out against the social injustices. And in community, they strove to be the people of God.



Peter and Mary Sprunger Froese

Year after year they worked and I listened that morning to only a few stories of the many, many people their lives had been blessed with. Time after time they were arrested for speaking their truth to power. I listened as the tears came when Mary described being turned away at the border while traveling home to a Christmas celebration a few years back. She has a record. I listened to the stories of people, one at a time, who they simply dumped their lives into. I experienced the deep

commitment, I saw the joy as Peter raced out the door early to go to the bike shop where he repairs bikes and speaks to groups who come through about the work to which they have given their lives.

Thirty some years Mary and Peter have poured out their lives for the weak and needy and to speak their truth to power. I heard both joy and lament on that Tuesday. Great joy for the great gift of being involved in the sacred work of being the hands and feet of Jesus. Lament because in the stage of life they are approaching they have no nest egg, they cannot rely on Social Security because they haven't contributed enough, and they are somewhat disconnected from their community of origin, the Mennonite Church. The choices Peter and Mary have made over the years have meant that for the most part they have not had a car, they travel on bicycles. With the distances between our churches they have not often been able to be present with us and they miss that connection of their formative years.

I am writing in this morning's sound of silence to introduce you to Mary and Peter Sprunger Froese and to give thanks that they have been two of the many people that have crossed my path during this work. I am also writing to invite you, the people and churches of the Mountain States Mennonite Conference to think about how you might connect with them. Both Peter and Mary are delightfully articulate, Mary has done theater most all of her life, Peter is eloquent and passionate. They have

helped me to reflect again, as I listen to the stillness this morning, on what it means to be faithful. Perhaps you could invite them to provide a Sunday morning service for you, perhaps an ongoing relationship with them could enrich all of us. May it be so. – herm weaver, 9/3/12

You can contact Mary and Peter by email or phone
marysf@juno.com
719.471.3405

You are cordially invited to...

50 YEARS OF MUSIC AND MUSINGS

A variety
show and
auction in
celebration
of the 50th
Anniversary
of Glennon
Heights
Mennonite
Church



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

Doors 5:30 * Show 6:30 pm * Auction and Free-Will Offering * Dessert to follow

Please join us for a night of humor, music and talent as Glennon Heights celebrates its 50th birthday! All proceeds go towards the renovation of the church facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities.



Auction items include (L to R):

- Wall hanging (42" x 33") made by Eunice Brenneman
- Eagle (23" tall by 12" base) carved by Dave Yoder
- Wall hanging (30" square) made by Myrna Johnson
- Wall hanging (46" square) made by Jan Hussey
- ALSO: Homemade bierocks made by Doris Hjelmstad

Also join us for a very special
celebration service and potluck *

Sunday, Sept 16 at 10:00 am

Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, 11480 W. Virginia Avenue, Lakewood, CO

303-985-3606

News from:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP



709 County Road 62
Divide, CO 80814

719-687-9506
info@rmmc.org
www.rmmc.org

REFLECTIONS FROM THE SUMMER:

At the end of every program camp we ask each camper for their thoughts on the week. We are always looking for ways to improve our camp and appreciate all the feedback we receive. The overwhelming majority of the responses are very positive, so we'd like to share some of them with you.



Wilderness Campers enjoying their three day backpacking trip to Shelf Lake.

"Singing was fun, especially the songs that got stuck in my head."

- Family Camp participant

"It must be a rule or something that to work here you have to be awesome." - 8th/9th Grade Resident camper

"God's natural beauty is my favorite vacation."

- Family Camp participant



4/5 Grade resident camper, Tomas Gibson, tries his hand at fishing. Because of the deeper pond, we added catch & release fishing for rainbow trout as a cabin activity.

"My overall experience was that you should trust people."

- 4th/5th Grade Resident camper



Family Camp II participants form the Olympic Rings to celebrate the Olympic themed week - even in the middle of a downpour!

"The counselors were very encouraging (during rock climbing). It felt so good to get to the top."

- Sr. High Wilderness camper

"[We] enjoyed meeting other families and having good fellowship."

- Family Camp participant

"I feel I have learned more about faith." - 8th/9th Wilderness camper

"I fully expected a fun, spiritually focused, challenging (physically), busy and relaxing, unhinged from the norm and internet, wonderful time. And it was!"

- Family Camp participant

YOU'VE BEEN SPOTTED!

We spotted Andrew Longacher (Denver, CO) in a RMMC shirt! Andrew has been a long time camper, attending resident camps, church retreats, and snow camps. Andrew is pictured here jumping over his younger brother Eli during a family vacation to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Thanks, Andrew, for sharing RMMC with the North Carolina! Have a photo you would like to share? Email it to Jenelle@rmmc.org.



50 Year Celebration at Perryton Mennonite

Perryton Mennonite Church will hold a 50 Year Celebration on October 13 and 14 with these activities:

Saturday, October 13

1:00 PM: Church doors open for registration and informal fellowship. (The church will remain open throughout the afternoon.)

2:00 PM: Tour of old cemetery and Bethel Church (allow 2 hours)

5:00 PM: Cookout at Perryton Mennonite Church

6:30 PM: Concert by John Schmidt of Common Ground Ministries

Sunday, October 14

10:00 AM: Worship service followed by a meal and fellowship for all.

RSVP for meals by October 1 to: perrytonmennonite@hotmail.com, 806-435-3817 or 806-435-3437. These contacts may also be used for further weekend questions including information on area hotels.

Please plan to attend; we would love to see you!

Video Contest for Students

[news release from Everence]

GOSHEN, Ind. – Young people and their chosen charities can win cash awards as part of an Everence-sponsored video contest, based on the theme “Money Talks: The World is Listening.”

The contest is open for young people ages 15 to 25. Entries will be accepted Oct. 1 to Nov. 15.

The idea behind the contest is to encourage young people to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas about the role of money in society. “The world is full of mixed messages about money and how we use it,” said Larry Miller, president of Everence. “We want to hear what young people have to say.”

The three top winners will receive awards, with a matching award that Everence will give to a charity that the winners select. The first-place winner will receive \$1,000, plus Everence will make a \$1,000 grant to the charity of the winner's choice. The second place winner will receive \$500 and \$500 will go to the chosen charity,

and \$250 to third place with an additional \$250 to a charity.

Rules and details are available at Everence.com/moneytalks.

Students can begin to develop their videos any time. Submissions will be accepted from Oct. 1 to Nov. 15. A panel will select up to five finalists, and the winners will be chosen by popular vote at www.everence.com/moneytalks. Winners will be announced in early January 2013.

Everence helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches. To learn more, visit www.everence.com or call (800) 348-7468.

MennoMedia Releases Study of Anabaptist Churches

[news release from MennoMedia]

Harrisonburg, Va., and Waterloo, Ont.—Anabaptist churches in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have grown rapidly in recent years, while membership and attendance numbers in North American and European churches have declined. In *Winds of the Spirit*, authors Conrad Kanagy, Tilahun Beyene, and Richard Showalter examine some of the reasons for this pattern through a recent study of Anabaptist churches of the Global South.

Across the Global South, the movement of the Holy Spirit is shaping the Anabaptist church, leading the authors to see parallels with the early church and with the 16th century Anabaptists. As with the early church and the early Anabaptist Church, churches of the Global South share a commitment to mission and witness, deep piety, vital spirituality, and to care and justice for the poor and marginalized.

The authors examined data from 10 countries and 18,000 church members as part of a Multi-Nation Anabaptist Profile. Richard Showalter and Tilahun Beyene brought “invaluable [experience] in understanding relevant issues that need to be addressed” and years of partnerships in the Global South, according to Conrad Kanagy. Kanagy brought his cross-cultural sociological experience and skills, as well as his experience directing the 2006 Church Member Profile for Mennonite Church USA.

What is driving the spiritual vitality of Anabaptist churches in the Global South? “The Spirit always goes where accepted,” says Kanagy. He believes that church history shows this, as the geographic “center of gravity” for Christianity has moved around the globe, depending on where Christians embrace and anticipate God’s activity.

In addition, the writers examine topics on which the findings shed light, such as mission, Anabaptism, and the Holy Spirit. Considering the common denominator of Pentecostalism, they look at the link between the movement of the Holy Spirit in Global South Anabaptist churches and the global Pentecostal movement. They conclude with their views on what will shape global Anabaptism into the 21st century.

Kanagy believes that Global South churches are important to the health of the North American church. “I don’t think our congregations in North America will make significant changes without partnerships in the Global South,” he says. He believes this important connection can be made as guests from the Global South regularly

join Northern churches for worship, preaching, and to “speak into our perspectives.”

Winds of the Spirit is a tool churches of the North can use to evaluate their faithfulness, witness, and commitment to Jesus, Kanagy says. Convergence between North and South could potentially “ignite a global partnership that could ensure spiritual vitality and faithfulness to Jesus in both hemispheres.”

Conrad Kanagy is professor of sociology at Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, and pastor of Elizabethtown Mennonite Church. He authored *Road Signs for the Journey*, based on the 2006 Mennonite Church USA Church Member Profile. Tilahun Beyene is coordinator of International Missions Association, affiliated with Eastern Mennonite Missions. A long-time leader in Ethiopia’s Meserete Kristos Church, he authored *I Will Build My Church*, the Amharic language history of the growth of the MKC. Richard Showalter is past president of Eastern Mennonite Missions. He is current chair of the Mission Commission of Mennonite World Conference and coach for International Missions Association.



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Next Deadline: September 30, 2012

E-mail contributions to Karen Martin at administrator@MountainStatesMC.org
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