



August 2014

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

ZING!

Voice of Mountain States Mennonite Conference

Our Annual Gathering of Congregations

By Karen Martin, Conference Administrator



What a wonderful Annual Assembly weekend we had as we gathered in Lakewood! The theme of Partnership: On Earth as it is in heaven was evident all around as we heard a number of perspectives on partnership; we learned a song in Hmong, Spanish and English; we enjoyed delicious Hmong and American food; we shared deep feelings; we broke bread together.

Thank you especially to our host congregations, Glennon Heights Mennonite Church and Hmong Mennonite Church and all from those congregations who worked so hard to make it happen. Thank you to Lynn Roth for organizing the art and to Nathan Graber-McCrae and Andy Yoder-Horst for organizing the youth

activities. Hats off to the Annual Assembly Planning Committee! They met every month since January to make plans: Rhoda Blough; Betsy Headrick McCrae, Teng Thao, Andy Yoder-Horst, Karen Cox, Conference Moderator; Karen Martin, Conference Administrator; Herm Weaver, Conference Minister and Marc Yoder, Chairperson.

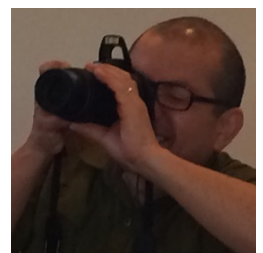
Congregations brought fabric to represent their church. After the cloth was displayed on Friday evening and Saturday morning, women from the Hmong church sewed it together to make a beautiful banner. It will be shared around the congregations throughout the year.



Our service project was collecting backpacks for men coming out of prison. Hassan Latif from Second Chance Center was on hand Saturday evening to receive the 86 backpacks collected.

Some of the other highlights:

- Thirteen Mennonite agencies and schools brought information to share.
- Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, and Nancy Kauffmann, Denominational Minister, both joined us for the weekend.
- We welcomed Sojourn Mennonite Church as a congregation in Mountain States Conference and Alive with Grace as a church plant.
- 24 youth from various churches had a fun day at Water World, followed by a scavenger hunt downtown.
- More than 50 young adults gathered for conversation. (More about this in next month's ZING!)



Check out many more photos on our Facebook page! Many thanks to photographer Jaime Lázaro.

What Ifs

By Herm Weaver, Conference Minister

These are the opening paragraphs of Herm's sermon given on Sunday morning of Annual Assembly. To read the entire sermon, go to the MSMC website, http://mountainstates.mennonite.net/Events/Annual_Assembly/Sermon

This is an edited version of what I worked from at the Assembly. I am hesitant to put it out there because it is not unusual for me to wander around a bit when I am speaking. I am also so aware that I don't have the inside track on truth. Still, some have asked for this so here it is, offered as perhaps a conversation piece among us. herm



This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it! AMEN. In the midst of an avalanche of love and goodness that is flowing our way along with an onslaught of anxiety and fear from many directions in the past year, we continue to believe that God is able to do abundantly exceedingly more than we can ask or think or even IMAGINE, with us. We're not talking about anyone else here, we're talking about God being able to do abundantly exceedingly more than we can ask or think or even imagine with us, because we are the ones in need. And we continue to believe that God who has begun a great work within us will continue with us until it is completed, so **this is the day that the Lord has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Partnership, on earth as it is in heaven. Thanks to the Hmong Mennonite Church and to Glennon Heights Mennonite Church for a wonderful assembly. And thanks to Karen Cox for her good leadership. It is so good to be here, so good to be here! I have looked forward to this day for many months now. I remember back in 2006 when I first spoke to the Assembly down in Glorieta New Mexico, I acknowledged that I was the stranger in the room on that day and I was looking forward to the day when I would be one of you. As I look around the room today and see so many of you that I have grown to love and who have loved me I am nothing but humbled in deep gratitude to be one of you. A few weeks back I was watching some of the ESPY's. It is an award show sort of like the Oscars except the awards go to athletes for their accomplishments. Stuart Scott is a beloved sportscaster who is dying of cancer and he received some sort of award and his speech after receiving the award was heartfelt and real. I think it is that way when you acknowledge your days of living on this earth are coming to an end. He said and I quote "Everyday I am reminded that it is the people in our lives that are our greatest gifts." My guess is that perhaps we could all easily say that but when Stuart said it, it was clear he meant it. It is the way that I feel this morning, I'm reminded that you, the people in my life are my

greatest gift. Thank you so much for the awesome privilege of living and working among you these past 8 years, especially this past year. It has been and continues to be a huge gift to me and a testament to the faithfulness of God among us. God has been with us, God loves us, God loves you, and I love you too. Thank you.

Partnership, on earth as it is in heaven. There could be many things that we could speak about here today; many many things have taken place since we last met. I've asked lots of folks, "What should be said on a day like today," It was an honest question that received very little response other than, "that is for you to figure out." Since our decision to license Theda, there has been much conversation. There are times when I've been so grateful, so grateful, and there are times when we've all been disappointed and saddened. I am aware of the invitation in our Holy Scriptures to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. In the past months that is a lot of what our work has been given too, and sometimes it happens within the same 5 minute block, rejoicing and weeping. Here we are today, some are rejoicing with exceedingly great joy feeling like we have become more faithful to the call of Jesus in being the people of God, some are weeping, feeling shut down and shut out, not heard, disrespected, feeling like we are straying from being the people of God, so that even here in this worship space this morning we are invited to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

But the question remained, should we speak about the deep gratitude, or should we focus on the disappointments? Should we speak about the fact that some of us didn't sign up for this race, this marathon? Perhaps none of us anticipated the many joys and frustrations that accompany the marathon. Should we let our frustrations out, or should we speak about how we have all been held by the prayers of so many who have loved us regardless of our belief or position. We have all been held and loved and we all rest in the love and grace of Almighty God who has created each one of us in the image and likeness of God, so much so, that I can hardly help myself, when I see any one of you, it is like looking in the face of God.

Read more at http://mountainstates.mennonite.net/Events/Annual_Assembly/Sermon

2014 Delegate Session Summary

By Karen Cox, Conference Moderator

Here's a summary of reports and actions taken at the Delegate Session at our 2014 MSMC Annual Assembly... Many thanks to those who served as Delegates representing your Congregations!

Herm led singing (always good!). Leadership Board Member Wilmer Villacorta gave testimony to having witnessed partnerships in MSMC that have been beyond his wildest imagination...

MSMC SEED Committee members reported on connections that they are making with all kinds of great groups! See their report at <http://mountainstates.mennonite.net:/AnnualAssembly/2014%20SEED%20Report.pdf>

Other Committees' members were recognized. You can look at Staff and Committee reports at http://www.mountainstatesmc.org/Events/Annual_Assembly/Delegate_Information Much good work is being done on behalf of the Conference and in pursuit of our vision!



Nominees (from current Leadership Board) were presented for slate to fill out next year's Leadership Board. Arnie Miller introduced nominee Phil Rosenberger. Jeremy Yoder introduced Nelda Rhodes Thelin (who will complete the term vacated by John Stoltzfus). Paula Brunk Kuhns introduced Mike Martin (who will be voted on by email ballots in the coming weeks). Carlene Hill and Karen Cox were listed as current members willing to serve second terms. Delegates affirmed the slate (94% yes votes).

Rita Balzer was introduced by Leadership Board member Ellen Fox as the nominee for a new Treasurer. Delegates affirmed Rita's appointment (100% yes votes).

Sojourn Mennonite Church of Fort Collins was introduced by Herm Weaver as seeking full partnership/membership as a congregation in MSMC. Delegates affirmed their joining (94% yes votes).

As Moderator, I reported that Perryton Mennonite Church has asked to be released from MSMC to join South Central Mennonite Conference. Leadership Board has, with sadness, granted this request. (See additional article this issue for more details, including a description of our 'farewell' service together.)

Corbin Graber shared info about Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp's year and upcoming plans. How fortunate we are to have this camp in our backyard! Delegates affirmed renewal of Camp Board Member Jean Spicher for an additional term.

A proposed Spending/Income Plan for 2015 approved by Leadership Board was presented by our Stewardship Council member Winston Yost (via video) and by Leadership Board Rep to Stewardship Council Ellen Fox. See <http://mountainstates.mennonite.net:/AnnualAssembly/2014%20Proposed%202015%20Budget.pdf> for the plan. Delegates affirmed the plan (96% yes votes).

I gave a report as a status update of conversations within the Conference and around the Denomination with respect to the controversy surrounding our MSMC Leadership's decision to license Theda Good. The quick update is that conversations are ongoing. Read my full report at <http://mountainstates.mennonite.net:/msmc%20delegate%20report%202014.pdf>

If you have further questions/comments, feel free to contact me at karen@bouldermennonite.org.

Who Were Those Groups?

By Karen Cox, Conference Moderator



During our Sunday morning Assembly worship, three congregations were recognized as 'becoming new' in some way in their partnering with Mountain States Mennonite Conference.

Living Light of Peace (formerly Arvada Mennonite Church) shared of a Transformation in their life together as a faith community. Jeni Hielt Umble is serving as pastor. "Our name says it all: **We are Alive/Living!** We strive to be a **Light** in our community. We are committed to **Peace** and Justice," says Jeni.

Alive With Grace Fellowship is a newly formed faith community in Pueblo, Colorado. Dave Foncannon is serving as pastor. Dave says, "Many of us are people who have been hurt by church. Your grace, hospitality and love have been a healing presence for us. We want to be a place of healing and hope." Member Alison Asbury asks, "Why would anyone not want to be a part of y'all? The way I see you living out your faith and the love you've shown to us is the kind of church I want my children to experience." The MSMC Leadership Board granted Alive with Grace 'church plant' status in our Conference about a year ago.

Sojourn Mennonite Church has asked to become a full partner/member congregation in MSMC after having been a part of the Conference as a Church Plant in Ft. Collins, CO for the past year and a half. Pastors are Susan and Steve Ortman Goering, who have returned to MSMC after serving Columbus Mennonite Church in Ohio. "Most of the folks in our congregation did not grow up Mennonite; most would not be connected to a faith community if we were not there. We are grateful to Mountain States for their support and encouragement as we continue to discover what it means to be faithful in our community," says Susan.

Those gathered for the Assembly worship welcomed these new partners with hands raised in a gesture of a 'welcome wave' and a gesture of 'blessing', sharing these words: "We welcome you to Mountain States Mennonite Conference! We pray God's blessings on you; may Christ's love surround you. We look forward to partnering with you as we together pursue God's dreams by the power of the Holy Spirit in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen!"



Denver Couple Receives Everence Journey Award

[news release from Everence]

Denver, Colorado – Merv and Ardith Eigsti have been named the recipients of the national Journey Award from Everence, which was presented Sunday, August 3. Their four children accepted the award on behalf of their parents during the MSMC Annual Assembly Sunday morning worship service.

This award recognizes Eigsti's abundant hospitality to people of all races and nationalities in their hometown of Denver. They are models of how ordinary people can give their time and share their home with so many diverse individuals including immigrants, new neighbors and church attendees.

"Merv and Ardith have lived a life so full of giving that for many in the communities with which they interact they have become the very definition of humble generosity," said Betsy Headrick McCrae, Glennon Height Pastor.

Created in 2001, the Journey Award highlights what people of faith are doing as stewards of their God-given gifts. As a part of the award, Everence made a \$5,000 donation to the charities of their choice.

We said “Yes”

Ardith Eigsti as told to Randy Landis-Eigsti

When Pastor Betsy first told us she wanted to submit our names for this award, we were quite hesitant. We are well aware that there are many people who are very generous (including many people in our church), and we just didn't feel comfortable calling attention to our own stewardship. When Betsy persisted, however, and pointed out that stories of stewardship can inspire others to think about using their time and resources for the work of the church, and that receiving the award would give us the opportunity to make gifts to agencies we support, we agreed to tell her our story. We were surprised when Betsy told us we had been given the award. There is nothing remarkable about us.

Our story, in fact, is pretty ordinary. We both grew up in homes where stewardship was modeled. Ardith's parents, John and Ada Wagler, were very generous, welcoming strangers into their home, sharing produce from their garden, and giving faithfully to the church. Merv's parents, Emery and Edna Eigsti, also lived out their faith with generous giving. Denver experienced a high influx of Mennonites during the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and Emery and Edna welcomed many of them into their home. In fact, we bet there are some in our conference today who can tell a story of receiving the gift of lodging and meals from them. Emery and Edna also gave faithfully to the church.

In our home community of Wayland, Iowa, a load of coal was delivered each year to the homes of some of the widows in the community. No one knew who paid for it; they were simply told it came from an 'anonymous donor.' It was years later, after his death, that we learned it was Merv's grandpa, Jacob Wenger, who was behind this gift. We were inspired by this story and by the example of our parents; we are grateful for that legacy.

We always viewed giving as an opportunity, not an obligation. We did not have to go out of our way to find ways to give—we simply said “yes” when opportunities presented themselves to us. For example, when the call went out to host children from Chicago on our farm as part of what was called the “Fresh Air Program,” we said yes. What joy that brought to our lives! In fact, we still get phone calls from the one of the “Fresh Air” girls who stayed with us. She is now in her 60s.

When we read the announcement in the bulletin many years ago that Jim Lawson, a blind man, needed a ride to church, we said yes. These rides led to a deeper relationship with Jim, with Merv running him on errands over his lunch hour at work, and Ardith and others in the church cleaning his apartment. Jim became part of our family.

When the call went out for someone to host international visitors through a program with Mennonite Central Committee, we said yes—twice, in fact—and this was a memorable and meaningful experience. We learned to know Ruba and Suzanne, and also learned about their homes in India and Germany. Doing activities with the trainees kept us young.

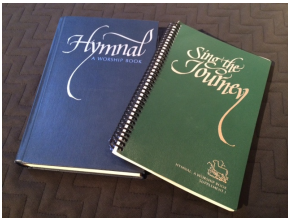
When Joanne Jantz asked Ardith to co-manage More-for-Less, a gift and thrift shop that sold fairly traded goods from artisans around the world, she said yes. When we were asked if we would sponsor refugee immigrants from Vietnam, we said yes. Merv provided transportation and support as they learned to negotiate the many challenges of living in a new country.

This award demonstrates that stewardship doesn't have to be splashy. When we were first married, we made a commitment to giving financially to the church and its institutions. What joy it brings us to look at the work of the church over the years—international relief and development, peace and justice, job creation, and education. The work of Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Mission Network, and many other agencies is possible only because many people faithfully give gifts of \$10 or \$50 or \$1000 or whatever they can, and together those gifts make it possible for them to do their work. Stewardship means not only giving time and money but saving money for a rainy day, and the Praxis Mutual Fund has allowed us to invest our money in a socially responsible way.

We are excited to be able to give our award money to the following agencies that are near and dear to our hearts: Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, Community Ministries, The Action Center, The Second Chance Center, Family Promise, and the Hopi Mission School.

We are grateful for all we have been given and all of the opportunities we have had to share with others. We hope and pray that this award serves as an inspiration to young and old.

A Message from Sojourn Mennonite Church



We've grown enough that Sojourn Mennonite in Fort Collins needs 5-10 more copies of the blue *Hymnal Worship Book* and an equal number of *Sing the Journey*. (New or used copies are fine.) We purchased some copies of *Sing the Journey* and have copies of the *Hymnal* on loan from Living Light of Peace. We want everyone who comes to worship with us to have a book, and our shoestring budget is stretched tight. Can you help us? If you know of books not being used and which might be available, please contact Pastors Steve or Susan at [970-568-8724](tel:970-568-8724). Thanks so much!

Perryton Farewell

By Ellen Fox, MSMC Leadership Board

We had been promised a "light supper", but in true Mennonite fashion, the long table was loaded with good food and at least four desserts, two of them chocolate. Herm Weaver, Karen Cox and I had arrived at Perryton Mennonite Church on the evening of July 22 to say "good-bye and be well" to the congregation, who felt that they could not sustain a member relationship with Mountain States Mennonite Conference in light of the licensing of Theda Good at First Mennonite Church. There were twelve members of the small congregation there, including the outgoing pastor, Jeff Staton, and the incoming pastor, Robert (Bob) Humphrey. As we ate dinner together, we chatted about life in the Texas panhandle -- the weather, the local economy, the daily lives of the folks who live there and in the surrounding community. Driving for hours every day is just a part of life there. Hardly anyone even lived within an hour of the church itself. But they make the effort every week to get together and share worship time.

After dinner, Herm opened the discussion with a brief prayer. Then we sang hymns -- if Herm's at a gathering, you know we'll be singing hymns and opening our hearts to the music and the Spirit. The well-worn blue hymnals were shared around the table as we harmonized (more or less). After the singing, Karen gave a meditation and asked for everyone to share their favorite Bible verse. The Perryton members shared verses about God's promises and about our need to gratefully respond to those promises with obedience.

Then came a time of listening for the three of us from the Leadership Board. The members of Perryton were invited to share their reasons and feelings surrounding leaving MSMC. We heard pain, anger, disappointment, and a sense of loss. We heard their reflections on Scripture and on the nature of Christian discernment. We also heard affirmations that their experiences with MSMC, and Herm in particular, had been valuable and that their love for the individual members of MSMC was undimmed. And we could not sit among them without loving them back, because they are kind and gentle people.

Karen presented them with a lovely banner from Ten Thousand Villages. The banner shows a tree with roots that are shared by all parts of the tree. We were all able to agree that we share roots in Christ. We offered our blessings to them as they move to join a different conference within MCUSA. The tension now dissolving, we sang some more and then chatted about the church, and were given a demonstration of their lovely new grand piano and Bob's ability to play it from his smart phone! Player pianos in the digital age -- quite a marvel.

Finally we wound up our visit with lots of hugging and warm words, and invitations to visit and share worship whenever we are back in the area. Though Perryton's conference affiliation has changed, we remain brothers and sisters in Christ, and the Spirit moves among all of us. We wish Perryton Mennonite Church all the best in their service to Christ and to their community.

Introducing Nelda Thelin



Nelda Thelin has been appointed by Leadership Board to complete *the* unfinished term of John Stoltzfus, ending December 2015.

Nelda Rhodes Thelin grew up in La Junta, CO, where she also trained as a nurse. In 1960 she graduated from Goshen College and later went to Nigeria as a midwifery tutor under Mennonite Board of Missions. As a result of the Biafran Civil War she was evacuated to Ghana where she met and married Bob Thelin.

Together they served in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, supported by the United Church of Christ and sometimes jointly by MCC. While both believed that their most important contribution was a relational ministry of acceptance and hospitality; Bob's focus was in agricultural and community development and Nelda's was in health and theological education. During their home assignments, in addition to sharing about their ministry in churches throughout the US, they pursued studies at AMBS and graduated in 1988 with M.Div. degrees. They retired in 2000 and settled in La Junta. Bob passed away suddenly in 2010.

Nelda frequently visits her two daughters and their families, who live in Indiana. Rachel and Sanjay Jivraj are in Indianapolis with their two sons, Nikhil and Ronak. Ruth and Bill Daugherty live in Bloomington, with their son, Luke Robert.

Nelda enjoys music, reading, walking, gardening and maintaining the Rhodes-Side Park in memory of her parents and grandparents. She feels passionate about ways that churches can be become involved in addressing climate change. She attends Emmanuel Mennonite Church in La Junta.

More about MCC and our Rocky Mountain MCC Relief Sale

Reflections on MCC Service

By Susan Burkholder, First Mennonite Church (*Susan and Alan Burkholder served with Mennonite Central Committee as community development volunteers from 1996-1999.*)

Each year as we grow closer to the Rocky Mountain MCC sale in Rocky Ford, Richard and I try and share information about the works of MCC. We have found it inspiring and very interesting to talk with those who have served with MCC and so hope to have some of these local people share a small piece of their story with you. Our first offering is from Susan and Allen Burkholder. Please see the following essay. Looking forward to seeing all of you the 17th and 18th of October in Rocky Ford. ~ Linda and Richard Wyse

Lehman's Hardware, well known for its sprawling store in Kidron, Ohio and selling non-electric appliances to the Amish across the country through its mail order catalog, includes an appeal for Mennonite Central Committee in its December catalog, which it then matches. One year the appeal featured me and Alan, saying, "Alan and Susan Burkholder could have gotten high-powered jobs in a big city somewhere. They could be driving BMWs and doing lunch at the club. But instead they are shoveling mud, walking through a rainforest to work each day, and completing large complicated projects with little or no resources". We laughed when we read that, wondering if either of those scenarios really rang true. They sure made MCC seem rugged and adventurous, although most of the time to us it seemed like just plain old hard work. Sometimes as we trudged 3 hours through the sulul (K'ekchi word for mud, tellingly one of the first K'ekchi words we learned) to a community for a couple days of meetings and trainings, we would stop and look up at the view and remind ourselves that people pay good money to go on vacation to do the things we do. But lucky us got paid \$60/month spending money to do this! What a privilege.

Some thought it was a sacrifice for a young couple fresh out of college and grad school to volunteer for three years during our early career-building years. But it was truly a privilege. Our desire to serve in Guatemala alongside the poor, disenfranchised, rural, indigenous Mayans was inspired by our family, college, and church experiences and teachings about service in the name of Christ. But let's be honest. It was also inspired by the idea of "walking through a rainforest to work each day" and sense of adventure and, quite frankly, the good career fit of our service positions. So although we shared and received many intangible things, like hospitality, an awareness of God's work in the world, and cultural understandings of work, leadership, and community, we also shared and received many tangible benefits. We helped villages build and run community resources like cardamom driers, and in turn we young professionals gained invaluable skills in facilitation, planning, training, developing solutions together with end users, designing within multiple constraints, and collaborating with people of diverse skills and abilities, to list just a few.

We return to stories and examples of those tangible benefits often in our work. But the intangible things we learned and experienced are what we hope still influence our lives as parents, community leaders, and global citizens. I think our girls are beginning to understand that the choices we make on how to spend our money has something to do with our time in Guatemala. But will they ever truly understand the complex economic and political forces at work that allow them a place of privilege in this world? And when I feel conflicted about the very American drive to be productive, can I draw from our experience in Guatemala and remember the value of relationships? It was the fact that we ate with them that the village members appreciated more than any work we performed. And every time I take communion I remember Tita, a Guatemalan colleague who felt she had to ask for our forgiveness about some workplace conflicts before being able to

participate in a Mayan religious ceremony. Do I really pay attention to daily and religious rituals in my own life that can nurture an open and forgiving heart? How can I continue to incorporate our experiences from Guatemala in our everyday lives? It is a constant challenge, but also a privilege to attempt.

An item for the MCC Auction: Willems Antique

The Willems Antique pocket watches shows a Dutch Anabaptist saving the life of his drowning persecutor.



This pocket watch with cover is entirely Swiss made (case and movement). It is intended both for collectors or to be worn daily. The case of the Willems Antique model features a medallion representing one of the most famous pictures from the Martyrs Mirror corresponding to the story of Dirk Willems, an early Dutch Anabaptist, who saves his drowning persecutor. This act of love will cost him his life. The case of this pocket watch comes in old silver shade. The back is finely chiseled. This timepiece is equipped with a mechanical movement, the time-tested 16½" 6498 UT 17 Jws Incabloc. It is available with Arabic or

Roman numerals.



Quilted Histories Exhibit

Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Mountain States Mennonite Relief Sale.

August 16 - September 27, 2014

**John W Rawlings Heritage
Center and Museum**

Quilted Histories...

Voices Past and Present

This unique Exhibition Showcases
Southeast Colorado Quilters...Their Heritage, Stories and Their Art

Saturday Special Events

August 16

11 am - 4 pm Admission \$15 (Includes Luncheon)

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, "The Quilt That Walked to Golden"

August 23

11 am - 4 pm Admission \$15 (Includes Luncheon)

"Piecemaker Quilts Trunk Show", Jan Hussey, Denver

September 6

Noon - 4 pm Admission \$8

Quilting Demos - Hand Quilting, Free Motion, Paper Piecing & More

560 Bent Ave, Las Animas, Colorado

Other Show Dates \$3 Admission Noon-4Pm Tues - Sat

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ZING! can be viewed on the website.

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News from:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP



Family Camps

It was another great year for Family Camps! Families traveled far and wide to come to camp, representing the states of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Maryland! A total of 83 families (285 campers) enjoyed gathering together for hikes, capture the flag, tie-dye, worship, fellowship, and lots of fun. Pictured to the right is Bob, Brenda, Ben and Sarah Toews and Sami Gross. "[Family Camp was] wonderful - we all had a fun time and will take so many special memories with us." "We love family camp - there is something for everyone. Great people, great space, great input!"



Pleiades Groundbreaking



A groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 20 for RMMC's Vision 2020 project, a new Pleiades and Infirmary building. For more photos of this occasion visit RMMC's facebook page.

The first to turn the earth and represent different parts to this project are (left to right): Lauren Weaver (present Pleiades resident), Ardell Swartzendruber (project contractor), Tom Unruh (capital project coordinator), Ed Shirk (board president), Mary Yoder (past Pleiades resident), Kathryn Schmidt (a hopeful future Pleiades resident), Ned Wyse (present need and future growth of programs), and Corbin Graber (executive director).

Volunteers & Donors Needed



The time has come to tear down and immediately following will be the time to build up for the Pleiades building project. We are looking for volunteers to help take down the Pleiades and Infirmary facilities beginning for the next two weeks (Aug 4-16). The digger is arriving the week of August 18 to begin digging the foundation. PLEASE consider your schedule and help us be ready to begin the excavation. Time is of the essence as we need to complete the foundation before the first freeze September 15 (typical).

Additional help in Kitchen and housekeeping is needed as a result of Mary Yoder's back injury. Mary is starting to feel better but still needs time to heal. We are asking for two to four volunteers to help with kitchen and housekeeping needs on August 13-15 and August 29-September 1 (Labor Day weekend).

If you are unable to volunteer, donors are equally critical in completing this project. We will need \$225,000 to complete this project and avoid the need for a loan (and additional interest expense). Our goal is to have the facility ready in time for the 2015 camping season.

You've Been Spotted!

We spotted Brenda Musselman (New Holland, PA) wearing her RMMC sweatshirt. Brenda, along with her husband Dave, were touring the Cappadocia area in Turkey. Thanks, Brenda, for sharing RMMC with Turkey! Share your "spotted" photo with us. Email it to jenelle@rmmc.org



Mark Your Calendars

August 29-31	Peace Mennonite Community Church Retreat
September 5-7	Glennon Heights Mennonite Church Retreat
September 12-14	Beth-El Mennonite Church Retreat
September 19-21	First Mennonite Church Denver Retreat
September 26-28	Mountain Community Mennonite Church Retreat