

# The Burning

OF THE FRANKLIN MENNONITE MISSION BOARD

## Bush

November 11, 2018

Volume LV Number 2



The Belize Evangelical Mennonite Church Scholarship Fund, founded by Eberly in 2014, provides \$200 to \$250 scholarships (the equivalent of 400 to 500 Belize dollars) to secondary students who attend Mennonite churches. Secondary education is not free or compulsory in Belize, and according to a 2017 study by UNICEF, 27 percent of girls and 30 percent of boys do not enroll in school past the primary level. The cost of high school varies widely, from around \$300 per year to \$3,000 (USD).

## Former Mission Worker to Belize Provides Scholarships for Belizean Secondary Students

The letters students send in when they apply for the scholarship share glimpses into their challenges and dreams. “I’m the child of a single parent who goes the extra mile to en-

For Miriam Eberly, a former Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) worker in Belize, her scholarship fund for Belizean secondary students is a way to invest in the future of the country that captured her heart over 50 years ago.

On a trip to Belize, Miriam Eberly (center) visits with scholarship recipients who attend New Jerusalem Mennonite Church in Duck Run, Belize. Students, left to right: Merari Gonzalez, Patricia Gonzales, Jennifer Estrada, and Sally Padilla.



In Libertad, Belize, scholarship recipients Justin Chacon, Walter Chacon, Jomar Reina, Jadira Chacon, and Coraima Aguilar stand with Miriam Eberly.



sure that I have all my school supplies. I know it’s very difficult and expensive for her. If given a scholarship, I will do my best to pass,” wrote applicant Jomar Reina of Libertad Village.

“My goals for now are to graduate and then be able to go to Bible college. One day I also hope to become a missionary in India,” wrote Sally Padilla of Cayo. “Some of what that these kids write is amazing,” said Eberly, a member of Witmer Heights Mennonite Church in Lancaster, PA.

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When evaluating applications, Eberly said she takes financial need, Mennonite church attendance and participation, leadership potential, and educational excellence into account. Scholarships are distributed through EMM.

The number of students who receive scholarships varies each year; in the 2017–2018 school year, it is 20. At first, the scholarships came entirely from Eberly’s personal savings — she described it as “part of my tithing.”

In 1964, Eberly was working as a nurse in Strasburg, Pa., when she was invited to a missionary training institute in Philadelphia to prepare her for overseas missions. “They asked me to go to British Honduras, and I said ‘Where’s that?’”. British Honduras was then eight years away from being renamed “Belize” during the process of gaining independence from Britain.

Eberly’s love for Belize did not come right away. But as Eberly served two terms in Belize between 1965 and 1976, her affection for the country grew. Her first as-

signment in Orange Walk Town was at a 12-bed hospital. “After I learned to like it, I wanted to spend the rest of my working career there,” she said.

Eberly hears from scholarship recipients who were able to graduate from high school and go on to pursue their goals. However, Eberly pointed out that not every student is financially able to further their education after high school.

Recalling special moments of her 2016 trip to Belize, Eberly remembered meeting scholarship recipients Merari Gonzalez, Patricia Gonzales, Jennifer Estrada, and Sally Padilla at New Jerusalem Mennonite Church in Duck Run, Belize. As they posed for a picture together, Eberly said in Spanish, “My daughters.” “Nuestra mama (our mother),” they responded, as the camera captured the moment.

Inquiries about the Belize Evangelical Mennonite Church Scholarship Fund can be sent to [bemcsf@gmail.com](mailto:bemcsf@gmail.com).

Emily Jones  
EMM

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## TREASURED FRIEND - FAITHFUL SERVANT

Let me introduce you to an interesting but obscure man, who faithfully served in the Shady Pine Church as our ‘Treasurer’ for 23 years. Up until Robert Coady so willingly accepted this position, the care of church finances was included in the deacon’s role.

Before locating to Path Valley in 1974, Robert served six years in the Air National Guard centered in University Park near Penn State. After receiving a BS degree in Forest Technology in 1969, he worked for the PA Game Commission as Field Forester. Robert’s responsibilities included timber mapping and inventory of



Elisabeth and Robert Coady

forests by species, size and volume. From this data, Forest Management Plans were written for the State Game Lands and

many timber sales were executed. The sales were carried out by logging companies and overseen by both the Field and Regional Forester.

Robert was diagnosed with MS in 1981 and retired from the Game Commission on disability in 1987. After his retirement, he had his own forestry consulting business for about four years. The disease continued to progress causing difficulty in mobility, so Robert used scooters and canes until he got his first motorized wheelchair in 2006.

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Robert's wife, Elisabeth, worked as an RN in Franklin County approximately 25 years. She also was a faithful caregiver at times for her husband. Robert and Elisabeth have two daughters, Rachel (b. 1975) and Diana (b. 1981).

Robert attended the Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ and Elisabeth came from Society of Friends' worship backgrounds. Elisabeth began attending the Shady Pine Women's Bible Study and was attracted by the examples of Jesus' love and the 'peace' testimony of the Mennonite Church. The Coady's helped in the transporting of their daughters and children from other Path Valley families to Shalom Christian Academy. The girls

were involved in the youth group and eventually we were blessed to have Robert and Elisabeth become members of Shady Pine in 1991.

When he became treasurer, Robert was trained by previous deacon, Glenn Wise. He was articulate and steady—used a lead pencil with eraser, 'figuring' sums from the paper and his sharp mind, eventually using a solar calculator. He consistently kept up with payments by check, account balances, investments, reports and attended the financial meetings.

Robert always has a 'dimpled' smile especially if his Phillies or Penn State teams had a good game—a wonderful sense

of humor and loved to hear or pass on a clean joke or brainteaser. He is inquisitive, excited to learn and has interesting conversation with others. Robert enjoys their small flock of sheep and is a life-long member of the Franklin County Beekeepers Association.

Faithful in his service to the church and his Lord, Robert has laid his pencil with eraser and calculator aside for the technology of computer and QuickBooks programs. Our congregation is blessed by Robert and Elisabeth as we continue to fellowship and serve together in our church and community.

Freda Neil  
Shady Pine Mennonite

## Kenyan Pastor Multiplies Grant by 4,000 percent

CHEPILAT, Kenya — In 2015, Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) gave a \$250 grant to Kenyan pastor and entrepreneur, Kefa Moirore, to fund his business, Loafstar Bakery. "The amount has multiplied like the 'loaves of bread and fish' in the Bible," said Moirore, allowing him to acquire a plot of land worth 1 million Kenyan shillings (about \$10,000).

"With that seed money, he has been able to expand his business — and subsequently, his self-funded ministry," said Debbi DiGennaro, EMM's regional representative for East Africa.

This property, located in Chepilat's market center, provides space for Moirore's business, housing for some youth who previously lived on the street and a temporary location for the Chepilat Mennonite Church.

In 2015, EMM and All Nations, an internation-

al leadership-training and church-planting network, led a training for church leaders in this region. Trainers provided resourcing on "simple church" multiplication. Moirore reflected on this event, "The training was great and we were blessed with a lot of knowledge which has influenced the way I am doing my normal church activities."



Street families in Kisii enjoy a meal that Kefa Moirore provided.

This training led Moirore to focus on ministry to street families. "I realized that the street families are one of the unreached people groups in the society who need a lot of attention. They have been forgotten by the church and the governments," said Moirore.

Kevin Nyangaresi works at Loafstar Bakery. Here, he is making doughnuts.

From his self-funded ministry, Moirore has provided food and clothing for street families. At times, he has helped the youth learn "some income-generating activities



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instead of begging on the streets.” This has included selling coffee and paper bags in the streets.

Moirore offers an opportunity for some youth to work in the bakery, where they are paid like other employees. “They can learn how to bake doughnuts the way I do in my bakery,” Moirore shared. He hopes that when the young men conclude their employment, they will have the skills to operate businesses of their own. He also disciples the young men on how to become God-loving Christians, good citizens and self-reliant.

Currently meeting on Moirore’s property, the Chepilat Mennonite Church hopes to eventually have a site of its own. The temporary structure has a polyethylene roof, which “is very hot during sunny days and becomes uncomfortable to stay in for worship,” said Moirore.

The church set a goal to raise 60,000 shillings (nearly \$600) to purchase corrugated sheet metal to replace the polyethylene. After a fundraiser in August, the church still needs to raise another 40,200 shillings (nearly \$400).

When EMM gave Moirore a grant in 2015, it was stepping out in faith with this approach to multiplication. Several years later, Moirore’s business is flourishing, and as a result, the church in Chepilat is meeting needs in its community.

Micah Brickner, EMM

Photos provided by Kefa Moirore.



## Cedar Grove

Sharon Eby

The fall traditionally offers opportunity of working together and having a good time at Cedar Grove. A group of very ambitious and brave, young and older men, as well as a very brave young lady met on Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13 to dismantle and replace a house roof in Maugansville. They were energized on Saturday morning by first meeting at the church for a delicious pancake breakfast, some leaving with donuts in their pockets to get them through the day.

Usually we are busy preparing for an annual event the first Thursday in November, but with the last WMSC-sponsored bazaar in 2017, other fundraiser events fill the gap and add to the good times at Cedar Grove, while still keeping in mind the needs of our global community. On Saturday evening, November 3, Judy Miner invited us all to share one of her home-cooked meals and make a contribution to MCC.

## Community

Ronda Clemmer

Community Mennonite Church continues to be a “lighthouse of worship” along a busy Maryland highway. Our close-knit fellowship continues to thrive and grow in relationship with the Lord.

Our attendance has dropped by a few, as some have moved out of the area. We continue to pray that others will come to support our church group and to fulfill the mission Jesus gave his disciples to “go into all the world and preach the gospel.”

Our next Christmas Acapella Hymn Sing is scheduled for December 9 and will begin with a Christmas Piano Recital at 6:15 pm, followed by a fellowship time. You are welcome to bring a dozen homemade cookies to share.

## Chambersburg

Peter Zucconi

Thom Gardner had special meetings at CMC on October 12-13. His four timely topics focused on the extravagant depths of God’s love.

Treasure Seekers children’s ministry has started again on Wednesday evenings. Using the world of science, biblical principles are taught with zest and zeal. At the same time, a study on the Book of Ephesians is occurring for adults.

The Lord has blessed us with a nice church facility. We are glad that we can share it with various Christian ministries as the site to host various fund-raising and informative dinner meetings. Fall is an especially busy time. Recent ministries using the facilities included the KMM ministry in India, the CVRC, WPFPG Christian radio, Chambersburg Hospital Chaplaincy Program and the Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry. The Acclamation Chorale, a 25+ member, Anabaptist, acapella choir, based in Canada, recently gave a program also.

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## Mercersburg

Rhonda Hunsecker

With fall comes the opportunity to serve with Migrant Camp Ministry. Several folks from our congregation visited the Quincy Orchard each week. Time is spent singing praise choruses and hymns, having a devotional, playing Bingo and sharing a snack. The men are from Mexico so singing is done in both English and Spanish. Mr. Robert Flory leads both the singing and devotional. We all sing along the best we can in each other's language but a bond is made because we are singing to the same God who understands all languages. We also collected blankets, sweatshirts, jackets and hats for them. These fellows will soon be finished at the orchard and our time with them will be over. Our prayer is that they have seen the love of Christ in our lives as we interacted with them and that they choose to live their lives for Him, whether here in the US or at home in Mexico.



## North Side

Jeannie Wise St.Clair

The crisp air of autumn has arrived, finally. Northside had an eventful October. The first Saturday of the month, the church hosted a yard sale for the McComas Street neighborhood. The weather was overcast with the threat of rain, and the sale was poorly attended. However, that was not the case during YROC 's (Youth Reaching Others for Christ) performance on the 14th, when they gave a wonderful program of skits with a Christ-centered theme.

We missed our Pastor Gary Zook and his wife Teresa. They were off for refreshment during the month. In the meantime, our pulpit guests were noteworthy! Pastor Allen Lehman spoke the first Sunday of the month, Terry Land, a Gideon speaker, brought the message on October

14. Our own Roger Martin spoke from the heart on the third Sunday. Last, but not least, Adrian Black, from the Children's Ministries at the Rescue Mission preached October 28.



## Pleasant View

Helen Martin

Which chili tastes the best? Is it the spicy or the mild? Needless to say, the mild chili won. Our intergenerational activity was a chili cook-off. After the voting, we were able to eat our favorite chili along with cornbread and dessert.

October began a busy time here at church. We had a carnival, where 75 children and their parents attended. There were games, balloons, bounce house and food. This was the kickoff for Kids' Club which started the following week. It was a good day and the weather cooperated. We also have a Women's Interest Group, Junior and Senior Youth, Men's Bible Study and Prayer Meeting that meet on Wednesday evenings also.

Friend's Day, who will you invite? Pastor Allen Eshleman challenged us to invite friends who have never gone to church or are looking for a church. A free book was given to first time visitors, followed by a fellowship meal.



## Salem Ridge

Cheryl Frey

Our first men's breakfast for the season was well attended. These are held the first Saturday morning of each month from October thru March. Our 5th Sunday Fellowship evening was also well attended on September 30. It was a fun evening of playing games, snacking and visiting.

We had a meaningful communion service on September 30. On October 7, Hugh Davis brought the message for Pastor Brian Emery who was away for a few days with his family.

A group of twelve men are gearing up for a mission trip to San Pablo, Belize, January 1-10, 2019. They will continue working on the same church building where they laid the foundation two years ago.



## Shady Pine

Evelyn Runk

We enjoyed hearing reports from Logan and Leah Hall, brother and sister, 9 and 11 years old, who gave a report about attending Cove Valley Camp this summer, which they thoroughly enjoyed!

A youth class has been started with Steve Brown and Tina Neil teaching. They are excited to start this new venture and expect great things to come.

Christina Ives, aunt to Hannah Neil, who went to be with Jesus last year, distributed ten bags for Hannah's Hands. This was a dream of Hannah's, to give goody bags to those who are suffering serious illnesses and those in the ICU. Mary Ellen Gipe helped with this project as she works closely with these patients. It is an awesome project as many of the children greatly enjoy these bags.

Folks from fifteen different churches enjoyed an evening at Sight & Sound to see the production of *JESUS*. It was good fellowship traveling together on the bus.





# *Eight Little Words:* How God Led a Mennonite Farm Boy to a Remote Town in Nepal

*Editor's note: Otho Horst heard and responded to God's call to missions and service more than sixty years ago. As we read and reflect on Otho's account, may we be sensitive and obedient to God's call on our lives today.*

The sun had not yet peeked over the horizon when Otho walked down the stairs of the Eby home the morning of July 5, 1952, to find Lula in the kitchen.

"How's Raymond?" he asked, knowing she had spent the night with him at the hospital. Tears slipped down her tired face. "Raymond left us last night."

Otho could find no words to say in response. Anger rose in him as he walked out the door to the barn. Normally, he called the cows to come in for milking while he put feed in the troughs. By the time he was finished, the cows would be there eating and ready to be milked. But that morning he was too enraged to call them. He poured feed in the troughs and walked

out to the field to bring them in. Angry thoughts churned in his head as he strode along. He hardly noticed the pasture with its rocks and trees surrounding him.

Suddenly he cried out bitterly to the empty field, "God, why did you take Raymond? His wife and children need him. Why didn't you take me?"

He didn't expect an answer. But as soon as the words left his mouth, a clear voice answered, "Raymond's work is finished, but I still have work for you to do."

No one was there. He was still surrounded only by the pasture and its rocks and trees. To this day Otho couldn't say if it was an audible voice he heard. But he had no doubt—in that moment or since—that it was God speaking to him. His anger and rage left immediately, and a great

peace washed over him.

Those eight little words, "I still have work for you to do," became God's calling on his life and would inspire him from that moment on.

\*\*\*

Otho Horst was nineteen years old when he had this life-changing experience while working as a hired man for his cousin Lula and her husband, Raymond

Eby. *Eight Little Words* is the story of God leading Otho from the Mennonite farming community of Washington County, Maryland, to Nepal and later to other locations of ministry

and service. Through joining Mennonite Central Committee's Pax Service, Otho was first stationed in Germany to help rebuild homes after WWII and then in Tansen, Nepal, to help build a new hospital. After returning to the States, Otho pastored Gaithersburg Mennonite Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, for 30 years.

While *Eight Little Words* covers Otho's life to its publication in 2018, it focuses mostly on his years growing up near Clear Spring, Maryland, and those he spent in Nepal from 1956-1959. Desiring to preserve the stories they loved hearing Otho tell over the years, the book is authored by Otho's daughter Fern Horst and granddaughter Alyssa Reitz.

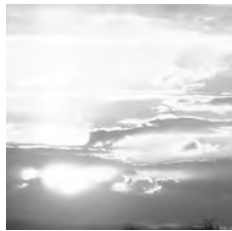
*Eight Little Words* can be ordered from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or by mailing a check or money order for \$22 (includes shipping) to Otho Horst, PO Box 606, Bealeton, VA 22712.



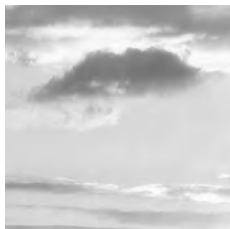
## THE ANNUAL BEZALEEL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

The fundraising banquet for the Bezaleel School in Guatemala will be held on Thursday, December 6, at Chambersburg Mennonite Church. Music and hors d'oeuvres begin at 5:30 pm, and the meal will be served at 6:15.

*Stories in Shine focus on how God gave guidance or made provision or interceded in our lives. We hope, that in the future, you will be willing to share your story with Burning Bush readers.*



SHINE



## *The Fire at Scotland Campus*

*It all began in December 2017 when life-long friend, Dick Diller, called together a group of leaders across the Cumberland Valley to hear Vaughn Martin speak about the themes of his book, Escaping Religion. The Holy Spirit guided us step by step, including a four day Holy Spirit and Fire Conference at Scotland Campus, Scotland, PA, January 18-21, 2018, where Vaughn Martin and Alejandro Colindres spoke powerfully.*

*The Holy Spirit then directed us to have three separate seminars and evangelistic meetings at Scotland Campus on March 31, May 5 and June 2, 2018, led by Alejandro Colindres and team. Allen Lehman, Overseer of Franklin Mennonite District, and I led several prayer meetings with area leaders in preparation for these meetings.*

*Throughout these various meetings and over the past six months the Holy Spirit has consistently said one thing: "I am starting a fire in the Cumberland Valley which shall spread to the East and West and to the North and South."*

*We had expected larger attendances but the Spirit said: "I start with ready kindling; do not judge what I am doing by the initial numbers. Continue to seek my face and you will see my glory revealed in the Cumberland Valley."*

*Many of those in attendance testified to the life-changing impact of the meetings. Some experienced healings and some a new anointing of the Holy Spirit's power and presence. It was clear that the Fire was starting. Below is one story of the Holy Spirit's moving.*

Enos Daniel Martin  
Hershey, PA

On the last evening of the last meeting on June 2, the Holy Spirit moved in a powerful way on a young woman. And the Fire burned brightly.

I had known this young woman for several years. It was clear on meeting her that God had a special destiny for her. However, she had a severe and devastating alcohol addiction that robbed her of life and hope. She had been in essentially every alcohol rehabilitation program in the region without sustained effect. She knew all the recovery teaching so well that she could have taught it. She had several scraps with the law. Nothing changed.

She had been prayed and prophesied over and had gone through deliverance ministry. She was taught and counseled and disciplined. My wife and I even invited her into our home where she lived for the better part of a year, but nothing changed. I admit that I sometimes struggled with the thought that this young woman would never change. Nevertheless, I called her and strongly encouraged

her to come to Scotland Campus for the meetings. But in spite of expressing the desire to come, something always came up to prevent her coming.

It was clear that we were in spiritual warfare for the soul of this young woman. Ruth and I continued to pray for her deliverance. Finally, on June 2, 2018, at 7 pm., she walked into the meeting at Scotland Campus, looking harried and distressed.

Following is her testimony:

"For as long as I can remember, I suffered from intense depression and anxiety. I turned to alcohol for relief in my adult years. But the oppression of addiction wreaked such havoc on my life, that the thought of death became a comfort to me. I had also been living with chronic pain and a loss of strength in my hands for years. During the months leading up to the Encounter Retreat at Scotland Campus, the pain had spread to my feet, my back, and nearly every joint in my body. Numerous tests revealed little to explain the debilitating functioning of my body. Specialists and doctors could only speculate, but gave no concrete reasons for what I was experiencing.

Desperate for a miracle, I attended the Encounter Retreat led by Alejandro Colindres and team on June 2, 2018, at Scotland, PA. I was fed up with my life and willing to go to any length to stop the suffering.

The information I received at the Retreat was inspiring, and it encouraged me greatly, but at the close of Alejandro's message, as I stood up to leave, I found that Jesus had more in store for me that day.

It all began as Alejandro approached and laid hands on me, praying fervently for a downpour of the Holy Spirit's fire. He prayed for my feet, hands, neck, back

Cont. on p. 8

Cont. from p. 7

and every joint, ligament, and bone in my body to come under complete and perfect health and alignment.

I felt a burning heat going up and down my body, as if literal fire was being swept through me. It was a sensation I never felt before. It coursed through my veins and flowed out my pores. As it flowed through me, Alejandro called out, one by one, each age in which I experienced significant trauma in my life. He prayed for my heart and emotions to be made whole again.

How had he known? All of a sudden, as if a gentle hand descended from above, I felt each layer of unforgiveness I had been holding on to for years, slowly

being peeled back from me, and I fell down under the power of God. When I came to and stood up, all of the pain and numbness in my body was gone, and the strength in my hands was back. I felt an incredible lightness that is hard to put into words. The desire to drink was lifted from me and replaced with a desire to draw nearer to God. I knew in that moment that nothing but my unbelief could ever stand between me and His love again. God had been patiently waiting for me to receive His grace all along. I was healed!

I know that God allowed me to endure what I did in my life for a reason. He wants me to help Him help others come to understand the depth of His love for them. The encounter I experienced that

day was truly divine, but the process of God's impartation and my receiving is a lifelong dance that I must stay engaged in, lest I fall away again.

Jesus said that greater things will happen in us than ever happened in His ministry. I can only imagine what He has planned for me next. As long as I trust and believe, and remain willing to receive, there is no limit to what He can do to and through me."

Let the fire continue to fall!

submitted by,  
Allen Lehman,  
Overseer Franklin District of LMC  
Enos Daniel Martin,  
Bishop New Testament Fellowship of  
Churches



- Cambodia:** Pray for Sokhom, Mades and Dady Ezra, the leadership team of the Phnom Penh Mennonite Church, as they seek to work into the new vision God has given them. Pray for John Coats as he seeks funding and direction in responding to invitations to begin his children's ministry in new villages.
- Franklin District:** Pray for the pastors of Franklin District as they meet in their monthly Pastor Peer meetings to share and encourage each other. Pray that the Lord will lead them as they seek to minister to the needs of their congregations and reach out to their neighborhoods.
- Guatemala:** Pray for the Bezaleel graduates as they seek employment. Pray for Debbie Byler as she teaches and encourages the women's groups in the congregations of the Kekchi Mennonite Church.
- India:** Due to a shortage of building material, work was stopped at the construction sites of the educational centers in Siliguri and Midnapur. Pray that there will be adequate resources to finish these projects.
- Southeast Asia:** Pray for our team that the Lord will give them adequate language skills for teaching and sharing the Good News. Pray that the Lord will protect them from spiritual attacks of the enemy that might harm them or hinder their ministry.



### Up-Coming Events!

- Hobby Retreat – November 30 - December 2
- Primary Day Retreat (Grades K-2) – December 1
- Senior High Retreat (Grades 9-12) – January 11-13
- Junior High Retreat (Grades 6-8) – January 18-20
- Primary Retreat (Grades 3-5) – January 25-27

For more information or for a registration form, please call the camp office at (717)328-3055 or visit: [www.covevalleycamp.com](http://www.covevalleycamp.com).

### Two New Job Opportunities!

1. Program Assistant - To work with and support the Program Director in the planning of future programs of the camp including Summer Camps, Youth and Adult Retreats, Challenge Course and all items associated with Cove Valley's programs.
2. Food Service Assistant - To work with and support the Food Service Director.

If you are interested, please contact Allen Eshleman for more details: [execdirector@covevalleycamp.com](mailto:execdirector@covevalleycamp.com).



# EDITORIAL



## Who Am I?

Who am I to think less of you? Who am I to keep my heart closed to you?

**“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.” Rom. 12:10**

But you offended me. Over what, you ask?

Was it because you did not accept my opinion? Or, because at church (of all places) you refrained from greeting me last week or last month, or last year, or whoever remembers when?

**“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.” I Peter 3:8**

I remember ... and it hurt.

But how often have I hurt our Father in heaven? How often have I needed to ask His forgiveness and has He not accepted my earnest plea?

**Peter asked Jesus, “Should I forgive my brother seven times?” Jesus answered, “Not seven times Peter, but seventy times seven.” Matt. 18:21-22**

Who am I to think that I can hold you off at a distance; to keep my heart’s door closed? But SELF, so deeply rooted, rears its ugly head once again.

**“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake have forgiven you.” Eph. 4:32**

But what about the time you did not invite us to the shore for the weekend along with all our other friends?

**“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors ... For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matt. 6:12, 14-15**

Or, what about the business meeting when you openly maligned my viewpoint?

**“Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned.” James 5:9**

But you know, you are really not our kind of people. Let’s face it ... the vehicles you drive are not very cool and the clothes you wear are stuffy and way outdated.

**“Let love be without hypocrisy . . .” Romans. 12:9**

Can you imagine Jesus saying that about us? That you or I are just not His kind of people!? That somehow we were not worthy of His love?

**“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves:”  
I Pet. 4:8a**

No, God has never said we are not His kind of people. Instead, His arms are open to us, beckoning us to love Him and love our brothers and sisters as He has loved us! May SELF be crucified!

**“He who loves God loves his brother also.” I John 5:21.**

# District Minister's Corner

## Doing Forgiveness Well

The anatomy of forgiveness is sometimes lost in the command to forgive. We forgive poorly because we have not thought through nor have we been taught the components of forgiveness.

First, one has to experience an injustice. It can be big or small. It is a painful event and has consequences. It is nothing you can just brush off and say "it doesn't matter."

Secondly, one must make a deliberate choice. You must decide to press charges, or drop your charges. When you press charges, it means you want some form of payback, a "return in kind" to the oppressor for what he/she did to you. Revenge's range can be simply not talking to them to the other extreme of murder. Typically, payback serves to escalate the injustice to another round of injustice, with relationships flying apart all over the place. When one drops their charges they agree to bear the injustice and pay for it themselves. This is totally unfair. Dropping our charges is never justice. However, it always yields peace and the potential of reconciliation



Sin bearing is the third component of Christian forgiveness. It is the most important part of forgiveness and most overlooked. The Bible says that Christ bore the consequences of our sins on the cross (Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 2:24; Is. 53:6,12). The profound words, "Father, forgive them..." (Lu. 23:34) are effectively saying, "I am paying for their sins and I want no tinge of revenge. It is unconditional and one-sided. I am dropping all charges for this injustice." The Judge of the universe who was unjustly murdered has an infinite capacity to bear humanity's sin "once and for all" (Rom. 6:10; Heb. 7:27, 9:12,26; 1 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 10:10) and drop all His charges against us also "once for all" to all who believe (Rom. 3:22, 4:24; Jn. 6:29).

The fourth component of a good forgiveness is the resulting healing and wholeness we experience. Peace of mind, heart and reconciliation of relationships are now possibilities. It is the nature of a good forgiveness. Christ's forgiveness has put the accuser of the brethren out of work. He has been defeated, deflated and demoralized. He is coming to nothing (1 Cor. 2:6). He has nothing to accuse us of and when he does, we run to the Sin

Bearer and confess our sins and He remains faithful to not only forgive us, but He will clean us from all unrighteousness which bugs Satan even more (1Jn.1:9).

This brings me back to us and our forgiveness. A good forgiveness is executed with the awareness that you are agreeing to pay one hundred percent of the consequences for the injustice of another. It is not about fairness. It is about being gracious and merciful just like your heavenly Father (Lu.

"Our district of churches will be healthy and vivacious and will feel like Jesus is present when we forgive well."

6:36). It is a form of sharing in Christ's suffering (Rom. 8:17; Phil 3:10). Our district of churches will be healthy and vivacious and will feel like Jesus is present when we forgive well. Marriages will be healed. Families will be restored. You will be healed in every way. I personally believe that much of today's illnesses result from doing forgiveness poorly.

Jesus bore the consequence of your sin. To not bear the sins of others is to make you one big hypocrite and ineligible to experience the blessings under the reign of King Jesus (Matt. 6:14,18:23-35). Ask Jesus to help you do forgiveness well.

Allen Lehman  
Overseer, Franklin Mennonite District

## Spotlight on Conference Finances

<b>Income past month</b>	<b>\$ 3,151.30</b>
<b>Expenses past month</b>	<b>5,456.86</b>
<b>Current balance in checking account (October 19)</b>	<b>24,224.91</b>
<b>Average amount needed per month</b>	<b>\$ 8,765.00</b>

# Twenty-nine Choir Members See the World Differently from Indonesia

SEMARANG, Indonesia — A trip to Indonesia changed the way that twenty-nine students see the world. From June 26 to July 14, the Chamber Choir of the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster (MCCL) participated in a GO! Summer mission assignment with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM).

The trip challenged participants to widen their worldviews in the largest Muslim-majority country in the world. Before this trip, choir member Elizabeth Lantz was hesitant about interacting with Muslims, having had little exposure to adherents of Islam. The trip allowed Lantz to have several faith conversations with Muslims, changing her preconceptions. The choir, directed by Rosemary Blessing, had several once-in-a-lifetime sing-

ing venues: four airports, multiple museums, several Mennonite churches, two cultural festivals also featuring Muslim and Buddhist performances, a rice field, the tip of a volcano, two Islamic boarding schools, a palace, and one mosque.

Josh Blessing, trip chaperone and husband of the choir's artistic director, shared about how the choir was able to sing in a mosque with no restrictions on references to Jesus. "Music can have

that kind of impact," said Blessing, indicating that the choir was able to use music as a vehicle for mission. These inter-  
Cont. on p. 12



Rosemary Blessing leads the choir in singing at the palace of Prince Dipokusomo of the Surakarta Sultanate.

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## November 2018 Announcements and Coming Events

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### Births:

July 14 - Branton Ross Geisinger to Doreen (Meyers) and Justin Geisinger (Chambersburg)

August 20 - David Bennett IV to Beth (Zucconi) (Chambersburg) and David Bennett III

### Anniversaries:

November 11 - Tim and Sandy Fields (40 yrs. - North Side)

November 13 - Jay and Donna Hess (25 yrs. - Chambersburg)

November 21 - Zane and Juanita Garber (20 yrs. - Chambersburg)

December 4 - David and Brenda Hunsecker (30 yrs. - Chambersburg)

### Coming Events:

November 20 - Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:30 – 6 pm at Mercersburg Mennonite Church.

December 6 - Bezaleel Annual Fundraising Banquet at Chambersburg Mennonite Church. Music and hors d'oeuvres begin at 5:30 pm, and the meal will be served at 6:15. RSVP to Larry Lehman, 717 263-7203 or tallowhill750@gmail.com.

December 9 - Christmas Piano Recital at 6:15 pm and Christmas Acapella Hymn Sing at 7:00 pm will be held at Community Mennonite Church, followed by a time of fellowship.

December 14 - A 'Venty' Merry Puppet and Story Christmas at Salem Ridge Community Church, 6:30 pm. An evening with ventriloquist, Dotti, her storyteller husband, Steve, and their cast of delightful puppets. Crafts and refreshments will follow in the church fellowship hall.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service at Salem Ridge Community Church, 6:30 pm.

Cont. from p. 11

# Twenty-nine Choir Members See the World Differently from Indonesia

faith experiences were organized by the director of the Indonesian Mennonite Diakonal Service, Paulus Hartono.

Choir members used the entire year to prepare for their third international trip with EMM's GO! Summer program — a short-term mission exposure opportunity offered during the summer, with both local and global opportunities. Previous international trips included locations such as Germany, Albania and Bulgaria.

The choir learned several Indonesian songs, and also visited the Philadelphia Indonesian Mennonite Church. Among multiple fundraisers for the trip, one was particularly noteworthy — a dinner featuring authentic Indonesian cuisine.



Choir members take a group "selfie" with new friends at a boarding school in Solo.

The choir's mission is to train children and youth to glorify Jesus

Christ through excellent choral singing. MCCL's five different groups — one of which is the Chamber Choir — have approximately 170 members representing 75 congregations from 17 denominations. A program of Lancaster Mennonite School, MCCL also includes students from 53 different schools, as well as homeschooled students.

Micah Brickner of EMM and Audrey Livengood of MCCL

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.Franklinconference.org](http://WWW.Franklinconference.org)

*The deadline for the December issue of the Burning Bush is **November 16, 2018.** If possible, please email your information to the conference center. Address is on page 2.*

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