

The Burning

OF THE FRANKLIN MENNONITE MISSION BOARD

Bush

October 14, 2018

Volume LV Number 1



From Southeast Asia ...

Expect the Unexpected!

Editor's note: Financial support from you and Franklin Mennonite District churches help enable the truth and grace of the Gospel to be shared in Southeast Asia.

Our life in Southeast Asia is constantly telling me to expect the unexpected. Now, I am constantly looking to make new friends, anywhere I

Our family attended a wedding in the village



can. Lately I have been spending time with a very interesting man, Mr. Song*. A fellow worker, Joshua* and I, have been to visit Mr. Song a total of five times.

Every visit, our initial plan was quickly discarded due to unexpected turns in the conversation or new faces. On our third visit, our plan was quickly thrown out the window because of the new presence of Mr. Song's son, Mr. Ali*. It turns out that Mr. Ali is a witch doctor and did not even hesitate to practice on his clients right in front of us.

We still had the opportunity to share with both Mr. Song and Mr. Ali that night, but we used different stories than we had planned. Our fourth visit was pretty much the same. Our plan was shot to pieces by unexpected twists and left us using stories that related to the situation at hand. My last visit is what I will concentrate on today.



Our children found many friends!



A common view down a village street where many interactions occur.

As usual, before we left, Joshua and I spent our time discussing our hopes and desires for the conversation that night and some different stories we would like to talk about. We both felt it would be best if Mr. Ali was not there. His so-called visitations amounted to be huge distractions. Well, when we arrived, Mr. Ali was there visiting with two friends. We went in and sat down and did our best to hold a friendly conversation.

Well, the conversations were not going anywhere, and it seemed that neither were Mr. Ali's guests. Actually, a steady stream of clients for the witch doctor started pouring in. Slowly the time

Cont. on p. 2

Cont. from p. 1

ticked by one hour and then two. Mr. Song never came and sat in the living room where we were sitting. It is a small room, so I will excuse him for that. He was standing outside with his neighbors.

After about two and a half hours, I was certain nothing was going to happen and was ready to throw in the towel. Apparently Joshua was too. He and I both went outside to chat with Mr. Song before we headed home. Outside, it was comedy hour and the neighbors were all in tears as Mr. Song was telling joke after joke. Right when we were about to leave, Mr. Ali and his friends left.

We had already been there for three hours, but we just turned around and walked back inside. It was great to find that Mr. Song quickly changed from making jokes to having a serious discus-

sion. We were immediately able to jump into discussing different stories, as if this is what he had been waiting for. We went over the promises given to Abraham, some things that their book says about J-C, the story of Moses and the bronze serpent and how J-C refers to it when talking with Nicodemus. These last two stories we had previously discussed with Mr. Song at another get-together, but we wanted to follow-up with him. Another two and half hours went by with just Mr. Song. The night ended with feelings of excitement because of his openness and willingness to listen, read and discuss.

Our anticipation for our next meeting is through the roof as is our expectancy for the unexpected. (*names have been changed)

John and Jeanette Puckett
Southeast Asia

Cedar Street Installs Two Pastors

On Sunday, August 26, 2018, Mike Shank and Isaac Burkholder were installed as pastors at Cedar Street Mennonite Church in a double installation and licensing service accompanied by prayer and anointing. Brother Mike Shank was installed as lead pastor and licensed

toward ordination. This is a designation implying a period when the gifting and calling of shepherding the flock are tested. This is usually for a two year period followed by ordination.

Isaac Burkholder, who was ordained to



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Deadline for the November issue of the Burning Bush is October 19.

the ministry August 7, 1988 to serve as a missionary in Venezuela, was installed as an associate pastor. He is currently serving as a chaplain at the Franklin County Prison, having served there for eighteen years. He and his wife, Rosanna served as missionaries in Honduras for three years and Caracas, Venezuela for six years. Isaac pastored Dry Run Church of the Brethren for two and half years.

The current leadership structure at Cedar Street is a team effort. Larry Lehman will continue to serve as a pastor but not with

Isaac and Rosanna Burkholder receive the support of the Cedar Street congregation.

Cont. from p. 2

the lead role. Larry has served the congregation since October 2, 2016 as interim pastor.

Mike's sense of call came years ago at Messiah College when in a moment of clarity, he experienced the Holy Spirit nudging him toward pastoring. He took some Bible classes but nothing opened up and, so the call took a back seat in his life until now. His wife, Cherina, also heard God say that she would marry a pastor. Praise be to God, it was my sur-



Franklin Mennonite District Overseer Allen Lehman led in the installation service for Mike and Cherina Shank (left) and Isaac and Rosanna Burkholder (top).



prise that God had gone ahead of us in beckoning Mike and Cherina to be open at this time and this call of God at Cedar Street. Mike will continue his full-time guidance counselor and teaching role at Shalom Christian Academy, positions he has held for twenty-six years.

Allen Lehman
Franklin Mennonite District Overseer

Saturday Evening “Gathering Service”

at Cedar Grove Mennonite

For the past year Cedar Grove Mennonite Church has been stepping-out into new territory by creating a Saturday evening service called “The Gathering Service”. The service typically runs the first and third Saturday of every month.

The Gathering Service is designed for those who cannot make worship services on Sunday morning due to work. Its purpose is also to reach out with a different format of worship to the younger generation.

Although this service is hosted and funded by Cedar Grove Mennonite Church, the effort to facilitate this service is shared with other churches in and around the local community. Our desire is to make this service a group effort which is the reason for this article. With the urging of District Minister Allen Lehman, we are inviting all conference and local churches to join us in this ser-

vice. Do you have a young aspiring leader/pastor who would like some experience with preaching? Any musicians who want to share their time and talents? Do you have congregants who would like to attend a worship service but cannot make it on Sunday morning? We can help with all of those areas within the Gathering Service.

The layout for the service is as follows: At 6:30 pm. a light meal is served. The worship service starts at 6:45 pm. and ends promptly at 8:00 pm. with 30-40 minutes of singing and 15-20 minutes of teaching. This service is livestreamed through Cedar Grove Mennonite Church's Facebook page @CedarGrove-MennoChurch.

The livestream has been going very well, with upward of 3k-4k hits and 1k-2k views, all without actually paying for any advertising through Facebook. We do

take security seriously when it comes to livestream, and so our cameras never pan out to the audience and we never take video from the front looking at the audience. We ask that if there are any security concerns or fears, to please let leadership know upon arrival so that special consideration can be made.

Regardless of the outcome, we at Cedar Grove will continue to step-out in faith and trust His plan for our church. Regardless of involvement from outside sources, we ask for prayer for the Gathering Service. Pray that the livestream will reach the masses and we can touch many lives. Pray that people who come will be ministered to effectively.

If you have any questions please contact either Pastor Dennis Stutzman at ddstutz@gmail.com or Pastor Stephen Jaynes at sjaynes.lifenow@hotmail.com.



Cedar Grove

Sharon Eby

The fall season is in full swing with many sunny days but even more rainy ones. No complaints: the colorful leaves may last longer!

A special thanks to everyone who participated in filling 496 school kits this year. A BIG thank you to the Wednesday evening program that filled 250 of those kits. As we tell our helpers, these kits are distributed in the states as well as internationally. Hopefully, we can carry over these efforts to help CVRC which needs relief buckets for North Korean hospitals and orphanages. Cedar Grove volunteers helped fill 301 of the 1000 needed.

Sunday, September 23, was a very special day for Hazel Baer who was celebrating her 80th birthday. We joined her family in celebrating this special event with a party in the Fellowship Hall.

With a successful pancake breakfast on September 8, we are already planning for our next one on October 13. Donations support our Compassion Fund.

Cedar Street

Linda Mower

Doug and Kim Lehman have started leading a youth group. This new youth group is welcoming everyone who is in 6th grade up to high school graduates.

This means that Glow Girls and Royal Rangers will continue to meet the needs of everyone who is in 1st through 5th grades.

Special times have been planned for our older Glow Girls. On Friday evening, September 21, Glow Girls enjoyed an overnight stay at a cabin. We made mountain pies, hot dogs and smores over the fire. There was lots of fun and laughter and being thankful God made us people of choice – which means it is up to us to make good choices. After breakfast, we made paper beads into a bracelet or necklace of our choice. Our relationships were definitely strengthened. Praising God again.

Chambersburg

Peter Zucconi

We mourned with Anthony Golter on the death of his father, Jerry. Anthony is a resident at Grace Home, Shippensburg, a part of CROSS. He and most of the other Grace Home residents regularly attend Sunday School and church here at Chambersburg. In the weeks prior to his father's passing, Anthony had shared his heart-felt concerns during prayer times.

Christian radio station WPMG (91.3) in Carlisle was the focus of September's Sunday evening service. Broadcasting since 2012, "The Bridge" provides Christian music and programming (24 hours a day on weekdays), while continuing efforts to expand its coverage area. Dan Martin and Nelson Frey, members of Diller Mennonite Church in Newville serve on the station's board and staff respectively.

Dale Keffer, our overseer, was here recently to lead the congregation in communion and foot-washing services. Dale reminded

us of the Roots of Communion, the Relevance of Communion and the Reverence of Communion.

Marion

Mariann Martin

Marion Mennonite is in the middle of a Spiritual Discernment Process to help us refine and focus on the intentional mission of the congregation. After six weeks of prayer and meditations written by various members, the congregants answered a survey and joined in the exercises of listening sessions lead by Conrad Kanagy and Jacob Kanagy. The information is being compiled for the leadership team to review.

Through a sermon series this summer, we "walked in the footsteps" of Jesus by paying attention to the geographical sites where Jesus lived and preached. Studies of the places and time where Jesus lived and spoke, lent insight into His works and words.

Women's ministry met twice in August. First to share poems about "Where I'm from", share foods from childhood and learn more about each other's backgrounds and a second time for a planting workshop.

The men's ministry, Journeymen's Breakfast, continues to meet for discussion and fellowship.

Mercersburg

Rhonda Hunsecker

Cove Valley Camp Weekend is something we look forward to each year and this year was no different. Friday evening, *I Can Only Imagine* was shown for those interested in watching it. Saturday was a relaxing day to enjoy the outdoors. We rejoiced as nine folks were baptized in the pool Saturday evening and we enjoyed a picnic-style fellowship meal afterwards.

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Sunday morning, Marty Zimmerman III shared his testimony of recovery from a stroke at the age of 25.

Pastor David Possinger had a "Back to School" service, directing our attention to Ephesians 1:15-23 and challenging us with questions. How would you describe your faith? How concerned are you for others? Are we willing to pray for each other? Time was spent praying for students, teachers, school staff/bus drivers, volunteers and parents.



Mt. Zion

Lucinda Oberholzer Grier

"Reversal of Fortune" was the title of the sermon on Lazarus and the rich man. We were challenged to look for ways to share our riches with those who do not have - as Christ instructed the Pharisees. Who is your Lazarus?

Our annual church picnic was held on Sunday, August 26, at Shaffer Park in Boonsboro, MD. We celebrated Pastor Craig Oury's birthday and enjoyed fellowshiping with each other and some members that are not always able to be with us, including Sue Lehman.

On Sunday, September 9, Allen Lehman formalized the licensing of Scott Grier with a special service and anointing. Mary Shaffer is at her daughter's home and receiving hospice care for brain cancer.



North Side

Jeannie Wise St.Clair

Pastor Gary Zook is in the middle of a series of Sunday sermons on the Ten Commandments, including a message entitled, "Let's Kill the Act of Murder." Wednesday Adult Bible study is going through Max Lucado's book *John 3:16* with DVD portions to enhance understanding.

Since Adam and original sin took place in the Garden of Eden, there exists pain and sickness in our world. We continue to pray for our beloved members who are ill and in pain. We have cancer survivors in our midst, and also some that are having recurrence of cancer. It is hard to see those we love hurting. We worship a God who heals, but we do not understand His mysteries. Jesus calls us to have faith and trust that God is sovereign in all things. May we have pure faith like a child when we pray--Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.



Pleasant View

Helen Martin

Our church has been busy raising funds for Sarah Keith who has been approved for a lung transplant. We had a BBQ chicken dinner, selling 450 dinners. We had a bake sale and are also accepting monetary donations. These funds will be used to cover expenses not covered by insurance.

We had a "Back to School Sunday." Students were asked to come to the front of the church, prayed for and given a gift. The college students were given



Robert Coady receives appreciation for serving twenty-five years as treasurer at Shady Pine Mennonite Church from Linda Diem.

an opportunity to tell about what they are studying. A prayer was prayed with them.

Recently, the movie *I Can Only Imagine* was shown. It was quite moving.

Pastor Allen Eshleman has been bringing us messages from Ephesians, giving us a memory verse each week to memorize. Our men have been busy with cleanup and restoration in our basement after it was flooded from the five inches of rain we received.



Rock Hill

Glenn Cordell

Following Pastor Ed Sharpe's sermon on Sunday, September 16, our church family and friends enjoyed a delicious fellowship meal. We had extra food to prepare take-home containers and to share with shut-in friends. A visitor expressed appreciation for Ed's message.



Salem Ridge

Cheryl Frey

Popcorn and a movie are good ways to connect with our friends and neighbors. The last outdoor movie night of the summer was held on August 24. Our annual Community Pig Roast was held on September 8. We had a very good turn-out and those who attended were pleased to be able to take some pork home with them.

Our annual congregational meeting was held September 8. Paul Frey opened the meeting by having table groups list all that they have in common. Although we may have our differences, we have many things in common. The meeting ended with ice cream sundaes.

Cont. from p. 5

The Women's Bible Study is back in full-swing after a short break. They are working through a series by Tony Evans, *Living Above Your Circumstances*.

We will miss two from our congregation who passed from this life to their eternal reward. Miriam Oberholzer died on August 24 and Jack Mowen died on September 10.



Shady Pine

Evelyn Runk

September brought much rain and hot, sticky weather. The children returned to school and we began a new Sunday School year.

A few children are enjoying a Sunday School class after which a fellowship time is enjoyed before church time. Pastor Marlin Neil has been sharing messages on

ways to grow in our Christian life, giving many good Scriptures to dig into.

We have started an every other week, Wednesday evening Bible study on the Book of John. It has been well attended with activities for the children.

Robert Coady, who has served our congregation as treasurer for twenty-three years, was also honored this month. He has been a joy to work with, not letting his disability hinder him.

EDITORIAL

Fishers of Men

Editor's note: After reading the Shine feature by Helen and Phares Bitikofer in last month's (part 1) and this month's (part 2) issues of the Burning Bush, I was reminded of the article below. Though it has appeared in the Burning Bush before, it bears our attention again. I strongly encourage you to read the two recent Shine features and the essay below. Reflect on the Bitikofer's words that not only does it takes courage "to walk to the other side of the room" but also the results when we do.

If you do not become a reconciler of the lost, you will become an evaluator of the saved. There is something inherent in our new nature that wants to see people get right with God, and if we do not direct it to the lost, we will then direct it at the saved. Then, instead of pursuing sinners we will spend our time policing the saints.

All of us have been called to be "fishers of men", but when those who were called to fish, do not fish, they fight. When energy that was meant to be used outside the church is used inside the church, the result is explosive.

Instead of casting nets, we cast stones. Instead of becoming reachers of the lost, we become critics of the saved. Instead of extending helping hands, we point accusing fingers. Instead of helping the hurting, we hurt the helpers and sadly the lost go on unreached, the poor go unfed and the confused go unconsolated. But when those who are called to fish, fish - they flourish! Souls are reached! Lives are changed and the world is impacted.

(Attributed to numerous sources)

Franklin District Presents:

RESTORED ALONG THE WAY

Journey Days Annual Meeting
November 8 & 11, 2018

Thursday, November 8

• **Delegate Meeting**

6:30pm - 8:30pm at Marion Mennonite Church

Sunday, November 11

Activities begin at 4:30pm at Marion Mennonite Church

• **4:30-5:30pm** **Appreciating Conflict with Noah Kaye**

• **5:30-6:30pm** Supper (Donations Appreciated)

• **6:45pm** Evening Service

Worship led by Solace

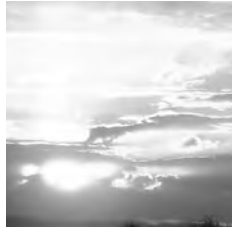
Childcare for ages 0-6

Restored Along the Way with Noah Kaye

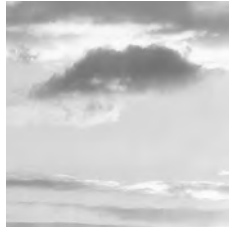
Isaiah 61:3-4

• **8:45pm** Closing

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



It Takes Courage to Care - Part II

Over the years, Helen keeps meeting many interesting and sometimes needy people. She would introduce me to her new friends and soon I would be helping them with things like mowing lawns, cleaning gutters, washing windows, weeding gardens and raking leaves. While I am most comfortable DOING for others, I have learned to enjoy relationships with others more deeply.

One day Helen met an Asian woman at the hairdressers. She heard this lady asking questions about wanting to know where she could get a Bible. Helen introduced herself and invited this lady to come to our home where they could talk. Over the next few months she became like family to us.

When she was involved in an auto accident, we were the first to be called. Helen and Kim Martin had a Bible study with her, and she attended our church activities on several occasions. In our Sunday School class one Sunday she discovered that she could get the Bible in her own language on her cell phone. She was overjoyed. After several months however, she pulled away from us. We do not know what happened, but we were thankful for the opportunity we had to sow seeds of faith into her life. We pray that the excitement she had for God's word will grow stronger.

A couple years ago, we met a foreign exchange student. She knew English and Helen and I were fascinated by her willingness to talk to us. We talked about her faith as a Muslim and we observed her interactions with us and knew that she was hearing the word of God as never before. Over that year we were able to learn to know her pretty well and we enjoyed our time together. She called us Grandma and Grandpa.

Our last Sunday together we gave her a book that she agreed to read and we parted with sadness and tears. We knew she was counting the cost of openingly accepting Jesus. During the worship at church on her last Sunday I could not help but watch her singing the songs with eyes closed in worship. We continue to pray that God will give her the courage to open her heart to Him.

Sometimes it may cost us more than our time to be a true friend to someone we meet. While in Africa, Helen met a young woman who wanted to go to nursing school at the Shirati hospital in Tanzania, but neither she or her family could pay for it. We found out that there were no available scholarships. After returning home we prayed and decided this had been a "God ordained" meeting and that we were the ones to help. Her family helped take care of her children and we paid for most of the schooling. God provided for our needs as well as hers. She

recently sent Helen a message which said, "Mum, I have graduated and have a job at a clinic but I am hoping to get a government job which will pay better." She is a Christian and we pray that God will bless her and her family through this. Our son, Keith, says that in Africa when one family member has a good job, it helps the whole family for generations.

This summer Pastor Dave Possinger has been challenging us to reach out to the unchurched in our community. We have accepted this challenge and know that God is opening doors for us to reach out to more people. One is an older woman who lives alone and has no children. Another is a young man who needs to find reconciliation with his wife and children. We are also trying to be more intentional about learning to know many of our neighbors.

As I have struggled with what to share, I have relived much of our past. It is so hard to know where to stop. We have been to see our mission work in Guatemala, Chile and Africa. While in Africa we had the privilege of seeing our son, Keith, introducing our tour group to the Wycliffe Bible Translation Center where he and his wife, Chris, worked. We have also been challenged by our recent trip to learn about our Mennonite heritage in Europe. I could also share many other stories of my work in the hospitals where I worked for 40 years.

It takes courage to walk to the other side of the room, to the one who no one else seems to notice; to the one who hurts inside but no one knows. We need to let God guide us and listen to His voice.

Phares and Helen Bitikofer
Mercersburg Mennonite

In 1990, my parents took me to the pro-life event “Rally for Life” in Washington D.C. I was seven years old, and what I remember most was the spectacle of it. There was someone walking around dressed as the grim reaper and I remember seeing a large, transparent balloon with a smaller fetus balloon inside it.

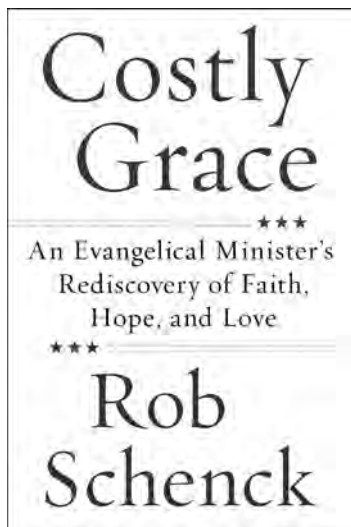
Reading Rob Schenck’s book *Costly Grace* was an opportunity for me to revisit that part of my upbringing, as Schenck was one of the original pro-life activists in the 1980s. He was instrumental in bringing the movement into the broader political arena.

Schenck divides his book into three conversions, the first being his conversion as a teenager during the “Jesus movement” of the 1970s and the second, his conversion into radical activism in the early 1990s. He started out his ministry working with the homeless in cities and some of the very poorest people in Mexico. Later, he became a very powerful and influential man by working with political organizations and leaders in Washington, D.C.

In 2006, he was present during the aftermath of the Lancaster schoolhouse tragedy, when ten Amish girls were shot and five died at the

Book Review ... Costly Grace

hands of a lone shooter. Witnessing the way the Amish community reached out to the shooter’s family with forgiveness and reconciliation made Schenck rethink the dehumanizing and hostile language he used to rally Christians to the pro-life cause.



“Instead of being a conduit of unmerited favor and kindness,” Schenck writes, “as I had learned Christianity should be long ago at Elim Bible Institute, mine was now a cudgel for beating ideological opponents into submission. “I began to consider just how much politics had corrupted my faith and marred my Christian witness.”

The title of the book comes courtesy of Schenck’s third conversion, and a poem by the same name written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In 2010, he traveled to Germany to study Bonhoeffer’s writings for a doctoral thesis. In his research Schenck found an uncomfortable parallel between the German Christians who embraced Adolf Hitler as a champion for their causes and the American Christians who latched onto partisan politics to achieve their goals.

He also found that Bonhoeffer’s ability to remain uncorrupted by the wave of German nationalism came from his stalwart refusal to see anyone, even his enemies, as anything less than human beings, loved and cherished by God.

Schenck returned to D.C. with a new resolve: to quit the dichotomy of “we” versus “them,” and to re-center his faith on the life and teachings of Jesus. He began to seek out and build bridges with “liberal” Christians whom he previously considered heretical. In 2013, he joined documentary filmmaker Abby Disney for a project on faith and gun violence that became the PBS documentary *The Armor of Light*.

I watched the documentary when it was first released in 2016 and highly recommend it. Schenck’s willingness to venture outside the partisan boundaries placed around the pro-life movement opened up new doors. They also put his relationships with previous allies and donors in peril. In each of Schenck’s three conversions, there was a cost, calling back to Bonhoeffer’s poem:

*It is costly because it calls
to discipleship;
It is grace because it calls to
follow Jesus Christ.*

In the final chapters of the book, Schenck addresses the cultural issues facing the church today, including how the election of Donald Trump left some Christians rejoicing and others in despair. Drawing from his background at the intersection of faith and politics, Schenck offers a gentle but clear warning about the dehumanizing language that has become a daily part of our lives and the threat this poses to the future of the church.

This is a book perhaps more suited to personal reflection than to a group study, but it is an extremely relevant book and very manageable for the average reader. Schenck moves his story easily through decades and keeps his words simple, honest and profound. It is an excellent, contemplative read as we begin a season of mid-term elections.

Rebecca Martin
Hebron Mennonite Church

Joe Martin Installed at Bethel Community Church

Joseph Martin has a new lease on ministry. On Sunday, September 16, 2018, Overseer Allen Lehman installed Joe as pastor at Bethel Community Church. Bethel is a small, rural church near Hancock, MD.

When Pastor Gary Quackenbos retired early this year, the question we asked was, "Is Bethel viable?" Down to a less than fifteen in attendance, the heartfelt cry was "No! We do not want to close our doors" Bethel's people began to pray and seek God's face.

Franklin District board suggested we find someone who has a history with Bethel to walk with us in discerning what to do. I asked retired pastor Joe Martin, who along with his wife, Ruth Ann, were members of Bethel from 1967 to 1976, if he would assist us on the journey of discernment. If we were to close it down, we asked if he would help do that in a celebratory way, giving thanks to God for sixty years of ministry to the community.

What we did not know was Joe had a recent experience with God that had given him a new spiritual life and desire to minister. In his own words, Joe says "I had retired from ministry and my job, and my wife had gone to our heavenly home. Last November, I fell into depression and despair. I finally came to the end of myself and cried out to God in the name of Jesus to pull me up or take me home! In God's mercy he healed me of depression, filled me in a new way with his Holy Spirit,

Cont. on p. 12



Up-Coming Events!

Ham, Oyster & Shrimp Supper— October 27, 2:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

Membership Banquet – November 3

Hobby Retreat III – Nov. 30 – Dec. 2

Primary Day Retreat – December 1, Grades K-2

Your help is needed! Our scholarship fund allowed 39 children to come to camp this past summer. If you would like to help replenish the \$6758 to prepare for next year, send a gift or talk with Allen at 717-328-3055.

Now Hiring – 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.

- If you are interested, please contact Eric for more details: program@covevalleycamp.com.

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

Ham, Oyster & Shrimp Supper!

Come Join Us! **October 27, 2018** Come Join Us!



2:30 - 6:00 pm
Adults: \$25
Children: \$8
(Ages 4-12)



While the food lasts!*

Fried and scalloped oysters, steamed shrimp, ham, baked corn, baked macaroni, green beans, home-made pies and cakes, apple sauce, apple crisp



*A preportioned take out meal can be purchased for \$20.



5357 Little Cove Rd
Mercersburg PA 17236
717-328-3055
www.covevalleycamp.com

Proceeds from the supper go toward the upkeep of the camp and camp ministry!

We have adult and children's programs, too!

District Minister's Corner

Editor's note: Writing this month's "District Minister's Corner", in place of our District Minister, Allen Lehman, is Larry Lehman. Larry is Secretary of the Franklin District Mission Board and pastor at Cedar Street Mennonite Church.

Evangelism Beyond the Box - Part II

The Church - Does there need to be a change?:

When you hear the word "church," what comes to your mind? A building, a preacher, a group of people sitting, listening to a message, or perhaps standing participating in worship led by an accomplished rehearsed worship team? Is it programs and a building that are expensive to maintain and the members are expected to pay for it? Is it a group of nice people, appropriately dressed who meet on Sunday morning for an hour or two and then go their own way? Is it a group who gather on Sunday morning and try to get others to join them to make them look successful and help pay for their programs? Is it a place and a people where you do not fit in, that talk a jargon you do not understand? Is it a group that espouses a certain theology or doctrine which they defend in opposition to those that differ with them?

Could there be church without denominations, membership, sermons, offering plates, a salaried pastor, seeking to be successful, expensive programs, Christian jargon and special ways of dressing? How many of these things are essential? How many of them were part of the New

Testament Church that existed before Constantine? None of them are wrong. Perhaps they served the church well at certain times and are still good for some people today. Perhaps the church was led of the Spirit to do them. But, what should we do if they are keeping some people from following Jesus?

Instead of the characteristics named above, what if church was an informal gathering in a home or some public location? Instead of a sermon there were informal Bible studies where questions can be asked and testimonies shared? What if there was time and confidence to share needs, ask for prayer and receive ministry? What if there were places to ask for assistance and have your needs met by volunteers. What if there was food and beverages available for free or at a nominal fee that could be eaten together while people enjoy fellowship with each other?

Author Alan Hirsch in his book, *The Forgotten Ways*, says that if we are going to reach the 65% of people that are now unreachable to the church, we will have to use a completely different model. That model may need to be different to reach the different populations or cultures within our society. Some of those populations may be the highly educated, the business people, those involved

in the arts and the blue collar people.

We are considering an underground church. One that is not trying to make a big public display. Rather, it is a people joined together by faith in Jesus and the members take that faith with them from home, to the workplace, to the marketplace and wherever they go. They are like Nehemiah, the king's cupbearer who took his faith into the presence of the King. This church may not be as publicly visible as the church we know today, but could permeate society better than the present day church.

Hirsch says that if we are going to reach the 65% of people that are now unreachable to the church, we will have to use a completely different model.

Larry Lehman
Pastor, Cedar Street Mennonite

Serving Christ in Hagerstown

Please consider volunteering at the Hagerstown MCC World Treasures Thrift Shop. It is located at 301 West Franklin in Hagerstown, Maryland. To volunteer, call (301) 797-8624 and speak to Manager Sandy or Assistant Manager Hope. Your help is appreciated.

Spotlight on Conference Finances

Income past month	\$14,837.00
Expenses past month	10,634.36
Current balance in checking account (September 21)	26,359.80
Average amount needed per month	\$ 8,765.00

October 2018 Announcements and Coming Events

Births:

August 28 - Emery Joy, born to Aarin and Amanda Wadel (Marion)

August 30 - Troy Cody born to Derek and Laura Hanes (Mercersburg)

September 9 - Reuben Daniel born to Keith and Walisa (McCleary) Horst (Mercersburg)

Engagement:

David Akers and Keisha Thomas. David is the son of Gary and Esther Akers. Keisha is the daughter of Daryl and Rhonda Hunsecker (Mercersburg).

Wedding:

September 15 - Grant and Kayle (Stine) Buchanan. Grant is the son of Kevin and Mona (Wadel) Buchanan and Kayle is

the daughter of Eric and Sophia Stine (Mercersburg).

Anniversaries:

October 12 - Seth and Samantha Fouty (5 yrs. - Mercersburg)

October 14 - Jeff and Katie (Ommert) Hege (1 year - Mercersburg)

October 17 - Greg and Mandy Kuhns (20 yrs. - Chambersburg)

November 6 - Michael (Junior) and Lydia Hostetler (20 yrs. - Chambersburg)

November 8 - Durrell and Pamela Landis (15 yrs. - Chambersburg)

Coming Events:

October 15 - *Is There a Lesson? 45 Years with John Ruth and TourMagination*, a 90-minute

documentary produced by John and Jay Ruth will be shown at Marion Mennonite Church, 7pm.

October 19 - Shady Pine bus trip to see *Jesus at Sight and Sound*. Contact Tina Neil for tickets.

November 2 - Movie Night at Salem Ridge Community Church showing *I Can Only Imagine*. Refreshments at 7:00 pm, movie at 7:30 pm.

November 6 - Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry banquet at Chambersburg Mennonite Church, 6:30 pm. Contact Royce Martin (717.530.9643) or Peter Zucconi (717.532.9691) for needed tickets.

November 9 - Baked Potato and Salad Bar at Mercersburg Mennonite Church, 4-8 pm. Proceeds benefit youth group mission trips.

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.

Choice Books Position Available

The Choice Books of Pennsylvania ministry has a full-time (or possibly two part-time persons) job opportunity for a paid route driver/service representative to service stores in southcentral through western Pennsylvania. If you would enjoy building God's kingdom in this way, please email Ray Brubaker at... brubakerr@pa.choicebooks.org, for more information. (A company vehicle is provided.)

New Life Thrift Shop Opening

New Life Thrift Shop in Chambersburg is seeking applications for Assistant Store Manager. The ideal candidate will have retail experience, experience supervising employees, and basic computer skills. This is a part-time (24-30 hrs.) position. Contact New Life Thrift Shop for a complete job description and application at 717-496-8841 or newlifethrift-mcc@gmail.com.

Cont. from p. 9

Joe Martin Installed at Bethel Community Church

gave me a deeper prayer life and an intercessor friend resulting in great joy!"

Joe had initially agreed to serve for June and July which gave the congregation time to pray and strategize. God began to nudge Joe with a call to pastor Bethel "until someone is found" to take his place.

Bethel would not be abandoned. We are grateful to God for the evolutionary nature of His work in Joe's life. We are thankful that

God heard the prayers of Bethel's people.



Pastor Joe Martin preaches at Bethel in Fulton County, PA.

God answered the prayers of desperation of His people and

God turned His face toward them and heard their cries (Ps. 40:1).

Pastor Joe's vision for Bethel is to continue with God's divine intervention,

praying in the power of the Holy Spirit and seeking God's face.

Allen Lehman

District Overseer of FMD

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.Franklinconference.org

The deadline for the November issue

of the Burning Bush is *October 19, 2018.*

If possible, please email your information to the conference center. Address is on page 2.

Burning Bush of the Cumberland Valley (USPS 554-980)
Periodicals: Please deliver before Sunday to: