



PANORAMA

Celebrating with the people and congregations of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference

WINTER 2014-15

Planting mustard seeds

Anabaptist Resource Centre plans move ahead, with a sustaining Thrift Store project leading the way

Try this: Check out the driving directions between First Mennonite San Francisco and Shalom Mennonite Fellowship in Tucson, the two congregations at extreme ends of the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. According to Google, that's a distance of 876 miles, or about a 12-hour trip by road. Drive that route, and about at the halfway mark you'll find yourself passing through Pasadena and, just off the I-210, its local congregations, Wholicare and Pasadena Mennonite.

Now imagine that in this region of far-flung congregations somehow trying to work together, there's a spot to stop off right about there that all 40 or so churches can call their own — a Mennonite "hub," a place to meet conference and Mennonite agency staff, to hold an interchurch youth gathering or attend an Anabaptist leadership class, find something your congregation needs from the resource library, get help with a church budgeting or legal issue, share a meal, maybe pick up some recycled items — cheap! And that this place pays for itself through profits from the thrift shop on the lower floor.

That's the vision that's been brewing in PSMC for a long time and hopefully will finally come to fruition in 2015, with help from individual and church contributions through the Mustard Seed Giving Project.

The idea for an Anabaptist Resource Center began to percolate about five years ago. In the past year funds were approved to help make that vision a reality. PSMC designated \$100,000 to support the project, Mission Minister David Gray wrote in an e-Update to churches, "with a vision that this would be a place of equipping, training, supporting, resourcing and connecting the churches of PSMC."

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New leadership for PSMC

Dick Davis retires as Conference Minister; Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower steps up to the plate

For Dick Davis, the end of December brought an end to 43 years of full-time ministry, three and a half of them in leadership with PSMC. Davis, 67, in July announced plans to retire at year's end, which gave the board a six-month lead time to discern his replacement. Clare Ann Ruth Heffelbower was announced as the new conference minister on Dec. 10.

"I am leaving because I deeply feel that it is time for me to move on to other ministry opportunities that are less demanding," Davis said in explaining his decision to retire. "I plan to remain in the SoCal region and, hopefully, I'll be called on to teach a class, fill a pulpit, or provide my services as an interim pastor." He also plans to assist in PSMC's launch of a thrift store to support a future Anabaptist Resource Center.

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PANORAMA

is a publication of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference.

Please help us share what's going on in your congregation and community. Contributions of news, faith stories and photos are always welcome. Got a Facebook page or digital newsletter? Let us know!

Write to the editor, Doreen Martens, at: panorama@pacificsouthwest.org 905-829-9640

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New leadership for PSMC

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Davis praised the board of directors for its “effective leadership” in recent years.

“I’m positive that the current Board will move PSMC more deeply into God’s future. It has been a blessing to work with such a wonderful group of committed Christian people,” Davis wrote.

Conference moderator Femi Fatunmbi paid tribute to Davis in an issue of the weekly email to PSMC churches, e-Update, as a hard-working leader who helped unify the conference when it was at a low point:

“As the Moderator, I have seen his dexterity firsthand in his unification of once-fragile Conference members. He repeated the same message over and over: ‘The past is gone; a new dawn is here for all Anabaptist kingdom minded people both for mission and church planting.’”

The Oklahoma native “meritoriously served the older Mennonite congregations, immigrant churches and the constituency groups, to mention a few,” Fatunmbi wrote, praising Davis’s constant bridge-building with the larger church and its agencies for PSMC’s benefit.

“Over the years he has established new relationships, rebuilt damaged ones and encouraged mission and church plants within the Conference.”

Davis’s years with PSMC have seen the creation of Conference Mission Team and a coordinating group, a new series of classes for pastoral leadership, and the ReconciliAsian peace center in Los Angeles, among many other things. The foundation has also been laid for an Anabaptist Resource Center and Thrift Store, and additional staff have been hired to create a working team under Davis’s oversight.

Fatunmbi went on to say that, while it was hard to receive Davis’s resignation, “he deserves a great retirement, and indeed retirement is the hard-working person’s wish come true. Therefore we rejoice with him!”

Davis had a chance to reflect on his faith journey as an Anabaptist while attending his final meeting as a member of the churchwide Constituency Leadership Council. It is an unusual story that begins with his resignation as an active-duty army chaplain in May 1992, after he became a conscientious objector at the conclusion of the first Gulf War. While pastoring at a Baptist church in New Jersey near the chaplaincy school where he had been on faculty, he spent three years reading Anabaptist history and theology. During that time, he contacted Mennonites in eastern Pennsylvania and got to know John Stoner in Akron, Pa., who encouraged him to make a break from the Southern Baptist Convention.

“He invited me to attend a winter-long retreat offered by Kairos School of Spiritual Formation. It was during these weekend retreats that I first heard Mennonites sing from the *Hymnal: A Worship Book*. In a way, I can say that the Mennonites sang me into the church, and in fact they did introduce me to the hymn, ‘The Lord of the Dance,’” Davis wrote, summing up that experience.

“I concluded my comments by quoting an old Oklahoma saying. It goes like this: ‘I’m going home with the one who brought me to the dance.’ An odd saying, I know. It means that a person has loyalty to the one who invited them to participate in the dance, the song. For me the meaning is this: I may not know what the next song will be that MC USA will sing at this dance of ours, but I’m going to continue the sing and dance with MC USA until my home going.”

The ABC MMA (African Belize Caribbean Mennonite Mission Association) Annual Thanksgiving program on Nov. 22, held at All Souls Christian Center in Los Angeles, included a special thank you and presentation to outgoing Conference Minister Dick Davis. A special guest at the event was the visiting president of Mennonite World Conference and bishop of the Brethren in Christ Church of Zimbabwe, Danisa Ndlovu.

Photo by Sue Hur.



Ruth-Heffelbower sees 'new energy' in PSMC

The Pacific Southwest's new conference minister isn't exactly new to the job. Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower served for some of the early years of the amalgamated conference as area minister for Northern California, when there were three such leaders.

A longtime member of Mennonite Community Church, she has continued to be a presence in PSMC and has carved out a very special niche in Fresno as director of Circles of Support and Accountability, a pioneering program that trains volunteers to build circles of friendship around people who have been released after serving time for sexual crimes and need community support to avoid reoffending. These offenders, she has often noted, are society's most marginalized people, the "lepers" of our day. She will continue in that role one-quarter time, as the organization becomes independent with the help of a newly constituted board of directors.

"Divine providence has been preparing this wise, skillful and organized lady for this position," moderator Femi Fatunmbi wrote in announcing her appointment, effective Jan. 1.

"She has worked with congregations and pastors as administrator, consultant, and pastor of pastors. Her multicultural experience includes working with four language groups, serving as MCC Country Representative in Indonesia and providing resources in pastoral transitions, congregational conflicts and church development in the ongoing life and mission of congregations."

"At this point I'm excited about getting involved again," says Ruth-Heffelbower, who served as a regional area minister 1994-99, and again 2003-2007, but has continued to keep in touch with PSMC. "The conference is in a healthier place than it's been in a long time and there's a new energy, with people wanting to move ahead with mission and develop closer relationships. That's one of the things I see as a necessity and enjoy doing, is building relationships with pastors and the conference. And it seems there's an openness to that."

Ruth-Heffelbower's intercultural experience in Indonesia, where relationship-building was a particularly important part of the work — has helped to equip her for working with many of PSMC's congregations. "I've certainly been shaped by living internationally," she says. "That gives me a different sensitivity about our immigrant churches. than I would have had. Connecting to Indonesian churches will be easier for me because of my experience in Indonesia, recognizing that I also have to find ways of connecting with other immigrant churches."

Ruth-Heffelbower's time commitment will be a bit different than that of her predecessor, as the conference is reverting to a half-time Conference Minister position. PSMC will continue to maintain its office in Southern California, with Ruth-Heffelbower maintaining communications digitally and travelling as necessary, but also relying more heavily on the district elders to maintain face-to-face connections between the churches and the conference.

The board's recent decision to cut back on the Conference Minister's time was difficult, after having decided to go to full-time just a few years ago. However, in light of continuing budget deficits and bolstered support staff, it seemed the best direction at this time.



Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower works in her Fresno office as director of Circles of Support and Accountability. She'll continue to make her base in Fresno, while the conference office remains in Southern California.

The conference's overall staffing has improved considerably in the intervening years as part of PSMC's Advancement Plan. At the time of Dick Davis's arrival in 2011, he had only a one-quarter time administrative staff person to work with.

As Fatunmbi explained, "For two solid years, Dick weathered the storm with the encouragement of the board. He dexterously implemented the conference policies on mission and church planting, along with first-class relationship-building efforts. In the past year, the conference, with delegates' approval, has increased its administrative staff to half-time, employed a quarter-time but now half-time Youth Minister and employed a half-time Minister of Mission, along with 11 partially paid District Elders tasked with building relationships with our congregations. All of these well-placed staff and personnel drastically reduced the overload of work that would normally fall on the plate of our Conference Minister."

Davis himself has noted that the energetic work of Mission Minister David Gray cut in half the burden of mission and church-planting efforts in which he'd been engaged, as well as guidance of PSMC's big project, the development of an Anbaptist Resource Center and creation of a thrift shop to support it.

As well, the elder team has been better resourced and is expected to shoulder much of the relationship-building work in the conference.

Your prayers are invited for Ruth-Heffelbower as she moves into her new role and for the ongoing work of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference.

Search on for new Youth Minister

Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference (PSMC) is inviting applications for the half-time position of Conference Youth Minister. The PSMC Youth Minister provides essential planning, organizing, coordination and logistical support for the PSMC youth ministry. The Youth Minister will assist member congregations to develop healthy youth ministries and will serve as the liaison between PSMC and member congregations, the larger Mennonite Church, as well as other agencies and organizations, while serving as a spiritual leader and role model. Submit a letter of interest and resume to Don Linscheid at dblingscheid@comcast.net

Planting seeds for a new e

Anabaptist Resource Center

Register now for Winter Assembly, Feb. 6-7

This year's PSMC Winter Assembly, which puts the emphasis on worship and fellowship with a little business mixed in, will take place at Maranatha Christian Fellowship in Northridge, Calif. All churches are encouraged to send a full complement of delegates, but you don't have to be an official representative to attend any or all of the event, which takes place Friday night and Saturday. To learn more and register online, visit pacificsouthwest.org

An easy way to donate

If you shop on Amazon, please consider selecting PSMC as a non-profit to which Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price. To designate the conference as your non-profit of choice, please go to: smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0370619



PSMC's Minister of Mission, David Gray, left, leads a discussion at the June assembly at Trinity Mennonite Church in Glendale, Ariz., about the thrift shop proposal. Gray, who has previous experience starting a Ten Thousand Villages store as part of a missionary outreach in Montreal, is applying that experience to leading the thrift store project.

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The center could welcome other Mennonite-related agencies seeking office space. It's envisioned as a sort of "epicenter" of mission for PSMC, member congregations, the national denomination and its agencies, West Coast Mennonite Central Committee and other Anabaptist organizations, providing space for conferences, training sessions, ReconciliAsian conflict resolution workshops, youth rallies, multi-church potlucks and other kinds of meetings. It could become an incubator for church plants and a hub for providing resources for churches (legal, financial, technical). It could even host things like a resource library and an Everence credit union branch.

Conference Minister Dick Davis told delegates at the June PSMC assembly at Trinity Mennonite in Glendale, Ariz., that PSMC is one of the few area conferences that don't have an actual office of their own — its staff operates out of a rented room at Upland Peace Church. Los Angeles churches in particular have said "we need a place where we can identify as Mennonites," Davis said. The hope is also that the resource center would be a place congregations could go for help on nitty-gritty things like budget development, job searches or training.

As well, Davis said, there's a longing for partnership beyond our congregations. Davis and Gray have been in conversation with more than a dozen agencies such as DOOR Hollywood and Bartimaeus Cooperative, all of whom expressed interest in partnering in the project in some way.

"There are many things we want ARC to embody both in its purpose and in its physical space," said Gray. The space is envisioned to include conference rooms, office space, a resource library, kitchen and meeting rooms. Eventually, it would have its own staff in addition to the conference staff located there.

Geography is, of course, a difficult issue for the far-flung churches of PSMC. But of the conference's 40 or so congregations, 24 are in the Los Angeles area. Pasadena has been chosen as a convenient site for the cen-

ter, a hub location that would allow, for example, members of both Upland-area congregations and those north of Los Angeles to travel there without having to negotiate downtown Los Angeles traffic.

At the same time, while the ARC would be rooted in a location, the vision is for it to involve a broader network of relationships, said Gray — who himself attends the distant First Mennonite San Francisco. "I want it to be a regional center, to partner with all our churches spread out around the region," he told delegates in June.

Mustard seed giving

At the summer assembly of PSMC, church delegates spent time "dwelling in the Word," reflecting on two parables and their deeper meanings, particularly for Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference in this time of stepping out in faith: the parable of the sower and the parable of the mustard seed.

Like the farmer in the first parable, as a conference of churches we have taken a leap of faith to use some of our reserves to plant seeds of growth for Anabaptist witness in the Pacific Southwest, expanding both staff and mission. Together, we're planting churches, training leaders, connecting with churches in Indonesia, Korea and Nigeria, providing scholarships and transportation for youth to attend Camp Keola, developing an Anabaptist Resource Center, and offering resources and encouragement to both well-established and fledgling churches.

The conference launched a Mustard Seed Giving Partners Project this summer, with pamphlets distributed to the member churches. You are invited as an individual or congregation to help support this ministry with a pledge or one-time gift. To donate toward these exciting new projects, visit pacificsouthwest.org/donate, or send your gift to Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference, P.O. Box 39038, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

Thrift Store

Maintaining an Anabaptist Resource Center in the heartland of the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference is likely to cost \$100,000 a year, which necessitates a long-term source of funding. And that's where the concept of combining the ARC with a thrift store comes in.

A partner organization of PSMC — Mennonite Central Committee — provides a successful model. Its thrift stores in Rancho Cucamonga and Reedley generated more than \$100,000 and \$200,000 respectively to the work of MCC in 2013. The industry outlook for thrift stores projects an annual increase of 5% according to research by David Gray, PSMC's Minister of Mission.

"We also see running a thrift store as a valuable way to recycle resources, potentially create a job training program, and develop relationships between our many local churches as churches and individuals volunteer time at the store," Gray says.

Local churches were invited to a gathering in August to discuss the concept and to begin forming the teams necessary to develop a thrift store, ideally in a building that would be able to host both functions.

The envisioned store will run more on a staff-based model than the volunteer-based model used in some areas where there are a significant number of nearby churches to provide a large volunteer base.

MCC's experience with stores relying on mainly paid staff does show this model cuts into profits to a degree, Gray acknowledges, but it is a more realistic model given the realities of the L.A.-area Mennonite community. The

goal is to become self-sufficient within a year and to be able to contribute to the Anabaptist Resource Center in about 18 months.

A well-developed business plan for the store received approval from the PSMC board in mid-October, with hopes of launching the store in February 2015.

There are many ways churches can help with this project, Gray said, including praying for wisdom and direction; developing a team in the congregation to assist with gathering donations, organizing a pre-opening rummage sale, or gathering a group to help prepare the physical space; and especially, contributing to the seed money of about \$120,000 needed to initiate the plan, through the Mustard Seed Giving Partners Project.

"We as Mennonites find our greatest identity when we are united in mission to the world. This opportunity gives us the means to work together to accomplish something we could not do individually," Davis said in an update to churches in October encouraging material and volunteer support for the project.

Many of the needs have since been addressed, Gray said in a late November update.

"It was so exciting to hear that members of our conference have already started to give to this project. With an initial fund of \$65,000, from PSMC's reserve, we are now just a little over \$31,000 away from our goal. We have come so far, this quickly, because of the generosity of those of you who have donated through the Mustard Seed Project, the Ten Thousand Villages group in Phoenix, and a significant grant from a Mennonite Foundation."

Mountain View Mennonite Church has offered to allow the conference to store a 40-foot storage container on their property which will be the site for collecting donations for the thrift store. Upland Peace Church has agreed to allow a delivery truck on site to use for picking up donations, as well as storing collected donations from an emerging congregation in Pasadena, Calvary Harvest. Several churches are organizing donation collections for the next several months, and the MCC Rancho Cucamonga thrift store has offered surplus donations to help with establishing the inventory base.

A first meeting was held Dec. 8 to establish a Launch Team, a group that will be the "hands and feet" to bring the store to fruition.

(More people are needed with experience in areas such as marketing, location selection, human resources, donations, legal, accounting, and store setup. Please contact David Gray by phone at (510) 775-4231 or by email at davidgray@pacificsouthwest.org if you'd be interested in helping out.)

"My 'thrift store list' is not complete," Gray wrote, "but as you can see as a conference we are working together to accomplish this task. I am so thankful for all of your support: financial, with time, with donations, and with your prayers. Please join me in thanking God for all of this and so much more."

We're on YouTube!

Would your congregation like to share something about your church and ministries with other congregations around the Pacific Southwest? Do you have a program you would like to highlight? PSMC has a YouTube channel that we'd like to use to publicize what you're up to and help PSMC churches get to know one another better. If you'd like to share a short video clip with the rest of us, please email it to agneschigoji@pacificsouthwest.org.

We're on Facebook!

Add Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference to your newsfeed and invite others to join, too. PSMC has an open group, so you can contribute your own thoughts and church news.



Mustard Seed Giving Partners

Farewell to a youth minister

PSMC is seeking a new youth minister after John Murray, who launched this new conference role, resigned that position as of the end of September.

“In the past year and a half, I have been blessed to be part of building the foundation on which I hope youth ministry can thrive in this Conference and for each member congregation,” he wrote in an e-Update to member churches, adding that it had become clear that the position going forward would require more freedom and ability to travel than was possible for him while serving also as the youth minister for his congregation, Trinity Mennonite.

The final months of Murray’s time with the conference were particularly busy: He led youth activities at the summer PSMC assembly in June in Phoenix, brought about 25 Arizona students to Camp Keola to join California students in a great week of camp, and held a youth leader training and retreat in Prescott, Ariz. He also talked with individual youth leaders about their ministry and worked on ideas to incorporate youth at future assemblies.

In a parting message to churches in September, Murray encouraged congregations to “be intentional about developing discipling relationships with the youth in your congregation; invest time and energy in them, and care for their spiritual formation. Support students in their interests and efforts; most importantly, encourage their involvement and input into the work and worship of your congregation.”

Murray said it’s important to support students’ involvement in events in conference and denominational events, such as the youth convention to be held in Kansas City next July. “Connecting our students with the broader faith community provides them with many more resources than we alone can offer at the congregational level. It exposes them to opportunities for service, Christian education, and developing relationships beyond their local community.” Fundraising and planning now will ensure as many teens as possible participate in a formative event.

“It has been a great blessing to serve in this role for the past year and a half, and I wish many blessings to each of you and your communities in the years to come,” Murray wrote. “I pray you continue joining in the work of the Kingdom that is clearly evident here in the Southwest.”



John Murray, right, with teens who participated in special activities during the PSMC summer assembly. The group joined the Salvation Army in raising awareness of the crucial need for drinking water for homeless people exposed to Arizona’s summer heat, and helped move over 50,000 bottles of water. “It was a good reminder that there are many ways each of us can bring the Kingdom of God down to earth in our everyday actions,” Murray said. “An action as simple as looking someone in the eye, caring for them and handing them a bottle of water could very well save their life.”



A friendly collaboration among PSMC churches took place in November, when the Peace & Justice Academy, connected with Pasadena Mennonite, brought students to Fresno to learn about creation care,

water use and conservation. They stayed overnight at Mennonite Community Church and, learned from, among others, church member and FPU prof Peter Smith.



Serving Christ in the borderlands

Tucson’s Shalom Mennonite

Fellowship has become acutely aware of its role as a peace church on the frontier of the immigration debate in recent years, most particularly in 2014, when a flood of Central American women and children began appearing at the border. Overwhelmed officials began dumping people who had filed applications to stay in the U.S. at the Tucson bus station, often 70 per day, where they spent long hours with nothing, waiting to take a bus to other states.

The church has responded generously to this need. At the summer assembly, PSMC board member Tina Schlabach shared her experiences as one of the volunteers who helped provide food, blankets, diapers, travel kits, stuffed animals, phone calls, and a kind word. Many migrants told horrendous stories of drug-gang violence, threats to their children and poverty that drove them to undertake harrowing trips north.

Schlabach called it a “privilege” to spend time with these refugees, because often it’s “the first time they’re treated with dignity, as a human being. The moment they cross the border they’re treated with hostility; they are termed illegal and they’re taken into prison-like surroundings, and many things are taken from them. ... They come in pretty bad shape; they come traumatized, dirty after many days of not being able to shower, and hungry. And most of them are very disoriented, they don’t even know what state they’re in and how to join their family.”

If asked why she volunteers, “I always say, this is what I understand Jesus wants us to do, and I know when you’re stable you’re going to help people too. And they always say, ‘Yes, yes, we want to do that.’”

For more on Shalom’s stance on immigration and work with migrants, visit shalommennonite.org/serve/immigration_education



ReconciliAsian, the peace and conflict resolution ministry founded by Mountain View Mennonite pastors Hyun and Sue Hur, continues to find creative ways to spread a message of hope amid conflict to the Korean community and beyond. This summer and fall, the Hurs have had many opportunities to introduce concepts such as conflict transformation, restorative justice and the “circle process” and to practice them with diverse groups of people of various ages and cultures.

The peacebuilding and justice discipleship program they offered last April inspired a ReconciliAsian Book Club, which brought together interested people to study John Paul Lederach’s *Little Book of Conflict Transformation* (translated into Korean) and the *Little Book of Circle Processes* by Kay Pranis.

In August, they led a junior high family conference at All Nations Church in Sunland, Calif., focusing on loving and communicating well as a family. Youth and parents met separately, youth in English and parents in Korean, to hone conflict transformation skills and restorative justice concepts, interwoven with lively cooperative games and small group discussions. In a final session — in “Konglish” — kids and adults alike reflected on things they’d learned. For example, a youth said, “I hope that I will spend more time with family members rather than studying in my room alone,” while a parent said, “I will lay aside my pride and focus on restoring relationships instead.”

The Hurs also were invited to talk about how peacemaking and mission connect with a team from Radical Journey, a program of Mennonite Mission Network that sends out young adults to serve overseas for 10 months. Before heading to Indonesia and South Africa, the team came to Los Angeles to engage the diversity of culture and languages in the city. DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection), a program in North Hollywood focused on urban ministry and leadership, also came to hear about how ReconciliAsian engages with the Korean American community.

In October, the second annual fundraising dinner drew more than 100 guests to hear from people such as Kyunglan Suh, a female profes-



Korean American junior high youth enjoy a game that was part of a family conference focused on loving and communicating well.

sor and pastor in a Korean immigrant church who found delving into the field of restorative justice through ReconciliAsian has helped reframe her theology, ministry and faith. Gilberto Perez Jr., director for Intercultural Development and Educational Partnership at Goshen College, announced a new partnership between the college and ReconciliAsian to promote higher education to urban Asian youth. There were also prayers for Daniel and Haruka Lee as they return to Japan to begin the ministry of ReconciliAsian there, planting seeds of peace as they see the distrust and tension growing between the Japanese and Korean Japanese.

—from reports by Sue Hur

Two of four Mennonite Voluntary Service units in Pacific Southwest close



This year’s San Francisco MVS unit, sponsored by First Mennonite Church San Francisco, far left, includes Jacob Kraybill, Audra Miller, Joe Kotva and Rachel Stoltzfus.

The Tucson unit, sponsored by Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, includes Megan Leary, Karina Kreider, Josh Schlabach, Joshua Sanabria and Wesley Goodrich.

In a major restructuring decision, Mennonite Voluntary Service has announced that the number of units nationwide will be reduced after the current service year ends, from 21 to 11, in response to a declining number of volunteers. Fewer units will ensure that those remaining will form larger intentional communities, with many benefits to the participants. Among four units within PSMC, one has voluntarily closed (Kykotsmovi, Ariz.). The Fresno unit, connected for many years to Mennonite Community Church, has not had any volunteers this year and will also close. “People are sad to see it go, although this has been an ongoing discussion for a couple of years,” said member and new conference minister Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower, who added that for 25 years the unit “has really shaped the congregation — and the congregation has felt it played an important role in shaping people’s lives” through its sponsorship of the program, which places young adults in local places of service. Two other units in PSMC — San Francisco and Tucson — will continue.

Did you know?

DREAMer scholarship funds are available from Mennonite Church USA to help with college or trade school tuition costs for undocumented young adults who are part of a Mennonite congregation or attend a Mennonite college/university. These funds come from the DREAMer Fund, originally established to help DREAMers apply for deferred action to be able to live and work legally in the U.S. At the Mennonite Church USA 2013 convention in Phoenix, more than \$27,000 was raised for this fund. However, due to the uncertain future of immigration reform, many DREAMers have been hesitant to apply, so the use of the fund is being expanded to include educational assistance. The next deadline is Jan. 30, 2015. Visit mennoniteusa.org/what-we-do/immigration/dreamer-fund/.

Travis Duerksen, Ashlynn Hamm and Heath Goertzen received a unique orientation for their Mennonite Mission Network sponsored service in Indonesia through Maranatha Christian Fellowship, a multicultural PSMC congregation that also belongs to the JKI Mennonite synod in Indonesia.

As the Spirit leads

How PSMC folk are living out their faith in the Southwest

Members at **Maranatha Christian Fellowship** in Northridge, Calif., were challenged to take a neglected spiritual discipline seriously in September by participating in a churchwide fast focused on gaining wisdom about three issues: vision, finance and unity. Participants were encouraged to follow the “Daniel Fast,” based on healthy plant-based foods – vegetables, fruit and legumes – and avoiding meat, sugar, caffeine and processed foods, and to seek “presence, perspective and power.” Fasting may be an ancient practice, but pastor Andrew Scarborough gave it a modern bent by preparing devotionals and encouraging videos that were posted daily to the church Facebook page, along with testimonials to the spiritual insights gleaned over the month.

Maranatha, which also has many members with Indonesian roots, offered a special kind of mission training this August when it helped prepare three young Kansans for what to expect as the first youth team sent by **Mennonite Mission Network** to serve in Indonesia. The idea for the Indonesia team was initiated by Pastor **Sunoko Lin**, also a member of the MMN board, who thought it would be a great cultural exchange opportunity. Maranatha is a member of both PSMC and Jemaat Kristen Indonesia, one of three Indonesian synods that are part of **Mennonite World Conference**.

“It is very exciting to see a team come together that will take a year to learn from our brothers and sisters in Indonesia,” said program director Sharon Norton, of MMN. “We are thankful that the JKI church is extending hospitality and learning experiences to our U.S. American young people, who will hopefully carry what they’ve learned back to their home congregations and beyond.”

In Indonesia, there is great enthusiasm for the gospel, particularly among younger people at JKI’s Bible college, Lin said. In the nation of more than 238 million people, the church plays a vital role in bringing holistic ministries to the poor, such as providing church school scholarships to students coming from low-income families, regardless of their religious backgrounds. Ministries meeting practical needs help churches attract non-Christians even though Indonesia is only about 9 percent Christian.



Travis Duerksen, Ashlynn Hamm and Heath Goertzen, all from Kansas, will work until July 2015 with various ministries of the JKI church, including the Happy Holy Kids Kindergarten/Preschool, doing graphic design and multimedia projects for the church, as well as after-school tutoring and organizing data for World Vision.

The team’s orientation was led by Lydia Adi Sidharta, who has lived in Indonesia and the United States.

“This is an important time of life for young people to be stretched and challenged to gain a different perspective on what it means to be a Christian in a very different context than their own,” Norton said.

— Adapted from a MMN release

Churches in PSMC are finding ways to redeem a holiday that sometimes raises unease in Christian circles: Halloween. Youth at **Mennonite Community** in Fresno went out “trick or treating” in a wealthy neighbourhood this year for canned food — the church runs its own food pantry for people who don’t always get enough to eat — and followed that up with games and snacks at the church. **Miracle of Faith Mennonite** in Los Angeles invited kids to stop by on their regular trick-or-treat route for its annual Hallelujah Night Truth ‘n’ Treats event.

Loren Friesen, from **Mennonite Community** in Fresno, and **Lauren Rewers** and **Isabelle Muthiah**, both of Pasadena Mennonite, were among the participants this summer in the **Ministry Quest** program based at Tabor College in Kansas, an innovative year-long program for high school students ages 16-18 who are curious about exploring God’s call and their potential for ministry and leadership. Ministry Quest partners with the local church, creates a community, develops mentoring relationships and utilizes ministry experiences. An intensive retreat in June, where students gather to consider the meaning of being “called,” is followed by a second stage that includes mentoring and observation sessions with a home church leader, and a closing retreat held with the next group of participants. Home churches are expected to foot much of the \$1,000 cost of the program.

“The whole week (of the opening retreat) we focused on who we are as leaders in the Mennonite church, how we can make a difference in our church, and what it looks like to hold our identity in Christ,” Rewers reflected on a letter thanking her church for supporting her participation through a memorial mission fund named for former missionary Aron Jantzen. “I learned so much about different forms of leadership (up front, verbal, behind-the-scenes etc.) and the ways I approach leadership, processing, and church congregations has been shifted wildly!”

“This crazy program flipped my world upside down and changed my views and perspectives on almost all aspects of my life,” Muthiah wrote. “At Ministry Quest I struggled and grew in many skills, specifically in leadership. I learned that I enjoy listening just as much as speaking, and I learned that God has given me gifts I haven’t even discovered. I learned that there is lot I need to work on and a lot that I’m personally struggling with. At Ministry Quest I made relationships I will have for the rest of my life. I met some of the most amazing life-changing people who are still challenging me now that I’m home in California.” For more information about Ministry Quest, visit tabor.edu/ministryquest.

Koinonia members seek help to reunite family

By Barbara Taft,
Koinonia Mennonite Church

If you saw the movie *Hotel Rwanda*, or you have heard about how the Rwandan Tutsi were victims in fighting with Rwandan Hutu, then you already know part of Daniel's story. Daniel is a Banyamulenge Tutsi, a member of the same tribe, but born in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). His family, too, have been persecuted, arrested, made refugees, and suffered at the hands of others.

The goal of members of Koinonia Mennonite Church in Chandler, Ariz., is to bring Daniel's wife and 11 children to the U.S., where the whole family can live in safety. (Daniel is a pseudonym being used publicly for the family's protection.)

They are still in Africa, and it is estimated that it will cost approximately \$1,000 each to bring them here. Once you've heard their story, as attendees at the recent Southwest regional meeting did, we hope you will want to help. Donations of all amounts will be accepted.

Daniel is a nursing administrator by profession, and he had a successful life in his field prior to the commencement of fighting in Rwanda. It was not long after that when Tutsi in other nearby African nations came under attack as well. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, where Daniel and his wife lived originally, many of their tribespeople were rounded up and arrested, and the men were killed, often in front of their wives and children. Others found their only recourse was to move to refugee camps, which provided a little safety, but also suffered rounds of violence.

Daniel was elected president of the refugees in a camp in Burundi where his family had fled, negotiating on their behalf with officials in the Burundi DRC embassy, the UN secretary general, NGOs and even media. He was a good-hearted man, and he and his wife had taken in many children whose parents had died in the conflict. They had six children of their own, but legally adopted five orphans when no relatives could be found to take them in. That brought the family to a total of two adults and 11 children. And then new fighting broke out in the camp.

"In the evening of Aug. 14, 2004, around 10 p.m., a mob attacked Tutsi refugees in the camp and for two hours, 166 people were killed and over 150 injured, including my own daughter," Daniel recalled at the PSMC assembly. As a witness and representative, he spoke to the police, the press, and United Nations personnel about the massacre. Although he had been a wanted man before this happened, this sealed his fate. The perpetrators of the massacre wanted him dead. And attempts were made on his life.

Although born in Congo, Daniel is considered under the African tribal system to be Rwandan, since he is a Tutsi. He worked for a while in Rwanda, but that government views him as a problem because he spoke up for Hutus (the enemy of the Tutsi) when they were



PSMC pastors gather around Daniel at Trinity Mennonite Church to pray for him and the safety of his wife and children.

oppressed.

In 2006 he formed a nonprofit called Voice of Community. "Through my work I became aware of many incidents of violence, rape and oppression against the people of Rwanda. Many of them were cases of the now Tutsi government taking revenge against Hutus by denying them justice. And I said this is not good, because we need to change to bring peace and reconciliation by forgiveness. I hoped to bring awareness to human rights and public health issues by voicing community opinion, speaking out and advocating for forgotten people who were being silenced by the government," he told the assembly.

Daniel said that between 2010 and 2012 he was arrested, detained, interrogated and tortured after speaking out publicly against the government's actions, and after his release he and his family were continually threatened and tortured by police. He finally fled to the U.S., where he received asylum in 2013.

A Baltimore Mennonite church that helped Daniel in his early months here helped connect him with Koinonia. Since then, he has been trying to learn English (his education was in French), as well as earn a living, although getting into the field of nursing here will require him to be fluent in English. Meanwhile, his family lives in fear, since the eldest daughter was kidnapped twice (and rescued both times by police, who required payment for their services). It is a constant worry for Daniel and a continuing fear for all of his family that this could happen again.

At the assembly, Daniel expressed gratefulness to God, to the United States and especially Mennonites who have helped him with food, clothing and housing as well as medical care after a bad car accident. Being separated from his children when they may be in danger "hurts me when I think deeply of the misery my family is going through," he said.

Please help us to reunite this family by bringing them to safety in the United States. You can learn more by going to youcaring.com/other/family-reunification/172502. Even small contributions will be accepted. Every bit of money contributed will bring this family closer to family reunification and to safety within the United States.

Meet the world!

Next July 21-26, up to 8,000 of our sisters and brothers from around the world will be coming to Harrisburg, Pa., to worship and fellowship at the Mennonite World Conference Assembly.

Plans are well underway, but our participation as American hosts is very much needed. Here are three top ways to pitch in.

1. Register at mwc-cmm.org and plan to attend the whole 5½ days. You'll make lasting friendships and discover the gift of belonging to an international family of faith.
2. Join the Prayer Network and get monthly messages. One big prayer request PSMC congregations will understand firsthand is that visitors from the Global South might be granted visas.
3. Urge your congregation to partner with an immigrant church whose members have fewer financial resources, so its members are able to attend. Visit www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015. Contact the conference office for information about how to do this.

Adapted from an article by Phyllis Pellman Good



What's the scoop?

People and events

Mennonite Men, an auxiliary organization of PSMC dedicated to promoting spiritual growth and fellowship among men, as well as to providing scholarships to people training for Christian service and the Join Hands Mennonite Church building program, decided at a June meeting to take a hiatus. For now, the organization's funds have been released to a PSMC reserve fund to continue their purpose. If you are planning on attending programs such as those at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, PSMC's Pastoral Leadership classes and other Anabaptist schools, you may apply for scholarship funding through PSMC.

Mennonite Community Church in Fresno celebrated its 60th anniversary in October, on Mennonite Heritage Sunday. Members of the congregation told moving stories, and a reader's theater piece focused on the question: "What do these stones mean?" taken from the story of God's faithfulness to the Israelites in Josh. 4: 1-7 and 1 Peter 2, which describes the church as "living stones ... built into a spiritual house," with Christ as its cornerstone. And of course, there was cake (right).



Trinity Mennonite Church in Glendale, Ariz., held a silent auction, dessert social and talent show in late June as part of a send-off for members **Josh and Alisha Garber**, who are serving with Mennonite Mission Network at LCC International University in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Alisha serves as the director of Community Life at the Christian university, and helps the Intercultural Education coordinator and the resident directors develop a thriving and active campus community. She also oversees the discipline process, in which she has implemented a restorative justice component. Josh is the Spiritual Formations coordinator and focuses on developing spiritual life student leaders, planning and leading the university's weekly chapel service, encouraging the campus's Christian community to grow, and challenging the rest of the students to consider the role of faith in their lives.

It's time to be looking ahead to the Mennonite Church USA convention, **Kansas City 2015**, which will be held June 30-July 15. Among the speakers for adult worship at the biennial gathering is PSMC pastor **Hal Shrader**, lead pastor at Trinity Mennonite in Glendale, Ariz. Registration begins online at convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration on Jan. 15, but you can download the registration worksheet any time to help you gather the information you need, as well as a budget worksheet to help you plan for your group's costs. To learn more, watch a video at vimeo.com/102161428.



Camp Keola was a gathering place for many PSMC church members this summer. A good-sized group of youth campers from Arizona made the trek to join California campers at the gorgeous mountain setting. **Primera Iglesia Mennonita** (the Spanish-speaking half of **First Mennonite Church Reedley**) enjoyed a weekend on the shores of Huntington Lake in August, with Pastor Victor Vargas from Oregon as a guest speaker. Members of several northern California churches attended the annual Labor Day weekend PSMC **Family Camp**. And the annual **Quilt Camp** (above, with Melinda Hasegawa showing off one of the unusual creations) brought enthusiastic quilters from **Mennonite Community** as well as North Fresno MB Church together in a peaceful mountain setting for a weekend of fellowship and creative stitching. Each participant undertook a comforter top project for Mennonite Central Committee; they also made baby quilts and completed unfinished projects.

News from our Mennonite college students: Sisters from Chandler, Ariz., who attend **Koinonia Mennonite Church** graduated together from **Hesston College** in Hesston, Kan., this spring. **Emma Cloud** graduated with an associate of science degree. **Phoebe Cloud** graduated with an associate of applied arts and sciences degree in nursing. They are the daughters of Don and Dorothy Cloud.

Joshua Yoder, from **Shalom Mennonite** in Tucson, Ariz., graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from **Goshen College**, in Goshen, Ind.

Aaron Graber, a biology major at Goshen who's from **First Mennonite Church San Francisco**, is singing this year with the Chamber Choir and Men's Chorus.

Trinity Mennonite in Glendale, Ariz., has several students at Goshen College. **Hayley Mann**, a molecular biology/biochemistry major, was recognized on the spring dean's list. She also plays in the college's symphony orchestra. **Nicholas Schwartz**, a senior informatics major, and **Erin Kilmer**, a junior nursing major, both participated in a study-service term in Senegal over the summer semester. The 13-week program, a Goshen distinctive, helps students dive into the local culture with intensive study and language instruction, then work on a volunteer service project.

Alicia Rodriguez, a **Bluffton University** junior from **Trinity Mennonite**, was named to the dean's list for the spring semester.

Congratulations also to **Kara Hiebert**, a student at **Bethel College** in Kansas who attends **Mennonite Community Church** in Fresno, who was awarded an **Everence College Scholarship** for the 2014-15 year. Everence, a Mennonite financial services organization, invests in students through its scholarship program.

Looking for fundraising ideas to get your youth group to Kansas City for next July's youth convention? Wake up and smell the



coffee: Goshen College's special blend customized for your church! Youth groups have the opportunity to sell bags of "**Menno's Best**" organic coffee, grown by small-scale farmers students worked with during their study-service terms in Peru's Chanchamayo Province.

"It was fun to be involved in an organization that saw the importance of sustainable and organic products," said Sara Alvarez, a 2012 graduate who served at Highlands Coffee in Chanchamayo during her time on study-service. "I got to interact with interesting people who cared about treating people and the earth fairly."

The coffee beans are harvested and shipped directly to Goshen, roasted locally and shipped from the college's student-run coffee shop, Java Junction. Five dollars from each \$12 bag will go directly to youth groups; one dollar will go toward either Mennonite Central Committee or Mennonite Mission Network. The rest goes to pay fair prices for the coffee beans, shipping, roasting and packaging. When bags are delivered, they will be personalized with a "blend" label specific to each church youth group.

Groups that sign up for the fundraiser will be entered into a competition and will receive a marketing starter kit. This limited-time fundraiser and product will be available through June 2015. Learn more or purchase individually at mennosbest.org.



Mountain View Mennonite in Upland hosted two PSMC ministry classes this fall, including Biblical Interpretation from an Anabaptist Perspective, taught by Stan Friesen (above) in mid-September and another on Anabaptist Theology in early November, two of four courses offered as part of PSMC's Pastoral Training Initiative for church leaders seeking licensing or ordina-

tion, or who simply want to learn more about Anabaptist history, theology and leadership. The next cycle of classes, offered in various locations, will be presented in 2016. During 2015, PSMC will hold a series of table talk meetings on issues of current relevance to member churches.

While PSMC's courses are on hiatus, you can still get in on an online course called "Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's different and why?" Taught by Loren Johns, a Bible professor at **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**, it will look at the ways Anabaptists have historically approached scripture, and what has changed in since the 16th century. Drawing on the wealth of personal experience and wisdom among students, this class will be highly interactive. It runs Feb. 11 to March 25, with an early registration deadline of Jan. 21. For more information, visit .ambs.edu/churchleadershipcenter/anabaptist-short-courses.cfm

Laura Penner, from **First Mennonite Church Reedley**, began a 15-month Mennonite Voluntary Service term in May in Alamosa, Col., as Adelante children's program assistant with La Puente Home Inc. A 2013 graduate of Fresno Pacific University, Penner is the daughter of Virginia and Peter Penner. MVS invites adults age 20 and older to participate in one or two years of Christian ministry in 13 locations in the United States, including two in the Pacific Southwest: San Francisco and Tucson. For more information about MVS, visit MennoniteMission.net/Serve/MVS

Church for Others, the Korean-language congregation founded as a house church in Temple City, Calif., has begun meeting at a new location in Sierra Madre, at the Sierra Madre Congregational Church campus.

First Mennonite Church San Francisco celebrated on Dec. 7 as **Joanna Shenk** was licensed for ministry as associate pastor. **Gordon Smith**, pastor at Mennonite Community in Fresno and a newly appointed member of the conference elders team, represented PSMC at the event.

Circles of Support and Accountability, the unique support/prevention program for released sexual offenders in the Fresno area, continues its work, with outsized influence, despite losing government funding after the recession. COSA, directed by the newly appointed PSMC Conference Minister **Clare Ann Ruth Heffelbower**, hosted a series of seminars in October with Sallie Culbreth, founder of Committed to Freedom, an organization focused on abuse recovery. In November, Ruth-Heffelbower offered a presentation on Circles at an international conference in Leuven, Belgium, on exploring the potential of restorative justice for sexual violence.

The Fresno organization currently has about 15 "circles" of volunteers providing friendship, accountability and a support structure to sex offenders, reaching out to them as the most marginalized members of society as well as hoping to prevent recurrences. The organization hopes to increase its sustainability by strengthening connections with local churches. Tax-deductible donations are always welcome at giving.fresno.edu, or by check to the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies at 1717 S. Chestnut Ave. #2202, Fresno, CA 93702.

Jan. 27
Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday

Feb. 6
Conference Mission Team meeting
Northridge, Calif.
9:30 a.m.

Feb. 6-7
Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference Winter Assembly
Northridge, Calif.

June 30-July 5
Mennonite Church USA biennial convention
Kansas City

July 21-26
Mennonite World Conference global assembly
Harrisburg, Pa.

Gallery: Snapshots from



Trinity Mennonite in Glendale, Ariz., celebrated the ordination of Pastor Hal Shrader on June 22. Surrounding Shrader, from left: care ministries director Maribeth Troyer, Mennonite Church USA director of leadership development Terry Shue, leadership team member Ron Kilmer, Conference Minister Dick Davis, and leadership team members Richard Keeney and Sheri Swartzendruber. Left, Jeremy Kempf was also commissioned as director of the church's music and worship ministry, shown here with Jeanette Slater, conference elder for PSMC.



Above: Participants in the summer VBS program at First Mennonite Church Reedley show off their crafted items.

Right: When you live and worship in Fresno, in the heart of the Central Valley's fruit industry, a summer sermon series on the "fruits of the Spirit" can take on a whole new flavor. Pastor Gordon Smith at Mennonite Community Church kicked off a series based on Gal. 5: 22-23 with help from a dramatic reading by teens from the congregation, depicting fruit and farmers. Afterward, members sampled peaches from Blossom Bluff Orchards, owned by the Loewen family in nearby Reedley.

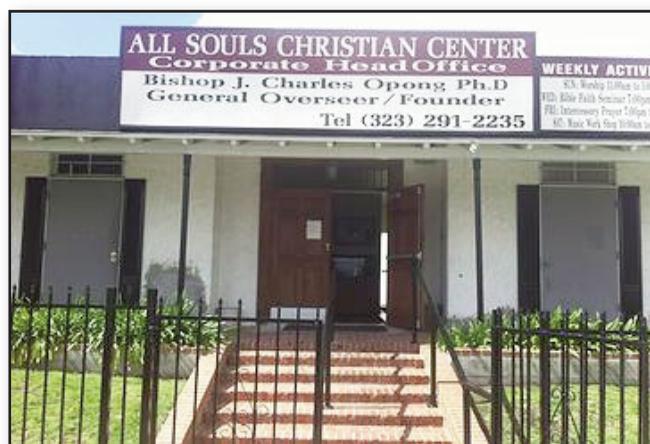


First Mennonite Church Paso Robles had its name paraded around town on Paso Robles' Pioneer Day. Helen Toevs, director of the Rainbow Bright Christian Learning Center, poses with a float featuring kids who attend the church's preschool outreach program.





All Souls Christian Center International celebrated 30 years of ministry in Los Angeles with a four-night convention revival in July, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Lawrence Tetteh, topped off by a formal-dress banquet with music, dancing and presentations, at the Carson Community Center (above). Founded by Dr. Jones Charles Opong and his wife Rebecca (above right) in 1984, along with four other members, the church began in a small storefront on Washington Boulevard, later moving to a location at Adams and Crenshaw, where it was known as All Souls Miracle Church. It was among the very first churches in L.A. to have an African pastor, and continues to have a strong West African flavor. Pastor Opong serves as president of the African, Belizean, Caribbean Mennonite Mission Association (ABC MMA), a constituent group of PSMC. Congregation members put together a “thank you” video on YouTube.



Left, an inflatable wading pool served for a recent series of baptisms at Maranatha Christian Fellowship in Northridge, Calif. Below left, Maranatha kids do some spirited choreography as part of the church’s 27th birthday celebrations in November. Below, Pasadena Mennonite prepares and serves dinner once a month at Union Station, a center serving homeless people in Pasadena. This is one night’s happy and hard-working crew.



News you can use: Resources for congregations

PSMC contacts

Moderator

Femi Fatunmbi
moderator@
pacificsouthwest.org
323-759-6608

Conference Minister

Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower
559-281-5664
clareann@
pacificsouthwest.org

Minister of Mission

David Gray
510-775-4231
davidgray@
pacificsouthwest.org

Menno Media Resource Advocate

Barbara Ewy
abewy@cvip.net

Conference Office

379 N. Campus Ave.
Upland, CA 91786
agneschigoji@
pacificsouthwest.org
909-243-5003

Panorama

panorama@
pacificsouthwest.org
905-829-9640

PSMC Website: www.pacificsouthwest.org

Facebook:

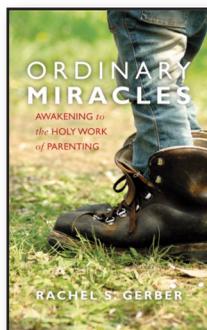
<https://facebook.com/PacificSouthwestMennoniteConference>

Want to help new Christians in your congregation become *disciples*? *Begin Anew* is a 16-session

series of studies to aid in that process, even for long-time Mennonites who would like to grow in discipleship from an Anabaptist perspective. Rooted in four basic elements of faith — believing, belonging, becoming and behaving — the course is designed to bring about a clear faith in God as known in Jesus Christ; a solid sense of belonging in a family of loving people, and a disciplined lifestyle that leads to involvement in ministry and mission. *Begin Anew* grew out of the congregational work and writing of Palmer Becker, Howard Wagler and Marion Bontrager, with Rick Warren’s work as an inspiration. Download the free materials at <http://bit.ly/1yL1HVk>



Where is God in the midst of temper tantrums, laundry, and accidents? Find out in this honest devotional memoir about mothering three busy boys: *Ordinary Miracles: Awakening to the Holy Work of Parenting*. Ordained Mennonite minister and blogger Rachel S. Gerber gives voice to the grit of parenting with stories of hope, as she learns to discover the gifts and holy calling hidden in the events of harried family life. Overburdened parents will find reassurance in Rachel’s own story of how, in her darkest hour of disorientation, in the most mundane and ordinary days of motherhood, and in moments of exhilaration, joy, and beauty, God is present. Available in softcover (\$12.99) or e-reader editions (\$8.99) at mennomedia.org.



A new Christian Education curriculum invites pacifists and veterans to walk with one another on a common journey toward peace. *Returning Veterans, Returning Hope: Seeking Peace Together* is a six-week series to help congregations think theologically and practically about war’s trauma, healing from trauma and Jesus’ way of peace, written by Mennonite peace leaders Jason

Boone and Titus Peachey and Iraq War veteran Evan Knappenberger, a student at EMU. Building relationships between a peace church and veterans is no stranger than the Good Samaritan story, Peachey and Boone write. One lesson points out that as a society we have failed to find alternatives to bombs and bullets, so we all share responsibility for the scars and wounded consciences veterans bring home. The curriculum, for churches with or without veterans, is online at mcc.org/veterans-curriculum.

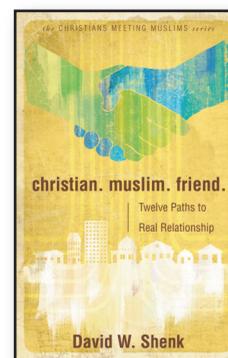
Message Received: *Hearing God’s Call* is the new MennoMedia vacation Bible school material for 2015. It features five Bible stories that highlight biblical characters who heard God call them: Samuel, Esther, Mary, Jesus’ disciples, and Lydia. They responded to God’s call, changing their lives forever.



MennoMedia VBS is designed on a rotation model, with all children and teachers first meeting in a large group session for a time of worship and music, including a drama presentation of the Bible story.

Then children are divided into groups that rotate among different activities related to the Bible story. *Message Received: Hearing God’s Call* may be ordered in an all-in-one boxed set that includes everything needed for planning and preparation. Items are also available separately. Visit MennonMedia.org/vbs to learn more.

Can Christians and Muslims be friends? Real friends? Even in an era of intense religious conflict, David W. Shenk, who has written many books on Christian-Muslim relations, says yes. In *Christian, Muslim, Friend: Twelve Paths to Real Relationship*, he lays out 12 ways Christians can form authentic relationships with Muslims characterized by respect, hospitality and candid dialogue, while still bearing witness to their Christ-centered commitments. Publisher Herald Press says Shenk’s books, drawn from 50 years’ experience with Muslim societies, prove such friendships “are a way to bring peace to our warring world in an era of global mistrust and violence.” Available through mennomedia.org.



Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

Support for PSMC

Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference gathers California, Arizona and Nevada churches in partnership for leadership, mission and congregational relationships. Giving by congregations and individuals ensures that conference ministers are funded, mission activities flourish, and resources are available for church nurture. Donations may be made via PayPal at www.pacificsouthwest.org/donate, or mail to: **PO Box 39038, Phoenix, AZ 85069**