

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church

Tidings

“Let us not give up meeting together.....but let us encourage one another.”

January, 2010

Issue 3, Vol. 2009-10

MISSION: IT'S CHANGED!

Pastor Craig Maven



STEP #2: DO IT!

On the first Sunday of the New Year, church members were shocked to find the doors of the church locked and chained. Who could have done such a thing? A note was nailed to the old wooden door. It was from the pastor, and it read, “I’ve said it all. You’ve heard it all. Now go and do it!”

The first step is to learn it. The goal is for us to learn what God’s mission is, how God equips us for the mission, how we can best engage in God’s mission, what we need to share the good news with people of other languages and cultures, and many other aspects of God’s mission in the world.

The second step in our yearlong emphasis on mission is to get as many people as possible engaged in God’s mission is some way. Many of you are already doing a lot. When staff got back the survey that Pastor Mark sent to Sunday School classes we were thrilled to see all the various ministries and missional activities we are engaged in. I am also convinced that some of you would like to be engaged in missional work, or be more involved but do not know who to talk to in order to find out what your abilities are and where they can be used.

There are multiple avenues of information on easily accessible missional activities. One is staff. Pastor Mark is the mission’s pastor, and can tell you about HMC missions opportunities (summer mission trips, etc...), Harrisonburg District missions, and broader community

opportunities. The lead pastors can direct you to places of service, as well. Another is your Sunday School team leader who may know of organized missional involvement by your class.

Some of you may wonder what gifts and abilities are needed to be involved. Most missional activities do not require a high level of skill and training. What is required is a willingness to try. Places like Gift and Thrift depend on volunteers to sort donations, stock shelves, and handle customer service. If you want to test a call to cross-cultural ministry and do not have much experience then training and mentoring is important. This may involve greater language skills and knowledge of other cultures. The need for people with this passion continues to grow in our area.

There may be a few among us who want to test a call to long-term, cross-cultural missions. For young people and young adults there are programs like tranSend with Virginia Mennonite Mission, or Service Venture and Radical Journey with Mennonite Mission Network. HMC is supportive of the call to missions. Be in touch with a staff member and we will help you get to the right place to discern God’s call.

As a young adult I stood at the edge of a waterfall looking into the pool below. My friends had jumped into the cold water. It was now my turn. Entering God’s mission can be like jumping into a cold mountain creek. You know it’s going to be a jolt, but it sure can be a lot of fun. Are you ready to take the plunge into the river of God’s mission? You’ve heard about it. Are you ready to do it?

MISSION REPORTS

HMC Creation Care Group's Connection to Asian Agriculture *Pastor Mark Keller*

On the surface it seems as if the title to this little article is absurd. How could a tiny group of HMC Christians imagine that they have any impact what-so-ever on the agriculture of Asia? But, then again, that kind of skepticism has been around from the beginning of the Jesus movement. Christians hold the Biblical concept that God is honored and calls and transforms others as we live more faithfully to His desires for the world.

What is happening to agriculture in Asia anyway? It is changing fast. I first went to the Asian nation of Nepal in 1985. Because of my Iowa farm background I held interest in and intentionally observed the farming practices there. I listened to the agriculture workers and farmers.

Nepali agriculture amazed me. Rocky, steep mountain sides were carefully terraced and coaxed into producing surprising amounts of food. Farmers who had never been to first grade let alone a Land Grant College knew how to produce food in healthy sustainable ways. Farmers well understood the amount of compost/manure needed to produce the best crop in a wide variety of conditions. Nepali farmers, without engineering degrees, knew how to bring the right amount of irrigation water from far away to reach all parts of steep mountainside plots.

Nepali farmers knew the weather, too. Without weather forecasters they knew what was going to happen and when it would happen. *"This is the season for small rains. This is the windy season. This is the wet season and time to plant. A dry-land wintertime crop will produce because an ever dependable week of wet weather comes in the coldest time of the year."*

After a 15 year absence our family visited Nepal again in 2008. Things had changed a lot, including the weather. Weather patterns are no longer certain. Rain does not come when expected and in adequate amounts. The yearly monsoon rains are due to warm wet air striking the snow and ice of the eternal snows of the Himalayan Mountains. Now the snow and ice is in fast retreat from those mountains, delaying and

shortening the monsoon seasonal rains. The Himalayan Mountains are warming! Any Nepali farmer can tell you something is wrong!

I have been to Jomsom a small town four days walk from where we used to live. Jomsom, in the Kali Gandaki River Valley is at 2,300 meters high and in the heart of the Annapurna range. This remote town experienced no snowfall last winter for the first known time. The temperature soared way above normal to 27C, and only fell to 13C, against a usual -4C. The mountain snowline there has risen above 5,000 meters.

Average temperatures across Nepal have risen 1.6C in 50 years – twice the global average. Temperature rises like this in the Himalayas will be a catastrophe.



Nearly one in four people in the world rely on the Himalayas for water. "If there is less snow in the Himalayas, or the monsoon rains weaken, or the

glaciers melt with [climate change](#), [they are now rapidly receding] then all south Asian farming, industry, water supplies and cities will suffer," says Nepalese climate specialist Ngamindra Dahal.

How can a tiny group of HMC Christians imagine that they have any impact what-so-ever on the agriculture of Asia? The Group has stated its Vision and Mission:

In response to God's call to be stewards of all of life the HMC Creation Care Group will seek to be channels of encouragement for God's healing and hope for the earth to flow from within us to others across the street and around the world.

Further, the HMC Creation Care Group seeks to intentionally be a resource to equip our congregation and community with practical ways of caring for the earth motivated by Biblical principles. Our values include: Respect for God's creation, Restoration of God's creation, and Pursuit of creation friendly lifestyles.

Globalization teaches us that we are interconnected. Our behaviors do have impact upon those who live on the other side of the globe. As Christians become increasingly faithful to God's desires for the world, we will choose to behave in less harmful ways toward the earth. Better care of the earth is a way of caring not only for ourselves but others, even in Asia. HMC Creation Care seeks to witness to our faith and trust in God by joyfully using the church land property to honor Christ. So far, we have started to grow local food on our church land; we have planted native trees and flowering plants to enhance a nature path. The HMC Nature Path teaches, invites physical exercise and inspires worship of God. It is also a way to foster community in an increasingly fragmented world.

HMC Creation Care Participants believe that tiny, tiny actions multiplied over and over by God's people will change the world. We even believe that our faithful and prayerful responses can even positively benefit the agriculture of Asia and the entire world! You are invited to learn more and join our joy filled faith group by contacting Anne Nielsen, HMC Creation Care Group Chairperson. treenielsen@yahoo.com

To apply for a plot in the HMC Community Garden and grow some local food contact Garden Manager Mark Keller. mkeller@hmcchurch.org

To see a fascinating eight minute video starting in the Himalayan village of Jomsom, Nepal and ending at the Bay of Bengal go to:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/dec/06/copenhagen>

Members of the HMC Creation Care Group have donated the following books to the HMC Library for general use:

- "Serve God, Save the Planet" by J. Matthew Sleeth, MD
- "Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan
- "Creation Care: Keepers of the Earth" by Luke Gascho
- "In the Beginning: The Story of Creation" Genesis, Chap. 1 for children
- "What on Earth Can You Do? Making your Church a Creation Awareness Center by Donna Lehman.



Rose Jantzi in Paraguay

*(published in
Connections)*

Coming into this year of service, I didn't know what sort of volunteer work I would be doing. But now I do! I am beginning to have a pace to life.

I have been working with 10 wonderful co-workers at Iglesia de Amistad's daycare and kindergarten program, La Guardaria. About 96 kids, between one- and four-years old, spend either a part or the whole day at La Guarderia. With patience and kindness, both the faculty and kids have been showing me how things run. So far my job description has looked something like this: nose wiper, dish washer, lice picker, dance instructor, cook assistant, floor sweeper, terere [tea] drinker, hair dresser, hug-giver, show tie-er, wardrobe assistant, etc. Each day is an opportunity to learn something new! Who knows what occupation I may be interested in after such a variety of experiences!

Read more at rosejantzi.blogspot.com

Nourishing Healing Ministry

Lawrence Yoder, Presenter
HMC, Wednesday Evenings
January 13 and 20
6:15 pm in Room E2/3

First Session: Focused on ministry for healing in general. Begins with who, how and why of healing ministry and cultivating the spiritual resources for it. Time will be spent on ministry for healing various kinds of illnesses and patterns of ministry that can be practiced in various settings.

Second Session: Focused on healing emotional and psychological ills. Beginning with an example of how this happened in the New Testament, we will look at how similar things can happen today. The focus will be on support and love for each other. Opportunity will be given for ministry for emotional healing.

Conference for the Family “Famiglia Ti Amo”

Bari, Italy

November 13 & 14, 2009

Hosted by Centro Koinonia

*Follow-up Report
From Chris & Melody Riddle*

One month ago, we were in the middle of a conference that we as a church had spent many hours planning, promoting and praying for. We handed out over 2,500 flyers, hung over 100 posters in the city, talked to numerous friends and contacts, and even had a radio spot for the week leading up to the conference. It was a busy time to say the least. Many of you also have been in prayer for this conference and so you also have invested in this event and for these prayers, we say a very heart felt thanks!

I would love to say to all of you that we had hundreds of people show up for the conference and about half of them were so profoundly impacted by the conference that they all decided to come to Centro Koinonia (CK) and in the last month we have had 50 people come to Christ and be baptized. BUT, this did not happen. It rarely happens in this way here in Italy.

What did we have happen? In the three meetings that we had on Friday the 13th and Saturday the 14th, we had about 50 people at each. Of these 150 or so people, there were about 25 – 30 people who came that are not a part of an Evangelical Congregation. Many of these people were friends that accepted invitations from members of CK or had had contact with us in some way in the past (i.e. through our table in the market).

The teaching that was done was excellent and we are grateful that Johnny & Licia were able to come and give us the amount of time that they did. The feedback that we have received from the people that attended the conference has also been very positive and for this, we are also thankful.

What did we learn? With all the advertising that we did in the city, the people that ended up coming were those that we have worked hard to form personal relationships with. We did a quick survey during one of the meetings and most of the people that attended were there because of an invite from a friend, several came because they had received a flyer and a few

came just because they had seen a poster. No one came from hearing about this on the radio.

What this tells us is that Friendship Evangelism works. It is not extravagant and it does not bring about huge results in short periods of time but over time it produces not only good friends but more importantly, it brings about change in the people that we have contact with and they are able to see and experience Christ for themselves.

In the past month, we have been working to contact some of the people that attended the conference. Melody & I have had the opportunity to visit one couple in particular in their home to talk more on the subject of Family and also about what we do as a congregation. We have been able to strengthen relationships that had already been started before the conference and we have also been in contact with people that we had not known before. We have been able to talk to people about life and how Christ helps us through the difficulties and also celebrates with us in the good times.

We are slowly seeing the results of the labor that went into the conference. In a way, what we did in this conference was not to reap a harvest, but we planted many seeds in a larger field. Now is the time to water and care for the seeds. Slowly, we are seeing little signs of life and we hope that in the future, the near future, we will be able to write to all of you about the harvest that is beginning to come in.

Please continue to pray with and for us as we continue the work here in Bari that is tied to this conference. The work continues and we look forward to what God has in store for this city.

HARTS will be hosted by Harrisonburg Mennonite Church the week of January 25th! This is an exciting opportunity to serve the homeless in our community once again this year. Please put the date on your calendar and pray about ways that you can be involved in this meaningful ministry. If you would like to work on the planning committee or in any volunteer capacity, please contact Claire de Brun at cdebrun@rockingham.k12.va.us or at 574-4331. Don't miss out on this wonderful way to start the new year!

Eastside Church

Peter Eberly

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! I pray you are able to joyfully celebrate His arrival this year!

In early spring of 2008, God created a stir within my life with another type of arrive. It was the arrival of an unexpected vision for a new church in the city of Harrisonburg. During those early weeks and months, God began to create a burning passion for church planting in a very specific section of Harrisonburg, the East side. This vision was unexpected; I was a recent seminary graduate, happily serving as a youth pastor, and proud father of three. But as is often the case, God was preparing my wife, Natalie, and me for a new work.

During the last two years, we have carefully discerned, explored and most importantly, prayed for God's vision to clearly emerge. On March 14, with God's help, along with Matt and Mindy Schwartz, we will be launching Eastside Church in Harrisonburg, VA. The vision is to join with God in four simple, yet life changing ways.

1. Eastside Church will strive to put Christ first in all we say and do.
2. We desire to seek the good of the city, specifically the East side of town.
3. We will ask all members to engage in openly teaching others what Christ has done in our lives.
4. We strive to be the body of Christ, representing Harrisonburg's diversity.

As a result, our mission statement simply states, "Seeking Christ; Serving the community together; Teaching others; Joining in worship." Our goal is to be a church that identifies with, targets and welcomes the largest group currently leaving the church, people in their 20's, 30's, and 40's.

On behalf of Eastside Church, I would like to ask your support with this new ministry.

- First of all, we need folks who are willing to commit to regular prayer for our new work. We believe that this is beyond our abilities and only with God's hand will we be successful.
- Second, as with any new church, we are looking for a handful of folks for whom this vision creates both fear and excitement. People who might be interested in helping to launch this new church! Matt and I are committed to working up to ½ time beyond the church work to enable our families to seek outside finances. As a result, Eastside Church will be a place where everyone takes part in the ministry and we need additional help from those who have captured our vision.
- Finally, we need financial help. Eastside Church is committed to being a part of the community and has a few meeting options. So, any financial assistance will help Eastside Church cover rent, start up fees (signs, equipment, and supplies for our children's ministry and worship) and if possible, a stipend/salary for Matt and myself. During our start up time, an account and relationship has been established with Virginia Mennonite Missions to handle our finances.

God has laid a spirit of giving on our hearts and the result is an exciting and frightening vision. Eastside Church is committed to giving 50% of all our offerings and gifts away toward new missions, church planting and local needs! So from the very beginning, ½ of your contributions will be given away.

Finally, I personally want to thank everyone who has already committed to prayer for this new venture. We have been so blessed during this time of discernment and launching forth, we are already surrounded by over 20 gifted new friends committed to launching Eastside Church. Blessings to you.



CLASS NEWS.....

Agape Fellowship



Our class is using the quarterly and Rowland Shank is teaching.

For Christmas, our class went to Wayside Theatre to see Miracle on 34th Street.

Roger and Evie Leichty went to Costa Rica. David and Lavonn Lehman have moved to Williamsburg Mennonite Church as pastor.

Jim and Brenda Kidd left the snow to spend Christmas in New Smyrna Beach, FL with Brenda's sister and husband. After that, they went to Charleston, SC and spent a week with Jim's two daughters and all the grandkids.

Lucille Horst has had a good recovery from her eye surgery.

Lowell and Sue Guengerich got stranded in Florida because of the snow. Was that planned!!

Friendship Circle Class



Shelly and Evie Wenger's four children and families made Evie's 80th birthday very special. One evening was spent at Old Order Janet Shank's home for a delicious dinner and fun time together. Then a weekend with beautiful fall foliage was spent in Canaan Valley State Park in W.Va. To top it all off she was presented with a lovely memory scrapbook put together by one of their grand daughters.

November 1 the class had a substitute teacher Steve Pardine. He identified himself as a "teacher/learner". Many thanks to Steve.

Byard S. "Doc" Deputy hosted his annual golf outing at Shenvalee in New Market Nov. 23 - 26. (Thanksgiving week) H.M.C. participants included Dale Blaugh, Gerald Brunk, Leo Heatwole, Les Helmuth, Roland Landes, Diane and Jonathan Weaver. Following Thursday morning's golf the Deputy family enjoyed the Thanksgiving buffet at Shenvalee Lodge.

Helen and Dick Ours were this year's recipients of the "Royal Service Award" presented at the EMU College Homecoming honoring their faithful support

of the sports program. Since 1974 they attended 90 percent of the home basketball games, occupying their usual selected seat. Helen's history in food services provided long student contact.

December 16, the Friendship Circle Class met at the Golden China Restaurant for lunch. It was a buffet meal served by three Chinese waitresses as needed.

The meal was enjoyed by 30 persons. This was the classes Christmas celebration for 2009. Due to a lot of illness in our class we were short in number.

Following the meal we were entertained first with a reading by Noah Helmuth and then musical numbers by the "HMC BLUE GRASS". Many patrons of the restaurant enjoyed the entertainment as well.

Koinonia Class



Our Sunday School classes this quarter are being led by Tim Davis. We are studying how to find the will of God. So far we have had lots of laughs and more questions than answers. It is a very active, dynamic time. Thank you, Tim (and Char).

In November the class met at Jeanne Troyer's house for a pot luck lunch after church and to put together Samaritan's Purse boxes. The organization for putting together the boxes was done by Sandra Rush. Many thanks to both of you for this fun day. Our December gathering was a wonderful sirloin dinner at the home of Perry and Emily Hostetler. The wonderful welcome and delicious meal were enjoyed by all.

Jerry and Wendy Weaver spent the Christmas holidays with all their children and grandchildren in Florida again this year. Elroy and Linda Miller took separate trips to the Midwest to visit their respective parents trying to dodge the winter storms as they did so. Carl and Rosie Berkey welcomed their fifth grandchild on December 6: Miles Clayton Whitmore. Travis, Molly and Layla are his parents and sister. Steve and Elsie enjoyed having their whole family home for Christmas. After Christmas they traveled to New York City together to take in a play and museums.



SALT Class

We in SALT class ended 2009 much as it began, meeting at 8:30 each Sunday to share our joys and sorrows. We used the quarterly study in the fall and winter led by Les Helmuth and Wayne North respectively. The SALT ladies have a weekly Monday luncheon date at Francesco's for anyone who can fit it into their schedule. The first Monday of each month we are visiting various eating venues. The SALT men meet weekly Friday mornings at Mr. J's for anyone who can come. These informal gatherings help keep us connected.

Our November social was at Steve and Jeannie Smith's. As part of that event, Steve was "surprised" with a 60th birthday celebration as his 7 grandchildren arrived, each bearing a helium balloon. He received many special BD cards. A slideshow of pictures from his childhood to current days ran throughout the evening. We enjoyed homemade BBQ, potluck dishes complete with cake and ice-cream.

November 28th, SALT class members rang Salvation Army bells. They reported that despite the economic down turn people were generous with their giving and the children especially seemed pleased to give their contributions. Our Christmas banquet was held at Houff Community Center in Bridgewater. The food was fantastic and we all enjoyed participating in a "white elephant" gift exchange. SALTERs can be very creative, competitive and sneaky when playing such a game.

Leo Heatwole was in Arizona for 10 days celebrating Christmas with 3 of Carol's brothers and their wives. A great time was had by all as they played games, did some hunting and enjoyed plenty to eat.

Ron & Lila King spent Thanksgiving with their son, daughter-in-law and 6 yr. old grandson in Manhattan Beach, CA. Much of the Thanksgiving dinner was prepared by their son, and was shared with the parents and family of their daughter-in-law. Lila stayed an extra week to care for their grandson whose school operated half days for the week following Thanksgiving due to parent conferences. Ron & Lila also spent 2 weeks in Geneva, Switzerland with their daughter, son-in-law and 5 year old granddaughter and 2 year old grandson during the Christmas

holidays. They also took a side trip to Basel, Switzerland and Strasbourg, France.

On Dec. 14th several of the SALT ladies visited Rene Kegerreis in her home. Rene thanks them so much for their visit. She also enjoyed opening a gift daily from the Sunshine Box they had prepared for her. "Thank you for brightening my days and giving me something to look forward to each morning" says Rene.

Roger and Sandy McCafferty are thankful that Sandy is getting very good reports from the doctor regarding her cancer fight. Since her diagnosis in May, the tumors have shrunk by more than 20% and the blood "cancer markers" are about one-half of where they were at the start of treatments. The chemo ended in early October and Sandy is now taking a daily pill. She will be re-evaluated in late January to determine the next steps in her treatment regimen. The McCaffertys thank you for your concerns and prayers in their behalf and thank God for the blessings they have received.



Sinapi Class

Tim Davis taught the class fall quarter on Discerning God's Will in our Lives. We've had some deep discussions on this.

Craig and Bonnie Shoemaker are excited about the arrival of their grandson, Joel Aaron Shoemaker, son of Tim and Tama.

Our Desire is to.....

- Connect** with God's Presence in Worship
- Connect** with God's Life in Growth
- Connect** with God's Purpose in Mission

Mission Statement

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow through worship, proclamation, equipping, and encouraging so that God's healing and hope will flow from within us to others across the street and around the world.

Congratulations

- Brice and Suzy Hostetler on the birth of their daughter, Rayna Mae on October 31
- Angela and Tomoki Yamanaka on the birth of their son, Mirai on November 5. Angela is the daughter of J. Lowell and Janet Wenger.

Sympathy

- Glennys and Becca Shouey, Linda Heatwole and Debra Showalter on the death of Glennys, Linda, and Debra's mother and Becca's grandmother, Lelia Heatwole on October 22.
- Orden and Reba Harman and family and Harriet and Elam Steiner and family on the death of Orden and Harriet's mother, Frances Harman on November 7.
- Elwood and Ruth Weaver and family and Janna and Jerry Zirkle and family on the death of Elwood's brother and Janna's father, Ralph Weaver on December 10.
- Sharon and Dave Kisamore on the death of Sharon's father, Dwight Swartz, and to Dave, Travis and Lindsay Kisamore on the death of their families' grandfather, Robert Good.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 10 Discovery Class 101; 4:30-7:30 pm
Jan. 25-Feb1 HARTS
Jan. 31 Congregational Meeting; 6 pm

HMC Ministry Staff 434-4463

Craig Maven, Lead Pastor of Sanctuary Fellowship; ext. 104; cmaven@hmcchurch.org

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Fred Miller, Administrator, Adult Sunday School; ext. 102; fmiller@hmcchurch.org

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Kara Yoder, Interim Director of Youth Ministries; ext 119; kaelleh@yahoo.com

Steve Horst, Director of Young Adult Ministries and PF Music; ext. 108; shorst@hmcchurch.org

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Our staff wants to be available to you in time of need. If you have an emergency and are unable to make contact with the person you need, contact Pastor Craig (476-2043) or Pastor Luke (476-2047).

