

CL

CHRISTIAN
LEADER

10

Gratitude and
pop machines

14

A cozy
Christmas

19

Named 2015



Fighting for *PURITY*

THE MAGAZINE OF U.S. MENNONITE BRETHREN

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

from the editor



“

Peter calls on believers to submit to human authority but reminds them that only God—not the emperor or governors of the day—are to be feared.

”

“Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.” 1 Peter 2:17

In this issue’s Conference Call (pg. 5), Board of Faith and Life chair Larry Nikkel reminds us that while our primary allegiance is to God and his kingdom, we are called to pray for earthly governments. Nikkel says it is crucial that we pray for “those who have the awesome responsibility of making decisions about longstanding problems for which there are no easy answers.”

But the current climate does not encourage us to pray for our government leaders. Instead, it fosters mistrust and ridicule toward people affiliated with the various political parties. Efforts to disagree in ways that don’t inflame others to anger or bitterness are drowned out by political discourse typified by antagonism, scorn and sarcasm. We are more likely to see posts on Facebook and hear comments that disparage and mock elected officials than we are to read and hear calls for prayer on their behalf. It is so easy to allow negative attitudes toward people in positions of authority to take root and grow and to behave as if these individuals don’t deserve our prayers.

How do we quell the loud voices that say it’s OK to complain, whine and grumble about our leaders, to join in the gossip and slander of passing on half-truths or to comment on the general intelligence level of people from another political party? We aren’t the first followers of Jesus to consider these questions. The words of Peter in 1 Peter 2 are among the Scripture passages that guided our Anabaptist spiritual parents in their understanding of what it means to be citizens of a heavenly kingdom while also being residents of earthly nations.

Peter encourages the early believers—whether slave or free, male or female—to live godly lives in the midst of a pagan society, an environment that was hostile toward their faith and sometimes oppressive and abusive. He calls on believers to submit to human authority but reminds them that only God—not the emperor or governors of the day—is to be feared.

When I think about the ways we 21st century believers can follow Peter’s words, the following examples come to mind.

- We show respect to “everyone”—and that includes government leaders—when we think twice about what we post on Facebook. Does this comment express my opinion in a respectful way or does it encourage contempt of someone in authority?
 - Respecting one and all means caring about the people in my congregation who don’t hold the same political views that I do. It means watching my tone of voice when expressing my opinion of the Affordable Care Act.
 - To “honor the emperor” is to teach my children to earnestly pray for the president of our country and others in leadership, regardless of the party with which the person is affiliated.
- What would you add to the list?



Connie Faber
Editor

contents

CONNECTING ONE Family

- 2 From the editor**
- 5 Conference Call**
By Larry Nikkel
Jesus above everything else?
- 6 First Person**
By Matt Ford
Frankie's gift
- 28 Church Notes**

SERVING ONE Lord

- 4 By the Book**
By Amy Stone
- 10 Gratitude and pop machines**
By Gaylord Goertzen
Why ingratitude turns God into a heavenly pop machine
- 12 Ordinary people**
By Matthew Hamilton
How do we respond to the Christ Child?
- 14 A cozy Christmas**
By Karen Bartlett
Is the biblical account of Christ's birth a cozy story?
- 16 Silent night**
A poem by Karen Bartlett

PURSUING ONE Mission

- 7 News Briefs**
- 17 Body Life**
 - Liberty from pornography
 - Beyond the mountaintop
 - King's Day extends Christmas spirit
- 24 Mission USA: Connection**
- 26 Home Page**
By Robert Partington
Growing in gratitude
- 27 On My Mind**
By Kathryn Glanzer
Would Jesus tweet?

Center insert — *MB Mission*

Partnering as one family to serve one Lord on one mission, for the transformation of individuals, families and communities.

www.usmb.org

byTheBook

(The Psalms)



Amy Stone

“You can choose your friends but you sho’ can’t choose your family....” Who sits around your Thanksgiving Day table? Does your gathering exemplify Psalm 133: A good and pleasant unity of kin? Or, like the rest of us, are some of your kindred more “united” than others?

Tensions and divisions afflict every family, no matter how loving or close. We are drawn together despite the inevitable frictions and pains. Our hearts long for the comfort of home and the presence of those from whom we are parted.

So too, the church longs for unity among the family of God. How good and pleasant it would be if the church could worship without division. And yet, we are still journeying toward that blessed day. Along the way we share Psalm 133 as a traveling song, an encouragement for the road. As a Psalm of Ascent, it is our accompaniment along the way to the feast.

And who will meet us there? When Jesus does the inviting, we end up with the likes of Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion at the same table. The unity of kin is messy, like warm anointing oil poured over the head, so thick that it runs down the face and shoulders. The unity of kin is rare and precious, like a coronation day, like Christmas Eve. The unity of kin is refreshing and sustaining, like cool fresh water for a drought-stricken land.

Who sits around our Communion table? Have we welcomed one another as Christ has welcomed us?

Through the voices of her characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee speaks this plain truth: “You can choose your friends but you sho’ can’t choose your family, an’ they’re still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge ‘em or not, and it makes you look right silly when you don’t.”

Look around the table. We are kin. For the sake of Christ’s name and reputation, let us journey through this holiday season of thanksgiving and praise with open arms and hearts, living into the refreshing messiness of Christian unity. May our fellowship be a blessing to the Lord and to the world as we learn to live together as one diverse people.

Amy Stone is an associate pastor at College Community Church in Clovis, Calif.



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See story on page 17

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“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.” ~ Psalm 133:1 (NRSV)

(from USMB leaders)



Larry Nikkel

Jesus above everything else?

The Board of Faith and Life (BFL) has spent much of the last four years working on the content of Article 13 of our Confession of Faith (Love, Peacemaking and Reconciliation). We've also reviewed Article 12 (Society and the State), but because we did not recommend any changes, it has not generated much discussion. While one cannot prioritize each article within the Confession, it is clear that Article 12 stands as one of the foundational statements of our confession.

As we traveled throughout our constituency processing issues related to Article 13, we also tested the strength of our commitment to Article 12. The simple way of addressing the issue was asking the question, "Do we agree that our kingdom citizenship takes priority over our national citizenship?" Without exception it received unequivocal verbal support. While we found that to be reassuring, it is clear that we need to engage with each other to form a more complete understanding of how we apply the values of kingdom principles to living in our great country.

I have never considered myself as one with a prophetic gift. But it seems obvious to me that for many Christians there is an increasing blurring of the line between our identities as kingdom citizens and our identities as national citizens. The degree to which this is accurate is the degree to which we find ourselves in a precarious situation. How was it that Christians in pre-World War 2 Germany raised their arms along with everyone else and chanted "Heil Hitler" and "Deutschland uber alles" ("Germany above everything else")? As we know, their blind "followership" resulted in one of the great tragedies in the history of humankind.

What would it take for us to also find ourselves on the wrong side of the kingdom, even if the circumstances pale in comparison to the Holocaust? We must be willing to ask ourselves two key ques-

tions. First, as we view the actions of our government through the lens of our kingdom glasses, has our government always been right? Regardless of how one answers this question, the question that follows is more important: "Is it right this time?"

How we answer that question may be less important than *that we ask* the question. Once we quit asking the question we are precariously close to the kind of blind "followership" that has been disastrous in the past. Incidents such as the horrific events of 9/11 tend to generate an explosion of nationalistic fervor that is understandable. But such incidents must not be allowed to cloud our vision for being true to our highest allegiance to kingdom values.

Some may see this admonition as disloyal and unappreciative of our United States government. I suggest that it is just the opposite. What parent is not constantly observing how best to monitor the actions and values of their children with a willingness to confront actions or attitudes that can lead them down the wrong path. It is not only our right as Christians to monitor the actions of our government, it is also our responsibility.

And it is an even greater responsibility for us to be willing to live out our allegiance to God when our kingdom values are in conflict with the values and actions of our secular authorities. It would seem imperative that we in the Christian community be willing to talk with and seek guidance from Scripture and from each other on how best to apply kingdom values in all cases where those values can lead to health and wholeness. It is equally vital that we not neglect praying for those who have the awesome responsibility of making decisions about longstanding problems for which there are no easy answers.

Larry Nikkel is chair of the USMB Board of Faith and Life.

It is not only our right as Christians to monitor the actions of our government, it is also our responsibility.



Matt Ford

Frankie's gift

It was just after 3 p.m. Friday afternoon, the last day of school before the 2013 Christmas break. There was a knock on my front door. Knowing exactly who it was, I took a break from cleaning dishes to answer the door.

"Hi, Matt. Is Joe home? I have a Christmas gift I want to give him."

"Hi, Frankie," I said. "What do you mean you have a gift for Joe?"

"Yeah. I got two Christmas gifts at school today, and I want to give one of them to Joe."

My throat choked as I instantly knew exactly what was going on. Frankie lives down the street from us, is in the same grade as my son, Josiah, and the two of them have become great friends. Frankie goes to an under-resourced, inner-city elementary school in the neighborhood.

Frankie didn't offer details, but I knew that his class must have had a Christmas party and that Toys for Tots had donated wrapped gifts for the children at the school. Frankie had received two wrapped gifts and now stood in my living room with the gifts still wrapped wanting to give one to my son.

As I think back on this experience, several thoughts go through my mind. I am reminded of the story of the poor widow in Luke 21. Jesus holds her up as an example of great generosity despite the fact she only put in a couple of small coins while the rich flooded the offering bucket with rich gifts.

Frankie and this widow remind me that despite a Christian tradition that often says it is the rich, the privileged and the powerful who have something to offer to the poor, it is actually the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized who have something great to offer.

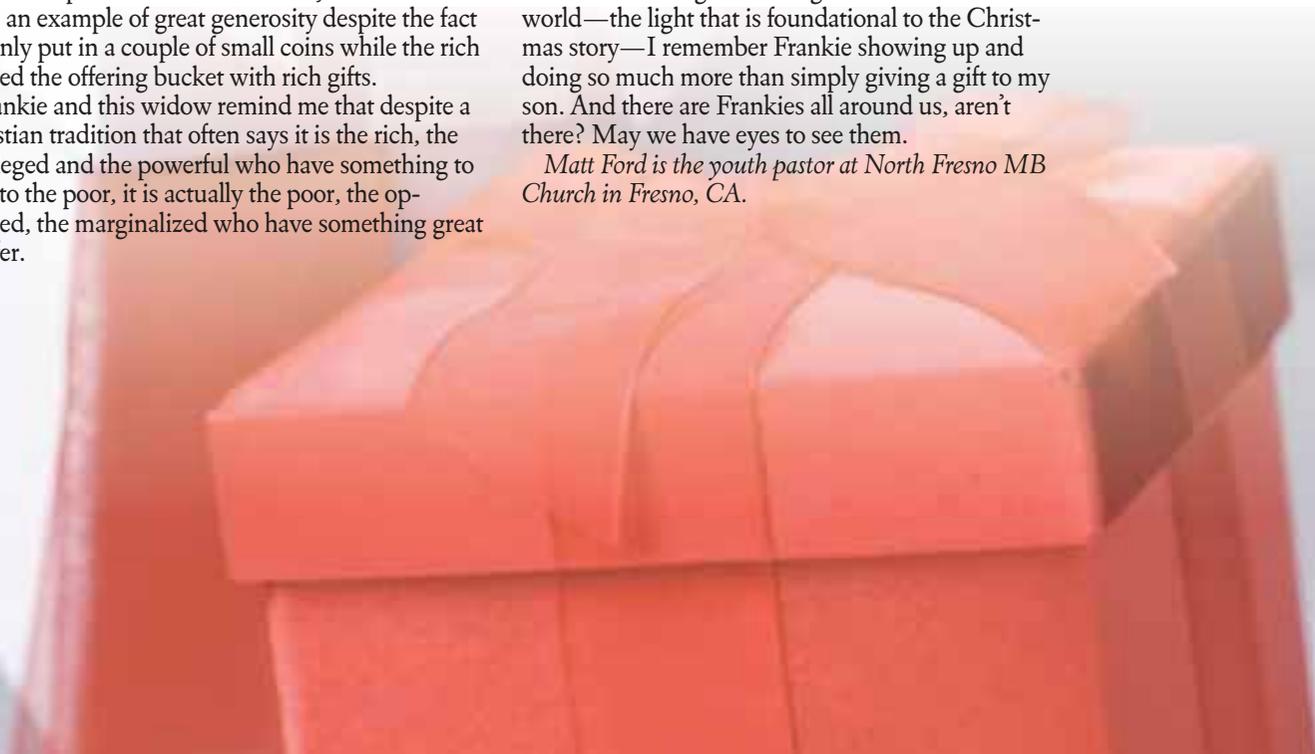
Frankie's generosity also causes me to reflect a great deal on the world in which we live and the message of the Christmas story. I live in a neighborhood where I see despair, chaos, poverty, violence, homelessness, prostitution and darkness every day. And just this past week a close friend of mine lost a battle with cancer at age 40, leaving behind a wife and three young daughters. In the same week, my sister's home burned down in a tragic fire, and my favorite football player was suspended for child abuse.

Turning on the daily news doesn't lighten the mood much, with stories of racism, war, terrorism and scandal. In a world where everything around us seems to be in the endless process of death, decay and darkness, the message of Christmas offers a different story.

Christmas offers a better story—a story of hope. Despite the seeming reality that the world is getting darker and darker, the message of Christmas reminds us that the opposite is actually happening. Just as our church lights another candle on the advent wreath every week leading up to Christmas Day, more and more light is bursting forth into our world with every day that passes.

When I lose sight of the light evident in our world—the light that is foundational to the Christmas story—I remember Frankie showing up and doing so much more than simply giving a gift to my son. And there are Frankies all around us, aren't there? May we have eyes to see them.

Matt Ford is the youth pastor at North Fresno MB Church in Fresno, CA.



(God at work in the mennonite brethren world)

USMB participates in Giving Tuesday

USMB is encouraging giving to Mission USA church planting as part of Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is a global movement that celebrates giving. It follows Black Friday and Cyber Monday and falls on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. All donations to Mission USA on Dec. 2 will support church plants, with a goal of raising \$30,000 to plant two new churches in 2015.

"It seems right that during a season when consumerism is perhaps at its highest level that we set aside a day to focus on what's truly important," says Don Morris, director of Mission USA, the church planting arm of USMB. "The message Jesus brought when he came is one of hope and salvation. That church planting is the most effective method we have today for evangelism means that we should do everything we can to plant more churches all across America."

Mission USA's commitment to a new church plant is typically \$15,000 per year for the first three years. That funding goes toward assessment of potential church planters, living expenses for church planters, rent for a meeting space, purchase of sound equipment and baptismal tanks and other start-up costs associated with planting a church. For more information, visit www.usmb.org/GivingTuesday or follow #MoreTogether on Facebook and Twitter. —USMB

Seminary offers Advent devotional

Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary and Fresno Pacific University are again offering daily Advent devotions Nov. 30 through Jan. 4. The devotional, written by seminary and university faculty, can be printed from www.fresno.edu in either a single-sided copy or as a booklet. The USMB website will again carry a link. There is also a free smartphone app available on Google Play. Those without computer access may call the FPU advancement office 559-453-7139 and request a single copy. There is no cost. Printed copies will be mailed in mid-November to many seminary and university donors and supporting church pastors.

Leaders call for prayer

As those involved in the process of reviewing USMB ministries and structures prepare for the second of two working retreats led by consultant George Bullard, they are asking for widespread prayer.

"We are calling for your prayers," says Steve Schroeder, USMB Leadership Board chair. While a consultation like this has a limited number of participants—in this case 45 individuals representing each of the five districts and USMB ministry partners—everyone can pray for the work being done, says Schroeder.

Schroeder lists four specific requests for the Nov. 17-18 consultation: that participants will come with a humble spirit, an attitude that Schroeder says was evident at the group's first meeting in October; that the group will clearly sense God's vision for U.S. Mennonite Brethren; that consensus for moving forward will emerge; that God's favor will fall on the decision-making process and on the group as it seeks to inspire and lead the rest of the denomination; and for Bullard. "While George brings his experience and wisdom," says Schroeder, "he also needs to hear from God how to lead us in the process."

Named 2015 initiates T-shirt design contest

High school students from USMB congregations are invited to submit T-shirt designs for a contest in connection with Named 2015, the next National Youth Conference, to be held April 9-12, 2015, in Denver, Colo. NYC planning team member Kyle Goings says the team hopes the contest will generate creative ideas and encourage youth to take ownership of Named 2015. Individual students or youth groups can submit up to three digital T-shirt designs. While designs may focus on the conference theme, Named, taken from Matt. 16:13-16, it is not required. "The only guideline is we want it to bring glory to God," Goings says. Winning artists will receive their T-shirt for free, and the top five designs will be available for sale before and during the conference. Contest details are available on the Named 2015 website, www.Named2015.com; the deadline for entries is Jan. 1, 2015. —NYC



FPU announces new president, leadership structure

The Fresno Pacific University (FPU) Board of Trustees has appointed Richard Kriegbaum, FPU president from 1985 to 1997, as the university's 12th president following the Sept. 11 resignation of Pete Menjares, the university's first Hispanic president who was appointed in March 2012. The board also endorsed a new leadership model that increases the role of the provost. Kriegbaum will focus on community relations and external duties, while Provost Stephen Varvis, adding the title of senior vice president, assumes a larger role in the day-to-day operations of the main campus and regional centers. FPU is the MB-owned university headquartered in Fresno, Calif. —FPU



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8

byTheNumbers



46 million turkeys

are eaten at **THANKSGIVING**,

compared to **22 million**

at **Christmas**

and **22 million** at **Easter**

Nearly 80% of Americans eat turkey at Thanksgiving

\$54.18 Cost of the average Thanksgiving dinner that feeds 10 people

Sources: History.com, Statisticbrain.com

5 minutes with...

WARREN LEHR

After 25 years as a PGA golf professional managing courses from California to New Mexico, Warren Lehr of Discovery Bible Fellowship, Collinsville, Okla., returned to his home state of Oklahoma a few years ago. He was recently appointed City Manager of Owasso, a town of 33,000 near Tulsa.



Warren Lehr

EAST CHAT

1 How did you become city manager?

City manager was a job I never aspired to do. I was assistant city manager when my predecessor came under fire and resigned. Though I didn't see it at first, I eventually came to a realization that this is what God had for me now.

2 Why do you feel God placed you here?

One aspect of why I'm here is to rebuild trust and engage with people who are on either side of controversial issues.

3 What other priorities do you have for Owasso?

Of course it is our goal to provide excellent city services, but we also need to build community. I want not only our city staff but everyone in the community to realize that it is all about relationships and serving one another.

4 How do you nurture a spirit of community?

Part of it is recognizing that every good endeavor is valuable—whether you're defending the people as a police officer, picking up people's garbage or teaching their children. None of these is more important than the other.

5 How can churches partner with their city leadership?

For years Owasso's city manager has met monthly with local pastors. There's great value in pastors getting together and asking what they need to address or pray about. Churches can follow up by establishing different social justice ministries that hold up the gospel of Christ in practical ways.

6 What Scripture do you look to for guidance?

Micah 6:8 calls us to do justice and love mercy. In this job I need wisdom every day to balance truth and grace, justice and mercy.

Interview by Kathy Heinrichs Wiest

Historical Commission offers grants

The Historical Commission of the U.S. and Canadian Mennonite Brethren Churches has announced three funded initiatives for 2014–2015: a new project grant in support of a historical and/or theological project of interest to Mennonite Brethren around the world, a summer archival internship and a research and publication grant relating to the history and contribution of Mennonite Brethren women. Criteria and application details are available at www.mbhistory.org. —MBHC

Foundation surveys MB giving

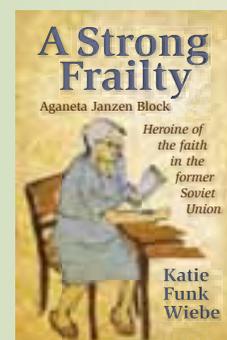
A survey conducted by MB Foundation (MBF), the stewardship ministry of U.S. Mennonite Brethren, at the 2014 USMB National Convention asked participants to list the top five charities to which they give. Results were tallied to give increasing weight to higher rankings. The local church easily ranked first, receiving three times as many mentions as any other category. Mission work also ranks high; MB Mission came in second and a general missions category came in third. Education is also important to U.S. Mennonite Brethren; three of the top 10 organizations are MB educational institutions. MBF had 119 responses to the survey, and over 200 different charities or charity groups were mentioned.—MBF

Tabor College enrollment increases

Enrollment for the 2014 fall semester at Tabor College, the Mennonite Brethren-owned liberal arts college with campuses in Hillsboro and Wichita, Kan., has increased overall by 4 percent, with 766 students enrolled compared to 736 in 2013. Fall enrollment numbers include 594 undergraduate students in Hillsboro and 141 undergraduate and 31 graduate students in Wichita. The Hillsboro campus has 231 new students, which ties a record set in the fall of 2011. —TC

Katie Funk Wiebe authors NEW BOOK

Katie Funk Wiebe, Tabor College professor emeritus, has authored a new book. *A Strong Frailty: Aganeta Janzen Block*, published by the Tabor College Center for MB Studies, which recounts the experiences of Wiebe's aunt, Neta, in Siberia during the Stalinist era. CMBS director Peggy Goertzen says, "It is a stirring and sobering account of hardship, survival and faith. Using Neta's own words, Katie has drawn significant insights from her aunt's letters, which will be an inspiration to us all." —CMBS



FPU hits record enrollment

Total enrollment at Fresno Pacific University, the Mennonite Brethren university headquartered in Fresno, Calif., is 3,718, a 7 percent rise above fall 2013's 3,461 and the first time the university has surpassed 3,700 students. Bachelor's degree completion and graduate programs set the pace, with increases of 16 percent and 10 percent, respectively. The number of traditional undergraduates dropped 2 percent. —FPU

Gratitude and pop machines

When we're not grateful for God's blessings, we run the danger of turning God into a heavenly pop machine.

The summer between my freshman and sophomore years of college I worked in the office at a feedlot in Bakersfield, Calif. I enjoyed working in air-conditioning instead of outside in the 100-degree heat. One of my jobs was to fill the pop machine. Every morning I'd load the pop machine with a variety of pop, empty the coin box and fill the change tubes with dimes and nickels. All day feedlot workers would put their money in the pop machine, and the machine would give them a pop.

During the 12 weeks I worked in the office I heard employees say a lot of unrepeatably things if the pop machine jammed and didn't give them a bottle of pop. But I never heard any of the workers say thank you when the pop machine delivered a bottle of pop. Why didn't they thank the vending machine? Because the machine sold bottles of pop. The pop machine didn't give them bottles of pop—they paid for the bottles of pop. When they put their money in the pop machine, the machine owed them a bottle of pop. You don't typically say thank you when something or someone gives you what you are owed or are entitled to receive.

Learning to be thankful

In Colossians 3:15-17 God's Word talks about gratitude and giving thanks: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach

By Gaylord Goertzen

and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

In these verses the Bible calls us to be thankful, to worship with gratitude in our hearts and to give thanks to God in all that we do. Our lives as believers are to be characterized by giving thanks. Why the emphasis on being thankful? It's because giving thanks has to be learned; it doesn't come naturally.

When I was a boy, my parents taught me to say thank you when I received something. If I forgot to say thank you they would remind me by asking, “Gaylord, what do you say?” Then I'd remember to say thank you. Learning to say “thank you” took time and persistence but eventually I remembered to say it without my mother or father reminding me.

Saying thank you and being thankful have to be learned not just by children but by adult believers as well. So how do we learn to be thankful?

Gratitude begins with God

Learning gratitude—learning to say thank you—begins by looking at God and not at ourselves. When most people give thanks, they look at themselves and what they have. If they have what they think they deserve or should have, they are thankful. If they don't have what they think they deserve or should have, they are not thankful. However, for us believers, learning to give thanks begins by looking at God and what he has done for us.

What has God done for us? Psalm 103 tells us: “Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.”

When we, believers, look to God, we see all the good things he has given us. God forgives us, heals us, redeems us and renews us. He pours out on us not his judgment but his love and compassion. The Lord our God gives us good things.

What do we deserve?

We receive all of these benefits not because of who we are but because of who God is. Ps. 103:8-10 tells us about God: “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. He will not always accuse nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us

as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.”

Because God is gracious and compassionate he doesn't give us what we deserve. We are sinners and deserve the wages of sin, which is death (Rom. 6:23). Instead God gives us what we don't deserve. He gives us grace. He gives us the gift of eternal life and then pours out his blessings upon us as gifts of his grace. Gratitude comes as the result of recognizing that all the benefits we have received from God are undeserved gifts of God's grace.

Imagine someone gives you a check for \$10,000 and says, “This is a gift, enjoy it.” You'd be grateful, wouldn't you? You'd have no trouble thanking the person for their generosity. Why? Because you recognize that \$10,000 is a generous gift you did not earn or deserve but were given anyway.

However, if someone owes you \$10,000 and gives you a check for \$10,000, would you be grateful and thank them for their generosity? Probably not. Why? It's because the \$10,000 is not a gift; it is what you deserve, what the person owes you. You wouldn't be grateful because you feel entitled to the money.

Gifts of grace

Ingratitude, not thanking God for his gifts, comes as a result of thinking God owes us something or that we deserve what he gives us. Ungratefulness comes from thinking we're entitled to the benefits we receive from God. We are entitled to a bottle of pop if we put our money in a pop machine, we're entitled to \$10,000 if someone owes us \$10,000, but we're not entitled to God's gifts. They are gifts of grace we don't deserve, gifts we're not owed or entitled to receive.

What happens when we're not grateful because we think we're entitled to God's blessings? God becomes a heavenly pop machine. We think that if we put in the right amount of prayer and push the right button of good deeds we're entitled to receive God's blessings. If God doesn't give us what we think we're entitled to we gripe, grumble and complain.

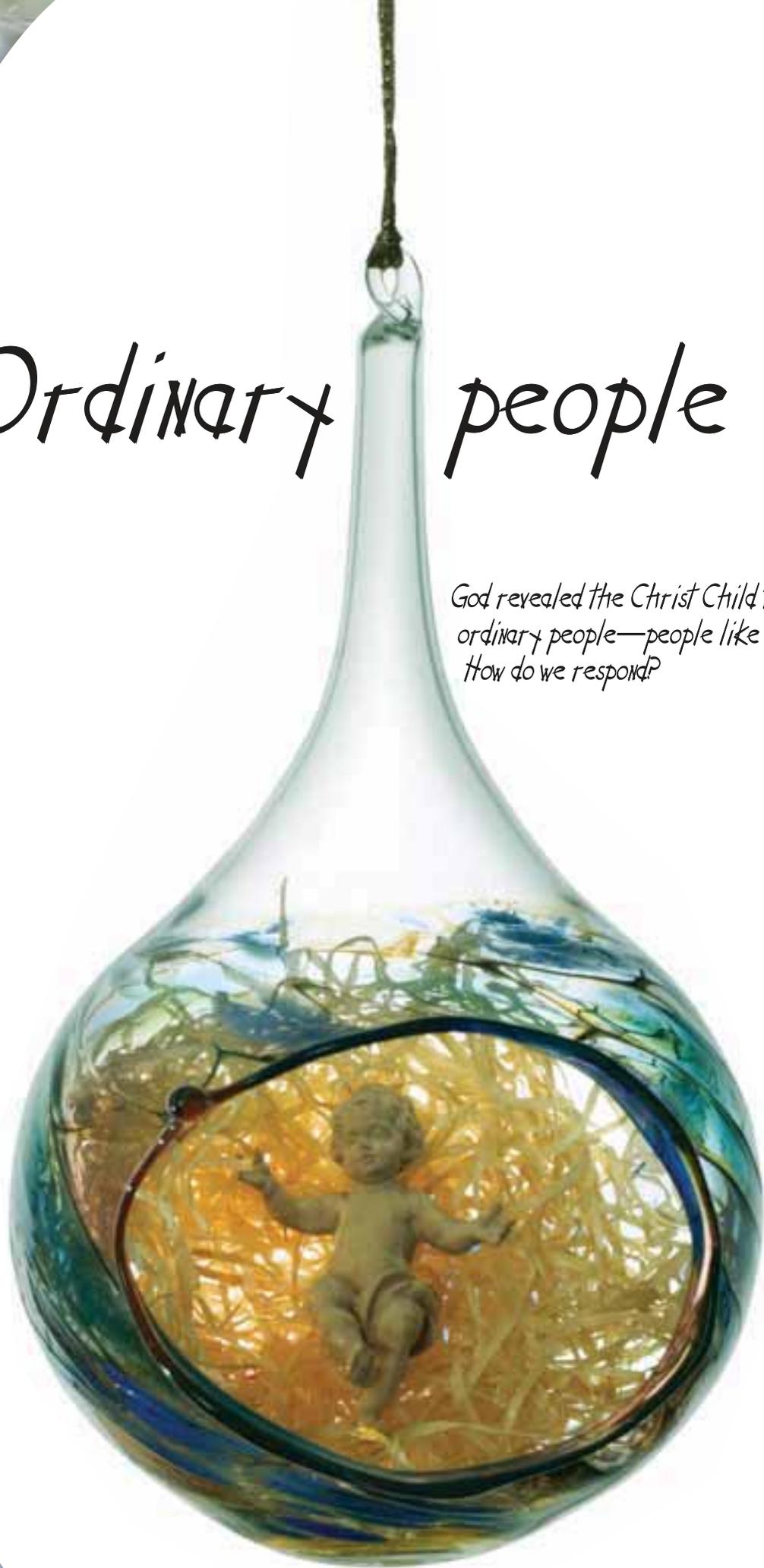
But God is not a heavenly pop machine. God is our gracious heavenly Father who has poured out his grace on us. We have received generous gifts of grace we don't deserve. Recognizing the lavish gifts of God's grace leads to gratitude. We will bless the Lord and say thank you when we look to the Lord our God and see all the generous gifts he has given us. We will be grateful when we remember that all we have received is a gift of God's grace.

Gaylord Goertzen is a retired Mennonite Brethren minister living in Hillsboro, Kan., where he is a member of Ebenfeld MB Church.

Ordinary people

*God revealed the Christ Child to
ordinary people—people like you and me.
How do we respond?*

12



Several years ago—I was either preparing for a Sunday school lesson or attending Sunday school—the Holy Spirit impressed upon me the great significance of who the Christ Child was first introduced to and how these people responded. Throughout the years, as I have continued to study and teach regarding these introductions, I have been encouraged, humbled and challenged. It never fails that the Holy Spirit reminds me that God revealed his Son to ordinary people like me who, upon experiencing the Christ Child, responded with praise to God and by sharing the good news.

Consider the parents of Jesus. From biblical accounts we gather that Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, is a man of humble origins. He is from the line of King David, but his trade as a carpenter doesn't allow him to live in a palace or have a high status politically or socially. In today's terms he is the equivalent of a construction worker.

Jesus' mother, Mary, is also of humble origins. She too descends from King David, but the picture Scripture paints is of a young teenage girl with no special status.

Scripture does not tell us about Joseph's response to Jesus as a baby. But we can gather from Matthew's record in chapter one that Joseph's response to the news brought to him by an angel that Mary is pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit and her child is to be a Savior is one of obedience (Matt. 1:24).

Scripture offers a bit more information in regards to Mary's reaction to the news of her surprise pregnancy. Luke tells us that Mary's first response is to question the angel's announcement, but upon hearing more information she responds with humble faith (Luke 1:30-34, 38).

A second group of individuals that are introduced to the Christ Child is the shepherds. Luke 2 offers a vivid picture of this introduction. These men of extremely humble origins are considered to be some of the lowest of the low. They are physically isolated from others because their job requires them to be constantly in the fields with their flocks. They are likely physically unclean. Anyone hanging around sheep all day probably would be, and the last time I checked there wasn't a Holiday Inn where they could shower. These shepherds are also likely isolated from the spiritual and religious scene as well. Because of their physical uncleanliness it is very unlikely that they could participate in worship even if they were able to leave their sheep for a short time.

When it comes time to announce the birth of his Son, God the Father could have introduced him to kings and queens, to the religious leaders of the day, to the socially elite or to the economically elite. Instead, God chooses to introduce his Son to a lowly band of

shepherds. Upon seeing the Christ Child, Luke records that the shepherds "spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child" (Luke 2:17). Luke also tells his readers that, "the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:20).

God also introduces his young Son to the prophetess, Anna. From Scripture we know that Anna has been widowed for a very long time. As a result of being a widow in her day and age she would likely be of humble means and viewed by others as an outcast. Even if she is well off and well received by others, the picture Scripture paints is of a deeply religious woman who is by no means extraordinary. Upon meeting the Christ Child her response is one of thanksgiving to God and sharing of the salvation that will come through the child (Luke 2:36-38).

Much like Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and Anna, I am by no means an extraordinary person. Like them, I am not part of the economic, social or spiritual elite. Each time I read their stories I am encouraged and humbled by the fact that God reveals his Son to people just like me. Each time I read their stories I remember their responses of obedience, of humble faith, of praise, of thanksgiving and of sharing the news. I am reminded that my response to Jesus should be the same as theirs.

From the beginning of time, God has been revealing himself to humanity. Paul tells us in Colossians 3 that God reveals himself through Jesus Christ, his Son. God gives us the greatest gift ever, better than any Christmas gift. He gives us his only Son. Think about it! He gives us, through Jesus, salvation from the pit of hell, a way out when we are tempted, abundant life on this earth and the sure hope of eternal life spent in the unimaginable glory of heaven and in the even more glorious presence of the Almighty God!

The truth is simple. God has revealed his Son, Jesus Christ, to you. He continues each day, especially through Scripture, to reveal him. How will you respond to the Christ Child, especially during this Christmas season? Will you believe the truth that has been revealed to you? Will you respond with obedience? Will you reply with humble faith? Will you respond with praise and thanksgiving? Will you react by sharing the news with others?

I plan to respond to Christ in the same way Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and Anna did. My prayer is that you will choose to respond in the same way as well.

Matthew Hamilton is a seminary student and a pastoral intern at Bible MB Church in Cordell, Okla. He is married to Michelle, who serves as youth director at Bible MB Church and as secretary of the Southern District Youth Commission.

We love the idea of a warm cozy Christmas, with beautiful church services, family celebrations and generous gift giving. We wrap ourselves in the blanket of Christmas joy, peace and goodwill toward men as we tell the Christmas story year after year.

Yet as I read the biblical account through the lens of the characters in the story, a different picture emerges, one that is not so cozy and warm yet is undeniably gripping and thought provoking. I begin to recognize a series of unlikely people and unconventional events in the salvation story that disturbs and heightens my awareness of God's mysterious and unpredictable method of communicating with humanity.

"It all begins with a Jewish priest, Zechariah..." (Luke 1:5, NLT); Zechariah and Elizabeth, two elderly people, both from priestly lineage, with no children, are unlikely candidates to bear a child at their age. The angel Gabriel tells Zechariah he will be a father. Zechariah responds with the question of "How?" and is rewarded with being mute until the birth of his son. This infant is to be named John—an unconventional name that does not follow the cultural tradition of naming a child after someone in the family.

The same angel visits Mary, an unlikely teenage girl, with the news that she is chosen to bear the Son of God. "Chosen" means being mocked, judged, and ostracized. She asks "How?" will she bear a child when she is not married and is reassured God will be with her and that nothing is impossible with God. Mary accepts this unconventional news, despite her confusion and fear.

Joseph, Mary's fiancé, is asked to walk the unconventional path of marrying a girl who is pregnant, not by him, also enduring outcast status and ridicule. He does what he is asked, perhaps reluctantly, and walks blindly into the unknown future. He is the proud descendant of King David yet he risks excommunication for the sake of the girl and the unborn child.

The baby Jesus is born in an unlikely place, where the animals dwell. Yet King Herod, who lives in a palace where wealth abounds, is jealous of this unconventional child born in poverty and orders Jesus' death.

The lowest in society, the shepherds, known as thieves and untrustworthy vagabonds, are among the first to know about the Son of God, a world-changing event. Just as unlikely, the high priests of Babylon, the rich and respected in society, use their astronomical knowledge to find and to worship this newborn king. Then they protect this child from a vindictive king through disobedience and deception.

Young, old, rich, poor, male, female, Jew, non-Jew, pagan priests, priests of Yahweh. All are part of the salvation story, and in today's world we accept the characters and events without question. We accept them with

warm, eager smiles as we reenact the Christmas pageant and watch our children play Mary, Joseph and the others.

Yet if we look at each character more closely and examine what part they play in the original story, at great cost to some and great risk to others, and if we dissect the unconventional methods God uses to bring salvation to earth, will the story remain warm and cozy? Will we applaud the pregnant teen or the elderly pregnant woman or the lowest in society being given the greatest news in history or celebrate the worldly advisors bringing gifts into a "sacred" place? Will being judged and excommunicated be greeted with excitement and anticipation?

The story is provocative, disturbing, full of ironies and breathtakingly beautiful. If we fast-forward to 2014, can we see where God is at work within or around us, using unconventional events and unlikely people this Christmas season to carry out his purposes? How comfortable are we with the Holy Spirit nudging us to do something that might go against cultural norms or family tradition to bring about the salvation story in our community.

We may answer that nudging with fear, reluctance and confusion. Do we respond with the question of "How?" which would be normal, considering these were the reactions of the players in the original salvation story? Yet these nudgings seem to be God's mysterious pattern of operation: using unlikely people and unconventional events to bring joy, hope, reconciliation and peace to our world.

I know that many families seek to do the unconventional at Christmas time. I have been challenged to look around me to see where my family might take a cue from the Holy Spirit and break family tradition in order to bring hope and peace to my community—serving at a soup kitchen or inviting a single parent with kids over for Christmas dinner.

It's not usually comfortable to be unconventional and buck the norm, and I often think that God couldn't use me, an unlikely person, to carry forth the salvation story. But then I realize that's the point: God uses the ordinary, the uncommon, the least likely to carry out the mission of peace, joy and reconciliation in the world, and it doesn't always make sense. Nor does it need to.

So this Christmas season, as we watch the nativity scene being reenacted on the stage, let's consider the messy, astounding, puzzling and beautiful way in which the story and the characters unfold. Let's watch for the series of unconventional events. Let's muse about how we too might fit into the ongoing story as unlikely characters and play a part in communicating the joy and wonder of Christ's birth in an unconventional way.

Karen Bartlett lives in Wichita, Kan., and is an education consultant at Tabor College Wichita. She is married to Rick Bartlett and they have two teenagers.

By Karen Bartlett

A Cozy Christmas?

The Bible's account of the first Christmas is filled with unlikely people and unconventional events.





Silent Night

Silent night, Holy night
the night that changed the world forever,
the night when a birth altered history and
introduced hope, change and choice.

All is calm, all is bright
In a world that is anything but calm
a baby was born, who brings healing,
reconciliation and love because "light
itself was in him and this life shines
through the darkness," chaos and despair.

Round yon virgin, mother and child
The most sacred of relationships.
Mary will give birth to a son and will
call him Immanuel, "God with us."
To Mary, Elizabeth said, "You are
blessed, because you believed that the Lord
would do what He said."

Holy Infant, so tender and mild
Like a tender green shoot,
so the Word became human and
lived here on earth among us,
full of love and faithfulness,

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried,
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.
He was wounded and crushed for our sins
And yet he sits at the right hand of God.
His eyes are bright like flames of fire
and on his head are many crowns.

Sleep in heavenly peace
"I am leaving you with a gift —
peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is
not like the world gives" — a world riddled with
strife, war, hunger and poverty.

Silent night, Holy night
The nations of the earth will walk
in the light because the Lamb is the light.
In the end, the gates of the city will
never close and there is no night.
All will be calm, all will be bright.

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Liberty from pornography

Campaign for sexual purity built on accountability, mutual support



Members of The Herd, a ministry to men addicted to pornography, gathered in September to hear stories of liberation and to celebrate the freedom participants have found.

They mark the date of their freedom on the calendar—the day they say “I’m totally done now.” For some it’s only days since they’ve known freedom from pornography, but others have seen the days stretch into weeks and months and even years.

For George Sawatzky, who leads these men toward their freedom, it has been two and a half years since he took his last look at pornography. Sawatzky’s own story and the liberty he has to share it are giving hope to other men who are battling an addiction to pornography.

The statistics on pornography use in the church are alarming, Sawatzky says. He cites a report by Covenant Eyes Internet Accountability and Filtering indicating that 50 percent of Christian men are addicted to pornography.

Based at Dinuba (Calif.) MB Church, Sawatzky’s ministry draws men from various churches in Dinuba and surrounding communities. The ministry is called The Herd.

This campaign for sexual purity among Christian men started small—an accountability group Sawatzky set up with his son and three other high school boys as a follow-up to a weekend “Man Camp” retreat.

On the drive home from the retreat, Sawatzky pulled off the road and announced to the boys, “Once a week we’re going to meet at Starbucks and I’m going to keep you accountable.”

There was just one problem: Sawatzky himself was addicted to pornography. “God told me: ‘What do you think you are doing? How can you keep them accountable when you’re in the midst of the struggle?’”

Sawatzky says he stopped “cold turkey” but knew that he couldn’t face the struggle alone. He called on a good friend to be his accountability partner and installed a filter on his computer.

Accountability and mutual support are at the heart of The Herd. The name reflects the picture of Satan as a lion from 1 Peter 5:8. “Fighting a lion one-on-one usually works out well for the lion,” accountability group leader Abe Isaak will explain to his group. “If you look around and you are alone, understand that that is a very dangerous place to be; quickly get back to the herd.”

More than 40 men are now part of the accountability groups or one-on-one mentoring that make up The Herd. Being part of a herd means gathering weekly for study and accountability. It means looking your accountability partners in the eye to ask and answer the hard questions about how the journey to purity is going.

Herd members are available to each other by phone and text messaging the rest of the week. “If you feel like you’re going to fail you text out so you’re not

alone in the fight," explains one member. "It's much easier if you have 15 guys that you've texted out to and they're praying and sending you verses.

"It's like fighting fire with fire," he adds. "The cell phone is a way to abuse your freedom or it's a way to gain your freedom."

Study and techniques of accountability are only part of the story, however. Beyond the technique is the work of God in the lives of the participants. "Only when we experience the transforming grace, forgiveness and love of Jesus can we be truly free," Sawatzky emphasizes.

Smart phones have fueled the exponential growth of pornography use, Sawatzky points out, warning parents that they need to protect their children: "An 11-year-old can't buy cigarettes, but any 11-year-old with a smart phone can access pornography."

One of the young men Sawatzky mentors determined that, for him, accessibility created too much temptation. Before leaving for college this fall he dropped his computer off at Sawatzky's house. While other students can work anywhere from their laptops, he chose the inconvenience of having to use the library computers to do his schoolwork.

"He wants his freedom," Sawatzky explains, "and he knows if he has his computer with him he's going to fall."

Sawatzky is driven by the statistics about the high incidence of pornography use among Christians, but he doesn't need scientific research to convince him that use of pornography has reached epidemic proportions. "I have not spoken to a high school boy yet that is not involved in pornography," he says, sadly noting that these are boys who grew up in Sunday school and youth group and many attend Christian schools.

Feelings of shame and hopelessness are the greatest enemies of freedom in the battle with pornography addiction. Sawatzky's openness in sharing his own story helps open the doors for others.

One participant says that the hardest part was to tell someone about his struggle. "I was scared out of my mind," he says. Telling a trusted youth leader, however, was the first step toward becoming free, and he is now celebrating 17 weeks of freedom from pornography.

"The word needs to be out there that there is freedom from this," he says. "There's a certain degree of hopelessness, and people need to know there is a way out."

Spreading the word about the freedom available is a growing part of the ministry of The Herd. In September the group held a "Herd Roundup" where current members and invited guests gathered to hear stories of liberation and celebrate the progress. Nearly 100 men from at least six different churches took part.

The Herd has also reached outside the local community with a group in Sacramento and another taking shape in Southern California. Leaders hope for an even wider reach by becoming their own nonprofit organization.

The future of the church itself is at stake in this battle, says Sawatzky, because pornography drains the spiritual vitality of the church's leaders. Pornography creates "crippled husbands, crippled fathers, crippled spiritual leaders," he warns.

On the other hand, freedom from pornography opens up new avenues in communion with God. "It's amazing when we get this out of our life how God speaks to us," he says. "You experience God in a way you've never experienced him. It's terribly exciting. I pray that this will be the beginning of a revival in our churches for sexual purity." — *Kathy Heinrichs Wiest*

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Beyond the mountaintop

Named 2015 to provide a milestone on spiritual journey

The setting was Estes 1995, the USMB National Youth Conference (NYC), held that year at a mountain retreat center in Estes Park, Colo. On the last night of the event, speaker Ridge Burns gave a call for commitment, asking students to stand on their chairs to declare their commitment to radical discipleship.

Matt Ford stood, as did most of the other students in the room. At the time, Ford was a student in the North Fresno (Calif.) Church youth group.

Perhaps startled by the overwhelming response, Burns took some time to clarify: This was a statement of radical discipleship, meaning sacrifice and life change. A few sat, but Ford was among those who remained standing.

“That moment served as a spiritual marker for me,” Ford remembers. “That was a moment when I made a commitment to be a disciple of Jesus and follow him with all of my heart.”

Now, as youth pastor at North Fresno and a member of the NYC planning team, Ford hopes the next NYC, Named 2015, will likewise provide a spiritual milestone for students who attend.

Named 2015 will be held April 9-12, 2015, in Denver, Colo. This will be the 11th NYC, a national gathering of USMB high school youth held once every four years, giving students the opportunity to attend once during high school. The first NYC was held in Glorieta, NM, in 1975.

Christy Goentzel, member of the NYC team, part of the Southern District Conference (SDC) youth commission and also a former NYC student attendee, says the

goal is not a mountaintop experience, because that implies a coming back down, leaving the experience behind. Rather, she says, the NYC team wants Named 2015 to be part of ongoing growth for students. “We want these things to be stepping stones,” she says.

Appropriately, Named 2015 will be the third NYC in an urban rather than a mountain or camp setting.

Named 2015 will be set in the heart of Denver, which offers both a central location and a rich urban experience. Sessions will be held in the Colorado Convention Center; students will stay across the street at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Denver.

Just a stone’s throw away is 16th Street Mall, an open-air pedestrian mall with shops and a variety of restaurants in all price points. Easy accessibility to the mall should make meals much simpler than at past urban youth conferences, Goentzel points out.

Youth groups who wish to explore Denver’s attractions during free times or before or after Named 2015 have a long list of options, from mountain activities like hiking or, conditions permitting, skiing, to museums for nearly every interest, to parks and shops, to the ever-popular Casa Bonita restaurant.

A new identity

General sessions, workshops and service opportunities will center on a theme, Named, that will help attendees take home a new identity in Christ.

The theme draws upon Matthew 16:13-19, in which Jesus asks his disciples who the surrounding culture says



NYC 2015 planning team members are Joanna Chapa representing the LAMB District, Kyle Goings representing the Central and Southern Districts, Jeral Gross representing the Central District, Russ Claassen representing the Southern District, Keith Warkentin representing the Pacific District, Christy Goentzel representing the Southern District and Matt Ford (seated on floor) representing the Pacific District.

he is, asks who they say he is and, when Simon declares him Messiah, gives him a new name, Peter.

The conference will follow an outline suggested by that Scripture, exploring what the culture says about Jesus, asking students what they believe about Jesus, considering what Jesus says about them and challenging youth to live out that identity.

"In everything we do, we are looking to see who Jesus is and how that relates to our identity," says Russ Claassen, NYC team member, youth pastor at Koerner Heights Church, Newton, Kan., and SDC district youth minister.

"I hope this will be one of those times in life where students can grasp who Jesus is and who Jesus says they are," he says.

Speaker, band lay foundation

Speaker John Richardson will frame the theme for attendees in four general sessions. Richardson currently serves as campus pastor for Mountain View Community Church Sunnyside, Fresno, Calif., a church plant partnership of Mountain View Community Church in Fresno, the Pacific District Conference (PDC) and Mission USA.

He holds a degree in contemporary Christian ministries from Fresno Pacific University, the Mennonite Brethren-owned school in Fresno, Calif., and a master's degree in Old Testament from the Mennonite Brethren seminary located in Fresno. In addition, he has a passion for youth and for mission. As a youth pastor for 11 years, he led numerous mission and service experiences for youth.

Claassen is thrilled that Richardson is "an MB guy" and expects that he will challenge conference attendees to engage

in mission, especially local mission. "I'm excited about getting kids connected to ministry where they are," Claassen says.

The band For All Seasons will help students focus on who Jesus is. Claassen says that the planning team prioritized worship over big names when it came to choosing the band, and they got a true worship band in For All Seasons. "Their hearts are all about helping people connect with God through music," says Claassen.

The band is based out of southern California and is a regular at Hume Lake Christian Camp, which means that many West Coast students will be familiar with the group. Claassen says the NYC team would like all attendees to be familiar with the band before Named 2015 and encourages students to purchase the band's most recent recording, "For All Seasons," or explore their music online.

Learning, service opportunities explore identity

Based on the foundation of an understanding of who Jesus is and personal identity in him, Named 2015 attendees will explore that identity further through "Learning Ops" and "Service Ops."

Learning Ops are simply "learning opportunities" with a purpose, according to planning team member Joanna Chapa, an MB Mission staff member working from Hillsboro, Kan., who also attended NYC as a student. In these workshop settings, students will hear a variety of stories of God at work around the world and through specific interest areas such as music, sports, education, missions or church planting.

"We feel that the Learning Ops are going to be another opportunity for Named 2015 attendees to connect through the story of how Jesus renames us and calls us to greater things than we can dream or imagine," says Chapa. "One of our hopes for the Learning



Ops is that students, leaders and speakers alike will come away with a stronger sense of how Jesus has moved through others and be inspired to continue to seek to do the same as they leave Named 2015.”

Details about Learning Ops topics and speakers will be available on the Named 2015 website when registration opens in January.

On Friday, attendees will practice what they’ve been learning through Service Ops—opportunities to serve in the Denver metro area. “It’s putting hands and feet to what we’re hoping to teach and challenge our students with,” says NYC team member Ford. Service has become a major component of NYC’s relatively new, urban-setting model.

NYC is once again working with Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection (DOOR), a faith-based network of urban service-learning programs that happens to be headquartered in Denver. Ford notes that DOOR knows the city and has relationships with those who are effectively meeting needs. “They’ll get our kids plugged in to all these different organizations,” he says.

While specific assignments are yet to be determined, students can expect to get hands-on experience with soup kitchens, food banks, inner city ministries, thrift stores, homeless services and inner-city churches.

Taking it home

Ford hopes the service will be much more than a one-day experience for Named 2015 attendees; he hopes that as students see how people in Denver participate in what God is doing in the city, they’ll learn how to see and participate in what God is doing in their own community: “How do I find God in my context and follow him?”

Ford hopes that the way students serve in Denver will become their “everyday reality.”

“God calls all of us to be missionaries,” Ford says. “Hopefully our Service Ops will foster our overall theme in that way.”

Worth the cost

NYC team members say that as students take their new identity home, Named 2015 has the potential to change lives. Because it can be transformational, team members say it’s worth the expense and effort for a church to send their youth to Named 2015.

“These kids are the future of our conference; these kids are the future of our nation,” says Goentzel. She points out that families often don’t flinch at the travel and expense of, say, a sports tournament or band camp. “Why would we not invest in furthering Christ’s kingdom?”

Claassen says NYC has been an important part of not only his own spiritual journey but also the journey of many who are now leaders in their churches, communities and families. “NYC was a part of that,” he says. For some, it was a first step; for others, it represented a significant call to mission.

Chapa remembers her experience at Estes 2003, which was one of those spiritual milestones for her. “I’m glad my small, South Texas MB church in La Grulla was willing to fund-raise and send our youth group, even though it took a lot of effort and resources to send us,” she says. “My life journey has been impacted by what God did at Estes 2003.”

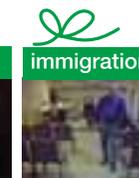
She adds, “It’s at conferences such as Named 2015 that students meet Jesus in a new and refreshing way alongside hundreds of other students from around the U.S. Let’s join together as a family of disciples at Named 2015 to train and equip our young people to know, love and serve Jesus.”

Information on Named 2015 will be updated regularly on their website, www.named2015.com. —Myra Holmes

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King's Day extends Christmas spirit

Butler MB shares love of Jesus through cultural tradition

At Butler MB Church, Fresno, Calif., the Christmas season doesn't end until Jan. 6. For many in Hispanic cultures, Jan. 6 is King's Day, or "Día de los Reyes," the day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the arrival of the magi. While Matt. 2:1-12 never details how many magi visited the Christ child, tradition often holds that there were three "wise men" or kings who brought gifts to Jesus, so the day is sometimes known as Three King's Day.

Amor y Fe, Butler's Spanish-language congregation, marks the day with a celebration designed especially for children. Their annual King's Day Festival is held on the first Sunday of the year, which falls this year on Jan. 4.

Although Amor y Fe takes the lead in organizing the festival, all of Butler MB participates. Butler encompasses four congregations: Amor y Fe, English-language Common Ground and Faith Community, and Asian Grace, a Lao/Khmu group. "All this joyful work is done in partnership with all the congregations of our church working together as a team," says Elbio Carballo, pastor of Amor y Fe.

The festival is announced weeks in advance with flyers inviting children from each of Butler's four congregations, as well as extended family and community members. Parents register children so that the congregation can plan appropriately. About 40 to 45 children typically attend, as well as some adults.

Because the kings gave gifts to honor the infant Jesus, gift-giving is an important part of the King's Day tradition, and Butler follows this tradition. "The celebration involves giving presents to the children, representing the love of God for them," says Carballo.

Attendees of all four Butler congregations donate toys or contribute financially to make the gifts possible. Carballo notes that no weapon-like toys are allowed. Volunteers wrap each gift and label it with the child's name or age and gender.

On the day of the festival, the congregation decorates Butler's family center with colorful, cheerful balloons and streamers. The festive atmosphere sets the tone for a 1 1/2-hour service, mostly in Spanish, that includes songs, Scrip-



King's Day activities at Butler MB Church in Fresno, Calif., include a visit from three "kings" who distribute gifts to the children attending the annual celebration held the first Sunday of January.

ture reading and a program by children. Youth volunteers help with a drama, narrated in Spanish and translated into English.

"At the end of the drama, we invite the children to open their hearts to Jesus and receive his love," Carballo says.

Of course, the three kings—portrayed by men from the congregation dressed in costume—visit to distribute gifts and share more about Jesus. The service ends with prayer for the needs of the children and their families.

No King's Day Festival would be complete without "Rosca de Reyes," a traditional cake usually baked in a ring reminiscent of a crown. So the Amor y Fe celebration includes this cake, as well as chocolate and a piñata.

The festival is more than an excuse to extend the holidays. Carballo notes that some from the community always come, making the festival an opportunity for them to get to know the church.

More importantly, children who attend feel the love of Christ. "We have seen the impact in many children who are receiving the message and love of Jesus through this event," he says. —Myra Holmes

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#MoreTogether



Don Morris
Mission USA director

#MoreTogether for church planting

I believe that we make a huge impact in our world for God's kingdom when we join forces. I am inviting U.S. Mennonite Brethren to join a global effort to celebrate generosity as USMB joins the Giving Tuesday movement. Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2, is a global day dedicated to giving back, and many organizations—including evangelical Christian outreach and mission agencies—are providing creative ways for people to financially support causes that are important to them.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday highlight the commercialization and consumerism that characterize the Christmas season. We want our Giving Tuesday efforts to underscore that the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of our sins, is the reason for this season and that as his disciples we are commissioned to share this good news with our neighbors. And planting new churches is the most effective way of evangelizing our communities.

For every \$15,000 we raise on Giving Tuesday, we can assist in planting another new USMB church in 2015. Our goal is to raise at least \$30,000 for two new 2015 church plants.

Because we advance God's kingdom when we work together, our theme for Giving Tuesday is More Together. Look for our hashtag, #MoreTogether, on Facebook and Twitter. We know that together we do more and together we give more. Our church planting program depends on the financial and prayer support of all of us, and working together we can see lives transformed.

It will be very easy to give to Mission USA on this day set aside for giving back. Just go to

www.usmb.org/GivingTuesday on the USMB website. Follow #MoreTogether on Facebook and Twitter during the day to stay updated and watch our progress toward meeting the goal.

I'd love it if this became a huge event that we all participate in together to raise funds for church planting. We'll wisely invest every penny in the kinds of things required to get a new church plant off the ground and be ready to make an impact in the community:

- discern and assess potential church planters,
- provide ministry and discipleship material,
- purchase equipment such as sound systems, video projectors and baptismal tanks and
- provide compensation for our church planters.

Life transformation is happening as a result of our USMB church planting efforts. Lives are being changed forever. I love being present at one of our church plants when new believers are giving their salvation testimonies and are then baptized. I wish you could join me. Many tears are often shed—tears of joy and gratefulness to God for his grace. When you contribute to our #MoreTogether campaign on Giving Tuesday you will be part of bringing salvation and life transformation to individuals, families and communities as new Mennonite Brethren churches are planted.

It's easy to remember the date—the first Tuesday of December. We believe that everyone—whether a large or small donor—can help make a difference in bringing the good news to our nation. Let's do #MoreTogether and do something great Dec. 2 for God's kingdom!

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SD congregation continues to grow

Christ Community Church (CCC) of Sioux Falls, SD, a USMB church planted in 2006, continues to move ahead with vision and expansion. The church recently voted unanimously to lease their building's next adjacent "bay" in order to provide more space for their growing children's programs.

"We are at capacity in our kids' programs, often having over 25 kids in a fairly small room, and between 30 to 50 for a Sunday," writes Troy Weiland, who has just completed his first year as Christ Community's pastor, in a letter to CCC supporters. "The three existing rooms are often at capacity each Sunday morning. The need is certainly upon us," writes Weiland.

"Life in a church plant is truly living a life of faith," says Ron Ortman, church elder chair in a recent email to Don Morris, Mission USA director. "It is also a life of the faithful, those who have in the past and continue today, to support God's work through Christ Community Church. I want to thank Mission USA for your partnership and encouragement over the short life of Christ Community Church. Your help was invaluable to getting us up and on our way."

Now the church relies on the giving of those who call Christ Community their home church and others who continue to support the ministry. A few years ago the church expanded their sanctuary by knocking out a wall that separated existing space from the building's bay to the west. Now they will use the next west bay for the new children's area, providing significant space that will be divided into areas for various children's age groups.

Many young families are a part of this lively congregation and don't necessarily have a lot of extra income to apply to a building project, but they are dedicated to making it happen.

"I was present the Sunday they voted for this new expansion and I was amazed about the unified and excited atmosphere," says Morris of Mission USA. "It

was a pleasure to witness God moving in a powerful way as this young church gets poised for even more growth and to reach more people with the gospel."

Pastor Weiland adds, "Truly a ministry is sprouting before us; we are seeing great numbers of new kids coming each and every Sunday. Our Sunday school leader, Linda (Ortman) along with her other volunteers, are joyfully sharing the good news of Christ each week, and the kids are responding. The unanimous vote said this, 'We are committed together for the cause of Christ, and we move by faith.' In a vote of expansion like this, I want to truly say thank you to all our MB churches and our MB supporters—you are a big part of making this happen! May this prove to be your joy as well."

Christ Community Church is located near downtown and the city's mall and is just east of I-29 in Sioux Falls.

"I remember riding around Sioux Falls in 2005 with church planters Rod and Donna Anderson and then district minister Roger Engbrecht praying and wondering where God would have us plant this new church," says Morris. "They started out in a local school gym and then moved to this city-center location where God has demonstrated his great faithfulness and continues his life-transforming work."

Christ Community Church in Sioux Falls, SD, has expanded its facility several times to accommodate growth. The congregation is preparing to add an additional "bay" for its children's ministries. The growing congregation, led in worship by Neil Peterson in this photo, was planted almost 10 years ago.



Christ Community Church



Robert Partington

Growing in gratitude

Instilling a thankful heart in children fights consumerism

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:18, ESV).

In the autumn of 2002, my three-year-old son, Andrew, and I were visiting his sister, Elizabeth, while she slept peacefully in the neonatal intensive care unit. As Andrew and I admired Elizabeth’s beautiful tinniness, I invited him to pray for his new sister.

He began, “Dear God, thank you for Andrew and baby Elizabeth.”

Recognizing this as one of those teachable moments, I said, “Andrew, you’re not supposed to pray for yourself when you pray for baby Elizabeth.”

Once again, Andrew prayed, “Dear God, thank you for baby Elizabeth and not Andrew.”

Hmmm. I see we have some work to do here.

My wife and I invest a lot of time and energy trying to build character in our children. We love who our kids are, but we know we can’t just sit back and admire these precious contributions to creation. God has entrusted us with the responsibility for shaping who they will become.

Shaping necessitates instilling values by teaching and modeling them to our children during the ordinary moments of each day. One of those values is gratitude. My wife, Melissa, and I want our children to grow up with grateful hearts—to feel thankful every day for the life God has given them and to be generous with their own expressions of gratitude.

That’s a tall order. Bombarded by consumerism’s message that happiness comes from getting stuff,

Melissa and I strive to use the Christmas season to teach gratitude. This “most wonderful time of the year” is an especially meaningful time to talk with kids about gratitude for two disproportionate reasons: theologically for what God has done within history to redeem his people and as insurance against the seductive lies of consumerism that have a way of oozing into every corner of our children’s lives.

As teens become adults and as adults mature, gratitude that began as a simple response to gifts or as courtesies now overflow into relationships and circumstances. Not all of them are positive, and some are downright painful. Yet gratitude is the right response.

About a month after Andrew offered his innocent prayer of thanks, our precious baby Elizabeth died during her second month on earth. We were crushed. Some of you know what that feels like.

At an evening Thanksgiving service at our church, we didn’t plan to publicly express our gratitude to God for the life of our daughter. It must have been one of those things that God placed on our hearts. People approached us later with tears in their eyes, wondering how we could be anything but angry and bitter so soon after our loss. I didn’t have an answer for them at the time, but looking back genuine gratitude was the right response to a holy and faithful God.

Robert Partington is a speaker and writer on the family and the former executive director and founder of Peace in the Home, Inc. Robert and his wife, Melissa, are raising and homeschooling their three children in Midlothian, Va.



Kathryn Glanzer

Would Jesus tweet?

Put the cell phone down and practice what you preach

Studies and articles are telling us about the effects of technology and social media on future generations. Beyond the instant gratification of finding answers to questions with ease on the nearest smart phone, youth can communicate with others through multiple venues. Of course, this is raising red flags for people across the globe.

Aside from the evident concern of developing an addiction to social media or identity narcissism, parents are trying to figure out how to teach their children to balance a seemingly impossible arena of information. However, teaching an applicable Christian view of technology and social media dips into uncharted waters. After all, our parents didn't have to teach us how to protect our identities from online predators, let alone how to consider our Christian influence on Twitter.

Regrettably, we are the most distracted generation of parents so far. We are unnecessarily busy and unavailable throughout the day. From an early age, children are put on hold while parents answer the rings and beeps of their phones, inadvertently training young minds to believe they are second in importance.

A few weeks ago, I asked my daughter to put her phone in the living room before coming to the dinner table. When she came to the table, she pointed out that both her father and I had our phones on the table. I hadn't even noticed. We were so distracted that we became hypocritical. Later during that same meal, my son asked a question and we reached for our phones to Google for an answer. My daughter "ahemmed" from her seat and lifted an eyebrow. Caught.

We can do better than this. Our children deserve better than this. Now, let me be clear; I am not sug-

gesting that cell phones are designed by the devil as a tool to destroy my family. But I do believe that when the devil fails to make us evil, he prods us to be distracted and busy. As parents, we can do as much in training our children how to choose moments of focused time with one another as how to use social media appropriately. Most of all, as Christians who serve an overwhelmingly attentive God, we need to be examples of focused and attentive love with everyone in our lives. Have we lost the art of personally focused time with our family and friends? Not yet.

So, what is the solution? My daughter and I have been debating whether or not Jesus would have used social media if it had been available to him. Imagine Jesus tweeting, "Teaching @ the Mount today! Crazy Crowded! #loavesandfishes #comehungry." His ministry would have expanded faster than a disciple could post a video of a blind man being healed. While hypothetical, this gets to the heart of modern Christian parents' battles: Jesus didn't use or teach about how to manage technology.

But he did teach us how to treat one another. In the end, we need to teach our children the same core lessons we were taught. When Jesus asked the little children to come to him in Matthew 19, he was focused on them. He didn't Tweet it or Facebook it. He took his time to lay his hands on them and pray for them. He didn't worry about being socially acceptable, about selfies or how his disciples would write about him later. He simply focused on and loved those around him in that moment. It is basic, and we don't even have to Google this to know how to apply it.

Kathryn Glanzer is a member of Ebenfeld MB Church, Hillsboro, Kan.

Interested in developing an authentic friendship with a Muslim co-worker or neighbor? Consider implementing the 12 suggestions offered by David W. Shenk in his newest book, *Christian. Muslim.*

Friend: 12 Paths to Real Relationship, published by Herald Press. As a global consultant for Eastern Mennonite Missions, Shenk visits about 15 countries a year, engaging in dialogues or serving as a lecturer in both Christian and Muslim forums.

"David Shenk has proven through his books that Christian and Muslim friendships are a way to bring peace to our warring world in an era of global mistrust and violence," says Amy Gingerich, editorial director at MennoMedia.

re: Muslims

milestones

BAPTISM/MEMBERSHIP

Chuck and Barbara Buller were received Oct. 19 as members of **College Community Church MB, Clovis, Calif.**

Micah Hardy, Tessa Mazingo, Trinity Mazingo and Tricia Worden were baptized Sept. 7 at **Community Bible Church, Olathe, Kan.**

Brent and Juli Bakker and Brandon and Sara Flaming were received as members of **Reedley (Calif.) MB Church** Sept. 14.

Ross and Jennifer Tschetter were received as members of **Salem MB Church, Bridgewater, SD**, Sept. 28.

Rob Bender was baptized Aug. 31 at **Bethany Church Fresno, Fresno, Calif.** Brian and Becky Wiebe, Roy and Jessica Moore, Sarah Stambach and Bruce Black were received as members. Jenna Reimer, Madison Young, Stuart Wiebe, Megan Kroker, Michael Billman, Pat Heisdorf and David Yu were baptized Aug. 17. Ben and Geri Warkentin were received as members. The church's Chinese fellowship also reports one recent baptism.

Daniel Isom, Mitchell Balzer and Kim Ishler were baptized Sept. 14 at **Zoar MB Church, Inman, Kan.**

David Brown was received as a member of **Hillsboro (Kan.) MB Church** June 29.

Colton Corn, Tanner Lindahl and Carson Moler were baptized Aug. 10 and received as members of **Buhler (Kan.) MB Church.**

Reagan Harris and Robert and Melissa Ball were received Aug. 3 as members of **Pine Acres Church, Weatherford, Okla.**

CELEBRATIONS

North Fresno Church Japanese Chapel, Fresno, Calif., celebrated its 20th anniversary Aug. 10 with a special service that included a guest trumpet player.

WORKERS

Zachary Trostel-Lopes is now serving as junior high and college ministries director at **Reedley (Calif.) MB Church.**

Krystal Klaassen has resigned as pastor of families and children at **North Fresno (Calif.) MB Church**, effective Sept. 30. She has taken a position with West Coast Mennonite Central Committee.

Denny Hartford, teaching pastor at **Faith Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.**, has announced his resignation, effective Jan. 1.

Jack Norris has resigned as pastor at **First Mennonite Church, Clinton, Okla.**

David Martens was installed Sept. 28 as worship pastor at **Parkview MB Church, Hillsboro, Kan.**

Chuck Buller was installed Sept. 7 as pastor at **College Community Church MB, Clovis, Calif.**

Grayson Piepgrass is the new pastor of care ministries at **Shafter (Calif.) MB Church.** He was installed Sept. 7. Jeff Rogers and Mason Gonzalez served as summer interns in children and youth ministries.

Uriah Donaldson is the new part-time youth director at **Dinuba (Calif.) MB Church.** This is a newly-created position for the church.

Jordan Ringhofer is the new lead pastor at **Kingsburg (Calif.) MB Church.** He had been serving as youth pastor. Byron Neufeld began serving as the new care pastor Oct. 1.

Jason Kinzel has resigned as youth pastor at **Bethany Church Fresno, Fresno, Calif.** Roy Moore, Jr., is serving as interim student ministries director. Aaron Schwartz served as an intern this summer. Janice Line is serving as an intern.

DEATHS

Correction: The mother of **Helen P. Isaak** and **Pete P. Isaak** was incorrectly listed in their obituaries published in the Sept/Oct issue. Their mother was Helena (Duerksen) Isaak.

Blosser, Sarita Jo, Hillsboro, Kan., of Hillsboro MB Church, May 19, 1958—July 3, 2014. Parents: Vernon and Rachel Friesen. Spouse: Don Blosser, deceased. Children: Roy.

Friesen, Rachel, Hillsboro, Kan., of Hillsboro MB Church, Jan. 15, 1926—June 9, 2014. Parents: George C. and Sara (Harms) Kornelsen. Spouse: Vernon W. Friesen, deceased. Children: Sarita Blosser, Terryl, Jody Heizelman, Donnel; 10 grandchildren.

Gossen, Ella Jane, Corn, Okla., member of Corn MB Church, April 3, 1932—Aug. 23, 2014. Parents: Abraham and Martha (Kliwer) Epp. Spouse: Jacob Gossen. Children: Kervin, Carey, Kenton, Kim; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

Kasper, Harold, Hillsboro, Kan., member of Hillsboro MB Church, July 29, 1931—Aug. 16, 2014. Parents: David and Susie Kasper. Spouse: Shirley Schneider. Children: Kristy Harder, Brenda Brown, Dawn Long, Sandy Beisel; 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren.

Koop, Clarence Victor, Corn, Okla., of Corn MB Church, Jan. 19, 1923—Aug. 25, 2014. Parents: Ben and Olga Koop. Spouse: Ella Mae Reimer, deceased. Children: Ernie, Loren, Anita Fransen; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Grace Bible celebrates 50

Grace Bible Church, Gettysburg, SD, celebrated 50 years Oct. 11-12 with a weekend of activities focused on "50 Years of Grace: Look What God Has Done." The celebration began with an evening meal on Saturday, featuring music by the church's worship band and The Black Hills Quartet. During the Sunday morning service, former pastors were given time to share; current pastor Scott Crooks also spoke.

The community and former members were invited, and a catered meal was served following the service. According to a church history that accompanies an anniversary-edition directory, Grace Bible began with Sunday school meetings in a country school, which later became weekly Bible studies led by Robert Radtke, former pastor of Emmanuel MB Church, Onider, SD, which was instrumental in the early days of Grace Bible. Fourteen people signed the charter April 16, 1965. "Over the years Grace Bible Church has walked through some valleys and has seen its share of mountain top experiences," says the historical account. "Through it all, God has been faithful, and the church has been blessed. As he leads us into the future, we pray he will continue to use us for his glory."



Arthur Wiebe dies

Arthur Wiebe, president emeritus of Fresno Pacific University, visionary and longtime university and community benefactor, died Sept. 14, 2014. He was 94. Serving from 1960-1975, Wiebe became president during a time of change and led an administration dedicated to innovation in curriculum, facilities and philosophy. Under his leadership, the school grew from a junior college to a four-year liberal arts institution, became accredited to offer master's degrees, initiated degree completion programs, embarked on key facility expansions and drafted the first "Idea" vision statement. Wiebe was born April 20, 1920. He and wife Evelyn (Nov. 26, 1920-March 1, 2008) were married Aug. 24, 1941, in Corn, Okla., and have two children who survive: Richard and Anne.

Volunteers help Congolese students

This summer, women from Belleview Community Church, Littleton, Colo., prepared teaching materials for Mennonite Brethren schools in Democratic Republic of Congo. The women, part of the church's senior adult fellowship, made memory games and picture dominoes, tore coloring books apart for classroom activities, filled small jars with crayons, visited thrift stores to purchase interlocking plastic construction blocks and sewed fabric maps of the world. Larry and Rose Buschman, volunteers with MB Mission, delivered the supplies during a September trip to equip Congolese teachers and students.

Pauls, Luella S., Corn, Okla., member of Corn MB Church, Dec. 24, 1918—Sept. 30, 2014. Parents: P.A. and Ann (Becker) Kliewer. Spouse: Pete Pauls, deceased. Children: Eugene, Dennis, Vicky Kenton; eight grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

Schmidt, Waldo William "Bill," Clovis, Calif., of Bethany MB Church, Fresno, Calif., May 8, 1919—Sept. 4, 2014. Spouse: Jeannie Schmidt.

Slitor, Aldeen Mae, Shafter, Calif., member of Shafter MB Church, Nov. 12, 1916—Sept. 13, 2014. Parents: Abraham F. and Anna Boese. Spouse: Mayhew Slitor, deceased. Children: Marion Cosso, Philip, Glenn; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

Toews, William "Bill," Enid, Okla., member of Enid MB Church, Nov. 27, 1918—Aug. 22, 2014. Parents: Abraham and Agnes (Benke) Toews. Spouse: Helena Janzen, deceased. Children: Dennis, Ellis, Eldon, Janice Ilstley; five grandchildren.

reaching in

DISCIPLESHIP

Short-term small groups at **Dinuba (Calif.) MB Church** are designed to focus on specific areas of discipleship, such as parenting, exploring Christian faith, church membership, grief or financial stewardship.

Bethesda Church, Huron, SD, offered "Tough Guys and Drama Queens," a seminar for parents of teens, held Oct. 18.

Enid (Okla.) MB Church hosted a one-day marriage conference, titled "I Still Do," Oct. 4 via simulcast.

Attendees of **Laurelglen Bible Church, Bakersfield, Calif.**, explored local and global mission opportunities at the annual Market of Hope Oct. 26.

This fall **North Fresno (Calif.) MB Church** offered an eight-week class taught by two chaplains exploring end-of-life questions.

A "Transformed" campaign Sept. 28-Nov. 30 at **Hillsboro (Kan.) MB Church** includes a sermon series, small groups and personal devotionals all focused on an area of transformation each week: spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, relational, financial and vocational. Small groups also participated in service projects.

Attendees of **College Community Church MB, Clovis, Calif.**, are invited to hear the text for the coming week's sermon and share questions and insights with pastoral staff each Tuesday over the lunch hour during "Text-Mex."

Grace Church of Minneapolis, a Russian-language congregation in Eagan, Minn., reports that several Jewish immigrants from Russia

have recently come to trust in Jesus as their Messiah.

Two congregations from the Chicago area helped resource vacation Bible school this summer at **Lakota Gospel Church, Porcupine, SD**.

Garden Valley Church, Garden City, Kan., held a church renewal weekend Oct. 3-5, with workshops for anyone looking to clarify their role in ministry.

FELLOWSHIP

First MB Church, Wichita, Kan., hosted a "Farmer's Breakfast" Oct. 5; funds raised will support youth going to Named 2015 in April.

Aug. 31 was "Punt, Pass and Kick Sunday" at **Pine Acres Church, Weatherford, Okla.** Former professional football player Todd Franz spoke in the morning service. An area punt, pass and kick competition for those ages six through 15 was held in the afternoon. An Oct. 29 fall festival had a Wild West theme.

Men from **Laurelglen Bible Church, Bakersfield, Calif.**, went bowling Sept. 12.

A café in the student center at **Reedley (Calif.) MB Church** features specialty coffees and drinks, with all funds raised supporting local and global mission. "Café 28:19" is so named to reflect the Great Commission in Matt. 28:19.

Heritage Bible Church, Bakersfield, Calif., offered a Halloween alternative Oct. 31, called "Fallelujah."

Bethany Church Fresno, Fresno, Calif., held a fall kick-off Sept. 14. Over 300 people attended the "Bethany Round-up," which featured outdoor worship, fun, games and BBQ.

Middle school youth from **South Mountain Community Church, Draper, Utah**, held an Instagram scavenger hunt Sept. 26.

WORSHIP

Jon C. Wiebe, president and CEO of MB Foundation, spoke Oct. 5 at **Lighthouse MB Church, Wichita Kan.**, on the theme "Named."

Jon C. Wiebe, president and CEO of MB Foundation, spoke at a leadership meeting Aug. 18 and preached Sept. 7 at **Enid (Okla.) MB Church**. Both events were designed to launch the church's new capital campaign, RENEW.

Craig and Fabi Jost, serving with MB Mission, were guests for a Saturday night ice cream social and Sunday morning service the weekend of Aug. 16-17 at **Zoar MB Church, Inman, Kan.** The morning service was followed by a noon potluck.

Lincoln Glen Church, San Jose, Calif., invited Jon C. Wiebe, president and CEO of MB Founda-

ation, to lead Sunday school July 27 to encourage the congregation to consider new ways to “fuel ministry.”

reaching out

LOCALLY

Friends of Jesus, Las Vegas, Nev., handed out water bottles at a busy intersection during a particularly hot afternoon this summer. The bottles were labeled with information about the church and a Bible verse.

Bethany Church Fresno, Fresno, Calif., participated in the “Harvest America” national evangelistic campaign via simulcast Oct. 5. High school students participated in an urban plunge mission experience with the local rescue mission Sept. 26-28.

North Park Community Church, Eugene, Ore., hosted part of a city-sponsored event promoting the use of bicycles Sept. 21. Church volunteers served sno-cones made using bicycle- and solar-generated energy.

Attendees of **Stony Brook Church, Millard, Neb.,** walked in the local “Millard Days Parade” Aug. 23 and handed out candy.

A team of 14 from **North Oak Community Church, Hays, Kan.,** served in Jamestown, Colo., for a week in July, cleaning and repairing homes damaged in floods in 2013.

CLEARINGHOUSE

LOCAL CHURCH JOB OPENINGS

Lead Pastor: Ebenfeld MB Church in rural Hillsboro, Kan., is seeking a full-time lead pastor. Inquiries or resumes should be sent to Ebenfeld MB Church, 107 N. Main, Hillsboro, KS 67063 or emailed to ebenfeldpastorsearch@gmail.com

Associate Pastor: Madera Ave. Bible Church in Madera, Calif., has an immediate opening for a full-time associate pastor, a new position for the church. The ideal candidate would have a church-planting mind-set, exhibit strong leadership skills and have previous ministry experience. The position would include but not be limited to community outreach with an emphasis on young families, working with junior high and high school youth and coming alongside the senior pastor as needed. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Established in 1919, MABC has a current average of 70 in attendance for Sunday worship. All interested parties are encouraged to mail or e-mail a letter and resume to: Madera Ave. Bible Church, 124 Walnut, Madera, CA 93637 pastor@maderabilechurch.org

Associate Pastor: Kingsburg (Calif.) MB Church is seeking a full-time associate pastor for worship and youth for a congregation of approximately 150. Inquiries or resumes should be sent to Kingsburg MB Church, 1301 Stroud Ave, Kingsburg, CA 93631 or emailed to kmbcsearch@gmail.com

Lead Pastor: Community Bible Church in Olathe, Kan., is seeking a full-time lead pastor for our congregation of approximately 250. Inquiries or resumes should be sent to Pastor Search Team, Community Bible Church, 1304 N. Parker, Olathe, KS 66061, or emailed to dale.cbcpst@gmail.com.

AGENCY JOB OPENING

Planned Giving Advisor: MB Foundation is accepting applications for planned giving advisor. This person, based out of the Fresno, Calif., office, will represent MBF programs and services to individuals and ministries throughout the West Coast. MBF is a service agency of the U.S. Conference of MB Churches. Salary commensurate with training and experience. If interested, send a letter and resume to: Jon C. Wiebe, President/CEO, MB Foundation, PO Box 220, Hillsboro KS 67063 (jwiebe@mbfoundation.com)

UNIVERSITY JOB OPENING

Fresno Pacific University is seeking a qualified faculty member in mathematics to teach upper- and lower-level mathematics courses, mentor and advise mathematics students (as well as general education students) and participate in scholarly,

departmental and university activities. Complete job description and required qualifications at www.fresno.edu/careers.

TRAVEL

Visit Europe the Mennonite way! Multiple hotel tours focusing on Mennonite-Anabaptist history in Holland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Poland and Ukraine. Organized by Mennonite Heritage Tours, www.mennoniteheritagetours.eu (1/6)

WEBSITE SERVICES

Revelation Graphic Arts in Hillsboro, Kan., provides creative and economical media elements for churches and ministries of all sizes. Complete websites start at \$599, plus mobile apps, logos, sermon/event artwork and print materials. More info: Call David Vogel at 620-877-7540 or visit revelation-graphicarts.com. (2014)

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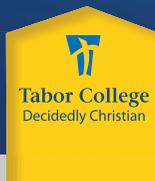
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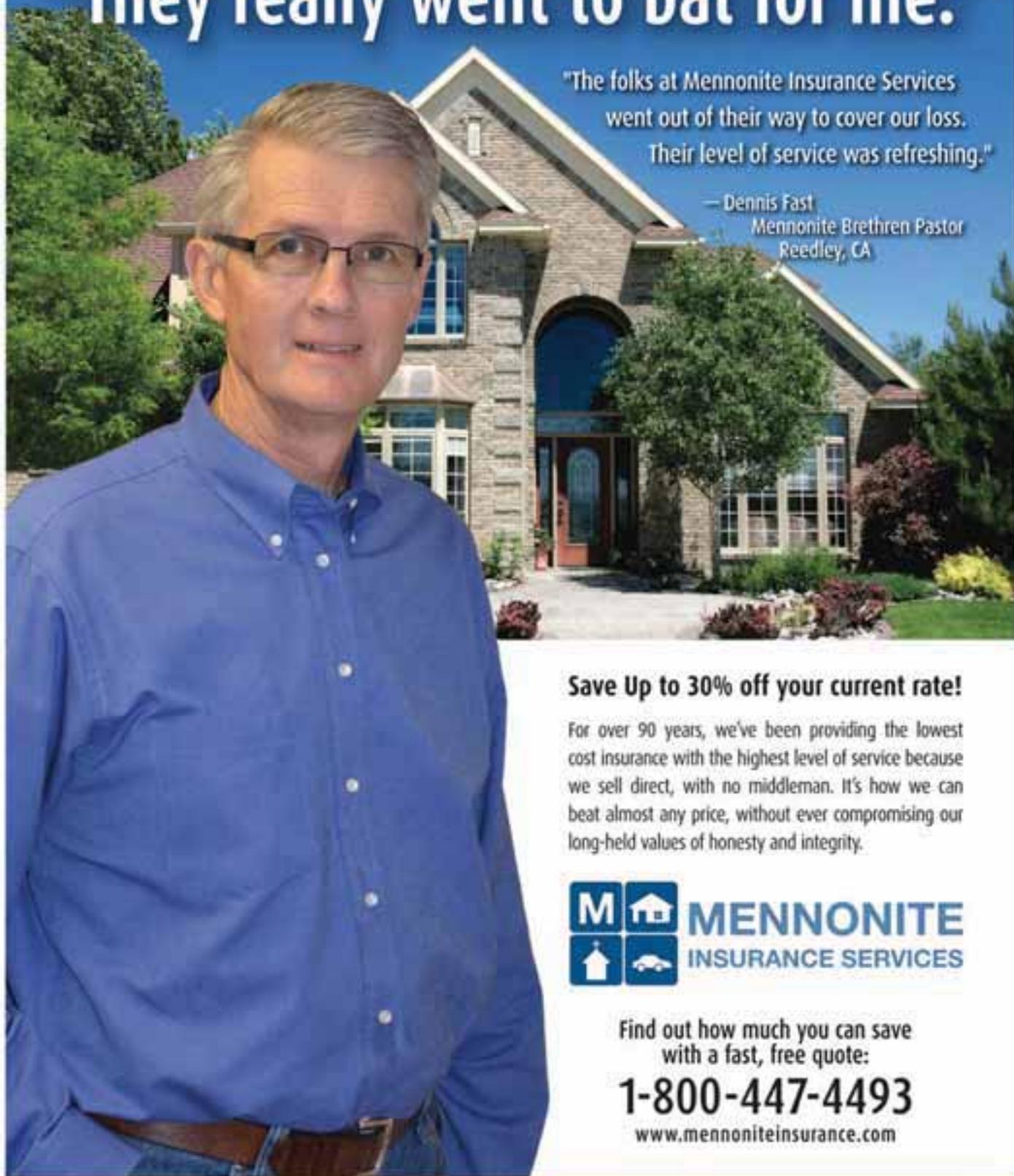


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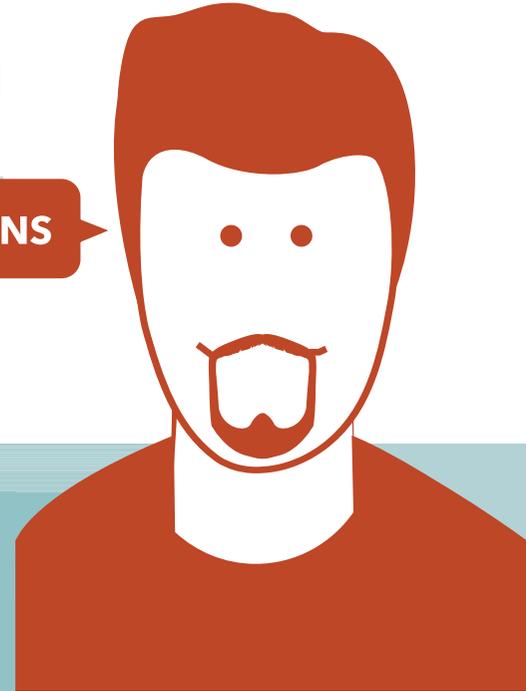
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