

buzz

June 1, 2014

AMBS Summer Intern Introduction

I am an AMBS student interning at the church starting on Monday, June 2. Your church is not new to me—I attended my last two years of high school and was baptized in the church in April of 1992. I'm really looking forward to being with all of you this summer!

Ministry in the form of missions and cross-cultural experiences has been part of my life since my family first lived in Honduras when I was a young child. Those days in a foreign land (and learning to enjoy my first cup of coffee) transformed my soul, even at the age of five. I have been fortunate to have lived or traveled in Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. These cross-cultural experiences have powerfully and profoundly shaped my call, life, and ministry. To see the poorest of the poor give all they have in hospitality gave me a picture of Jesus' sacrificial love from an early age. It centered me, and continues to do so, on the essential presence of a type of love that has no agenda except to celebrate God and others.

During my second year at Asbury Theological Seminary (2006/7), my views of God were transformed as I walked through my own brokenness. My marriage (and my life) fell apart, and Jesus stepped in and began to reconstruct my understanding of God. This transformational process helped me understand that God is love and full of grace. I reached out to community for help for the first time in my life and was blown away by the love and grace I received in return. God is good. God is love. Part of my calling now encompasses brokenness and helping people walk through the pain that comes with life. Jesus will use all of our experiences, including the most painful ones, to help others heal and find hope again. Authentic community is crucial to this healing process. It allows others to become the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus—to share in the suffering of Christ, to bear one another's burdens, and to offer redeeming hope.

I look forward to worshipping, ministering, and learning from all of you this summer!



—Mike Yordy

The Pastoral Team is very excited to welcome Mike to our team for this summer! I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as his supervisor and help find ways for his gifts to be used among us. Mike is looking forward to exploring a variety of avenues of ministry, particularly engaging in opportunities for pastoral care. Mike desires to have opportunities to hear your stories and learn to know how God has been at work in your lives. Mike has already demonstrated that he has a large heart and has gifts in compassion and

empathy—two traits he said he has learned through the brokenness of his marriage and parenting his two daughters who live in Nashville with their mother.

Mike is concluding an internship at College Mennonite Church and will begin at Waterford on Monday. As you meet Mike, please warmly welcome him back to Waterford Mennonite Church! Mike will be attending a number of ministry team meetings as well as ministering alongside the pastoral team providing pastoral care. In addition, throughout the next ten weeks, Mike will also preach, lead congregational prayers, and serve as our worship leader—yes we plan to keep him busy utilizing his gifts for ministry! Mike may be reached at mike@waterfordchurch.org and will be in the office each week Monday through Thursday. (Mike's office will be in Rm 6, the "crib room." The nursery can be used for meetings which usually take place in the crib room during the week.)

As part of the covenant of this internship through AMBS we have committed to providing a stipend for Mike. Mission and Service Ministry Team will be contributing to the stipend through their Short Term Service budget. We welcome others in the congregation to also contribute as you feel led. You may contribute by making your checks out to "Waterford Mennonite Church" and placing "AMBS Internship" in the memo line.

—Cindy Voth for the Pastoral Team

Ecuador Mission Kick-Off

The Two-Way Mission with Ecuadorian Peoples was officially launched last Saturday with a Kick-Off Event at Waterford Mennonite Church (WMC). More than a hundred and fifty people attended the celebration, including representatives from Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) and several other Goshen area churches, a group of missionaries who have served in Ecuador and the Argentine Chaco, Goshen College students who have lived or studied in Latin America, and friends and relatives of the Ross Richer family.

The evening began with music performed by a group of talented Goshen College graduates who grew up in Ecuador,



a native of Otavalo named Mauricio Chavez and two children of Colombian missionaries, Daniel and Juan Moya. Ceviche, an Ecuadorian dish made of shrimp and fresh vegetables, was prepared by our own

Josiah Graber-Ditzler and served with popcorn as an appetizer. Steve Fath offered a warm welcome to all in attendance, followed by prayers by MMN staff member Sharon Norton (English) and Colombian missionary Cesar Moya (Spanish). Laurina and Josiah Graber-Ditzler, working alongside Sherry Mast, coordinated the dinner, set up and clean up. The main course featured barbecued ribs



and chicken prepared by an award-winning chef, Gerald Straw. John Wenger served as Gerald's right-hand man. Karen Hostetler baked dinner rolls. Merrill and Lola

Gingerich provided soft-serve ice cream and many others, including members of the Gelassenheit class, brought homemade cookies and brownies for dessert.

The program began with a story, Jane Ross Richer's retelling of the encounter between Jesus and his disciples on the shore of Lake Galilee soon after his resurrection. She reflected on how Christ met the disciples where they were, and how Peter was willing to "jump out of the boat" to respond to Jesus' call. A panel of four people were then invited to come forward, each speaker responding to a particular question:

Why is it important for Christians to ... ?

...accompany indigenous people? Byrdalene Horst, former MMN missionary in the Argentine Chaco

...care for God's creation? Bill Minter, WMC Member and Land Manager at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center

...empower women in a Latin American context? Patricia Urueña, Colombian native and MMN mission worker in

Quito, Ecuador

...accompany the leaders of indigenous churches? Keith Kingsley, former MMN missionary in the Argentine Chaco

Jerrell Ross Richer followed this presentation with a story about a species of migratory bird, known as Mapitza among the Ashaninka people, to illustrate the family's vision for a two-way mission linking two hemispheres—North and South. The program concluded with a request for support by Dave Leatherman and a final prayer by Ursula Hess.

Aspecial thank you goes to the members of the Ecuador Ministry Support Team who helped organize the event—Laurina and Josiah Graber-Ditzler, Sherry Mast, Dave Leatherman, Steve and Debbie Fath, Jan Oostland, Virginia Wenger—and the many others who volunteered to help with set-up, preparation, clean-up and the serving of the food, including Ruthie Saunders, Denise, Gilberto and Camila Perez Diener, Audrey Oostland, Lynda Hollinger-Janzen and JD and Andrew Smucker. Ryan Oostland managed the sound system with guidance from Len Emery.

Thanks also to the WMC Endowment Fund and the donors who underwrote the cost of the meal, as well as the leadership at Waterford Mennonite Church, especially Pastors Neil Amstutz and Cindy Voth, for their encouragement.

What kind of support do we need now and throughout the next three years?

We welcome your prayers for:

- Good connections within indigenous communities
- Open communication with members of the Ecuador partnership—Mennonite Mission Network, the Colombian Mennonite Church, the Central Plains Conference of Mennonite Church USA and the newly formed Mennonite Anabaptist Christian Church of Ecuador
- Adaptability to changing roles and responsibilities for our family
- Financial commitments to cover the ministry expenses
- Volunteers willing to assist in various ways, especially someone who can manage an email list

For what are we grateful?

- Mennonite Mission Network's vision for work among indigenous churches
- The inspiration of missionaries who have gone before us
- The opportunity to respond to God's call to accompany indigenous communities
- The listening, guidance and encouragement of our church, family and friends
- The many people who have already shown their support in tangible ways and are committed to continuing to do so in the future



Guests at the Ecuador Mission Kick-off from left: Byrdalene Horst (retired MMN missionary in the Argentine Chaco), Roger Richer (retired Mennonite Pastor and Jerrell's father) and Orville and LaJane Yoder.

Ross Richer Support

Important piece of news to all of those who want to support the Ross Richer family. Linda Shelly sent a link to a webpage that features their Ecuador Mission—it includes a photo of the Ross Richer family, a brief description of the mission, and a link people can click to make donations. You can check it out here:

<http://www.mennonitemission.net/OurWork/Workers/Pages/JaneandJerrellRossRicher.aspx>

Thanks for all your help—we are very excited about the Kick-Off Dinner on Saturday evening (see pg 2) and appreciate everything you did to make this a reality. We are very grateful for the many people that came to support the Ross Richer family, ate with us talked with us, and listened to our stories. It was wonderful to have a group of musicians from South Bend with us to entertain us with beautiful South American music.

Please read their job description and their prayer letter as you find them in your mail boxes and on the table by the participation station. Please remember the family in your prayers and do fill out those Partnership Commitment Cards indicating your prayer and/or financial support. You may mail the letter with the commitment card either directly to Mennonite Mission network or place them into the church office mailbox. You may also make your commitment online as indicated above.

—Ross Richer Missionary Support Team

Mennonite Disaster Service Update

This week, the house on Buchanan St. in New Orleans continues to be the focus of our partnership with Faith Temple Church of God; Pastor Jerone Dabon of Faith Temple and Bob Troyer and Leonard Penner of College Mennonite are preparing it for insulation, and an electrical contractor is nearing completion with the wiring.

Thank You

Thanks for everyone's thoughts and prayers and flowers (church as a whole and, in particular, Koinonia Sunday School Class) this last month with the passing of my mom. It was very thoughtful and sweet. I appreciate it greatly.

—Mandy Schmidt

WMC Church Library Additions

230.97 *Discerning God's Will Together: Biblical Interpretation in the Free Church Tradition* by Ervin Stutzman. This book invites congregations to learn communal forms of biblical interpretation through which to implement discernment practices guiding us through today's challenging ethical and theological riddles.

248.8 *Ordinary Miracles: Awakening to the Holy Word of Parenting* by Rachel S. Gerber. Overburdened parents will find encouragement in Rachel's own story of how, in her darkest hour of disorientation in the most mundane and ordinary days of motherhood, and in moments of exhilaration, joy, and beauty, God is present!

261.7 *Politics Under God* by John Harold Redekop. Redekop affirms politics as an appropriate arena of Christian service and government as an institution established by and accountable to God.

266 *Welcome to Iran! Christian Encounters with Shia Muslims* by Wallace Shellenberger. The Shellenbergers narrate how their years in Iran transformed their thinking on religion, politics, and the cultural differences between the Middle East and the West.

280 *No Strings Attached: Boundary Lines in Pleasant Places: A History of Warren Street/Pleasant Oaks Mennonite Church* by Rachel Nafziger Hartzler.

289.7 *Pacifists In Chains: The Persecution of Hutterites during the Great War* by Duane C. S. Stolfus. This book tells the story of four young Hutterite men who refused to perform military service in World War I.

362.17 *Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well: A Doctor Explains How to Make Death a Natural Part of Life* by Glen E. Miller. Miller invites readers into conversation about the spirituality of dying as he explores a variety of beliefs about death and dying.

616.8 *The 36-hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for People who have Alzheimer Disease, Related Dementias, and Memory Loss* by Peter Rabins.

646.7 *The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts* by Gary Chapman. Chapman guides couples in identifying understanding, and speaking their spouse's primary love language—quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service and physical touch.

646.7 101 *Conversation Starters for Couples* by Gary Chapman. Marriage counselor Gary Chapman has developed this handy tabletop resource to get you and your spouse talking.

F Stu *Jacob's Choice: Return to Northkill Series, Book One* by Ervin R. Stutzman. Jacob Hochstetler's beliefs are severely tested one night in September 1757, after a raid on the Amish settlement leaves family members dead and their home in ashes.

WMC Church Library Additions

E Bru *The Quiltmaker's Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau. A quiltmaker helps a selfish king learn that giving is the true secret to happiness.

E Bru *The Quiltmaker's Journey* by Jeff Brumbeau. Making the loveliest quilts in all the land, a young girl of wealth and privilege decides to give them away.

E Jef *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Oliver Jeffers. Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing. His crayons have had enough! Can Duncan get them back to doing what they do best?

E Lic *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site* by Tom Lichtenheld. As the sun sets behind the big construction site, all the hard working trucks get ready to say goodnight.

E Mac *God Loves Me More Than That* by Dandi Mackall. This book helps your child grasp the great love of God through comparisons and descriptions they can easily understand.

E Pol *The Blessing Cup* by Patricia Polacco. When Anna's family leaves Russia, for America, they bring their treasure, a beautiful china tea set and it's blessings.

E Pol *Gifts of the Heart* by Patricia Polacco. Because Kay the house keeper teaches Trisha and Richie something about gifts, their family has a Christmas morning they will never forget.

E Rat *Quills* by Aaron J. Ratzlaff. Porcupine's quills begin to fall out. Her happiness turns to confusion and fear. Then her friend giraffe stops by with a special gift and a message of acceptance.



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Year of the Bible

READ IT STUDY IT PRAY IT LIVE IT

Read it again for the first time!

Get ready for something big at Waterford Mennonite Church! Year of the Bible (YOTB) is coming in September and you won't want to miss it. Actually, unless you're Rip van Winkle, you won't be able to miss it in our church life. From September 2014 through August 2015, YOTB will be a comprehensive effort focusing on increasing our familiarity with the stories and the overall storyline of the Bible. This effort will be for all ages, giving you multiple opportunities to connect your own story and God's story at a deeper level. This will happen not only through traditional activities such as our worship services, nurture hour and Soul Food Wednesday, but also through Bible memorization, Bible reading plans and many other special fun activities. For the next two months, this Buzz space each week will feature a preview of certain aspects and activities of YOTB, to whet your appetite.

Perhaps the centerpiece of our YOTB experience will happen on Sunday mornings in our shared worship time. If you're not familiar

with the big German word *Heilsgeschichte*, you will be by the time we've finished. Meaning "salvation history," this refers to the larger story of God's plans for the world and especially for a chosen people, as told in the Bible. We will be borrowing and adapting material from the Bib Lit class taught for years by Marion Bontrager and Michelle Hershberger at Hesston College.

The aim is to help us make sense of the whole Bible and how its parts fit together, rather than seeing the Bible as merely a collection of confusing and conflicting ancient stories. Our worship services will follow the major themes and substories of the biblical story, from Genesis to Revelation, culminating in how we interpret the Bible and in how our own stories intersect with it. In June and July 2015, we will focus on the Psalms and wisdom literature. August 2015 worship focus is not finalized but will likely be another Dwelling in the Word series. Interspersed throughout the telling of the Heilsgeschichte will be some special emphasis Sundays such as World Communion Sunday, All Saints Day, Christmas, etc.

We hope you're gearing up for something special in the coming year, something which may very well alter how you think about the Bible and how it intersects with your life. Although several existing and specially formed groups are planning the various aspects of YOTB, if you have questions please contact Pastors Neil, Cindy, or Lyle. Keep reading more YOTB updates right here in Buzz.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz