

Returning to Ethiopia

Nearly two years ago, completing my MCC assignment I easily saw God's Spirit being poured out in my life, specifically in writing nearly 1,000 pages of the children's holistic peace Sunday school curriculum: three training manuals and 156 lessons. I could not have written the lessons without God's Spirit at work in my life guiding me and granting me wisdom.

I left Ethiopia with the curriculum in the hands of the Meserete Kristos Church (MKC), the Mennonite Church of Ethiopia, undergoing cultural and theological review, to be followed by translation. Yet I had one task remaining: training on implementing the curriculum. I left Ethiopia with the promise that God would complete the work begun and the reassurance that I would be back to give the training and say an official goodbye.



In Ethiopia it was abundantly clear that God's timing is rarely our timing.

Nearly two years later the email came. I was being invited back to do the training! When God acts things happen quickly. Now, less than two months after receiving the email, I am one week away from departure. On August 10 I fly to Ethiopia for two weeks to prepare for and give the teachers' training.

From August 18-22, I will lead a five day interactive training on the Sunday school curriculum. Forty persons from five different regions in Ethiopia and the central church offices will be present. The goal is for those trained to return to their regions and congregations to train others and implement the curriculum. Nearly five years from the start of this process God is bringing it to fruition!

It no longer takes just one village but the Global village to raise a child. I invite you to join in this process as part of the broader church family. A few specific prayer requests are: for safe travel for those traveling from all over Ethiopia, for positive group interactions, open minds and hearts, for those doing translation, for rest and health, water and electricity. For myself, pray for clarity of speech, strength, wisdom and cultural sensitivity. But most importantly pray that God's Spirit be poured out on each of us there, that when teachers return, God's Spirit might be poured out in turn on the children.

—Krista Allen

Change in Worship Times

As we joyfully anticipate the baptisms of several of our youth on Sunday, August 17, in order to maximize the participation of the congregation for this special time, we will not be having an 8:00 early worship service that day. Nurture hour at 9:30 a.m. and the 10:45 worship service will continue as usual. This will allow us to hear baptismal testimonies within the regular worship service and then proceed together immediately afterward to the baptismal pond to conclude with the baptisms outdoors. This change applies only to worship on August 17. Normal schedule of two services will resume on the 24th.

MCC School Kits

It is time to fill school kit bags for MCC. There are finished bags ready to be filled on the little table under the mailboxes as well as a list of the contents to put in them. Help us fill the bags! New items only; a list of the contents is as follows.

- 4 spiral notebooks (8.5" x 10.5") of 70-80 sheets
- 8 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flexible plastic; both 30 cm and 12")
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pink pencil eraser



Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
p: 574 533-5642
f: 574 533-5642
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Sharon Burkholder
Transitional Office
Manager
- Michelle Lehman
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- JD Smucker
Worship Coordinator

Custodial Ministry

- Judy Kniesly
- Courtney Shetler

Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz
Pastoral Team Leader
- Lyle Miller
Pastor of Family Life and
Financial Stewardship
- Velma Swartz
Pastor of Senior Ministries
- Cindy Voth
Pastor of Community Life
- Mike Yordy
AMBS Pastoral Intern

The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

Katie Hurst,
editor; 574 312-0125

In the Nurture Wing ...

Today in Sunday school, children in preschool through eighth grade explored this lesson. Consider using this information for conversation that nurtures your child's faith.

Text: Acts 9:1-22

Ananias and Saul

- 1 | Read Acts 9:15. I wonder why God chose Saul to teach others about God.
- 2 | Name one way you are different now than you were last year.
- 3 | Holding hands, lead a blindfolded family member around the house.

Did you know?

What countries are Jerusalem and Damascus in today? (Israel, Syria)

Prayer for the week

God, we want to be more like you. Show us ways we can grow. Amen.

Schedule Change

Gifts Discernment Ministry Team will NOT meet Aug. 5 as scheduled. It's rescheduled to Thur, Aug. 14. Also note change of time from 7:00 to 7:30 pm.

Summer Picnic, Coming Soon!

Our summer picnic is only three weeks away! In mailboxes today are two "save the date" cards—one for your refrigerator and to give to your guest(s) as a reminder of the invitation to attend the picnic. Need additional cards? No problem, just stop by the participation station.

Looking to Borrow

Ursula Hess is looking to borrow a large cooler and a baby seat for a bicycle, as their grandson will be with them from August 7 through August 15. Contact Ursula Hess if you can help.

Thank You

I had gastric bypass surgery June 24. Initially all was going well, but a blockage developed and two more surgeries took place. That was followed with an incision site infection. It has been a tough month for me. I am healing at home now. I appreciate the cards, encouragements and prayers. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to heal.

—Cynthia Kauffmann



Year of the Bible

READ IT STUDY IT PRAY IT LIVE IT

Fall Soul Food Wednesdays

Summer is often a time to relax, take a break, enjoy a change of scenery. However, in the midst of summer your Adult Nurture Ministry Team remains busy working on details for our Fall Soul Food Wednesday series. This fall our SFW's will be September 24; October 8 & 29; and November 12. As is our tradition, we will first gather at 5:30 pm for a delicious meal before having activities for all ages from 6:30-8 pm. This fall ANMT is excited to offer two adult options as part of SFW! Both options are deeply connected to our year long theme of Year of the Bible.

The first option for adults will be exploring over four sessions how to engage with and practice an inductive Bible study. This is a specific type of Bible study that allows us, the readers, to spend time with observations, analysis, and application of the text. We have invited Don Blosser, retired Bible Professor, to serve as our facilitator for this series. Come equipped with your Bibles as our experiences are broadened to consider a new tool for studying the Word of God!

The second option for adults will consist of fun activities related to the Bible. Our own Fancheon Resler will be providing leadership for this option. The specific details are still being finalized, but perhaps one of the evenings you will gather to learn about the herbs and vegetables in the Bible, another night you might gather to search the Bible for clues on following a recipe to bake a specific kind of bread. No matter what the specific activity, come prepared to have fun as you relate to others and learn more about the Bible in new and lively ways.

—Cindy Voth, pastor of community life