

# buzz

September 14, 2014

## Ecuador Ministry Update

It is with great joy that we announce today that the Ecuador Ministry Support Team has already reached 80% of our funding goal!

Since the Ecuador Mission Kick-Off Event in May, we have witnessed how God works through people. We especially want to thank our Waterford community for your prayers, your financial commitments and your companionship along the way.

In June Jerrell had a chance to speak at the church he attended as a child, Mountain View Mennonite in Upland, California. At the end of the service, the pastors, Hyun Hur and Sue Park-Hur, asked the congregation to come forward and lay their hands on Jerrell, praying that God's message of love and reconciliation will be communicated in the rainforest and that our family's presence will be a blessing to the indigenous people we encounter there.

In July our family had the opportunity to attend the Mennonite Mission Network "Mission Seminar," a weeklong retreat that provided a chance to learn more about global missions and talk with mission workers who are currently serving in a variety of settings—Senegal, Spain, France, Canada and China. There was a separate program for our children focusing on their identity as "third-culture kids"—children who grow up in a nation different than their parents' home country. Sierra, Naomi, Teresa and Jordan had a fantastic time with a group they could easily identify with.



In the weeks to come we will be traveling to several churches in our region to share our vision for mission and offer other congregations an opportunity to be a part of this work. We have been invited to speak at Holdeman Mennonite in Wakarusa, 8th Street Mennonite in Goshen, Hopewell Mennonite in Kouts, and Bethel Mennonite in Ashley, Michigan. We will also have a chance to introduce our vision for two-way mission to the board of Mennonite Mission Network during their annual meeting in October in Iowa.

We welcome your prayers, asking that God will give us an articulate message to share with these congregations, that God's people will receive it and be open to a new way of doing missions, and that they will be excited to join us—the people of Waterford Mennonite—as we together begin this journey of accompaniment with our indigenous sisters and brothers living in the Ecuadorian rain forest.

We trust that this journey will lead us to a better understanding of what it means to follow Jesus—the Way, the Truth and the Life.

—Jerrell and Jane Ross Richer

## 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 by next Sunday, September 21! 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



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### Staff Team

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- 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  
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- Velma Swartz  
*Pastor of Senior Ministries*
- Cindy Voth  
*Pastor of Community Life*

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.

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## Changes in Worship Experiences

I like cars. Ever since I was young I have gone from Hot Wheels, to model cars, to working on my parents cars, and now having my own car projects. There is something I enjoy about restoration, and working with my hands, and machines. I enjoy being in my garage and having neighbors coming over and talking about car repairs. Odd but true.

When I was a teacher, I enjoyed teaching a one week course on auto mechanics and maintenance. Students learned what direction to turn a wrench or the workings of the internal combustion engine. Great fun. But times are changing. When you buy a car today, more and more people depend on businesses to maintain their vehicles. Our occupations do not allow us the freedom to do our own auto maintenance. Cars are more complicated. Fewer people are interested in doing their own car repairs. No longer do we have as many skilled back yard mechanics who can repair their own vehicles.

As I think about my worship and music experiences over the past fifty years, I am reminded of how changes occur because of the availability of people to do things. There may be more dramas in worship if there are many people interested in participating. We may have more guitar music if there is a plethora of guitarists in line to play in worship. If we had a brass quintet, we would invite them to play in worship. We use the gifts God has given us in our community of faith, to worship and honor God.

Over the years these gifts come and go. We presently do not have the pool of organists that we once had. Without persons interested in playing the organ regularly, the role of the organ in worship changes. Inclusive language in worship, removing announcements from worship, no more prayer coverings for women, singing new songs and styles,—these are all changes I have experienced in my lifetime. I have had the privilege of singing out of seven different Mennonite songbooks over my lifetime.

Change can be a blessing. It can also be difficult. Often it is both. Embracing the realities of who we are as a congregation today may mean that some instruments are used regularly, while others are no longer used in worship. May we walk together into the future embracing the gifts of each person at Waterford, and continue to be open to the Spirit-filled changes that await us.

—JD Smucker

## Jars, Rings, and Lids for JYF

It's only September, but soup season will soon be upon us.

We hope you remember the wonderful mixes made by the Junior MYF last winter, and we are looking forward to filling your pantry shelves again with the fixings for a tasty supper with little work on your part. Selling these mixes supports our faith formation activities throughout the year, including Winter Youth Retreats and the biennial Know Jesus event.

To help the project, we would like to gather pint jars, rings and lids to use for providing the mixes. If you have some to give, please place them on a pew at the east end of the pastoral office hallway (near Lyle Miller's office). The jars will not be sealed, so lids can be reused.

And don't worry, we'll be making candy as well! Look for your opportunity to pre-order in the coming months.

## Dedication of Relief Sale Items

We will be dedicating our items for the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale in the worship service on Sunday, September 21. Please bring the items you are contributing to the church the week of September 14, but no later than Saturday, September 20. Put your items at the back of the sanctuary.

## Relief Sale Sign-up

Volunteers are needed to help in various areas at the sale. Check the signup sheets on the bulletin board for these opportunities to help.