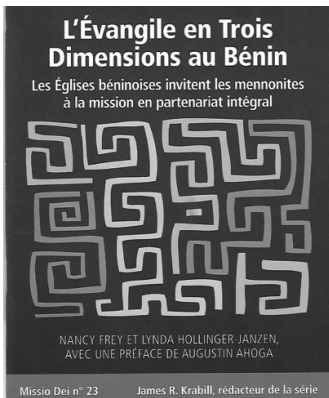


Waterford's Endowment Contributes to Benin Bible Institute



Our church endowment fund just contributed \$2,000 to help print 1200 copies of the French version of "3-D Gospel in Benin." This booklet that Waterford members recently received (in English!), is written by our own Lynda Hollinger-Janzen, as well as Nancy Frey, and tells the story of Mennonite mission work in Benin, focusing quite a bit

on the developments that led to the founding and growth of Benin Bible Institute (BBI).

I'm thankful that Mennonite Mission Network found it worthwhile to do a French translation of this story, and thankful for Elvina Schmidt and her colleagues serving on the Waterford Endowment Fund Committee, who make the important and sometimes difficult decisions about which projects to fund.

I believe that having an available French version of this story will empower BBI. They will be able to share their story in a new way with prospective students, with staff members, with their board, with interested churches. I believe this story presents BBI as a Spirit-led, Beninese-owned institution genuinely dedicated to providing high quality leadership training for a wide variety of church groups in Benin. Thanks to our Endowment Fund for making this possible!

—Rod Hollinger-Janzen, Coordinator
for the BBI Planning Group

Excellent English Update & Thank You

Waterford Mennonite Church, thank you so much for donating to help us open our American English language and cultural center in Burkina Faso, called Excellent English. It is an encouragement and an honor to us that you trust and support us in this undertaking.

We now have enough funds to open Excellent English. Thanks to you, opening day is in sight! We have already begun to set up the center.

We hope all is well with you, and we want to thank you again for investing in education and the people of Burkina Faso through Excellent English.

—Adama Millogo and Annette Conrad

Interfaith Hospitality Network

We will be hosting the GIHN guests from Sunday, June 7 through the morning of June 14. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet interesting people who are guaranteed to enrich your life. As it happens, it is also part of Christ's call. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." There is opportunity to contribute food, prepare dinner and/or be a host to the guests for dinner and the evening 5:00-8:30 pm or for overnight 8:30 p.m.-7:00 a.m. Please consider how you can help. Sign up to host and/or provide food at the Participation Station or online at tinyurl.com/Waterford-IHN-Hosting. If you have any qualms about signing up to host for the first time, and would like to be accompanied, I would be honored to host with you so that you won't feel uncomfortable. Just let me know.

—Gordon Bontrager

Senior Reflection

When I was in my early twenties, and immediately after marriage, I was serving as a program leader in a mission church in Philadelphia. Ruth and I had been asked to serve there by the then Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions. They said it was a mission church that was struggling and needed new ideas and young blood. Rather hesitantly we accepted the invitation and moved to the big city. We lived on the first two floors of a big old row house that over the last hundred years had lost its elegance, and was attached to the church building. We were serving under one of the most culturally conservative bishops in the Lancaster Conference. The previous program leader, who had also been the pastor, was very conservative. On the third floor of our big old house lived two saintly “old” women who were very involved in the mission program. One was possibly in her early seventies and the other in her late fifties. We did have in the congregation a rather energetic deacon, who looked conservative but was receptive to new ideas and had some of his own. However, he had the maturity and experience to know what to do and what to say and when to be silent. Something I still needed to learn.

On a number of occasions I suggested and tried new things only to be confronted by an expression I soon learned to hate: “Oh, Wilmer, we have never done it that way before!”

At different times representatives from the Mission Board would check in with us to see “how things were going.” One time Henry Garber, the president of the board was in the area. Henry was probably a half century older than I, almost blind and nearing the end of his tenure as Board president. He took me aside and asked the usual question, “Wilmer, how are things going here?” It was too soon after I had heard the hated statement once too often. I exploded: “Everything I try or anytime I initiate something someone says: ‘We’ve never done it that way before!’” Henry came closer and closer and closer, I suppose to see my expression, then said, “Bide your time Wilmer, bide your time, but keep agitating!”

This advice has served me well in many situations, “but biding my time” and still keeping my vision is a challenge. Thanks, Henry!

—Wilmer Hollinger

Evening of Outdoor Games

Do you enjoy croquet or corn hole or wiffle ball or volleyball or another fun outdoor game? Do you enjoy desserts? Do you enjoy sitting around enjoying conversations with others from WMC? If you answered yes to any of those questions, plan on spending the evening with your church family on Sunday, June 21! We will gather from 6-8 pm to enjoy an evening of lawn games, desserts, and conversations! Please bring: your favorite lawn games, lawn chairs and/or blankets, and a dessert to share. Adult Nurture Ministry Team will provide the paper supplies as well as drinks. We are looking forward to a relaxed and fun evening together!

Thank You

I am so grateful to have been of service to you for the past 18 years. I have been blessed to have become acquainted with so many wonderful people.

Carl and I have watched toddlers become teens and teens become young adults. We have seen those young adults go to college, leave on mission trips, get married and have families. It has meant a lot to be part of your sad times, happy times and fun times.

The gift certificates and beautiful handmade prayer shawls are so appreciated. It’s difficult to retire, but I feel led that it is time to focus on the needs of my husband and me.

May God continue to bless Waterford Mennonite Church.

—Judy Kniesly



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