



Waterford Mennonite Church | October 15, 2017

buzz

We are going to Benin!

“Oh, so this is what we were talking about!” It’s always good to see and experience firsthand what we have only heard about and seen pictures of (like being at a football stadium for a football game versus watching it on TV). So I am looking forward to seeing and getting the feel of Benin, Benin Bible Institute, and all the other places we will be visiting. Unfortunately, I do not know French, so I will need to be asking my questions and making my comments to Theophane (speaks English well), who will be our companion, which I very much look forward to. But being in a place where I do not understand much of what is being said will also be helpful to identify a bit with immigrants who don’t know the language of the place they have come to.

Exposure to another culture is a good thing, since my world tends to be too small. So I am going to take advantage of the opportunity to observe and appreciate the way things are done over there and see what I can learn. I look forward to being a part of worship services as they are done there and get a feel of how these people experience and see God. Sounds like I might have to be willing to move a little (or a lot)!

I do look forward to getting to know Mandy better and maybe even Velma! Also, I am looking forward to being together with the couple and their two boys from the St. Jacobs congregation in Ontario and being able to talk together about what we are experiencing. From their bios it looks like we will have a lot in common.

I do hope to take advantage of any opportunities to learn what I can about how marriage and family issues are dealt with as well as mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety, since that is my field of work here. How are those who struggle with such issues viewed and responded to by society, and how “ok” is it to struggle and how vulnerable are persons in that culture able to be with each other?

Yes, of course I hope I don’t lose our luggage or

get sick. Since neither of those is the end of the world, no use worrying about it.

Thanks to WMC for giving us the opportunity to be the delegation to Benin this year. It is a privilege and we will look forward to reporting on our visit.

—*Sheldon Swartz*

Greetings From a Sister Congregation

Dear Waterford Mennonite Church,

Greetings in Jesus’ name from Prairie Street Mennonite Church! At IN-MI Mennonite conference annual sessions at Amigo Centre in June, we saw that the first goal of living into the vision for conference life together is congregations will strengthen their relationships with each other to foster greater affection, understanding, and mutual sharing.

So at this time of change in church and society, we write to say that you are important to us and our affection for you runs deep! Over the years, we have been enriched by sharing worship and discernment with you at regional gatherings. The scope of our ministry as a congregation has increased and multiplied because we have joined with you through conference events and church-wide ministries. We thank God for you and for our relationship.

While we are not all at the same place on some matters, we share what is essential for life together: commitment to Jesus as Lord and Savior. You also make this confession. Together we are God’s building, a temple in which the Spirit dwells. Our hope is that we can continue to grow in understanding and build together on Jesus Christ, the one true foundation.

Pray for us and our pastors, Nelson, Carolyn, and Frances. Pray for South Central Elkhart and our ministry in it. We pray for you, your pastors and the ministry in your community. We want to encourage you, build you up through prayer, partner with you, and strengthen our relationship by sharing our love for you for Jesus’ sake. To God be the glory!

—*Pastors and members of Prairie Street Mennonite Church*



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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. Monday preceding publication.

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Ecuador Two Way Mission

Those who attended the Ecuador Two Way Mission Event last month were able to learn about the exciting growth in relationships between the Ross Richer family and the Cofán community among whom they live and work in the Ecuadorian Rain Forest. It was also an opportunity to offer or renew pledges of support as the family prepares for their next three year ministry commitment to working alongside this group of indigenous people and sharing in the life of the local church.

For those who were unable to attend the Mission Event but would still like to be involved in this Ministry, pledge cards indicating the various ways in which we can offer our support, channeled through Mennonite Mission Network, are being placed in mailboxes, with extra cards available on the table below. We invite your prayerful consideration of how God may be calling you to share in this Two Way Ministry whether through prayer, financial giving or taking part in one of the visits being planned to Ecuador next spring.

—Ecuador Ministry Support Team

“Krafting” Work You Love Seminar

NEW Start Date, Oct. 23:

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep hunger and the world’s deep gladness meet.” (by Frederick Buechner) “Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” (by Howard Thurman)

If these ideas call out to you, then come join other Waterford participants as we talk about applying these and other ideas and strategies to our daily lives. We have delayed the start date until Monday, October 23, and we still have spaces remaining for people wanting to find or create more meaningful and purposeful work and/or volunteering. The seminar will take place over six Monday evenings at Waterford Mennonite, 6:30-8:30 p.m. starting October 23. See the table display by the library for more information or to sign up, or contact Conrad Brenneman at (574)538-1838.

Join us for a Comforter Bash!

Make plans to join us on October 20 and 21 for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes Comforter Bash in Goshen. People of all ages are invited to knot comforters at Pleasant View Mennonite Church (58529 County Road 23). For more information about the event visit mcc.org/comforter-bash or contact Carol Honderich at 574-536-9062. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Below is a list of where our comforters go.

Countries receiving MCC comforters

Shipped between April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Ukraine:	18,390
Jordan:	12,598
Iraq:	7,061
Bosnia:	5,219
North Korea:	3,621
Canada:	1,395
Ethiopia:	1,208
Serbia:	874
U.S.:	407
Zimbabwe:	289