



**Mennonite
Mission
Network**

The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA

Together, sharing **all of Christ** with all of creation

Beyond Ourselves

Vol. 8, No. 1 ■ February 2009

Where is our faith?

CLOSE	NET CHG	STOCK	SYM	CLOSE	NET CHG
20.52	-0.57	QuestComm	Q	3.28	0.29
20.25	-0.73	RakpHdg		59.26	-2.11
2.06	-1.23	RangeRes	RAH	11.07	-1.06
1.09	-1.25	RaylanFnl	RAY	18.02	-1.86
23	-0.19	RayonierRut	RYN	20.12	-2.18
17	-1.64	Raytheon	R	50.20	-0.79
-1.12		RhyecoCo	RTN	23.02	-0.89
0.10		RedHat	R	11.84	-0.60
0.17		ReedElstr NV	ENL	24.16	0.59
-1.24		ReedElstr ADS	RUK	30.01	-0.86
1.97		RegencyCrs	REG	40.14	-4.42
1.15		RegionsFin	RF	35.74	0.09
1.16		ReinsGA	RGA	38.69	-0.41
95		ReliantEnrg	RRI	48.26	1.26
5		ReusHldg	RNR	21.01	-0.56
		RepsYPF ADS	REP	22.75	0.09
		RepSvcs	RSV	35.74	0.09
		ResMed	RMD	39.25	-1.45
		ReynoldsAmer	RAI	39.39	-7.53
		RioTinto ADS	RTP	19.50	-7.53
		RobHoffIntl	RHI	30.13	-0.11
		Rockwell	ROK	36.96	-0.61
		RckvllCol	COL	26.51	-0.54
		operComm B	RCI	68.77	-1.73
		shnHaas	ROH	41.61	-0.51
		nerInd	ROP	59.90	-3.60
		Tele	ROS	27.96	-0.69
		BiCam	RY	13.85	-1.91
		ScotADS	RBS	12.18	0.47
		ibn	RCL	53.42	-2.51
		chSHA	RDSA	35.48	-1.12
		rs	SAI	18.93	-0.09
			SAP	34.54	-0.42
			SLM	8.81	-0.47
			SPW	37.63	0.44
			SDA	4.62	0.04
			SWY	23.31	-0.24
			JOE	25.24	-1.88
			STJ	32.25	-0.16
			CRM	32.15	-1.03
			WY	32.39	-0.42
			LE	9.59	-0.04
			Y	28.72	-1.49
			L	8.22	-0.33
				34.46	0.39
				16.70	-0.88
				39.43	-3.11
				28.76	-1.09
				20.55	-0.09
				4.71	-0.23
				1.48	-0.04

STOCK	SYM	CLOSE	NET CHG
Target	TGT	35.42	-0.31
SocCommo B	TCK	4.48	-1.06
AcceEnrg	TE	11.99	0.04
IntlKiste	TNE	14.92	0.54
Thomson ADS	TEO	9.25	-0.29
Teledat	TEL	6.70	-0.21
Telesat ADS	TSF	21.72	0.65
Telesat ADS	TSP	48.80	1.30
Teleflw	TFX	68.55	-2.32
Telefonica	TEF	22.22	-0.12
Telecom ADS	TMX	24.31	-2.00
Telecom	TLK	24.31	-2.00
TeleData	TDS	30	-0.62
Telecom ADS	TNG	43.69	-1.24
Telcel	TU	24.81	-0.90
Telecom ADS	TS	20.93	-1.33
Telecom	TPP	19.46	-0.15
Telecom ADS	TPC	14.99	-0.47
Telecom	TX	8.53	-0.31
Telecom	TN	182.47	-5.19
Telecom	TKN	15.06	-1.19
Telecom	TXT	15.25	-0.18
Telecom	TMO	32.54	-0.59
Telecom	MMH	56.71	-1.87
Telecom	TDW	37.99	-2.84
Telecom	TIF	24.72	-0.85
Telecom	TH	26.85	-0.65
Telecom	TWC	19.88	-0.28
Telecom	TWX	10.19	-0.19
Telecom	TOL	22.84	0.17
Telecom	TKS	7.55	-0.28
Telecom	TMK	43.43	0.47
Telecom	TD	33.90	0.43
Telecom	TOT	56.20	-3.38
Telecom	TSS	13.59	0.04
Telecom	TM	65.54	-2.93
Telecom	TAC	18.69	0.04
Telecom	TRH	35.89	-0.87
Telecom	TRP	27.25	0.37
Telecom	RIG	47.90	-7.16
Telecom	TRV	42.77	0.04
Telecom	TK	13.83	-0.44
Telecom	TEL	16.45	-0.16
Telecom	TYC	21.37	0.02
Telecom	TSN	7.65	-0.26
Telecom	UBS	13.08	-0.93
Telecom	UDR	14.26	-1.39
Telecom	UGI	23.83	0.24
Telecom	URS	39.50	-2.32

STOCK	SYM	CLOSE	NET CHG
WparBr ADS	WEK	54.26	-2.84
Weyorbar	WY	37.13	-2.98
Whirlpool	WHR	41.93	-1.07
WhitMtnns	WTH	260.50	-13.60
Wiley A	JWA	32.76	0.19
WillmsCos	WMB	13.56	-0.72
WillisGp	WSH	23.93	-0.56
Windstream	WIN	8.95	-0.02
Wipro ADS	WIT	8.16	0.02
WorEnrg	WEC	41.10	0.21
WoodFinHlgs	WF	16.30	-0.47
Wyeth	WYE	37.30	0.20
Xerox	XEL	18.28	0.23
XTO Enrg	XXR	7.57	-0.21
YPF ADS	YPF	36.18	-1.97
YamahaGld	AUY	47.25	-1.50
Yanzhou ADS	YZC	6.63	-0.25
YumBrands	YUM	70.04	-0.08
Zimmer	ZMH	40.20	0.26

STOCK	SYM	CLOSE	NET CHG
IndexLab	IDXX	34.70	-0.01
Illumina	ILMN	24.87	1.23
Infosys	INFY	25.48	0.57
Intel	INTC	14.26	-1.00
Intuit	INTU	22.66	-0.53
IntutvSrgcl	ISRG	131.32	-0.76
Itron	ITRI	57.97	-1.82
JBHunt	JBHT	24.34	-1.10
JoyGib	JOYG	23.11	-2.40
JunprHtwk	JNPR	17.09	-0.23
KLA Tencor	KLAC	21.19	-1.13
LamRsch	LRCK	21.91	-0.99
LandstarSys	LSTR	35.53	-0.35
LibertyGlob A	LBTIA	13.51	0.51
LeapWrlsInt	LEAP	29.16	1.47
LibertyMedInt A	LINTA	3.06	-0.06
LibertyMedInt A	LINDIA	17.98	-0.31
LifeTech	LIFE	22.05	-0.06
LihirGold ADS	LIHR	17.34	-1.89
Lincare	LINC	25.98	0.69
LincTch	LNCR	22.11	-1.55
LLTC	LLTC	47.59	-0.90
Logitech	LOGI	13.82	-0.33
Makita ADS	MKTAY	20.76	-1.42
MarvellTch	MRVL	6.84	-0.34
MaximIntgt	MXIM	12	-0.38
MekoCrm ADS	MPCL	3.37	0.34
MicrochpTch	MCHP	19.17	-1.40
Mitsui	MSFT	19.30	-0.36
Malox	MITSY	183.17	-7.80
MyriadGntcs	MOLX	13.35	-0.73
Nasdaq OMX Grp	MYGN	65.92	0.72
NetApp	NDQA	25.01	-0.06
Netease.com	NTAP	13.71	-0.26
Nii Hldgs	NTEC	20.92	-0.64
Nissen ADS	NIHD	18.28	-0.24
NrthTrst	NSANY	6.68	-0.19
NtlInstr	NTRS	49.36	-1.17
NuanceComm	NATI	23.72	-0.51
NVIDIA	NUAN	9.59	-0.19
OracleCo	NVDA	8.46	-0.86
OReillyAuto	ORCL	16.61	-0.13
OSI Pharm	ORLY	30.81	0.20
Paccar	OSIP	36.32	1.08
PattnrnCos	PCAR	27.40	-1.14
Paychex	PCO	18.66	...
PennNtl	PAYX	25.89	-0.72
PeopUniFac	PENN	22.03	-0.44
Perrigo	PBCT	17.37	-0.48
Petsmart	PRGO	33.22	1.14
	PETM	17.45	-0.62

NASDAQ

AbraxisBioSci	ABII	66.19	0.51
ActivisionBliz	ATVI	9.23	-0.49
AdobeSys	ADBE	21.38	-0.31
AkamaiTch	AKAM	15.14	-0.92
AlexionPharm	ALXN	34.86	-0.29
AlteraCo	ALTR	16.20	-0.50
Amazon.com	AMZN	52.08	-1.10
Amgen	AMGN	58.02	-0.40
AmMov ADS A	AMOV	33.80	0.19
AmMatlins	ANAT	71.01	0.99
AngloAm ADS	AAUK	11.54	-1.15
ANSYS Inc	ANSS	29.74	0.16
ApIdMatl	AMAT	10.10	-0.57
ApolloGp A	APOL	75.67	0.16
AppleInc	AAPL	89.43	0.27
ArchCapGp	ACGL	66.47	1.45
ASML	ASML	17.12	-0.22
AssocBcp	ASBC	20.25	0.52
AutDataProc	ADP	36.64	-0.61
Autodesk	ADSK	18.41	-0.80
Baidu.com ADS	BIDU	130.69	-4.81
BedBath	BBBY	25.59	-0.12
BiogenIdec	BIIB	48.01	0.36
BOK Fnl	BOKF	40.73	-1.82
Broadcom A	BRCM	17.28	-1.62
CA Inc	CA	17.40	-0.62
CapFedFnl	CFRN	43.06	-0.04

Beyond Ourselves

Vol. 8, No. 1 ■ February 2009

Beyond Ourselves is published by Mennonite Mission Network, which envisions every congregation and all parts of the church being fully engaged in mission—across the street, all through the marketplaces, and around the world. Contact us for a free subscription.

1-866-866-2872 (toll-free)
574-294-8669 (fax)
info@MennoniteMission.net (e-mail)
BeyondOurselves.MennoniteMission.net (Web)

Executive Director/CEO: Stanley W. Green
Editor: Ryan Miller
Art Director: David Fast
Designer: Rebeka Moeljono
Copy Editor: Karen Ritchie
Distribution: Carol Honderich

© 2009 by Mennonite Mission Network. All rights reserved. Mennonite Mission Network, the mission and service agency of Mennonite Church USA, exists to lead, mobilize and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. With offices in Elkhart, Ind.; Newton, Kan.; and Harrisonburg, Va.; the Mission Network supports ministries in more than 50 countries.

Board of Directors

Bill Hochstetler (chair), Iowa City, Iowa; Richard W. Baum, Perkasie, Pa.; Loren E. Horst, Linville, Va.; N. Leroy Kauffman, Clyde, N.C.; Heidi Regier Kreider (secretary), North Newton, Kan.; Mattie Marie Mast, Dalton, Ohio; Craig Maven, Harrisonburg, Va.; José Ortiz, Goshen, Ind.; Tanya Ortman, Kansas City, Mo.; Steve Penner, Reedley, Calif.; Steve Cheramie Risingsun, Atmore, Ala.; Lee Schmucker, Wichita, Kan.; Richard Showalter, Landisville, Pa.; Tonya Ramer Wenger (vice chair), Madison, Wis.; Sherilee Williams, Brandon, Fla.

POSTMASTER: Subscriptions and changes of address should be sent to *Beyond Ourselves*, Mennonite Mission Network, 1601 W. Beardsley Ave., PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370.

Cover photo: Photo illustration by David Fast.

www.MennoniteMission.net

 Contains 10% post-consumer recycled paper

Together, sharing **all of Christ** with all of creation

**Mennonite Mission Network**
The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA

Editor's note

This past autumn, I struggled deeply with the presidential election. The months surrounding the election stoked the fires of fear on all sides—negative campaigning, paranoid rhetoric and, above all, a recession that threatened our entire financial system. We were warned of the dire consequences of voting for one candidate or the other, especially as our local and global economies worsened.

Fear surrounded us.

My strongest fear was that if I placed all of my trust in a candidate to solve all of my problems, I was diminishing my faith in God. Jesus, Isaiah prophesied, offers freedom, good news, release. If I can find a way to lodge my primary allegiance with Christ, rather than in NASDAQ, interest rates or a political party, then I operate—we operate—in a different space. We may be affected by disruptions in the world, but we are not controlled by them.

Instead of fearing, we can trust. And with our allegiance placed in God, and not in the structures of the world, we have the opportunity to offer perspective and comfort to others who may be devastated by their own economic downturn.

In this issue, we explore what it means to put faith in the mission of God rather than in the systems of the world. What does it mean to give up financial control? To equate self with community? To give sacrificially to God and to others? To proclaim good news to the oppressed and freedom to the captives—even if we are among those stressed within our struggling systems?

This is the year of our Lord's favor, despite, or perhaps because of, the ongoing recession. Examine with us how we as a church might pass on that favor to others and unto ourselves.

—Ryan Miller



Inside

4 Where is our faith?

In troubled times, the experiences of others can teach us to seek the true source of our sustenance, and extend our provisions throughout our communities.

7 Sacrificial giving

Pull out this section to consider how we might offer ourselves to the mission of God during the Lenten season.

11 Meal team

The community meals hosted by a Mennonite Voluntary Service unit are marked by lively fellowship, abundance, and a few broken dishes.

15 A city on a hill in times like these

Reflections from Jim Schrag, Mennonite Church USA executive director

13 New workers begin service

13 Give of yourself: opportunities for mission

14 News

15 Contributions

More online

For more stories and biblical reflections on economic struggles, fear, promise, community and faithfulness, visit BeyondOurselves.MennoniteMission.net.

'I will make you a blessing'

The family home in which I spent most of my growing years in South Africa was built the year that I was 6. Our municipal government implemented the Group Areas Act to create a “Coloured” area called



Woodlands, where my young working parents bought a lot. They were fortunate to have work—my mother bound books and my dad worked in shoe design.

Soon after they had bought the lot and drafted plans for our new home, my mother became pregnant with my youngest brother and my dad was laid off. Unsure but undaunted, they moved ahead with building our new home with the money they had saved.

The money, however, was not nearly enough.

We had to move into our new house when we had no windows. We propped up tables in the front and back doors to keep out whatever needed to be kept out. We used candlelight at night. Slowly, my parents made progress. My dad started his own contracting company. In time, there were windows and doors where earlier there were geometric holes.

Things began to look up.

One evening during those difficult days, my mother had prepared a stew with bones. I suppose there was a little meat on them, but they were mainly bones. While the meal was cooking on a wood fire out back, tended by my mother, a neighbor couple came to visit. Embarrassed by the meager meal that was to be our fare that evening, and unsettled by the timing of our neighbors' visit, my mother chose not to invite them to share in our paltry dinner offering.

Untended, the fire logs burned out. As the visit stretched longer than was expected, stray dogs came by and made themselves a feast of the warm meal that must have seemed so unusually accessible. When our neighbors finally left (no doubt after many silent prayers by my parents), Mother and Dad ventured out back to see if the stew—which by then must have been viewed as a feast—was still warm enough to be enjoyed.

They found what was left of the pot's contents strewn on the ground.

There were no stores anywhere nearby in this newly-created neighborhood. That night, when my siblings and I finished whining, I watched my mother cry herself to sleep.

Later, my mother would recount three important lessons she learned that evening:

1. Never stop being grateful for what you have (these, too, are the blessings of God).
2. Never be ashamed of what you have.
3. Always be willing to share, whether what you have is little or large.

Soon after that evening, which is indelibly etched in my mind, two octogenarian women, Aunt Dodi and Aunt Vi, began to show up at our table every Sunday after church. As my parents trusted God to provide during those lean years, God was faithful to supply all that they needed, including, in time, a lovely finished home on whose table there was always enough for us and for those who came to visit with us.

Those were difficult days for our family, but we learned important lessons, once the whining stopped and the tears dried. Today, I recall those lessons of my early childhood as we live through difficult times in our country and all around the world.

Whatever the economic fortunes of the nation and the world, God is faithful and will supply our needs. We must share with others who may be in even more challenging circumstances.

“ Sometimes, endings of what is familiar become the occasions for God to birth new worlds of possibilities. ”

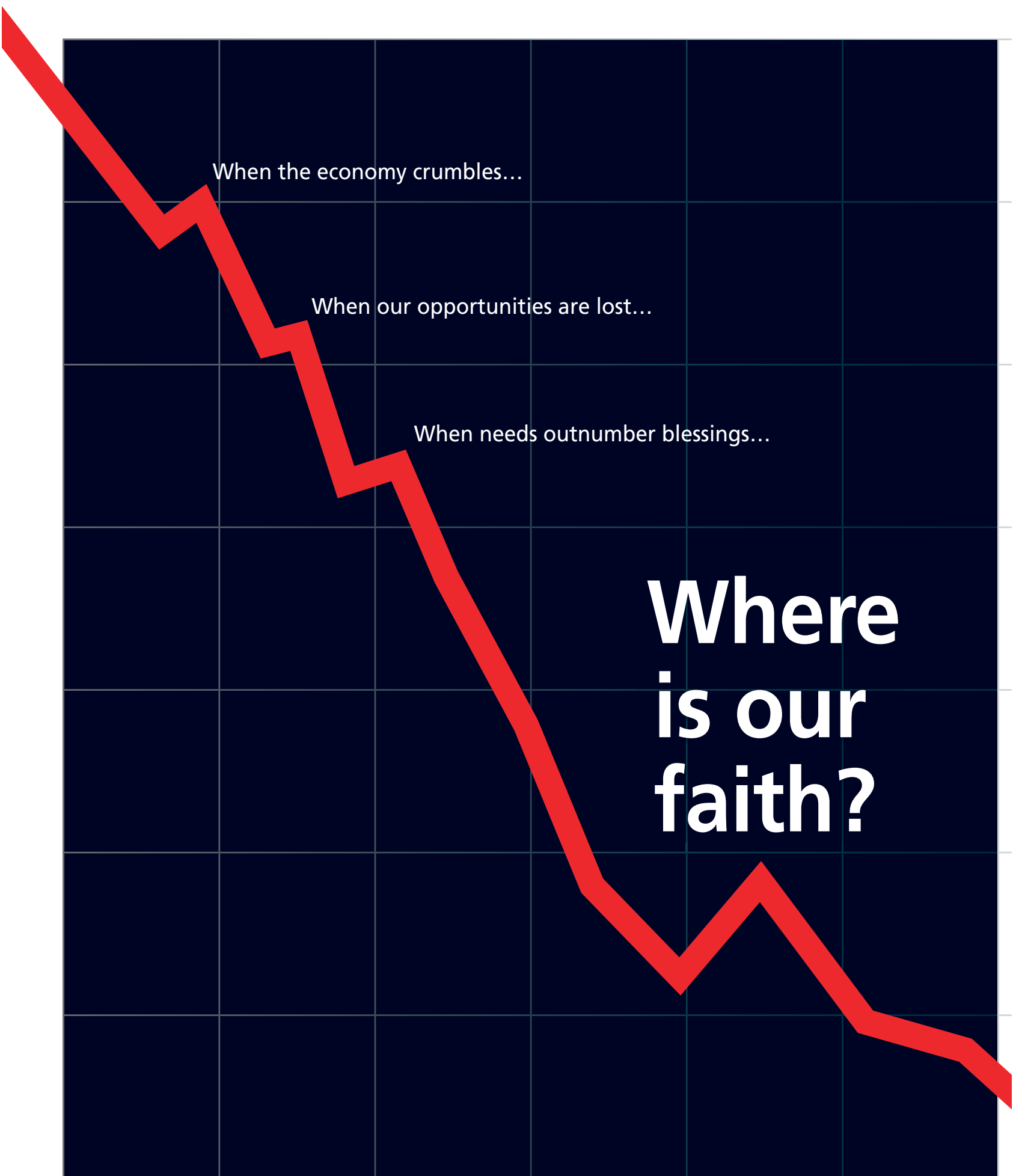
These lessons remind me of God's promise to Abraham: “I will bless you ... and I will make you a blessing” (Genesis 12:2). It took a while for Abraham to enter fully into God's blessing, but in time God was faithful. God also called Abraham to “be a blessing,” to share with others what he enjoyed because of God's faithfulness. Together, let's continue to share God's goodness through Jesus Christ with others whose situations are even more challenging, even more desperate than ours.

If you have stories to share or lessons that you've learned during other difficult times in your life or in that of our country, please e-mail me at StanleyG@MennoniteMission.net.

Thanks for your sharing.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Stanley W. Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Stanley W. Green
Executive Director/CEO



When the economy crumbles...

When our opportunities are lost...

When needs outnumber blessings...

**Where
is our
faith?**

In troubled times, the experiences of others can teach us to seek the true source of our sustenance, and extend our provisions throughout our communities.



Trusting God during the meltdown

By Mauricio Chenlo, Hispanic Church Planting Academy director for Mennonite Mission Network

IN LATE 2001, Argentina's economy melted down.

After returning from mission work in Ecuador with a predecessor agency of Mennonite Mission Network, I was working part-time as an associate pastor and mediation/conflict consultant for a human resource business in Buenos Aires. My role was to assist employees and workers to cope with massive layoffs and personal crises, including how to process the dismantling of entire factories that were moving their operations to Brazil.

Many of our church members—most of whom were considered upper middle class—were losing their jobs. We ministered to now-unemployed men who were used to job security, had clean professional résumés, and had impeccable work ethics.

From anger to action

Many of our friends didn't know what to do with their "free time" at home, so somebody came with the idea of doing something for the "poorest of the poor"—people from our outreach ministries who were hungry or could not pay their bills.

Men from our church organized a sort of communal co-op in which fresh food was bought in large

quantities from the central market and distributed to the neediest families. Organizers understood Jesus' gospel teachings in a new way and received a sense of purpose and inspiration. They were again providers to others who were struggling. They spent more time in fellowship, prayer and mutual support, and it offered them a way to move from anger into action.

A lack of material resources can unite people who center their lives on the divine. In Argentina, many of us developed a deeper sense of daily dependence on God's grace, while placing new value on the church as a true community.

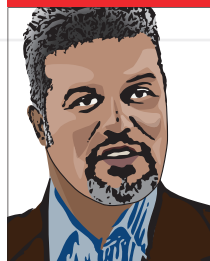
During my last trip to Buenos Aires, I reconnected with good friends who have recovered since the crisis. A group of young, successful professionals are continuing to use resources and skills to create jobs for the disenfranchised. We understand, now, that the market does not solve critical issues related to distribution of wealth and income.

Praise God.

Support mission in Argentina

\$10 takes Argentine mission workers 25 miles on their visits to start new churches and support church planters. Argentina is a huge country, and two of the regional mission projects plan for approximately 45,000 miles of travel each year.

\$120 funds one day of training and support work by Mauricio Chenlo for the the Hispanic Church Planting Academy.
Please use attached envelope.



Living by faith

By Manuel Caicedo, a Mennonite pastor in Sahagún, Colombia

LESS THAN THREE years ago, my wife and I moved to Sahagún, Colombia, where we soon felt called to start a church. Both of us had worked in secular jobs in Barranquilla. When we moved here, we wanted to try living by faith.

We arrived with a few suitcases and a couple of mattresses. Then the owner of the house we were in called two hours later to say that his second wife didn't want the things of the former wife, and so asked

 **Video online**
Learn how Toba, Mocoví and Pilagá believers consider financial and material resources at **BeyondOurselves.MennoniteMission.net.**

if he could give these things to us. Other people shared more things with us bit by bit.

We learned that when we put God first, all the rest will come as well. When we have needs, someone comes and offers help.

Remembering our community

To place our faith only in money or in our savings is to deviate from our Anabaptist principles. It is like putting our faith in mammon and abandoning the God of life in exchange for one of the baals of our society. To believe that money will see us through any crisis is to forget that the community principles that characterized the beginning of the Christ movement

should also be followed by us today.

I think that faith in God from the standpoint of the Anabaptist vision is shown in the expressions of help that we have received in times of need from sisters and brothers within and outside of our local community. Interpersonal relations are basic in building the kingdom of God here on earth, in light of the coming of the heavenly kingdom.

Just as there can be no kingdom without a king, or no king without subjects, there can be no community without fellow members that constitute that kingdom, and there can be no community without interpersonal relations among its members. These relations overlap when the love of God is expressed in a love for the neighbor that finds its basis in the love of oneself.

God is present in simple things

I hope that the humble testimony of an Anabaptist community that has learned to walk in the old path may be useful for the future of a nation. It is precisely in the simple things of life that the God of heaven makes himself present. God is glorified.

I am not telling you that it is easy to live by faith in a society that is so identified by consumerism and the invention of supposed needs. Who am I to tell my

brothers and sisters what they should do in a time of crisis? But I dare to think that this is the opportune time to return to our Anabaptist roots and recreate the basic principles of a community of sisters and brothers of faith—a community of equals more than simply a community of goods.

We can reread the basics, present for centuries, but which we have been losing recently. We can reeducate ourselves on the importance of seeing each other as children of God and sisters and brothers in the faith. We can laugh with the person who laughs and weep with the person who weeps. We can return to a way of life practiced mutually, not only in times of bounty, but also in times of suffering.

Manuel Caicedo is a Mennonite pastor with his wife, María Elena Ruíz, in Sahagún, Colombia. They were baptized through the Mennonite Mission Network-supported ministry of Amanda and Gamaliel Falla in Barranquilla, Colombia. When they moved from Barranquilla to Sahagún, the Barranquilla congregation led by the Fallas affirmed their call to start a new church.

“Who am I to tell my brothers and sisters what they should do in a time of crisis? But I dare to think that this is the opportune time to return to our Anabaptist roots and recreate the basic principles of a community.”



‘We’ll eat like kings’

By Juan David Mercado Ferreira,
baptised last October in Sahagún,
Colombia

I CAME TO WORK in this area several years ago and ended up renting a room in the home of Pastor María Elena’s aunt. [The first time I went to] the service, the pastor invited me for lunch. When I walked in the kitchen, I saw there was no food—no food being prepared, nor any food on the table. The pastor said to me, “Don’t worry; we’ll eat like kings.”

Then the food started arriving.

I began to realize that here the grace of God is present.

Pastor Manuel is my closest friend now, and Pastor María Elena is like a mother.

More online

For additional biblical reflections on fear, promise and economic uncertainty, visit BeyondOurselves.MennoniteMission.net.

Sacrificial giving

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Isaiah 61:1–2a

In recent months, global economies have taken drastic downturns. Jobs have fallen while prices jumped. Long, violent wars continue in Afghanistan and Iraq.

For some, hope may seem unattainable. In our struggles, even a simple tithe of time or money may seem irrelevant and even impossible.

In such a year, how can we proclaim the Lord’s favor?

We must not miss the essence of God’s vision for the prophet Isaiah, anointed by God, to give in many ways—to preach the good news to the poor and proclaim freedom to those held captive. In this time of economic uncertainty, we are God’s chosen and anointed people, called to share our gifts and to proclaim that this year, no matter how improbable, is certainly still the year of the Lord’s favor.

By celebrating and embodying a culture of abundance rather than scarcity, we can give of our time and our resources. We can share God’s kingdom vision with our sisters and brothers across the street and around the world.

We can be agents of God’s hope in the world.

Inside this pullout you’ll find a calendar with activities or suggestions to focus your reflections and to invite you to respond in specific ways during Lent. Consider it an introduction to the idea of sacrificial giving—some days may not seem at all sacrificial, while other days may stretch the giver. Use these suggestions on your own or as a small group, a family, or a congregation to open yourselves to how God may be calling you to further offer sacrifices to God and to others.

This Lenten season, may we all receive hope in the midst of despair and a new willingness to celebrate the year of the Lord that has arrived.

Lenten Giving

C A L L E N D A R


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sacrifice of praise <p>Each day of this calendar provides a different suggestion or giving activity that may be adapted to meet your own situation. Consider using this tool with a small group or as a congregation. Congregations also might take a gift offering each week or at the end of the Lenten season in celebration.</p>	Sacrifice of gifts	Sacrifice for relationship	Sacrifice of material goods FEBRUARY 25 Many people without cars must walk. Use a pedometer to track your steps today. Subtract from 10,000 and donate a penny to mission for each step you lack. Ash Wednesday	Sacrifice of prayer FEBRUARY 26 Eat a simple meal of rice and beans today. Pray for the growing church in Colombia.	Sacrifice of kindness FEBRUARY 27 Take time to shovel snow from a neighbor's driveway or mow a neighbor's lawn.	Sacrifice for routine FEBRUARY 28 Give up words today and spend the day in silence. Use the day to meditate, pray and rest.
MARCH 1 Read and reflect on Genesis 9: 8-17.	MARCH 2 Leave your cell phone turned off during the day this week. At the end of each day, donate \$1 for each voice mail you've received.	MARCH 3 Remember people from your congregation or neighborhood who have lost their jobs. Invite one person or family to your home to share a meal.	MARCH 4 Count the hours of television you watch today. Multiply by your hourly wage and donate the money to mission.	MARCH 5 Turn off the radio in your car while you're driving. Use that extra quiet time to pray for all who are feeling the effects of the economic downturn.	MARCH 6 Give hugs liberally today.	MARCH 7 Write a letter of encouragement to an international mission worker. View or order the <i>Mission Mosaic</i> prayer directory for worker descriptions and addresses.*
MARCH 8 Read and reflect on Mark 8:31-38.	MARCH 9 Give up going out to eat this week. Donate the money you would have spent at restaurants.	MARCH 10 Visit with a member of your congregation who is not able to make it to church on Sundays because of work, illness or another reason.	MARCH 11 Count the number of canned goods in your home. Donate a dime per can to mission, or give 10 percent of your cans to a local food pantry.	MARCH 12 Skip lunch today to fast and pray.	MARCH 13 Offer to babysit free of charge for a local family so the parents can enjoy some relaxing time together.	MARCH 14 Commit to one day each week for the remainder of the school year to read to, tutor or mentor children at your neighborhood school, or to volunteer at a local after-school or evening program for children.
MARCH 15	MARCH 16	MARCH 17	MARCH 18	MARCH 19	MARCH 20	MARCH 21

Pullout calendar: Remove the envelope first.

MARCH 15 Read and reflect on Psalm 19.	MARCH 16 Avoid driving solo this week. Take public transportation, carpool, bike or walk. Donate the money you saved on gas to mission.	MARCH 17 Initiate a conversation with members of your church or neighbors about economic realities in your local community. Together, brainstorm ways you can change your own lifestyles to be more sustainable and to assist local families.	MARCH 18 Count the number of coats and jackets in your closet. Donate \$2 per coat, or donate your best jacket to a local homeless shelter.	MARCH 19 Visit www.MennoniteMission.net/Work/International and pray for the international workers listed there, or sign up to be a daily prayer partner.*	MARCH 20 Leave an anonymous note of encouragement for a coworker or friend today. Let them know you are praying for them.	MARCH 21 Host a giving banquet. Invite friends to make a donation to mission in exchange for a simple meal.
MARCH 22 Read and reflect on John 3:14-21.	MARCH 23 Give up soda, coffee or other common drinks this week. Donate the money you normally spend on pop to mission.	MARCH 24 Refuse to e-mail coworkers in your office today. Relate to them face-to-face.	MARCH 25 Count the pairs of shoes you own. Donate 50 cents per pair to mission, or donate a pair of your best shoes to a local homeless shelter.	MARCH 26 Notice where the food you eat today was grown or produced. Pray for those places and the people who produce your food.	MARCH 27 Speak words of blessing to at least two people you encounter today.	MARCH 28 Spend time at a soup kitchen, homeless shelter or local service agency.
MARCH 29 Attend worship and visit with members at a congregation from a denomination different than your own.	MARCH 30 Turn your heat down 10 degrees this week. Donate 50 cents per degree to mission, or give the extra clothes and blankets you used to stay warm to a local shelter.	MARCH 31 Take time today to brainstorm two specific ways your congregation could be more involved with people who live next door. Commit to sharing those ideas at church on Sunday or with your mission committee.	APRIL 1 Count the number of books in your home. Donate a nickel per book to mission, or offer some of the books to a local school library.	APRIL 2 Pray for young adults in your congregation. If you know a young adult who is serving this year through a program like Mennonite Voluntary Service, Radical Journey or Service Adventure, send them a note of encouragement.	APRIL 3 Bake bread or cookies to share.	APRIL 4 Try to eat for only \$1 per meal today.
APRIL 5 Read and reflect on Mark 11:1-11. Palm Sunday	APRIL 6 Clean out your closet. Donate shirts, pants and shoes that you haven't worn in the last year to your local thrift shop or to a local family who needs them.	APRIL 7 Consider learning a new language spoken by your neighbors. Explore opportunities for language classes, tutoring or conversation nights in your neighborhood.	APRIL 8 Count the number of toiletries (toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo, mousse, bars of soap, etc.) you have in your bathroom. Donate 50 cents per item to mission.	APRIL 9 Pray through Psalm 118. Consider writing your own psalm or prayer.	APRIL 10 Deliver wildflowers to a friend or a stranger. Good Friday	APRIL 11 Invite a local high school or college student to volunteer with you. Talk with them about the importance of service to God and to others.

Your gifts of money can help to further ministries throughout the United States and around the world just like those described in this issue of *Beyond Ourselves*. Contributions for Mennonite Mission Network ministries can be sent to Mennonite Mission Network, Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515.

* Order Mission Mosaic by e-mailing Mosaic@MennoniteMission.net or visiting www.MennoniteMission.net/Resources. Become a prayer partner at www.MennoniteMission.net/Stewardship.



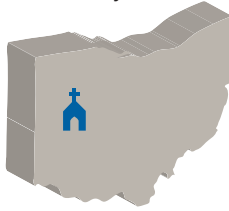
Mennonite Mission Network
The mission agency of Mennonite Church USA

Read, reflect on and celebrate John 20:1-18.

Easter Sunday

Mennonite Church USA congregations give abundantly

South Union Mennonite Church
West Liberty, Ohio



Sacrifice yields surplus

Two years ago, members of South Union Mennonite Church were inspired to explore giving beyond their usual tithes during Lent. Located in the small town of West Liberty, Ohio, this congregation of 60 to 70 people was looking for new ways to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross, new ways to live out the meaning of Lent's 40 days.

Lent, said pastor Howard Schmitt, challenged the congregation in "not just cutting things out of our lives, but in thinking about what we could do that is something of a sacrifice."

Following a visit from Bethany Nussbaum, a Mennonite Mission Network development associate, members chose to give sacrificially and above budget to subsidize salaries of Chinese pastors.

Schmitt and his wife, Jean, matched the cost of their weekly lunch meetings with share groups. Other members donated savings from bypassing coffee, matched the cost of eating out each week, or simply contributed more than their normal weekly tithe.

The point was the sacrifice, not the money.

"It's so easy to get into the rut of writing a check. It may be a tithe or another token number, but

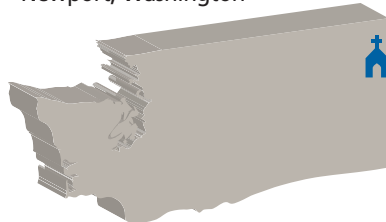
it may not get to the point of being a sacrifice for us," said Schmitt.

The congregation raised \$1,548 for Chinese pastors. By the end of the year, the previously budget-challenged congregation had a surplus; they also committed it to mission.

"We build on the fact that Christ paid the supreme price," said Schmitt. "For Christ it was the ultimate sacrifice, and we hope that this project mirrors that sacrificial element in some way."

Joy through abundant giving has inspired members of South Union to continue the sacrifices. Over the past two years, they have supported four additional ministries outside of their budget and continue to experience surpluses at years' ends.

Spring Valley Mennonite Church
Newport, Washington



Giving is just natural

Spring Valley Mennonite Church in Newport, Wash., is a congregation of around 50 members located in one of the poorest counties in the state.

"The congregation knows how hard it is to come by the means we have, that they just want to share what little they have,"

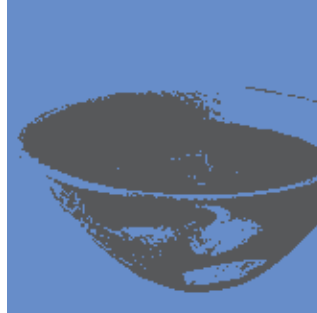
“Our giving and commitment to mission shows itself as concern for people in our own congregation who are struggling.”

said Don Goertzen, a long-time member of Spring Valley. "Our giving and commitment to mission shows itself as concern for people in our own congregation who are struggling. Giving is just natural."

The congregation uses Mission Network's mission bank tools to focus on global mission work. Each Sunday, adults collect gifts in the blue plastic globe banks. On the fourth Sunday of each month, the entire church offering supports Mennonite Church USA ministries, including Mission Network.

"We think about mission because of the emphasis that's brought out in our Sunday school classes that reminds us that we are not the poor of the world," said Agnes Goertzen, Don's wife. "We are studying the *Upside-Down Kingdom*. The classes always have a stabilizing effect, and continue to remind us that we always have to have others in our scope."





Meal team



The community meals hosted by a Mennonite Voluntary Service unit are marked by lively fellowship, abundance, and a few broken dishes.

By Hannah Heinzekehr

The clatter of kitchen utensils, the sizzle of pots boiling, and the buzz of conversation fills the big blue house on Prairie Street. It's Wednesday, and six Mennonite Voluntary Service participants in the Elkhart, Ind., unit, along with several neighbors and friends, are preparing a community meal.

Starting in 2007, volunteers living in the home owned by Prairie Street Mennonite Church have set aside one night a week to share fellowship and food with neighbors, church members, friends from the community and family.

“Because many of us [MVSers] already have local connections, we wanted to draw our various communities together, and food always helps to bring people together,” said Sarah Thompson, an MVS participant who grew up in Elkhart.

The meals are open to anyone, and all participants are intentional about inviting new and old acquaintances. Each Wednesday sees a wide variety of people gathered to share an informal potluck.

“In God’s abundance, everyone has something to contribute. We don’t want people’s food insecurity to stop them from coming to



 **More online**
Read more stories of how MVSers in Colorado and New York connect to community at BeyondOurselves.MennoniteMission.net.

“We need to learn to see the face of God and the face of Jesus in our neighbors.”

Jason Shenk



“In God’s abundance, everyone has something to contribute.”

Sarah Thompson



the potluck, so what they can bring can be telling good stories or helping with dishes. Community meal defies scarcity because everyone is capable of sharing something,” said Thompson.

The table is always set with plenty of chairs, often more than needed, so that everyone feels welcome when they arrive. Meals start with a silent prayer and a round of introductions where each person answers a question about themselves. Questions may range from “What is your favorite food?” to “Who is your hero?”

The meals create bonds among neighbors and celebrate what God gives in the midst of a culture where scarcity and fear of others is pervasive.

“We approach meals with an attitude of abundance. We’re intentional about being welcoming. We never say, ‘We don’t know if there’s going to be enough food so just come next week and we’ll see.’ We’re always well provided for, and we try to celebrate any step that people make in our direction,” said Jason Shenk, MVS participant from Eighth Street Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind.

Open hands

Paul Bertha, of Elkhart, met Thompson, Shenk and other MVSers through work with the local neighborhood association. Bertha has also been learning Spanish in a class Thompson teaches. Last summer, MVSers invited Bertha to a community meal. Since then, he’s attended several and even brought his daughter and son along.

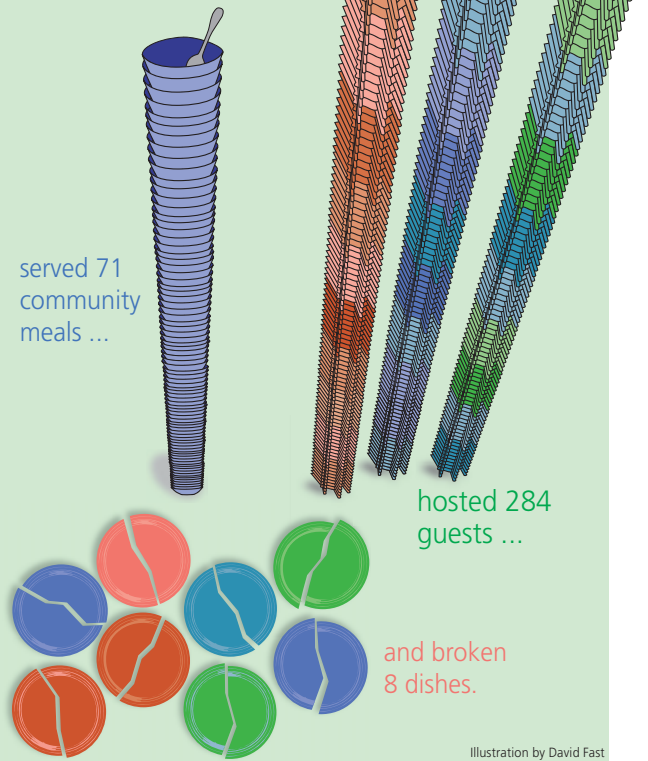
At one meal, Bertha met an organizer of a recent peace walk in Elkhart. Through this connection, Bertha, his daughter and some friends were invited to

MVS participants and guests from the community enjoy a meal together in Elkhart, Ind.



Gather 'round

The Elkhart MVS unit opened in August 2007. Since then, they have ...



perform a drama at the event. Bertha sees the meal not just as networking, but as a chance to share.

“I think a lot of times we hoard things as people. We have plenty and sometimes we’re apprehensive to open our hand to someone else, whether they be needy or not. What you usually find when you do give is that your fear might have been that you didn’t have enough,” Bertha said. “Not only do you have enough, you have enough to share with others.”

Each week, the faces around the table change, but connections formed in the kitchen affect lives beyond the MVS house.

“When I know my neighbors and the people in my community, I feel safer. I think about how many times the Bible talks about hospitality to the stranger,” said Shenk. “We need to learn to see the face of God and the face of Jesus in our neighbors.”

Thompson agrees, “I really feel the Spirit when we’re sitting around a community meal. So many of these midweek meals re-center me and remind me of what the kingdom of God looks like, feels like, and how it moves.”

Support Mennonite Voluntary Service

\$100 covers the cost for one volunteer to attend the annual MVS retreat—four days of spiritual renewal and refreshment that helps volunteers process their experience of a new culture.

Please use attached envelope.

Service

New workers begin service

Sept. 1–Nov. 30, 2008

Radical Journey

Scott Bergen, Winnipeg, Manitoba, is serving in Paraguay.*

Tyler Doerksen, Prescott Valley, Ariz., is serving in Paraguay.

Rachel Goering, Newton, Kan., is serving in Bradford, England.

David Graber, Goshen, Ind., is serving in Brazil.

Danielle Klotz, Wakarusa, Ind., is serving in Brazil.

Kristen Leichty, Albany, Ore., is serving in Bradford, England.

Alyssa Litwiller, Parnell, Iowa, is serving in Sweden.

Craig and Krista Mast, Goshen, Ind., are serving in Paraguay.

Bethany Miller, Marion, S.D., is serving in Sweden.

Samuel Miller, Louisville, Ohio, is serving in Sweden.

Sheralynn Neff, North Newton, Kan., is serving in Brazil.

Daniel Root, Springs, Pa., is serving in Brazil.

Dorothea Toews, Winnipeg, Manitoba, is serving in Paraguay.*

Rebecca Wilms, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario, is serving in Paraguay.*

Service Adventure

Note: Most Service Adventure terms are 10 months.

Alex Ficzner, Fishers, Ind., began a term in Anchorage, Alaska.

Brent Miller, Sugarcreek, Ohio, began a term in Anchorage.

Leah Rittenhouse, Mount Pleasant, Pa., began a term in Anchorage.

Katie Salas, Vancouver, British Columbia, began a term in Anchorage.

Ben Schiedel, Meridian, Miss., began a term in Anchorage.

Mennonite Voluntary Service

Josh Boese, Lehigh, Kan., is a project associate with ONE/Northwest in Seattle.

Daniella Bove, St. Paul, Minn., is a program coordinator/mediator with Center for Conflict Studies and Peacemaking in Fresno, Calif.

Caitlin Buerge, Kansas City, Mo., is a community outreach coordinator with ALICE (Arts

and Literacy in Children's Education) in San Francisco.

Mallory Dignin, Little Canada, Minn., is an elementary substitute teacher at Erie Neighborhood House in Chicago.

Melissa Dyck, Winkler, Manitoba, is a food activist with River City Food Co-op in Evansville, Ind.

Hannah Edmunds, Manassas, Va., is a direct service advocate with Sacred Heart Shelter in Seattle.

Shannon Gering, Hesston, Kan., is a club leader with Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, Kan.

Julia Gingrich, Goshen, Ind., is a victim-offender reconciliation caseworker with Center for Community Justice in Elkhart, Ind.

Cari Holliday, Andover, Kan., is a paralegal with ProBAR in Harlingen, Texas.

Heidi Kolb, Spring City, Pa., is a clinic registered nurse with Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers in Seattle.

Levi Leider, Bremerton, Wash., is a refugee case manager/placement specialist with Jewish Vocational Service in Kansas City, Kan.

Devon Martin, New Holland, Pa., is an elementary teacher with Hopi Mission School in Kykotsmovi, Ariz.

Anthony Mitchell, Philadelphia, is a homelessness services/advocacy intern with Primavera Foundation in Tucson, Ariz.

Margaret Page, Vienna, Va., is an advocacy counselor with Project PLASE Inc. in Baltimore.

HaQuyen Pham, Dayton, Ohio, is an intake/outreach coordinator with Urban Justice Center in New York City.

Timothy Prendergast, Boynton Beach, Fla., is a programs associate with Thurgood Marshall Academy in Washington, D.C.

Miriam Regier, Newton, Kan., is an urban gardener with Patchwork Central Inc. in Evansville, Ind.

Alexander Richert, Augustdorf, Germany, is a housing repair technician with Interfaith Housing Services in Hutchinson, Kan.

Lori Schlabach, Sugarcreek, Ohio, is a group coordina-



Ryan Miller

tor with Partnership for the Homeless in New York City.

Kara Schmidt, Newton, Kan., is a group leader with Children's Alley with YWCA of Boulder County in Boulder, Colo.

Christopher Scott, Martinsburg, W.Va., is a tenant advocate with Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council in St. Louis.

Kelly Shenk, Goshen, Ind., is an intern with World Vision International in New York City.

Sarah Spellman, New Cumberland, Pa., is a support services specialist with Hamilton Family Center in San Francisco.

Erica Stoltzfus, Harrisonburg, Va., is a certified nurse's aide with Mennonite Friendship Manor in Hutchinson, Kan.

Kristin Wedel, Hutchinson, Kan., is a youth counselor with Larkin Street Youth Services in San Francisco.

John Wiens, Goessel, Kan., is a maintenance technician with LaCasa in Elkhart, Ind.

Katelin Williams, Fresno, Calif., is an early childhood instructor with Even Start in Washington, D.C.

Tyler Yoder, Lititz, Pa., is an assistant store manager with Marketing and Outreach Focus with Ten Thousand Villages in Seattle.

Joilyn Zimmerly, Sterling, Ohio, is an elementary teacher with Hopi Mission School in Kykotsmovi, Ariz.

SOOP

Sue George, Hays, Kan., served one month in Hazard, Ky.

Jean Grosbach, Sheffield, Vt., served three weeks in Fruitland Park, Fla.

Anita and Philip Lindberg, Stayton, Ore., served three months in Salem, Ore.

Lester Livermore, Naubinway, Mich., served three weeks in Hazard, Ky.

Phyllis Stutzman, Goshen, Ind., served five weeks in Seattle.

Radical Journey team in Brazil (from left to right): Dan Root, Dani Klotz, David Graber and Sheralynn Neff

Give of yourself

Pastoral accompaniment in Argentina, Chile

The Mennonite team working with indigenous churches in the Argentine Chaco seeks workers with a strong personal commitment to sharing Christ, who seek a career in intercultural mission worker presence. In Chile, a growing number of congregations and conferences are rediscovering Anabaptism and seeking accompaniment and Anabaptist teaching.

Length of term: Initially, three years; Argentina position carries expectation of multiple terms

Language: Spanish

Bible, theology and leadership development teaching

Anabaptist conferences across Latin America are seeking experienced professors from Mennonite Church USA congregations to help students prepare for leadership while applying Anabaptist understandings to the Bible.

Length of term: Three months or more

Language: Spanish or Portuguese



For more information, click "Get involved" at www.MennoniteMission.net.

Youth ministry: Take a stand against bullying

Nearly 20 percent of United States students are bullied on a regular basis, often beyond the stereotypical locker-slammings portrayed in movies. Another 15–20 percent frequently bully others.

Youth leaders can initiate sharing about bullying or being bullied. Together, youth groups can identify what makes it different from teasing. Remember RIP—repeated, intended,



power imbalance. Bullying happens repeatedly with the intention to harm another person.

Encourage youth groups to draw on their identities as Christian

peacemakers to construct responses to bullying scenarios that include using mass e-mails to spread damaging rumors about an individual, kicking someone out of a friend group, and talking badly about someone's family and ethnicity. What actions would you take if you saw this happen? How would you care for the target of the bullying? Who would you talk to? — *By Elizabeth Miller*

Excerpted from Relate, a bimonthly Mennonite Mission Network youth ministry resource available online and by e-mail at www.MennoniteMission.net/Work/Service/Relate.

Circles of Relationships available online

Follow the path of God's work from Indiana to Texas, then to Lithuania, Benin, and back to Pennsylvania. Mennonite Mission Network's 8½-minute film *Circles of Relationships* illustrates the global connections that result as individuals, congregations and other church entities follow God's calls across the globe. The film offers an overview of existing opportunities to engage in God's reconciling kingdom work alongside Mission Network. Watch it online by clicking the "Resources" tab at www.MennoniteMission.net.



Receive Mission Network news by e-mail:
MennoniteMission.net/Subscriptions.

Hannah Eash and a friend celebrate with confetti inside a plastic egg at San Antonio Mennonite Church. The eggs were part of the Easter celebration.



Courtesy of Hannah Eash

No poor among you

By Tom Beutel

According to the U.S. Census Bureau report issued in August 2008, one out of every eight Americans is living in poverty. In addition, total job losses for 2008 top 1.7 million. Globally, 25,000 people die every day due to hunger-related causes.

“There should be no poor among you,” says the Lord. The implication is that in the world that God has given to humankind, there are sufficient resources to meet the basic needs of all.

In two different Christian venues, I heard concerns about whether those in need are themselves doing enough to provide for themselves. There was concern that we can’t possibly “give to everyone who asks us.”

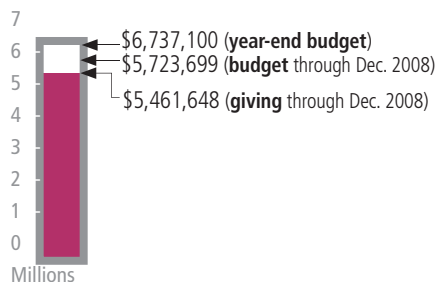
The concerns do not seem like the response God calls for us to have in Deuteronomy 15:

“If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted. ... Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart.”

I would suggest that individuals, families and churches intentionally seek out individuals and families locally who have need in these hard economic times, then find ways to give more than normal to help those in need. Those of us who are working, have homes, have plenty of food must “give generously ... without a grudging heart.”

Excerpted from PeaceSigns, a Peace and Justice Support Network newsletter available online and by e-mail at Peace.Mennolink.Org.

Contributions



Mennonite Church USA

A city on a hill in times like these



Last month, fear and promise were combined as the United States electorate awaited the inauguration of a new president—fears that he, or no one, would be able to address the ills that plague us—a war that has drained Americans of energy and hope, and an economy that has plunged us into a deepening abyss. Those same feelings likely remain. There has been the promise that election rhetoric will translate into action that brings new sensibilities to bear across an array of hopes and dreams, fears and animosities.

Such are our thoughts about our body politic these days.

Then there is the city of God, the divine providence of a God who loves us, embodied humanly, imperfectly in the church of Jesus Christ, God’s son. How is that city to be set on a hill in times like these, shining a light of healing and hope? Unlike the secular city in which we live, the sacred city in which we have made our primary commitments is where we turn for true inspiration and direction.

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved” (Psalm 46:4–5a NRSV).

Recently, I heard a story from one of our congregations that took a special offering. The appeal was given to “just give what you have in your pocket”—not to withhold anything. Those who

needed financial help were invited to take from the offering plate as it passed them.

Both givers and receivers of God’s city that day partook in a common exercise of gratitude, each doing what they needed to do. Like the loaves and fishes of Jesus’ miracle, after each had given or received, a generous amount remained. As the storyteller told this, his voice trembled with emotion, his eyes filled with tears of joy.

Every earthly challenge is an opportunity for witness. Our vision

of healing and hope is more concrete in its meaning when times are tough. We get a new perspective on what we have. Those who have “suffered” a loss in the stock market can become more aware of those who lost houses or jobs.

For many of us, economic cushions remain. For many others in our churches and communities, already challenged, there was no economic cushion to take away in the first place. Those on the bottom rung of the economic and social ladder always suffer first and most.

These are times to count our blessings. It is a time to be a city set on a hill for the world to see the love of God in and through us. A time of loss is the best time for generosity to those around us who are in need. Such is the difference between the city of God and the secular city.

Jim Schrag

Jim Schrag is executive director of Mennonite Church USA.



Kids in mission

Is your congregation using mission banks?

Join more than **10,000 children** and their families from Mennonite Church USA congregations who are using mission banks, a mission and stewardship teaching tool.

Until March 31, banks are free for all children in grades K–6 from Mennonite Church USA congregations who have not yet received a bank of their own. Orders for 2009 placed after March 15 cost \$4.95 per bank.

Order your banks today!

www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionBank
E-mail: missionbank@MennoniteMission.net
Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872
Español: 1-877-665-6662

Children from Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Va., receive their new mission banks. Photograph by Jerry L. Holsopple.



**Mennonite
Mission
Network**

The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA

PO Box 370
Elkhart IN
46515-0370

Getting duplicate copies of this issue? Call toll-free: 1-866-866-2872.