



**Mennonite  
Mission  
Network**

The mission agency of  
Mennonite Church USA

NOVEMBER 2014

# Beyond

**Go and  
make  
disciples**



Racial/Ethnic congregations  
lead the way in growing the  
Mennonite Church

## 'Come, follow me'

Discipleship isn't an easy path, but Jesus calls us to it

By Sara Alvarez



The idea seems so simple: Meet regularly with someone and encourage each other's daily faith journey.

Jesus did it when he called his disciples from their day jobs, and asked them to follow him. The group stayed

together all the time as Jesus explained his values and showed the disciples through example.

But despite its simplicity, discipleship requires attention. Discipleship takes cultivation and care, both from the person being discipled and those walking with them.

In this issue of *Beyond*, there are different perspectives from people who are driven to grow in their relationship with God, and learn more about what it means to live like Christ. They want to go deeper in their faith, and are willing to make the effort to develop their spiritual discipline.

I was privileged to attend the reflection weekend where I heard stories from four congregations about their experience with the Missional Discipleship Initiative. Many people talked about how difficult it was to find time to meet during busy weeks, or even that it was hard to find time to read the Bible and reflect regularly.

But every church agreed that the effort was worth it.

In one church, a woman who was smart and active in the church, but shy, participated in a relational discipleship group. After a few months, she would share openly with others in the group and would ask for prayer. People in the congregation even noticed the change.

In another congregation, the leader implementing the discipleship initiative noticed that the young adults participating in the program became "hungry and thirsty for church."

Through discipleship we learn how to cultivate the fruits of the Spirit daily. As we live out Jesus' teachings, we can't escape the call to walk alongside new Christians in our lives as they learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

And the cycle that Jesus started when he first called Simon Peter and Andrew to follow him, continues.

### Feedback

▶ Let us know what you think of this issue.

What inspires you? Engages you? Infuriates you?

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# Beyond

## Beyond — noun.

1. A fresh perspective on everyday mission.
2. Mennonite Mission Network's new blog.

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November is mission month!

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[www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionSunday](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionSunday).



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COVER: Gloria Acosta studies her Bible with other discipleship members at *Iglesia Menonita Encuentro de Renovación* in Miami. Photo by Isaac Fast.



# Witness through relationships

A return to mission the way Jesus intended

God's mission in the world depends on the formation of disciples, who announce the good news of God's reign through their words and deeds.

The mission of Jesus was varied, surprising and comprehensive. It was about reconciliation with God so that all of creation would be restored to God's intended purpose. The Gospels picture Jesus preaching, teaching, performing miracles, embracing broken people, extending grace and forgiveness to sinners, and offering compassion and care to the hurting and wounded. These moments in mission from the life of Jesus can be summed up in two essential tasks that defined Jesus' ministry: inaugurating the kingdom of God, and forming disciples through whom the mission would be advanced after his death.

God's mission in the world—overcoming alienation and the healing of creation—depends on the formation of disciples, who announce the good news of

God's reign through their words and deeds. Jesus' methodology in forming disciples was to gather a few people (12) around himself with whom he shared intimately, provoking questions with his actions, and offering interpretation through his teachings.

Today, the church continues this task primarily through intimate groups of followers of Jesus who gather around the word and open themselves to the

Holy Spirit in search of a fuller understanding of God's purposes and call in their lives.

Amidst the many challenges the church faces in our times, one of the great consolations for me is the evidence of a renewed appreciation of the importance of forming disciples. I praise God especially for two important trends that are transforming the church.

First, I am heartened to observe that in recent decades we have moved beyond putting the emphasis merely on making a decision for Christ. I am encouraged to see an expanding commitment to growing disciples who follow Christ in every facet of their lives.

I recently attended a conference that annually gathers more than 5,000 church leaders engaged in evangelism and church planting. The theme of the conference was "Discipleshift," an acknowledgement that the

focus needs to be on more than "inviting decisions for Christ," or planting churches with impressive attendance figures. The call was for developing disciples who make a difference in the world.

Second, I am thrilled to see the church recognize that we have impoverished our witness by allowing a split between theory and practice. In the early experience of the church, Christian formation was conducted within the context of the local congregation. In later years the model for Christian formation became abstract. Christians started to study "about" issues of practice rather than engaging with the biblical text in the context of a community that was seeking to be faithful.

The examples shared in this issue of *Beyond* confirm that discipleship formation that equips us for the life and witness that God intends for us is best reflected in a dynamic interplay. This interplay happens when we:

- Immerse ourselves in the biblical text.
- Begin intentional engagement through relationships of accountability supported by mutual encouragement.
- Maintain an openness that anticipates the Spirit speaking through our counterparts in this conversation.

As representatives of Mennonite Mission Network spoke with mostly urban pastors, we heard them saying that preparation for mission must be preceded by discipleship formation. Out of what we heard, we sensed a call to resource the efforts of those who are investing their lives in helping those who choose to follow Jesus.

Thank you for your part in developing disciples who are equipped for God's mission in the world—your support is critical and makes some of the stories told here possible.

*Stanley W. Green*

Stanley W. Green  
Executive Director



Go



# and make disciples

## Racial/Ethnic congregations lead the way in growing the Mennonite Church

By Sara Alvarez

**A**t *Iglesia Menonita Garífuna de Manhattan* (Manhattan Garifuna Mennonite Church) about 15 people decided to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus.

They knew it would take a lot of time and effort, but they wanted to go beyond what they were used to and delve into what it means to be a Christian. They did this with the help of the Missional Discipleship Initiative.

Danny\* visited the congregation on the day that Marvin Lorenzana introduced the practices of relational discipleship groups to the congregation; he knew he wanted to participate.

Lorenzana is the coordinator of the Missional Discipleship Initiative with Mennonite Mission Network. He was in the church introducing the Initiative in its pilot year among five Racial/Ethnic churches.



Photo provided

Omar Gúzman, pastor of the *Iglesia Menonita Garífuna de Manhattan*, brought the Missional Discipleship Initiative to his congregation so they could get a stronger faith foundation.

\*Name withheld for privacy.



[These tools have] taken our church to a rich spiritual maturity. I see stronger relationships between people in the congregation, and they have a deeper commitment to God's work, with each other, and overall with God.

Lorenzana challenges congregations to deepen their faith and become engaged with the mission of the church. He offers churches the tools from the Initiative as a structured approach for people to strengthen their faith and learn how to live faithfully.

"The goal is for each person to become more like Jesus every day," said Lorenzana.

"I had recently converted to Christianity, and [the discipleship groups] made me grow in my faith," said Danny. "I now see God's purpose in my life and I learned not only how to be discipled, but also how to disciple others."

The Initiative provides participants with the tools and skills they need to develop. The first phase focuses on the basics of discipleship, and encourages people to form regular spiritual disciplines with others. The second phase focuses on leadership development and mission through a group mentorship.

"Anyone who cares for the church should be involved in disciple-making because it's the only way for the church to accomplish its purpose of transforming the world," said Lorenzana. "There is a difference between disciples and believers. A believer goes to church, consumes the message, and then goes back home and life moves forward. A disciple is always looking for the next missional frontier and looking for their next assignment from God."

Omar Guzmán, the pastor of *Iglesia Menonita Garífuna de Manhattan*, noticed how the discipleship group helped Danny.

"After 10 months in the process, [Danny] has grown in commitment to the local congregation as he has also matured in his allegiance to God's kingdom and to the lordship of Jesus over his life," said Guzmán. "As Danny continues to grow and develop, the clear expectation for him is that at the end of the

one-year discipleship cycle, he will be able to launch his own discipleship group with two other people."

### Spiritual maturity for mission

Guzmán first got interested in discipleship ministry because Lorenzana helped him see what he could do to improve his church-planting efforts.

"He asked me if I considered myself a church planter, and I said, 'Yes.' Then he asked me, 'How do you plant churches if you don't develop disciples?'" said Guzmán.

The Manhattan congregation was already planting churches and going on mission trips, both locally and internationally.

"We were focused on missions, where the opportunities were opened to us, but this gave us trouble," said Guzmán. "[In retrospect], we realize that the people we sent weren't disciples; they were energetic people who wanted to work for God."

By the time Lorenzana finished introducing *Iglesia Menonita Garífuna de Manhattan* to relational discipleship groups, the congregation was inspired by how much Lorenzana believed that the groups could transform the church. They were so inspired that many who had not originally signed up to participate in a discipleship group, wanted to be part of the program.



A monthly men's discipleship meeting at *Iglesia Menonita Garífuna de Manhattan*.

### Shared journey

Small groups of two or three people are valuable because they motivate each other to meet regularly to discuss Scripture, share their week's faith journey, and encourage each other to keep up with spiritual practices, said Lorenzana. The weekly meetings strengthen a person's faith because they're participating in

Photo provided

frequent Bible readings and faith discussion.

Lorenzana practices what he preaches and encourages discipleship at the church he is pastor of.

One of the three discipleship groups he meets with includes his teenage son and his son's friend. As the more experienced one in the group, Lorenzana can answer their faith questions, but he shares just as vulnerably as the young men do when it comes to the faith accountability aspect of the groups.

For example, during discipleship meetings, group members are expected to share about God's work in their lives, and part of that is to confess any sins since the last meeting. So both the young adults and Lorenzana would share about how they've fallen short recently.

The process of cultivating discipleship is not easy. Some weeks, people aren't interested in putting in the time and effort it takes to read from the Bible or meet with the group.

Lorenzana assists the groups with tips on how to disciple effectively, but each individual needs to make space in their life to grow their relationship with Jesus.

The vision is for the missional discipleship process to take two years of guided learning with a trainer. This includes the materials Lorenzana offers for the huddles, or small groups, and a regular meeting with the leaders who are implementing the discipleship initiative.

"I use the huddling model to guide the process, feed minds, and equip them missionally," said Lorenzana. The huddles help leaders learn from each other.

The second year of the project has begun, and it's open to churches throughout the country. Three regional groups of congregations are already working with Lorenzana. Some of the churches from last year's cohort are also participating in the huddles with Lorenzana.

"For me, this [past year] has been a new season for spiritual formation, to think about how Christ did mission and how he worked with the disciples," said Guzmán. "[These tools have] taken our church to a rich spiritual maturity. I see stronger relationships between people in the congregation, and they have a deeper commitment to God's work, with each other, and overall with God." ■

## What is the Missional Discipleship Initiative?

The Missional Discipleship Initiative strengthens congregations and their ministries through intentional, authentic, and relational disciple-making. Through an eight-month process, participants learn and practice the essential tools for how to be a disciple of Christ.



### Recruitment

A cohort of three to five interested congregations, which are in the same geographical area, participate in the Initiative together.



### Implementation

Over a period of eight months, spiritual mentors from each congregation meet with two or more people as part of a relational discipleship group. These groups help people at different depths of spiritual development learn from each other through talking about Scripture and their faith journeys.

The goal is for the two less experienced Christians to strengthen in their faith and eventually lead their own groups, so that the number of disciples would continue to increase.



### Leadership development

Throughout the implementation period, the Missional Discipleship Initiative coach meets with pastors of participating congregations every two weeks for online coaching, resourcing, progress assessment, and encouragement.

### How did MDI start?

In an effort to grow and train church leaders through relational discipling, Racial/Ethnic congregations expressed their need for tools to do this effectively. In response, this model of disciple-making was developed by Mennonite Mission Network personnel, Marvin Lorenzana, New Initiatives coordinator, and Del Hershberger, director of Christian Service.

### How do I get started?

Contact Marvin Lorenzana, [MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net), if you're interested in bringing the Missional Discipleship Initiative to your church.



# My daily bread

How a discipleship group fostered a hunger for Scripture

By Jerilyn Schrock

**W**e were thrilled when Marvin Lorenzana from Mennonite Mission Network approached our church, New Song Anabaptist Fellowship, with the idea of discipleship groups.

Our mission statement involves raising leaders in the church and equipping them for ministry, and we realized that working through the discipleship program would better enable us to do just that. Even though it seemed daunting to take an entire Saturday for the leaders of the groups to train with Lorenzana, we learned so much and had some major breakthroughs.

One week, soon after training, I asked a young lady in our church if she wanted to enter into a

and pray for each other, and our friendship deepened as our faiths grew. Talking about what God was doing in our lives on a weekly basis was encouraging. And being accountable to and vulnerable with a young adult has also taken my spiritual walk, faith, and uprightness to a whole new level.

Another challenge was being disciplined in Scripture reading throughout a busy week. I developed a routine of reading a chapter of Proverbs every morning (31 chapters for 31 days of a month) and she read a devotional book with Scripture. During our meetings, we'd share what God had revealed to us and how our thought processes were changing. As we read more Scripture, we saw more transformation happening. Scripture really did become daily bread; it came to life and brought life.

One of the most important takeaways from this experience for me has been the importance of getting God's word in us. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17), it teaches us how to think (Philippians 4:8), it renews our minds and transforms us (Romans 12:2), it keeps us from sin (Psalm 119:11), and helps us to be not only a hearer but also a doer of God's commandments (James 1:22). Proverbs 4 tells us: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom; and with all thy getting, get understanding" (KJV). Wisdom calls to us and is found in both Christ's words and the Holy Spirit's revelations when we spend time with God.

Our church is grateful to Mennonite Mission Network for supplying the teaching and resources to better equip the saints to follow God's word and help raise other disciples as we walk this road together. We know the training has been transformational for those who participated, and we look forward to hearing the stories of others who engage in this challenging and rewarding experience. ■

Jerilyn Schrock attends New Song Anabaptist Fellowship in Harrisonburg, Va., where she is a worship leader.



Photo by Michael Spory

Jerilyn Schrock (left) and Liz Marin were a discipleship group together. They attend New Song Anabaptist Fellowship in Harrisonburg, Va.

discipleship group with me. She responded by saying that she was just about to ask if I would mentor her. With that confirmation, we began trying to meet on a weekly basis or at least as often as our schedules would allow.

Finding the time to meet was the most challenging aspect for us and involved some pretty creative planning, but we soon started craving the fellowship. The questions in the resource packet that Lorenzana provided, gave us a framework within which to share





Photo by Linda Shelly



Photo by Linda Shelly

Gabriela Hurtado Vargas (left) and Josué Roman Cавero attend Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Sinaí in Santa Cruz.

# Learning to be an example

Q&A with two young people who wanted to share God’s love with others

**G**abriela Hurtado Vargas and Josué Roman Cавero grew up attending vacation Bible school with the Bolivia Mennonite Church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Once they became teenagers, they decided to train with the *Equipo Sirviendo a Cristo* (Serve Christ Team) so that they could start helping to *lead* vacation Bible school. Margrit Kipfer Barrón, a mission worker with Mennonite Mission Network and *Schweizerische Mennonitsche Mission* (Swiss Mennonite Mission), helps organize these discipleship workshops that give youth a foundation of Bible lessons and teaches them activities to do with the vacation Bible school kids. The youth learn how to be better followers of Christ, so that they can show others what it means to believe in Jesus.

In these two interviews, Hurtado Vargas and Roman Cавero share their experiences as they increased their leadership within the church.

**Beyond: How old were you when you first participated with *Equipo Sirviendo a Cristo* (Serve Christ Team)?**

**Gabriela Hurtado Vargas:** I participated in the vacation Bible schools since I could understand the lessons. I started to serve with the Serve Christ Team and teach the vacation Bible school in 2011, when I was 17 years old.

**Josué Roman Cавero:** 13 years old [in 2013].

**Beyond: Why did you decide to participate in the Serve Christ Team?**

**Hurtado Vargas:** Since I was really young, I wanted to be a teacher for Sunday school. At the church I used to attend, they let me help out with Sunday school, so I was 13 when I started to teach kids.

**Roman Cавero:** I like to talk with others about the word of God.



***Beyond: What did you learn during the training?***

**Hurtado Vargas:** I learned that the most important thing in life is God, who we should serve by bringing the gospel to all people that don't know God.

**Roman Caverro:** I participated because I wanted to learn about the mandate to "go and preach."

***Beyond: What did you like about teaching the children during the VBS?***

**Hurtado Vargas:** I enjoyed seeing that the children had a hunger to learn more about God and the Bible, and they were attentive throughout the VBS.

**Roman Caverro:** I like to know that someday, the seed that I planted in the children's lives will bear fruit.

***Beyond: How did it strengthen you to participate in the Serve Christ Team and to teach the VBS?***

**Hurtado Vargas:** While I taught, I could see that God helped us and taught us. I understood that God looks for workers who are committed to serve. God supplied all the necessities to make the VBS happen.

**Roman Caverro:** I learned how to be an example for the children, to not only talk to them, but demonstrate through my lifestyle what it means to follow Christ.

***Beyond: What did you learn about your own faith while you were teaching the children?***

**Hurtado Vargas:** At times, I thought that not a single child would come, but God brought us children. God prepared everything so that the VBS happened.

**Roman Caverro:** I learned to put the teachings [of the Bible] in practice in my personal life.

***Beyond: Describe an experience when you saw the Holy Spirit working during the VBS.***

**Hurtado Vargas:** One day it rained really hard, and we thought that not a single child would come. But the afternoon came and they started to arrive, and even though it was still raining, we had class. Some teachers couldn't come, but all the children came, and after a while it stopped raining.

And that is how, no matter how the day is, or what problems we have, God continues to work and bless us. Then, through the children, the parents can come to the Lord.

**Roman Caverro:** I could see how the children changed their attitude and way of being as they learned the word of God. ■

Gabriela Hurtado Vargas leads vacation Bible school at Margrit Kipfer Barrón's house.



Photo by Margrit Kipfer Barrón

# Together, on a spiritual journey

French course teaches how to minister to others

By Sara Alvarez

Every meeting, Linda Oyer's spiritual director would ask, "So where have you seen God recently?"

In order to avoid the embarrassment of not remembering how God worked in her life throughout her weeks, Oyer would think intentionally about how she saw God. That way, her answers would be fresh.

"[Meeting with a spiritual director] made me pay attention and stay more attuned in order to discern God's work," said Oyer, a mission worker in France with Mennonite Mission Network.

When Louis Schweitzer, a friend and ethics professor at a seminary in France, and Oyer talked about how their spiritual directors helped them on their faith walk, Schweitzer suggested Oyer collaborate with him to create a spiritual director training program.

In 2002, they began a three-year training course for spiritual directors, which is now named *Compagnons de Route* (Companions on the Way). During the course, participants learn about the spirituality of major figures in church history, and how to walk with someone through various phases of spiritual life. About 200 students have gone through the course, which is offered at three locations.

They started the course in order to fill the hunger they saw in people to go deeper with their faith and live more in line with their convictions.

"People don't want to just go through the motions anymore," said Oyer. "I see spiritual direction as part of the larger church. It's a ministry we can do with one another. I accompany 10 people, and I'm accompanied



Mission Network worker Linda Oyer and Louis Schweitzer lead a class on spiritual direction with *Compagnons de Route* (Companions on the Way). Photo by Anne Schweitzer.

by a Carmelite nun. Each person I accompany, in turn accompanies three or four people, and it fans out."

As part of the course, each person must choose a spiritual director, who is typically a more experienced Christian. Their spiritual directors challenge and encourage them in their faith journey.

"It's not about teaching [people lessons from the Bible], but about walking with them as they learn to incarnate Christ's life," said Oyer.

Oyer is heartened by the impact that spiritual direction has on people's lives. She told the story of a woman who was "beaming" one day when they got together for a chat.

The woman shared that her daughter, who for many years had been distant from the family and from God, had called and invited her mother and father to her baptism. The mother was overjoyed at her daughter's announcement, something that the daughter had been journeying toward without telling her parents.

The daughter mentioned that she had been befriended by a woman who lived in her town and, through their friendship, the daughter journeyed back to God. As the mother told the story, Oyer was thrilled when she realized that the woman who walked with the daughter toward God was a former student in the spiritual direction course.

"It's a joy to see people move, change, and become more open to God's work in their lives [as they go through the course]," said Oyer. "I'm glad to see spiritual direction be as positive for others as it is for me." ■



# Back to the basics

## Disciple-making is the foundation of a faithful life

By Marvin Lorenzana



God is calling the church to fulfill the Great Commission today! It is pivotal that all believers of Jesus Christ embody Jesus' last words of commissioning.

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18b-20). Jesus' intention was to make sure the disciples understood their mission when he was no longer physically present.

Some years ago during a church-planting convention in Orlando, Fla., the speaker said to the audience, "I have two pieces of important information for you; one is good news and the other one is bad news. [The good news is that] the total number of mega churches [churches with more than 2,000 in attendance on weekends] in the country has reached the amazing figure of more than 1,600."

The speaker then said, "In the last 10 years, the United States has experienced a 10 percent decline [of the population identifying as Christians], from 86 percent to 76 percent."

These are important facts that have a lot to do with the passage of Scripture from Matthew. Let us look at what the text *is not saying* to understand what the Great Commission *is saying*:

**A. Notice that the commandment is not to go out and plant churches everywhere.** And yet, we plant churches thinking that "if we build it," disciples will show up somehow. If our final goal is to plant churches, that will become the center of what we do, and we will seldom make disciples of Jesus. But if our final goal is to make disciples of Jesus, we will always find a congregation inspired and willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus.\*

**B. The Great Commission is not really about preaching the gospel.** For some reason we equate good, effective

preaching with the Great Commission. Great sermons don't necessarily make for great, faithful disciples. Only godly disciples of Jesus make other godly disciples of Jesus.

**C. The Great Commission is not about developing celebrated programs or lavish facilities.** By emphasizing these things, we have nurtured a culture of busyness, and there is neither time nor energy left for us to fulfill the Great Commission.

**D. The Great Commission has never been about numbers of people in the pew, but about faithfulness to the mission of God and the disciple-making task.** The directive here is not to go and convert as many people as possible, as fast as we possibly can, so that they can come to church on Sunday. It is about how many people get so committed to Jesus that we can send them to bring God's hope to others.

The Great Commission, then, is all about making disciples: true followers of Jesus who choose to lead a life transformed by God's grace. It also has to do with teaching, as we model and embody the life of Jesus and personally obey Jesus' commands.

Have we developed Missional Alzheimer's that hinders our capacity to remember Jesus' main desire for the world today? It is urgent that we go back to basics, back to making disciples of Jesus. The future of the church depends on this!

We at Mennonite Mission Network invite local congregations to experience a more intentional, relational, and organic form of discipleship that we call "missional discipleship," the kind of disciple-making that reproduces the life of Jesus in others over and over again.

Amen.

Marvin Lorenzana is New Initiatives Coordinator for Mennonite Mission Network and developed the Missional Discipleship Initiative.

\*Credit to Mike Breen for this idea.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2013–2014

## Thank you!

Because of your generosity, we are able to carry out our mission to be the gospel.

## Giving Mennonite Church USA congregations

<b>Allegheny Conference</b> \$33,507 13 of 30 conference congregations gave an average of \$2,577	<b>Gulf States Conference</b> \$669 1 of 12 conference congregations gave an average of \$669	<b>Ohio Conference</b> \$709,485* 54 of 77 conference congregations gave an average of \$13,139
<b>Atlantic Coast Conference</b> \$226,887* 14 of 36 conference congregations gave an average of \$16,206	<b>Illinois Conference</b> \$199,798* 22 of 48 conference congregations gave an average of \$9,082	<b>Pacific Northwest Conference</b> \$95,110 21 of 35 conference congregations gave an average of \$4,529
<b>Central District Conference</b> \$180,987* 28 of 43 conference congregations gave an average of \$6,464	<b>Indiana-Michigan Conference</b> \$496,022* 51 of 74 conference congregations gave an average of \$9,726	<b>Pacific Southwest Conference</b> \$37,388 12 of 41 conference congregations gave an average of \$3,116
<b>Central Plains Conference</b> \$332,261 37 of 54 conference congregations gave an average of \$8,980	<b>Lancaster Conference</b> \$95,670 11 of 172 conference congregations gave an average of \$8,697	<b>South Central Conference</b> \$171,358 12 of 30 conference congregations gave an average of \$14,280
<b>Eastern District Conference</b> \$84,375* 8 of 15 conference congregations gave an average of \$10,547	<b>Mountain States Conference</b> \$51,630 15 of 21 conference congregations gave an average of \$3,442	<b>Southeast Conference</b> \$30,831 7 of 28 conference congregations gave an average of \$4,404
<b>Franconia Conference</b> \$212,347 28 of 41 conference congregations gave an average of \$7,584	<b>New York Conference</b> \$18,772 4 of 15 conference congregations gave an average of \$4,693	<b>Virginia Conference</b> \$180,748 27 of 67 conference congregations gave an average of \$6,694
<b>Franklin Conference</b> \$0 0 of 14 conference congregations contributed	<b>North Central Conference</b> \$5,052 4 of 11 conference congregations gave an average of \$1,263	<b>Western District Conference</b> \$345,921 42 of 61 conference congregations gave an average of \$8,236

\*Figure includes contributions from dual conference congregations.

# Giving

## Businesses / Foundations / Organizations / Congregations / Estates

### Businesses \$313,509.05

California Pizza Kitchen Inc., Playa Vista, Calif.  
 Custom Mobile Equipment Inc., Baldwin City, Kan.  
 Harper Industries Inc., Harper, Kan.  
 Harrison Hauling Inc., Goshen, Ind.  
 HRM Enterprises Inc., Hartville, Ohio  
 Jayco Inc., Middlebury, Ind.  
 Jiloa Enterprises, Berlin, Ohio  
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 Lehman Hardware & Appliances, Kidron, Ohio  
 Lehman Insurance Agency Inc., Ephrata, Pa.  
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 Moser Motor Sales Inc., Berne, Ind.  
 Oswald Builders, Apple Creek, Ohio  
 Roth & Troyer Construction Inc., Milford, Neb.  
 Strategic Resource Group Inc., Easton, Md.  
 Trace Worldwide Corporation, Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.  
 Venture Builders, Inc., Harrisonburg, Va.  
 Willowdale Apartments Ltd., Fredericton, N.B.

### Foundations \$239,801.81

Defehr Foundation, Winnipeg, Man.  
 EC Fund, Wauseon, Ohio  
 Mennonite Foundation of Canada, Winnipeg, Man.  
 Schowalter Foundation, Inc., Newton, Kan.  
 The Anabaptist Foundation, Vancouver, B.C.

### Congregations\* \$146,132.26

\*Contributing congregations outside of Mennonite Church USA

Atkinson Congregational Church, Atkinson, N.H.  
 Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Gretna, Gretna, Man.  
 Bethany Mennonite Church, Virgil, Ont.  
 Bethel Mennonite Church, Hydro, Okla.  
 Boynton Mennonite Church, Hopedale, Ill.  
 Butter Valley Community Church, Bally, Pa.  
 Calvary Evangelical Mennonite Church, Washington, Ill.  
 Carlisle Evangelical Free Church, Carlisle, Pa.  
 Church of the Savior, Inc., Wichita, Kan.  
 Community Bible Church, Inc., Olathe, Kan.  
 Community House Church, Washington, D.C.  
 Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville, Stouffville, Ont.  
 Community United Church of Christ, Morton, Ill.  
 Covenant United Methodist Church, Bath, Pa.  
 Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church, Dillsburg, Pa.  
 Ebenfeld MB Church, Hillsboro, Kan.  
*Eglise Protestante Mennonite*, Comte, France  
 Fairview Mennonite Church, Fairview, Mich.  
 First Evangelical Free Church, Wichita, Kan.  
 First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, Man.

Garden Valley Church, Garden City, Kan.  
 Germantown Mennonite Church, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Gibson City Bible Church, Gibson City, Ill.  
 Grace Community Church, Dallas, Ore.  
 Grace Community Church, Great Bend, Kan.  
 Grace Mennonite Church, Enid, Okla.  
 Hartville Mennonite Church, Hartville, Ohio  
 Hays Foursquare Church, Hays, Kan.  
 Hillcrest Mennonite Church, New Hamburg, Ont.  
 Holyrood Mennonite Church, Edmonton, Alta.  
*Iglesia Evangelica Menonita*, Aibonito, Puerto Rico  
 Indian Valley Faith Fellowship, Harleysville, Pa.  
 Ivanhoe Reformed Church of the Reformed Church of America, Riverdale, Ill.  
 Lifegate Fellowship, Elizabethtown, Pa.  
 Listowel Mennonite Church, Listowel, Ont.  
 Living Branches, Lansdale, Pa.  
 North Oak Community Church, Hays, Kan.  
 Petittodioc Mennonite Church, Petittodioc, N.B.  
 Pine Grove Church, Bowmansville, Pa.  
 Presbyterian Church of the Atonement, Silver Spring, Md.  
 Preston Mennonite Church, Cambridge, Ont.  
 Protection Mennonite Church, Protection, Kan.  
 River East Mennonite Brethren Church, Winnipeg, Man.  
 Saville Brethren in Christ Church, Ickesburg, Pa.  
 Skyline Acres Baptist Church, Fredericton, N.B.  
 Tabor United Methodist Church, Woxall, Pa.  
 Victory Chapel Cowboy Church, Mountain City, Tenn.  
 West Eighth Street Wesleyan Church, Marion, Ind.  
 Winnetka Bible Church, Winnetka, Ill.  
 Wood Green Mennonite Church, London, U.K.

### Organizations \$41,638.86

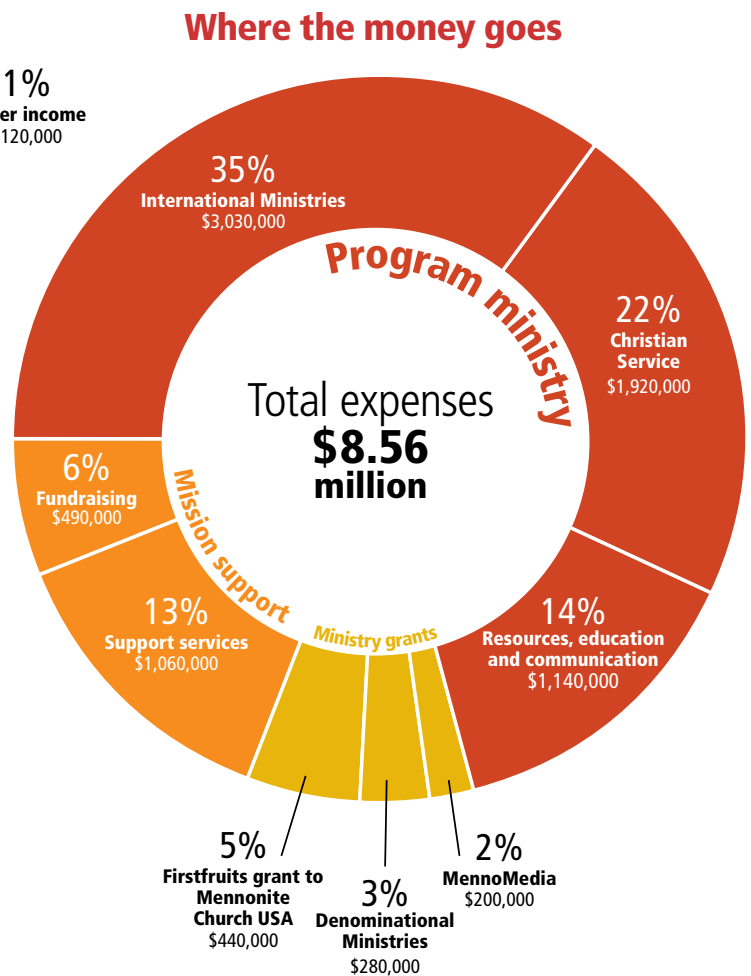
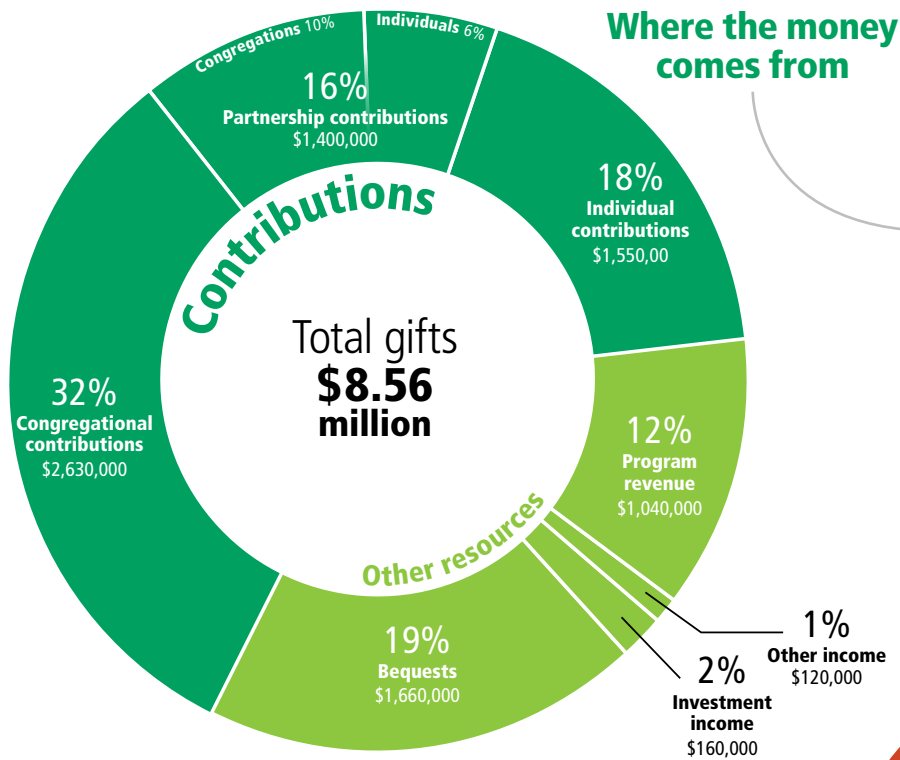
ACC/VEMZO Partnership, Akron, Pa.  
 Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.  
 Brethren in Christ World Missions, Mechanicsburg, Pa.  
 Canada Helps Organization, Toronto, Ont.  
 Central District Mennonite Women, Goshen, Ind.  
 Central Plains Mennonite Women, Kalona, Iowa  
 Christliche Dienste, Bammental, Germany  
 Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, Ore.  
 Fellowship of Hope Builders, Elkhart, Ind.  
 Hesston College, Hesston, Kan.  
 Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.  
 Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship, Goshen, Ind.  
 Mennonite Women USA, Newton, Kan.  
 Mission Fish, San Jose, Calif.  
 Ohio Mennonite Women, North Canton, Ohio  
 Virginia Mennonite Missions, Harrisonburg, Va.

### Estates \$1,478,328.20

Helen Alderfer Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Lawrence A. Bartel Estate, Souderton, Pa.  
 Marie Becker Estate, Turpin, Okla.

Ethel M. Beckler Estate, Glendale, Ariz.  
 Curtis and Esther Bergey Estate, Souderton, Pa.  
 Kenneth and Lilly Berkey Estate, Hubbard, Ore.  
 Verna M. Birkey Estate, Dewey, Ill.  
 John and Barbara Bontrager Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Jacob Brenneman Family Estate, Lenexa, Kan.  
 Ruth L. Buller Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Susie Buller Estate, Henderson, Neb.  
 Roy H. Byler Estate, West Liberty, Ohio  
 Aaron J. Claassen Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Cora Crossgrove Estate, Archbold, Ohio  
 Erla Culp Estate, Vineland, Ont.  
 Jacob Dick Estate, Mountain Lake, Minn.  
 Joseph and Wilda Drawbond Estate, Fortuna, N.D.  
 Esther Falb Estate, Orrville, Ohio  
 Katherine B. Frey Estate, Archbold, Ohio  
 Willard Frey Estate, Archbold, Ohio  
 Jerry and Letha Gingerich Estate, Mountain Home, Idaho  
 Mary U. Glick Estate, Atglen, Pa.  
 Albert and Jane Good Estate, Lima, Ohio  
 Abe Graber Memorial Fund, Middlebury, Ind.  
 Virginia Harman Estate, Mt. Crawford, Va.  
 Alice Heavener Estate, Harleysville, Pa.  
 Joe Jantz Estate, Ritzville, Wash.  
 Emma Jantzen Estate, Beatrice, Neb.  
 Maxine Kauffman Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Martha Keim Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Ivan Kropf Estate, Molalla, Ore.  
 Lester S. Kropf Estate, Albany, Ore.  
 Erma Lapp Estate, Lansdale, Pa.  
 Helen C. Mann Estate, Elkhart, Ind.  
 Rudolph Martens Estate, Elkhart, Ind.  
 Melba Martin Estate, Elkhart, Ind.  
 Esther Mae McDonald Estate, Newton, Kan.  
 Eli E. Miller Estate, Fortuna, Mo.  
 Ivan E. Miller Estate, Hesston, Kan.  
 Mildred Moyer Estate, Souderton, Pa.  
 Edna R. Mueller Estate, Halstead, Kan.  
 Mary K. Nafziger Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Paul A. Neuenschwander Estate, Kidron, Ohio  
 Rachel D. Nice Trust, Morrison, Ill.  
 Martha J. Otto Estate, Hartville, Ohio  
 Janette Slaubaugh Estate, Wellman, Iowa  
 Mary J. Snyder Estate, Smithville, Ohio  
 Nelson Souder Foundation, Telford, Pa.  
 Irena Sprunger Estate, Berne, Ind.  
 Ethel Strite Estate, Harrisonburg, Va.  
 Regina Stucky Trust, Marion, S.D.  
 Alda A. Swartzendruber Estate, Newton, Kan.  
 Dana O. and Verna M. Troyer Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Vernelle C. Voth Estate, Haven, Kan.  
 Dwight E. and Marjorie E. Weldy Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 Ora and Grace Yoder Endowment Fund, Shipshewana, Ind.  
 Leo R. Yoder Estate, Archbold, Ohio  
 Thomas and Fannie Yoder Estate, Elverson, Pa.  
 Henry Zehr Estate, Goshen, Ind.  
 William M. and Edith Zehr Charitable Trust, Newton, Kan.  
 Alfred Zook Estate, Burbank, Calif.

# Ministry



#### Additional notes

1. Mennonite Mission Network fiscal year 2013-2014 was August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014.
2. The total value of bequests received during the 2013–2014 fiscal year was \$960,000. These funds are used over a four-year period.
3. Program revenue includes funding from partner organizations, program fees, event fees, sale of publications and resources, and worker earnings.
4. In addition to operating fund programs, \$150,000 was dispersed to short-term projects funded by special contributions.
5. Cash held in reserve as of July 31, 2014, totaled \$4,560,000.
6. Confidentiality policy: Giving information in the Mission Network/Mennonite Church USA database will not be shared. Address information may be shared with other Mennonite Church USA agencies.



Spain Youth Venture participants (left to right) Xenia Eichelberger, Scott Hartman, Lindsay Rheinheimer, Sidney Dick, Leah Friesen, Paige Mestl, Sofia Herrera and Katherine Lehman visited a castle in Frías, Spain, as part of a Youth Venture trip to Burgos, Spain. Photo provided.

# New workers enter service

Mission workers beginning assignments between May and November 2014

## DOOR Discern

### Atlanta

**Kristen Fowler**, Barre, Vt., Barre Congregational Church

**Bailey Holder**, Fairburn, Ga., Live Oak Baptist Church (College Park, Ga.)

**Carmen Jones**, Ellenwood, Ga.

**Olando Lester**, Atlanta, Live Oak Baptist Church (College Park, Ga.)

**Dax Lewis**, College Park, Ga., Live Oak Baptist Church (College Park)

**Brianna Lowery**, Winston-Salem, N.C., Mount Sinai Full Gospel Deliverance Center (Winston-Salem)

**Kenya Phillips**, Stone Mountain, Ga., Israel Missionary Baptist (Stone Mountain)

**Kenneth Rogers**, Decatur, Ga.

### Chicago

**Ashley Allison**, Chicago

**Chris Crater**, Chicago, First Church of the Brethren (Chicago)

**Angela Diaz**, Chicago

**Lakewell Gordon**, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

**Terrion Hill**, Chicago

**Sylvia Jones**, Chicago

**Breanna Koehn**, Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Brethren Church

**Torria Mithcell**, Chicago  
**Brittany Morales**, Chicago

**Chris Nellet**, Tucson, Ariz., Catalina United Methodist Church (Tucson)

**Beverly Radulovic**, Winston-Salem, N.C., Parkway United Church of Christ (Winston-Salem)

**Marquitta Scott**, Chicago

**Danyvale Vann**, Chicago  
**Cheyenne Wilson**, Chicago

### DOOR Denver national office

**Manuel Alvarez**, Bell Flower, Calif., His Love Fellowship (Denver)

### Denver

**Kayla Gallegos**, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

**Matt Kilian**, Clive, Iowa, Heartland Presbyterian Church (Clive)

**Paige Klinkenborg**, Des Moines, Iowa, Heartland Presbyterian Church (Clive, Iowa)

**Elizabeth Martinez**, Denver

**Ramon McFalls**, Lakewood, Colo.

**Cameron Ponce**, Elkhart, Ind., Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship (Elkhart)

**Gail Susdorf**, Fishers, Ind., Orchard Park Presbyterian Church (Indianapolis)

**Samantha Whitworth**, Blackfoot,

Idaho, Jason Lee United Methodist Church (Blackfoot)

### Hollywood

**Nadia Marquez**, Los Angeles

**Luis Mejia**, Hollywood

**Christian Montero**, Los Angeles, *Alcance Victoria Este de Los Angeles* (Los Angeles)

**Arthur Penate**, Los Angeles, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic (Los Angeles)

**Odalys Romero**, Los Angeles, Christ the King Catholic (Los Angeles)

**Alexis Salazar**, Los Angeles, World Outreach House of Prayer (Los Angeles)

**Wendy Salazar**, Los Angeles, World Outreach House of Prayer (Los Angeles)

**Keryn Silva**, Los Angeles

**Bridgett Veliz**, Los Angeles

**Kyle Wahe**, Palmdale, Calif., First Presbyterian Church (Hollywood)

**Grace Williams**, Burbank, Calif., First Presbyterian Church (Hollywood)

### Miami

**Miles Marshburn**, Homestead, Fla., Homestead Mennonite Church

### San Antonio

**Joel Castanon**, San Antonio

**Katie Miller**, San Antonio, San Antonio Mennonite Church

**Abigail Nickle**, San Antonio, University Presbyterian Church (San Antonio)

**Sarah Nickle**, San Antonio, University Presbyterian Church (San Antonio)

**Alexis Perez**, San Antonio

**Cecila Puente**, San Antonio, St. Alphonsus Catholic (San Antonio)

## DOOR Discover

### Atlanta unit

**Bethlehem United Church of Christ**, Evansville, Ind.

**Christ Episcopal Church Ponte**, Vedra Beach, Fla.

**Community Mennonite Church**, Harrisonburg, Va.

**Crossroads United Methodist Church**, Ashburn, Va.

**East Brentwood (Tenn.) Presbyterian Church**

**Fairmont Presbyterian Church**, Kettering, Ohio

**First Presbyterian Church**, Charlotte, N.C.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Columbus, Ga.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Joliet, Ill.

**Hannah Gilmore**, Albany, Ga.

**Hendrix College**, Conway, Ark.

**Lindale Mennonite Church**, Harrisonburg, Va.

**Mountville (Pa.) Mennonite Church**

**Providence Presbyterian Church**, Dallas, Ga.

**San Jose Episcopal Church**, Jacksonville, Fla.

**Sharonville United Methodist Church**, Cincinnati

**Turner Chapel AME Church**, Marietta, Ga.

**Wayland (Iowa) Mennonite Church**

### Chicago unit

**Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church**, Altona, Man.

**Asbury First United Methodist Church**, Rochester, N.Y.

**Belmont Mennonite Church**, Elkhart, Ind.

**Blooming Glen (Pa.) Mennonite Church**

**Eighth Street Mennonite Church**, Goshen, Ind.

**Emma Mennonite Church**, Topeka, Ind.

**First Congregational Church**, Hopkinton, N.H.

**First Congregational Church**, Granby, Conn.

**Floradale (Ont.) Mennonite Church**

**First Mennonite Church**, Hutchinson, Kan.

**First Mennonite Church**, Indianapolis

**First Presbyterian Church**, Harrison, Ark.

**First Presbyterian Church**, McPherson, Kan.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Saint Cloud, Minn.

**Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church**, Stevens Point, Wis.

**First United Methodist Church**, Starkville, Miss.

**Hesston (Kan.) Mennonite Church**

**Hope Community Church**, Fleetwood, Pa.

**Immanuel Congregational Church**, Hartford, Conn.

**James Street Mennonite Church**, Lancaster, Pa.

**K-State Wesley Foundation**, Manhattan, Kan.

**Lake Edge United Church of Christ**, Madison, Wis.

**London (Ohio) Christian Fellowship**

**Milton Presbyterian Church**, Rittman, Ohio

**New Hope United Methodist Church**, Oklahoma City

**Overbrook Presbyterian Church**, Columbus, Ohio

**Plymouth Congregational Church**, Des Moines, Iowa

**Rexton Mennonite Church**, Naubinway, Mich.

**Robbinsdale (Minn.) United Church of Christ**



**Second Congregational United Church of Christ**, Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Springdale Mennonite Church**, Waynesboro, Va.

**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**, Saint Paul, Minn.

**St. James United Methodist Church**, Atlanta

**St. Paul United Church of Christ**, Belleville, Ill.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Union Presbyterian Church**, Monroe, Wis.

**Waterford Mennonite Church**, Goshen, Ind.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**, Tiburon, Calif.

**Zion Mennonite Church**, Archbold, Ohio

#### Denver unit

**Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning**, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Bethany Lutheran Church**, Cherry Hills Village, Colo.

**Bethel College Mennonite Church**, North Newton, Kan.

**Bethel Mennonite Church**, Winnepeg, Man.

**Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church**, Cedar Falls, Iowa

**Christ Church**, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Custer (S.D.) Lutheran Fellowship**

**Easley (S.C.) Presbyterian Church**

**First Mennonite Church**, Middlebury, Ind.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Billings, Mont.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Shreveport, La.

**Grace Hill Mennonite Church**, Whitewater, Kan.

**Greeley (Colo.) Mennonite Church**

**Hope United Methodist Church**, Blue Earth, Minn.

**House of Hope Presbyterian Church**, Saint Paul, Minn.

**Northland Mission Church**, Kansas City, Mo.

**Rhodes College Bonner Center**, Memphis, Tenn.

**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church**, Apple Valley, Minn.

**Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp**, Fort Collins, Colo.

**Warsaw (N.C.) Presbyterian Church**

#### Hollywood unit

**Calvary Lutheran Church**, Park Rapids, Minn.

**Catalina United Methodist Church**, Tucson, Ariz.

**Christ Presbyterian Church**, Tucson, Ariz.

**Colorado Uplift**, Denver

**First Presbyterian Church**, Baker City, Ore.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Palo Alto, Calif.

**Franconia Mennonite Church**, Telford, Pa.

**Incarnation Lutheran Church**, Poway, Calif.

**Silverlake Community Church**, Los Angeles

**United Presbyterian Church**, Laramie, Wyo.

#### Miami unit

**Ambler (Pa.) Mennonite Church**

**Central Presbyterian Church**, Miami

**Christ Church**, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Delray Beach, Fla.

**Hope Mennonite Church**, Wichita, Kan.

**Naples (Fla.) United Church of Christ**

**Newman Congregational UCC**, Rumford, R.I.

**Woodland Community Church**, Bradenton, Fla.

**San Antonio unit Bible Mennonite Brethren Church**, Cordell, Okla.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Anchorage, Alaska

**First Presbyterian Church**, Las Cruces, N.M.

**First United Methodist Church**, Sapulpa, Okla.

**Golf Course Road Church of Christ**, Midland, Texas

**Holy Covenant UMC**, Carrollton, Texas

**Pleasant View Mennonite Church**, Hydro, Okla.

**Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church**, Dallas

## DOOR Dwell

#### Atlanta

**Bethany Apelquist**, Oak Hill, Va., Church of the Epiphany (Herndon, Va.)

**Ji-Hye Chung**, Daejeon, Korea, Hannam University Presbyterian Church (Daejeon)

**Katherine Leware**, Bellevue, Neb., First Presbyterian Church (Bellevue), serving with Atlanta Furniture Bank

**Kenya Phillips**, Stone Mountain, Ga., Israel Missionary Baptist Church (Stone Mountain), serving with Clifton Sanctuary

#### Chicago

**Mackintosh Barker**, Buffalo, N.Y., Randolph (N.Y.) United Presbyterian Church, serving with Heartland Alliance

#### Denver

**JD Hershberger**, Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Church, serving with Denver Urban Ministries

**Soo Hwi Jo**, Daejeon, Korea, Hannam University Presbyterian Church (Daejeon), serving with Korean Central Presbyterian

**Matt Kilian**, Clive, Iowa, Heartland Presbyterian Church (Clive), serving with Stride

**Martin Ngwa**, Hyattsville, Md., Riverdale Presbyterian Church (Hyattsville), serving with Jobs for Thy Neighbor

**Anne Schrock**, Waynesburg, Pa., Dayspring Christian Fellowship (Massillon, Ohio), serving with Sun Valley Youth Center

with People Assisting the Homeless

**Lanita Ames**, Marion, Ill., First Presbyterian Church (Marion), serving with People Assisting the Homeless

**Heather Gladly**, Scottsdale, Ariz., Valley Presbyterian Church (Paradise Valley, Ariz.), serving with My Friend's Place

**Christian Huisman**, Little Rock, Ark., Second Presbyterian Church (Little Rock), serving with Blessed Sacrament

**Stephanie Moore**, Ottawa, Ont., All Nazion Church (Ottawa), Azusa Pacific University graduate student

**Molly Morris**, Staunton, Va., First Presbyterian Church (Staunton), serving with First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood

**Sara Selg**, Bothell, Wash., Azusa Pacific University graduate student

#### Miami

**Mark Blacklock**, McKinney, Texas, First Presbyterian Church (McKinney)

**Russell Kerr**, Sarasota, Fla., Peace Presbyterian Church (Lakewood Ranch, Fla.)

**Kelli Miller**, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Wartburg Chapel (Waverly, Iowa), serving with Miami Rescue Mission

#### San Antonio

**Matthew Cowell**, Columbus, Ga., All Saints Presbyterian Church (Midland, Ga.), serving with Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)

**Abigail Evans**, Tampa, Fla., Hyde Park United Methodist Church (Tampa), serving with Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church

**Victoria Hollingsworth**, Quincy,



Photo by Matthew Schmidt

(Left to right) Presillana Casillas, Rosa Quinones and Amado Delgado of Colorado Uplift Served a day at MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) in Pacoima, Calif., as part of DOOR Hollywood's Discover program.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**, Charlotte, N.C.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**, Flower Mound, Texas

**Trinity University**, San Antonio

**West Plano (Texas) Presbyterian Church**

**Wimberley (Texas) Presbyterian Church**

**Teresa Larson**, Eaton Rapids, Mich., First Presbyterian Church (Holt, Mich.), serving with Chicago West Side Christian School

**Elizabeth Mast**, Lusk, Wyo., Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, Tenn.)

**Tyler Schrock**, Waynesburg, Pa., Crown Hill Mennonite Church (Rittman, Ohio), serving with The Bridge Project and Revision International

#### Hollywood

**Jordan Akin**, Conway, Ark., Second Presbyterian Church (Little Rock, Ark.), serving

Fla., First Presbyterian Church (Quincy), serving with Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement

**Rogelio Lopez**, San Antonio, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (San Antonio)

**Julius Lorenzi**, San Antonio, Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church (San Antonio)

**Mallory Tober**, Dumaguete, Ala., Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (Severna Park, Md.), serving with Catholic Charities Guadalupe Home

**Caroline Tonarely**, Escondido, Calif., Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian

Center for Restorative Programs

#### **Americus, Ga.**

**Leah Amstutz**, Akron, Pa., Akron Mennonite Church, serving with Americus Mennonite Fellowship

**Daniel Berg**, Siegburg, Germany, Protestant Free Church Siegburg, serving with New Horizons Habitat for Humanity

#### **Baltimore**

**Cecilia Pessoa**, Fresno, Calif., North Fresno Mennonite Brethren Church, serving with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

(Freeman, S.D.), serving with Erie Neighborhood House

**Andrea Moya**, Quito, Ecuador, Assembly Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

**Linnea Slabaugh**, Kalona, Iowa, East Union Mennonite Church (Kalona), serving with National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities

#### **Elkhart, Ind.**

**Nick Bouwman**, Woodridge, Ill., Lombard (Ill.) Mennonite Church, and Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship (Goshen, Ind.), serving

Evangelical Free Church, serving with Rosedale Development Association

#### **Madison, Wis.**

**Rebecca Dutcher**, Sugarcreek, Ohio, Walnut Creek (Ohio) Mennonite Church, serving with Options Madison

**Allison Krawiec**, Elkhart, Ind., Southside Fellowship (Elkhart), serving with Second Harvest Foodbank

**Marike Stucky**, Moundridge, Kan., Eden Mennonite Church (Moundridge), serving with Wisconsin Historical Society Press

**Isaac Tice**, Salisbury, Pa., Springs (Pa.) Mennonite Church, serving with Habitat for Humanity of Dane County ReStore

#### **Manhattan**

**Elizabeth Diaz**, Goshen, Ind., St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (Goshen), serving with World Vision International

**Ruth-Anne Seburn**, Winnipeg, Man., The Kings Fellowship (Winnipeg), serving with Mennonite Central Committee United Nations Office

**Carolina Seigler**, Greenville, S.C., Daniel Chapel (Greenville), serving with Urban Justice Center

#### **Rochester**

**Alex DeNooyer**, Kalamazoo, Mich., Third Christian Reformed Church (Kalamazoo), serving with MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence

**Nathan Geiser**, Indianapolis, Ind., Benton Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Judicial Process Commission

**Katie Schulze Selting**, Rielasingen, Germany, *Friedenskirche Singen*

(Singen, Germany), serving with Jefferson Family Medicine

#### **San Francisco**

**Joseph Kotva**, Elkhart, Ind., Hively Avenue Mennonite Church (Elkhart), serving with Mission Graduates

**Jacob Kraybill**, Lancaster, Pa., Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster, serving with Interfaith Power and Light

**Audra Miller**, Halstead, Kan., Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston, Kan.), serving with DISH (Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing)

#### **Seattle**

**Elizabeth Core**, Pella, Iowa, Assembly Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Grist

**Ria Jewell**, Spokane, Wash., Shalom Church (Spokane), serving with Art with Heart

**Jonathan Mark**, Corvallis, Ore., Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, serving with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

**Danae Miller**, Middlebury, Ind., Yellow Creek Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Centerstone

**Erica Miller**, Wapakoneta, Ohio, New Hampshire (Ohio) Community Church, serving with University District Food Bank

#### **Tucson, Ariz.**

**Wesley Goodrich**, Independence, Kan., West Side Church of God (Wichita, Kan.), serving with St. Elizabeth Health Center

**Karina Kreider**, Akron, Pa., Pilgrims Mennonite Church (Akron), serving with Tucson Community Food Bank

**Megan Leary**, North Newton, Kan., Bethel College Mennonite

Church (North Newton), serving with Primavera Foundation

**Joshua Schlabach**, Turner, Ore., Mountain View Wesleyan Church (Aumsville, Ore.), serving with Community Home Repair Program of Arizona

#### **Washington, D.C.**

**Emily Bender**, Washington, D.C., *Gereja Petrus Waena* (Papua, Indonesia), serving with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**William Kanagy**, Albuquerque, N.M., Albuquerque Mennonite Church, serving with Academy of Hope

**Sarah Kate Stoltzfus**, Goshen, Ind., College Mennonite Church (Goshen), serving with Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)

**Brandon Waggy**, South Bend, Ind., Kern Road Mennonite Church (South Bend), and Community Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg, Va.), serving with Catholic Charities DC

### **Radical Journey**

#### **Southeast Asia**

**Travis Duerksen**, Canton, Kan., Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church (Goessel, Kan.)

**Heath Goertzen**, Newton, Kan., Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church (Goessel, Kan.)

**Ashlynn Hamm**, Newton, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Newton)

#### **South Africa**

**Elizabeth Epp**, Newton, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Newton)



Photo provided

Seattle Mennonite Voluntary Service unit. Back row: Erica Miller, Liz Core and Jon Mark. Front row: Danae Miller, Ria Jewell and April Kabagambe.

Church (San Diego), serving with San Antonio Cultural Arts

#### **MVS**

#### **Alamosa, Colo.**

**Laura Penner**, Reedley, Calif., First Mennonite Church of Reedley, serving with La Puente Home Inc.

**Nicole Smith**, Elkhart, Ind., Prairie Street Mennonite Church (Elkhart), serving with

#### **Chicago**

**Ashley Fehlberg**, Lagrange, Ind., Marion Mennonite Church (Shipshewana, Ind.), serving with Erie Neighborhood House

**Benjamin Hiebert**, Fresno, Calif., College Community Church-Mennonite Brethren (Clovis, Calif.), serving with Erie Neighborhood House

**Carl Lehmann**, Marion, S.D., Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

with Church Community Services

**Stephan Rau**, Metamora, Ill., Metamora Mennonite Church, serving with Church Community Services

#### **Kansas City, Kan.**

**Kyle Larsen**, Grand Rapids, Mich., Portland (Mich.) Mount Hope Church, serving with Kansas City Community Gardens

**Scott Misamore**, Findlay, Ohio, Findlay



Photo by Craig Weiscott

A service and learning team worshiped at Maranatha Christian Fellowship in Northridge, Calif., during their orientation.

**Breanna Koehn**, Hesston, Kan., Hesston MB Church

**Garrett Smith**, Burrton, Kan., First Mennonite Church of Christian (Moundridge, Kan.)

**Trevor Yoder**, Goshen, Ind., Walnut Hill Mennonite Church (Goshen)

After-School Program and Mennonite Village

**Eva Wilkins**, Sellersville, Pa., Blooming Glen (Pa.) Mennonite Church, serving with Helping Hands

#### Albuquerque

**Hannah Hunsberger**, Mifflintown, Pa., Newport (Pa.) Assembly of God, serving with Harwood Art Center and *Escuela del Sol*

**Rachel Karis**, Minneapolis, Minn., Community of St. Martins (Minneapolis), serving with *Escuela del Sol*

**Marielene Klumpp**, Gaimersheim, Germany, St. Christoph (Friedrichshafen, Germany), serving with East Central Ministries

#### Anchorage

**Mariah Denlinger**, Perkasio, Pa., Blooming Glen (Pa.) Mennonite Church, serving with The Downtown Soup Kitchen

**Tyler Gehring**, Pretty Prairie, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Hutchinson, Kan.), serving with The Children's Lunchbox and Homeward Bound

**Alexander Navari**, Hyattsville, Md., Hyattsville Mennonite Church (University

Park, Md.), serving with Bureau of Land Management

**Elizabeth Schrag**, Galva, Kan., Eden Mennonite Church (Moundridge, Kan.), serving with Habitat for Humanity

#### Colorado Springs

**Esther Lederach**, Fishers, Ind., College Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Westside Community Preschool

**Andrew Nussbaum**, Galena, Ohio, Columbus (Ohio) Mennonite Church, serving with Our House Inc.

**Michel Spils**, Cloppenburg, Germany, Protestant Free Church Fellowship of Cloppenburg (Oldenburg, Germany), serving with Our House Inc.

**Claire Waidelich**, Pettisville, Ohio, West Clinton Mennonite Church (Wauseon, Ohio), serving with Pikes Peak United Way

#### Johnstown

**Trista Holdsworth**, Nanty Glo, Pa., First Baptist Church (Nanty Glo), serving with Community Action Partnership of Cambria County, Head Start, and New Day Inc.

**Christy Pearce**, Smithville, Ohio, Smithville Brethren Church, serving with Johnstown Christian School

**John Ruth**, Harleysville, Pa., Salford Mennonite Church (Harleysville), serving with Community Action Partnership of Cambria County, Head Start, and New Day Inc.

**Nicole Schwartz**, Elkhart, Ind., Silverwood Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with St. Vincent de Paul Family Kitchen and Willow Hill Farm

**Leonard Tyart**, Enkenbach, Germany,

Mennonite Church of Enkenbach, serving with the ACRP Partial Hospitalization Program, and New Day Inc.

#### Philippi

**Talia and Tyler Faber**, Great Bend, Kan., Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren Church (Hillsboro, Kan.), Service Adventure leaders

**Kyle Good**, Harrisonburg, Va., Community Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg), serving with Heart and Hand, and also with Feed My Sheep Christian School

## Service Adventure

### Albany

**Sebastian Reim**, Lichtenberg, Germany, Dresden Mennonite Church (Radebeul, Germany), serving with Mennonite Village and Habitat for Humanity ReStore

**Sam Schamp**, Hamburg, Germany, Hamburg Mennonite Church, serving with Habitat for Humanity ReStore and Community After-School Program

**Rebecca Schrag**, Newton, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Newton), serving with Mennonite Village and Waverly Elementary School

**Paige Semer**, West Unity, Ohio, Salem Mennonite Church (Waldron, Mich.), serving with Community



Photo provided

Colorado Springs Service Adventure unit. Left to right: Andrew Nussbaum, Claire Waidelich, Michel Spils, Esther Lederach, and Michelle Musselman (unit leader).

**Henry Jantzen**, Newton, Kan., Faith Mennonite Church (Newton), serving with Myers Clinic

**Cody Reber**, Newton, Kan., Trinity Heights United Methodist (Newton), serving with World Vision

**Andreas Schumacher**, Marienheide, Germany, Gummersbach Church (Gummersbach, Germany), serving with Heart and Hand, and also with Feed My Sheep Christian School



Photo provided

From left to right: Tom, Nicole, Susan and Kristen Russack served at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center in Toano, Virginia.

served one week in Elm Mott, Texas.

**Doug and Paula King**, Wauseon, Ohio, Tedrow Mennonite Church (Wauseon), served three weeks in Lincoln City, Ore.

**Lila and Ron King**, Harrisonburg, Va., Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, served two months in Petitcodiac, New Brunswick.

**Linda Matson**, Vancouver, Wash., Summit View Church (Vancouver), served one week in Reedley, Calif.

**Larry and Maxine Miller**, Macon, Miss., served two months in Shipshewana, Ind.

**Ethel Mohler**, Crestline, Calif., All Saints Episcopal Church (Riverside, Calif.), served three months in Akron, Pa.

**Frank and Helen Nachtigal**, North Newton, Kan., Bethel College Mennonite Church (North Newton), served one week in Divide, Colo.

**Greg Oman**, Hernando, Miss., served one month in Busby, Mont., and

two months in Divide, Colo.

**Evelyn and Ron Pauls**, Henderson, Neb., Bethesda Mennonite Church (Henderson), served three weeks in Westbrookeville, N.Y.

**Sue and Wesley Richard**, Goshen, Ind., West Goshen Church of the Brethren, served more than three weeks in Bloomfield, N.M.

**Mary Schmidt**, Canton, Kan., Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church (Goessel, Kan.), served two weeks in Shipshewana, Ind.

**Dale and Jan Stebbins**, Janesville, Wis., St. John's Lutheran Church (Janesville), served two and a half months in Americus, Ga.

**Emma Stutzman**, Orrville, Ohio, Salem Mennonite Church (Kidron, Ohio), served two and a half months in Whitesburg, Ky.

**Linda Trejo-Todd**, Houston, Texas, First Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Houston),

served two weeks in Elm Mott, Texas.

**Anna West**, Vancouver, Wash., Summit View Church (Vancouver), served one week in Reedley, Calif.

**Joyce and Bill Zuercher**, Hesston, Kan., Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston), served two weeks in Glendale, Ariz.

## Youth Venture

### Spain

**Scott Hartman**, Wakarusa, Ind., Yellow Creek Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), Youth Venture leader

**Lindsay Rheinheimer**, Goshen, Ind., Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship (Goshen), Youth Venture leader

**Sidney Dick**, Henderson, Neb., Bethesda Mennonite Church (Henderson)

**Xenia Eichelberger**, Corpus Christi, Texas, Calvary Mennonite Church (Mathis, Texas)

**Leah Friesen**, Henderson, Neb., Bethesda Mennonite Church (Henderson)

**Sofia Herrera**, Mathis, Texas, Calvary Mennonite Church (Mathis)

**Katherine Lehman**, Dover, Ohio, LifeBridge (Dover)

**Paige Mestl**, Henderson, Neb., Bethesda Mennonite Church (Henderson)

### Botswana

**Andrew Duffy**, Tulsa, Okla., Fellowship Bible Church (Tulsa), Youth Venture leader

**Jillian Schlach**, West Liberty, Ohio, Oak Grove Mennonite Church (West Liberty), Youth Venture leader

**Taylor Esau**, Hesston, Kan., Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston) and Hesston Mennonite Church

**Cameron Juhnke**, Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Church

**Hannah Wood**, Keene, N.H., First Baptist Church of Keene

### Ecuador

**Courtney Mast**, Hesston, Kan., Pleasant View Mennonite Church (Hydro, Okla.), Youth Venture leader

**Monica Miller**, Thomas, Okla., Pleasant View Mennonite Church (Hydro, Okla.), Youth Venture leader

**Megan Boardman**, Bradshaw, Neb., Faith Evangelical Bible Church (Henderson, Neb.)

**Laura Haskin**, Philadelphia, Pa., West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship

**Jessica Jushchysyn**, Lansdale, Pa., Immanuel Church of the Nazarene (Lansdale)

**Paige Purnell**, Media, Pa., First United Church of Media

**Lindsey Short**, Goshen, Ind., Pleasant View Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.)

### Japan

**Abby and Andy Findley**, Elkhart, Ind., Olive Mennonite Church (Elkhart), Youth Venture leaders

**Tierney Frey**, Goshen, Ind., Pleasant View Mennonite Church (Goshen)

**Ian James**, Middlebury, Ind., Pleasant View Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.) and Glad Tidings Church (Muncie, Ind.)

**Andrew Koerner**, Freeman, S.D., Hutterthal Mennonite Church (Freeman)

**Matthew Rodenberg**, Halstead, Kan., Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church (Inman, Kan.)

### Philadelphia

**Adrian Suryajaya**, Philadelphia, Philadelphia Praise Center, Youth Venture local host/leader

**Karisa Barlow**, Philadelphia, Philadelphia Praise Center, Youth Venture local host/leader

**Naomi Clouse**, Kalona, Iowa, Wellman (Iowa) Mennonite Church

**Nickolas Funk**, Beatrice, Neb., First Mennonite Church (Beatrice)

**Kassie Nitzsche**, Milford, Neb., Milford Mennonite Church

## International

**Bill Frisbie** began a two-month special assignment in partnership with LeaderSource and Mennonite Mission Network to train leaders in Senegal, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire. He is a member of Living Faith Fellowship in Elkhart, Ind.

**Katrina Schmid** began a one-year internship through Virginia Mennonite Missions tranSend program in partnership with Mennonite Mission Network. She will serve as a mathematics teacher at Lezha Academic Center in Albania, and will relate to the local Mennonite church. She is a member of Kidron (Ohio) Mennonite Church.

**Whitney Specht** began a one-year internship through Virginia Mennonite Missions tranSend program in partnership with Mennonite Mission Network. She will work with farm families in Istog, Kosovo. She will also study Albanian, and build relationships with other young people in her neighborhood. She is a member of Kidron (Ohio) Mennonite Church.

# Teaching value of service

## Family of four does SOOP in the desert

For two months last winter, Eric and Jodi Miller and their 9-year-old twins lived in a 21-foot RV and served with SOOP in Tucson, Ariz.

SOOP is a Mennonite Mission Network opportunity for individuals and families to serve in the United States and Canada.

Originally from rural Ohio, Eric and Jodi have prioritized service, and every three years, they serve somewhere as a family.

In Tucson, Eric volunteered at Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona (CHRP). The organization ministers to low-income

homeowners by repairing roofs, leaky faucets, and other housing concerns. Although Erin had little construction experience when he started, the weekly trainings helped him to learn practical skills he needed for his assignments.

The Miller children were homeschooled by their mother during their trip, and their third-grade teacher from home gave weekly homework and online assessments.

When the children and Jodi had a chance, they joined their father and husband to help paint a wheelchair ramp and volunteer at a food bank.



Jodi and Eric Miller with their children, Julia and Nathan, hiking in Sabino Canyon, Ariz. The family served in Tucson, Ariz., with the SOOP program for two months—December 2013 through January 2014.



## Courage, peace, and good cheer

### Colleague missed for her compassion and fellowship

Krissie Boss, assistant for Program Human Resources at Mennonite Mission Network, will be remembered for her strength, kindness and friendship.

Boss, 61, died of natural causes at her home in Goshen, Ind., on her birthday, April 3, 2014. She was born April 3, 1953, in Columbiana, Ohio, to Albert and Carol (Schloneger) Blosser.

Boss worked for Mennonite Mission Network for almost nine years, beginning August 2005.

"She held relationships with her family, friends and coworkers in high regard," said Betty Weaver, health plan representative and assistant for Finance at Mennonite Mission Network. "She cared about others and the struggles they may be facing, often downplaying her own struggles."

In 2009, Weaver donated one of her kidneys to Boss, who had polycystic kidney disease. Boss and Weaver also attended Sunnyside Mennonite Church.

Stanley W. Green, executive director of Mennonite Mission Network, remembered Boss for her diligence and compassionate spirit.

"For many of us, she was our teacher and guide in the way of how to live gracefully in the midst of struggle, hardship and pain," said Green.

Photo submitted



Photo by Frank Nacnabo

Lydie Yougbaré emerges from her baptism and into the fellowship of the Bobo Dioulasso congregation of *Eglise Evangélique Mennonite du Burkina Faso* (Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso).

## Seeking new life

### Mennonite conference in Burkina Faso is growing

**B**aptisms in May increased the membership of *Eglise Evangélique Mennonite du Burkina Faso* (Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso) by more than 12 percent.

In the three Sundays surrounding Easter, 63 new Mennonites joined five different congregations in Burkina Faso.

“I cannot explain [this wave of interest, other than to say] that I believe God wants to

grow the church,” said Siaka Traoré, national president of the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso. The national church had a membership of about 500 at the beginning of 2014, with 44 of these members baptized in the weeks around Christmas.

Lydie Yougbaré had an Easter Day baptism in the city of Bobo Dioulasso. She said, “I wanted to identify with Jesus in his death and resurrection as I abandoned my

old life and begin to live a new life. When I came out of the water, I felt light, like all my burdens had slipped off.”

In a context where Muslims make up the majority of the population, the decision to be baptized is not to be taken lightly, as it may result in derision and even persecution. Traoré said that he rejoices when people count the cost and still want to be baptized into the Mennonite Church.

# Spuds and sonatas

Japan and the United States have more in common than Youth Venture team expects

Four youth served in Japan with Youth Venture, June 17 to July 8. They returned home with broader relationships to the global church and a keener awareness of the importance of local agriculture.

The group served at Menno Village, a 40-acre Christian community in Hokkaido involved in community supported agriculture. They cleaned chicken eggs, dug and sorted potatoes, whacked weeds, and fox-proofed a chicken coop.

When they weren't working on the farm, they took in some sightseeing, such as riding a bus to Sapporo, Japan's fourth-largest city by population, and a train to Otaru, a port city.

They also attended three Mennonite churches, where they

worshiped and exchanged testimonies with the congregation.

A highlight for the group was the opportunity to bring joy to Menno Village residents by playing music on a piano.

"They [Menno Village personnel] had been so kind to us and given us so much that it was as if the team was giving a little back to them," said Abby Findley. Findley is a marketing assistant at Mennonite Mission Network who led the Youth Venture group with her husband, Andy. "[Our visit to Japan] was an opportunity to see God moving in these larger ways, and for the team to see the bigger picture of the global church. It was moving and touching for Andy and me as leaders."

## The call to be disciples

Jesus invites us to a life-long journey

By Ervin Stutzman



God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ. That's the beginning of our church's vision statement. It's also a reflection of our core Anabaptist theology, a conviction that the very heart of being a Christian is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

An early Anabaptist was once asked, "What is your vocation?" He replied, "My vocation is to be a Christian. To make a living, I am a tailor." Since a "vocation" is "a call to a certain work," our first and most important vocation or calling is to follow Jesus.

When Jesus began his ministry, he announced: "The kingdom of God is at hand." Then he called people to follow him as disciples. He began by calling the brothers Peter and Andrew, and then James and John. He kept calling others and eventually named the group we know as the "Twelve Disciples." Jesus didn't stop there. If you trace the word "disciple" through the Gospel of Luke, you will find several concentric circles of disciples, beginning with the Twelve. For example, Luke 10:1-23 tells about the commissioning of a group of 72 disciples. Might he have asked each of the Twelve to find six additional people?

Jesus' call to discipleship did not change when Jesus died and rose again. After his resurrection, he told the Twelve to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20). In the book of Acts, after the resurrection of Christ, "Christian" appears only twice as a designation for Christ-followers, while disciples appears 30 times. The point is that even if we call ourselves Christians, in reality, we are Christians-in-the-making; we are still learning, still following. In the book of Acts, "followers of the way" is another name for Christians.

Jesus' invitation to discipleship was for life. Jesus leads the way, showing what it means to live under the reign of God. We are called to be learners, imitating the ways of Jesus, to discover what it means to live under God's authority and power. Consequently, none of us can claim to have "graduated."

A very important part of a disciple's ministry is to call others to be disciples of Jesus. The good news that we have in Jesus Christ is not just for us. We are called to look beyond to the places to which Jesus calls and sends us to serve in his name—as disciples.

Ervin Stutzman is executive director of Mennonite Church USA.



Andy Findley, Andrew Koerner and Takumi Endo, a volunteer at Menno Village, sort potatoes.



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