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From the PNMC Office

Dr. James Forbes is coming to Portland **Friday, October 18** to offer a homiletics workshop for pastors (*or anyone who preaches*) with a focus on **preaching for justice**. He was the long-time pastor of the Riverside Church in NYC and is a very effective preacher. The event runs from noon to 2:30 p.m., at Highland Christian Center in NE Portland. Matt Newell-Ching, of Bread for the World and member of Portland Mennonite Church, is organizing the event. (*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is another co-sponsor*). Admission is \$15 and includes lunch. *More details [here](#).*

A small group from Mennonite Voluntary Service is scheduled to gather at [Drift Creek Camp](#) **November 21-24**. Pastors are invited to enjoy a complimentary stay at DCC during those dates for a personal retreat. Pastors are encouraged to make use of this gift for a day or for the entire weekend to hike the grounds, make time to study, read by the fire and enjoy delicious meals. Perhaps your church staff could use a day away together, or your cluster would like to gather overnight. Is there another pastor in PNMC you have been wanting to connect with? This could provide the opportunity for some in depth sharing with colleagues you rarely see. Contact Brenda at info@driftcreek.org to make arrangements.

A **Pastors and Leaders Pre-Lenten retreat** is being planned for **March 2-3** at [Menucha Retreat Center](#). Marlene Kropf will lead in a time of spiritual refreshment as we enter into the Lenten season. The retreat will begin with supper on the 2nd and end after supper on the 3rd. Pastors and others who provide congregational leadership are invited to pause and listen before a busy church time.

The PNMC Conference Communications Council will meet **February 8, 2014** at [Zion Mennonite Church](#) in Hubbard, OR. Web participation will again be attempted for those at a distance. One pastor and one lay delegate from each congregation are invited to attend.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief

Want to make life better for people in need but not sure how? **Volunteer for the Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief!** Plenty of jobs are available for people of all ages at the annual event at the Albany Fairgrounds, both for set-up, **Friday, Oct. 11**, and on festival day, **Saturday, Oct. 12**. Learn more [here](#) or contact [Mark Diller](#) at [541-990-8439](tel:541-990-8439).

Institute for Missional Directions

Did you know that for the past ten years Craig Morton of PNMC has provided a wide range of congregational and judicatory services? Eventually a non-profit corporation was formed under the name **Institute for Missional Directions**. Two primary initiatives exist under the IMD umbrella. First is [Seminary Without Walls](#) (SWW) which provides training for Christian leaders to become certified and ordained in four different denominations who require seminary training. SWW also provides continuing education for clergy through classes and practicum experiences. Additionally, prayer retreats which are in-sync with the liturgical calendar are provided throughout the year. Second is [The Mission Place](#), a congregational and judicatory resource. The Mission Place provides a wide variety of educational and transformational opportunities to meet church needs. The Mission Place provides customized resources on discernment training for congregations and leadership groups; conflict transformation; organizational development; pastoral and leadership coaching; and congregational reset consulting. All of these are lead from both perspective of "generous orthodoxy" and a conviction to notion that God is a missionary God seeking that the church be a missionary people. More can be discovered about this ministry at: www.themissionplace.org.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Amigo Centre

Know Jesus... It's a Junior High Thing! August 1-3, 2014

Know Jesus is a bi-annual event for Junior High youth groups. Sponsored by Amigo Centre and Camp Friedenswald, the weekend is full of energy, worship, activities, and much more. Junior High youth swarm the campus of Goshen College to grow in their relationship with Jesus while having a fun and exciting weekend of fellowship with peers. [Ted & Company](#) will be back! Put this event on your calendar! *Cost and registration information coming soon.* www.amigocentre.org/know-jesus.html

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Open House, November 15, at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN, is an opportunity for people interested in seminary to meet faculty and students and learn more about study both on campus and at a distance. Important information about financial aid will also be available. Visit www.amb.edu/admissions/visitAMBS to register or call 800.964.2627.

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC urges support of Ricardo Esquivia Ballestas, founder of MCC partner Asociación Sembrando Semillas de Paz (*Sowing Seeds of Peace Association, known as Sembrandopaz*) and other community leaders, all of whom have received threats and intimidations from Colombian authorities. Esquivia's Colombian advocacy work began decades ago with small-scale farmers. In 2012 he started work with the Movement of the Mountain Zone, helping communities seek reparations for displacement, the right to return to their land and protection against future violence or forced relocation.

In April, they held a peaceful march requesting dialogue with local, state and national governments. However, Movement of the Mountain Zone leader Jorge Luis Montes Hernández was arrested in early September by a government prosecutor. Montes has been accused of belonging to the FARC guerrilla group, criminal conspiracy, homicide, forced displacement and extortion.

Sembrandopaz's work is essential in transforming the decades-long conflict in Colombia. According to MCC, "Lasting peace will only grow when the root causes of the armed conflict are addressed – social, economic and political exclusion." MCC continues to partner with Esquivia "to promote conditions for the type of reconciliation that ensures the horrific violence of the past will not be repeated."

MCC Canada and MCC U.S. sent a joint letter to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos Calderon asking him to condemn all threats against Esquivia as well as protect him and other community leaders. MCC also sent letters to the Canadian and U.S. governments calling on them to advocate to the Colombian government. MCC U.S. invites all to join the call for safety for Esquivia and the other leaders by contacting members of Congress and the U.S. embassy in Colombia. *Information for how to do this online easily and quickly is at <http://ow.ly/p1VGI>.*

Mennonite Church USA



Rachel Springer Gerber will be joining the national staff of MC USA as the new **Denominational Minister for Youth and Young Adults January 6, 2014**. In this .50 FTE role, she will partner with Youth Ministry Council, Mennonite Camping Association and conventional planning to further the priorities of Mennonite Church USA. Rachel is a graduate of Goshen College and Eastern Mennonite Seminary and has served as a minister of youth and young adults in congregations in Denver and Goshen. She is married to Shawn Gerber and they have three children. *Welcome, Rachel!*

Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)



The September/October issue of [The Marketplace](#) features a wonderful story about the **Dorsing family's multi-generational farming operation in Eastern Washington**. The family is actively involved with PNMC. Wanda Dorsing serves as secretary on the PNMC Board of Directors.

Interested in learning more about MEDA's work around the world? Consider attending the [MEDA Convention 2013, November 7-10](#) in Wichita, KS.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Oct 21 (*submissions due by 10/14*)

Nov 4 (*submissions due by 10/28*)

Nov 18 (*submissions due by 10/11*)

Dec 2 (*submissions due by 11/25*)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates : <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>