

Evangel

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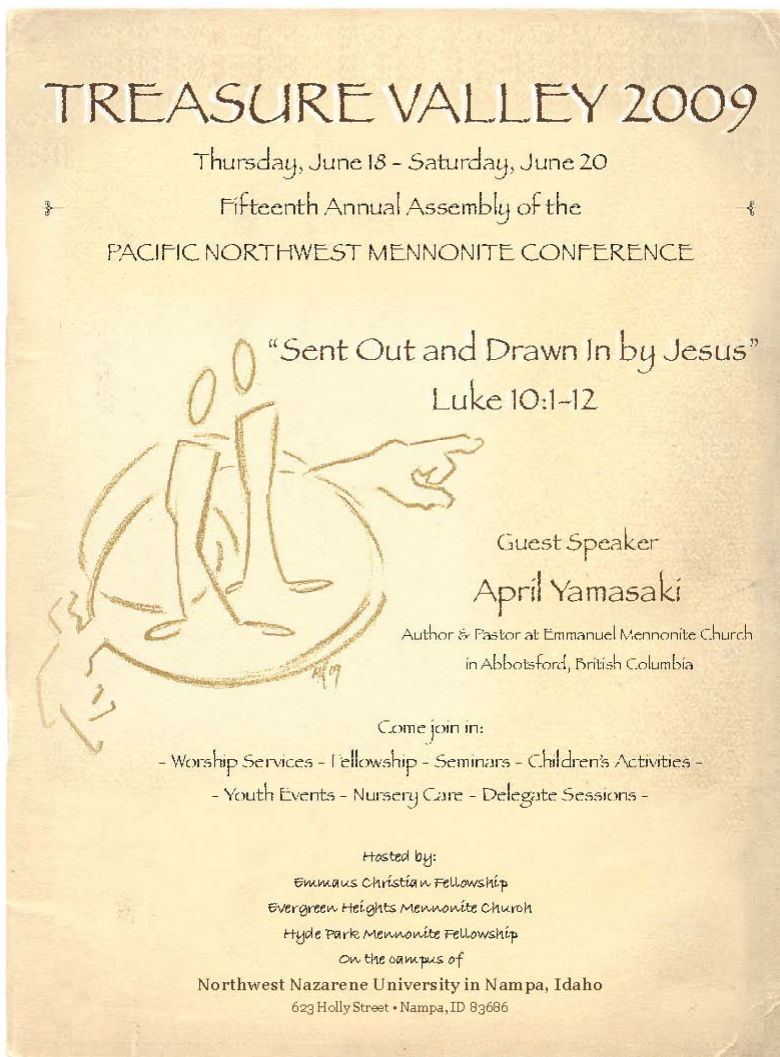
Continuing Talks on New Conference Structure to Be Featured at PNMC Annual Meeting in June

By Susan M. Palmer

The future role of delegates under the new conference structure, induction of a new congregation into membership, a State of the Conference report and greetings from churches in

Northwest Mexico will be among the items on the agenda at *Treasure Valley 2009*, the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting, to be held June 18-20, 2009, at Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID.

April Yamasaki, pastor of Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, British Columbia, and author of "Making Disciples" a book offering ideas and tools for calling and integrating believers into the life of the church, will be the keynote speaker for this year's gathering. She will speak on the conference theme, "Sent Out and Drawn In by Jesus", focusing on the sending out of the 72 in Luke 10:1-12. Pastor Yamasaki will also teach a seminar on Saturday afternoon. Entitled "In the Company of Women", the workshop will examine the important contributions of unnamed women in the Bible.





April Yamasaki, pastor of Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, British Columbia, will be the keynote speaker for Treasure Valley 2009. Previously a faculty member and writer-in-residence at Columbia Bible College, also in Abbotsford, Pastor Yamasaki has authored several books, including "Making Disciples: Preparing People for Baptism, Christian Living and Church", "Remember Lot's Wife and Other Unnamed Women of the Bible", "Where Two are Gathered: Readings for Shared Devotions" and "Jesus Calls: Believe and Follow", a chapter in the forthcoming book, "Jesus Matters".

Numerous other outstanding seminars will also be offered during the weekend. Among the topics to be covered will be "Christians in a Diverse and Changing World", a look at the challenges of sharing faith in a multicultural society; "Loving the Recession to Death", an examination of how Anabaptists, Adam Smith and the New Testament teach us to respond in tough times; "Turning Passion into Ministry" which will help participants identify and maximize use of their gifts and talents; "Designing Visual Parables" on teaching with drama but not with words; "Discerning Discipleship

101: Dealing with Concerns in the Church and Family", which discusses how to talk about difficult issues; and "Old and New Anabaptists: Together for a Revitalized Mennonite Church."

Speakers will include, among others, Conference Minister Sheldon Burkhalter, the PNMC Faith and Practice Team, Mennonite Education Agency's PNMC representative Anne Hege; Conference Resource Advocate Charlotte Derksen; cross-cultural communications trainer Renee Johns of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship; Mennonite Publishing Network's Russ Eanes; Mennonite Missions Network's Marlene Kroeker, Northwest Mexico Pastor Agustin Suarez, and Anawim Christian Community Pastor Steve Kimes.

Also, for the first time this year, activities to increase fellowship as well as service will be offered. Included among community building activities will be the Challenge Course, a trust and team-building opportunity; Conference Choir; Intermediate Level Bike Ride; and Quilting. Community service projects will include yardwork for elderly and/or disabled individuals, Oasis/Salvation Army food pantry work, or sewing MCC kit bags.

Registrations for the meeting, which will also include activities for children and youth, are currently being accepted. For more information, contact your local church office.

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A Special Invitation... from an Unconventional Group

What do Christmas ornaments hanging on chains have to do with how churches (and conferences) function? Come to this year's PNMC annual conference – *Treasure Valley 2009* — and find out!

The Faith and Practice Team will be doing a forum Friday morning, “Dealing with Faith, Certainty and Differences, and Seeing the Joy While Doing It”, followed by two seminars Saturday afternoon: "Designing Visual Parables: Putting the Fun Back into Togetherness" and "Discerning Discipleship 101: Dealing with Concerns in the Church and family”.

Since its inception, the Faith and Practice Team has not looked or functioned like most organizational committees. The team was formed nearly three years ago in Montana on the winds of uncertainty blowing in the PNMC. What the FPT was supposed to do, how it was supposed to do it, and who was supposed to do it remains, to this day, still rather hazy. There was an attempt by someone to write an official description of the Faith and Practice Team, but no one currently on the team even knew about it. We were handed only one agenda item: figure out how to talk about what and who we are as a PNMC family.

When we first started considering how to talk about our team to delegates for the 2007 meeting, one member suggested using balloons like folks do at fairs or the Pike Place market, twisting them into different shapes, to illustrate what we'd been doing these past three years. Just imagine the hilarity that might have resulted from that method of communication!

Hence, we did not do balloons. Instead, we carried bouncing balls of various sizes, bumping into each other with varying degrees of difficulty to illustrate the sometimes cumbersome ways we have of connection to one another year. The next year we carried Christmas balls of various types on chains and illustrated the ways we appraise one another based on the type or quality of Christmas ornament we are or possess.

This June in Idaho, in addition to spending some time with the whole group, we will present seminars on designing visual parables yourselves and using them to process concerns. Come meet FPT at PNMC, and have some fun doing it!

Immigrant Challenges Addressed at Mennonite-Sponsored Seminar

Local Mennonites from Pacific Covenant and Zion Mennonite Churches teamed with The Canby Center and West Coast MCC on March 12-15, 2009 to offer a community education seminar on immigration issues in Canby OR.

Miriam Cardenas and Jennifer Doerrie from the MCC West Coast Immigration Office offered a session, "Know your rights!", in Spanish for immigrant families who attended. They also presented an informational session for employers of immigrants, and several orientation/training sessions for local advocates of immigrants. Several presentations aimed at raising public awareness of the challenges immigrants face in obtaining legal work and immigration status were also included.

Participants from the Hispanic community received advice on current concerns. Anglos were enlightened about the struggles the Hispanic community faces battling through immigration issues. “I had no idea it was so hard for someone to become documented,” a local farmer said. “I always wondered why persons did not just apply and get their papers in order.”

Organizers are hopeful that the seminar has made a strong first step in helping both immigrants and others in the Canby area work together to solve problems that affect them all.



A Word from the Moderator

In this Easter season, I am pondering resurrection. I am pondering the way people live on after death through the lives they touch and the love they generate.

In the past few months, two men who have influenced me greatly passed away. In their own ways, both men have showed me how to navigate this old world with a sense of grace, civility, conviction, and creativity.

Elam Glick, my mother's father, was a preacher, farmer, song leader, bishop, bus driver, and Moderator of Allegheny Mennonite Conference. He lived much of his life in the isolated little vale incongruously named Big Valley, in central Pennsylvania. He had strong convictions. He loved Jesus and was devoted to following him in daily living. He read the Bible faithfully and knew it inside and out. He ended every letter or card with the exhortations "Jesus is Lord!" and "Maranatha!" And he constantly encouraged his grandsons to enter the ministry (sorry, Grandpa).

Long after I forget the particulars of Grandpa Elam's theology, though, his love for each person he met and his positive demeanor will stay with me. His passionate belief in Jesus' love for us and his attention to the moving of the Holy Spirit led to some unusual choices for a pastor in a conservative rural Mennonite community. Grandpa graciously welcomed non-Mennonites into the "mission" church he served: men without plain coats, women with short hair, married couples with wedding rings, and people from broken and divorced families (all of which were considered sinful by Mennonites at the time). In the 1960s, Grandpa's love of music led him to invite the Catholic Medical Mission Sisters to sing in Big Valley at a time when Mennonites weren't even sure Catholics were Christian. A few decades later, as the first wave of Mennonite women were being ordained, Grandpa supported his daughter-in-law, Charlotte Holsopple Glick, as a fellow pastor. (And I'm not sure I should mention the story of his grandson with the earring....)

I don't think that these changes always came easy to Grandpa, but his devotion to the moving of the Holy Spirit and his willingness to follow a God who "is making all things new" sent him to places he may not have gone otherwise.

Phil Clemens was also a pastor, but I knew him as a music teacher, pianist, and composer. He led the jazz band at Goshen College Music Week during my high school years. Phil essentially taught me to improvise. I had been playing saxophone for about four years when I first encountered him, but I still was mostly stuck to what was on the page. How fearful and wonderful a thing to make music from one's internal muse! It isn't easy. In fact, I still remember Phil inviting a number of us kids to improvise for a few measures while he played piano. Soon after my first fearful, feeble notes, I discovered a technical problem with my sax. Relieved that I would have a good excuse to end this embarrassing escapade, I stopped playing and told Phil about the problem. Without even stopping, Phil shouted, "Play around it! Just play around it! Keep going!" And I did. In many ways, I think I still am.

Thanks, Phil. Thanks, Grandpa.

— *David Hockman-Wert*



Empowered by the Spirit to Do Good Works

A Parting Word from Victor Vargas

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Farewells are not pleasing. Even if only for a short time, our emotions are interwoven in memories of lived experiences, both happy and sad.

Before departing to the Father and promising the coming of the Holy Spirit’s presence to guide His church in justice and truth, Jesus declared that each of us would receive power from the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, we did.

During my years ministering with the PNMC, Jesus’ departing words have motivated me to work for Him. I thank Him for the chance He has given me to work until today and for the support of all of those that wish His kingdom to come. I also look forward to pleasing Him further, doing His will for the rest of my life. I thank to my beloved co-workers, my colleagues, who in many ways walked this pilgrimage with me over the past several years. Today I thank all of you for your prayers, as well as for the demonstrations of affection and solidarity with this evangelical cause. Finally, I can say EBENEZER, “thus far has the LORD helped us.” I will keep praying for our beloved Conference, that we might continue listening the Lord’s voice for the further purposes that He has for us as He continues to extend the Kingdom.

I hope I can continue working/serving in all that is for the glory of His Holy Name. As He graces me – and all of us -- to do this, we can look faithfully toward the day when He will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Mathew 25:21)

Autorizado por el Espiritu Santos para Hacer Buenos Trabajos

Una Palabra de Despedida del Vencedor para Victor Vargas

“Pero recibiréis poder cuando el Espíritu Santo haya venido sobre vosotros, y me seréis testigos en Jerusalén, en toda Judea, en Samaria y hasta lo último de la tierra.” (Hechos 1:8)

Siempre las despedidas no son nada agradables. Aunque esto represente una ausencia temporal, nuestros sentimientos y emociones se entrelazan en recuerdos de experiencias vividas, tanto positivas y gratas, como aquellas que no lo fueron.

Jesús antes de partir al Padre y en cumplimiento a la promesa hecha de que el Espíritu Santo, sería enviado del Padre, para dirigir su Iglesia y guiarla a toda justicia y verdad, declaró que se recibiría poder, hecho que sucedió más tarde en el día de Pentecostés.

En mis años de ministerio entre la conferencia PNMC, estas palabras del Maestro me han motivado a trabajar para El. Doy gracias por el poder que me ha acompañado hasta aquí y por el apoyo de todos aquellos que amamos su venida y no buscamos sino el agradecerle haciendo su voluntad. Gracias amados con-siervos mis colegas que de muchas maneras, pudimos caminar en este peregrinaje. Hoy gracias a ustedes y sus oraciones, así como las muestras de afecto y solidaridad en la causa del evangelio, puedo decir EBENEZER “Hasta aquí nos ayudó Jehová”. Seguiré orando para que nuestra amada Conferencia pueda oír la voz de El, en los propósitos que tiene nuestro Dios para la nueva etapa en la extensión del reino.

Espero seguir sirviendo en lo que sea para gloria de su Santo Nombre y sé que al final como sus siervos oiremos las palabras. “Bien buen siervo y fiel, sobre poco has sido fiel; sobre mucho te pondré, entra en el gozo de tu señor” Mateo 25 : 21



Washington Couple Named Directors of California MDS Project

Forrest and Charlotte Hardt of Menno Mennonite Church, Warden, WA, have been appointed project directors for an MDS relief project helping victims of severe wildfires in Dulzura, CA. The project is focused on rebuilding homes destroyed by the fires, cleaning up debris and bringing hope through service to the community. The Harris Fires of October 2007 which affected Dulzura burned 90,000 acres, destroyed over 250 homes, and killed five people. Four homes have been completed by MDS workers since the project began.

Forrest and Charlotte Hardt

The Hardts, along with others from Menno Mennonite, have been working with MDS in relief projects all over the nation for many years. Their appointment serves as an acknowledgement of their dedication to relief work and years of volunteer service to MDS.

Menno Mennonite members continue to actively serve with MDS. During the past winter, 15 of them and their friends assisted with two projects besides the one supervised by the Hardts in California: a Hurricane Rita relief project underway in Newton, TX, and a work assisting flood victims in Snoqualmie, WA.

Retreats Bring Refreshment to OR and WA Women

Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, OR, and Camp Camrec, Leavenworth, WA, were the sites for two PNMC women's retreat, both held the weekend of April 17-19, 2009.

Approximately 30 women attended the Oregon Mennonite Women's Retreat. The planning, activities and inspiration focused upon "Care for Ourselves and for Others", in consideration for personal renewal and refreshment that provides inner strength every day.

Chapel thoughts by Charlene Schrag brought thoughtful reflection of both Mary and Martha and the importance of placing Sabbath time in our lives. Pam Fahndrich led singing with familiar tunes as well as new songs she composed herself. All of this within the DCC forest of big trees, spring time flowers, fresh air and sun enriched attenders' spiritual realities.

The planners, Esther King and Pat Hershberger, along with DCC's Brenda Kauffman intentionally scheduled "free" time to help women practice having a Sabbath rest. Activities included instructions on crafting table centerpieces, a book discussion, tips on home décor, making flan, creating personal greeting cards, a book discussion, nature walks, and a talent show.

Another Oregon Women's Retreat is planned for Spring 2010. Dates will be published as soon as confirmed.

Evergreen Mennonite Church hosted the Washington Women's Retreat at Camp Camrec. Thirty-two women attended the gathering. Special speaker Merry Roy from Wenatchee, WA, spoke on the theme of the weekend, "Come Together in the Way of Jesus Christ", expounding on John 17:16-26 and Acts 2:46-47. The theme was intentionally the same as that being used for the Mennonite World Conference in Paraguay this summer.

Optional activities during the weekend included a labyrinth; *Garden Time*, a workshop led by Pam Waltner, and a discussion on the book, *Three Cups of Tea*, led by Thelma Kauffman, followed by a tea party. A Browse and Buy Bookstore, featuring titles from Mennonite Publishing Network, was also available. The next Washington Women's Retreat will be organized by Newport Mennonite Church.



Corvallis' own Jesse Bontrager helping at Peruvian construction site.

OR Students Participate in Study-Service Term in Peru

By Susan M. Palmer

Jesse Bontrager and Audrey Engle, both of Corvallis Mennonite Church, were among 18 Goshen College students who participated in a study-service term in Peru this past winter. The three-month program steeped the students in language and culture, both in the classroom and in relationships with their host families, as well as opportunities to help the Peruvian people in various areas of need.

During the first six weeks of the term, students studied Spanish, attended daily seminars on Peruvian culture, including Incan and pre-Incan history, the 1980s Peruvian civil war, and the success of the Peruvian women's movement. They also visited several Lima shantytowns; Fortaleza Real Felipe, a fortress initially erected by Spaniards to protect their ships from pirates; Huaca Pucilana, an archaeological dig located in a Lima business district; and Machu Picchu.

The last six weeks were spent serving the people of Peru through various aspects of community service. These included assisting with construction projects; visiting patients in local hospitals; working with children in a local day care center; assisting Peruvians with English language studies; helping La Casa Verde, a program that works with street children in Arequipa; assisting World Vision with families under their care; and helping train people to raise guinea pigs for profit, through education in nutrition, reproductive health, and diagnosis of guinea pig diseases.

Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship member Audrey Engle, plays cards with Peruvian children while also helping them learn English.




Teachers Sought by Western Mennonite School

Western Mennonite School. is accepting applications for several teaching positions to begin in August 2009: one for Junior/Senior Bible, 8th grade Bible, and Introduction to Christianity for International Students, and one for chemistry, physics and physical science. Info/ Application: Visit www.westernmennoniteschool.org or contact Darrel Camp, 503-363-2000 or dcamp@westernmennoniteschool.org . Applications accepted until position filled.

Caretakers Sought for Drift Creek Camp

Drift Creek Camp is currently seeking someone to serve as caretaker of its facilities in Lincoln City, OR. The caretakers would serve as the resident host for camp guests and performs maintenance and housekeeping duties needed for facilities, grounds and equipment, and provide kitchen support. Term begins ear;u 2010. More Info: www.driftcreek.org or call 541-992-2556.

*David,
The Shepherd Boy*
A Cantata in Ten Scenes
for the Choir and the Choral Society



Words
Written and Selected by
Hezekiah Butterworth

Music
Composed and Arranged by
George F. Root

***David, the Shepherd Boy* will be presented by Western Mennonite School on June 12 at WMS and June 14 at Fairview Mennonite Church, Albany. Details at right and below.**

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

May 22-23, 2009	Drift Creek Camp Annual Work Weekend to prep the camp for summer season. Register online at www.driftcreek.org . Info: 541-992-2556.
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May 28, 2009	Western Mennonite Middle School Spring Concert, 7 p.m. Info: 503-363-2000.
May 29, 2009	Western Mennonite High School Concert, 7 p.m. Info: 503-363-2000.
June 4, 2009	Western Mennonite Eighth Grade Graduation, 7 p.m. Info: 503-363-2000.
June 12, 2009	“David the Shepherd Boy, A Cantata”, 7 p.m., Western Mennonite School. Info: 503-363-2000.
June 13, 2009	Western Mennonite High School Graduation, 2:30 p.m. at WMS
June 14, 2009	“David the Shepherd Boy, A Cantata”, 3 p.m., Fairview Mennonite Church, Albany
June 18-20, 2009	Treasure Valley 2009, Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID.
July 10-12	Camp Camrec Pre-Junior Camp (entering Grades 1, 2 and 3)
July 14-18	Camp Camrec Junior Camp (entering Grades 4, 5, and 6)
July 20-25	Camp Camrec Jr. and Sr. High Camp (entering Grades 7-12)