

CONNECTION!

MAKING A CONNECTION WITH ONE ANOTHER

AUGUST 2013

Hutterthal Mennonite Church, Freeman, South Dakota

REPRESENTING HUTTERTHAL in PHOENIX, ARIZONA at MC USA CONVENTION 2013



Clara Koerner, Ian Hofer, Jill Hofer, Michelle Hofer, Kylea Waltner, Brandon Waltner, Pastor Todd

(reports inside this issue)

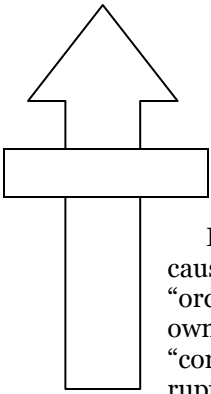
START PLANNING NOW TO ATTEND:



**MC USA
June 28-July 4, 2015
Kansas City**



**MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE
July 21-26, 2015
Harrisburg, PA**



Straight Up

"Jesus said . . . 'Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?'" ~ John 11: 40, NKJV

I wonder sometimes if we have lost touch with the miraculous. Do we fail to see because, in truth, we have failed to believe? Have we become so enamored with the "ordinary" that we have become blind to the "extraordinary?" Are we so focused on our own glory – on what we "can" do and "have" done; our ability to "make" ourselves; our own "comfort" and "agendas" and "wants" – that we have inoculated ourselves against the disruptive power and beauty of "the glory of God?" Have we become so modern that we have lost touch with the miraculous? And, if we have lost touch with the miraculous, have we not also (by definition) lost touch with the Divine? After all, God is nothing if not miraculous ... extraordinary, wonderful, radical, dangerous, challenging, and mysterious.

Of late, I have been meditating upon a quote by G. K. Chesterton: "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried." Wandering, as we too often are, in the wilderness of self-gratification and creature comforts, have we looked upon Jesus and decided there must be another, easier – dare-I-say, even better – way? Often over the last year, we have been confronted with Jesus' word that we must "deny [ourselves], take up [our] cross daily, and follow [Him]" (Luke 9: 23b, NKJV) and still I resist the underlying implications of those words. How right Paul was when he declared, "I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway" (Romans 7: 19, MSG)! And, I am left to ask, "Why do I insist on testing the waters that Jesus has already walked on?" In my heart, even now, I confess my cry, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9: 24b, NKJV)!

If only we could allow ourselves the joy of believing – if only we would allow the Holy Spirit to penetrate the deepest recesses of our cynicism and doubt, our selfishness and our idolatrous desire for comfort – then we might behold "the glory of God;" then we might know more fully the power of His presence and the beauty of the extraordinary grace of God that is enveloping us in this very moment. If only we would allow God to breathe life back into our dry bones, then we might (re-)discover the wonderful, radical, dangerous, challenging, *life* to which we've been called – a life of mystery that, in the eyes of our culture, is anything but ordinary. But, we fear that this will be difficult; we fear it may cost us ... what? More than we are willing to give. Why? Because, we are desperate to hang on to what we have: our possessions, our dreams, our hopes and aspirations ... ourselves. We fear what it might mean to say "yes" to God (to go "all in;" to give up control), because we know intuitively that it will require us to first say "no" to ourselves. So, we follow our way and when it leads us to where we do not want to go, we cry out, "Lord, if You had been here..." (John 11: 32c, NKJV).

But, God is here. It is the nature of the Divine that He is present. It isn't God who is absent. It is we who too often have lost touch with the mystery of His presence. It is we who have become blind to the extraordinary – the glory of God in our midst; the miracle that is breaking into *this* moment. Is that miracle a healing? Yes, but often in the most extraordinary way, not how we might think or imagine it: hope rising out of the ashes of despair, peace springing from the stump of what has been broken, love washing over the stains of our anger, compassion instead of contempt, forgiveness ... mercy.... God is here among us. Do you believe? Can you see His glory?

In Christ,
Pastor Todd

CONGRATULATIONS..

...to Dave & Brandy Friesen on the birth of their daughter, Noelle Grace, born July 17. Welcoming her to the family are brothers Tristan and Samuel.
HMC Grandparents: Steve & Charlene Friesen;
HMC Great Grandmother: Mildred Hofer



In mid-June, I had a full knee replacement in Sioux Falls. I'm only a part-time resident of Freeman, and a recent one at that, so I was not expecting the wonderful act of Christian kindness that was delivered when my daughter and son-in-law presented the Prayer Shawl made for me by members of this congregation. Throughout this time, the Prayer Shawl has been a source of comfort and warmth. I never use it that I don't give thanks for wonderful people who reflect their Christian faith in their daily actions towards others. I thank you for your kindness and generosity...it means so much to know so many people whose faith is reflected so fully in their actions towards others. With appreciation and love,

~ Jim Kellar (Brandy Friesen's father)

I want to thank everyone for the cards, visits, food, prayer shawl and prayers during my recent hospitalization. This was all very much appreciated.

~ Jerome Kleinsasser

Thank you to the Mennonite Women's organization for their memorial gift. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

~ The Hamm family

The Hutterthal Youth would like to thank everyone for your financial and prayerful support which made it possible for Clara Koerner, Ian Hofer, Kylea Waltner, and Brandon Walter to attend the conference in Phoenix, AZ. Please ask anyone who went for details about the trip. Thank once again.

Stay in Touch through Social Media

HMC Links

Facebook – www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch

Pastoral Links

Facebook – www.facebook.com/MennPastor

Twitter – @MennPastor

Blog – mennpastor.blogspot.com

The Pastor's Bookshelf

("The Pastor's Bookshelf" is designed for edification and inspiration. Each month, "The Pastor's Bookshelf" will highlight a book that I am currently [or have very recently] read. The members and friends of Hutterthal are encouraged to read along with me, engaging the book together, asking questions, sharing dialogue, and being challenged together in our mutual [and, I hope] maturing faith.... May we all be blessed through the power and enjoyment of the written word! – Pastor Todd)

Tolkien and the Great War by John Garth

Copyright 2003, Harper Collins (ISBN: 0-00-711953-4)

I discovered the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien quite by accident as a boy of 12. I had gone with my parents to visit family in Ohio – a place where there were no cousins near my age – and two things happened on the journey: 1) the batteries on my Walkman died; and 2) I finished reading the only book I had brought with me before we arrived ... because my Walkman died! This left me with few options when we pulled into the driveway of my aunt and uncle's farm house as the barn wasn't an option and I had no one to play with. So, I found myself sitting on the porch swing, no doubt, looking a little lost, when my aunt handed me a copy of The Hobbit. From the opening line I was enthralled and I found the first author that would travel with me throughout life. So, when I came across John Garth's biographical look at Tolkien I knew I had to read it.

Utilizing a thick, occasionally cumbersome prose, Tolkien and the Great War is a precise, intimate, look at the years that formed not only the young John Ronald, but that formed his entire generation. As Tolkien himself noted, by the end of World War I all of his close friends from childhood were dead. How could such a horrific experience not come to mark his later life and work? How could it not, in many ways, come to define it?

Perhaps surprising in a volume titled Tolkien and the Great War was John Garth's probing analysis of language generally and Tolkien's linguistic pursuits – pursuits that certainly marked his later "Middle-Earth" works – but somehow seem less impactful as seen through the lens of the Great War. Still, for those who (like myself) have long been fascinated with Tolkien's works, which speak to his rich and abiding faith even in the face of war, tragedy, and pain, I believe you will find Garth's work to be engaging and insightful ... if not affectionately verbose. So, I recommend Tolkien and the Great War for those who have a love of language, history, fantasy, literature, England, and/or biography. Enjoy!

An excerpt from Tolkien and the Great War:

"No manifesto fired Tolkien's mythology; instead, a particular 'vision of life' that was bound up with physical rather than political geography. He told Waldeman, 'It should possess the tone and quality that I desired, somewhat cool and clear, be redolent of our "air" (the clime and soil of the North West, meaning Britain and the hither parts of Europe: not Italy or the Aegean, still less the East)....' If anything, by harking back to the common origins of the English and German languages and traditions, and by focusing on decline and fall, the mythology ran counter to wartime jingoism." (p. 230)

Next Month's Selection: Refractions: A Journey of Faith, Art, and Culture, by Makoto Fujimura

Copyright 2009, NAVPRESS (ISBN-13: 978-1-60006-301-5)

SWAN LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP STAFF....

....worshipped at Hutterthal on July 7. Staff members brought worship music and the children's feature. Jerry Kroeker, camp director, provided the morning message. A potluck noon meal followed the service. HMC staff this summer includes Aaron Tschetter and Jaime Tschetter.



FROM CONNIE & DENNIS BYLER, SPAIN (MMN)

In July, Connie wrote: "The Lord is on the move! At church we have started a new prayer ministry. A brother will lead it and wanted to start it up with me, though we will build teams over time. We have opened a prayer room where people can come Sunday after worship. The first Sunday we met with Amma, a young Muslim man, who gave his life to the Lord and who needed God's freedom and protection from demonic fears at night. What a way to start!

"Marta, my English student who came to the church for healing prayer, was delivered from pain after four days. After a few weeks, the pain came back with a vengeance. Marta didn't want to even talk about healing prayer, or God, she was so angry. But she allowed me to keep praying for her in our prayer meetings, and I sent her messages to which she didn't respond. So a week ago, I was delighted to get a message from her that she had gone cycling for two hours with her friends, something she hadn't been able to do for four years, and was thrilled and thankful for my interest in her life. Well, now the Lord is interested in her life, and your prayers count a lot too."

FUND-RAISER

The Scholarship Committee is currently raising funds to help families pay for tuition costs at Freeman Academy and other Mennonite based schools. On Aug. 11 you are invited to a free will donation meal in effort to raise some of these funds. We wish to make everyone feel welcome to share the meal even if you don't feel lead to give in this way. We would like your fellowship. Make your checks payable to the Hutterthal Scholarship Fund.



BOOK

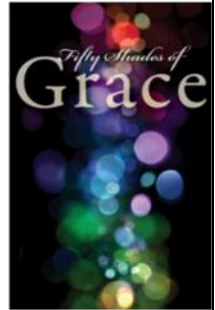
Fifty Shades of Grace, compiled by Melodie M. Davis

REVIEW

By Charlene Friesen

Is it just me? Do other people long to see God's Hand more often in their every day lives? I rejoice in each and every 'it's a God thing.' Here are fifty short stories from fifty ordinary people (some names you may recognize as not so ordinary) willing to share how an unexpected gift from God has been showered upon them. This is Grace with a capital G. It is defined as the 'unconditional love God demonstrated in Jesus' life, death and resurrection.' We surely do not deserve it, and yet it is showered on us. So too when we see it in our everyday lives. You will rejoice in each and every story and want to reread your favorites. Take it slow – don't gulp them all down in one sitting. Savor each telling of God's grace.

Now how about a book from Hutterthal's family sharing their stories of God's Grace?



COMING IN AUGUST

Filled with inspirational articles, illustrations, and verse, *Purpose* offers a practical guide for daily Christian life. Includes regular columns on food, peace, humor, and resources for faithful living. The HMC library will begin receiving this periodical in August. Check it out: <http://www.faithandliferesources.org/periodicals/purpose/>

PAY IT FORWARD NIGHT IN FREEMAN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Main Street - Freeman, S.D.

(Between 3rd & 4th Streets, near Freeman Public Library)

an event celebrating the Jackson Lee Vetch Memorial Fund

Increasing the awareness of Christian camps and helping the youth of South Dakota to attend those camps.



7:30 p.m.: Activities Begin

- FREE Popcorn - Freeman Fire Department
- Concessions
 - Brats & Hot Dogs - Jamboree Foods
 - Candy & Pop - Norm's Thrifty White
 - Ice Cream - Kairos

8:00 p.m.: Hometown Hero Award

- Modern Woodmen of America honors Freeman Fire Chief Blaine Saarie

8:30 p.m.: Movie - 'Pay It Forward'

- FREE Outdoor Movie; please bring chairs

The Jackson Lee Vetch Memorial Fund was established to make it possible for all youth regardless of economic circumstances or religious background to attend Christian camps. Our vision is to pay it forward for future generations, continuing to bless others in the manner we have been blessed. More information is available on the website.

www.jacksonleeveetchmemorialfund.org

The Pastor's Bookshelf (Bonus Book)

Secrets of Eden by Chris Bohjalian

Copyright 2010, Shaye Areheart Books (ISBN: 978-0-307-39497-2)

This summer I have been treating myself to “leisure reading” – to time in books that are meant for sheer enjoyment of the written word and a good (sometimes great) story. In this vein, I decided to take Secrets of Eden off of the bookshelf where I had placed it three years ago and crack open its cover. To be honest, I can't say that I was expecting much though Chris Bohjalian is an accomplished novelist who has sat atop the New York Times Bestseller list. Still, I was skeptical and found myself hoping that I wasn't drawn in by little more than a good dust jacket. (Haven't we all made that mistake before?) Fortunately, within minutes I was enthralled!

Set in a small town in Vermont, Secrets of Eden weaves together a story of intrigue, mystery, lost faith, murder, and broken relationship told from four distinct vantage points allowing the reader to hear details of the same interwoven narrative from the perspective of the four main characters. This narrative device allows the reader to enter the story, not as someone from the outside, but as someone with intimate knowledge of the story as it continues to unfold.

Dealing with dark themes, but never given to them, Chris Bohjalian's story refuses to settle for the macabre, the melodramatic, or the cliché. Instead, it takes the less traveled road of a simple story told with great care and narrative artistry. Yes, there is the occasional use of language and some content that is sexually suggestive; however, it is never gratuitous. Rather, within the context of the narrative, it is necessary to drive the story, which percolates with darker themes involving domestic abuse, violence, and the manipulation of power.

Is this a Christian novel? No. But, it does (very much) deal with Biblical themes: faith, redemption, hope, and discernment, approaching them from several angles including the church, the criminal justice system, and those who have been wounded by the action and/or inaction of others. In this way, it does provide opportunities for reflection and even study for those who desire a deeper engagement of literature. For that reason, I encourage those who are looking for their “next book” to consider this one. Find your copy today and enjoy!

An excerpt from Secrets of Eden:

“But I did believe that Christ had died on the cross and then risen. And with an increasingly warm feeling – not exactly ardor, but certainly absorption – I began to see the possibility of a life of service in the ministry. I envisioned a country parish in New England, a congregation not unlike the Baptist church that my grandparents had attended in Vermont. Toward the end of my third and final year, the expressed needs of the pulpit committee from a little church in Haverill, Vermont, were paired with my expressed desires. There was some concern that I was unmarried: Like many churches, they wanted their pastor to have a wife, if only because a minister's spouse actually does a good deal of the heavy lifting when it comes to running a church. But their instinct was that I would not cause them public scandal or betray their trust, and soon enough I would find a wife. The church was little more than an hour from my grandparents', and the pastor there assured the deacons and stewards in Haverill that the Drew's were good people, essentially vouching for my character though he knew me only in the most distant way: as the grandson of Foster and Amy Drew, both newly departed, and the son of Richard Drew, who had left Vermont some four and a half decades earlier.

MC USA CONVENTION REPORT #1

by Clara Koerner

Thank you to everybody who supported those of us who went to Phoenix, Arizona for convention this summer. Whether you gave your time, money, or thoughts and prayers, we appreciated it very much. For the youth, the days consisted of a time of worship in both the morning and the evening and multiple seminars to choose from throughout the course of the day. There were over 3,000 youth attending convention, which made worship an exciting event. It is amazing to worship with so many people who are all excited to sing praises to God. On the last day, everybody went on a prayer walk. During the prayer walk, we marched through the streets, singing hymns and praying for the city of Phoenix. It was an eye-opening experience to see how many people in the city were without homes. Many were poor and dirty, and people looked down on them. I ask that you keep both the poor and the wealthy people of Phoenix in your prayers.

MC USA Conference Report #2

by Jill Hofer

Monday:- Pastor Todd and I travelled together to Phoenix, AZ. We arrived there early afternoon and were greeted with 100+ temperatures. We made our way to our hotel and after a short rest, walked across the street to the conference center to register and find a place for supper. The first adult worship service was held this evening. Our speaker was Cheryl Bear from the Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Yika Dene, Bear Clan. Her comments focused on relationships and how this can transform our ideas.

Tuesday:- We started the day off with worship, listening to Bishop Minerva Carcaño. Her message was centered around Philippians 2:20-12. She stated, "Above all of our human loves, we are to be faithful to our Heavenly God, who created us all equally." After worship we headed into our first **delegate session** which included introductions, orientation to our upcoming business, how discernment works. In the afternoon we headed into **delegate session 2**. This was a time for Dr. Danny Carroll to talk to us more in depth about immigration and the biblical perspective. He listed many examples of immigration in the Old Testament, and also about the USA's involvement in immigration and treatment of immigrants in the past. **Delegate session 3** was held late afternoon and was focused on reporting from different church institutions. In the evening we were invited to different bible studies.

Wednesday:- This morning we shared worship with the over 2000 youth. We were split into two groups (according to church name) with staggered worship times. Ervin Stutzman was our speaker. He spoke on our citizenship and where our priorities lay. It was a great experience to worship with our youth and their sponsors. After worship we were invited to attend seminars of our own interest. I chose to attend a seminar titled "Stumbling over the cross: Teaching and Preaching about the cross and resurrection today" led by Joni Sancken. In the afternoon I attended a talk by Cheryl Bear and her husband titled "Doctrine of Discovery and its Impact – through story and music." She addressed some of the misconceptions that non-indigenous people have of indigenous people and their cultures. I also attended the "Return to the earth: Why connection to the land is important" seminar. That evening, Pastor Todd, Michelle H,

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and I spent some time at the Art museum – a nice break with friends.

Thursday:- I started this morning by attending the seminar titled, “Bible memory for life” – this could be life-changing. Our speaker encouraged us to use our spare “quiet time” to commit God’s word to memory as a way to enrich our spiritual walk. At 10:15 I attended the “Shalom Activist: Pursuing the inner and outer journey” seminar by Noel Moules. He talked of Shalom being an active verb, “Shalom requires inner formation but always demands practical action.” After lunch, we attended **delegate session 4** which was focused on Christian community and Holistic Christian Witness. We spent time in discernment around the following questions: What new possibilities for a missional peace church, presence of service, witness and worship might God be calling us to? What could you do in your context to pursue these possibilities? **Delegate session 5** followed and was focused on budget and stewardship. We discussed how our budgets effect how our churches operate. We also heard reports of Leadership development. We ended the evening with worship. Our speaker was Meghan Good who focused our thoughts on the walls we use to contain God, ourselves, and our churches. We also spent time in confession and participated in hand washing.

Friday:- This was the most intense day of delegate sessions. We started with **delegate session 6**. This focused on “Discerning Mennonite Church USA response to three resolutions: Creation Care (which passed), Protecting and Nurturing our Children and Youth (which passed), 2003 statement on immigration. We spent time discerning how MCUSA should update (or not) their present statement on immigration. This was not a formal resolution but many comments were heard and time was spent at table discernment. **Delegate session 7** was held in the afternoon and focused on Undoing Racism and advancing intercultural transformation. We also spent time updating the bylaws and took the opportunity to add MHS Alliance as a churchwide agency. **Delegate session 8** was held immediately following and heard reporting on Church-to-church relationships. The transfer of responsibility was held at the end of the delegate session, installing Elizabeth Soto Albrecht as the new moderator. The conference closed that evening with worship, speaker Elizabeth Soto Albrecht.

I would like to thank the church for sending me to Phoenix 2013. I have learned much, not only about how the greater church operates, but about who makes up our church, and about myself. I love being part of this church and part of MC USA.

MC USA CONVENTION REPORT #3

by Michelle Hofer

Attending MC USA Convention in Phoenix this past July was a transformative, encouraging, and inspiring experience. This was my first experience participating in our denomination’s national gathering which was centered on the theme: **Citizens of God’s Kingdom – Healed In Hope**. The opening pages of our Program Booklet (our guidebook with information concerning all that was happening for the week) contained a purpose statement for the convention and I’d like to use the 6 key objectives listed there to organize my report.

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1. ***To gather representatives of the whole church for worship, fellowship, learning, discernment, and decision making*** One of my first responses upon entering the convention center and making my way to adult worship on Monday evening was: “Wow, there are a lot of people here, this is a bit overwhelming!” Not having made arrangements with anyone else from Hutterthal or Freeman to sit together, I found myself quite lost until I bumped into former CPMC moderator, Blaine Friesen, and his wife who looked equally lost, and so we agreed to sit together for worship. Much of the week felt similar in regards to meeting up with others - so many people in such vast spaces proved challenging. However, it was wonderful how God placed so many familiar and friendly faces in my path throughout the week, and I was able to catch up with individuals from across the country whom I haven’t seen for a while. I had opportunity to experience both adult and youth worship and speakers. These services proved meaningful, uplifting, humbling, challenging and unifying.

2. ***To build Mennonite Church USA vision, identity and capacity to be a missional church*** The worship services were centered around the convention theme, and sought to bring a collective unifying message of our work in the world both near and far, past, present and future. Speaker Cheryl Bear (who is First Nations Canada) shared from her people’s perspective their view of Creator, creation, community and culture and reminded us that although it is easier to love someone when they are like us, Jesus is waiting to receive our gesture of welcome (which is personal and unique to each of us) and He comes speaking our own language (unique to the culture where we belong).

3. ***To share the Biblical story through an Anabaptist lens*** One of my favorite experiences was the Bible Study I attended along with maybe 20 other people on Tuesday evening. Study leader Andrew Bodden, a native Honduran who currently works with MCC in Florida among immigrants, spoke of the pain that happens when we build walls and create divisions to keep the stranger out and that it is only through the power of the gospel of Christ that strangers can be welcomed in and made citizens of the Kingdom. Andrew exuded a depth of faith in the power of God that is rarely common among those of us who were born and raised in the North American church. He shared a number of miracles that he and his family have experienced since the beginning of their relationship with MCC. Those of us attending Andrew’s study literally wept with joy over his profound sharing and many of us hugged and thanked him before leaving.

4. ***To provide resources to help all participants carry out God’s mission*** I had the wonderful opportunity to lead a workshop while at convention. *For the Beauty of the Lord: Transforming the Worship Space* allowed participants to gain practical advice on adding visuals to worship and included many examples from the work that has been done at Hutterthal. The workshop had a great turnout and there were both excellent questions during the session and a positive response at its conclusion. I attended several workshops myself on topics ranging from *Will our Children Have Faith?* to *How to Do a Year of the Bible: Engaging God’s Word Intentionally in Home and Congregation*.

5. ***To serve as a witness to the host community*** Although I did not participate in any of them, several prayer walks and other events allowed participants to “hit the streets” of Phoenix.

6. ***To create an opportunity for all parts of Mennonite Church USA to gather regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status*** I greatly appreciated the minority voices that were present at

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convention. My faith is widened and enriched when someone not of my middle-class white American background shares their story and faith perspective. This included the following speakers:

Cheryl Bear – First Nations Canada

Isabel Castillo – undocumented immigrant and graduate of EMU who came to the US with family from Central America when she was 6

Nelson Okanya – African and AMBS graduate

Andrew Bodden – native Honduran and MCC worker

Erica Littlewolf – Native Cheyenne and MCC worker



IN MEMORY OF MIRIAM HAMM

Miriam Hamm was the sixth child of Joseph P. and Theresa (Kleinsasser) Glanzer. After suffering a stroke, she died peacefully the next day, July 13th, 2013 at the age of 83.

She was baptized when she was young and became a member of the Hutterthal Mennonite Church.

She graduated from Freeman Academy and also from Freeman Junior College with a teaching degree. She taught school for a number of years and then was in Voluntary Service with MCC working at the mental hospital in Topeka, Kansas where she met Donald Hamm who also worked there as a volunteer.

They were married June 3, 1954 and to this union three sons and one daughter were born. They farmed in Gage, County Nebraska and later bought land near Bridgewater, South Dakota where they farmed until 1985. She worked at the Diamond Care Center in Bridgewater for a number of years.

After selling the farm in 1990, they retired in Bridgewater and later moved to the Salem Mennonite Home in Freeman. Oakview Terrace nursing Home became their home in the summer of 2009.

Miriam is survived by her children, daughter-in-law Laurie Hamm of Huron, SD, and her family Michelle Hamm, Brenton Hamm, Jordan and Kari Hamm; son Joseph and Janis Hamm of St. James, MN and their family Rachel and Josh Siebert, Nathan and Mindy Ruhlig, Andrew Lentz, Abigail Hamm, and James Hamm; daughter Joyce and Rick Palmateer of Topeka, KS and their family Heather and Owen Kindall, Nichole and Travis Roberts, Amber and Drew Hanson, and Nichelle Palmateer; son Sidney and Donna Hamm of Grabill, IN, and their family Andrew and Jill Hamm, Matthew Hamm, and Allison Hamm and also nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings and sisters-in-law Eva Glanzer, Mary Ruth Hofman, Moses Glanzer, Aaron and Marcella Glanzer, Shirley Glanzer, Lorraine and Marlow Deckert, and Clara and Cordell Graber. She was preceded in death by her husband Donald, one son Alan, her parents, her brothers Paul, Clarence, and Raymond, sister Alma, her sisters-in-law Lola and Isabel. Glanzer and brothers-in-law Joe T. Hoffman and Joe E. Hofer.

KIDS CORNER

By
Phyllis
Hofer

Word Search

Mark 4:26-30

"He also said, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like.

A man **SCATTERS SEED** on the ground. **NIGHT** and **DAY**, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed **SPROUTS** and **GROWS**, though he does not know how. All by itself the **SOIL** produces grain—first the **STALK**, then the head, then the full **KERNEL** in the head. As soon as the **GRAIN** is **RIPE**, he puts the **SICKLE** to it, because the **HARVEST** has come."

Find the words in bold in the puzzle below!

P	B	G	R	A	I	N	T	Y	H	X	F	W	F	G
Z	V	I	T	N	I	G	H	T	H	M	T	S	Y	J
J	S	C	A	T	T	E	R	S	E	S	I	I	R	V
W	K	L	Y	E	D	F	J	T	E	B	H	C	Y	L
M	R	Y	U	I	P	E	J	V	Q	H	E	K	K	I
E	S	I	I	J	Y	R	R	E	L	D	I	L	H	O
K	G	L	P	R	O	A	L	R	N	A	L	E	S	S
X	R	E	J	E	H	P	P	T	G	Y	N	Y	F	W
U	Q	G	O	O	J	P	J	S	T	G	X	D	G	C
Q	W	U	P	L	O	I	E	U	P	F	V	V	H	M
O	S	O	J	U	R	P	W	K	S	R	H	R	K	K
S	P	N	W	S	E	E	D	G	I	S	O	L	L	S
Y	A	O	U	X	W	I	K	H	O	W	D	U	A	C
H	U	P	K	E	R	N	E	L	X	F	F	J	T	X
J	N	E	J	F	B	M	Z	C	K	J	N	I	S	S

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

5) Sarah Waltner
5) Ilene Schartner
7) Monica Hofer
10) Genevieve Kramer
10) Jarrod Kramer
11) Brandy Friesen
13) Aubree Tschetter
12) Norman Hofer
19) Derrold Hofer
21) Chris Hofer
22) Marj Hofer
23) Shirley Glanzer
24) Aprille Hofer



25 Alyssa Hofer
25) Luke Rensink
25) Tanner Hofer
30) Lorraine Hofer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

6) Don & Marj Hofer
8) Derrick & Jessica Preheim
10) John & Deloris Stahl
12) Raymond & Joyce Hofer
14) Eric & Michelle Neuharth
18) Norman & Darlene Hofer
19) Brandon & Jaime Barta
26) Donovan & Sherryl Friesen

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL & VBS OFFERING

Summer Quarter: Swan Lake Christian Camp

MENNONITE WOMEN

June Project: \$145 cash 25 Infant Care Kits (cash or kits)

July Project: \$140 Cash for *The Banquet* or *Union Gospel Mission* (as of July 21)

August Project: School Kits; place the following in the provided drawstring bags:

4 spiral notebooks (8 1/2 X 11", 70-80 pages)

4 unsharpened #2 pencils

1 ruler, preferably flexible plastic (12 inch & 30 centimeter)

1 box of 12 colored pencils

1 double bevel pencil eraser (large rectangular; no ink/pencil combo.



Attendance and Offering Report

June 30
July 7
July 14
July 21

Attendance

108
119
95
102

Offerings

\$2,471.43
\$2,404.50
\$2,947.00
\$2,031.00

DID YOU KNOW?

By Phyllis Hofer

*What you put into your children's hearts today
influences their character for tomorrow.*



By Twyla Hofer

Jackie Skibine spent several days visiting in the parental **John & Deloris Stahl** home. John David Stahl and his son Andrew came later and also spent several days. They came to encourage Delores after several trips to the hospital and

to see their father.

On Sat. evening, July 6, the Tim and Chauni Glanzer family hosted a joint birthday party for sisters **Kathryn Kleinsasser** (85th birthday) and Mary Glanzer (upcoming 80th birthday). On Sat. afternoon Kathryn was pleasantly surprised when her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren from Hot Springs and St. Paul, NE arrived to join the celebration. The evening concluded with a terrific fireworks display.

Shirley Glanzer fell at her residence at Oakview Terrace and injured her leg.

On July 7 **Charlene Friesen** shared the joy of a safe return of son **Lance** and Lacy from their one year of teaching in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Les Rensink announced that Rachel(Rensink) and Joe Simington welcomed baby Silas Joseph on July 1. His siblings, Levi, Lucy and Annabelle, complete the family. **Les & Mary Rensink** are local grandparents.

Jerome Kleinsasser had double hernia surgery at the beginning of July in Sioux Falls. In mid July he was admitted to the Freeman hospital with a case of the shingles.

Sarah Hofer, a resident at Oakview Terrace, fell and broke her wrist.

Two couples celebrated over 50 years of marriage in July:

July 8 **Vernon & Twyla Hofer** 51 years

July 16 **Derrold & Marilyn Hofer** 52 years

Signing the Guestbook:

July 14: Rick & Joyce Palmateer, Topeka, KS;
Jessica & Matison Mills, Boelus, NE

Hutterthal Women's 3rd Quarter report

May 1, 2013 to July 31, 2013

By Ardella Gross

Balance on Hand	April 30, 2013	\$935.51
Receipts:		
Prayer shawl ministry		\$100.00
May project MEDA		\$945.00
June project		\$145.00
July project	as of 7-21-2013	\$140.00
Banquet \$90.	Gospel Mission \$50.	
For serving at Miriam Hamm funeral		\$200.00
	Total Receipts	\$1,530.00
	Balance plus Receipts	\$2,465.51
Disbursements:		
Prayer shawl expenses		\$100.00
May project to MEDA		\$945.00
June project Infant care kits to MCC		\$145.00
Memorial for Miriam Hamm		\$10.00
	Total Disbursements	\$1,200.00
	Balance on hand	July 30, 2013 \$1,265.51

SERVICE FEATURE

By Amy Hofer Vetch

When I was in 4th grade the most prominent memory I have was going to Brazil to visit my oldest sister and her husband, Cindy and David Graber, while they were on their MCC assignment. Those memories were so powerful for me. I remember thinking that I wanted to “go on assignment someday.”

My final year of college I started having conversations with Edie Tschetter, the MCC representative in Freeman, about opportunities of service. After many conversations, we narrowed down a couple of assignments; one in Nicaragua and the other in Winnipeg, Manitoba. As much as I wanted to be in a Spanish speaking country God had other plans for me. I accepted the assignment in Winnipeg, Manitoba in the winter of 1992-1993 and stayed for 2 ½ years.

I served at Rossbrook House, an inner-city community center. Rossbrook House opened its doors in 1976 under the direction of founder Sister Geraldine MacNamara and is operated by the Sisters of Sion and local community members. The center’s motto is “No child who does not want to be alone should ever have to be.” One of the guiding principles is that the center provides an alternative to the destructive life on the streets. The center draws its staff from the inner-city community and is open 365 days of the year and 24 hours a day on the weekends and any time school is not in session. The community is made up of many different cultures but primarily First Nations people.

There were a variety of programs the center had in place, many of which provided cultural teachings as well as opportunities to improve leadership skills and service. I plugged in to a number of programs. I assisted with the “Energy Plus” (6-11 yr olds) leading activities or just playing with them. Activities included playing pool, going swimming, playing games, taking them to movies or other activities that occurred in Winnipeg. I also worked with the Junior Staff as they developed their leadership skills with the younger attenders. The Young Moms program was my main assignment. This program was started to give young moms support, encouragement, and a night out while the staff provided child care. Speakers were invited and many times the girls were able to attend native ceremonies to assist them with dealing with women’s issues. I also became a lifeguard because Rossbrook House operated summer camps located on rivers and lakes.



This experience was life transforming for me. It opened my eyes to prejudices I didn’t know I had; gave me an appreciation for laughter and acceptance of whatever is; and brought into sharp focus that God is working in all situations. Weekly I met with one of the Sisters of Sion who challenged my perceptions, perspectives and prejudices. Those were some of the most grueling meetings where I learned things about myself that I didn’t like very much but helped explain my reactions to situations. She encouraged me to dig deep into my faith and really question those three “p’s”. I grew to understand what it means to love and accept someone even if I disagree with the behavior—that can be very difficult to separate! I greatly appreciated the patience, time, and instruction she took with me. I learned about native ceremonies, was taught beadwork from an elder, and participated in pow-wows. But, the greatest transformation came when I was at my lowest. I had worked very hard on getting a 6 year old girl involved in a swimming program because she was an amazing swimmer. She came from one of the worst home situations in the community. The staff encouraged me to get her as involved as possible so she would not have to spend so much time at her house. It was a difficult situation. She had little trust of adults, was a tough girl who started a lot of fights, and then would not show up for her lessons. I had given up and started questioning why I was even there. I was at the center watching a TV show, not talking to anyone, when “Lacey” comes in and plops right down beside me. I didn’t even say hi to her. I tried ignoring her so she would go and play pool or something, but she didn’t budge. When I finally looked at her she was smiling at me with her beautiful brown eyes and I heard Jesus say, “you are here for me and for this little girl. All she wants is love.”

Calendar for AUGUST

By Pastor Todd



- August 1: Freeman Ministerial, 10am @ Parsonage
Pre-Marital Counseling, 6:00pm @ Parsonage
- August 2: Men's Group, 8:45am @ Parsonage
- August 4: Worship, 9:45am @ HMC
Sunday School annual mtg. following worship
Sunday School (All Ages), 11:00am @ HMC
- August 5-11: Pastor Todd on Vacation
- August 11: YOUTH SUNDAY
Worship, 9:45am @ HMC
Sunday School (All Ages), 11:00am @ HMC
Scholarship Committee Fundraiser Lunch, 12pm @ HMC
"Pay It Forward" Movie Event, 8:30pm @ Downtown Freeman
- August 12: Prayer Shawl, 7:00pm @ HMC
- August 13: Constitution and By-Laws Sub-Committee Meeting, 7:00pm @ Edie's
Worship Committee, 8:15pm @ HMC
- August 15: Drama Workshop, 7:00pm @ HMC
- August 16: Men's Group, 8:45am @ HMC
- August 18: Worship feat. Backpack Blessing, 9:45am @ HMC
Sunday School (All Ages), 11:00am @ HMC
- August 20: Pastor-Peer, 9:15am @ Mercy Church (Sioux Falls)
- August 21: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (Freeman Public)
- August 22: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (Freeman Academy)
- August 23: Men's Group, 8:45am @ Parsonage
- August 25: Worship feat. Sunday School Staff Dedication, 9:45am @ HMC
Sunday School (All Ages), 11:00am @ HMC
Freeman Network for Justice & Peace, 4:00pm @ South Church
- August 27: Mission & Outreach Meeting, 8:00pm @ HMC
- August 28: August *Connection!* Deadline, 12:00pm
Pastoral Mentoring, 9:00am @ Living Fountain
- August 30: Men's Group, 8:45pm @ Parsonage

Connection! Editor: Edie Tschetter

Advisory Board: Amanda Mettler, chp., Boni Hofer and Kim Jones

Proof Reader: Ardella Gross