



**New York
Mennonite
Conference**

An area conference of
Mennonite Church USA

LIFE

In New York Mennonite Conference

Becoming Like Jesus Discernment Continues

Becoming Missional. Becoming Like Jesus. That's the eternal call on all Christians. That's the passionate call Coordinating Council members, and facilitators LeRoy Mast and Theresa McMorris, hear for New York Mennonite Conference. The Covenant

Coordinating Council recommends that we hire Theresa McMorris along with LeRoy to facilitate the Covenant Partners process. Theresa, a marriage and family therapist in the Syracuse area and mother of two children, has worked several years among our conference congregations. Her passion is for equipping churches to become like Jesus, helping them be safe and healing places for the people God brings. Coordinating Council members are drawn by her spirit of humility and dependence on God: she told them that she is "not qualified to facilitate this Covenant Partners group; the Spirit of God has to be leading this, otherwise it will not be successful."



Theresa McMorris and LeRoy Mast

Partners proposal is designed to strengthen the conference in fulfilling this call.

A core group of NYMC leaders feels called to be among the initial Covenant Partners. We want everyone who feels called to be part of the process—through regular prayer, through prayer and support for a specific Covenant Partner, or through direct participation as a Covenant Partner, either initially or in the regional Covenant Partner groups in future years.

Only participate if you can't not participate. God is calling all of us to become more like Jesus, all of us to emotionally healthy spirituality, all of us to become missional. However, God calls us in different ways. The demands of this process are only for those God calls to it.

As reported in LIFE, May 2008, we heard a strong affirmation from Delegates for the direction of the multi-year proposal, along with insightful questions. On **August 2**, we will hold an **Information Day** to allow time for continued mutual discernment before Delegates make the final decision at Celebration on Sept. 6.

Join us if you're exploring your call to be involved, want input, or are just curious. Location will be announced in July '08 LIFE (probably in Auburn, NY). Join us for just the morning, for lunch, or all day.

Schedule: 9 a.m.-noon: information and questions, meet Theresa McMorris; Noon meal; 1-3 p.m.: meet with others who are exploring their call to involvement, or stay to pray.

Bethsaida Support Opportunity

Milton Zebr

We have a rare opportunity. Many of us will receive money from the U.S. Government this year to "jump start" our economy. How will we steward this windfall?

New York Mennonite Conference is committed through its churches to support Ephraim and Tadelech in their missionary efforts in Rochester while we pursue permanent status for their residing here.

Your gift of \$300, \$600 or \$1200—even a tithe of your rebate—would go a long way to overcome our annual challenge to raise our above-budget commitment to these worthy people and their work. In fact, there is a \$10,000 match fund in place at this time that is far from met.

Another bonus to consider is that though the money from the government will not be taxed, a charitable gift can be deducted from your taxable income. With all these benefits, wouldn't it be wonderful to join together to meet this obligation of about \$20,000/year that lies before us over the next two or so years till permanent status is attained! May we seize this opportunity to give a "jump start" to God's kingdom work among our Ethiopian friends in Rochester, NY. Your gifts may be sent directly or through your congregational treasurer to John Buckwalter, 5744 East Valley Road, Alfred Station, NY 14803, earmarked "Bethsaida Support Fund."

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News from Conference Congregations

Editor: Kirk House

Lowville: College BioDiesel project

Nate Herr of Lowville is one of four Goshen College students who put together a proposal for an on-campus internal recycling project. This system turns waste vegetable oil from the cafeteria fryers into BioDiesel to run the backup generator. The first test batch turned out 25 gallons, and the plant can process 60 gallons at a time.

“Our motivation... was for the experience,” Nate reports. “None of us were paid or received academic credit of any kind. However, we all know the process inside and out as well as how we could build similar processing plants in the future for our personal benefit.”

Nate has just graduated from Goshen.

Corning: Students on EMU Dean's List

Two students from the New York Mennonite Conference were named to the spring semester 2008 dean's list at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.:

Daniel N. Miller, a junior liberal arts major, and Rachel M. Miller, a senior liberal arts major with an elementary education licensure, pre-k-6, are children of Harold and Karen Miller of Corning, N.Y., and members of the Community Mennonite Fellowship of Corning congregation.

To qualify for the dean's list a student must achieve a semester grade point average of at least 3.750 or above and complete at least 12 semester hours of credit.

RAMF's Fellowship Day. Below: Mark Shelly holds a completed comforter; Right: John Lapp ties comforter; Far Right: working together



New Bremen: Chorale in Europe

Jackie Shaw of Croghan is one of 29 students from the Hesston College European Chorale now touring Europe. She is completing her sophomore year at the two-year school.

The tour includes Paris, the Black Forest, Switzerland, Milan, Germany again, and the Netherlands.

Culture, history, and Anabaptist heritage are an important part of the tour, which includes singing at a wedding Saturday, May 31 at the Mennonite Church of Haarlem (the Netherlands).

The group will also participate in the chorale singing two selections in Milan, Italy, with the Milan Bach Choir.

Their body of work as a choir engages a wide variety of time periods, while in part focusing on American music, which Europeans enjoy hearing.

RAMF: Fellowship Day

Food, fellowship, and fun brought NYMC members together on April 19th for RAMF's first Fellowship Day.

A hymn sing before lunch joined us in song. In the afternoon, creating cosy comforters out of yards of fleece joined young and old in service. Games and visiting provided other ways to connect with our conference family.



Celebrating 175 years

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association recently hosted a three-day Comforter Blitz to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the first Mennonites settling in Lewis County. The comforters will be distributed both locally and to MCC.



Alice Lehman, 96, the oldest lady who attended, from First Mennonite of New Bremen, works on a quilt with Shirley Widrick, of Lowville Mennonite.



The work of many hands—piles of finished comforters. 85 quilts were tied—10 more than the goal.



Save the Dates:

Information Day (see p.1) ☞ Aug. 2, 2008

Ministers' Retreat ☞ Aug. 11-13, 2008

Mission Speakers ☞ Aug. 17, 2008

Celebration '08 ☞ September 5-7, 2008