

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. —John 1:9

The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

January 11, 2012

Growing in holistic witness to God's reconciling mission in the world through fellowship, discipleship and leadership.

Please forward this newsletter to (or print it for) these congregational leaders:

Pastors, Elders or Deacons, Central Plains Delegates, Church Moderator, Treasurer, Christian Education Chair, Youth Sponsors, Worship Committee.

For Your Prayers (weekly bulletin announcements)

Here are weekly prayer requests for each week between now and the next issue of *The Sower*. Please share them with your congregation by whichever method works best, whether it be in your bulletin, in the pastoral prayer or some other way. We welcome your suggestions on how to share these prayer requests. *Thank you!*

For Sunday, January 15

Today Pastor Shane Van Meveren of Bethany Mennonite Church in Freeman, South Dakota, is being ordained. Last Sunday, Pastor Nathan Ramer of Wellman (IA) Mennonite Church, was licensed towards ordination. Pray that these pastors and their congregations will embody the love of Christ in their communities.

For Sunday, January 22

A group of seven people from Central Plains will spend January 26 to February 7 on a Fellowship and Learning Tour with our partner churches in Ecuador. Pray for safety in travel and growth in fellowship between the group and their hosts.

For Sunday, January 29

This month, Dave Boshart and Tim Detweiler have visited with seminary students at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Pray for these seminary students as they discern God's leading for ministry.

For Sunday, February 5

The conference board meets on Saturday, February 11, at East Union Mennonite Church near Kalona, Iowa. Agenda items include conversation with staff, how the work of the committees is aligned with our mission, budget revisions, and reporting on fundraising.

Good News

William and Luz Marina Valencia have their visas and tickets and will be traveling to Ecuador on January 14 to begin their assignment as pastors at the church in Riobamba.

Finances

We experienced an incredibly positive month in December! Monthly income was highest yet for the fiscal year, totaling \$64,811.29. Expenses were at normal levels for the month totaling \$35,314.26. This provided a net gain of \$29,497.03. With this support, we have dramatically reduced our overall fiscal year deficit to just \$1,943.81. We are very blessed. Thank you! —

Stewardship Task Group

Staff News

Tim will be in Henderson, Nebraska, January 10 and 11. Dave attends Church Planting Strategy Team in Cedar Falls on the 12th. On Friday the 13th, Dave, Shana and Monica will meet with the Annual Meeting Task Group in Henderson. Dave and Shana will be in Freeman, South Dakota, January 15. The week of January 16, Tim attends Pastor's Week at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, Virginia. On January 22, Shana leads a sponsor workshop for Mennonite Church Alberta. The week of January 23, Dave and Tim attend Pastor's Week at AMBS in Elkhart, Indiana. February 3-5, Shana attends the Mennonite Church USA Resource Advocates meeting near Washington, DC.

2012 Congregational Leaders Workshop

Registration brochures have been mailed to churches for a training event for pastors, elders and deacons, "**The Paradox of Power: Biblical Foundations of Authority**," with **J. Nelson Kraybill**, president emeritus of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. This one-day workshop will take place on **Saturday, February 25, 2012**, at Manson Mennonite Church, Manson, Iowa. Find the registration brochure at <http://tiny.cc/u3rde>. The cost is \$25 per person.

Input will consist of two parts: 1) a study of power and authority in the Bible and 2) practical training for leadership teams that applies the biblical principles. This topic is relevant for church leaders at all levels, so any interested church leader may attend. There will be exercises for elder/deacon groups to work on as a team. Those attending as individuals will meet in ad hoc groups for these exercises. **February 9** is the registration deadline.

Ecuador Fellowship and Learning Tour

A group of seven people from Central Plains Mennonite Conference will participate in a Fellowship and Learning Tour to Ecuador from January 26 to February 7. Participants will be Don and Shirley Kempf, Joe Jr. and Lynn Walks Along, Roger Farmer, Ken Egli and Alyssa Rodriguez. William and Luz Marina Valencia from Colombia will also join the group in Ecuador before beginning their time as pastors of the Mennonite congregation in Riobamba.

Activities will include participating in the peace workshops, visiting with Colombian refugees, and visiting an indigenous congregation. Highlights of the tour will be worship and fellowship with the Mennonite congregations in Quito and Riobamba.

Youth Escape 2012: August 3-5

Youth sponsors and youth groups, put Youth Escape 2012 August 3-5 on your group's calendar! You are in for a great weekend of worship, fellowship and fun. We'll focus on making time and space in our lives to rest and pray in God's presence. Marlene Frankenfield and Merv Stoltzfus will speak on this topic and lead us in prayer practices and group discussions. There will also be time to make friends with other kids from all over Central Plains and take advantage of many fun activities in the camp setting. If Youth Escape is new to you, ask sponsors and youth who've been there. They give it high marks!

From the WDC Library

New Video Catalog for 2012. Fifty new DVDs were added to the Resource Library Collection in recent months. See the brand new and updated 2012 Video Catalog at <http://mennowdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/2012-Video-Catalog.pdf>.

New Library software on the way! We will be closed on Wednesday, January 25, to train on the new software. When you wake up on January 26, log in to our brand new on-line catalog and see what's new. We hope to capitalize on the new features quickly so that you can easily log in to your library record, reserve books, write reviews, generate lists and much more. The future looks bright!
—*Marlene Bogard, director* / 316-283-6300

AMBS Webinar

Lent Planning: Where Do I Sign? presented by Marlene Kropf and Rosanna McFadden, Thursday, February 2, 6:30 p.m. CST. [Get details and register by January 28.](#)

Upcoming Events

Church Planting Strategy Team meets Thursday, January 12, at Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Annual Meeting Task Group meets Friday, January 13, at Henderson, Nebraska.

Fellowship and Learning Tour to Ecuador, January 26 to February 7

Fellowship and Service Tour to Ecuador, February 23 to March 5

The Paradox of Power: Biblical Foundations of Authority, Saturday, February 25 at Manson Mennonite Church, Manson, Iowa

Conference Board and Committees meet Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 at Omaha, Nebraska

Central Plains Annual Meeting, Thursday through Sunday, June 28 – July 1, 2012, at Bethesda Mennonite Church, Henderson, Nebraska

Youth Escape 2012, Friday through Sunday, August 3-5, 2012, at Hidden Acres Christian Center, Dayton, Iowa

The Sower is published the second Wednesday of each month for Central Plains pastors, delegates, conference leaders and other interested persons. Please include items from this newsletter in your church bulletins and newsletters. Find back issues at www.centralplainsmc.org. Click on Publications.



Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart. To subscribe or unsubscribe, email office@centralplainsmc.org.

Office: P.O. Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029

Monica Clem, Office Manager: 605-925-4463 office@centralplainsmc.org

Conference Ministers: P.O. Box 352, Kalona, IA 52247

David Boshart: davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org; 319-936-5904

Tim Detweiler: timdetweiler@centralplainsmc.org; 319-458-0224

Shana Boshart: shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org; 319-936-5905

Moderator Blaine Friesen: moderator@centralplainsmc.org 402- 723-4726

Assistant Moderator Nathan Luitjens: assistantmoderator@centralplainsmc.org 319- 256-6061

The mission of Central Plains Mennonite Conference is to create settings for our congregations and partners to grow in holistic witness to God's reconciling mission in the world by developing leadership, encouraging fellowship and promoting lifelong discipleship.