

*May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. —Psalm 126:5-6*

# The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

March 13, 2013

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, Church Librarian, Missions 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. *Thank you!*

**For Sunday, March 17**

Pray for safe travel for the Central Plains Ecuador Partners as they leave Ecuador tomorrow to fly to Bogota, Columbia, to make decisions about future directions for the ministries in Ecuador.

**For Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday**

Pray for White River Cheyenne Mennonite Church, Lame Deer Mennonite Church and Ashland Christian Fellowship as they prepare to host Central Plains Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting June 20-23.

**For Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday**

Pray that God will prepare the hearts and minds of participants of Central Plains Annual Meeting so that God's will may be done as we gather for worship, fellowship and business in Ashland, Montana June 20-23.

**For Sunday, April 7**

Pray for the Central Plains Conference Board as they meet in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, on April 13 to finalize their response to the fall regional meetings and make final preparations for delegate business at Annual Meeting.

**Finance Update**

We experienced a slowdown in February as income for the month came in at the second lowest for the fiscal year at \$22,618.16. Expenses also came in a bit higher than their normal pace at \$41,267.18. As a result of this deficit for the month, the surplus the conference had carried over coming into the month (\$18,348.21) is now erased. With just two months remaining until the end of the conference's fiscal year on April 30, we are at an overall slight deficit of \$300.81. Thank you for your continued support. —*Stewardship Task Group*

**Staff News**

March 14-18 Shana will be in Ecuador

March 14-April 3 Dave will be in Ecuador and Colombia for Partnership meetings  
March 24 Tim will attend Bethel Mennonite Church, Wayland, Iowa to install an interim pastor.  
April 4-6 Dave attend MC USA Executive Board meetings in Kansas City and Shana will go along.

## Pastors, chaplains and spouses: We want to see you in Schuyler!

Pastors, chaplains and their spouses are invited to the Annual Leaders Retreat April 14-16 at St. Benedict Center near Schuyler, Nebraska. Hosted by the Pastoral Leadership Committee, the retreat includes a balance of input and rest with the goal of renewing the spirit through encouragement, worship and fellowship. This year's theme is "Conversations Across Generations: Learning together and supporting each other."

Our conference features a mix of pastors across generations. This retreat gives us an opportunity to be in conversation together so we can learn from and support each other. Our input will come from pastors, chaplains and spouses within Central Plains sharing from their experience, plus small intergenerational sharing circles. See a description of each input session and a PDF of the registration brochure on the Annual Leaders Retreat page of our web site.

## Before Annual Meeting: Hear the story of a Cheyenne grandmother

In the DVD *Forgive and Remember*, Ted Risingsun, a long-time Mennonite leader among the Northern Cheyenne in Montana, tells of the experience of his grandmother and other Cheyenne who were attacked by the U.S. Cavalry as the Cheyenne attempted to go back home to Montana after their forced removal to Oklahoma Territory. Fort Robinson, Nebraska, was the site of the battle in which Risingsun's grandmother was wounded. More than the story of the persecution of the Cheyenne, this is a story of forgiveness and reconciliation. Borrow the DVD from the Formation Resource Library by contacting Shana Peachey Boshart at 319-936-5905 or [shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org). OR, to support the Cheyenne language project, buy the DVD (\$12 plus shipping) by contacting Willis Busenitz at 406-592-3643 or [wmbusenitz@gmail.com](mailto:wmbusenitz@gmail.com).

## No charter bus to Annual Meeting

Some of you may have heard that we were looking into chartering a bus to take people to Annual Meeting. After receiving cost estimates and considering the logistics, we decided this is not a feasible idea. We do encourage you to carpool or rent a van from your local community to go to Annual Meeting. Enjoy the time of fellowship and reduce your carbon footprint by riding together.

## New Ministries grants still available

As a conference we believe it is important to support the discovery and development of new avenues for ministry to advance our commonly held mission and priorities. The New Ministries Fund still has funds available this year for disbursement. The Conference Board welcomes proposals to fund carefully conceived new initiatives that promote the conference mission and priorities of holistic witness, leadership, fellowship, and discipleship. To apply for a grant, instructions and applications are available at the Conference Website at <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/new-ministries-fund.html>. Grant applications are due to the Conference office by April 10.

## From the WDC Library

The Western District Conference Resource Library in Newton, Kansas, provides resources to Central Plains congregations and members in a variety of formats: books, curriculum, DVD and video, periodicals and sheet music. Central Plains pays WDC to allow our congregations access to their HUGE library of wonderful resources. Visit their online catalog to see whether that book you've been wanting to read is available! It works just like checking books out of your local public library, only they will mail you the resources and you will mail them back. To get your library card, call 316-283-6300 or email [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org).

## News from the Ecuador Partnership

A lot has been happening between our conference and our partners in Ecuador and Colombia. We've been updating our [Ecuador Partnership pages](#) with reports from those who have recently returned. Next week, the formal Partnership meetings will take place in Colombia. Please pray for these meetings and for safe travel for all participants. The people attending the meetings from Central Plains are Don Kempf, Gebremichael Heramo, Fernando Ramos, Holly Blosser Yoder and husband John, and David Boshart. Shana Peachey Boshart will travel with the group to Quito, Ecuador, and return home when the group goes on to Colombia for Partnership meetings.

## Call to prayer for Quito Mennonite Church

The Ecuador Partnership is calling on the churches of Central Plains to a season of prayer. The Quito Mennonite Church is now renting space for worship and ministries, and they would like to invest in a facility they would own. Please pray for God to lead people from Central Plains as well as Ecuador and Colombia to give in special ways to help meet the facility needs of the Quito church. To see five specific prayer requests, see the [Ecuador Partnership page](#) at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

## Service trip to Ecuador for youth ages 14-20

Our own partner churches in Ecuador will be a Youth Venture destination next summer! Youth Venture is a short-term service program for youth ages 14-20 with Mennonite Mission Network. Participants will be learning from and serving with our brothers and sisters in Quito. This opportunity is open to the whole of Mennonite Church USA but will be of special interest to Central Plains youth. For info, go to <http://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/YV> and click on "Ecuador" in the upper right. The trip begins July 10; the **registration deadline is April 1**.

## AMBS Webinar

**Discerning the Powers.** May 1 from 2–3:30 p.m. EST. Presenter: Jamie Pitts, Ph.D.

We will discuss the theology of the principalities and powers in light of its biblical roots and contemporary theological treatment in the work of Berkhof, Yoder, Wink and others. Going beyond these recent thinkers, we will examine "powers theology" as a practical theology for the church's mission. We will also look at possibilities for a reconciliation between socio-political and spiritual understandings of the powers. Register at least four days in advance for an early rate of \$45; the rate after that is \$55. Registration will close at noon the day before the webinar. Register online at [www.ambs.edu/webinars](http://www.ambs.edu/webinars).

## Upcoming Events

**Ecuador Partnership** meetings take place March 14-26 in Ecuador and Colombia.

**Christian Formation Committee** meets March 21 in Manson, Iowa.

**Conference Board** meets Saturday, April 13, in Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

**Pastoral Leadership Committee** meets April 14 in Schuyler, Nebraska.

**Annual Leaders Retreat** (a.k.a. Pastors and Spouses Gathering) will be held April 14-16, at Schuyler, Nebraska.

**Central Plains Church Planters Gathering** will be Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4.

**Central Plains Annual Meeting** will be Thursday through Sunday, June 20-23, at Ashland, Montana.

**Mennonite Church USA Assembly and Youth Convention** will take place July 1-6, in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Youth Escape 2014** will take place the weekend of August 1-3, 2014, in central 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](http://www.centralplainsmc.org). Click on Publications.



Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart: [shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org)

To subscribe or unsubscribe, email [office@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:office@centralplainsmc.org).

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

Monica Clem, Office Manager: 605-925-4463 [office@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:office@centralplainsmc.org)

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

David Boshart: [davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org); 319-936-5904

Tim Detweiler: [timdetweiler@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:timdetweiler@centralplainsmc.org); 319-458-0224

Shana Boshart: [shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org); 319-936-5905

Moderator Blaine Friesen: [moderator@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:moderator@centralplainsmc.org) 402- 723-4726

Assistant Moderator Nathan Luitjens: [assistantmoderator@centralplainsmc.org](mailto: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.