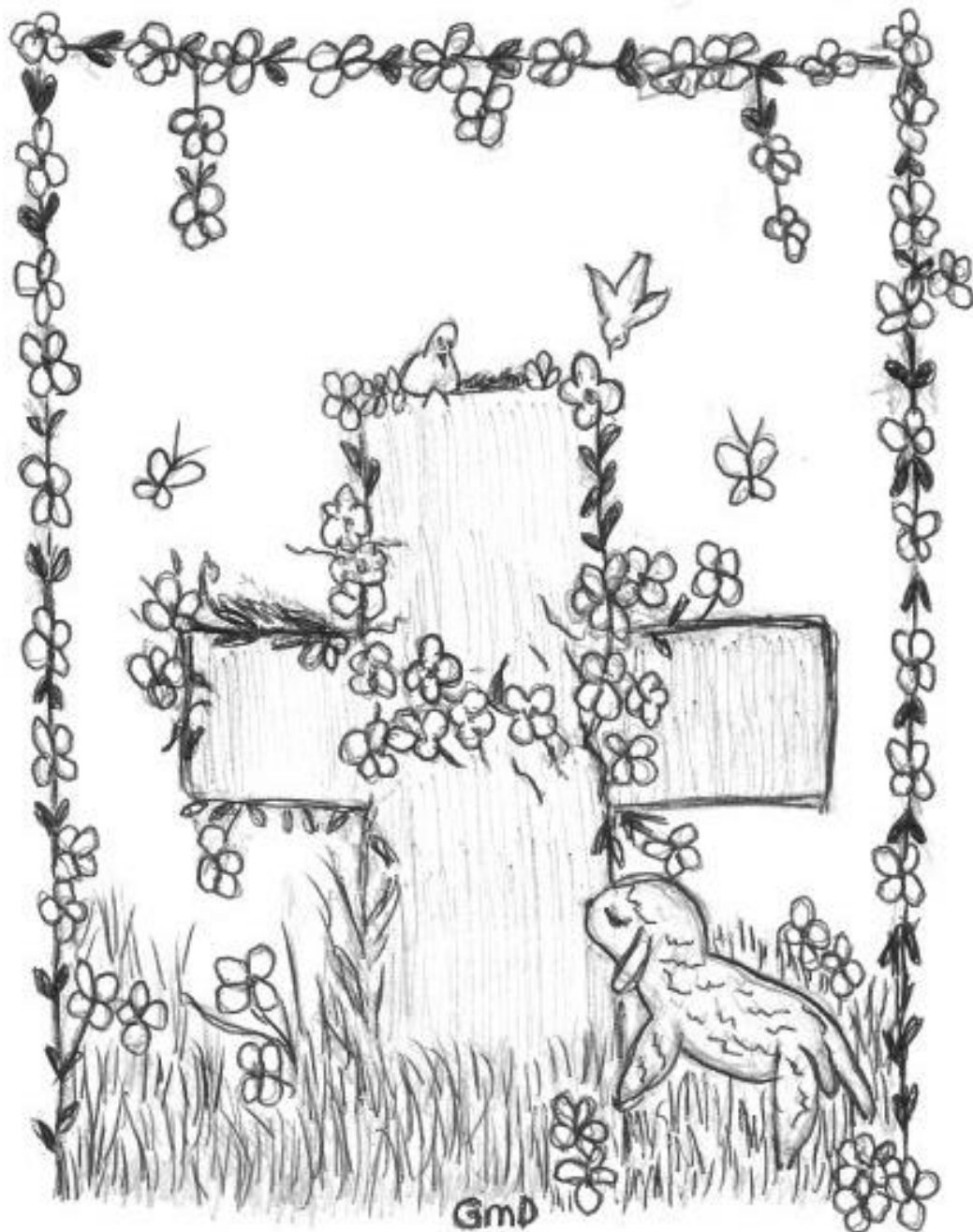


NEW DANVILLE NEWSLETTER

New Danville Mennonite Church, Volume 23 - Issue 9, September 2009



Blessings To You!

Youth Group

During the month of August the youth group had a party for all of the August birthdays. We also went to the Groff/Leaman cabin. We had a lot of fun fishing and just being with the youth group. We had 2 Bible studies while we were there about the book of Jonah and following God's direction for our lives. We would like to thank both Dan Leaman and Elias Groff for allowing us to use their cabin for the weekend. I am looking forward to more fun activities this coming month.

-Michael Sollenberger

Sewing Circle

Nine persons met for sewing circle on Wednesday, August 5 and knotted seven comforters. Bob and Naomi Gochenaur arrived early and together put in several comforters in frames.

Arlene McMichael read Galations 5:22-25 for devotions. Each day I am exposed to the day's demands and so I must choose to live the fruits of the spirit. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace.

-Lois Garber

Who Am I?

How many siblings do you have? 3

Favorite food. Ham loaf

Favorite Bible verse.

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Peter 5:7

Favorite song.

"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"

Your first job. Copes Corn at Rheems

What can always be found in my refrigerator. Milk, chicken salad, fruit

What do you do for fun? Visit lots of friends

Hobbies. Work

Where would you like to go if you could travel? Alaska

One of your most embarrassing moments.
I unlocked a car like mine and got in it and it was not mine.

People may be surprised to know that.....I am working full time yet.

My unfulfilled ambition.

Hope to someday retire.

One thing I've learned in life.

Return kindness with a smile and thank you.

What do you like most about church?

Old Gospel songs

MC-USA Convention Reflections

To begin each morning delegate session, we spent time "Dwelling in the Word." I looked forward to this time each day. We focused on Luke 19:1-9, the story about Zacchaeus. As we shared our thoughts and insights around our tables, it was amazing how God used these verses to speak to us individually. Some questions that we pondered together: Is the church like the crowd, getting in the way of Jesus, or like Zacchaeus, yearning to be with Jesus? How is the "crowd" preventing us from doing the work of Jesus? Do we see the "sycamore trees" that people are climbing to seek Jesus? From this encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus, I have been challenged to not let limitations deter me from serving Jesus and to realize that an encounter with Jesus requires a radical change within me.

The last resolution the delegates processed was a resolution on following Christ and growing together as communities even in conflict. The conflict of discussion was regarding issues of human sexuality. Last week you received the Lancaster Conference response to happenings at Columbus in regards to this issue. Please take time to read the letters and reports found in this publication as it reaffirms the teachings of Lancaster Conference and the Mennonite denomination. Amidst the controversy of

homosexuality and the church, I pose a question for us as a body of Christ to ponder: How do we reach out and minister to those who are sexually broken?

I attended a seminar titled, “Calling our daughters and sons: Women and Men Addressing Patriarchy in the Church Together.” We were invited to discern where we are as a church in calling forth the gifts of women and men. Two questions we processed were: “What are our spoken and unspoken messages about leadership and gender?” and “How do patriarchal and egalitarian beliefs affect the calling of daughters and sons?” To share what I personally experienced as I listened and dialogued with those around me would take up too much space. But as I continue to reflect on how the Spirit gives gifts to each one as He determines, I ask myself the question: What effect do rejections of the gifting of the Spirit have on Christ’s church?

-Shirley Garber

While there was much business conducted, worship and fellowship during the MC/USA Convention, my personal favorite times were the Dwelling in the Word sessions we had daily. We dwelled together in Luke 19:1-10—Jesus encounter with Zacchaeus—first silently and personally, then sharing out loud with a partner, with our table groups of eight, then with the entire delegate body of over 1000 people. It was exciting to see how the Holy Spirit led us to so many new realizations in these few familiar verses. Since Shirley will be sharing more in depth on this I will limit my comments, but I can say with certainty that the Word of God is very much alive and active!!

The theme of breathing in to be filled with the Spirit so we can bring God’s hope and healing to the world permeated the week. Early in the week we were greeted by some leaders of other Christian denominations. One greeting was from Dr. Trice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. He brought a

confession and hope for reconciliation to us. He read a statement acknowledging that the Lutheran Church had persecuted and tried to eradicate Anabaptists, including Mennonites, in the past and asked our forgiveness for the persecution and for using violence and the State to try to solve disagreements within the Body of Christ. Though the actions he spoke of happened many generations ago, I appreciated his words and the heart with which they were spoken.

Not long after Dr. Trice’s appeal for forgiveness, one of the readers theater pieces titled “This Land is Whose Land?” pointed out that Mennonites may have had more of a hand in the mistreatment of Native Americans that I had ever considered. The dramatic script indicated that while we did not participate in the violence the fledgling American government used to force Native American tribes from the land they had occupied for generations, we did jump in quickly and willingly to take ownership of that land without much thought of who possessed it before or at what cost it had been taken. Maybe we have a confession and request for reconciliation of our own to draft.

The speakers during our worship sessions brought messages from the Spirit that touched each of us in different parts of our life. Some of the thoughts that stood out to me were:

*God’s work has 3 stages: impossible, difficult and done

*Did Jesus say: The whole world should go to church. . . OR. . .The church should go to the whole world?

*The biggest barrier to Christ is Christians. . .research shows that the top 3 impressions non-Christians have of Christians is that we are judgmental, hypocritical and anti-gay

*How can we worship a homeless man on Sunday and ignore one on Monday?

*Christianity is not a way of believing, it is a way of living

*The Holy Spirit is like a GPS—a signal from heaven guiding an earthly receiver, it recalculates when we don’t follow its directions & it never gives up

*We often treat the Holy Spirit like a “pinch hitter”-doing things on our own until we have trouble

The 2007 San Jose delegates presented a resolution aimed at encouraging us develop our national identity. In other words, following Jesus in a world that is not. Since then a task force developed a congregational Bible study on national identity to help us look at the two questions: What shaped our identity in the past? (ex: martyrdom, clothing, IW service/CO status) and how will we continue to shape our identity? It challenges us to find contemporary expressions of our faith in counter-cultural ways. The three part Bible study is available on the MC/USA website for any small group, SS class or individuals who are interested in using it.

The first resolution we passed was the “Statement against Human Trafficking/Modern Day Slavery”. In it we joined other denominations in a united voice against the evils of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, forced child soldiers, babies forcibly taken from their mothers for western adoptions and all other modern forms of human slavery. As followers of Christ we are called to help stop oppression of the poor and vulnerable. The presenters of the resolution informed us that there are 12-20 million victims of human trafficking worldwide currently and 12-18 thousand of them in the USA. If you suspect you know a trafficking victim you can call 888-373-7888 to get information on how to safely help them.

The next resolution we passed dealt with healthcare access. We were urged to support efforts to extend healthcare to all Americans through prayer, sharing healthcare costs and helping to develop providers who will specifically care for the poor and disadvantaged.

There was a call from our racial/ethnic churches asking for more teaching/educational/pastoral resources. One example given was a congregation in Florida that has spawned two Bible institutes and seven additional churches in Central America

through their work with Hispanic immigrants who were deported after spending time in the USA. They are in desperate need of more Spanish materials to use in their work.

Though most of my time was taken with delegate sessions, I was able to attend one very interesting workshop titled “Your Faith and Your Fork”. The presenter was a nutritionist who also attended seminary in an effort to get a Biblical perspective on food and healthful eating. She reminded us that food is a gift from God and we are to eat in thankfulness--centered on God and His provision rather than on our tastes and appetites. She categorized eating into three types: feasting, fasting and everyday eating. We need to include all three types of eating for balanced, Biblical nutrition. In the USA we habitually feast too much and not in the proper Biblical way. We neglect fasting and we are not good at moderating or balancing our every day eating to be good stewards of our health. She gave us a copy of an article she wrote on a modern interpretation/application of the dietary laws God gave in Leviticus II. I would be happy to share it with anyone who is interested. It gives some practical ways to apply Biblical principles and honor God as we consume the gift of food God gave us, intended for our health, wholeness, enjoyment and pleasure.

Thank you for the privilege of serving our church through being a delegate to the MC/USA convention. It was a meaningful, worthwhile experience and I hope you will consider attending on of the biannual meetings in the future if you have not had the chance to experience one. The next conventions are in 2011 at Pittsburgh PA and 2013 at Phoenix AZ.

-Renee Harnish

Kanagy's Maine Vacation

Our first of four destinations was my (Robin's) home town, Dexter, Maine where

we stayed with my Aunt Brenda and Uncle Ken. After a long drive with several delays we arrived 14 hours later with sore behinds. We experienced a warm welcome and a pot of hot soup on a chilly night. My relatives showed us wonderful hospitality and volunteered to take responsibility of Sophie as we toured the town. Also my uncle, who is a retired mechanic, offered to work on the van-the bonus of free labor.

While in my home town we showed Wynn and Breanna where I went to church and school, the two homes I lived in, where I played soccer, swam, rode bike, my first job, the Historical Society Museum, etc. Wynn and Breanna (and Sophie, our dog) enjoyed playing sardines around the park's wooden playground, swimming in the lake and having ice cream from the take out where I worked.

God's timing was evident when we stopped at a neighbor's and struck up a conversation with a man shingling the roof. His younger sister would have been in my graduating class. Knowing my family, he asked if I still attended church. Praise the Lord, I could answer, yes, indeed, my husband is the pastor. We could tell he was on fire for God with a commitment to reach his community. The next morning we chose to go to the church in which this man is active. He spontaneously shared how God can do amazing things in our communities when we are bold enough in conversations to include a question, like "do you attend a church?" I was challenged by another quote from him: *"Lord, I don't want to stand in heaven without . . . (insert name of friend or relative).* We enjoyed the worship and the fellowship after church. I was encouraged to see a classmate who has committed his life to Christ and is also on

fire for God. He is a changed man, because of what the Holy Spirit is doing in his and his family's lives!

Our whole adventure was filled with God's provisions and visions of his glorious beauty in his creation of the earth and animals. After church we rode our bikes to the new elementary school, which is still under construction. My aunt told us where to look for nesting Bald Eagles. Two young ones were on the smoke stack. They flew back to the nest, squawking when a parent eagle came with food. Again God's timing was impeccable as the noise led us right to the nest.

It was hard to leave, but we knew Aunt June and Uncle Charlie were anxiously waiting for us. They also showed great hospitality, meeting all of our needs. They took us to their cottage on a lake for a peaceful, fun-filled day, including swimming, boating, fishing, food and games. Breanna caught sun fish off the wharf, Curtiss and Wynn each a bass, while troll fishing. Curtiss filleted the bass and froze them for a meal later in the week. On our way home they drove us to the Bucksport Bridge with the tallest bridge observatory tower in the world! and Fort Knox. This was exciting for Wynn as he studied Civil War last Spring. Then they treated us to seafood! Maine Lobster Rolls – yummmm!

We went home for a short night's sleep. Curtiss had set our alarm for 4:30 to get the two of us on the road to Mount Katahdin for a 10 mile day hike up and down a rock slide and boulder field. This was the day I had been looking forward to as a way to say that turning 40 doesn't mean I am getting weaker, however, Curtiss was filled with anxiety, knowing he could potentially be very stiff and sore after the climb. It was foggy starting out on Abol Trail, but

maybe to our benefit that we didn't have to see the steep climb ahead or the drop behind us. We took lots of rest breaks on the way up, feeling the burn in our legs, and our heartbeat in our ears. We reached the peak at noon, took more pictures, ate our lunch and observed other hikers in their emotions and awe. We chose a different trail for the decent, and were surprised that it was just as difficult going down. You would have to be there to believe it. It was not easy and we were glad that Wynn and Breanna were in good hands being entertained by my aunt and uncle. We saw other families with children and even grown men struggling. You could say we were feeling good about our progress up and down the mountain with our legs growing increasingly wobbly and sore, just as Curtiss predicted. At the end of "Hunt Trail" we felt the cool spray from a waterfall. We were feeling strong enough to hike in to a pond, hoping to see moose. We saw only the signs of them (tracks and droppings), but the peaceful setting and cool water to dip my feet in was worth the easy .4 mile walk.

We were glad to say that God allowed us to complete the goal, and were able to say that we'd be willing to try it again in our 50s!

Our next stop took us to Swans Island via the Ferry. We prayed lots from the time the ticket master said we were 17th in line and our van may not fit on the ferry until the next morning. What an inconvenience this would have been. After we re-packed food and a change of clothes in case we had to go without the van for the night, you should have seen the van with the seats folded down and all 4 bikes stacked inside! (Breanna was able to see how God allowed her to experience being without items for a second time – the first being when we forgot to switch her suitcase over from grandma's car to ours on her trip home

from Alabama. We were thrilled to watch her react with maturity.) When it was time I drove down the ramp, to be told the van didn't fit, and needed to back it off, my heart sank momentarily. Then I was told to try again and failed a second time. Finally other vehicles pulled forward a few inches and the van fit with the chain touching the van! We praised the Lord for over 24 hours!!! Once on the island I was relieved and blessed to spend the next 4 days relaxing in a beautiful area. God provided wild blueberries to pick, muscles from the beach (from which Breanna found 2 tiny pearls!), sand dollars to collect and share with other children; hiking, biking, etc. We enjoyed it so much we didn't want to leave.

Our last two days we visited more friends and enjoyed more seafood. We met a friend at Thomas Point Beach at low tide. The attendant at the park entrance warned us the clam diggers would be coming in. There were only a few men, but one was very generous, and taught Curtiss and the children how to dig for clams. We went back to my friend, Kelly's, for a lobster and clam dinner!

Some people say you need a vacation to recover from a vacation. For me the trip was filled with emotional highs and a few lows. By the end we were thankful that our extended time away allowed for some relaxation and many memorable moments. It made me feel eternally grateful for the blessings of my faithful husband, loving children and a good God who gave generously to provide for our needs in many ways!

30th Anniversary Vacation in Hawaii!

Wow! Can it be that we will be married 30 years already! I find that hard to believe, yet

time surely does fly. We decided to do something “extra” special for our 30th, which will be November 10th. You probably wonder how we ended up going to Hawaii . It happened rather by chance. Our original plan was to go to Florida in November. But when we heard the news that Jay and Amanda were expecting our 3rd grandchild in October we quickly changed our minds about traveling then since they were to come and take care of the farm. After some discussion about possible places to go, we settled on Hawaii and started planning our trip.

We left on Saturday, July 11 from BWI to Phoenix to Honolulu . Ten hours later we landed in Honolulu , O’ahu to warm tropical breezes, palm trees, coconut trees and beautiful beaches. Our hotel in Honolulu was at Waikiki Beach by the ocean. We had a wonderful view of the beach and gorgeous sunsets. During our stay in Waikiki we visited Pearl Harbor . It was quite a sobering experience to see where the Arizona is laid to rest and realize that thousands of men are entombed in the water with their ship. It is hard to fathom all that happened at Pearl Harbor when you are surrounded by the natural beauty of the island. We spent our time touring the USS Bowfin submarine, the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Battleship Missouri. I am sure that many of you know the statistics for that day on December 7, 1941 but here is a brief look at the numbers: 2,390 US personnel killed, 1,178 wounded, 12 ships sunk or beached, 9 ships damaged, 164 aircraft were destroyed and 159 damaged. We watched a video before our actual tour of the Arizona and the real footage of that day gave us a very close-up picture of the lives lost. The USS Arizona Memorial is built above the water and over top where the Arizona ship lies in the water. So when you are on the memorial you can look down and see the ship. The USS Battleship Missouri wasn’t commissioned for use until December 14, 1944. The ship is 887 long, 209 feet high and

when fully loaded weighs 58,000 tons. On September 2, 1945 the Missouri was the sight for the signing of a document by the Japanese and the Allied Powers that ended the world’s bloodiest war.

We flew out of Honolulu on Monday morning and headed to the Kaanapali Beach Club on the island of Maui which was our home for the next 6 days. Our van trip to the beach club took about 40 minutes and we got to see sugar cane fields, the beautiful native flowering trees, bushes and plant life and the many surfers out enjoying the great weather. The beach club was absolutely beautiful! It is a resort that features three 12-story towers. Each of these towers has a central atrium. When we would go out to the elevators of our atrium we could see down to the floor of the main floor where guest registration was located! A huge palm tree was right in the center of the mostly open air floor. That was such a neat thing about anything in Hawaii - the open air buildings. The airports were that way, as were hotels, stores etc.

We took our first tour of the island on Tuesday when we took the “Road to Hana.” This tour started at 6:45 a.m. in a 12-passenger touring van. The tour was a full day drive around the island of Maui and over 60 miles in length. We were on a road of over 612 switchbacks, 57 one lane bridges, paved roads, dirt roads, meandering cows, horses, chickens and mongooses. A road that showed us all kinds of vegetation from rain forests to lava rock covered barren ground. We saw the ocean from cliff side, many waterfalls, beautiful flowers and all kinds of native plants. After an almost 12 hour day with the tour we were exhausted when we got home that night at 7 p.m. But it was well worth the trip to see what Maui really looks like. If you can~~picture this! The island of Maui looks like the head and shoulders of a man. We stayed on the west feet side of Maui – or the face! The road to Hana took us down south around the shoulders to the waist and up around to the face again. It was a long very bumpy journey!

The next day we traveled by bus into the town of Lahaina . Lahaina means “cruel sun.” We believed it! Our hotel, several miles away, is located in a VERY windy spot. So going to wind still Lahaina Town was indeed very hot. Located in town is a Banyan Tree that was planted in 1873. What was once an 8ft. sapling is now a 50 ft. tree that has 12 trunks and shades 2/3 of an acre. We also went on the Atlantis Submarine tour while there to see some ocean life. We took a shuttle boat out to the sub and boarded for about an hour long adventure viewing the ocean fish life, reefs, lava rock, and the ship Carpathia that was sunk to provide a man-made reef. It was a neat experience .The only disappointing thing to me was that because we were so deep~127 feet at the deepest, we didn’t get to see the true colors of the fish and coral. We got back to our hotel in the early afternoon and spent some time lounging at the pool and then had our Lu’au dinner ocean side being entertained by Hawaiian musicians and dancers. It was a wonderful evening with delicious food and entertainment. Besides that we got to see beautiful traditional Hawaiian and Polynesian hula dances, and fire knife dancers framed in a lovely Hawaiian sunset.

Thursday we took another island tour to Maui upcountry and the Haleakala National Park . The volcano Haleakala last erupted around 1790 (maybe!). Various reports on this give dates of 1490, 1750 and 1790. Since there wasn’t any written Hawaiian language until the 1800’s the witnesses to the eruption didn’t have a way to record it. This tour took us up (10,023 feet) to the Haleakala Volcano.

We saw such beauty in the landscape of the volcano with the many colored mountains of sand, lava rocks and vegetation~~all framed by the beautiful blue sky. The elevation meant cold and wind and of course, for the faint of heart like me, trouble breathing. But it was well worth the trip. On our way down the curvy mountain roads we stopped in at the ‘ Iao Valley State Park . This park is as green and lush as the Hana south side is barren and lava covered. Here you see waterfalls, many

plants and flowers and the ‘Iao Needle. It is a needle looking mountain that juts up into the air which native Hawaiians would scale to use as a lookout point. The 30-45 minutes that we were there was rainy and misty with the clouds swirling around the needle giving it a very mystical appearance.

Friday and Saturday we spent our time relaxing at the pool and beach just soaking in the sun and beauty surrounding us. I kept encouraging Martin to take the scuba course that was offered right at the pool. You could take lessons in the pool with the equipment and then head out to the ocean to do some real scuba diving. But he didn’t – so I hope that he says this is one of the those things “I wished I would have done!”

I should let you know about some of the prices of things on the islands! Now that was an eye opener. The first day we were at the beach club we ate at the pool side grille. Just a simple sandwich was \$10.00-12.00! We found a market located within walking distance and went there to purchase some snack foods. Let’s see~~a box of Breyer’s ice-cream over \$8.00. A package of coffee was \$25.00. Fresh fruit, milk and cheese also very high priced. About the only thing grown on the island is coffee, sugar cane and some pineapple. Oh well!

We left Maui on Saturday the 18th at 10:40 pm and arrived 10 hours later in BWI around 4:30 on Sunday afternoon. We certainly enjoyed our once in lifetime trip to Hawaii and should have stayed longer! At least that is what Martin said.

I want to thank all of you who were praying for Amanda, Jay and the baby while we were gone. It certainly was stressful for Martin and me knowing that she was in the hospital and Jay still had the farm work to worry about. Amanda is doing great right now and our prayer is that she and the baby make it until her due date, around October 8. The surgeon would like to see her get to the end of September for sure without any gallbladder complications. So far she is doing great and

really watching her diet. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

-Sandi and Martin Harnish

Rwanda Missions Trip

I was so blessed to have the opportunity to travel to Rwanda with 10 people from PSU Navigators this past June. It was so good to experience life in a third world country and see how God is working in the lives of people across the world. It definitely made me much more appreciative of everything that I am blessed with here in America as well as reaffirmed a calling in my life to be a missionary where I am.

Rwanda is a very beautiful country with rolling green hills (its nickname is land of a thousand hills), banana trees, and small garden type farms all over the place. The people are very friendly and want to talk to you because you are a "muzungu" (white person). This was very uncomfortable at first, being swarmed by everyone just because we are white, but you sort of get used to it.

We were working at the Umuryango Children's Network in the small village of Bymana. This is a home for street boys that was started as the vision of a family to provide for these children. They provide a home, a family, and an education for these children as well as character development, counseling, and exposure to the Christian faith. Jean Paul runs the home with the help of his sister Hadija, his cousin Damascene, and his mother. We stayed at the home of a friend of JP in Gitarama, named Gilbert. He was quite the character, and we got a lot of laughs out of him. Hadija took two weeks from her work at the home to make us delicious food and washed our clothes. Every night for dinner we had fresh pineapple, usually rice and beans or some kind of pasta, lots of potatoes, and bananas.

So here is a picture of our typical day in Rwanda: Most people were woken up by roosters crowing or the Muslim call to prayer

sometime between 3 AM and 5 AM but I managed to sleep through all of that most nights until about 6:30 AM or so. We had breakfast of bread, butter and honey around 8 AM with either coffee or tea. The bread was very stale the first several days but then we were lucky to be given softer bread later.

Then we would load up our bags with books, flashcards, school supplies and other things we had brought to take to the kids and head out to the bus station.

The taxis that we would pile into everyday were 1980's Toyota square shaped Minivans with five rows of seating and with fold up seats in the aisle. The bus station was a dirt lot with lots of buses and people trying to sell things. The taxi drivers would often get into big disputes about who was going to get to drive us. Thankfully, Gilbert came with us everywhere and would always negotiate a good price for us. It usually cost about 300 Rwandan Francs, which is about 60 cents for an 8-minute bus ride. We would load into the bus with however many other people they could fit in the van, usually 4 to a row. It was tight and awkward most of the time but it got to be normal.

When we would get to the village of Bymana there was usually a boy or two from the home waiting for us at the bus station. We would then walk about 10 minutes to home. All of the kids in the village would run out and give us hugs and join hands with us and walk down the street with us. This wasn't necessarily because they knew us and liked us, though that became truer towards the end of the trip. They did this on the first day when they had never even seen us before.

The more shy ones would just smile, wave, and say, "Muzungu! Muzungu!" They were all very friendly and the parents always seemed to trust us with their children and didn't seem to care if they followed us several miles down the road and hung out with us.

The one Sunday we were walking a few miles to church to attend a genocide remembrance memorial service and mother and child were walking close to me. She let go of her boy

and told him to hold hands with me. We walked the whole way to the church together and she followed at a distance.

At the home we would play football (soccer) or other games with the kids. We taught them how to sing "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High." We also would tutor them in English by using flash cards, drawing pictures, singing vocabulary songs like "head and shoulders, knees and toes," and by just having conversations with the kids. It was interesting, that just because a boy was older didn't mean he could speak better English. Some of the older boys are in the same grade as the younger ones because they did not start going to school until they were 12. The country just switched its national language over to English this year so it is important for the kids to learn it. They learn it in school and some of their classes are taught in English but they only go to school for half a day everyday. They have to rotate because there are too many kids and there aren't enough teachers to teach them all.

The day we went to play soccer at the school's grass field many villagers gathered to watch and talk to the white people. The girls played with the little kids on the sidelines because the game was pretty intense. One boy found a piece of paper and showed me how to make an origami boat. We sat down on the ground and I proceeded to show him how to make a paper crane. It wasn't too long before I was surrounded by villagers 3 or 4 people thick all watching. At one point one man asked me "what" and pointed to the crane. I said "bird" and they all laughed at me. I am not sure why they thought that was funny.

Then some boys in secondary school came over and were eager to talk to me. They asked me what my name was and I told them. They were like, "Oh my sister has that same name." I said, "Really?! Is your sister's name Gloria? Because that is not my name." Yes, their sister was Gloria. For some reason everyone had trouble saying my name and always thought I said it was Gloria. I just

started introducing myself as Gloria because it was easier and was Gloria for the rest of the trip.

Everyday we would eat lunch with the boys at the home. It was either rice and beans or beans and potatoes. The boys all ate heaping platefuls and we were always impressed that they could eat that much. The afternoon was usually more of the same. One day we built a compost bin for them so they could compost their food scraps and cow bedding. They had to cut down trees in the forest and we stripped them of branches with the machete. It was quite the project but we were able to finish it. We also, helped to organize their library, and played a few football games at the school field. Several of the older boys played on the school team and in fact one of the boys was the captain. We were going to go see one of their games that day but it ended up being canceled. That morning the school took a field trip to one of the genocide memorials and many of the younger kids were traumatized, as they had never been exposed to it before. The school thought it would be best to cancel the game.

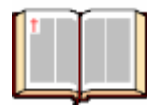
It was apparent that the genocide affected everyone. The people have been carrying on with their lives quite well for the past 15 years but you can see it is something that they still feel the effects of daily deep inside of them. Gilbert, our host, lost his mother during the genocide. Jean Paul's family hid in the mountains for three months and barely had enough food to survive. We went to one of the genocide memorial museums in Kigali one day and it was very moving. I came away from it feeling very strange. I was so aware of how evil people can be and horrified. It is amazing that the country has come so far since then.

We would usually leave the home between 4:30 and 5:30 PM. It got dark around 6 PM every day and the sun went down fast! We would have to divide up into several busses on the way home because there were never more than few spots open on the buses that would stop. In Gitarama, we would often

stop at some cafe for a Fanta. After we would get back we would shower, most often cold, and have some introvert time. We would eat dinner and hang out. We played a lot of killer Uno for some reason. We taught this game to Gilbert and Jean Paul and they liked it. Usually we were in bed by 10 or 10:30 PM. On one of our last nights we were able to talk to Jean Paul about the spiritual condition of the boys. He said that even though a lot them say that they love Jesus they do not show any change in the way that they live their lives. They still lie and steal. A few of the older ones are starting to grow and mature though. I do believe that living in the home is making a difference in the lives of these boys. If you could pray for them that would be great. They have a long way to go but I can envision how many of them will grow up to be godly, influential men in their country. Over all it was a very rewarding trip. I am so glad that God worked things out so that I came on this trip. Part of the reason I wanted to go was because I felt I needed to experience another country and get a taste of what overseas missions was like. I came home from this trip very content with life. I came to the conclusion that people are people everywhere with the same need for God. I don't need to go overseas to be a missionary, but rather felt more called to be a missionary in my daily living in the states. This is a blessing because I have been considering going on staff with The Navigators after graduation on the EDGE Corps program. While this trip was not a direct arrow pointing to EDGE Corps it doesn't point me away from it. It is still something I am praying a lot about. I again saw God's amazing provision and direction in my life! I learned to be so thankful and content with what I am blessed with here in America.

Thank you to everyone for all of your prayers and support for this trip and over all of the past several years. God has really been working and I appreciate your participation in His work in my life. Thanks!

-Lorielle Ressler



Prayer Quotes

By: Martha Thomas

"God speaks through His Word to those who listen with their heart." (Our Daily Bread)

"If God doesn't give us what we ask for, we can be sure that He has something far better." (Our Daily Bread)

"PRAYER is Heaven's telephone line which is free to all, always available, never out of order. The line, however, must always be used with reverence." (Herbert Lockyer)



Bits and Pieces

--Lorielle Ressler was the cover artist for the August newsletter.

--Ryan Horst was named "Teen of the Week" in the August 1 daily newspaper.

--John Warfel has been on a winning streak on the ski slopes of New England as he took 1st place for Category. 1, age 60+, at the U.S. Kenda Cup Mountain Bike Races at Mount Snow, Vermont, and Windham, New York

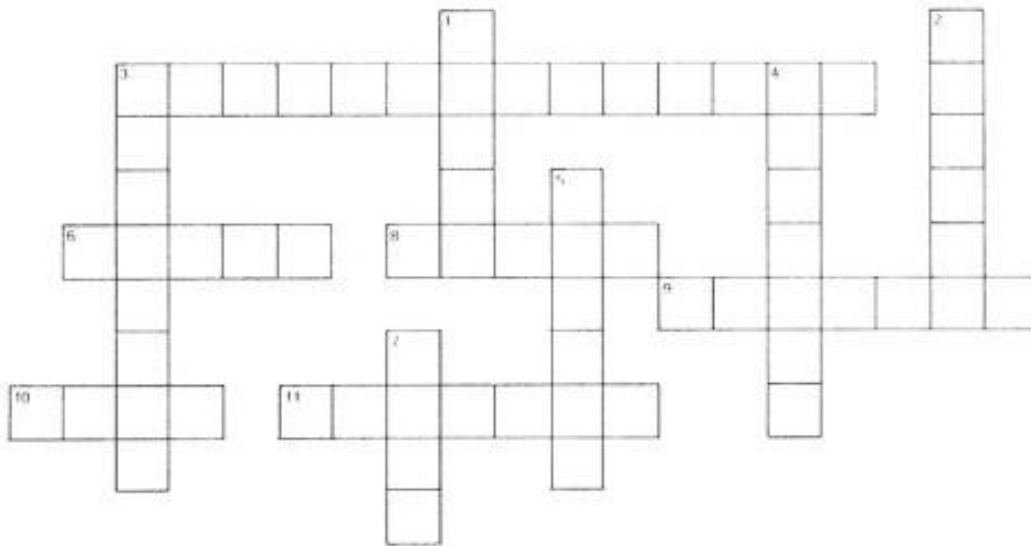
--Gail DeVerter is the cover artist for this month's newsletter.

--Flossie Merkey is the identity of "Who am I?"

Upcoming Events

November 9: Church business mtg. @ 7 PM

SONS IN THE BIBLE



DOWN

- 1 Son of God
- 2 Jacob loved him more than all his other sons and made him a long robe
- 4 David and Bathsheba's son who built the temple of God
- 5 Hannah prayed for him at the temple and promised God she would give him to become a priest
- 7 One of Noah's three sons

ACROSS

- 3 He was the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah and the forerunner to Christ
- 6 Jesse's son who was a shepherd and slayed the giant Goliath
- 8 Abraham and Sarah's son who was given to them when they were very old
- 9 Paul wrote a letter to him and told him that since he was instructed in childhood by the sacred writings, it would help in him in teaching about Jesus Christ
- 10 Jacob's elder twin brother, son of Isaac
- 11 Abraham's son through Hagar his handmaiden since Sarah couldn't conceive

September 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Sewing Circle 9:30-4:00	3	4	5 Laura Hess
6 Jake Harnish Sue Sollenberger	7	8 SMILE 9:15-11:00	9 Prayer Mtg. 7 pm	10	11	12 Mary Sommerfeld
13	14	15 SMILE 9:15-11:00	16	17	18 Curtiss Kanagy Joelle Harnish	19
20	21	22 SMILE 9:15-11:00	23 Prayer Mtg. 7 pm	24 Kevin Shenk	25	26 LouAnn Ressler
27	28 Eunice Camargo-Ground	29 SMILE 9:15-11:00 Sharon Humphreys	30			