As People of Christ’s peace, we do God’s Mission
EDITORIAL

BY L. KEITH WEAVER

I learned recently that my daughter and her husband are expecting another baby. Uncontrollable joy welled up within me. I shouted in delight! Over the same time, my son and his wife took in a boy and a girl—six-year-old twins—with plans for fostering to adoption. I admire the sacrificial commitment and courage it takes to do what they are doing. Again, my heart wells with joy.

I find joy in this basic principle of multiplication. God created things to be this way—to be fruitful and multiply. The principle holds as true in the church just as in our families. In his book, Natural Church Development, Christian Schwarz identifies multiplication as one of six core biotic principles for healthy church growth. On page 69, he says, “Hardly anything demonstrates the health of a congregation as much as the willingness—and ability—to give birth to new congregations.”

Multiplication is happening in LMC. It is simply the norm in our Garifuna, Hispanic, and Vietnamese congregations. Sadly, it is the exception among our Anglo congregations. Mt.ville District knows how to start new churches. West End Fellowship, in Lancaster, has given birth to a network of new fellowships. But in far too many cases, congregations are not even thinking about multiplication. Schwarz sees that as an indication of illness.

In the days ahead, LMC will seek to reemply the biotic principle of multiplication. Our system knows this germ of health. It is in our history. It is how God designed things to be. We just need to surrender our own self-interests and again commit ourselves to go and make disciples of all nations.

L. Keith Weaver is moderator of Lancaster Mennonite Conference. He is a member of Bluegrass Mennonite Church in Richmond, Ky.

“Hardly anything demonstrates the health of a congregation as much as the willingness—and ability—to give birth to new congregations.”

By Mary Ellen Leaman

In February 2016, Pastors Adalberto Santiago from Congregación Menonita Shalom in New Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Mark Menterz from Stumptown Mennonite congregation near Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania, met for the first time at a pastors’ conference. They bonded and a friendship began. The conversation that followed revealed a surprising discovery: Congregación Menonita Shalom is the great-granddaughter of Stumptown.

It all began in the early 1950s when some Stumptown members talked about enlarging the church building because it was getting full. Others looked beyond Stumptown’s borders with a desire to start a church where there was none. They shared their vision with the ministry who, in turn, contacted the Itinerant Evangelism Committee (IEC) of Eastern Mennonite Mission about the possibility of outreach into another area. To spur congregations into outreach, the IEC had as its motto, “A mission outpost for every congregation.”

In the spring of 1953, Lloyd Eby, Stumptown pastor, and Paul Kratovil, field worker for the mission board’s evangelism committee, surveyed parts of northern Pennsylvania and discovered a large area in Montour/Northumberland Counties without any churches. Summer Bible school might be a good way to sense the pulse of the area.

Stumptown Mennonite Church to Congregación Menonita Shalom

The first Bible school was held in a tent on the California School grounds in Limestone Township, Montour County, in August 1953. Daniel W. Leaman served as superintendent, and others from Stumptown served as teachers. Response from the community was excellent, and requests soon came to start a Sunday school. After much prayer and several contacts, an abandoned one-room school-house, known as Beaver Run, was found near Turbotville in Northumberland County. The first service was held on October 25, 1953, with 69 persons present.

Sunday school teachers came from Stumptown, traveling a 250-mile round trip each Sunday for several years until families started moving into the area from Lancaster and Franconia. The Zeager family from East Petersburg congregation had bought a farm in the area, and gave their support to the work. Lloyd Eby was the first pastor, preaching bi-weekly and arranging for other pastors to preach on the alternate Sundays. The church grew, and on June 13, 1954, after nearly eight months of holding services, nine adults were baptized and four others received by letter of transfer. It was said that it was unusual to have so
Many baptized the first year and that Beaver Run Mennonite Church was considered the fastest growing outreach at that time. Ethel Leaman was convinced that was because of the fervent prayers. After lunch on Sunday, the ones going out for visitation would meet for a time of prayer to prepare for their contacts. Their main purpose was to invite people to church. John Eby, who made the bi-weekly trip to Beaver Run as a young boy with his parents, says that names like Albright, Fenstermacher, Owens, Robbins, Sholly and Zettlemoyer were familiar to him, and he remembers visiting these folks in their homes.

The interest and growth of this young congregation led to the building of a new meetinghouse in 1955 on the property of Clarence Zeager. Financed largely by Stumptown, the mother congregation, the new Beaver Run Mennonite Church building was dedicated on March 17-18, 1956. Ben Lapp from Stumptown, who had moved into the area with his wife, Geraldine, in 1955, was ordained on June 15, 1957, as the first resident pastor. He served in this capacity for 20 years. The Hershey Groff, Reubens Myers and Paul Eby families from Stumptown, had also settled in the area. Upon Ben Lapp’s request for help, Paul Landis and Samuel Lopez of Spanish Mennonite Council, the first new church first met in a room in the CMF building. A church planting couple, Joe and Maggie Rosa, gave leadership to the work initially. About three years later, a building was purchased in New Columbia, at the edge of Milton, and the church plant continued with the name Congregación Menonita Shalom. Adalberto and Juana Santiago were involved in this church plant from the beginning and became pastors in May 2009.

Congregación Menonita Shalom has now planted two daughter churches: Iglesia Menonita Nueva Canción in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, and Mary Ellen Leaman is a life-long member of Stumptown Mennonite Church. She remembers attending services at Stumptown on August 28. From Stumptown Mennonite to Beaver Run Mennonite to Agape Fellowship and Community Mennonite Fellowship to Congregación Menonita Shalom — praise be to God for the dedicated ones who kindled the initial vision into flame 65 years ago and for all who served nobly through the years in the Beaver Run and Milton communities and their succeeding outgrowth ministries.

By 1990, Beaver Run congregation had outgrown the original church building in the country and built a large, multipurpose facility in an urban location near Milton to form Community Mennonite Fellowship. Willard Shertzer continued to serve as pastor until 1999. The present pastor, David Martin, began in 1994. The previous Beaver Run Church continued as a smaller congregation for some years, celebrating 50 years on October 26, 2003. Three of the charter members were still living at that time and were present for the anniversary celebration.

By 1990, Beaver Run congregation had outgrown the original church building in the country and built a large, multipurpose facility in an urban location near Milton to form Community Mennonite Fellowship.

At Stumptown on August 28.

Present Community Mennonite Fellowship church building near Milton, Pa.

De la Iglesia Menonita Stumptown a la Congregación Menonita Shalom

POR MARY ELLEN LEAMAN (traducido por Andrés Prins)


Todo empezó a comienzos de los años 50 cuando algunos miembros de Stumptown se pusieron a hablar sobre abrazar la iglesia pues se estaba resultando pequeña. Otros miembros sin embargo miraban más allá de las fronteras de Stumptown deseosos de comenzar una nueva iglesia donde no hubiera ninguna. Ellos compartieron su visión con el ministerio que, a su vez, contactó al Comité de Evangelismo Itinerante (IEC) de la misión Menonita del Este respecto a la posibilidad de extenderse a otra región. Para motivar a las congregaciones a realizar efusivos evangelizaciones, el IEC había adoptado el lema, “Un punto de misión para cada congregación”.

En la primavera de 1953, Lloyd Eby, pastor de Stumptown, y Paul Kraybill, obrero del comité de evangelismo de la junta missionaria, exploraron partes del norte de Pennsylvania y encontraron una gran zona en los condados de Montour y Northumberland sin iglesia alguna. Se notó que una escuela bíblica de vacaciones podría ser una buena forma de “tornar el pulso” a la región.

La primera escuela bíblica se realizó en una tenda en un camión de la Escuela California en el Municipio de Limestone, Condado de Montour, en agosto de 1953. Daniel W. Leaman sirvió como superintendente, y otras personas de Stumptown ayudaron como maestros. La acogida por parte de la comunidad fue excelente, y pronto llegaron pedidos para empezar una Escuela Doméstica. Tras mucha oración y varios contactos, se encontró cerca de Turbotville en el Condado de Northumberland una escuela abandonada, de una sola habitación, conocida como Beaver Run. El primer culto se celebró el 25 de octubre de 1953 con una asistencia de 69 personas.

Santiago y Martino de la Congregación Menonita Shalom en Sunbury, Pennsylvania, una iglesia sin iglesia alguna. Se vaticinó que una escuela bíblica de vacaciones podría ser una buena forma de “tornar el pulso” a la región.

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La iglesia de Beaver Run, con la ayuda del Pastor Ben Lapp, plantó Agape Fellowship en Williamsport cuando estaban allí jóvenes I-W (adjetivos de conciencia). Transmisiones de la Rosa Menonita, la distribución de tratas...
De la Iglesia Menonita de Stumptown a la Iglesia Menonita de Beaver Run a la Congregación Menonita Shalom — ¡alabado sea Dios por sus misiones en los hogares, y contactos personales resultaron en un primer culto el 8 de enero de 1967.

Después de Ben Lapp, las parejas pastorales que ministraron en la congregación de Beaver Run fueron Gail y Philip George, Glen y Sylvia Hess, Walter y Mary Clemens, David y Goldie Regier, y Willard y Ann Sherzter. Para 1990 el local original de reuniones de la congregación campestre de Beaver Run ya les quedaba pequeño y construyeron una gran instalación multiusos en una zona urbana cerca de Milton, formando allí la Community Mennonite Fellowship (CMF). Willard Sherzter continuó sirviendo como pastor hasta 1999. El pastor actual, David Martino, comenzó en 1994. La antigua iglesia de Beaver Run siguió como una congregación más pequeña durante algunos años, celebrando su aniversario el 26 de octubre de 2003. Tres de los miembros fundadores seguían con vida para ese entonces y estuvieron presentes para celebrar el aniversario.

CMF en Milton se volvió una congregación pujante que comenzó una iglesia hispana en el verano de 2002. Con el apoyo de David Martino, pastor de CMF, y de Samuel López (Congregación Menonita Hispana), la nueva iglesia se reunió por primera vez en una sala del edificio de CMF. Una pareja de plantadores de iglesia, Jerry y Maggie Koons, proporcionó liderazgo inicial para esa obra. Después de unos tres años más tarde, se compró un local en New Columbia, a las afueras de Milton, y esta nueva iglesia prorrumpió bajo el nombre de Congregación Menonita Shalom. Adalberto y Juanita Maggio Rosa, proveyeron liderazgo inicial para esa obra. Unos tres años más tarde, Samuel López del Concilio (Menonita) Hispano, la nueva iglesia se reunió por primera vez en un edificio de CMF, con el apoyo de David Martino y Carlos García, los coordinadores de este nuevo Centro Comunitario, en un edificio que estaba vacío durante 14 años y necesitaba de mucha restauración, incluyendo una nueva caldera. Ellos junto con el Pastor Santiago creen que Dios les está abriendo puertas para tener un impacto significativo en la comunidad.

A consecuencia del encuentro providencial de los dos pastores en febrero, el Pastor Mark Mentzer de Stumptown fue invitado por el Pastor Adalberto Santiago a predicar en la Congregación Menonita Shalom el 10 de abril, y al Pastor Santiago se le convocó predicar en Stumptown el 28 de agosto.

De la Iglesia Menonita de Stumptown a la Iglesia Menonita de Beaver Run a Agape Fellowship a la Congregación Menonita Shalom — ¡la iglesia que Dios fabricó por medio de sus consejeros servos que hace 65 años avanza la llama de la visión original y a todos aquellos que con alegría entrega sirven a la larga de los años en las comunidades de Beaver Run y Milton en los servicios ministeriales que fueron surgindo.

Mary Ellen Looman ha sido miembro de toda la vida de la Iglesia Menonita Stumptown. Ella recordó los esfuerzos de la congregación para alcanzar a la comunidad de Beaver Run en los años 50 así como el involucramiento de sus padres, Lloyd y Martha Eby. Junto a su mando eran, Karen, su hija en Santiam con DMH en los años 60.

Mosaic International Fellowship, también conocida como “The Church at Dial”, en Lancaster, Pa., funciona con un “simple church” modelo. La congregación toma a los nuevos miembros, los incorpora y luego los “clava” en la comunidad, “sequentemente”. La congregación se puede volver un “simple church” en cualquier parte de la comunidad. El resultado final es una comunidad que se reúne en equipos de familia para el servicio al próximo.

Mosaic se ha convertido en un modelo de iglesia que ha sido copiado por otras iglesias en todo el mundo. La iglesia se ha concentrado en la educación, la formación de líderes y la formación de líderes para el trabajo en la comunidad. La iglesia ha sido un modelo de iglesia que ha sido copiado por otras iglesias en todo el mundo. La iglesia se ha concentrado en la educación, la formación de líderes y la formación de líderes para el trabajo en la comunidad.

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LANCASTERCONFERENCE.ORG

FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE

PRAYER IN THE PARK
Elizabethtown Mennonite Church has decided to focus on outreach in the town. On June 5, after a time of worship, instead of a sermon, our congregation went to the park next to the church. There in small groups, families, couples and little children prayed for those who came to the park. Then we walked to the town square, and in the four corners, we prayed for each quadrant of our town. As we walked, we met several people and were able to tell them what we were doing. We were encouraged by their responses. (We also have been praying for the police. The next day a man tried to commit suicide by provoking the police to shoot him, but our officers were able to take him into custody without killing him. We saw this outcome as a direct answer to prayer.)

NEW MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES
Three new missional communities emerged in Lancaster Mennonite Conference in 2016. Pastor Tracy Brown began Assured Hope Community Church in Lancaster, Pa. Tom Delliocci and John Douillard began REACH Church in Strasburg, Pa. Robert Brody, as part of the missional outreach of New Danville Mennonite Church, began Motley Church, a restaurant church.

RIVERSEDGE K-TEAM
An EMM K-Team from Millport Mennonite Church in Litzit provided a Kids Club for the Bhatanese-Nepali portion of RiverEdge, an inner-city congregation in Lancaster, as well as for children from the community near the church. During the last week of July they hosted many kids each day, mostly un-churched children. The K-Team youth did a great job. The congregation is now working at ways to maintain and strengthen the new connections made in the community.

CLAIR GOOD

BAPTISMS IN GERMANY
Keith Weaver traveled to Germany in June with a contingent from Eastern Mennonite Missions to participate in the baptism celebrations of a number of Iraqi immigrants.

IT'S A LOVE THING, 780-MILE PRAYER WALK
On Aug. 7, Pastor Al Taylor of Infinity Mennonite Church in Harlem set out on a trek from New York City to Chicago, Ill. With his walk, under the banner of “It’s A Love Thing” Taylor hoped to call people to prayer, hope, unity, and action in the face of the turbulent and violent days we are experiencing as a country. The trip crossed seven states and covered 780 miles. Visit facebook.com/ itsalovethingalways to view live feeds of Pastor Al’s walk.

ES UNA COSA DE AMOR, CAMINATA DE ORACIÓN DE 780-MILLA
El 7 de agosto, el pastor Al Taylor de la congregación Infinity Mennonite en Harlem emprendió una caminata desde la ciudad de Nueva York a Chicago, Ill. Con su caminata, bajo la bandera de “Es Una Cosa De Amor,” el deseo de Taylor era llamar a las personas a la oración, unidad y acción, y dar esperanza en estos días turbulentes y violentos que estamos viviendo como país. El viaje cruzó siete estados y cubrió 780 millas. Para ver videos en vivo de la caminata de Pastor Al, visite facebook.com/itsalovethingalways.

CHURCH VIOLENCE SEMINAR
On July 20, 50 leaders gathered to learn about responses to violence in the congregation. Tracy Brown provided an overview of variety of possible violent situations in the congregation, from natural disasters to human inflicted violence. Trooper Gonzalez of the Pennsylvania State Police provided a compelling presentation on responding to an active shooter in the church. She demonstrated with data from shootings over the last decade that the traditional “lockdown” response is not an effective measure. Rather, she showed that doing anything from flight, to barricade, to counter were better responses. “Doing something, anything, is always better than doing nothing,” she said. Brown, Gonzalez and Sgt. Hickey of Lancaster City Police responded to questions from the audience to conclude the evening.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION
The Martindale District youth group invested an evening on June 4 exploring what it means to be a conscientious objector to war. In an interactive dialog with resourcing from the LMC office staff, the youth began the process of creating a Conscientious Objection file by filling out the CO forms.

SEMINARIO DE VIOLENCIA EN LA IGLESIA
El 20 de julio, 50 líderes se reunieron para aprender acerca de las respuestas a la violencia en la congregación. Tracy Brown contribuyó a una descripción general de la variedad de posibles situaciones de violencia en la congregación, desde desastres naturales hasta la violencia infligida humana. Trooper González de la Policía del estado de Pensilvania realizó una presentación convincente sobre cómo re-

PRAYER RESOURCING FOR CHILDREN
Ima Chan, from Hilliard, Ohio, visited Elizabethtown Mennonite Church, on June 3 and 4. She has been resourcing adults and children around the world regarding teaching children to hear God’s voice and learning to pray. The 18 children who attended learned to discriminate between the voices of themselves, God and Satan. They learned that the prayers of children make a difference in the world. They had a chance to pray for children’s needs around the world and ask God to show them how our community would be different if everyone knew the Lord.

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR CLAIR GOOD
Coaches from Church on the Other Side honored Clair Good on June 17 at a gathering at East Petersburg MC. The group gave Clair a symbolic shovel for his ground-breaking work in developing and executing Church on the Other Side as a church planting resource. A gift certificate for Pastor Al’s walk.

PRAYER WALK FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE

STEP STARTED A NEW COHORT
On September 17, the STEP program began its 14th cohort of students enrolled in ministry preparation. STEP director Mark Wenger expressed his excitement and encouragement to the new cohort at an August 20 Orientation. Eight men and women started their journey at the first class on September 17. Their practical preparation and training to serve in congregational leadership will conclude in 2019. This cohort will be the first group to use the entire three years of a revised STEP curriculum. The revision process began two years ago and was phased in gradually. This new class also experienced access to the application process and the curriculum material in an electronic format that includes cloud-based assignments.
On Friday, August 19, the Board of Bishops took action to receive The remaining eleven are still in discernment. Four decided to leave Lancaster Mennonite Conference and affiliate with another area conference in Mennonite Church USA. Of those seven, two decided to remain with Lancaster Mennonite Conference. The majority of the Conference’s 165 congregations are committed to remaining affiliated with Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Since Lancaster Mennonite Conference made the decision to leave Mennonite Church USA, seventeen congregations exercised the opportunity to “opt-in” for a season of discernment about on-going connections with Mennonite Church USA. Of those seventeen, two decided to remain with Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Four decided to leave Lancaster Mennonite Conference and affiliate with another area conference in Mennonite Church USA. The remaining eleven are still in discernment.

On Friday, August 19, the Board of Bishops took action to receive ten new congregations into Lancaster Mennonite Conference. These congregations previously left various Mennonite Church USA area conferences. Three from Western Maryland, three from Western Pennsylvania, and four from Eastern Ohio requested and were granted admission.

Lancaster Mennonite Conference continues to process additional requests from congregations seeking affiliation with the Conference. Thank you for your financial support in 2016. As you consider your end-of-year giving, keep in mind some new part-time staffing that the Conference will enlist in 2017. Planning is underway to look at staffing for life stage resourcing (infant, youth, couples, elderly), church revitalization and multiplication, conference minister support, and a global delegate. The end-of-year brochure will provide more details on these staffing plans. Watch your mailbox for the opportunity to give to Lancaster Mennonite Conference before the end of 2016.

• The Pastoral Financial Assistance Program also includes an opportunity for pastors to receive a subsidy to help with the cost of continuing education. Pastors, as you know, often face unique financial issues — some of which cause many to leave the ministry. At Everence®, we want to help alleviate those financial pressures so that you can continue to follow your calling to the ministry.

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• The Pastoral Financial Assistance Program also includes an opportunity for pastors to receive a subsidy to help with the cost of developing a comprehensive financial plan. Contact Kevin Nofziger, 717-653-6662 ext. 143 or kevin.nofziger@everence.com, for additional information.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at lancasterconference.org.

**Monday Night Prayer Gathering**
Every first Monday of each month
7:00–9:00 p.m.
Conference office, Lancaster, Pa.
717-293-5246

**Flourish: BOOST Breakfast**
September 2016 – May 2017
EMM Meetinghouse, Salunga, Pa.
mitziheadings@mjmc.org

**75 Years of God’s Grace – A Service of Thanksgiving**
October 7, 7:00 p.m.
Lancaster Campus of Lancaster Mennonite School
Lancaster, Pa.

**Flourish: Beautiful Feet**
October 16, 4:00–7:30 p.m.
Mount Joy Mennonite Church
Mount Joy, Pa.
mitziheadings@mjmc.org

**EMM Vision and Fundraising Banquet**
October 21, 6:30 p.m.
Yoder’s Restaurant & Buffet
New Holland, Pa.
www.emm.org/events

**Friendship Community 44th Anniversary Celebration Dinner**
November 3, 6:30 p.m.
Shady Maple Banquets,
East Earl, Pa.
www.friendshipcommunity.net

**LMHS: Social Businesses**
November 7, 7:00 p.m.
Neffsville Mennonite Church
Lancaster, Pa.
communications@lmhs.org

**Women’s Regional Assembly**
November 12, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Stumptown Mennonite Church
stumptownmc.org/get-connected/wra/

**Immigration & Refugee Seminar**
November 14, 6:30 p.m.
Conference office, Lancaster, Pa.
717-293-5246 ext. 100

**Celebration of Church Life**
March 17–18, 2017
Weaverland Mennonite Church
East Earl, Pa.
717-293-5246 ext. 100

Good news in a broken world
Eastern Mennonite Missions
vision and fundraising banquet
Friday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.
Yoder’s Restaurant & Buffet
Register online by October 1 at emm.org/banquet
to attend or to host a table.

Engaging history to inspire memory, faith and hope