

## Church Cramps

by  
**Andy  
Leatherman**

*The Korean  
church I attended.*

There we sat as pacifist Mennonites with American military officers, soldiers, and expatriate missionaries in Sunday School on the American military base in South Korea. We talked about Jesus and Scriptures. I thought to myself, *how remarkable!* We Mennonites with our history of pacifism are able to worship with the military, pray with them, worship together. I thought this is good, for them and for us. But it's not what I wanted.

My wife Dorothy and I came to Daegu, South Korea, in December 1967 under the Mennonite Central Committee to help the Korean people. Dorothy was teaching English to Korean College students at Keimung Christian College, and I was directing a social work program to help poverty stricken Korean families get back on their feet again.

Our home for the next three years in this Korean city of a million population was on the Christian college campus in faculty housing. It was here we would have our first two children, Gerry and Judy. Since we did not know the difficult Korean language, we decided with our co-workers to attend the only English-speaking church service which was

located on the American military base. But I wanted something different. I wanted to be in touch with Korean people.

I decided that every Sunday following the English service on the military base, I would go to the small poor Korean church near our home. "Would it work out?" I wondered. Koreans don't worship like Americans, but I decided to try it. Not knowing enough Korean to carry on a conversation, I hoped somehow just to feel the life of this church even if I could not understand anything.

Dressing casually, hoping not to stick out, I walked the next Sunday to the small Korean church, about a half mile from our home. But I still stuck out. All Koreans have dark hair. Mine was brown. Koreans are typically short. I'm tall. Everywhere, people noticed me and stared. I was just glad my hair wasn't blond like another MCC worker! She really got the stares!

As I approached the church with its small steeple, it was clear that the church was poor, only one large room, nothing else. Everyone was stepping

*(continued on page 4)*



# The PASTORS CONNECTION

## Proclaiming the Known

*Men of Athens, I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as unknown I am going to proclaim to you. Acts 17:22-23*

I have been blessed recently by two books. One, recommended by a member of our Pastoral Team, is *Deep and Wide* by Andy Stanley.

I was moved with conviction to realize they weekly welcome many unsaved to their fellowship. They witness high percentages returning. They work intentionally and effectively to grow responders into mature Jesus followers.

Andy prophetically challenges readers to ask if we are satisfied with our success at reaching and maturing the lost. If we are not satisfied, he invites us to revisit how we do church compared to what measurably works.



### CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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Editor: Lois Ann Mast  
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Reporters: Bonnie Beam and Sharon Stoltzfus

CMC has deep roots of tradition for which I praise God. Roots stabilize. Over the generations, we have also shown readiness to change our cultural trappings when gospel demanded it.

The second reading was with the CMC Young Adult Bible Study. Discussions focused around Gregory Boyd's book *Letters From a Skeptic*.

I delight to witness our young adults giving creative leadership. They have passion for scripture. They pursue truth. Character and community is shaped by laughter and story. Truly, God is raising up another generation of faithful Jesus followers here at CMC!

I seldom agree fully with any author. Stanley and Boyd were no exception. But both are driven by a love of scripture. Both aim to proclaim the known to those unknowing.

An added fascination with Boyd's book was reality that the one articulating faith is the son; writing to Dad, the skeptic. Dad asks profound questions. Son welcomes the dialogue.

Dad brutally critiques religion. Son is confessional yet unapologetic for inviting a well reasoned faith. Questions are addressed with clarity and grace.

Happy endings sell. Boyd's book is no exception. The final pages outline dad's embrace of Christian faith!

Some people respond naturally to Christ from the heart. Emotions engage and they embrace faith. Others need a logical articulation that addresses their concerns. Gregory's Dad was the latter. Yet when his mind settled on faith, his final letter following salvation overflowed with the joy of salvation. It confirmed anew that no matter how we come to faith, God integrates heart and head. Mind and emotion get touched and transformed in salvation!

I pray God will continue to favor CMC with creative capacity to proclaim gospel so that those unknowing can know. It is knowing that empowers us to live well in this world. It is knowing that deposits the Spirit within us guaranteeing deeper knowing in the eternal!!

*Joyfully living HiStory with you,  
Pastor Bob Petersheim*



## Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on April 3, 2013. There were 16 ladies present. One comforter top was donated. Finished items included: 8 baby blankets, 18 baby caps, 4 comforters, and 13 hygiene kits (previously called health kits).

For devotions, we sang “Christ Arose” and Mark 11:1-11 was read followed by a devotional entitled “Let It Go.”

The special offering amounted to \$87.00 and was used to purchase 3 relief kits and 4 hygiene kits for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

- Betty Cannell, Secretary



Wes Boyer, Board Chair of Hope Christian Center, addresses the crowd of almost 300 at the recent fundraiser banquet.



Earl Stocker shared a powerful presentation sharing stories of how God is working through men at Hope Christian Center. Earl is a graduate of Hope Christian Center and is now employed at Times Square Church in New York City where he is now employing other Hope graduates.

# NEIGHBORS caring & sharing

*Neighbors meets on Tuesday mornings during the academic school year in our church fellowship hall from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome for this time of fellowship!*

— May 7 —

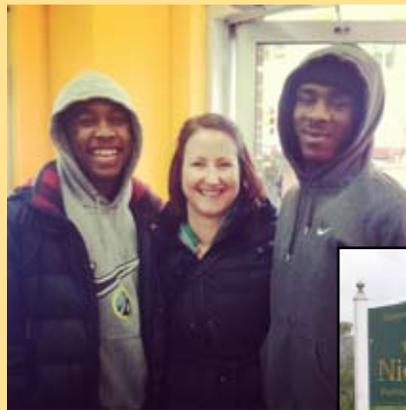
### Garden Tour at Welkinweir

Pre-register for this final time together this season!

— June 4 —

### Tour and Taste at Lapp Valley Farms

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the farm store south of New Holland.



Carrie Stoltzfus with two of her students.



## Introducing Carrie Stoltzfus . . .

**Carrie Stoltzfus** recently changed jobs and is now a Case Manager at Simon Gratz Mastery Charter School in the Nicetown neighborhood of North Philadelphia. Her favorite part of the job is relating with her caseload of nine 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. She is their “parent” at school—making sure they come to school, get their work done, and behave appropriately. She said in an e-mail, “They really are an exciting group to work with! I also work closely with the Assistant Principal of Special Education on compliance issues in order to make sure that all of our kids’ special education documents are up to date and that they are receiving appropriate services—Speech/Language, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Counseling, etc. Additionally, I serve as the point person for all the alternative education providers—making sure those kids are also receiving appropriate special education services. It is exciting to be part of an organization that is trying to support the community and support students . . . no matter what!”



*Taking the offering in the Korean church.*

**Church Cramps** (*continued from page 1*) . . . out of their shoes in typical Korean fashion before entering the back door, so I did the same, leaving my shoes at the back door with the scores of other pairs of shoes. A stack of pads were available to sit on, so I took one and sat down on it cross-legged on the men's side just like all the other men were doing, laying my Bible in front of me on the floor.

The church service lasted an hour and a half. I could hardly understand a word of what was going on. I had no problem of falling asleep or daydreaming or wandering thoughts. Church cramps would bring me up short! It was absolute torture to sit in one position, cross-legged, but I determined to stick it out. It did get easier as the months went by. But I remember to this day the weekly agony of standing to my feet for that last song!

Over the next couple years, I found a real Christian welcome at this little church I adopted. The brief bows, handshakes, or nods of many increasingly familiar faces each Sunday were warm and friendly. The young minister of this church knew a slight smattering of English, and soon took it upon himself each week to laboriously write out for me a summary of his sermon in English. His usually unintelligible sentences spoke more of his kindness than of sermon content. Yet the words he laboriously wrote gave me the sense of each Sunday morning's sermon. This and the Scriptures he had listed were enough to guide my thoughts in common with the congregation.

Korean church services were so unique! Take for

instance, the singing. I recognized the songs each Sunday morning and sang the English words to myself as the rest sang Korean. But what American church sings so enthusiastically and intensely that the pitch of the song steadily rises until everybody is singing a half step higher than the piano? It sounded like bedlam. And the children: Whoever heard of children sitting quietly during the service? They had free reign. Who but an American would be bothered by a child swinging on the church windowsill during the sermon, or the snapping of a toy cricket during prayer, or the pounding running feet down the aisle? And the offerings! Those ladies came down the aisles holding five-foot

long highly polished poles with baskets like fishnets on the end. There was never a need to pass the offering plate. They could reach you from wherever you were! And if you had a special offering to give, you just put it in an envelope and the pastor would read your name (with thanks) from the pulpit. Korean or American, I guess we are all alike in our desire for recognition! Then too, at the back of the church were small rice bags, for those who wanted to donate rice to the needy but who had no money to give.

Attending this poor Korean church took courage and I am so glad I did it. It meant cramps from sitting too long cross-legged in one position, freezing toes in mid-winter because of no heat in the building. It meant not understanding a word spoken, but recognizing the tone of words and the tunes of music. It meant my declining to attend their daily 5:00 a.m. prayer meeting, even though I would hear the early morning church bells from my warm bed. It meant tactfully refusing the minister's request to preach to the congregation because I knew he would not understand enough of what I was saying to interpret, willing as he was to try. But it meant finding oneness with fellow Christians of another culture and tongue.

I remember the enjoyment—and the work—of teaching English for a year and a half to a youth class of this church. It was a challenge of the highest sort to phrase my Christian beliefs in the English of five-year-olds for these youth. But it forced me to examine what I believed,

*(continued on next page)*

## Upcoming MYF Events

Bible Study in Youth Room  
at 7:30 p.m. on May 1, May 8,  
May 22, and May 29.

May 15 - Stocking Food Pantry Shelves  
at 7:00 p.m.

July 1-6, 2013 - Mennonite Church USA  
Convention at Phoenix, Arizona

July 14-18, 2013 - Helping with Summer  
Bible School at Conestoga



## Conestoga Softball Season Begins

Springtime brings softball season and it has begun! Yesterday on April 27, eight different softball teams competed in a double elimination fun event. There are actually 13 softball teams in the New Holland Church Softball League for 2013, but only eight participated yesterday.

Watch our church bulletin for when and where each game happens, but here is the schedule for the first ones coming up soon:

- Tuesday, April 30, at 6:45 p.m. - Conestoga vs. Bethany at West Nantmeal Park.
- Tuesday, May 7, at 6:45 p.m. - Conestoga vs. Mt. Zion at Mt. Zion.
- Tuesday, May 14, at 6:45 p.m. - Conestoga vs. New Holland Nazarene at West Nantmeal Park.
- Tuesday, May 21, at 6:45 p.m. - Conestoga vs. BORE at New Holland East.
- Tuesday, May 28, at 6:45 p.m. - Conestoga vs. Summit View at West Nantmeal Park.

- Mike Petersheim, Coach

## Church Cramps *(continued from page 4)* . . .

especially those concepts that seemed too difficult for simple language. The youth were so eager to learn and would ask me difficult questions that I had to answer in the simplest of English. As a result, my faith in God became more and more simple and more meaningful than ever before. I learned again that trusting in Jesus is not a complex proposition even though it touches every area of my life.

I remember the meaningfulness of being part of the communion services at this church, eating the bread and drinking the "wine." Words aren't necessary to partake of this symbolism of Jesus death, His broken body and spilled blood for my sake, for all of us. I am part of the church of Jesus, the body of Christ, spanning continents, language groups, and cultures. I am part of it all, and Jesus and his sacrifice

is the one who unites us.

Here I am 46 years later, part of the congregation of Conestoga Mennonite. The memory and lessons of those three years in that small Korean church never leave me. It has left me with a simpler more unshakable faith in God. It has built in me an acceptance of different ways of worship. It has built in me a new awareness of the whole world: that there are Christians in Iraq, in Israel, in the Philippines, in France and Germany, in Russia, in tiny Rwanda in Africa, in Iceland, in the military, everywhere. I am part of them and they are part of me!

How wonderful to be a Christian, to be part of the worldwide plans and designs of God for humankind. God draws people together, not into a straitjacket of strict beliefs and practices, but into a loving embrace with other Christ-lovers, with God himself. That is the greatest treasure of all.



## Growing Pains Lead to Pennwood Farm Success

**Stoltzfus Family  
Moves Cows Across  
State for Farm  
Expansion**

*The Harvey W. and Mary Jane Stoltzfus family today living at Berlin, Pa.*

*In 1999, this extended family moved from their Morgantown farm to Somerset Co., Pa. Although they no longer are active members here at Conestoga Mennonite, they do visit and have relatives and friends here. The following article was excerpted from last week's April 20, 2013, Lancaster Farming, written by Jessica Spangler.*

Dairy farms are generally considered to be stationary, permanent operations. Once you own one, you are probably going to live there the rest of your life.

Pennwood Farms is not your typical "stationary" farm.

In 1962, Mary Jane and the late Harvey W. Stoltzfus began their 18-cow operation on 50 rented acres near Morgantown, Pa.

Fast forward 30 years. With four grown sons—Don, Glenn, Dwight, and Duane—and a milking herd 11 times larger than they started with, the Stoltzfus family needed a change.

Milking 200 Holsteins in two separate barns on rented property was not going to work forever. Plus, their farm location was in prime urban expansion territory.

"When we started looking, two of the wives did not want to leave the state," said Duane Stoltzfus, adding that his father knew of a farmer in Somerset Co. who was ready to exit the business.

In 1999, the Stoltzfus brothers and their parents purchased the Somerset property, plus 60 more cows. At the same

time, the family also purchased a second farm on the opposite side of their new hometown of Berlin, Pa.

But the move was not that easy. The new property needed new facilities—a 414-stall freestall barn with 28-cow rotary parlor.

"It was a year-long process," Glenn Stoltzfus said. "Duane and Andrea moved out first to take over the other herd. We built the barns in the summer and moved in August of 1999."

"The dumbest thing we ever did that first year was planting crops in both Morgantown and Berlin," Duane Stoltzfus said.

Financing such a large undertaking came with its struggles too. "The rumor was that we had mason jars filled with millions," Dwight Stoltzfus said.

With the new rotary parlor, the family soon learned that the length of

their cows played a crucial role in how well an animal took to the rotary.

"Crampy cows have to go," Dwight Stoltzfus said, noting that longer cows have an increased risk of pushing their back legs off the rotary floor and fatally injuring themselves.

Initially, to help fill their new facilities, the Stoltzfus's purchased additional heifers that calved in the fall of 1999.

Recently, Pennwood has obtained the use of a neighboring 70-cow tie-stall barn. This barn, what the Stoltzfuses call their "brat barn," is used to house their show herd of Holsteins and Jerseys, plus some longer animals that don't easily fit in the rotary parlor.

Some of the animals housed in that barn have helped Pennwood Farms achieve national recognition, thanks to their show ring success.

*In the same April 20, 2013, issue of Lancaster Farming, another ex-Conestogan was featured: Sanford Stauffer (son of Ruth Stauffer and nephew of Julia Yoder) moved to Nicholville, N.Y., a number of years ago where he also farms and serves as Dairylea Cooperative Director. Here he is pictured with other leaders discussing dairy issues at the Dairy Farmers of America annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, in March 2013. With the theme "From This Land," speakers addressed the role of farmowners in feeding the world. More than 1,400 persons attended this leadership conference.*



## Senior Connections

Thursday, May 9, 12:00 noon

### Nutrition

Dietitian Nutritionist Anne Rinehimer from Berks Visiting Nurse Association will share a Nutrition presentation and distribute handouts following our lunch. Last month, we tasted goat—this month it will be buffalo (has less fat and fewer calories and contains more iron and vitamin B-12 than beef, pork, or chicken).



## “A Visit with Erin and Her Kid Goats”



*At the April Sr. Connections lunch, Erin Hale from Bowmansville brought her daughter to help show baby kid goats—it was a delightful time for everyone, and we even received a free bar of soap made of goat milk.*



# Grace

**Ernst Bänninger**  
Choir Director, Alphorn,  
Guitar and Flugelhorn

**Lorenz Schwarz**  
Vocals, Alphorn, Guitar

**Jolanda Geiger**  
Pianist

## Swiss Concert

Tuesday,  
May 7, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

Conestoga  
Mennonite Church

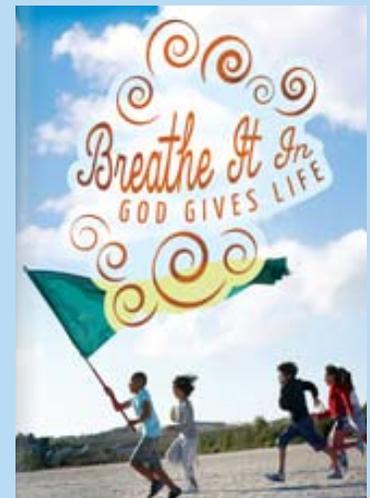
Worship with the  
Shalom Choir  
from Switzerland  
accompanied by  
alphorns,  
yodeling,  
and other  
instruments.

*All Ladies, girls and babies . . .*

Save Saturday, May 18, a.m., 9:30-11:30,  
for Conestoga's bi-annual  
**MOTHER/DAUGHTER BRUNCH.**

Special program this year of a Biblical  
Baby Parade, growing out of our very  
own Teddy Bear Club.

Please invite your sisters,  
daughters, mothers  
and others as we  
celebrate the gift of  
God to all Ladies.



## Conestoga Mennonite Summer Bible School

July 14-18, 2013  
Preschool - Grade 6  
6:30-8:30 p.m.