



Our Trip to Belize by Kristy Unruh



Austin and I recently had the opportunity to spend a month in Belize visiting my aunt and uncle, Rich and Rachel Deeds, my cousins, and their families. When we arrived, Rich and Rachel were in the middle of leading Life Change Institute, a ministry dedicated to bringing people deeper in their relationship with God.

We sat in on sections of this three-week long course to get a feel for the impact that it is having. There were 12 students participating. We listened to each of their testimonies of what they learned at LCI and were blessed by all the growth that they experienced. If any of you reading this would like to join a course, please speak further with us or Pastor Bob. It is a journey of faith that will impact you greatly!

Below are a few excerpts from my journal of the trip:
January 28: Today we spent the morning at Alisha's, holding newborn Janessa and playing with Josiah. We

went for a walk before Rachel picked us up for Life Change Institute. We sat in on video sessions led by Pastors John Bever and Robert Morris. We had lunch and then played volleyball with the LCI students. Alex (my cousin) gave us a tour of Spanish Lookout in the "missionary Subaru" as they call it.

January 30: Yesterday we made the bumpy ride on the church bus to Chechemha Camp in the Pine Ridge Reserve. The arrangements were more rustic than we anticipated, but we set up camp successfully and are enjoying the beauty of parrots, toucans, banana trees, iguanas, and waterfalls. Tonight we had some phenomenal worship under the stars and then watched a comedy movie produced by Billy Graham. We duct-taped a sheet to the back of the bus and used it as our projection screen.

February 3: Today Jeanny (my cousin Richard's wife) gave us a tour of her parent's orchard. We enjoyed seeing coconut trees, bluggars, Chinese plums, star-fruit, soursop, and custard apple. Afterwards, we went to LCI and heard the students' testimonies. We also shared greetings from Conestoga.

February 9: Anna (another guest at the Deeds house) and I cleaned the house while Rich and Rachel ministered to a local couple. We are enjoying staying here and seeing the end product of all the work the Conestoga mission team put into the house. Austin went with Pastor David Moore to load chairs from a ministry based in Bernville, Pa., that brought donations here to Belize. The chairs will be used at the current Fusion Church location. Construction for the new church building will be starting soon.

February 11: We went tubing in the afternoon with Alex. We counted 35 iguanas in the trees along the river bank from the ferry to "Mennonite Beach." However, the two-hour float ended up taking us four hours, and it started to get interesting when the sun went down and we still were not at our destination. There was a thin moon guiding our way. Richard, Jeanny, and Rachel came out looking for us and we were quite happy to finally hit shore.

This is just a preview of the adventures we had and the people we met. We would love to share more with you in person. Please keep the Deeds family in your prayers. God is doing a wonderful work among our brothers and sisters in Belize!



Serving with Habitat For Humanity in Georgia

by Andy Leatherman



Andy helping to install a window.

Another Habitat For Humanity build completed, and we are happy and relieved! Dot and I had questioned whether we were up to another two weeks of construction work with Habitat, and I guess we were! Thank you, Lord!

We began this type of mission work in February 2010 with Mennonite Disaster Service to New Orleans, and our first Habitat build in

December 2010 at Dade City, Florida. This one in 2016 was our eighth build with Habitat.

We arrived in Macon, Georgia, on Sunday, February 21, and began work on Monday morning with a team of ten people. Three of our team live fulltime in their RV's, the 72-year-old widowed man for the last 22 years, and the slightly younger couple for the last three years. What a life! Constantly traveling, visiting and staying with children, doing multiple Habitat builds one right after another. South Dakota, we learned, is a good place to register such RV's at a very low cost. Such travelers are listed as "affluent homeless" with IRS, we heard!

This was a more difficult two weeks for us. While we had extra fine relationships with our co-workers, good devotions every morning, good laughs and comradery; our construction supervisor was new to the job and did not always have his act

together. He had too many irons in the fire, one of them as a police officer for a nearby town. Thus, there were many construction questions and too frequently the need to redo segments of work. On the last two days we finally got the siding started on one house. Windows and doors were installed in the first week plus many other odds and ends construction jobs. One house was located on Dorothy Avenue and referred to as "the Dorothy House"! Dot had to do light duty and mostly half days due to her broken foot. Otherwise, she did fine.

We celebrated Dor's 73rd birthday with a cake and ice cream party for the whole team. On her birthday, we went with several of our team to Yoders Deutch Haus at Montezuma, Georgia. This restaurant was about 50 miles south of Macon and owned by plain Mennonites who live in that area.

Dot was delighted to see her favorite Holsteins grazing in *Above*:
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CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH
2779 Main Street, Morgantown, PA 19543
(610) 286-9124
www.conestogamc.com

Monthly newsletter for Conestoga Mennonite Church published since 1988. Deadline for articles and photos is the 20th of the preceding month of publication.

Editor: Lois Ann Mast
Assistant Editor: Elizabeth Petersheim
Contributing Editor: Anna Martin

*Dot
sawing
corner
boards . . .
doesn't
she look
very
professional?
Go, Dot!*





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 to attend this time of fellowship!

Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. There were 12 ladies present. Forty-eight kit bags were donated. Completed items included 6 comforters and 25 hygiene kits.

For devotions, we sang "I Owe the Lord a Morning Song" followed by a devotional based on Gen. 8:22 and 2:29-31. The subject was "the wonder of seeds" and how they point to a Creator.

The special offering amounted to \$65.00.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

— March 29 —

"Easy Family Friendly Healthy Meals"

with Barb Wimer

— April 5 —

"Basking in Joy"

with Lois Boyer

— April 12 —

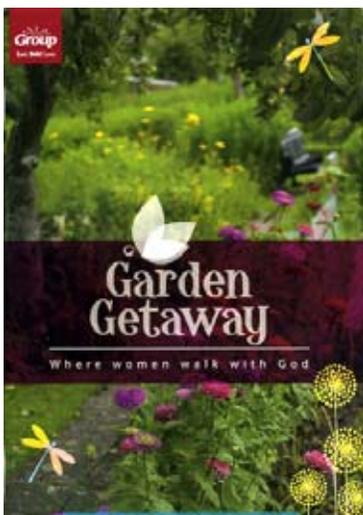
Tea Party and Presentation on "Vintage Clothing"

with Alice Blue Gown

Wear your fancy gloves!

No meetings the rest of the month.

HAPPY EASTER!



**Ladies' Day Out
Saturday, April 2, 2016
Conestoga Fellowship Hall**

Throughout history, different plants have symbolized different qualities or meanings. Here are a few:

- Daisies represent innocence.*
- Peonies represent healing.*
- Sweet peas represent shyness.*
- Ivy represents fidelity and friendship*

Join us from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall for this ladies retreat studying *Garden Getaway; Where Women Walk With God!* We will explore Ecclesiastes 3 and discover how God is at work in our life with session leaders: Lisa Miller, Carol Moss, Karen Horning, Carmen Weber and Krista Petersheim, Jill Waters, and Cindy Petersheim. This retreat is for women of all ages and will include worship, delicious food at breaks and at lunch, and door prizes. Register with Blair Petersheim by paying \$10 for all the day's activities!

- Tina Essick, Lois Ann Mast, Lisa Miller, Blair Petersheim, Coordinating Committee



Family & Media

Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

This column provides suggestions for movies, books, magazines, audio, and highlights of new materials in Conestoga's church library. I welcome your suggestions as well. ~ Mike Petersheim

Teen Christian Magazines

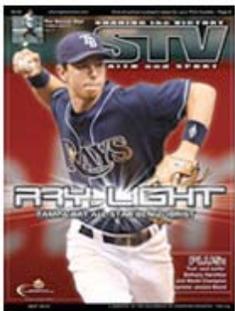


1. Breakaway Magazine is a popular e-zine on the web for Christian teen guys with articles ranging from how to cope with peer pressure, sports, music, and dealing with girls.

2. Susie Mag is a new magazine for Christian teen girls. It has 40 pages, and still comes out in print. It gives teen girls



useful advice about their daily lives and spiritual walk.



3. STV Magazine is published nine times per year—a ministry of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. It inspires Christian teen athletes to make an impact for Jesus Christ.

4. Street Brand Magazine is a Christian teens' magazine published three times per year. Its' main focus is on music, entertainment, relationship, lifestyle, and more. It definitely has a modern feel by looking at a Christian's daily life in a media-driven world.



5. Risen Magazine, an e-zine, covers everything from sports to music to lifestyles. Some articles have more of a spiritual feel than others, but there is always an underlying faith even to the lightest of questions.

6. CCM Magazine is the must-have magazine for the Christian teen music buff. It is chock full of artist interviews, music reviews, and how music influences our faith.



7. Creation Magazine is a unique quarterly 56-page full-color family magazine giving God the glory, refutes evolution, and gives you the answers to defend your faith and uphold the true history of the world found in Genesis. It is mailed to over 110 countries around the world

and has a huge impact on the lives of many.

Serving with Habitat For Humanity



Home for 18 days!

(continued from p. 2) the wide open pastures! This Mennonite settlement seemed to be prospering with farms, woodworking, butchering, and this restaurant and gift shop.

Will we make it home okay? A nail is in one truck tire, but we are hoping to get home before fixing it! Ask us what happened!





Lisa Miller leading the children in a “moving” song before Sunday School!



Above: Bertha Mast at her 90th birthday party at Fairmount Home is blessed with a whispered secret from her long-time Sunday School friend—Mabel Petersheim.



Left: Sylvia Haas, in the white sweater, lives at Conestoga View, Lancaster, and enjoyed attending a recent Wandering Shepherds Bible Study that met there.



Above: Everett Beam hiding peeking from behind a beautiful teddy bear made by his Grandma—and she made one for each of her grandchildren!

Left: Pastor Bob in the form of an angel surprised us on a recent Sunday morning!





Every day when we wake up, our first thought is probably not, “I am so grateful for a mother and/or father who loved me from the time I can remember.” However we can be clear about one thing. We can all agree it makes a difference as to how we LOOK at each day when we do wake up! Learning life skills even as a child has had huge implications on our lives.

When I helped in the kitchen during our CMC fellowship meal last month, I could not help but notice the efficiency by which things were done. Some of the most colorful fruit salad and tastiest cakes and baked beans that begged me . . . just sneak a quick spoonful. No one will notice! And they were most likely all homemade. The men at the dishwasher never gave up until every last spoon was cleaned and put away. No one asked, “Must I finish this job?” Everyone seemed to know what to do next and how to do it. Even more impressive was how to work together. No trouble. Not even a bit! Just one small example of life skills learned in their youth.

Do we take it for granted? Of course! It can be very difficult to put ourselves in someone else’s shoes. But try to imagine if you had been the one never taught the life skills that we use every day. How about emotions and how to control them? How about social skills? How about moral skills such as the consequences of our mistakes and naiveness. Not to mention God’s ways and spiritual truth.

What if I had not been my mother’s only little girl that she had so longed and prayed for? What if my mother did not love me at all or encourage me or teach me gently? What if my father had despised me and abused me? What if my mother did not care that he did? What if she only yelled at me and told me I was worthless? What if I did not learn to manage money? What if she did not

say to me something so simple that I remember to this day: “If you take good care of your things you can have them for a long time,” or when trying something for the first time like ironing or baking: “The way you did that is good, but the next time you may want to try to do it this way.” What if I was born with a kind and tender heart, but because of hatred and abuse my heart grew hard and careless? Can I imagine? No, and I don’t want to but I must if I am to learn compassion.

How can one who has been deeply bruised get up in the morning and face the day? How can she believe

that one step at a time will do, when she has fallen so far away from where she needs to be to make it in the world? How can her heart learn to trust anyone maybe for the first time ever? To whom does my respect belong . . . to myself who had every advantage, or to those who never have? And what if someone who has had the advantage and through a loving heart and hand

reaches out to those less fortunate? What if Still Waters has put themselves into a position to be that helping hand simply because they care? Can the hopeless still find hope? Wouldn’t it take a thousand “I love you’s” to compensate for the awful things that have been heard all through a young life?

Yes and the miracle is that it does happen and it did happen and if no one ever tells Still Waters they will continue to do what they do because they know it is the right thing to do. BUT if someone does tell someone and someone tells them and God is glorified through the actions of hope and words that one has been touched by God’s love, maybe for the first time, then truly God’s kingdom on earth has moved forward and we have great reason to praise HIM.

- Anna Martin

Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water -it will make ripples throughout the entire pond.
— Jessy and Bryan Matteo

The Lord Gives Me Just What I Need

by Dotty Martin

The first time I met Roy was at my house in Sarasota, Florida. It was recommended by a doctor that I move to a warm climate, so I got a job working as a nurse in Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

Roy was in Sarasota recuperating from a ski accident in Colorado. On this particular day, he stopped by my house to see if my boy friend would be there. They had been together in IW service in Washington, D.C. He was there, so they visited for awhile, and Roy and I noticed each other. I was not exactly happy with my current relationship, and it soon ended.

It was not long until Roy showed up and our relationship began. Eventually, we decided we wanted to be married. We **both** had always dreamed of living by the Rocky Mountains, so we took a trip there to see if that is what we really wanted to do.

We got to take in the car race down Pikes Peak and camped out on the top—the last time camping was permitted on the top! We absolutely loved it there, plus my sister and her husband had jobs there.

We planned to move, but got delayed because of a motorcycle accident. We both ended up on the orthopedic floor where I worked. I was in for a month and Roy was in for a month and a half. He was on crutches for a year, and I had to wear a cast on my leg for six months.

After a year, Roy had a bone graft on his leg and the healing began. I was supposed to be a cripple the rest of my life, but we did our own physical therapy. He would crawl into the salt water and swim. I would walk in the deep sand and endure terrible pain, but eventually we were healed and on our way to Colorado!

We anticipated hiking in the mountains to further strengthen our bones and bodies. When we moved, we found an apartment looking up at Pikes Peak. We were very happy there, but after we year we moved back to Florida due to a severe recession.

Due to Roy's injuries, he could no longer operate large excavating equipment, so he decided to buy a truck. That was very difficult to adjust to and for the first year, our phone bill was HUGE, but we eventually adjusted ourselves. We loved life in Sarasota. we loved the warmth, the church, and had many wonderful friends.

After many years of living there, we got a call from my Dad asking us if we would consider moving back to Pennsylvania to help care for my mother. We would live in the farmhouse on my Dad's farm in the Oley Valley.

After a lot of prayer, we decided to make the move. That was one of the coldest winters on record (we moved in the fall), and I thought that I would die. I am still here, but trust me,

that farmhouse in the winter had only two warm spots, and that was in front of the two stoves!

It was a good life there with the Manatawny Creek behind our house where the children had lots of water fun. My Dad had a herd of black Angus cattle and our son, Rony, had 4-H animals. I became the farm vet and physical therapist, and Roy was the engineer behind my ideas. There were some serious injuries and a disease occurred that the real veterinarians completely gave up on those animals. So, for one beautiful show animal that the disease affected its muscles and was going to be

put down, I massaged and massaged the muscles and together Roy and I designed a piece of equipment that would lift this large animal into the air with legs dangling.

After a period of therapy, the animal was shown in perfect health. The Vet was astounded as none had previously survived. We later wished we had acquired a patent on it. Those were the good old days!

After living on the farm and with mother's declining health, we built a house in Morgantown with an apartment for my parents, and so that Heidi could attend Conestoga Christian School. Mother lived for two more years at our current location.

And now sadly, I am moving on without my best friend of 43 years. Roy and I had a good life together. We loved traveling together and just hanging out together. We could talk for hours. Roy loved to read and was a very intelligent man. Sometimes he was like a walking encyclopedia.

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I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much. - Mother Teresa



**Next Senior Connections ...
Thursday, April 14, 12:00 noon**

After lunch, David Tennant will entertain us with his God-given gifts!
Bring your friends.

Conestoga Fishing Derby = Friday, June 3, 2016

Picnic available anytime after 6:00 p.m. -

Derby competition begins at 6:30 p.m. for fathers and family at the Petersheim Pond.



The Lord Gives Me Just What I Need by Dotty Martin (continued from page 7)

When Roy was home, our favorite times were morning and afternoon coffee breaks. Before I knew Roy, he was an avid skier and enjoyed racing cars at Maple Grove winning many trophies.

Roy had a kind and caring heart and a calm spirit and strong faith. He was a good balance for impulsive me. Little children were drawn to him, and he could put our grandchildren to sleep when no one else could. They adored him. Five-year-old grandson, Cade, prays every day that Grandpa will have a safe trip to heaven. Yes, he has been helped to understand it all.

Roy was a faithful husband. I could always trust him. He also had a love for the Mennonite Church. He loved family—his, mine, ours!

We had pet names for one another. He was my *Honey Poo*, and I was his *Cotton Ball*. Sometimes, he would write cute little poems for me and let them lay around for me to find, or he would draw a heart on a banana with an arrow going through it.

Before I began with some of my more serious health issues, I would truck with him once in awhile. We took one trip to the west coast that I will never forget! I was in the bunk and he came back and said, “Princess Diana was killed.”

Words cannot express how much I miss my *Honey Poo*. Somedays, I cannot believe he is gone and wonder how I can live life without him.

We used to talk about the *what ifs*, and we both would say, “I can’t imagine life without anyone but you.” I am finding that when the days get overwhelmingly dark and lonely, that the Lord gives me just what I need to get through. I have felt the power of prayer, and have experienced so much love from people close to me—my family, Roy’s family, church family, wonderful neighbors, and acquaintances.

Someone I met only one time, sent me a devotional book called *Jesus Calling*, good for those experiencing suffering.

A woman I met only once from out of state, sent me a beautiful message of hope and comfort. (She is not even a Christian.)

A fifteen-year-old girl who lost her mother at age ten sent me a beautiful letter of comfort and encouragement.

Special words of encouragement for me and a beautiful letter of appreciation for Roy from Adriel Peachey, a young man who I had in Conestoga’s youth group and Sunday School.

I still spend a lot of my time on the phone from caring folks who take the time to call. So through my tears and my pain, I have seen the face of Jesus, and I can say, that God is still good. Sometimes, I look up, and I say, “Don’t worry, Roy, I am being well taken care of.” Joshua 1:9: “Yes, be bold and strong, banish fear and doubt. For remember the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

I have been blessed by a wonderful husband and friend (and I miss him more than words can say), but now I need to move on. I plan to move (by the end of March) to Eustis, Florida, where our son, wife, and all but one of our grandchildren, live.

I will be happy for any visitors and can give you bed and breakfast when I decide where to live in Eustis. I hope to spend summers in Harrisonburg, Virginia, but do not have things worked through yet.

Thank you for allowing Roy and I the blessing of being a part of your lives. May the Lord continue to shine His face upon you.

P.S. Sadly, one month after Roy’s death, Roy’s sister passed away of a mysterious illness. She had two Drs. degrees and was head of the Computer Science Department at the University of Texas. The disease effected her brain. She and Roy were very close.