

P a g e S



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Looking Around Me...

Oscar Hammerstein wrote in a lyric for "South Pacific":

"You've got to be taught to hate and fear.
You've got to be taught from year to year.
It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear.
You've got to be carefully taught.
You've got to be taught to be afraid
Of people whose eyes are oddly made,
And people whose skin is a different shade,
You've got to be carefully taught.
You've got to be taught before it's too late,
Before you are six or seven or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate,
You've got to be carefully taught!"

This poem/song is an upside-down plea for love and hope and peace and justice. Do we come into the world hating and fearing others? No, but we learn it quickly as we look around and see and hear it patterned by imperfect teachers.

I was stretching, pushing, pulling, flexing at the fitness center of the near-our-new-home local Mennonite high school. I know better than to think everyone there jogging on the treadmills, working out on the variety of muscle-strengthening machines, racking up mileage on the stationery bikes are "people of peace." But today I really knew this! I could not escape the low-level discussion going on next to me about "the war in Iraq." Two men had paused in their fitness routine to grumble/mumble about "the mess we are in - I don't see it getting any better even with more troops - what they need is a Patton! Yeah, Patton - he was a thorn in Eisenhower's side, but he got the job done." A few more mumbles - only the names were clear, "Nixon - Johnson" and then "Pelosi." Finally and clearly: "The liberals certainly don't have any answers."

Patton would "get the job done"! I know enough history to know he wanted to wipe the enemy off the face of the map. I considered dropping in a tiny thought, one tiny seed: But what about Jesus teaching us to love our enemies? I decided this was not fertile soil - so I did not open my mouth. Apostle Paul would surely have found a way to plant that seed. How else to begin the unlearning of hate and fear? Is it my job to teach two grown men? If so, I failed to even try last night.

Lord, please help us spread the good news of grace. Help us teach and to show the children in our lives - those big and small - this mystery of grace: "Jesus loves the little children - ALL the children of the world."
- Helen L. Lapp



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

MARP is seeking to add members - inviting everyone "over 50" to join and at the same time make a contribution to Mennonite Central Committee. True! MARP will give a tithe of the membership fees we receive through April 2007. Tell your "over 50 friends" and ask them to join MARP now. Information about how much it costs to join MARP is given in every issue of *PAGES* (at the bottom of page 5). Maybe you have noticed that MARP fees have stayed flat for the past eight years. Should this change?

Memberships support the SOOP project, the fall retreat, the biennial senior sports classic. Check *The Mennonite* and *Mennonite Weekly Review* for ads placed there. The MARP motto is "Older Adults Living With Spirit" - and it fits all who continue to answer God's call on our lives. We ask you to support this ministry of service, healthy living, friendship and blessing to all God's children.

NOTE: Any current member signing up 10 three-year members can add three years to his/her own membership. And remember, 10 percent of the income received from this membership call will go directly to MCC.

Thank you! Thank You!

Book Reviews

GRIEF AND SEXUALITY: Life After Losing a Spouse, by Rachel Nafziger Hartzler (243 pages, Herald Press, 2006). The author combines her skills as a former nurse turned scholar and pastor in this helpful book growing out of the sudden death of her husband when she was 51. Otto Klassen in the foreword shares his own sudden and horrendous loss and notes: "Grieving a loss of a spouse is one of life's most shattering wounds. Rachel's account opens the possibility of redeeming the intense suffering so typical of spousal grief by looking honestly at grief and finding joy there also." David Augsburg describes it as "a book to read, a book to share as bibliotherapy."

THE FAITH CLUB: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew - Three Women Search for Understanding (320 pages, Free Press, 2006). Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner are their actual names and this book interweaves their personal faith stories as they chose to become friends. It all began shortly after 9/11 as the three decided to get together regularly to share their religious beliefs. If you choose to read *The Faith Club*, you will get an inside view that is rarely available as we live our tandem but unconnected lives. Listening in will be a stretch. The three journeys (even the "Christian" one) will most likely be quite different from your own. The book includes guidelines for forming a Faith Club - for interfaith understanding.

Baby Javid News



I answered the office phone the other day and a voice inquiring about a possible SOOP assignment suddenly asked, "Are you Javid's grandmother?"

What a wonder to be known by my preemie grandson! I will not give a long update about this tiny boy's continuing journey, but I can report his birth weight of 15 ounces has advanced to nearly five pounds and - although he sleeps during most of our weekly visits to his neonatal ward - the photos show him focusing on the faces above him during his regular sessions of Kangaroo Care.*

Little Javid Fynn now sucks on a tiny binkie, waves his hands in the air and takes in and puts out his "mother's milk" - while still waiting to try getting this nature's way. The care team is working now to help him with his breathing. Javid's birth "due date" just came up on the calendar. We pray he can come home soon - a miracle baby "still on a wild ride" as the doctors warned.

** Taking cues from the famous mammal with a pouch, preemie babies around the world are so obviously benefiting by being held skin-to-skin near the heart for an hour or two at a time - amazing.*

Announcing!

The Aging With Spirit Retreat 2007 (Sept. 30 - Oct. 2) features Linford and Janet Stutzman of Harrisonburg, Virginia, telling their "Sailing Acts" story. The Stutzmans recently followed Apostle Paul's amazing route as he and fellow missionaries spread the gospel. This sailing story is a lively one. The trip fulfilled a dream. We will ask you to share dreams, hobbies, hopes. We meet again at the Laurelville Retreat Center in Mt. Pleasant, PA. Plan now to come - be assured we will sing together, laugh together and worship together. This retreat will again be full of "spirit."

Itinerary

Helen Lapp and MARP board chairman, Charles Longenecker, plan to attend the "Pending Generational Shift - It's all about money but it's not what you think" event. This February 26-27 conference is sponsored by Mennonite Church USA and MMA at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. We look forward to joining a lively conversation about the impact of the Baby Boomers. Helen also hopes to return to Pittsburgh at the end of March to attend this year's Mennonite Health Assembly. MARP is now officially a member of MHS Alliance.

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and yet remain my friends

A work to do which has real value without which the world would feel poorer

A mind unafraid to travel even though the trail be not blazed

An understanding heart and a sense of humor

Time for quiet, silent meditation; a feeling of the presence of God

And the patience to wait for the coming of these things

With the wisdom to know them when they come.

- W.R.Hunt

(poem shared by

Frances Greaser, Goshen, IN)

An Unusual Volunteer Suggestion

for the tech-savvy - serving from home:

The MARP office received the following e-mail request. "I am writing you about a way for volunteers to help people from all over the world to practice their English. This is done via free PC-to-PC calls. All it takes is a computer running a recent version of Windows (or Mac OS X or Linux) and a headset with a mic (available from Radio Shack). A broadband connection is a plus. Persons who have experience working with people of different languages and cultures might find this rewarding." To discover more about this, contact Steven Johnson, an English teacher in Texas with Language Pedagogics International.

Telephone: 956-994-9977 ~ E-mail: sj@inglesparati.com

Web site: <http://www.inglesparati.com/volunteers>

A Sample of SOOP Traffic via E-mail, Snail Mail, & Phone

A message comes from Alabama - a while after the initial inquiry and some movement toward a two-week placement in Pennsylvania - as a "first time with SOOP": Regarding the possibility of a SOOP assignment in April, it now seems best to postpone that prospect for the present. "R" was asked last week to accept an increased workload at the hospice office where she was volunteering - she'll now be paid 2-3 days a week as administrative assistant. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope to get back to you in future years.

I respond: *Sometimes I marvel at the benefit of a little procrastination! I intended to get on this assignment in a few days - and am glad now that I did not go further/deeper just yet. SOOP - as one kind of "serving in Jesus' name" - will have to wait. Thanks for letting me know of the change of plans. I know you will enjoy this new challenge/opportunity, "R." Let me know "where" and "when." God bless both of you.*

Answering another request to serve: *Greetings, "M" - I called MCC and they say yes! Go ahead and plan for this time of service. I promise to get to you with details next week!*

Later: I would like to begin my SOOP assignment in Akron on Monday, 29 January 2007. I would appreciate it if you could give me the name and phone number of the person I could contact in Akron so that I can finalize arrangements. Thanks so much. "M"

I reply: *You have been on my mind. "JB" is the person you will call - he is counting on your beginning January 29 and I also stated you plan to serve "until February 23." The SOOP confirmation memo for this assignment is attached here. Contact info is included at the bottom of the memo. Feel free to contact me any time with other questions, comments.*

An inquiry from New Brunswick comes initially offering to serve several months this winter. Together we settle on Griffin, GA, for the month of March and explore several Kentucky locations for February - the first one does not work so we explore a second location in Kentucky. A post arrives: Thanks for your info. We would like to call Lotts Creek to see how flexible they can be about our date of arrival and whether or not they would need us to commit to a full month. Our daughter called to say [our house has] a basement water leak. It appears to be minor, but we can't be sure at the moment.

"D & D" decided to serve in this Kentucky location in April. A question ends the post: We noted your 'Shalom' at the end of your e-mail. Do you have an interest in Jewish history, etc? We recently completed a short course of study pertaining to God's covenants with Israel and prophesies. Thanks for your work on our behalf and we await your e-mail.

In the reply with lots of needed details and info, I add a bit of explanation: *I do like to use "shalom" as a more complete wish for all-around health and well-being. It comes from our surprising year in 1998 as MCC directors of the education/service unit in Egypt. While living there we visited Israel and Palestine - attending a Christian conference held near Bethlehem. Your study sounds helpful for this sad time when the importance of inter-faiths sharing is so needed.*

An unusual SOOP scenario developed from this post from Iowa: Since we first contacted you [about a time of SOOP service], some things have changed slightly. I've visited with my sister at Milford, Nebraska. She and her husband and another sister [and a friend from Kansas] would be interested in doing a week of volunteer service work with us - in January or February - we prefer a warmer climate location - may be a total of six of us available. Some questions: Are there places that could use up to six people at one location for a period of one week? Would lodging be available - and if no meals are provided, would there be a kitchen available to use? I would appreciate any help that you can give us. Thank you so much for your efforts.

"H" added that the group is willing to do a variety of tasks - I reply briefly - there is some work ahead: *I dug up your phone number and left a message that we need to discuss this further before I head anywhere with this as a unique inquiry. A group of folks certainly can be helpful in many locations - housing will be the question in January and February. Let's discuss this exciting "week of serving together" - I will wait for your call.*

[This SOOP Group is serving in Phoenix, Arizona]

New SOOP Locations

Souderton, Pennsylvania - Care & Share Shoppes, Inc. includes four stores at one location which benefit MCC. There are three thrift stores: Clothing, Variety, and Furniture. The Ten Thousand Villages store next door carries new handcrafted items from 32 developing countries. Volunteers are needed: cashier, sorting, pricing, and stocking shelves. The complex of stores provides a fun, relational center of volunteer activity within easy access to Philadelphia. Assistance with finding affordable lodging may be requested.

Bergton, Virginia - Highland Retreat is a summer camp/retreat facility for all ages and welcomes volunteer assistance from May through September with weekend hosting, maintenance, carpentry, food service. Cottage or full RV hook-up. Meals provided.

Ely, Minnesota - Wilderness Wind, Inc., provides guided canoe trips into the wilderness of northern Minnesota and also offers retreat for individuals. Volunteers are welcomed May through mid-September to assist in kitchen and office and with cleaning, painting, or small carpentry projects. Lodging is available with no charge in a lakeside cabin or a yurt with bathroom nearby. Meals provided.

Mennonite camps and colleges call for visitors/volunteers - choose one where you want to visit and plan to serve for a month or longer - perhaps near to where you have relatives! **Our Canadian SOOP colleague** reminds us regularly that there is more than one season across the border with some great places to visit and to serve a while!

Call, send e-mail or write a request for the full updated SOOP Location List. (You can also check it out at the MARP Web site.)

Finding Time in Retirement

Typically the word "retire" means to withdraw or step back from a current lifestyle and take time to relax. However, retirement seems to have taken on a different meaning in today's fast-paced society.

"Everyone's over-committed," said Steve Ganger, MMA stewardship education director and author of *Time Warped: First Century Time Stewardship for 21st Century Living*. "We have adapted it (being over-committed) as normal, but it's not." For God's word instructs us to take time to rest.

And retirees seem to be no exception to this nonstop lifestyle. "Seniors are just as busy as everyone else. They are just doing different things," Steve said. He noted that seniors continue to participate in everything from volunteering, to visiting family, and even working.

With people constantly struggling to find time in their busy schedules, he suggests it may be good for retirees to help "set an example of a slower pace of life."

Time is a gift from God and the way we use our time should be a reflection of that. During Stewardship University seminars Steve teaches on time stewardship, he helps people, "put in perspective what's important." Participants fill out a sheet detailing how much time they spend doing particular activities and, according to Steve, the majority underestimate the amount of time they spend doing tasks.

What people also often discover is their time spent with God is one area that receives the least of their attention. When it comes to finding time, Steve said it's about, "taking small steps forward." Look at commitments made and consider areas in which time could be spared in order to benefit more from time spent with God.

Steve's book and other helpful resources are available at www.mma-online.org under the education and resources section.

- *Lindsey Hab, MMA Communications*

Midnight Musings

Preservers:

What do I "ponder in the middle of the night"? Often it is whether I will live long enough to do all the things I want to do and those things I have to do.

The have-to-do things are day-to-day ministries, assignments, and the obvious duties that come from being "available."

On the want-to-do list are making "memory books" for each of our children and grandchildren; writing my memoirs; getting photos, files, papers organized; separating "precious things" from "junk things" so our children don't have to do it when I am gone.

My daughter's reassurance, "Don't worry, Mom, we'll just bring in a dumpster and take care of everything!" only adds urgency to my "ponderings"!

- *Ann K. Gingrich, Goshen, IN*

Pray-ers:

I really resonate with the Psalmist who said: "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places." (Ps 16:6) I am so fortunate, so undeservedly blessed.

Many years ago when Elfrieda and I were serving with MCC in Europe and were privileged to come home for a brief vacation, my mother told us that there were nights when she could not sleep right through. I said I was sorry, but she laughed and said there was nothing to be sorry about. During those periods when she was awake she prayed for all of us nine children. Sometimes she would start with the oldest and other times with the youngest, and many times she never got to the end before she was back asleep again. I thought how fortunate can a person get, since I was right in the middle of the nine, four older and four younger. She probably always got to praying for me.

All these years, even now at 92, people tell me that they are praying for me. I am so blessed, so fortunate. To still have invitations to speak in schools, churches and at retreats, to have a loving family, to be in reasonable good health, and to know that "underneath are the everlasting arms," is cause for gratitude and praise that cannot be expressed in words.

- *Peter J. Dyck, Scottdale, PA*
(continued on page 5)

True or False

1. Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
2. In the winter of 1932 Niagara Falls froze completely solid.
3. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
4. Leonardo da Vinci invented the scissors.
5. Kneecaps in the human body develop between age 2-6.
6. Almonds are a member of the rose family.
7. Winston Churchill was born in a ladies room during a dance.
8. Hazardous, horrendous, stupendous - Can you think of one more word that ends in "dous"?
9. "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet. (Do you have a sentence which uses all letters but each one only once?)
10. Two words in the English language have all five vowels in a row: "abstemious" and "facetious." (Anyone know others?)

Timely?

"An unlimited power to tax involves, necessarily, the power to destroy."

- *Daniel Webster*

Visit MARP and SOOP online!

<http://marp.mennonite.net>

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Midnight Musings (continued from page 4)

and Players:

Growing up as Number Four in a family of seven children born in a ten-year span, we were a close family. As long as I can remember we played a game called "calendar page." It had simple rules: on the first of the month, the child who changed the month on the calendar designated as the "boss calendar" was "boss" of the month. Being "boss" had no power or privileges, just the right to brag that we had outsmarted the others and changed the calendar page first.

The game inspired some intense competition and trickery. If you sneaked out of bed in the middle of the night on the first day of the month and tore off the calendar page, you tried to make just enough noise getting back into bed to wake up a brother or sister but then pretend to be sleeping soundly. You hoped that the sibling would wake up, think all were sleeping, and this would be a good time to sneak downstairs to get to the calendar first. If they did and found out they were too late and had made the trip downstairs through the cold house for nothing, they would get some innocent comments when they came back to bed: "Getting some exercise?" or "I wonder what day of the month this is?" which would be answered by a pillow slam on the head.

We children learned this game from our parents. Mother told us she learned it from her parents. By now the "children" are grandparents and there are stories of "calendar page competitions" from people old enough to know better. For example, returning from a car trip on the first of the month my brother-in-law parked the car beside a tree so his spouse's passenger door was blocked. He then raced into the house to get the calendar page first. Another couple was starting the day when both of them suddenly realized what day it was. One of them, whose name will be concealed, blocked the door of the bathroom on the other until he could get to the calendar page.

There are also some traditional loser speeches: "Are you still playing that childish game?" or "Since you need to be 'boss,' I purposely let you change the calendar."

So, in answer to the question about what one thinks in the middle of the night, sometimes the level of profound thought is only, "I wonder what day it is and whether Anita has already changed the calendar page."

- Stan Bohn, Newton, KS (MARP board member)

God of all wisdom and truth, I've no pulpit to preach from, but I have a speech to make about what I've learned on the way to becoming older.

Welcome each day with anticipation of what God has in store for you. Close it off with thanksgiving.

Sing in the shower, dance in the kitchen, jog in the park, whistle while you wait.

Visit with the postman, the nurse in the doctor's office, the man at the service station, the woman sitting next to you at a lecture.

Talk about the weather, your rose bushes, about the dog next door - anything except your own aches and pains, operations and treatments, intake of calories and cholesterol, sleep and bathroom habits.

Make up a ridiculous name when you meet someone you know but whose name you have forgotten, and you'll keep your friend.

When you can't remember where you placed something for safekeeping, forget you owned it. When you find it, you'll be the first to be surprised.

... Never satisfied, never says, "Enough!" [is] the grandchild who likes homemade stories.

The person who is profligate with compliments and stingy with criticism will never want a friend.

Like a beautiful Rembrandt hung in the chicken barn is the well-groomed, well-exercised elder who gripes all day long.

(selected from *Wise Words for Old Agers* by Katie Funk Wiebe)

Remember to Renew ...

Look at your address on this newsletter - if not up-to-date, please send a three-year (so one year comes free) renewal check to the MARP office. LIFE* renewals also send cheery notes of support: "do re (a drop of golden sun) mi"). Membership fees keep this older adult organization going - the linking, learning, "living with spirit." MARP is small; happy to be Anabaptist-related; has 4000-plus members from 43 states. NOTE: MARP membership supports the short-term volunteer project called SOOP. Volunteers do pay their own way "as they go;" however, there is no charge for MARP's part in promoting this creative program and assisting volunteers with information and connections.

Check on address label if you are currently paid up as a member. Please renew membership - from current date.

MARP members and PAGES subscribers ... please note ... and circle your choice of renewal term.

1. Advise any change of address. 2. Look at the DUE DATE on this address label. 3. Renew if past due date. 4. Clip label.

RATES:	LIFE	3 Years	1 Year
One person	\$300	\$40	\$20
Two persons at one address	\$400	\$60	\$30

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A Gentle Wind of God: The Influence of the East Africa Revival

by Richard K. MacMaster with Donald R. Jacobs (401 pages, Herald Press, 2006)
Reviewed by Andy Leatherman, Coatesville, PA

Back in the early days of my childhood, as a missionary child in the 1940's and 1950's, I knew that my parents felt deeply about spiritual matters. In our evening family devotions my "daddy" would confess again his irritations during the day. It was a bit tiresome to me as a child. I did not look forward to taking my turn at praying aloud. I did not know enough of family breakdown and misery in this world of ours to appreciate the consistent love and care my parents exemplified and practiced, nor did I understand their leadership in this great revival.

My parents, John and Catharine Leatherman, were touched by the East African Revival, as I became touched years later in 1954. This transforming revival movement, beginning in 1929 and its resulting worldwide influence spanning generations, is meticulously and masterfully recorded in *A Gentle Wind of God* by Richard K. MacMaster with Donald R. Jacobs. It records the utter transformation of the missionaries themselves, their families, the African people, and the impact on relationships between missionaries.

This is a book worth reading if you can wade through its 357 pages of careful documentation. It is a book any enthusiasts of spiritual revival should read - describing the work of God's Spirit reviving the lives of "common people" un beholden to church leadership and structure. The 37 pages of personal testimonies at the end of the book are a beautiful conclusion testifying to the ongoing transforming power of God.

The message of this book is a gripping one, old but utterly new: Jesus, walking in openness with this Christ, and in turn walking openly "in the light" with fellow brothers and sisters. The message is that true revival unites brothers and sister of differing race, tribe nationality under the Word of God and the Lordship of Jesus. The Holy Spirit in revival calls men and women to work within their church structures, not to divide and separate. The astounding message (an old one to be sure) is that the work of the spirit-shaping Jesus in his followers equally touches and transforms the most highly educated as well as the most simple. Language, culture, nationality, race, or sex are no barriers to this transforming power.

My personal testimony, 52 years after being touched, is that the revival lives on in me more vigorously than ever guided by the person of Jesus, directed by the ever active work of the Holy Spirit - walking in openness with God and my fellowmen - informed and instructed by the Word.

- **Lancaster County Wisdom** from a home-published (Lititz, PA) "*Horse Power*" - James May
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- If you think you're a person of some influence, try ordering somebody else's dog around.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll ever have to deal with watches you from the mirror every morning.
- Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging.

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