

# Mustard Seed

## Giving and Taking

*Scott Swartzendruber*

In a recent sermon, I listed several ways that you can tell if you are the kind of person who is more interested in taking rather than finding ways to give. The seven ways included:

- You act entitled to whatever you are taking from others.
- You believe your problems are someone else's fault.
- You believe that everyone is in the world to make you happy.
- You act as if you are always right.
- You will not put yourself in someone else's shoes.
- You hold everyone else accountable but avoid being held accountable.
- You don't feel compelled to say thank you, to be grateful, or to show any generosity toward others.

Someone reminded me that there are times when it is important to be a taker.

- Take words of appreciation when given.
- Take acts of kindness and love with gratefulness when given by others.
- Take time out to pray, worship, and be renewed.
- And, most importantly, take the wonderful saving grace of Jesus given to us by Christ. This is when it is very appropriate and right to be a "taker" of the free gift of God's redeeming and saving grace in Christ.

I also want to "take" this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers over the last several months as we have sought leadership for our church. The members of the search committee put much time into the search process, and I encourage you to thank them for their dedication, prayers, and commitment to seeking God's wisdom and guidance for the leadership of our church. Can we ever find perfect leaders? Certainly not. Yet in our human frailty and by the grace of God, we can find leaders who are faithful and dedicated to the cause of Christ, which is to help us all come to the fullness of grace and to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to be Christ-like in every area of our lives.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- I also want to "take" this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers over the last several months as we have sought leadership for our church.
- We are to do what Jesus did—love one another and care for the downtrodden.
- It is impossible for us to stay in the light without God's Word and His Spirit being continually active in our lives.
- There are approximately 777 people per square mile in the Philippines. It is not a place you go to be alone.
- Summertime is a great time to read a great book.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

*Ed V & Carol Miller*



We want to welcome our new associate pastor, Josh Lundberg and his wife Jill and their daughters, Livia and Natalia. Just so you know, Livia's favorite color is pink, she likes anything with "Hello Kitty", and she can do a somersault. Wow!

Mollie Miller and her granddaughter, Hailey traveled by Amtrak to Colorado for a week in June. While Hailey participated in Senior High Week at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Mollie volunteered in the camp kitchen. That must have been a great time of "bonding" for the two of you. Nice.

Jonathan and Ben Wyse went to the Philippines to visit their sister, Larissa. They flew from Chicago to Tokyo and on to Manila for 18 hours in the air. They spent time helping at a Bible College and also got to see some of the area where Larissa has been living. Larissa originally left Iowa to spend a number of weeks in the Philippines, but those weeks have extended into months and she was very happy to see her brothers again. Good job fellas!

Tracy and Duran Richenburger are taking a road trip to the East Coast. They will attend the Lionel Collectors Club of America Convention in Danvers, Massachusetts. They will do some whale watching, Boston sightseeing, and of course a train ride (cog) to the top of Mount Washington in New Hampshire. They should be back in Iowa about the time the Mustard Seed reaches your mail-

boxes, so unfortunately we have no photos. Sounds like a great time!

Sheldon and Miriam Nisly made a trip to Seattle, Washington to celebrate Sheldon and his twin brother, Weldon's birthdays! Also making the trip was Dwight & Jenelle (Nisly) Bender and Wendell & Muriel Nisly. Seven of the eight siblings made it to the big celebration. Happy 70<sup>th</sup>. Birthday.



Lance and Cristina Richards and their children, Addison and Dawson are moving to Corvallis, Oregon for a career opportunity for Lance and their family. They will be leaving Iowa in mid-August to start their journey westward. We here at KMC will miss all of you and will be praying for you. Keep in touch.

Catrina Miiller asked her dad, John Schrock, if he would go with her to do some MDS work this summer. He agreed so they called out to the MDS office in Pennsylvania and found out there was an MDS project in Hawaii. So they decided why not and went and helped on the Big Island for two weeks renovating houses damaged by a recent hurricane by doing drywall and painting. And yes, they went early and did some sightseeing as well. Now, Diane Schrock thinks that maybe she and her son-in-law, Joel Miiller should book their own trip to Hawaii this coming February! Just Kidding!!!

OK, now that's just about enough. So long, stay cool. It's August!

## Congratulations!

*These people have reached a milestone, 50 or more years of marriage, or 80 or more years of life*

*Don't forget to send a card! The addresses are in your church directory.*

### Birthday:

Bernice Miller	August 3
Ada Fisher	August 8
Gertie Chupp	August 15
Mary Jane Miller	August 22
Doris Redding	August 27

### Anniversary:

Elmer & Marlene Yoder	54 years, August 1
Dave & Mary Groh	60 years, August 6

# Mennonite Church USA Assembly

*Elsie Mast*

Wilbur and I attended the MCUSA Assembly in Kansas City, June 30-July 4.

The first delegate session was at two pm on Tuesday afternoon. It was mainly to rules of conduct for our sessions and reports from different agencies in the Mennonite Church. Wednesday morning our resolution was on Discernment on Faithful Witness Amid Endless War. We are to condemn the use of drones by our government where so many innocent people are hurt or killed. The Endless war is between Israel and Palestine. It didn't pass because it was decided that it was not in enough detail. Saturday they came back with a much shorter version until the next meeting in two years. This version passed.

Wednesday afternoon, was the Leadership Discernment Report and we voted on the ballot. Dave Boshart is now Moderator elect. The Purposeful plan was also talked about.

Thursday morn was Discernment on Forbearance Resolution. There was much discussion. Wilbur and my table were very good at listening to each other. I will not give all the resolution but this: Because we seek peace and unity as together we discern and seek wisdom on these matters, we call on all those in MCUSA to offer grace, love, and forbearance toward conferences, congregations and pastors in our body who, in different ways, seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ on matters related to same-sex covenanted unions. It passed with 817 votes-581 yes (71%). In the afternoon session, we had Discernment on the Membership Guidelines. The resolution was to continue to serve the MC USA with the guidelines that were

adopted by the delegates in 2001 and 2013. After much discussion it passed by 473 yes out of 811.

Friday morn was Discernment on Statement of Abuse, and a litany response. It was passed and the need to teach healthy, wholesome sexuality was affirmed.

Friday afternoon there was no delegate session so we went on a servant project to the Reconciliation Services Agency. This is a place that takes care of a needs for those who don't have much. They feed about three hundred a day to a sit down meal so it helps with their self-esteem to be treated like someone special. They told us that they are so busy that they don't have time to clean and repair. Wilbur helped clean up the sheet rock mess from the those who were there the day before when they tore out sheet rock. I helped with painting and clean up in another room. It was a three story building in a bad part of town. Quite a difference from where our hotel was. Wilbur said if he had his tools he would have gone back the next day, to finish up some things we couldn't do because we didn't have tools or time.

Saturday afternoon session was more reports and installation of new moderator. Also Cesar Garcia said there is still time to register for World Conference.

It was very much a learning experience for Wilbur and me. It was totally different than Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Another highlight for us having breakfast with my nephew Micheal Schimdt who lives in Overland park on Saturday morning.



## **Teachers, Small Group Leaders, Anyone looking for Bible Study Material**

Contact me if you would like some help finding Bible Study material. I have sample workbooks for more than sixty studies and sample video sessions for some of them as well. (Not all studies have video available). They range in topic from raising kids, men's studies, discipleship, marriage, books of the bible and more. If these aren't what you or your group is looking of for I will do my best to help you find what you would like. Contact me any time, at home or at JW's Foods (my other home). Dawn Wyse



# Impressions from Central Plains Mennonite Conference

June 19-21, 2015

Minneapolis, MN

*Marlinda Beachy*

For me, conference began on Friday morning at Woodland Hills Church which meets in a former K-Mart in St. Paul, with a very good worship service and sermon by Greg Boyd.

During his first sermon, Greg spoke on joy. He said that God didn't save us to be doers, but to be lovers. When love flows from us to others, then we will do things that show love. He said that we should each have personal devotional time so that we can abide in God. We should enjoy what God ALLOWS us to enjoy and sacrifice or give what God CALLS us to give.

After the morning service we began the first of two delegate sessions for the day. Sitting in our assigned table groups we listened as David Boshart introduced the Covenant of Spiritual Practices and asked that each congregation utilize the four lesson study guide called "Being God's Faithful Community" written by Tim Detweiler, within the next year. He encouraged praying and fasting as we study and said that fasting could be from food, or from other activities that we enjoy. One thing David said that I found especially interesting was that we white middle class Mennonites think of "isms" such as racism, sexism, materialism etc. as societal issues but that our Hispanic brothers and sisters think of them as spiritual matters.

After a box lunch we attended various workshops. I selected "Understanding and Responding to Sex Trafficking" which was held at Faith Mennonite church. The leader of the workshop was very emotionally connected to the plight of exploited girls around the world. Following the presentation we ate supper at an ethnic market in St. Paul.

Saturday morning we had another excellent and pointed sermon by Greg Boyd during which he told us that we are to "mimic Jesus" and that our disagreements with each other are inconsequential because they are just our opinions. When we disagree, the kingdom of God is not at stake—our opinions are at stake. In politics, brilliant and sincere people are on both sides of all issues including healthcare, abortion, homosexuality, etc. We are to do what Jesus did—love one another and care for the down-

trodden. He suggested that we are taking the Lord's name in vain when we attach his name to our opinions.

Following the morning service were two more delegate sessions. During one of them the conference Conflict Management Support Team was given extra time to explain what they can do to work with congregations and they encouraged us to enlist their services even before our congregations are experiencing conflict so that they can teach us conflict resolution skills before there is an urgent need for them.

During the morning session we also read a litany of release for Beth-El Mennonite Church which has withdrawn from our conference. In the afternoon we skyped with Pastor Max Villatoro in Honduras. Because Max was unable to take his personal identification papers with him when he was deported to Honduras, he has been unable to prove his Honduran citizenship and work there. While Max said that his experience has been "terrible", he also expressed faith that as God has answered him before He will answer again. Max said that he has seen God bringing down walls and he thanked everyone for supporting his family here. Max's wife and children were presented with the Central Plains 2015 Peace Mug which is an annual award given to someone who exemplifies Jesus' way of peacemaking. It was an emotional time as we were faced with the fact that immigration issues affect brothers and sisters in Christ right here in our midst.

I was unable to attend Sunday morning worship but listened to Greg's sermon on the Central Plains website where two of the sermons he gave at conference are available and I encourage you all to do the same.

I found Greg Boyd very interesting. According to Wikipedia, he was raised as a Roman Catholic but became an atheist as a teen. He became a Christian in 1979 and founded Woodland Hills Church in 1992. The church grew from 40 members to 5000 in 12 years. Greg was featured in a front-page New York Times profile in July 2006, after losing 20% of his congregation because he challenged the highly politicized nature of American evangelical Christianity.

(cont. on page 5)



(Impressions from Central Plains Mennonite Conference, cont. from page 4)

In 2012, Woodland Hills Church began exploring Anabaptism and the possibility of affiliating with Mennonite Church USA and with the Brethren in Christ. In the article Greg stated “we’ve really been kind of growing in this direction since the church started, without knowing what Anabaptism was.” He is the author of many books that you may find interesting.

I am thankful for the opportunity to attend conference and want to reiterate the value of Central Plains Conference to member congregations. Central Plains provides resources for personal and congregational use such as family devotional guides, a library, help in pastoral searches, a website for youth workers, the conflict resolution team, study guides, conference pastors and staff, etc. It also provides accountability to the broader church, helps to form relationships with other congregations, gives a better sense of the diversity of ethnicities and beliefs in our congregations, and provides a means to join other congregations in partnership on mission and other work projects.

I encourage each of you to attend conference, whether as a delegate or not, which will be held in Des Moines next year.

*Doug and Carla Slaubaugh*

Having never been to conference we did not know quite what to expect. It was interesting to hear from the many ethnic groups that are a part of the global Mennonite community. Dave Boshart presented the covenant document that was discussed around the tables and hopefully will be studied in all the Mennonite Churches in the coming year; this will also be presented at MCUSA. The worship sessions with Greg Boyd were very interesting and enlightening. A highlight on Saturday afternoon was when the conference skyped with Max Villataro.

We attended the workshop that went to Growing Hope Farm, initiated by the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Minneapolis. Shares of organic food are sold to support bringing food to low income people in Minneapolis/Saint Paul. The idea of the Growing Hope model is that people can “earn food” for their own consumption by volunteering or they can donate labor (as well as funds) for organic food going to low income people through food shelves. We also heard from a group of Karen young people, (refugees from Burma) who have worked to earn food for their families at the farm. We along with 15 others spent several hours picking 100 lbs. of strawberries, some of which were enjoyed with ice cream at the conference. The evening was topped off with hamburgers on the grill

and fresh strawberry shortcake.

*Robin Schrock*

I felt very privileged to get to attend the Central Plains Mennonite Conference this year. Joya, Landry, and I rode with Doug and Carla, and amazingly, I thought Landry was a great traveler. (You might, however, want to verify that with Doug!) Here were my highlights.

First of all, meals that I did not have to plan or cook! We were treated to many delicious, ethnic meals, as the Mennonite churches in the area are very ethnically diverse. Secondly, the childcare was very wonderful - kind, compassionate, organized, and gifted. Landry loved it which meant I was able to focus on and enjoy the delegate sessions.

I was very moved and encouraged listening to Greg Boyd speak about joyfully following Jesus. He drove home the point that God is a joyful God with a joyful message and that joy is what drove Jesus to do the things he did. And the way for us to have joy is to get connected to Jesus, the true joy-giver! I would highly recommend listening to them. Friday afternoon was spent going to a variety of workshops located throughout the city. My group took a bus to downtown Minneapolis, where we met at Emmanuel Mennonite and spent time learning about Islam. We then had an eye-opening visit to a Somali mosque. Our group was a bit too large, however, so it was very hard to hear the things the men said to us. To be honest, I felt very sad when I was there, with this pressing darkness and so many lost people around me.

I liked hearing about all the ministry that is happening in our CPMC churches, much of which I was unaware. We spent time discussing and understanding "Being God's Faithful Community: A Covenant of Spiritual Practices," which I believe our church will soon be working through. I was moved to tears when skyping with Max Villataro. Joya is good friends of Anthony Villataro and his cousin, Gerardo, so I know how badly these families are hurting. Please continue to pray that all will realize that two wrongs never make a right, and that Max will be able to reunite with his family soon.

All in all, I was very impressed with the multitudes of ministry happening through the churches in Central Plains. It was so neat to see it all brought together. Thank you, Kalona Mennonite, for allowing Joya and me to attend.



# In Pursuit

*Dawn Wyse*

For a while now I have felt a burden for the church, both throughout the world and more specifically at Kalona Mennonite. We live in a busy world that appears to want to keep on moving faster and cramming more into it all the time. The difficulty is that we need to know what is being pushed out of our lives as we shove other things into its place. It is important that we are picking what we spend our valuable time doing and not eliminating activities that are vital to our spiritual growth. How well are we, as a body of believers, doing? As I ask this question I again feel a burden for the church.

Recently, I attended a meeting about the Central Plains Conference at Kalona Mennonite. In preparation for the meeting I had read a draft they had written on their proposed covenant of spiritual practices. Some information within this draft has emphasized concerns I had already been noticing. One statement was: "That in the most recent Mennonite Church USA Member Profile showed that less than 17% of Mennonite Church USA participates in weekly small groups for discussion, Bible study or prayer outside of Sunday School. This would suggest that while we turn to the Bible in the face of challenging matters of faith and life, the biblical story may not be shaping our daily lives." The other statement was: "In practice many Mennonites are less oriented toward what the Spirit can do through them and more oriented toward living obediently on their own strength." These two statements are extremely alarming and we should not be ignoring them.

In the American Bible Society: State of the Bible 2015 the statistics state that only 28% of people read the Bible more than once a week and 48% would fall into the category of non-Bible readers. The encouraging thing about these statistics is that we have plenty of room for growth.

If we take away 1) the Bible (God's Word), 2) prayer (communicating and relating with God) and 3) the power of the Holy Spirit working through us, how are we living (and looking) any different than a good person who doesn't know God but does his best to live a moral and productive life? We wouldn't look different because we really wouldn't be living differently than they are. We need to do everything in our power to not let the church (us, our church and the larger church) go down this road. It is destructive.

When people within a church **don't** spend time 1) in God's Word, 2) praying to God, 3) praising God and 4) allowing the Holy Spirit to transform their hearts while leading them to Truth, then they are a church that is making decisions (both in their lives and in the church) based on human knowledge and power. How can we think that God will be pleased with decisions made this way? **Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart. Proverbs 21:2**

Both the Old and New Testaments tell us that it is important to spend time in God's Word. **"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" 2 Timothy 3:16-17** **"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. "Joshua 1:8** So why are we, as a church, not doing it? Or maybe, a more useful question is what can we do, as a church, to get our body of believers to spend more time in God's Word? If God wants us to be studying His Word don't you think we should make time in our lives for it?



As for the Holy Spirit, why do we even try to do anything without Him? I know for myself, I like to do things myself. I take pride in being independent. But I can tell you that no matter how well I can do by my own power it is nothing compared to what God can do through my life if I will just step aside and allow the Holy Spirit to work. In John 16, Jesus tells us the importance of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell within us. It is a game changer that Christians should absolutely never try to operate without. The disciples were told to do nothing. **Nothing!!** Until the Holy Spirit came to them. (Continued on page 7)

(In Pursuit cont. from page 6)

Pentecost wouldn't be much of a story without the Holy Spirit. Moses wouldn't have been able to lead the Israelites out of Egypt without the Holy Spirit. David would have flopped as a king . . . maybe wouldn't have killed Goliath and become king at all. How would the Apostles have known where to spread God's Word? Acts 16 tells us of a time when the Spirit changed their direction by shutting a door.

Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit was an important part of our spiritual life. The Holy Spirit is God. Trying to live without the power of the Holy Spirit does not glorify God. I would go as far to say that it is like telling God that we believe we can do better without Him. Just visualize standing before God and trying to explain to Him why we could do better without His help. That terrifies me and yet I know there are times that I have taken the "I can do it myself" road. May God forgive me. That is my only hope. Praise be to God that He is merciful and offers forgiveness in the face of repentance.

So what do we do with this information? Maybe we have more than 28% at KMC that spend time in Bible study and prayer during the week, but until we hit 100% we have room for improvement. Truthfully, we are probably closer to that 28% than any of us would like to admit. Honestly, even 75% if put on a grading scale

wouldn't be all that impressive.

The first thing we need to do is to decide if studying God's Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us is important. If it is, then how important is it? Important enough to take the place of other activities in our lives? Once we decide it is important then we need a plan. How are we going to accomplish this? What do we change in our life? Can we do it on our own or do we need a group or someone to encourage us? Do I consider studying God's Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to work important enough that I should encourage others to do the same?

I cannot answer these questions for you or for Kalona Mennonite. For myself, I believe that if we don't pursue studying God's Word with the Holy Spirit working within our hearts then we are out of God's will. 1 John 1:5-7 tells us that God dwells in light and He cannot be in darkness. Going at things by our own power is going down the road of darkness and God is not there. It is impossible for us to stay in the light without God's Word and His Spirit being continually active in our lives. We need to acknowledge this and adjust our lives to it in order to grow spiritually and to glorify God. For me, there is no other option. I pray for the church to pursue God through His Word and for the power of the Holy Spirit to work in each and every heart. As always, in pursuit.

### **Experiencing God Small Group Starting This Fall**

There will be a small group studying Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God by Henry & Richard Blackaby & Claude King. This is a study for a person at any point in his walk with God, whether it is brand new or 80 years long. As you work through this study it will help you to grow your relationship with God and to experience Him in new and deeper ways. The study is a 12 week study. Contact Dawn or Curt Wyse if you are interested.



# A Trip to the Philippines: Who are we really? American? Filipino? Christian?

*Jonathan Wyse*

I was asked to write an article about my trip to the Philippines. To be honest I am not sure where to start. Not because it was incredible and overwhelming, but because to my eyes it just was. It existed. Were people and customs different? Yes, but aren't your traditions and personalities different from your neighbors? No matter where you go people are always just people. The same troubles, the same sorrows, joys, fears, passion all created and watched over by the same God (whether they believe in him or not). But I have digressed; now let's get on to trip.

The Philippines are approximately 8,000 miles away or as I prefer to measure it 18 hours fly time, 4 questionable airplane meals and a couple sore bottoms. The first thing I noticed in the Philippines was people were everywhere. There were lines of people at the airport that wanted to help carry your baggage, throngs of people trying to herd you into taxis and hoards of people come to meet incoming travelers. There are approximately 777 people per square mile in the Philippines. It is not a place you go to be alone. When we went to a mall the number of employees seemed ludicrous by our standards. In a souvenir store in the mall probably half the size of our sanctuary I believe they had at least 25 sales people standing by to help you with anything you needed. The Philippines is a community of people who work hard to survive.

My brother, Ben, and I stayed at a bible college/soon to be reopened infant orphanage. It's all rather complicated, but an American woman (Mama Linda) and her Filipino husband (Pastor Vic) run this 2 year bible college for students who couldn't afford college otherwise (The total expense for both years in under \$300). Due to our short trip and other things we didn't manage to go many places, so I'm mainly going to tell you about the people. The students here live day in and day out for God. They are careful about what they say and how they act. It's not to say that they don't have fun, but almost every hour of their weekdays from 5am to 9pm are ordered with classes, chores, studying, etc. Then on weekends they go out to do mission work at churches. They watch what they wear and how they speak. In our culture they would be some of the most proper people. Based on their appearance

and actions nobody would doubt their moral respectability. Yet one of the things that bothered me most was that despite all of their rules and cultural guidelines we (Americans) were held as above all the regulations.

Being American in the Philippines gives you automatic status. Apparently the Filipino culture looks up and idealizes the American culture. Looking at our culture and society as a whole can you think of anything scarier? Social mistakes made by Americans were overlooked in small part due to knowledge that the culture is different, but in the larger picture mistakes were overlooked because we were Americans and that meant that we were socially above them and desirable. Having another American consistently around (Mama Linda) had helped to temper idealism with reality but even at the college Ben and I were popular beyond reason.

This may seem odd like I'm ending at the middle or maybe even the beginning of my trip in the Philippines, but this is where I feel like this article should end about the trip, but I want to leave you thinking about what this means. Who are we as Americans to be practically worshiped by people of other countries? Do we really want other countries to follow the paths that it seems this nation as a whole seems to be taking? If not how do we set ourselves apart as Christians? What do we do to set ourselves apart in our day to day lives? So often it feels like many of us would look to the casual observer no different than that atheist around the corner or the Jew across the hall. As Christians are we getting lost in this day to day world? How can our actions and lives lead more people to Christ. We all must answer these questions for ourselves and hopefully discover God's path for each of us that we might stand apart as Christians.

Well I have gotten a little lost on my message, but I hope those of you who are reading this might find some small piece of insight or recognition in this article that may help you in your own lives. May God's path for you be the only path you know.





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**Our Vision** is to be a life-giving church: Presenting the life-giving message of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to the people of the Kalona area and the world, challenging them to accept Christ, worship Him, and serve Him.

**Our Mission** is to fulfill the Great Commission: Leading people to Christ; discipling them in the faith; equipping them to witness; and sending them out to serve.

## Library Notes

*Shirley Hochstedler, Librarian*

Summertime is a great time to read a great book. This is the perfect reason to spend some time browsing the shelves in the KMC library. Read through one of the fiction series; find a few great memoirs and biographies; grow deeper in your Christian life by finding a book in the Christian Living section. There is so much to learn, so many pleasures in a good book. Don't limit yourself to only new books, there are treasures everywhere!

We have new books in the library! Favorite fiction authors include Karen Witemeyer (*Full Steam Ahead, A Worthy Pursuit, Stealing the Preacher*), Lauraine Snelling (*Someday Home*) Kate McCord (*Farewell, Four Waters*) and Katie Schuermann (*House of Living Stones*.)

Do you prefer real life stories? Check out *A Basketful of Broken Dishes* by Naomi Stutzman; *Bella's Gift* by Rick and Karen Santorum; and *Surprise Child* by Leslie Fields.

Teaching your kids about handling money? *Smart Money, Smart Kids* by Dave Ramsey and Rachel Cruze may be of help to you. Working with aging parents? Check out *Necessary Conversations* by Gerald and Marlene Kaufman. Other books include *Unlikely* (Setting aside our differences to live out the Gospel) by Kevin Palau, *Killing Christians* (Living the Faith where it is not safe to believe) by Tom Doyle, and the fascinating read, *Unlocking the Secrets of the Feasts* (The prophecies in the Feasts of Leviticus, such as the Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of the Firstfruits.) by Michael Norten.

For the littlest readers Check out *At a Construction Site, Planting a Rainbow, Who's Making That Mess*, and *Let's Count It Out, Jesse Bear*.

On these hot days of summer, grab a glass of iced tea, a good book, and take a long break!

