

MUSTARD SEED

Special Points of Interest

- There is a new calendar attached to the Mustard Seed this month.
- God called me to devote my life to ministry that same night.
- The bottom line is: do I have the faith to believe what the Bible tells me about God's power?

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The Joy of Net Fishing

When we think of going fishing here in the Midwest we tend to understand the experience as pole fishing, which is a solo effort. However, in the time of Jesus most of the fishing was done not in a pole fishing



method but in a net fishing effort. Net fishing involved a team effort. It meant that several people were needed in order to cast the nets into the water, and to also bring in the catch of fish. This year at Bible School we experienced the joy of net fishing. A large group of dedicated teachers and staff members helped reach our community for Christ. It was truly a net evangelism effort in helping our precious children hear and receive the good

news of the gospel.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers and help in reaching out to the children in our community. Bible School made me realize what a joy it is when God's people are involved in "net evangelism." During Bible School in June, our community got to see Christ being lived out in the lives of the teachers and staff members who all gave a powerful witness to Christ through their words and actions.

May we continue as a church body to be involved in team effort outreach ministries. In the New Testament we constantly see that outreach was always done together. Even when Jesus sent the believers to wait on the coming Holy Spirit, he sent 120 of them to a place of prayer in Jerusalem. Outreach is meant to be a group effort where we all help to cast out the nets of Christ's saving grace and truth together.

Scott Swartzendruber

What's Happening

Well, Vacation Bible School is past, but what a great time we all had and some of the songs are still running through my head. OK, now for the news.

Marlin Miller received quite a birthday gift from his two daughters. He was given a chance to drive a NASCAR vehicle on the Newton Speedway. He took a 30 minute class, signed many waivers, put on a helmet and fire suit and was then ready to go. He rode for 3 laps with the instructor at 130 MPH and then got his chance. He drove alone, however there were 4 other people getting their chance of a lifetime as well. Marlin drove at 110 MPH and did pass 3 other cars and only got passed once and just like Blaze (Dillon Bender) in the VBS skits there were a lot of turns to the "Left"!

The MCC Sale went well again. The KMC Penny Power raised about \$500.00. The WMSC quilt that was auctioned off brought \$1600.00. This "Boston Commons" quilt was voted "Best color combination" & "Best overall" quilt. Good job quilters!

Joya Schrock attended The International Competition for "Future Problem Solving" in Bloomington, Indiana. There were over 2000 other problem solvers in attendance ranging from 4th-12th grade. The highlight for Joya was when her group of 20 went up on the stage to receive their 2nd place award for their "Presentation of action plans". Joya's mother & sister, Robin and Annika also made the trip. Joya just finished 5th grade.

Congratulations to Jodi Ferguson & Solomon Rudy on their recent marriage at KMC. They will live in Hesston, Kansas where she works at a daycare and is also a hostess at Water's Edge Restaurant at Showalter Villa. Solomon is an airplane pilot out of Kansas City and is also an aviation instructor at Hesston College.

Jodi's the daughter of Mike & Emily Ferguson.

Congratulations to Kyle Graber and Kara Kersten on their recent marriage in Omaha, Nebraska at the Durham Museum. Kara is a dental assistant and Kyle works in law enforcement. They will be living in Logan, Iowa. Kyle is the son of Brent & Karla Graber.

Jill Swartzendruber passed the Iowa State Boards in Nursing. Congratulations, Jill!

Jordan Murray went on a "Global Expeditions" Missions trip to Guatemala. She first went to Texas and met the other team members and they worked on memorizing their skits. Then they flew to Guatemala and shared the gospel with the youth there. They used dramas, skits, puppets and played games in schools, orphanages and villages to spread the gospel. She had a great time and wants to thank all those who helped sponsor the trip. Welcome home, Jordan.

Shirley Zillmer will be performing with the Washington Community Theater on July 21-29, 2012 in the production "The Music Man". She will be singing with a chorus in full costume with choreography and she has one line, "I want my money back"! Sounds like a lot of fun & a lot of work. Good job, Shirley.

Ed V. & Carol went to Indiana for a family wedding and a Miller family vacation at the Indiana Sand Dunes. Then we took a side trip to Canada and visited David & Mary Groh in Leamington, Ontario. They are looking good & doing well & send their greetings to KMC.

That's all the news for this time. Enjoy your summer.

Blessings to all, Ed V. & Carol Miller



David & Mary Groh send their greetings to KMC.

Notes from the Christian Education Commission

You will notice there is a new Calendar attached to the Mustard Seed this month. It includes an activity, verse, devotion idea, or other faith based idea for each day of the month. The activities match up with the Gather 'Round lesson that the children studied in Sunday School the previous Sunday. Families with children are encouraged to use the calendar as a way to bring out the message their children have learned about in Sunday School and carry them throughout the week. Even if you don't have young children, you can still put the calendar on your refrigerator and have a quick faith based idea to look forward to each day.

We hope you have tried out the yellow Taking Faith Home pages. We have heard from a few people about some neat things that have come about as a result of taking time for family devotions. Some examples are below:

- Families getting a note/call that

they were being prayed for on International Family Day

- Children asking difficult questions of their parents about how we can help and be loving towards the homeless people we see on the street.
- Additional ideas for good materials to use such as: a quarterly booklet "The Word For You Today" from Point of Grace Church, "The Story" version of the Bible, signing up online to have daily devotions or scripture sent to your phone, and The Gather 'Round take home materials.

We encourage you to spend time with your family and friends this week talking about faith, praying and reading scripture. Ask other families how they make faith a focus throughout the week and successes they have had in growing faith in their family.

Nathaniel Miller, Christian Ed Commission Chair

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More Graduates

Congratulations to Chelsea Escher. She graduated from Upper Iowa University for a BA in Conservation Management.

Lincoln Schrock will graduate on July 20th from Northwest Iowa Community College from the electrical powerline program.

Meet Pastor Jeff

Being the new interim associate pastor at KMC, I get asked a lot of questions about who I am. Of course, being in a Mennonite community, many of those questions have to do with who my relatives are. So, to get that question out of the way, my parents are Jim and Deb Miller, my grandparents are Daniel and Nita Miller and Earl and Edna Yoder. Just like both of my parents, I grew up attending East Union Mennonite Church from the time I was born.

Of course knowing who I'm related to doesn't tell you much about who I am, so I suppose I should give more of an introduction. I grew up in Iowa City, and though I was raised in a Christian family, I wasn't willing to fully commit my life to Christ until the summer after I had finished 8th grade. That summer I attended camp at Crooked Creek just as I had for a number of consecutive summers. However, that year the Lord confronted me in a powerful way that Wednesday night in cabin 13, revealing to me the glory of God and my own sin. At that point I cried out for forgiveness and put my life into His hands, and my life has been heading in a new direction to follow Christ ever since. God also called me to devote my life to ministry that same night, though I must admit that it took another year before I fully recognized it.

After turning to Christ, I decided to attend IMS instead of West High since I was eager to be able to take Bible classes and attend daily chapels to learn more about Christ. My faith grew a lot during those years, and I began to involve myself in lots of ministry including leading Bible studies, organizing prayer meetings, and leading worship. I also started working at Crooked Creek Christian Camp and have now been part of the summer camp staff there 11 different summers.

After graduating from IMS in 2002, I went to Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota. I got involved in a few different ministries there and eventually also became the worship team leader at the church I attended in Minneapolis. I graduated from Northwestern with a B.A. in Biblical Studies and Bible, and then the Lord led me to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts where I graduated with an M.Div. I was fortunate to find a church there that allowed me to get very involved in ministry at their church. Some of my duties included leading the music, leading a weekly Bible study for people at a retirement community, helping with the children and youth ministries, and preaching when needed.

While I was in seminary, the Lord made it clear to me that I should go to India. The Lord had actually been preparing me for ministry in India long before I realized that I was supposed to go there. So, after graduating from seminary, I spent more than two years helping to train Indian believers for ministry. Though I saw God at work in many awesome ways, it was also an extremely challenging experience. However, throughout the suffering and the long recovery, I've learned a lot of valuable lessons that will continue to help me personally and help me to reach out to others as well.

Hopefully this gives you a bit of an idea about who I am. I hope to get to know all of you soon. I'm glad to be able to be at KMC during this time of transition, and I'm especially thankful to all of you for warmly welcoming me into your congregation. You've helped me to feel very accepted and at home here. I'm looking forward to joining with you as we all press on to glorify God together.

Jeff Miller, Interim Pastor



In Pursuit

It was brought to my attention that the definition of the word 'power' is the ability to do'. This sounds reasonable. I don't think I would argue the definition...or would I?

Try these statements. 1) If someone believes in Christ and repents, then they are a Christian. 2) Jesus then sends the Holy Spirit to live in that Christian (and all other Christians, too). 3) The Holy Spirit comes with power. 4) The person now has the 'ability to do' whatever (absolutely anything, no matter how impossible it appears) God asks of them. So now, do I want to argue the definition of power? I have to admit that the definition of power is making me a bit uncomfortable. Let's look at some quotes.

"In the absence of full power of the Holy Spirit is full condemnation." –A.W. Tozer

"God wants His people to operate in His power." –L. Sumrall

"There is nothing more death dealing than the Gospel without the Spirit's power." –Torrey

"If you don't have the Spirit you are standing in someone else's way." –D.L.Moody

"I think it is a waste of time for Christians to look for a power they don't intend to use." –Billy Graham

"The Church is going into battle without a true knowledge of these weapons. Any time you go into battle without your weapons functioning properly you can't expect to win the fight." – L. Sumrall

What about now? Am I ready to admit that it is within my 'ability to do' (power) to accomplish what God asks of me? Let's look at God's Word on the subject.

Acts 1: 8 *Rather, you will receive*

power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

John 14:12 *I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father.*

Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

I John 4:4 *You are from God, little children, and you have defeated these people because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

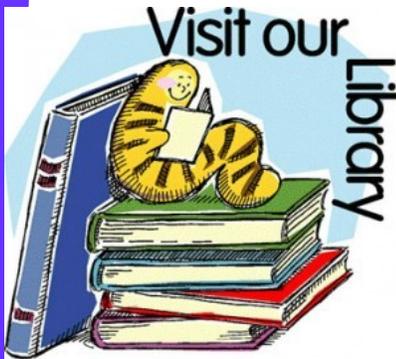
Luke 24:49 *Look, I'm sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.*

2 Timothy 1:14 *Protect this good thing that has been placed in your trust through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

Okay. Based on God's Word, scholars and the dictionary the word 'power' does mean 'the ability to do'. Truth be told, I could accept that definition from the moment that I read it. My hesitation comes when I consider what this means about my life. God might ask me to do something that makes me uncomfortable, unpopular, is difficult, time-consuming, challenging, etc. The possibilities go on and on. The bottom line is: do I have the faith to believe what the Bible tells me about God's power? If I believe 100% that 'power' is the 'ability to do' and if I believe 100% that the Holy Spirit is God

(Cont. on page 6)

Either I rely on my power which is weak and breaks down often or I can rely on God's power which is limitless and never breaks down.



Library Notes

Missing From the Library: Childrens Book, (paperback) Tabby in the Tub by Ben Baglio. The card is in the file, without a name. Please check your bookshelves. Thanks. The Library Committee

(In Pursuit Cont. from page 5) and that His 'power', the Holy Spirit's 'ability to do' lives in me, it totally blows my mind. God's 'ability to do' is in me! How can I ever feel defeated? How can I ever feel inadequate? How can I every feel hopeless? How can I ever not do what God asks of me? (That is the question that bothers me the most.)

The only answer to these questions that I can find is that I only feel defeated, inadequate, hopeless, etc. when I am trying to operate under my "ability to do" and not under God's "ability to do". Working under my own power doesn't work well or for very long without breaking down. This is not God's intention for His people.

I need to remind myself continually that either I am trying to run my life on my power or on God's power. There can only be one power source. Either I rely on my power which is weak and breaks down often or I can rely on God's power which is limitless and never breaks down.

We need to become a community of believers that operates under the power of the Holy Spirit. But to do this we need to believe that the Holy Spirit's power really exists in us. We need to go to God's Word and read it and memorize it. We need to ask God to help us to believe in it, to help us to see it and to show us how to use His power. We need to talk about it with each other



and to encourage each other to stop operating in our own pathetic power and to cling to God's glorious 'ability to do'.

Once we, God's believers, do this, what do you think will happen? I don't know, but it will be far greater than anything my imagination can fathom. Isn't God amazing?

As always, in pursuit, Dawn Wyse



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We're on the web:
kalonamennonitechurch.com

Beyond Ourselves

Persons who don't know Jesus and are interested in knowing more about Him, are constantly watching us as Christians, how we live and act.

The Mennonite Central Committee Sale for 2012 is over, and for many of the people who helped with it, (Ted and Doris Redding, Keith Hostetler, and Calvin and Judy Yoder, to mention a few), it's time to sigh and take a little breather. But I don't want you to forget MCC just because the annual sale is over.

We as a Mennonite Church have been blessed in many ways. One blessing is Mennonite Central Committee, which is a world relief agency. It is well known throughout the non-Mennonite and non-Christian world. It is highly respected for its programs, its approach to problems, its integrity, and its efficiency. It truly does speak of Jesus and Jesus' way.

You and I both know that persons who don't know Jesus and are interested in knowing more about Him, are constantly watching us as Christians, how we live and act. When we work for MCC, we are witnessing for Jesus and His way.

How can you help MCC?

1. Read about the varied programs it sponsors on the internet,

www.mcc.org to see where you can help.

2. Make a relief kit. The instruction sheets are on the table in the foyer.

3. Make a new baby kit. The instructions are on the bulletin board by the church offices. Recently Aline Schipper had a baby shower for babies in third world countries. (See June Mustard Seed for more details.) Over 80 kits were made that night. In addition, Aline has made many more personally in the past.

4. Find out about other projects by talking to Aline. She is a wealth of knowledge and has used her gifts and creativity to help with many MCC programs.

5. Find out more about our local MCC agency, The Crowded Closet, at crowdedcloset.mennonite.net and ask Ted or Doris Redding how you can help.

6. Lastly, pray for MCC and the many workers who are sacrificing personal health and personal safety to spread Jesus' love.

dave koerner