

# The Mustard Seed

## Kalona Mennonite Church



### Special points of interest:

- Ruth & her coworkers entertained Billy & George for lunch in their little apartment.
- ...it is hard to pinpoint what has been the most exciting or the most liberating or the most meaningful moment or part of the year.
- We can rejoice that we have a heavenly Father who cares about all that we are facing and going through in life.

### God Cares for You

One of the great things we see in creation is that God does not leave it alone to run its course, nor does He watch His creation from afar. God enters into His world in a relationship of love shown to us most vividly through His son, Jesus Christ, who literally entered into our space and time. He did this to show us His care for what He created and to free us from what sin has done. Sin brought chaos, violence, and enmity between God and us, but Jesus freed us from sin so that we can once again enter into a loving relationship with God our creator and become His new creation in Christ Jesus.



We can rejoice that we have a heavenly Father who cares about all

that we are facing and going through in life. He is truly a God who is involved in our lives each and every moment. I recently visited someone in the hospital, and it made me see more clearly how God is involved in our lives each second.

In every breath we take, we can see and experience God's active care and sustaining power in our lives. Rejoice that God is not distant; He is very near to each one of us on a moment-by-moment basis. May we thank and praise God that He is active in our lives at all times. He is fully aware of all that we are facing and wants to sustain us with all His love, grace, and strength. God truly cares for you.

*Scott Swartzendruber*

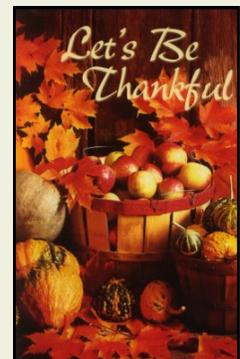
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**The tract of the month** for November is "Let's Be Thankful," a reminder that all we have comes from God. Use this month to remember to thank Him.

*This tract can be found in the tract rack that is located on the registration table in the foyer.*

*Gayle Garner*



## Tiana's Radical Journey

*Tiana Williams spent a year participating in Mennonite Mission Networks program, Radical Journey, designed for young people wanting to experience service, and missions in a new way. The following is her story. For further information on Radical Journey and other service opportunities, check out [mennonitemission.net](http://mennonitemission.net).*

This year has been a journey for me! To be honest, I started off my year in England quite scared. I was living with three other girls I had only known for a month and I had just moved to a new country and while we all spoke basically the same language, it was all still so foreign to me. I was timid and shy and I wasn't completely comfortable in my own skin let alone in a new country away from all of my normal comforts. As uncomfortable and awkward as I felt though, I still felt a sense of peace at where I was. I knew some good things were in store for the year. Everyone was so welcoming and hospitable. We were still a bit scared, but the Anglican and Methodist church communities welcomed us in with open arms and warm hearts. I am so grateful for all of the grace and love everyone offered us throughout the year; it made all the difference.

We started working at the schools three days a week and there too we had to try to find a place and get into the flow of working with the teachers and children. It was difficult at first. I had trouble finding a place and trying to figure out what to do and how

to interact with the children. A few weeks went by and I started to get the hang of it more, the teacher started to warm up to us and we grew more comfortable. Working the past year at the school, Lidget Green Primary, was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I grew so close to those children. They may have taught me more about myself than I taught them this year.

We continued to grow more comfortable in Bradford. We worked with the African Women's Circle at Great Horton Methodist Church every other Thursday afternoon. It gave us an insight to the other people and cultures living in Bradford. It was great to be able to make food and play games and do activities with these women and get to know them and one another better.

After a month or two we started to go to Circuit Youth Group meetings at one of the Methodist churches in the circuit on Sunday evenings. We got to know many of the youth that attended and I made some of the greatest friends through that. This year would not have been the same without those relationships in youth group, with the youth and the youth leaders.

On Monday evenings, Becca, one of my house mates, and I decided to join the Methodist Circuit women's choir, Free Spirit. I felt good about that decision halfway through the first practice, after meeting the women in the choir and starting to

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## Tiana's Journey continued

learn songs with them. The Choir may not be the most incredible I have ever heard, but these women have such a passion and spirit for their singing and for the choir. They sing

because they love it, they sing for Christ and that's all they need, and that alone is so inspirational. I learned so much in singing with them. The choir women worked well

together and when there was a problem, Angie, the director, came in with grace and patience. It was such an honor working with those women and with Angie; I will never forget it.

The other project we had while working in Lidget Green, was the After School Kid's Club. We started working with that group and from the start had quite a bit of trouble. It was hard to get to know the kids, to get through to them and to have fun but to stay under control. We struggled with that for many weeks, months even. Eventually, however, the four of us and the leader of the kid's club, Lynne, started to plan a few more activities and we were able to relate to them more. Things were still not a walk in the park but I grew a very strong fondness and love for those kids. I got to know them, their habits and interests. At the end of it all,



saying goodbye to them and the kid's club was one of the hardest goodbyes I made.

For me, it is hard to pinpoint what has been the most exciting or the

most liberating or the most meaningful moment or part of the year. All the experiences I have gone through have shaped and changed me in different ways but it is first and

foremost the people that have helped me grow the most, the Anglican and Methodist church's communities and the city of Bradford itself. I have learned and gained so much from everyone I have met. I am so grateful for those relationships and for the friendships I will never forget. It has truly been and incredible, life changing year.

Thank you Kalona Mennonite, for all of your prayers. I greatly appreciate everyone's support throughout the year.

*Tiana Williams*



## What's Happening!!!



We just came home from IMS where we heard Ken Davis, a Christian comedian. We saw a lot of other KMC'ers there and I think we all had a great evening. To laugh is so refreshing! Ok, now for the news.....

Beth Fiordelise and Julie Murray went on a road trip to Lynchburg, Virginia. The two sisters drove out to visit their daughters Mary Jo & Brittany at Liberty University. The sisters had a great visit and did a lot of bonding.

David Beachy and Atlee Yoder get to cheer for their favorite baseball team in the World Series this year. They are fans of the San Francisco Giants!

Rodney Gehman filled the pulpit at Bethel Mennonite Church several weeks ago. Reports came back that he did a great job, spreading the Good News. We knew he was good with a guitar and a camera, but we didn't know he could preach too!

The Seekers S.S. Class had a retreat at Crooked Creek Camp several weekends ago. No wonder the crowd was on the small side at KMC that Sunday.

Cal Hochstedler spent a week in Chanute, Kansas volunteering his time on a plumbing project. Cal had a friend who belonged to an organization called ROAM (RV'ers On A Mission) and they needed a good plumber for a Nazarene work project.

Ian McDowell made All-State Orchestra on his violin this past weekend. Congratulations Ian!

I attended the Open Circle S.S. Class last weekend and learned something about Ruth Fisher that I thought you would all like to know. Way back in the early 1950's Ruth was doing missions work in Taiwan. At that same time a Christian basketball team came to Taiwan from the United States. The team would play local teams and also share their testimonies. Along with the BB team was Billy Graham and George Beverly Shea. Well, when these two men heard there were other American Christians in the city, they arranged to have lunch with them. So Ruth & her coworkers entertained Billy & George for lunch in their little apartment. Ruth vividly remembers George Beverly Shea getting up from the dinner table and singing "How Great Thou Art." Wow, now that's pretty cool! Well, so long everyone. Have a nice Thanksgiving.

*Ed V. & Carol Miller*



## Dependent or Independent? Sufficient or Self Sufficient? Deal or No Deal?

“God never gives us more than we can handle.” Can anyone show me where that is found in scripture?

In my study of the life of Paul, I was taken aback by comments that Beth Moore made about that statement. In fact, the more I thought about it the more disturbed I was that I had not only believed it to be scriptural, I had applied it strictly to my life and the lives of others. Even to a fault!

But the more I thought about it and the deeper I dug into scripture, I began to feel a freedom. There have been many times I have placed undue guilt on myself for wondering, “Just how much does God think I can handle?” or “If God doesn’t give me more than I can handle, I’m doing a really bad job here!”

Paul and Timothy told the believers in II Corinthians 1:8-9 “We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely on God.” (NLT) It sounds like they had a little more than they could handle.

Could it be that we have taken the verse from I Corinthians 10:13 about God not allowing us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, to mean God does not give us anything more than we can handle? The verse in I Corinthians is referring to temptations only.

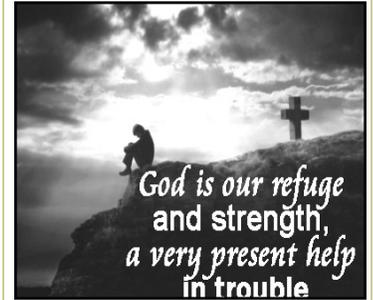
When raising my children, I tried very hard to make them independent and self sufficient, ready to take on the world when they left the nest. Now I find myself asking if this is the way of the Christian life. Does Christ want us to be independent or to depend on Him? To be self sufficient or to know He will supply all our needs and that we are nothing without Him? If we are self sufficient then we have no need for Christ in our life. If we are not willing to admit our weaknesses, then He cannot be our strength. Paul said that it was through his trials that he stopped relying on himself and learned to rely on God.

Beth Moore says, “When our hardships surpass our ability to endure, God wants us to discover His power and comfort.”

“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with His comfort through Christ.” II Corinthians 1:4-5 NLT

And the really cool thing is, He doesn’t just pull us out of our circumstances, He draws us to Himself.

*Bonnie Pickard*



“God never gives us more than we can handle.” Can anyone show me where that is found in scripture?





*School has started, fall is here, and there is more time to check out a book or DVD to enjoy this month!*

## Library Notes

School has started, fall is here, and there is more time to check out a book or DVD to enjoy this month! To get you started, here are a few suggestions of new additions to our library.

Several DVD's for children include two new Veggie Tales, "Moe and the Big Exit" and "The Ballad of Little Joe," and two in the Hermie and Friends series: "Buzby, the Misbehaving Bee" and "Stanley, the Stinkbug Goes to Camp." New books for kids include Arch Books "The Jailer Who Changed His Mind," "The Rich Fool," "The Great Surprise" and "The Boy Who Saved His Family." Other childrens books by favorite authors are: "Poppleton Everyday," "Father Bear Comes Home," "Make Way for Ducklings," and "Berenstain Bears and the Trouble With Friends."

If you like reading the Sisterchick series, there are six new titles for you to enjoy: "The Sisterchicks ...." "in Sombreros," .... "in Wooden Shoes," .... "Say Ooh La La," .... "Down Under," .... "Do the Hula," .... "Go Brit." Also more fiction includes "Tea and Sympathy," "Now and Always," "Home to Briar Mountain," and "A Hopeful Heart."

Don't forget to check the shelves for some excellent reading material. DVD's and videos are due in one week, books in three weeks. If you have questions or if you want a suggestion on a good book, contact someone on the committee. We will be glad to help you. Library committee members are Elaine Brenneman, Librarian, Shirley Hochstedler, assistant, Brenda Miller and Karen Stalter.  
*Shirley Hochstedler*

## Beyond Ourselves

Thank you Tiana for sharing with us about your 1 year Radical Journey term.

Wasn't it great to have Troy back and reconnect with him? Thank you, Troy for sharing with us! What a blessing you are to the Lord and to KMC! Continue to lift Troy up in prayer as he has returned to his mission field in Haiti with WATER FOR LIFE.

The following facts are from an MCC letter. Think of these the next time you turn on the water at your sink.

- 1 billion people do not have access to safe and affordable drinking water.
- 15% of the world's population is malnourished, due in part to insufficient water for crops.
- 4,500 children die each day from unsafe water and of inadequate sanitation --a direct result of lack of water. Improvements in drinking water quality through household water treatment can lead to a reduction of diarrheal episodes by 39%.

The Twin Cities (Minnesota) MCC Relief sale is on Saturday November 13th 2010. It will be held at Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park, MN. (If you are curious to see what their relief sale offers, visit [www.tcmccreliefsale.org](http://www.tcmccreliefsale.org))

The store keepers are reminding us to start our Christmas shopping. I want to present you with an alternative to this North American madness that would be more in line with what Jesus wants us to do and be. In the recent MCC magazine "A Common Place", that many of you receive, is a small MCC gift magazine, JOY TO THE WORLD. In it you find alternatives to our traditional gift giving. You can also find out about this program at [mcc.org/christmas](http://mcc.org/christmas). There are copies of this catalogue for you to take on the missions bulletin board by the pastors offices. Please consider this alternative.

*Dave Koerner*

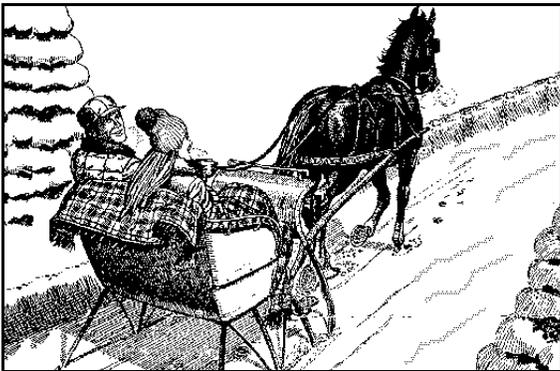


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### Over the River and Through the Woods

Over the river and through the wood,  
To grandfathers house we go;  
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh  
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river and through the wood,  
Oh, how the wind does blow!  
It stings the toes and bites the nose  
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the wood,  
To have a first-rate play.  
Hear the bells ring, "Ting-a-ling-ding!"  
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river and through the wood,  
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!  
Spring over the ground like a hunting hound  
For this is Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river and through the wood,  
And straight through the barnyard gate.  
We seem to go extremely slow,  
It is so hard to wait!

Over the river and through the wood,  
Now grandmother's cap I spy!  
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?  
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

*By Lydia Marie Child  
Submitted by Ida Yoder*