





### When All Creation Groans and Quakes:

*A psalm of compiled prayer requests from  
Mennonite Mission Network personnel in Japan*

God,

What to say?  
What to pray?  
Our past and future swept away.

Is the good earth toxic?  
Will life-giving water poison us?  
We stumble through a living nightmare.

Our power sources betray us.  
Our life foundations have been demolished.  
Our loved ones are lost, gone.  
Our tears increase the flooding.

All that remains are the hands and hearts  
Of those willing to accompany us  
In this unspeakable tragedy.

What to say?  
What to pray?

We seek a foundation that will not  
crumble or dissolve.

In the name of Jesus, our Rock and  
Cornerstone, Amen

*"[Since March 11], it is no longer  
strange to talk in public about God.  
This could be the beginning of a change  
in which the forces of globalization come  
to a halt and people work together to  
create a more humane and livable  
world, the work of reconciliation. God  
in Christ is reconciling all humanity and  
all creation, and the church is invited  
to participate in the reconciling work."*



## Remembering Holy Weekí ..

As we have walked with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem in this Lent season, we have reflected on what it has meant to be fully human. Jesus was fully human and divine at the same time and it was his journey to the cross that Jesus felt the full weight of human suffering, rejection and death.

By dying for our sins and the sins of the world, Jesus enabled us to be reconciled to God and live fully as God's beloved children. The journey to the cross is not an easy one to walk but if we are to experience all the joy of Easter Sunday, then we must walk through the sorrow of Jesus's suffering and death.

We invite you to enter into this story of human love by attending the Maundy Thursday service held in the Fellowship Hall at Tabor Mennonite on April 21. We will have a light meal at 6:30pm, followed by a worship service and communion at 7:00pm. On Friday night, we are invited to a special Good Friday service held at Alexanderwhol Mennonite Church at 7:00pm where we will hear the scriptures, hear dramas and be blessed by our choirs singing.

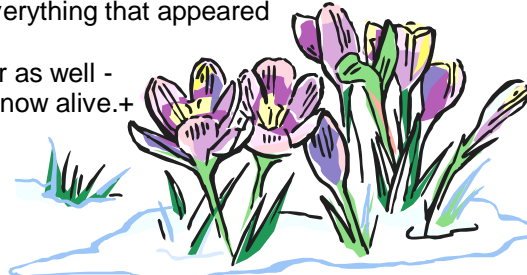
## And Celebrating Easter!

On Easter Sunday, April 24, we invite all resurrected people to come out for a warm breakfast served at Tabor Mennonite, from 8:00-9:00am. There is no charge but you are required to wear signs of Easter joy in your life! Bring your friends and neighbors and invite others who need to hear of God's Easter Joy! The worship will begin at 9:30am and we will not have Sunday school on this day.



We always found it interesting that the springtime and Easter come together. As we witness trees budding, green shoots of grass appearing, and flowers emerging, our hearts are warmed, as everything that appeared dead comes back to life.

This is the message of Easter as well -  
what appeared to be dead is now alive.+



Joyful Noiseletter  
April, 2009

## Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship

The TMYF had an active month. We heard a challenging message from MCC volunteer Pete Miller about his work in the Middle East with the Israeli-Palestine conflict. We went to Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp and were inspired by Marty Troyer who spoke about immigration issues. Marty did a great job of relaying this issue in terms that high schoolers can relate to. We were defending Broom Ball champs but lost our games this year. So, we decided to make the best of it and designed a great "losers" T-shirt. Mark and Carson became the 2011 Snow Camp foosball champs! This past month we also spent time preparing for and presenting Youth Sunday on the topic of Thirst. In addition to worship leading with a team that includes the entire youth group, four youth presented "sermonettes". The TMYF will take their Youth Sunday service on the road and present it to a youth group in Moundridge next month.



Thank You!  
THANK YOU!

Wednesday evening cooks  
Clean up Captians  
Clean up Crews  
and all who helped make our meal time go so smoothly. You are all greatly appreciated and helped make my job as a meal coordinator easier.  
Thank You!! -Brenda Buller

## Willing Helpers News!

Collect! Recycle! Save! Recycle!

1) Campbell's Labels: The Hopi Mission School has a number of wonderful small and large projects that they can work towards purchasing by collecting Campbell's Product Labels. Joyce Ashley is now our Campbell's label lady so you can put labels in her mailbox or in the black box in the library. You only need to cut out the rectangle area around the bar code. We do not need the whole label. If you shop at a supermarket that has Hopi's club membership, you can now register those cards in Hopi Mission School's name. These include Safeway and Dillon's. Find a complete list and information at [www.elabelsforeducation.com](http://www.elabelsforeducation.com).

2) General Mills Boxtops for Education: If you want to give these to a Hopi Mission School project, put in Joyce Ashley's mailbox. If you want them to go to Goessel Elementary projects, put in Denise Nickel's mailbox.

3) Postage Stamps: Please cut carefully around them and leave 1/4 inch, if possible. These can be used for resale to Stamp Dealers and the money goes to the Christian and Missionary Alliance for a project in Latin America called "The Sunday School Curriculum Project. Please put these in Bonnie Heinrich's mailbox.

April is an exciting month for the Willing Helpers women! Get your sewing items made, your plants potted, your closets cleaned out for quilters corner; your zwiebach, bread and pies in the oven! Attend the MCC Sale on April 8-9.

We also have a treat in store for all Tabor women on April 18, at 6:30 p.m. You are all invited to bring a salad and a friend to the Salad Supper. For our program Ruth Entz Buller will be sharing "Giving and Receiving on the Journey with Cancer."

Inherit the Mirth By Cuyler Black



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## Camp Mennoscah

### Upcoming Events:

April 15-17 -

Men and Boys Retreat

April 25-27 -

Retirees/Relaxation Retreat



## Pittsburgh Registration deadline!

Don't forget to register for Pittsburgh 2011 by April 24 to take advantage of registration discounts!

If you've never been to a Mennonite Church USA convention or haven't been since you attended as a youth, you'll be pleasantly surprised to find out all the activities offered at Pittsburgh 2011 for all ages! Visit: [www.mennoniteusa.org/convention](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/convention) to register and read stories from those who attended for the first-time, parents who bring their children and adults who have been coming for years. Find out what brings them to convention. Find out what convention can mean for you.

## Blood Mobile

As you make plans for Easter weekend be sure to include coming to Goessel Church on Friday, April 22 between 2:00-6:00 to donate blood. Since it is a vacation day, it is good for students and others whose work schedules don't permit donating on a regular basis. The only requirements are to be 17 (or 16 with parental consent) and weigh 110 lbs. Let's continue the trend of having some first-time donors!! Other ways to help are to volunteer with unloading/loading, check-in, donor escort, or canteen. Watch for sign-up sheets or call Rosemary Reimer (367-2418) to volunteer. Thank you.

## Serving at the Homeless Shelter

A couple of weeks ago, we were talking in Sunday school about the essence of Jesus. Much of the input was about Jesus being caring, loving, and respectful to the poor and outcasts. Spending time at the homeless shelter has left me understanding how rewarding following Jesus' example can be. Corey and I spent two nights there in February, and on both occasions we spent time visiting with someone who was in great need of Christ's love. Both of these residents were dealing with physical and mental illness. I felt quite inadequate to help them, but I realized that their greatest need was simply having someone to listen. Of course, Corey did a fantastic job of helping them process their issues.

Time spent at the shelter is certainly not all about deep conversations. Since we had the kitchen keys, we were in high demand at breakfast time, and we were then in charge of cleanup. They have installed new dishwashers which makes this job very easy. There was a family with four kids staying there, and Corey and I did our best to help them get the oldest two ready for school in the morning. Sometimes showing someone you care is as simple as sitting down and talking about trucks or your favorite contemporary Christian music. I left feeling that I had connected with some of the people there, and I hoped they could see God's love through me. I realized that while it was difficult to give of my time, God repays me many times over for spending time with those in need.



Our next opportunity to serve at the shelter will be May 11-17. I hope that some of you will consider giving an evening (maybe even a night!) and see what God can do through you. Harvey County Homeless Shelter training dates: Tuesday, April 5, 6:30pm; Wednesday, April 13, 11:00am; Thursday, April 21, 6:30pm. All trainings are at the shelter. Please talk to Brent or Pam Abrahams if you have questions.

-Brent Abrahams

## Suicide, Depression and Mental Illness

The Tabor church community continues to feel deep sadness and loss with regard to Wendy Goerzen's untimely death on March 21. We grieve over what might have been and we feel sadness and even some despair at the power of mental illness, abuse and depression. We pastors at Tabor Mennonite want you to know that we have resources to help us process Wendy's life and her death. We have people lined up to come and talk more about grief, suicide, abuse and can help process the various emotional and spiritual responses that we have felt since we have heard this sad news. Please let any of the pastors know if you are in need of these resources and we will gather a group together to talk more about it. I think we have much to learn from Wendy's life and we'll keep praying for strength and wisdom as we continue to find healing and hope in Christ for the world.

**Kansas MCC Relief Sale**  
**April 8 & 9**

**Kansas State Fairground**  
**Hutchinson**

*Attend! Volunteer! Donate!*

## What's Happening with Christian Education at Tabor Church?

Sunday School has always been an important part of Tabor Church. A forerunner of the Sunday School classes we have come to know were the Sunday Schools that were organized in the district schools to accommodate the Mennonites in the "South Alexanderwohl" area. By December of 1903 classes were divided into two Adult classes, one Middle class and one children's class. Although much has changed since then, Tabor has consistently continued to carry on the tradition of Sunday School in some form.

Currently, we have five junior department classes, one junior high class, one high school class, a college age class, and seven to eight adult classes with elective classes being offered at various times. This past year approximately 31 people have answered the call to teach or be helpers in these classes. The Christian Education Committee is grateful for each of these people who have felt led to teach.

When the constitution was reviewed and adopted in 1977 it outlined the purpose and responsibilities of The Commission on Education. In the past the committee has been composed of ten individuals who have served as Adult Sunday School Supervisor, Junior Department Supervisor, and Junior High/Youth Supervisor. Also included are a Secretary and Treasurer. Each of these positions has had an assistant.

Throughout the last several years it has been increasingly difficult to fill the Supervisor positions. Last year Council voted to dissolve the discernment committee and ask the various commissions to discern individuals to serve on their committees. Since then The Christian Education Committee has wrangled with ways to make this committee more user friendly.

Changes have been made in job descriptions and the way the committee will function. Currently, the Commission on Education year will begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and end the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. Commitment forms will be distributed the first Sunday in March to allow time to discern individuals for Bible School, Summer Sunday School and Regular Sunday School positions, as well as secure replacements for the committee. The committee will no longer look for individuals to serve as supervisors. Positions of chairperson and coordinators for the three age groups will be discerned from within the committee. Much of the work that has previously been the responsibility of the supervisors will now be absorbed by the committee or by interested individuals in the congregation who would like to be involved in education but are not necessarily interested in being on the committee. The coordinator's job will be to serve as a liaison between the teachers and the committee.

We are grateful for all of the individuals who have graciously given their time throughout the years and have served on this committee. We would like to extend an invitation to those of you who have an interest in education to join us on this committee. As our church dynamics continue to change we realize there are new ideas that need to be heard and discussed. Commitment forms were distributed earlier in March. If you haven't done so, please take time to fill out a form and put it in the box in the foyer.

We encourage each of you to pray and discern what your gifts are. Together we can continue to provide a solid foundation for future generations to build upon.

-Ilona Abrahams, Chairperson

## MC USA leaders stand against Indiana immigration bill

Two Executive Board staff members and the chief executive officers of all Mennonite Church USA institutions with headquarters in Indiana held a press conference on March 7 to emphasize their opposition to a bill passed by the Indiana Senate on Feb. 23 that would bring Arizona-style immigration law enforcement to Indiana. Executive Board staff members Marty Lehman and André Gingerich Stoner led the press conference, held in the Mennonite Church USA offices in Elkhart.

"Together we stand opposed to Indiana Senate Bill 590," Stoner said in a statement endorsed by all nine leaders. "Among other things, the bill authorizes local law enforcement officials to verify the immigration status of individuals and detain them for this purpose. ... Our concern about this legislation is rooted in our commitment to follow Jesus. Jesus demonstrated that God's love has no borders."

One television station and three newspapers covered the press conference; several reporters pressed the leaders on their reasons for speaking out.

"I'm quite sure that Jesus does not see someone first and foremost as either legal or illegal," Stoner said. "When Jesus meets someone, he sees a human being created in the image of God who is to be treated with dignity, respect and compassion. This should set the tone for our conversation."

## Thanks

Mennonite Mission Network thanks Tabor Mennonite Church for contributing \$14,460 received from February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011. These gifts, along with your prayers and participation, help to create ministries of healing and hope across the street and around the world. May you experience God's blessings as, together, we seek to share all of Christ with all of Creation.

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*Heavenly mathematics:*

*1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given*

## Remembering our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Ernest Goertz:** Ernest A. Goertz was born May 2, 1922, to Henry and Martha (Schmidt) Goertz at home in rural Harvey County, Kansas, the fifth of six children. He graduated from Walton High School in 1940, and served in Civilian Public Service during World War II. Ernest married Elma (Goertzen) on August 11, 1947, and they settled on a farm in the Goessel community, where they raised wheat, cattle and eight children.

Farming was an unbroken thread that ran throughout Ernest's life. He farmed with horses at the very beginning of his marriage, and was happy to switch over to using tractors. Throughout his farming career, he demonstrated stewardship of the land and equipment that was in his care. He retired from farming at age 77.

Ernest was baptized and became a member of Tabor Mennonite Church in May 1940, and remained an active participant for as long as he was able. Over the years he served in numerous capacities, including being a trustee and deacon, participating in Mennonite Men and teaching Sunday School. His faith was an important and meaningful part of his life, and provided solace in the face of accidents, illnesses, and transitions in the family. The children witnessed his faith demonstrated to those with whom he came in contact, from his family to total strangers, as he treated others with Christ-like love and acceptance.

Here are a few things that Ernest wrote in 2000 about his faith:

I enjoy reading *The Mennonite* as well as *Mennonite Weekly Review*. I think tradition needs to be challenged in order for growth to take place. But I also believe that faith must be founded on the rock of Jesus and his eternal spirit in order to survive in these turbulent times. We have faced a lot of spiritual and physical hardships over the years but God has never been far away. He has always been with us and I have complete confidence that all is well in spite of the things that go wrong. When Jesus says "fear not" I think he means just that.

Ernest died on February 18, 2011 and is survived by his wife Elma, daughters Ruth Reiselt and husband Les of Northport, FL; Emily of Seattle, WA; Dorothy Goertz and husband Chuck Bernstein of Portland, CT; Esther Epp and husband Stan of Newton, KS; Naomi Goertz and husband Chris Ingram of Cincinnati, OH; son Joel Goertz of Goessel, KS and daughter-in-law Alice Goertz of Goshen, IN; 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Mary and a son, Henry.



**Melvin Franzen:** Melvin Leland Franzen was born November 23, 1925, in the Franzen family home north of Goessel, Kansas. He was the youngest of three children born to John and Kornelia (Klassen) Franzen.

Melvin attended grades one through eight at Hochfield School, a one-room schoolhouse. After graduating from Goessel High School in 1943, he worked for several area farmers southeast of Newton.

He was baptized at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church on May 24, 1942. Later he transferred his membership to the Tabor Mennonite Church and was a member the rest of his life. He enjoyed serving as an usher at Tabor for several years.

On March 25, 1950, Melvin and Mildred Jean Schmidt were married at Tabor Mennonite Church. They lived this entire time on Mildred's parents' home place in rural Newton where Melvin farmed.

In addition to farming, Melvin worked as a mechanic for several employers before starting his own business in 1974 on the family farm, Franzen Repair. He was always willing, day or night, to help anyone that was having a problem with their vehicle or happened to get stuck in the mud or snow on our notorious country roads. As the years progressed, the repair shop was often a gathering place for retired friends and neighbors to catch up and discuss "local current events", "arm-chair politics" or just "go to coffee". Melvin continued to farm and work in the shop with his son, Doyle, until his death.

Melvin never met a stranger. He enjoyed being around people and talking to anyone and everyone. No matter where he went, there was always someone he could talk to.

Melvin died on February 19, 2011 and is survived by his wife Mildred, daughter LaVerle Franzen of Newton, daughter Teresa Kennedy and husband Loyd of Cedar Vale, son Doyle Franzen and wife Nancy of rural Newton; grandchildren Heather, Bethany, Andrew, Alex Kennedy and Jeff and Lane Franzen; brother Eugene Franzen of rural Canton and sister Marjorie Janzen of North Newton.

