



# Greater Things

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*Jesus said to his followers: "... if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father." (John 14:12)*

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## Why Nicaragua?

from Jim & Carol Yoder

*Editors Note: Jim and Carol recently traveled to Nicaragua where they sponsor two children through Compassion International. For more about the NI-155 project and sponsoring visit [compassion.com](http://compassion.com) or speak with Jim or Carol.*

### From Carol:

Hmmm...why did we go to Nicaragua? Not to sail the crystal blue waters. It wasn't the tasty tropical drinks or the snorkeling either. We didn't hike in the mountains, chill out at an all inclusive resort or ride horses on the beach. Well, why *did* we go to Nicaragua? At the time, I really didn't know. I know that something of this nature has been on Jim's heart to do for a long time. He wanted us to be 'the hands and feet.' I'm happy to do that as well, but as long as I'm comfy and I can call the shots. I surely never thought I'd be headed to a third world country to experience it.

I was nervous, I'll be honest. So much of the time, we are so afraid of what we don't know. Jim said we would just go as a "meet and greet" kind of thing since we sponsored two little boys through Compassion International. I thought that I could handle a few days, so we found ourselves in Nicaragua.

We met our Compassion children, Elvin and Luis and that was truly amazing. We met Pastor Denis (a tireless advocate for the poverty stricken kids in the project) and his family and even took several delicious meals at their home. We were befriended by Tony and his wife Ita. Tony it turned out was a kind of a life line for us. Translator and driver, he got us into places I never thought I'd find myself and was our voice at all times. They were all amazing

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### From Jim:

It seems like a simple question. "Why are you going to Nicaragua?" Someone asked this question only days prior to our trip to the third world country. I had been asking myself the same question and had been praying about it for some time. On the surface it seems like the obvious answer was to see the boys that we sponsored and get to know them a little bit. Along with many other people from this area, we have been involved with Project NI-155 since its beginning. We felt the pull to go even before we sponsored a child there. This trip created an opportunity to focus on prayer and trust God while seeing what He was doing with Project NI-155. The clutter and distractions of everyday life would be removed for a moment and we could see Jesus in action. While it is true that we have the same opportunity right here at home, this opportunity seemed to stand out, maybe because we spent more time looking for the answer to our prayers. Many people have taken trips like this before us. We are not special in that way. We may, however, be the first couple to start the Cubs vs Cardinal rivalry in Leon, Nicaragua.

*"When you feel the pull or nudge from God that you need to go, just go."*

Since we sponsor two boys, Elvin and Luis, we had to decide which boy would get Cub and which would get Cardinal memorabilia. Carol wasn't sure how to decide, so I offered the idea that we should wait to see which one we liked the best and give him the Cardinals stuff.

When we arrived at the airport in Nicaragua we were met by our traveling companions for the next few days. Menno Miller, Jo Otto, Rosetta Yoder from Arthur, Becky Otto from Ohio, and Tony, our driver and translator from Nicaragua. They all proved to be great traveling partners and even better friends. The next morning we left for Leon to meet with Pastor

Denis and see the project and village. Pastor Denis speaks very little English but we could see the passion he had for being the hands and feet of Jesus. We all piled into the van and headed out to the dirt roads and shacks that make up the area called "the project."

I will say that I was not prepared for what I saw. The dirt roads that ran into the dirt yards where the dirt floor huts with (at best) rusty metal and (at worst) plastic bags made up the exterior walls. Trash scattered such a bland colorless world.

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# THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

## Opportunities of Outreach

From Lamar Miller,  
Minister of Outreach



The Outreach commission is excited about the recent announcements made that offer each of us opportunities to love God, love others, and serve the world. The Outreach commission is providing ways to help and touch lives locally and around the world.

You can help those around the world who are suffering by purchasing Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) relief kits and hygiene kits. These kits supply basic needs for those in war torn areas and those who have experienced the devastating effects of earthquakes and other natural disasters.

The second opportunity we have right now is something new that the outreach commission is introducing. We are planning on having a work team that will help anyone locally with one day projects. These projects can consist of just about anything that a person may need help with. Some examples might be painting, cleaning gutters, yard work, home repair, or anything else that can be done in one day. We want to tend to the needs of those who cannot do these things on their own. If you are in need or know of any needs like this within our congregation or our local community we encourage you to make it known to the Outreach commission. Outreach will then review the need and make appropriate plans and set a work day to take care of that need.

This ministry is one more way we can show the love of Christ to others by serving them and caring for their needs. Outreach is looking for volunteers, young and old, that would be willing to commit to working a Saturday every 4-6 weeks this summer. Remember to sign the papers that were in church boxes and return to Lamar Miller/ Outreach box.

We can make a difference in someone's life by spending as little as five dollars for a hygiene kit or giving of your time and talents for a day. Please pray for these ministries and willing hearts to be a blessing to those they serve and that those serving will be blessed as well. Let's use these opportunities to Love God, Love Others and Serve the World!

## GETTING TO KNOW: Melissa Schrock An AMC Personal Profile

*Ministry Team Note: For some years now Melissa has been asking people to answer these questions, we felt like it was time for her to be profiled in one of the newsletters.*

*Melissa is the wife of Kenny Schrock. They have three children, Meredith (15), Erin (13) and Nolan (10).*



**What is your job and what does it consist of?** I work 12 hours a week at the church as the secretary and I am the clerk for Lowe Township. Ultimately I still consider myself a stay-at-home mom.

**What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible?** I don't necessarily have an all time favorite but right now I really like Titus 2:11-14. *For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.*

**Do you have a favorite book or author? If so, please share.** I tend to read historical fiction more than anything else and have read Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett numerous times.

**If you could host a dinner party with any three living people in the world, whom would you invite?** I would ask Paula Dean (so she can cook the meal), Elizabeth Warren (for some stimulating conversation while we eat), and the members of the band Journey (including original lead singer Steve Perry - for a little after dinner entertainment).

**What do you consider to be your greatest achievement or accomplishment?** I am still working on my greatest achievements but so far all three appear to be turning out nicely.

**What is your favorite meal?** This time of year my favorite meal is a BLT on my sister-in-law Carol's homemade bread with a fresh garden tomato. And for dessert strawberry shortcake with shortcake made from Bisquick.

**What was your very first job?** My first job was working at the Tuscola Public Library. In high school and college I was a pizza maker for Monicals in Tuscola and at Pizza World in Bloomington.

## COMING UP IN JUNE

Worship in the Park at Brad-o-Clen June 5th

Arthur Community VBS June 6-10

Congregational Meeting at 9:30 a.m. June 12th

Youth Mission Trip to Denver June 18-26

## From Carol

(Continued from page 1)

people and we were touched by each one in a different and unique way.

To say I was “stretched” was an understatement. I was turned inside out at times. I think I experienced every emotion that God gave a human being: happiness, sadness, surprise, anger, gratitude, compassion, frustration, confusion, sympathy, hope and the list goes on. It wasn’t until we’d been home for several days (and I’d had awhile to process what had actually just happened) did I feel the one emotion that drove us down there to begin with. Love. For our two little boys, Luis and Elvin, I felt the love that a mother feels even when the sweet kiddos don’t belong to her. I saw in Pastor Denis, a love that is born from witnessing his undying passion to help others. In Tony and Ita, a love that came from their gentle kindness and their love for and faith in Jesus, even in the midst of the possibility of losing their home.

They are a content people, the Nicaraguans. They are happy and grateful for the help you give, but if you choose not to, they’ll be happy just the same. The thing is--they do need help. I was totally blown away by the fact that the average yearly income per person was only \$1,600 per year. Do they want to become Americans? No. They want to stay right where they are, but would desperately like to see their situations improve. I’m convinced that Compassion International does just that—in fact, there are probably several that give people the hope they need. It’s a big world-- It’s a small world--It’s our world. It’s our calling to look after each other near and far. So, I guess we went to Nicaragua to *see* Jesus and to *be* Jesus, and what an incredible experience that was. ~ Carol



Jim & Carol had ice cream with Elvin (left) and Luis.



A typical house (left) in “the project” and a bathroom/shower (right).



The crew in Nicaragua.

## From Jim

(Continued from page 1)

We arrived at the school buildings and were very impressed with what they had accomplished with such limited resources. Pastor Denis explained what the school means to the children from the perspective of someone who grew up in the same conditions without a place like the school to help. The school project provides medical treatment, stability in a chaotic world of poverty, guidance, tutoring and food - all of this for \$35 dollars a month. It was amazing, like the five loaves and two fish story right in front of our eyes. As we drove away I was overcome with a helpless feeling, wondering what I could really do for these two young boys. I realized the hope these children have is in Jesus. Hope not in what I can do, but what He could do through us. I realized that this was why we were there, to show the boys that Jesus loves and cares for them.

The next day we went back to the project to meet the boys and two of the men that run Project NI-155 on a daily basis. These smart hardworking men, including Tony, are very dedicated to the mission of the project. They choose to serve Christ daily helping these children grow emotionally, physically, spiritually and mentally. We encouraged these men and let them know how important their work is to the children. We let them know that what they do matters, and it WILL make a difference. The adults know what difficult lives await these children.

The following day was Sunday and the group was going to the Third Church of Leon back at Project NI-155. The church was an unassuming, small, block building with a metal roof and no insulation. The forecast was for 98 and sunny so we knew we were in for some sweating. We also found out the service was only in Spanish with no translator. Honestly, this didn’t bother us as we simply wanted to experience the service without disrupting the other patrons with a translator. God had other plans, however, and at the last moment Pastor Dennis pulled Tony from his seat and asked him to translate. I understand that this is difficult to do because you can’t translate word for word. In order to really translate a sermon you have to understand the message and then relate it to the English language. Tony was surprised but willing to help that morning and did a great job. I had not spoken to Tony or Pastor Denis about our inner struggle of wondering why we were there and what our purpose was. And, as if on cue, God came through in the form of Pastor Denis’ sermon. The message was “when you feel the pull or nudge from God that you need to go, just go. God will use you for his purpose. Don’t worry about the why...just go. He can take what little we have to offer and make it enough.” Truly, this was an answer to our prayers.

The final reason for us to go was to be able to share this story with all of you. There may be some out there that have wondered about sponsorship and/or mission work by a non-missionary. Hopefully this story will show that God uses what little we can provide and makes it plentiful. I encourage you to answer that pull, nudge, or feeling saying “I need to do this but don’t know why or what will be accomplished.” Keep asking and the Holy Spirit will answer the prayer. Michael W Smith summed it up perfectly with a line from one of his songs, “Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord, I want to see you.” This was our prayer and battle cry for 5 eye-opening days in Leon, Nicaragua.

~ Peace, Jim

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Michael Yoder	June 5	Tim Mast	June 22
Cory Kauffman	June 5	Natalie Miller	June 22
Cameron Schrock	June 6	Jayden Garza	June 23
Jenny Schrock	June 7	Eric Chupp	June 25
Bryan Yoder	June 7	Jennifer Plank	June 27
Matthew Lane	June 9	Brad Yoder	June 28
Elmer Miller	June 10	Alexis Helmuth	June 28
Josephine Marner	June 14	Amber Gingerich	June 29
Tom Glenn	June 14	Carson Petersheim	June 30
Ryan Weber	June 15		

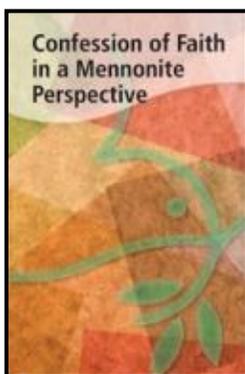
# CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE

## Article 6 ~ Creation and Calling of Human Beings

*Editors Note: This is the sixth in a monthly series. Each month we will include one of the twenty four articles from the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective so that we can all be refreshed in what they express.*

We believe that God has created human beings in the divine image. God formed them from the dust of the earth and gave them a special dignity among all the works of creation. Human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation.

We believe that human beings were created good, in the image of God. As creatures according to the divine likeness, we have been made stewards to subdue and to care for creation out of reverence and honor for the



Creator. As creatures made in the divine image, we have been blessed with the abilities to respond faithfully to God, to live in harmony with other human beings, and to engage in meaningful work and rest. Because both Adam and Eve were equally and wonderfully made in the divine image, God's will from the beginning has been for women and men to live in loving and mutually helpful relationships with each other.

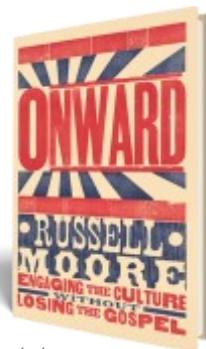
We are grateful that God patiently preserves humanity and faithfully remains with us even through death. God has made provision for the salvation of humanity and the redemption of creation. We believe that the image of God in all its fullness has been revealed and restored in Jesus Christ, in whom we find our true humanity.

### RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

#### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Jacque Lane	June 2
Jim & Carol Yoder	June 6
Glen & Rhonda Rhodes	June 8
Virgil & Sondra Gingerich	June 12
Ryan & Kat Burdick	June 14
Bill & Donna Moreland	June 15
Galen & LeAnne Tully	June 16
Marlon & Sandy Miller	June 18

### Onward Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel by Russell Moore



As the culture changes all around us, it is no longer possible to pretend that we are a Moral Majority. That may be bad news for America, but it can be good news for the church. What's needed now, in shifting times, is neither a doubling-down on the status quo nor a pullback into isolation. Instead, we need a church that speaks to social and political issues with a bigger vision in mind: that of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As Christianity seems increasingly strange, and even subversive, to our culture, we have the opportunity to reclaim the freakishness of the gospel, which is what gives it its power in the first place. The signs of the times tell us we are in for days our parents and grandparents never knew. But that's no call for panic or surrender or outrage. Jesus is alive. Let's act like it. Let's follow him, onward to the future.

*Onward is available for checkout from the book rack in the foyer.*

#### FIRST FRUIT GIVING

*Giving God Our Best*

Stewardship & Attendance		
	Attendance	Offering
4/24/16	170	\$3,330
5/1/16	164	\$4,157
5/8/16	175	\$3,248
5/15/16	149	\$3,505
5/22/16	126	\$6,849



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