

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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Greater Things

Noah's ark replica ready for a flood of visitors Craftsmen follow biblical blueprint to build Creation Museum attraction

*Editor's Note: The following article is from the latest issue of Mennonite World Review.
Of special note is the number of Anabaptist workers involved in the project.*

United by a vision to portray a vivid biblical story, Anabaptist architects, engineers, craftsmen and carpenters from many communities played a key role in the Ark Encounter project, which opened July 7 near the Creation Museum in northern Kentucky.

More than 100 workers from Amish, Mennonite and other Anabaptist traditions — about one-third of the workforce at times — applied their skills with heavy timber to help complete the full-scale replica, which can accommodate 10,000 people at one time. Answers in Genesis developed the “themed park” on 800 acres near Williamstown, Ky., 40 miles south of Cincinnati.

“I don't know how Noah did it, but I knew that to build a structure like this in a short time we had to have people to blend together and do it in a short time,” said lead architect LeRoy Troyer, a Mennonite long known for major construction projects including Nazareth Village in Israel and Global Discovery Center in Americus, Ga., home of Habitat for Humanity, and his work for Habit and the Fuller Center for Housing.

“It was probably easiest to do that within the Amish



The replica of Noah's ark, shown here on May 16, is 510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 51 feet high, based on the cubit measurements God gave Noah in Genesis. It is the centerpiece of a \$150 million theme park being developed by the Creation Museum in Kentucky. — Answers in Genesis

community because of the work ethic and the faith. There was a common vision and a common mission. People could buy into that. It wasn't just a matter of putting wood together. . . . The purpose behind it was to be able to share basically God's plan of salvation. God commanded Noah to build the ark, and that was his plan of salvation to save mankind.”

When Answers in Genesis invited Troyer to discuss the Ark Encounter in 2009, he convinced the group to build the ark of wood, taking them to Elkhart County, Ind., to tour the giant American Countryside barn and the Davis Mercantile in Shipshewana.

“It should be built of all wood because that's how Noah did it,”

Troyer said. “I said, ‘I know people that we can bring in to build it.’ In the Amish community, I knew some barn-builders who worked with heavy timber. It was a large-scale project, and we had to do it in a short time period. We needed a lot of carpenters.”

Lacking sufficient land at the Creation Museum, Answers in Genesis assembled the 800 acres at Williamstown for the Ark

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THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

Being An Anabaptist

From Ashley Litwiller,
Minister of Youth and Worship



I've had more than the usual amount of people coming up to me lately and asking what makes my faith different than another Christian's. What is so different about being an Anabaptist? In years past, I've felt compelled to say we aren't any different than you are, which is true on most levels. However, lately, I've felt God telling me to revisit this.

AMC Youth is starting a study guided by the Confession of Faith and a pamphlet created by Mennonite Mission Network and Palmer Becker called *Missio Dei: What is an Anabaptist Christian?* It gives a quick overview in 18 pages. It states 3 Core Values.

- 1) Jesus is the center of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)
 - Jesus is to be followed in daily life,
 - The Bible is interpreted from a Christ-centered point of view
 - Jesus is accepted as both Savior and Lord.
- 2) Community is the center of our life (Acts 2)
 - Forgiveness is essential for community,
 - The Scriptures are interpreted in Community
 - Community is experienced in face-to-face groups.
- 3) Reconciliation is the center of our work (Matt 5:43-48; 18:15-20)
 - We are to help reconcile people to God
 - We are to help reconcile people to each other.
 - We are to be ambassadors of reconciliation in the world.

While these are our main focuses, it's okay that other Christians have different ones. We do not put ourselves higher or below another; we are not called to make judgements. God gives us all certain gifts and passions because he needs us in different places. This way, His love and grace can spread further than if we just huddle together and stay comfortable. Being an Anabaptist means that we are "re-baptized"; it means that we make a personal choice to follow God as an adult. That doesn't mean we won't ever stray from the path, our human nature gets the best of us sometimes, but it means that we know that we are reborn in Christ. It means that we have chosen to be a disciple in a literal way.

This pamphlet also connects with The Anabaptist Vision, a statement made in 1943 by Harold S. Bender: Discipleship, Brotherhood, and an ethic of love and nonresistance are the areas we chose to work in. Being a disciple can be an exhausted job at times, that's why we are fond of brotherhood. It's a reminder that we aren't alone. We also focus on nonviolence, whether that is in our daily talk and attitude towards others, or whether that's choosing to talk out our problems instead of going to war mentally and/or physically with each other. God has shown us that throughout the Bible that loving one another can be mirrored in different ways. When people ask what makes us different, I no longer try to meld us all together. I tell them that God has called me to do the same thing he calls them to (Be a Light, Be the Salt, Love Our Enemies, Follow the 10 Commandments, etc.), he just calls me to spread out and cover different ground.

CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE Article 8 ~ Salvation

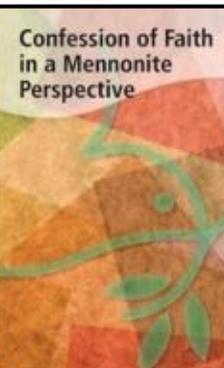
Editors Note: This is the eighth in a monthly series. Each month we will include one of the twenty four articles from the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective so that we can all be refreshed in what they express.

We believe that, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers salvation from sin and a new way of life to all people. We receive God's salvation when we repent of sin and accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. In Christ, we are reconciled with God and brought into the reconciling community of God's people. We place our faith in God that, by the same power that raised Christ from the dead, we may be saved from sin to follow Christ in this life and to know the fullness of salvation in the age to come.

From the beginning, God has acted with grace and mercy to bring about salvation—through signs and wonders, by delivering God's people, and by making a covenant with Israel. God so loved the world that, in the fullness of time, God sent his Son, whose faithfulness unto death on the cross has provided the way of salvation for all people. By his blood shed for us, Christ inaugurated the new covenant. He heals us, forgives our sins, and delivers us from the bondage of evil and from those who do evil against us. By his death and resurrection, he breaks the powers of sin and death, cancels our debt of sin,⁶ and opens the way to new life.⁷ We are saved by God's grace, not by our own merits.⁸

When we hear the good news of the love of God, the Holy Spirit moves us to accept the gift of salvation. God brings us into right relationship without coercion. Our response includes yielding to God's grace, placing full trust in God alone, repenting of sin, turning from evil, joining the fellowship of the redeemed, and showing forth the obedience of faith in word and deed.⁹ When we who once were God's enemies are reconciled with God through Christ, we also experience reconciliation with others, especially within the church.¹⁰ In baptism we publicly testify to our salvation and pledge allegiance to the one true God and to the people of God, the church. As we experience grace and the new birth, we are adopted into the family of God and become more and more transformed into the image of Christ.¹¹ We thus respond in faith to Christ and seek to walk faithfully in the way of Christ.

We believe that the salvation we already experience is but a foretaste of the salvation yet to come, when Christ will vanquish sin and death, and the redeemed will live in eternal communion with God.



Ark Replica . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Encounter, which includes a 1,710-seat restaurant and a 4,000-car parking lot. Plans call for a replica Tower of Babel on the site as well as a depiction of the plagues of Egypt and perhaps a first-century village and a section of Jerusalem.

After years of planning and months of site preparation, the first timbers were installed on June 15, 2015. Anabaptist workers have come from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Georgia. The park opened July 7. Developers expect up to 2 million visitors the first year.

Back to the Scriptures: Don Landis, chair of the Answers in Genesis board, said his own roots are deep in the Mennonite tradition, which resonates with the Creation Museum's emphasis on Scripture.

"My rich heritage, loving the Bible and loving the Lord Jesus, was founded in a Bible-believing Mennonite church," he said. "The whole church today is very influenced by the Anabaptists."

Landis was raised in East Swamp Mennonite Church, Quakertown, Pa., and found the Lord at Camp Men-O-Lan when he was 11. He was ordained in 1967.

Landis graduated from Moody Bible Institute and worked in Campus Life Youth for Christ for six years before he started the independent Rocky Mountain Ministries and opened a youth camp in Jackson Hole, Wyo., where he has pastored an independent Bible church for more than 40 years. He met Answers in Genesis founder Ken Ham 22 years ago.

Landis, who will take students from his Jackson Hole Bible College on a field trip to visit the Ark this year, says the Ark Encounter reflects Radical Reformation belief that all of life, not only salvation theology, must be based on the Bible.



Construction workers prepare to raise timber logs used for structural support at the center of the Ark Encounter.

"If we're going back to the Scriptures, we'd be better go back to the Scriptures in everything," he said.

3.3 million board feet: Plans to build the ark used the Egyptian cubit, 20.4 inches, resulting in a ship that is 510 feet long and 85 feet wide, similar to the ratios of modern shipbuilding. The structure is designed to sustain a wind force of 120 mph.

The biblical story describes gopher wood or cedar in the ark's construction, but research showed that cedar is not long-lasting. The replica is clad with boards from radiata pine trees grown in New Zealand from seeds imported from California in the 1860s.

The ark is considered the largest timber-framed structure in the world. Building codes required the floor to be at least five inches thick. The largest logs, Douglas fir or Engelmann spruce, are 2 to 3 feet in diameter, and square timbers are 20 by 20 inches. The construction includes more than a half-million 6-inch steel screws and 3.3 million board feet of wood.

Some 30 professionals in The Troyer Group architectural firm of Mishawaka, Ind., were involved in the Ark Encounter, including LeRoy Troyer's son Ron Troyer, who oversaw mechanical engineering, and Jason Hickle, who oversaw structural engineering. Others worked on site preparation, traffic studies, drafting, transportation, parking and drainage. Todd Geer, senior vice present, was construction manager.

"I worked with all these to do an oversight and to be the team leader for all of them," LeRoy Troyer said. "I bring people to work in harmony and do teambuilding. I've had considerable experience in management and organization. I have a passion to work at building peace and good will among all people."

FIRST FRUIT GIVING

Giving God Our Best

Stewardship & Attendance

	Attendance	Offering
7/3/16	139	\$5,240
7/10/16	138	\$3,866
7/17/16	143	\$3,747
7/24/16	128	\$2,790

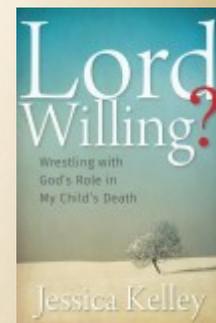


RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Lord Willing?

Wrestling with God's Role in My Child's Death

by Jessica Kelley



Does God's perfect plan really include this? When her young son was diagnosed with brain cancer, Jessica Kelley couldn't stomach Christian clichés. God's will? Divine design? The Lord's perfect plan? In *Lord Willing?*, Kelley boldly tackles one of the most difficult questions of the Christian life: if God is all-powerful and all-loving, why do we suffer? For Kelley, this question takes an even more painful and personal turn: did God lack the power or the desire to spare her four-year-old son?

For those dissatisfied with easy answers to why evil and tragedy occur, *Lord Willing?* offers a refreshing, hopeful journey straight to the heart of God. Be prepared for something more beautiful, more pure, and more healing than you can dare to imagine.

Lord Willing? is available for checkout from the book rack in the foyer.

Mennonite Mission Network
Executive Director

Stanley Green



at AMC
**Sunday,
August 28th**

He will lead us in combined Christian Education and will be bringing the message during worship.

GETTING TO KNOW: Nancy Kuhns An AMC Personal Profile

Nancy is the wife of Ervin Kuhns. They have two children, Ben and his wife Jessica and Carrie. They also have two grandsons, Henry and Huck.



What is your job and what does it consist of? I am a substitute teacher at Sullivan Elementary School

What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible? Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.* Favorite book of the Bible - James

Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time? During Ervin's cancer journey

What hobbies do you enjoy? Reading, volunteering at the Arthur MCC Thrift Store

What are some interesting facts about you? I live on the farm where I grew up and where my dad was born. It will soon be a centennial farm.

What would you say is your favorite meal? My mom's fried chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy

What is your favorite song or hymn that we sing at church? It Is Well with My Soul

Do you have a favorite inspirational quote? Don't know if this is inspirational, but my new favorite is, "Not my circus, not my monkeys!!"

Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale August 26-27 At the Otto Center



- Quilts
- Silent Auction
- General Auction that includes furniture, household items, home and garden supplies and a vast array of miscellaneous.
- Children's Auction
- Plus plenty of food and fun for everyone!

The auction begins Friday night at 6 p.m. and resumes Saturday morning at 8 a.m.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Linda Glenn	Aug. 4
Gary & Ashley Miller	Aug. 5
Floyd & Anna Mary Borntreger	Aug. 10
Cliff & Debby Kauffman	Aug. 10
Kyle & Jackie Crabtree	Aug. 10
Lamar & Karen Miller	Aug. 11
Larry & Dory Kauffman	Aug. 14
Willis & Dee Kuhns	Aug. 19
Mike & Katrina Taylor	Aug. 29

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Dee Kuhns	Aug. 2	Irene Freeman	Aug. 11
Kendra Hughes	Aug. 3	Jenni Marner	Aug. 11
Janette Petersheim	Aug. 3	Alexus Everett	Aug. 15
Kenny (Melissa) Schrock	Aug. 3	Melissa Schrock	Aug. 20
Pat Yoder	Aug. 6	Logan Schrock	Aug. 21
Dory Kauffman	Aug. 7	Mike (CJ) Yoder	Aug. 26
Irlene Chupp	Aug. 8	Sandy Miller	Aug. 27
Michelle Schrock	Aug. 11	Taya Foushi	Aug. 29



AMC
arthur mennonite church



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