

March 2016 | Volume Fifteen—Issue Three

# Greater Things

*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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## Undeserved Easter

By Tim Huber

*Editors Note: The following originally appeared on mennoworld.org and has been reprinted with permission from Mennonite World Review.*

The story of Christ's death and resurrection is a study in humanity's shortcomings. It seems designed to contrast a divine plan with mortal mistakes.

There is the parade of offenses in the garden before the arrest: Drowsy disciples can't stay awake to keep watch, and Peter can't stop his chronic lying. Judas betrays Jesus for mere silver and hangs himself. At the apex of human failure, man crucifies Christ, guilty of pointing an unjust world to a better way.

Then, come glorious Easter, the resurrection is mistaken by everyone closest to Jesus. Seeking a corpse, Mary Magdalene finds Jesus and takes him for the gardener. "Sir, if you have carried him away," she says to him, "tell me where you have put him, and I will get him" (John 20:15).

She was looking for a deceased Superman but found only a living Clark Kent.

The resurrection looks nothing like the crucifixion.

Establishing a consistent response, the disciples even refused to believe what Mary and others saw at the tomb.

His followers forgot that Jesus himself said he would die and rise again (Mark 8:31, Matt. 16:21 and Luke 9:22) and that Scripture foreshadowed it (Isaiah 53:11 and Psalms 16 and 22).

Instead, fear locks them behind a door, barricaded from good news for all the nations (Matt. 28:19).

But the resurrection is about salvation, which can't be locked away. Grace and love abound for people who routinely get it wrong.

It wouldn't be enough for a phoenix to victoriously rise from the ashes, hide a bunch of plastic eggs filled with jelly beans and go home. It would be supernatural, but it wouldn't be very countercultural.

Instead Christians have a tale of unsurpassed love offered to flawed actors — imperfect people with whom we can easily relate.

Again and again — on the road to Emmaus, in a fishing boat, behind that locked door — Jesus revealed himself to people who couldn't, or wouldn't, believe. Sound familiar?

Doubt, fear and other foibles came naturally to the people who interacted with Jesus on a daily basis. It can seem ridiculous two millennia later that direct disciples screwed up so regularly. But those failures are a common denominator that help us connect to the message.

We are petty, calloused, jealous, impatient, divisive, greedy and vengeful, just to name some of the greatest hits. Still, Christ died for those sins. And if those imperfect followers were good enough to carry on the vision 2,000 years ago, there is hope for us as well.

Hope and love. Those are the things that make salvation realistic and relevant. The temple curtain is ripped in two and relegated to the dumpster. God's love — poured out for all — is no longer stuck in the back of the temple. It is ready and waiting for followers of Christ to share, even with imperfect souls who don't deserve it.



# THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

## Different Lenses

from Glen Rhodes,  
Minister of Administration  
and Community Life



I recently had the opportunity to attend the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Conference at Hesston College in Kansas. Shane Claiborne was the main speaker and he encouraged us, challenged us, and blessed us with many wonderful stories and examples throughout the weekend. His main encouragement for us was to be the church that we dream about, not only the church that we experience.

Shane has had so many experiences around the world that his stories have a way of captivating your imagination. He has worked with Mother Theresa in India, reached out to people in the war torn countries of Iraq and Afghanistan, been to Rwanda and other countries in Africa, worked in the troubled region of Israel/Palestine, served at the influential mega-church Willow Creek in the suburbs of Chicago, and founded The Simple Way Ministry in the inner city of Philadelphia where we lives with his wife Katie Jo. That probably only touches the places and experiences that Shane has to share about.

One of the main things I took away from his stories and sharing was his encouragement to try to see life through the lens of others. Until we experience what others experience and hear their stories we cannot fully understand what they are dealing with, why they see things the way they do, and why they make the decisions they make. It is too easy to sit back and judge from our own perspective without living the reality of those in other places and other countries.

Shane encouraged us to be intentional about placing ourselves in situations where we can see life through a different lens. A lens that is not clouded by our own culture, traditions, and experiences. He commented in one session about how Jesus often communicated to people that God understands their pain and their situation. He listened to their story, became interested in them, and they felt God's presence coming alongside them. We are not God, we are not Jesus, but we are messengers of that same hope that can truly save people.

We don't have to go to Iraq, Palestine, or India to see through other lenses, although if you get the chance it would be highly recommended. But we do need to realize that even in our own towns and neighborhoods there are different stories and experiences to be shared. We need to hear them and see through their lenses before we judge them and offer our own remedies to their problems.

## GETTING TO KNOW:

# Cory Kauffman

## An AMC Personal Profile

*Cory is the son of Larry and Dory Kauffman.  
He and his wife Emily have a son, Austin who is one.*

### What is your job and what does it

**consist of?** I work in the trust department at First Mid in Mattoon where I manage farms for absentee landowners and trusts. I market the grain, pay input expenses and work with the farm tenant on crop plans for the landowner. I also sell crop insurance and prepare farmland appraisals.



### What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible?

John 3:16; I did not fully understand this verse until I had a son of my own.

**Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?** Two specific times come to mind - when Austin was born and when my cousin, Justin, passed away ten years ago. I felt God's presence in both of those moments, but for completely different reasons.

**What hobbies do you enjoy?** As many people know, I really enjoy Crossfit and running Tough Mudder races. I also enjoy helping with harvest on the farm.

**What do you consider to be your greatest achievement or accomplishment?** Convincing Emily to marry me...she thought I was crazy when I told her in third grade that I was going to marry her.

**What would you say is your favorite meal?** I don't really have a favorite meal, but my favorite dessert is my mother's chocolate sheet cake. It's the best!

**What is your favorite song or hymn that we sing at church?** I enjoy the mix of music at the church, but one of my favorite special music numbers was the version of "It is Well" that was recently performed by Erica, Nadine and Kathleen.

**What was your very first job?** My first real job was painting propane tanks. Looking back it was a pretty sweet gig. I got to set my own hours and I got paid by the tank. I quickly learned the most efficient way to paint a tank.

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



Ed & Joanna Yoder	Mar. 4
Junior & Judy Beachey	Mar. 6
Mike & CJ Yoder	Mar. 6
Kenny & Erica Schrock	Mar. 10
Larry & Myra Beachy	Mar. 20
Kevin & Lyndora Miller	Mar. 25

# CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE

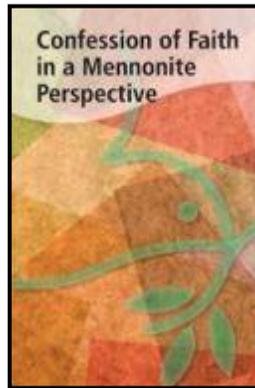
## Article 3. Holy Spirit

*Editors Note: This is the third 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 in the Holy Spirit, the eternal Spirit of God, who dwelled in Jesus Christ, who empowers the church, who is the source of our life in Christ, and who is poured out on those who believe as the guarantee of our redemption and of the redemption of creation.

Through the Spirit of God, the world was created, prophets and writers of Scripture were inspired, the people were enabled to follow God's law, Mary conceived, and Jesus was anointed at his baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus proclaimed the good news of the reign of God, healed the sick, accepted death on the cross, and was raised from the dead.

At Pentecost, God began to pour out the Spirit on all flesh and to gather the church from among many nations. As a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, the church praises and worships God and brings forth the fruit of the Spirit. By the gifts of the Holy Spirit, all Christians are called to carry out their particular ministries. By the



guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church comes to unity in doctrine and action. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the church preaches, teaches, testifies, heals, loves, and suffers, following the example of Jesus its Lord.

The Holy Spirit calls people to repentance, convicts them of sin, and leads into the way of righteousness all those who open themselves to the working of the Spirit. Scripture urges us to yield to the Spirit, and not to resist or quench the Spirit. By water and the Spirit, we are born anew into the family of God. The Spirit dwells in each child of God, bringing us into

relationship with God. Through the indwelling of the Spirit, we are made heirs together with Christ, if we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. The Spirit teaches us, reminds us of Jesus' word, guides us into all truth, and empowers us to speak the word of God with boldness.

The Holy Spirit enables our life in Christian community, comforts us in suffering, is present with us in time of persecution, intercedes for us in our weakness, guarantees the redemption of our bodies, and assures the future redemption of creation.

### RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

#### The AMC APP

The new AMC app for your smart phones and tablets which has been in development is ready to go. As of the printing of this newsletter the app has been submitted and is available for download from Google Play. Any day we expect it to be available from iTunes as well.



Weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, midweek mediations and general event announcements will all be accessible via the app. You can also listen or watch each Sunday's messages which are generally posted on Tuesdays. The messages can also be downloaded and listened to at a later time (in case you want to download while you are on wifi and then access when you are not online to save data).

As with any new technology there might be a few bumps as we get started but we anticipate that this will be a great resource for those at AMC that use smart phones and tablets on a daily basis. If you have questions, comments, etc. about the AMC app please stop by the office. We are excited about the possibilities to say the least!



## Holy Week Services

### Community Good Friday Service

Friday, March 25th

Noon-1:00 p.m. at Vine Street Christian Church

AMC Pastor Glen Rhodes will be one of those sharing.

Come and go as your schedule allows.

### Community Sunrise Service

Sunday, March 27th

6:30 a.m. at Arthur United Methodist Church

The AMC Easter Choir will be singing

## Easter at AMC

8:00-9:15 a.m. Breakfast at AMC.

Youth fundraiser.

9:30-10:15 a.m. Christian Education  
with classes for all ages.

10:30 a.m. AMC Easter Celebration Service.  
"From Death to Life to Forever" Galatians 6

# CRUISE NIGHT 2016

February 13th was an evening of entertainment, laughter, and fellowship as we cruised to Paris, France in the AMC fellowship hall.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marlene Helmuth	Mar. 1	Andy Marner	Mar. 17
Conner Crabtree	Mar. 4	Willis Kuhns	Mar. 19
Ashley Litwiller	Mar. 4	Kevin Miller	Mar. 21
Peter Kauffman	Mar. 6	Junior Beachey	Mar. 23
Olivia Yoder	Mar. 8	Jordan Herschberger	Mar. 23
Carol (Jim) Yoder	Mar. 10	Delmar Schrock	Mar. 27
Erin Schrock	Mar. 12	Kendall Burdick	Mar. 30
Roy Williamson	Mar. 15	Sarah Storm	Mar. 31
Chelsea Rocke	Mar. 15	Kade Schrock	Mar. 31
Mary Herschberger	Mar. 17		

## FIRST FRUIT GIVING

*Giving God Our Best*

### Stewardship & Attendance

	Attendance	Offering
1/31/16	148	\$3,744*
2/7/16	147	\$4,933
2/14/16	101	\$3,037
2/21/16	130	\$4,068



\*5th Sunday designated for elevator fund.

**AMC** arthur mennonite church  
Transforming Lives — Embracing Opportunities Through Christ



Submit articles and content ideas to editor Melissa Schrock at 578-2522 or by email to [arthurmennonite@gmail.com](mailto:arthurmennonite@gmail.com)

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