

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



Arthur Mennonite Church • 710 East Park Street • Arthur, IL 61911 (217) 543-2781 • arthurmennonite.org

## Travel Journal: Youth Mission Trip 2016

*In June the AMC Youth embarked on a nine day trip to Denver, Colorado where they worked with the DOOR Program. They will be sharing about their experiences during a dedicated worship celebration on July 17th. Here is a look at each day of their journey through the eyes of a different traveler each day.*

### Day 1: Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>-Travel / Kansas

We did a scavenger hunt around [Hesston College] campus. Then we had pizza in the library for dinner because it was raining. There, we also played some fun games as a group. Then we went on a walk in the arboretum which was beautiful!-Lexi Burnett

### Day 2: Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>-Travel Day

Today...I learned that yes after a total of 16 hours and about 1660 miles, I can survive in a van with 8 others. Today, we arrived in Denver and I saw God's beautiful creation through the mountains as we drove into Denver. We went shopping, out to dinner, and then headed to First Mennonite of Denver to start our service for the week. We met some of the DOOR leaders and the other youth group and I can already tell this is going to be a great week of serving & learning. -Meredith Schrock



### Day 3: Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>-Colorado

Today, I went to KADEP [King Adult Day Enrichment Program]. KADEP is a place where people with MS or brain trauma can go and have a good time with others and enjoy themselves. They arrive and have free time, then have an activity, then lunch, and then other activities after lunch. The clients are very welcoming and they love seeing everybody around them. I enjoyed being at KADEP and being around the clients. -Michelle Schrock

### Day 4: Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>-Colorado

Today, I went with my group to the Bus Stop Ministry and the Network Café. At our first stop, we listened to a woman named Mary give a sermon about how we need to be optimistic through God's word and not through the things that happen to us. We served the people who are homeless breakfast and then we went to the Café.

At Network Café, we heard another woman named Camille. Her sermon was about how Satan doesn't have control of us. The thoughts in our heads are in our control; we decide what we think or feel about ourselves. After her sermon, we just hung out with the people and played games or talked to them. Everyone was happy and wanted to talk to us. They really seemed to enjoy having us there. Jimmy (who led/helped us) told us stories of his life and how he became a Christian. He also played us some of his songs on his guitar.

That night for supper we did a Solidarity supper. We had to go out in Denver with no money and get a meal. Kim & I paired up and went to find food. We met a man who is homeless named Pete who was kind enough to give us some of his food. He told us about his life and about what it is like to be without a home in Denver. While we were talking, he brought up that he had been reading Proverbs in the bible. Kim told him how much God loves him and protects him. She gave him some passages to look up and we said goodbye. Kim & I walked on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, asked some women for change for food and finally went into a fresh food market where a worker let us get salads for free. We shared our salads with the rest of the group when we met up with them. I think that experiencing life as a homeless person (even for only 2 hours) was eye opening for me. It made me realize that it is more difficult than expected to get a good meal if you have to ask for money or ask for free food. Many people are not willing to help and some just cannot help. This day gave me a new outlook on the lives of people who are homeless. I will try very hard to never judge anyone again. -Regina Miller

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# THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

## God's Leisurely Providence

From Glen Rhodes, Minister of Administration and Community Life



In many of our prayers to God we say the words "and your will be done." How much do we mean that? I am currently reading a wonderful book by Eugene Peterson entitled "Run With the Horses, The Quest for Life at its Best" that considers the life of the prophet Jeremiah and the book that he wrote in the Old Testament.

This is how the inside cover describes this book, "We all long to live life at its best, to fuse freedom and spontaneity with purpose and meaning. Why then do we often find our lives so humdrum, so unadventurous, so routine? Or else so frantic, so full of activity, but still devoid of fulfillment? How do we learn to risk, to trust, to pursue wholeness and excellence, to run with the horses in the jungle of life? In a series of profound reflections on the life of Jeremiah the prophet, Eugene Peterson explores the heart of what it means to be fully and genuinely human."

In one of the chapters this quote caught my attention. He writes, "Our compulsive timetables collide with God's leisurely providence. We tell God not only what to do but when to do it. We take him seriously, why else would we be praying? But we take ourselves more seriously, telling him exactly what he must do for us and when."

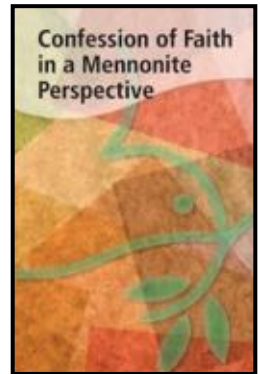
That takes me back to the first question I asked. Do we really mean that we want God's will to be done, or would we prefer that our will would be blessed by God? I believe that this caught my attention because I often pray for the Lord's will to be done. I believe that is a correct way to pray and I believe that it is a biblical way to pray, but do I believe it and want it with all of my heart?

Sometimes God takes much longer than I would prefer. Sometimes God's will is not what I had in mind. Sometimes God's will is hard for me to understand. But ultimately it is the Lord's providence that is always best. Perhaps that is something we all need to be reminded of from time to time? As we pray, let's pray for the Lord's will to be done, then may we truly submit to the Lord's will and give up our own. Jeremiah learned that this was not always easy but he also learned that God would bless those who fully rely on him. My encouragement is for all of us to do the same. "Lord God, may your will be done!"

# CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE

## Article 7 ~ Sin

*Editors Note: This is the seventh 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 confess that, beginning with Adam and Eve, humanity has disobeyed God, given way to the tempter, and chosen to sin. Because of sin, all have fallen short of the Creator's intent, marred the image of God in which they were created, disrupted order in the world, and limited their love for others. Because of sin, humanity has been given over to the enslaving powers of evil and death.

Sin is turning away from God and making gods of creation and of ourselves. We sin by making individual and group choices to do unrighteousness and injustice. We sin by omitting to do good and neglecting to give God the glory due our Creator and Redeemer. In sinning, we become unfaithful to the covenant with God and with God's people, destroy right relationships, use power selfishly, do violence, and become separated from God. As a result, we are not able to worship God rightly.

Through sin, the powers of domination, division, destruction, and death have been unleashed in humanity and in all of creation. They have, in turn, further subjected human beings to the power of sin and evil, and have increased burdensome work and barren rest. The more we sin, the more we become trapped in sin. By our sin we open ourselves to the bondage of demonic powers. Because of sin and its consequences, the efforts of human beings on their own to do the good and to know the truth are constantly corrupted.

The enslaving nature of sin is apparent in the powers of evil, which work through both individuals and groups and in the entire created order. These powers, principalities, and elemental spirits of the universe often hold people captive and work through political, economic, social, and even religious systems to turn people away from justice and righteousness. But thanks be to God, who has not allowed the powers to reign supreme over creation or left humanity without hope.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Katelyn Weber	July 3	Cliff Kauffman	July 22
Denton Marner	July 5	Paul Mast	July 22
Ethan Yoder	July 5	Jeff Marner	July 24
Darrel Gingerich	July 15	Seth Gingerich	July 27
Wyatt Herschberger	July 17	Nolan Schrock	July 27
Larry Beachy	July 19	Kody Burdick	July 27
Joe Diener	July 22		

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Ervin & Bernadine Yoder	July 6
DuWayne & Karen Miller	July 12
Andy & Nancy Plank	July 24



## RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

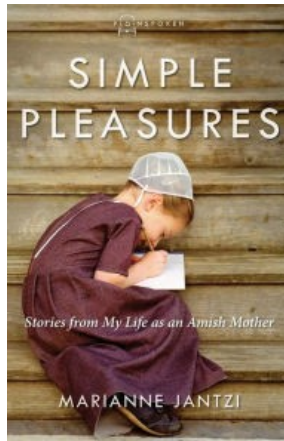
### Simple Pleasures

#### Stories from My Life as an Amish Mother

by Marianne Jantzi

Young Amish homemaker Marianne Jantzi invites readers into her family's life and Amish community. The mother of four young children and wife of a storekeeper, Jantzi writes about her daily routines and heartfelt faith with equal measures of wit and warmth. Sewing, cleaning, cooking, gardening, and helping to manage the store take up most hours in her day, but Jantzi finds time to pen columns for the Connection, a magazine beloved by Amish and Mennonite readers across the United States and Canada. Never sugarcoating the frustrations of motherhood, Jantzi tells it like it is, broken washing machine and bickering children and all. But through her busy days, Yoder finds strength in simple pleasures of family, fellowship with her Amish community, and quiet time with God.

*"Simple Pleasures" is available for checkout from the book rack in the foyer.*



### Fair Service

Kicks off the Mo-Do Fair

**July 10th  
at 7 p.m.**

*Sponsored by the Arthur  
Ministerial Association*



*With music led by the  
Partners in Praise band.*

### FIRST FRUIT GIVING

*Giving God Our Best*



Stewardship & Attendance

	Attendance	Offering
5/29/16	120	\$1,680
6/5/16	Park	\$3,832
6/12/16	152	\$3,126
6/19/16	153	\$2,594
6/26/16	117	\$3,313

### Vacation Bible School

In June AMC hosted Arthur Community Vacation Bible School along with 4 other area churches.

Here is just a glimpse at the week.





# Travel Journal

(Continued from page 1)

## Day 5: Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> Colorado

Today, we went on a tour of LaAlma neighborhood. We learned about gentrification [a trend in urban neighborhoods which results in higher property values and the displacing of lower-income families and small businesses] and the impact it has on the low-income people living there. It really opened our eyes to the inner city problems and how much more could be done. I had a lot of fun on the tour and learned a lot too.

—Derek Rhodes

## Day 6: Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>-Colorado

The first thing we did was go up into the mountains to go horseback riding. When we got to the stables, we had to figure out how to split up because we couldn't go all at once. My group played card games while they were gone. When they got back, I started to get really nervous but once we started going the nerves went away. The trail that we went on was beautiful. We got back from the ride, we drove back into the city to the SAME Café. It invites everyone to come, but for people who maybe can't afford to pay for a meal, they can work for a certain amount of time. That would be their way of paying for the meal. While we were there, we did a deep clean for them. Then we went to a Rockies baseball game. It was a fun experience for everyone. All around, I think today was a success.

—Kayla Otto

## Day 7: Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>-Travel Day

Before we left Denver to go to the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, we stopped at the Sports Authority Stadium and took a couple pictures. After this, we drove 12 hours and arrived in Missouri late at night. The car ride was better than expected and we played a couple of games near the end of the day.

—Ryan Miller

## Day 8: Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>-Missouri

Today was one of the most memorable days for me personally. Today, two important parts of my life came together. My family has vacationed to the Lake of the Ozarks once a year since before I was born. We took the group to our favorite breakfast spot, Miller's Landing, by boat. We gave the youth a chance to go tubing, swim in the pools & lake, take a ride on the jet-ski, and waterski. Not everyone got to do everything because life is much slower at the lake.



My favorite part of the day was in the afternoon we went out on the boat to one of the back corners where we could stand on the lake's sandy/muddy floor. Back in there, we spent time reflecting on our week, making a list of our top 3 fun and top 3 work moments of the week. Then we spent the next hour or so planning our worship service. The youth's creativity and vision for the service made my heart happy. Can't wait to share it with you all! We ended the day with another meal at Larry's on the Lake

and took a trip into (in my biased opinion) the best custard place in the US: Andy's. We ended the night with more card games and a time of sharing in which our senior gave some advice to the other youth and we made some announcements and plans for when we got back to Arthur looking towards this next year.

—Ashley Litwiller

## Day 9: Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>-Travel Day

The only thing we needed to accomplish today was a five hour drive from Camdenton, Mo to Arthur, IL; but after spending 24/9 with each other, we sat through this day in a delirious, giddy, exhausted state. We laughed to the point of tears, we rehashed our crazy stories & quotes. We blared our music & scarfed Wendy's and made a pact not to stop again until we reached Arthur. We scoured vehicles for license plates hoping to find all 50 states, we found 44.

As for me underneath the giddy exhaustion is a determined resolve to be more grateful; for my stocked fridge, my soft bed & new clothes. After Regina & I's experience with Pete I may never take these for granted again.

—Kim Kauffman



The youth and leaders at 4:30 a.m. Saturday, June 18th in the AMC parking lot getting ready to leave for Denver.



Mennonite  
Church  
USA

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arthur mennonite church



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