

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

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Fasting from Facebook

from Melissa Schrock

You won't find me on Facebook very often anymore. I think the last time I posted a status update was in April, when I was so excited about purchasing some concert tickets that I needed to let the world know. My decision to hop off the Facebook train was deliberate and a little painful at first. Facebook gave me the feeling that I was 'in the know' all the time. But, did I really need to know? All the time? Come to find out, ignorance really is bliss.

For the record, this is just my opinion. If you are an avid Facebook user, I'm certainly not judging. And my comments are based on Facebook only because that was my drug of choice so to speak. I am not an early adopter of new things so I've never been active with Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, or any of the other social media tools; however some of my observations may apply but I really can't say. Here is what I have learned about myself from Facebook.

Facebook makes me bold. For some reason I am able to say things on Facebook that I may not say out loud in the company of other people. We can toss out a status update and let the chips fall as they may. And it's easy to be bold when I'm sitting in the comfort of my own home. But I can't truly know how my post will be perceived by the reader because I don't know what is going on in their lives or what their emotional state is when they read it. Certainly I can have a "who cares" attitude about what I post (after all I am entitled to my opinion) but deep down I am supposed to care about other people. Harming or injuring others really is an issue, even if it is done with *just* words. I once posted a status update that was less than flattering regarding a specific person. I didn't name them but that didn't matter. The feedback I got from that post made me delete it the next day. It made me aware that my posts could actually hurt other people. After that I tried to be a positive poster.



Facebook clouds my vision of my own life. I am trying to live the life that God intends for me and sometimes knowing what is going on in other people's lives skews how I feel about my own. Whether it be the onslaught of vacation photos in the summer, the beautifully decorated homes at Christmas or even the random posts about careers, kids and pets, it's hard not to start making comparisons. Yes, I should be able to view without making it about me. But if I cannot do that, then the healthy thing to do is to just stop looking. This is where the ignorance is bliss comes into play. When I don't know what the proverbial Jones' are doing then I don't have to keep up with them. And being on Facebook means there can be a lot of Joneses to keep up with. No social media tool should make me feel better, or worse, about the blessings in my life. God will provide for me. Period.

Facebook colors my vision of other people. Just as the vision of my own life can be clouded, by the same token, my view of your life can be skewed by what you post on Facebook. Judgment of others is a slippery slope for me and can shape how I interact with you in real life. If I rarely see you out and about in the world, then what I see of you on Facebook can skew my opinion, and if all I see are political rants or fluffy kitty pictures, then that's what my opinion is going to be based on. People are complex and to boil someone down to just what we see on Facebook probably isn't fair but that's what happens. Someone sent me a friend request a couple of years ago and after looking at their page I decided it was in my best interest not to accept. I could see that their posts would not be a source of joy or positive influence in my life. However, just viewing those posts caused me to shape an opinion about them. Those posts were completely different from the interactions that I had had with that person in real life.

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THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

Get Involved in MDS

From Lamar Miller,
Minister of Outreach



The annual Illinois MDS unit meeting was held recently at Prairieview Mennonite church near Gridley Illinois. Noah Kauffman, Virgil Gingerich and myself had the privilege to attend and give a short presentation about our PHP build in Pilger Nebraska. It was great evening of fellowship and learning what the Illinois unit has been involved with and the opportunities available to us.

In the past year, Illinois had a couple serve with the RV Projects and they continue to do so at Bi-national projects around the country. We also had twenty seven people serve for 612 days on eight Bi-national projects in South Carolina, West Virginia, Nebraska, Wyoming and Michigan. The Arthur Mennonite and Sunnyside Mennonite PHP project also included over forty volunteers and 900 service hours. It seems the Illinois unit had a year with many volunteers involved in multiple projects around the country but, disasters continue to happen and there are always more opportunities to serve those in need.

If you are interested in serving others through the work of MDS, there are currently some needs not far from us. On August 16th almost eight inches of rain fell on South Bend, Indiana causing record flooding in that city. There are around nine hundred homes needing mucked out and cleaned up. In Kokomo, Indiana there were seven tornadoes that hit the community. Approximately one thousand homes were damaged with these storms and clean-up work still continues. MDS is taking weekend volunteers to help with this process. There are also bi-national projects in Michigan, California, West Virginia, and Louisiana where volunteers are needed. Almost all MDS projects need cooks, skilled and unskilled labor and people with a willing heart to serve others.

If you are interested in helping disaster victims then I would encourage you to get involved with MDS. You will be fulfilled and blessed by your involvement and the relationships you build during your time with MDS.

Facebook . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Facebook takes me out of the present. This might sound silly but I clearly remember events happening and me actually crafting a Facebook post about it in my head while it was going on. Facebook was taking me out of the moment even though I wasn't actively on the site. Instead of experiencing, I was projecting. How would this "read" online? How can I word this so it captures the fun or silliness or whatever? Instead of just accepting the moment for what it was I was making it into something that needed to be shared. Now, everything is pretty much a "you had to be there moment." If I want to share it with you I have to tell you about it and in doing so convey in words what that experience was like to me. And all that time scanning my news feed, keeping tabs on other people's lives, was just time spent away from my own. A good distraction sometimes from my own day to day problems but really just being present in my own life is where I need to stay.

Facebook is not my reality. When I decided to post only positive things on Facebook then it was no longer a true glimpse of my life. And I have to consider things that others post as the same. Most people don't share their true struggles online so if I start to believe Facebook is a tool to help people then I am misguided. My "friends" don't post about their marital struggles, addictions, money woes, disrespectful kids, loneliness, fears, etc. While I can support them by liking their posts, whatever they may be, to truly help my friends I have to have a real relationship with them, one that involves conversation and real life interaction. Facebook actually gave me a false sense of community. Getting off the site let me see that if I want to be of service to my friends I need to step out, or away from the computer, to make that happen. I also found myself a little too captivated with the number of "likes" my posts received. Its nice knowing someone likes you, but wow, when 95 of your closest friends like you, then you really start thinking your something.

Facebook filled me with a lot of information that I didn't need to know. Facebook can be very entertaining. Funny pictures and status updates are one of the high points for me. However, I liken Facebook to the 24-hour news cycle. Is there really that much "news" in the world? Not really. And so we end up listening to people's opinions and thinking it is real news. And it's the same with Facebook. Yes, I like seeing pictures of my cousins baby who lives far away and I have yet to meet (this is news). But, I don't need to know every time my cousin stops at a restaurant for a bite to eat (this is not news). There really is such a thing as too much information. And for someone who has a curious nature (me) Facebook is a plethora of information. I met someone several months ago and the first thing I did was get on Facebook. Within minutes I had a full background and a wealth of information I didn't need about this person, including who their relatives where, what their last vacation looked like and opinions based on status updates posted over the last 2years. Yikes! And I have been guilty in the past of following a particular post just so I can see all of the back and forth commentary. Some call it a debate but really I liken it to rubbernecking at a wreck on the highway. And do I really need to know what that girl I barely knew in high school is doing every day? I could block her posts from my news feed so I don't see them but then why am I friends with her in the first place? All of this information is just noise I don't need going on in my head—there is enough going on up there already :-)

All of these thoughts and ideas led me to think that maybe Facebook was not the place for me. I decided to just take a break. But my little fast has turned into an extended leave and the longer I'm off the less I miss it. It was very much like the time I rearranged my living room furniture and no longer had a great view out the front window. I no longer knew all the comings and goings of the neighbor across the street, who I have never met. Instead, I'm sticking to my own side of the street, focusing on what is going on in my own life. Was it hard? Yes, there were times I didn't know what to do with myself. Did it take some effort? Yes, I had to change my habits and my thinking. Will I stay off forever? I have no idea. But, is it worth it right now? Yes. While certainly, I am no longer "in the know" I can say I am in the now. And if I see you in the real world and ask how you are doing, don't assume I have any clue, because I'm pretty sure I didn't see your last status update. I would rather hear it first-hand. And from my perspective, ignorance really is bliss.

Scenes from the AMC Menno Haven Retreat



AMC to Visit Cazenovia Mennonite Church

Sunday, October 16th

As part of the Illinois Mennonite Conference Congregational Connections, a group will join Cazenovia Mennonite (northeast of Peoria) for worship and a fellowship meal. We would like to fill up the church van with AMCsers so please sign up on the C.L. board!

FIRST FRUIT GIVING

Giving God Our Best



Stewardship & Attendance		
	Attendance	Offering
8/28/16	168	\$4,243
9/4/16	146	\$4,652
9/11/16	124	\$3,966
9/18/16	138	\$3,459

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kenny & Lelia Miller Oct. 2 Jeff & Jenni Marner Oct. 8
Ed & Edna Gingerich Oct. 24

AMC Fall Festival

Sunday, October 9th
At the Moultrie County 4H Center
starting at 2 p.m.
Carry-in meal at 5 p.m.

- Volleyball games
- Campfire
- MCC school kit assembly
- Candy drop flyover (weather permitting)



GETTING TO KNOW: **Glen Rhodes**

An AMC Personal Profile

Glen and his wife Rhonda have two children Becca (22) and Derek (17). Derek lives at home while Becca and her husband Steven Hopkins live in California.

What is your job and what does it consist of?

Most people know that I am one of the pastors on the ministry team here at AMC. I am the Minister of Administration and Community Life and also the team leader. Some may not know that I worked several jobs as a manager in the Kitchen and Bath industry for 12 years after graduating with a business degree from college. Next Spring I will complete my Masters of Divinity degree from Lincoln Christian Seminary.



What hobbies do you enjoy? I enjoy sports, golf, reading, and geography. I subscribe to way too many magazines and have too many books that I would like to get read but not enough time. I enjoy golfing with other local pastors on Monday's during the summer. We have a small trophy we play for each week that says, "The last shall be first and the first shall be last." Matthew 20:16

What are some interesting facts about you? Anything about yourself that people at AMC might be surprised to know. I was the starting point

guard for my high school basketball team that came within one point of playing for the New Mexico State Championship in 1986. Two weeks later I was chosen to play on the N.M. All-State team in the Pit in Albuquerque. I have a scrapbook with a lot of embarrassing pictures to remember those exciting times.

What would you say is your favorite meal? I would choose roast or steak, baked potato, garden green beans and corn, and my wife Rhonda's oriental salad. For dessert there could many options but I would probably go with carrot cake or pecan pie.

If you could host a dinner party with any three living people in the world, whom would you invite? I would take Christian author and pastor Max Lucado, singer Bono from the band U2, and former Bronco's quarterback Peyton Manning to the Rib Eye in Champaign. I would pay and then take them to an Illini Basketball game. Bono would sing the national anthem before the game. Is there anyone in church with connections that can make this happen?

What was your very first job? My first job in High School was mowing lawns for my parents rental houses. One summer I rented out paddle boats on the Pecos River in Carlsbad, New Mexico where my parents live. I was also a stock boy at Walmart during High School. I practiced my basketball skills at Walmart by throwing paper towels and toilet paper into large bins that were 10' tall. It helped me in High School but it never landed me an NBA contract.

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

My favorite passage is 1 Peter 1:3-9. These verses proclaim the living hope of our salvation and faith in Jesus Christ. It is "An inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade... kept in heaven for you." My favorite book of the Bible is Matthew. It is the gospel that best connects the Old Testament prophecies with the New Testament good news of Jesus. It also contains Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5-7)

Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time? In my marriage to Rhonda and the story of our two children I have had multiple opportunities to witness God's presence, peace, and promises. Our daughter Rebecca was born with a diaphragmatic hernia and needed surgery right after she was born. She was in neonatal intensive care for two months before coming home on oxygen. Our son Derek was adopted from Romania when he was 10 months old. He has been a blessing to our family in so many ways. God has blessed our marriage and our family and we are so grateful for that.

Do you have a favorite book or author? If so, please share.

My favorite book after the Bible is Max Lucado's "Just Like Jesus." I also like Eugene Peterson's book "Run with the Horses" and Richard Foster's book "Celebration of Discipline." In my eyes these are Christian classics. I wish I could get into fiction more someday but at this point that has not happened.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ivan Yoder	Oct. 1	Lelia Miller	Oct. 15	Kenny Miller	Oct. 29
Floyd Borntreger	Oct. 2	Gloria Yoder	Oct. 17	Lanora Gingerich	Oct. 30
Lamar (Karen) Miller	Oct. 3	Larry Herschberger	Oct. 17	Lyndora Miller	Oct. 30
Olivia Gingerich	Oct. 7	Sam Petersheim	Oct. 18	Phyllis Kauffman	Oct. 30
Jamison Miller	Oct. 7	Bertha Yoder	Oct. 24	Maranna Chupp	Oct. 31
Scott Litteral	Oct. 8	LeAnne Tully	Oct. 26	Debby Kauffman	Oct. 31
Ervin Kuhns	Oct. 11	Kyle Crabtree	Oct. 26	Clara Wood	Oct. 31
John Yoder	Oct. 15	Kim Miller	Oct. 27		



AMC

arthur mennonite church



AMC Ministers: All of Jesus' followers here at Arthur Mennonite

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Submit articles and content ideas to editor Melissa Schrock at 578-2522 or by email to arthurmennonite@gmail.com			