

Calendar of Events

W.A.T.E.R.	June 20 - July 29
Family & Youth Week	Aug. 1 - 5
Staff Retreat.	Sept. 15 - 16
First Term	Sept. 17 - Oct. 27
Post-Term Opportunities.	Oct. 17 - 27
Wrap-up.	Oct. 27
Second Term	Oct. 31 - Dec. 8
Christian Nurture Conference	Nov. 11 - 13
Thanksgiving Vacation.	Nov. 24 - 25
Choir Tour	Dec. 9 - 16

Notice:

There are still openings for Men and Ladies for First Term Enhanced, Second and Fifth Terms.

Family & Youth Week

August 1 - 5, 2016

Family Life Through History (Men & Women)
 The Earth Is The Lord's (Youth)
 Biblical Masculinity (Men)
 Biblical Femininity (Ladies)
 Nuggets From Wisdom Literature (All)
 Becoming Servants & Leaders (Youth)
 Choir (Youth)
 Character Training (ages 6-12)
 Child Care (ages 5 & under)

Instructors for the week:
 Kenneth & Mildred Ranck
 Donald & Maryann Brechbill
 Benjamin Good
 Byron Wolfer

Please contact the office if you would like a brochure or go to www.smbi.org.

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 Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute
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02

April—June 2016

the Monitor

A Tribute

...to Elijah Yoder and to God's Faithfulness

In 1966...

...the first Ford Bronco was produced.

...Lyndon B. Johnson was president.

...Ronald Reagan was elected governor of California.

...the Vietnam War was ongoing.

...man had not yet landed on the moon.

...the computer age was in infancy.

... Green Hill School served elementary and high school students in Fulton County, PA.

...a baby boy was born in Holmes County, OH.

By 1976, much had changed. Jimmy Carter was elected president. Man had landed on the moon. The computer age was heating up. And Green Hill School closed and was purchased by Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute which began offering classes in January, 1977.

In 1987, the baby boy-Elijah Yoder, now become young adult, ventured from Holmes County, OH to Fulton County, PA to become a student at SMBI. By this time, he had already graduated valedictorian from public high school and stretched his wings teaching for two years at Stirland Lake High School in northwestern Ontario .

As might be expected, after a perfect attendance record through 12 years of elementary and high school, Elijah attended SMBI's next seven terms before graduating with a Christian Ministries Major in 1989- the last graduating class under the administration of Harry Breneman.

After graduation, Elijah's journey took him to Papua New Guinea for a seven week training program under New Tribes Missions before returning to SMBI for another term and a second graduation with a Bible and Theology Major in 1991.

That same year saw Elijah returning to SMBI to begin his teaching career in first term, September, 1991. There were only two students that term, so with Elijah as faculty, SMBI was moved to York, PA for the term where classes were offered at Tidings of Peace church. Dur-

ing second and third terms he served as dean, before settling into teaching fourth term. Again, Elijah's faithfulness has been demonstrated by serving during each of the 119 terms offered during the 25 years since then. He does take an occasional day off for personal development or other things, especially the first Monday after Thanksgiving when deer season rolls around.

While teaching Personal Evangelism during second term, 1993, one of his students caught his eye. Elijah paid special attention when grading her responses to his carefully formulated questions. And she, a high

school teacher enjoying being a student again, answered his questions with lots of personal insight. She was a young widow who was determined not to take this single teacher's classes, but Providence and a change of teachers, orchestrated otherwise. Their romance blossomed and Elijah and Brenda were married on July 31, 1993. They settled at SMBI and he continued teaching.

Since then, God blessed their home with three children. They've now all graduated from high school and are stretching their own wings in various ventures. Daniel works in agricultural construction, and has helped his dad with WATER for 4 years. Laurinda is in her first year of nursing school, and Melody just attended her senior year and graduated from Faith Builders Christian School with a dream of teaching some day. (continued on next page)



Return Service Requested

7304 Lincoln Hwy., Harrisonville, PA 17228
 ph 717.485.4341
 fax 717.485.0641
 smb!@smbi.org
 smb!i.org

Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute



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~ Births ~

Jonathan & Anna (Fort) Allgyer

~ Savannah Grace

Arlin & Carissa (Fox) King

~ Grayson Blake

Gary & Joanna (Bergey) High

~ Faith Lynnda

Ryan & Sheri (Keller) Laughman

~ Tess Alayre

Tony & Rachel (Mullett) Martin

~ Tirzah Grace

Nathan & Lauren (Weber) Rutt

~ Branson Taylor

Cody & Lorenda (Kropf) Stolz

~ Elizabeth Valentina

Elvin & Melanie (Schlabach) Yoder

~ Janae Vitalia

Matt & Tamar (McCurdy) Zehr

~ Sophia Patricia

~ Weddings ~

Nathan Breneman & Juliana Wantz ~ 4.23.16

Micah Krabill & Carissa Hartzler ~ 4.30.16

Silas Miller & Emily Lapp ~ 6.18.16

Tim Petersheim & Deanne Stauffer ~ 6.18.16

Luke Goss & Heidi Gingerich ~ 6.25.16

Save the Date!

May 26 - 28, 2017

SMBI 40th Year Anniversary Celebration

1977 - 2017

Tentative plans for this celebration/reunion weekend include sharing times by former staff and board members, chicken Bar-be-que on Saturday, and a music program on Sunday afternoon led by former music directors. Come and join us for a time of reconnecting with friends, sharing memories, fun, and inspiration. Watch for more information in coming newsletters.

While teaching a wide variety of classes over the years, Elijah is best known for his I,II,III John/Jude class on assurance of salvation and for his N.T. Greek classes. He is also well known for his mission classes such as Missiology, Muslim Evangelism, or Gospel and Culture. He also teaches other classes, has served as assistant administrator, and contributes to Family Week and Minister's Week. His favorite way to re-charge is by river fishing and his stories frequently find their way into the classroom or chapel.

Elijah has also been heavily involved in WATER-World Awareness Training in Evangelistic Responsibility. This missions program began in 1992 under the administration of Val Yoder and Elijah took over administration of the program in the late 1990's. Including this year's 61 students, nearly 1,100 students have been challenged during the week of orientation and team building



activities and the 4 ½ weeks of working alongside experienced missionaries around the world. This year there were 34 locations offered in 18 countries.

As we reflect, we are grateful for God's faithfulness in provision for the work of Smbi over the past 40 years. A significant part of that provision has been the daily work of instructors, deans, cooks, secretaries, and maintenance staff. Amid the change and the many staff which have come and gone, Elijah's faithfulness has been an anchor and for that we are grateful.



2016 Greek I class

Praise and Prayer!

Praise the Lord! Previous newsletters have given details of a proposed addition to staff housing. After numerous hurdles, we received building permits for this project on June 30. Construction will begin soon. Please join us in prayer for labor, materials, and finances to complete the project.

Please contact the office if you would like to contribute.

Consider - Encourage!

We encourage you to consider two things... **One**, consider attending Smbi for First Term Enhanced with its unique offering. First Term offers a shorter term of study (4 weeks), discipleship groups, and three tracks of post-term opportunities. Post-term opportunities include a wilderness trip, music ministry, and urban ministry. **Two**, consider encouraging someone you know to attend. Term schedules, course information and all application materials may be found at smbi.org or call the office—717-485-4341.

WATER Orientation

World Awareness Training in Evangelistic Responsibility

June 20-27, 2016

61 students from the United States, Canada & Mexico gathered for a week of intense training and team development activities before going out to 19 different locations for 4 weeks of mission work. The locations included...Cambodia, Cherry Creek, SD, China, Ireland, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Nicaragua, Liberia, Mexico, Paraguay, Spain & York, PA. Pray for them as they are serving in various locations this summer!

The maze...

