

Night of Music

February 5, 2016 7:30 pm

Needmore Bible Church
6939 Great Cove Rd,
Needmore, PA 17238

Held in the gymnasium behind the church building.

Directions: From I-70- Warfordsburg exit, take
US 522 North 7 miles and church will be on the left.
From McConnellsburg, PA, take US 522 South
14 miles and church will be on the right.

Local eating and hotel suggestions are
Breezewood, PA and Hancock, MD.
When registering at hotels, mention that you are with
Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute.

Ministers' Week

February 15-19, 2016

Registration: Monday, February 15, 10 am - 12 noon

Dismissal: Friday, February 19, 1:00 pm

Christianity Among World Views ~ Steven Brubaker, Guys Mills, PA

Life of Christ ~ Wayne Schrock, Catlett, VA

Current Issues in Historical Perspective ~ Tim Miller,
McKenney, VA

Biblical Foundations for Exhortation ~ Frank Reed, Manheim, PA

Hebrews: Nuggets for Daily Living ~ Leroy Gehman, Reinholds, PA

Scripture: The Word of God ~ Val Yoder, Chang Mai, Thailand

It's God Calling... (Ladies) ~ Esther Bontrager, Sullivan, IL

Costs: Institute rooms - \$8.00/night, meals - \$3.00/meal.

An offering will be taken to help cover costs.

Pre-registration is Required.

Please contact the office for a brochure and/or registration.

www.smbi.org

Return Service Requested

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Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute



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04

October- December 2015

the Monitor

Pebbles From My Pitcher

The story is told of a crow who was about to die from thirst. In his frantic search for water he spotted a pitcher which he hoped would contain water enough to quench his raging thirst. When he looked in, there was water, but alas, the pitcher was so nearly empty he was not able to reach it. Then he tried to overturn the pitcher, so that at least he might be able to get a few drops, but he was so weak he had no strength to do even that. At last, he saw some pebbles lying nearby, so he cast them one by one into the pitcher and thus, by degrees, raised the water up to the very brim, and satisfied his thirst.

Many times, life seems to take us on a path through a seemingly endless desert. The nights are long, the road rocky, our eyes dry, because there are no tears left. There is only the cry of anguish flung to the heavens, to a God that seems to have forgotten us. We are as the crow - weak, worn, hungry and very, very thirsty. We know there is water somewhere, that giving up is not remotely an option, but even if we do find water, where is the guarantee of being able to reach it? What if the walls are too high, the chains of bitterness too strong, the barrier of anger too broad to cross? But praise God! With the power of Jesus Christ none of these are insurmountable! Here at SMBI, this first term, I was given pebble after pebble after pebble. As I cast these truths into my pitcher, slowly the water rose, until I was drinking freely of its contents.

In Christian Family 1 class, we were told the significance of our story. There are ten largely unchangeable factors about ourselves that we alone can choose what to do with. This includes who our parents are, our racial background, time in history, cultural heritage, gender, birth order, siblings, abilities, physical appearance, and time of our death. What am I doing with my story? If life is 90% our choice and freewill and only 10% our heredity and environment, then it really is up to us! We can reject our story. Toss it out. Shake our fist at God and claim that we know better then He does and what will work best in our life. Another option is to claim our story. We can become quite skillful at this. We build dams and walls, host pity parties, and bewail our fate. There is no growth here and if we choose this we will eventually become stale, mummified bits of humanity. Last but not least is simply accepting our story, for truly in acceptance lies peace. John Bunyan understood this concept. In some

of his writings, he comments that there are those who wish that they might no longer be troubled with either hills or mountains to go over on the way to the Father's house, but he simply states that this way is the way, and it can not be changed. He accepted what God had brought into his life. Here, there is peace even in the midst of sorrow, and joy where none was thought possible before. Truly living is living life with an open hand, in absolute surrender, yielding those things which are not yours to give or to withhold. When there is pain, it is turned over to the One who has the power to bring beauty from ashes. This is a huge pebble and made an enormous difference in how I view my life! If only we could grasp the idea of how carefully God has planned all the details of our lives!

Another truth that was presented in our class was the fact that God can truly fill the deepest needs of our souls. I knew this in my head before coming to SMBI, but somehow through the course of the term and this class the full reality of this truth found its way to my heart. People will fail. Relationships will crumble. Expectations will be dashed. But God will never fail us!!! He is our rock, our pillar, the very center of our existence, and truly worthy of all our praise! If you are feeling dry and parched, perhaps you need to take a few moments and think about this amazing truth. Once it is grasped there is water aplenty!!! Jesus truly wants such a relationship with us that all others pale in comparison. He is even now pursuing us!

In the Ezra/Nehemiah class we talked a lot about the importance of prayer. When Nehemiah was challenged or faced with difficult situations his first response was always prayer. He lived in close communion with God and his sole purpose was to bring Him honor and glory. He understood that prayer was a privilege and that God's power comes through prayer. Walking with God was obviously not new to Nehemiah and when he was called to go to Jerusalem and build the walls, he was ready and willing. I like to think that his life was simply a long obedience in the same direction, through the good times and the bad. How is it in our lives? Are we following hard after God? Are we in tune with Him? Will we be ready when God calls us?

The life of Ezra is a beautiful picture of humble brokenness. He not only prepared his heart to seek God's law but also to obey, follow, and to teach it. I

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believe he had a proper view of himself before God. He knew that God was absolutely holy, sinless perfection and that the law, in turn was perfect. Do we prepare our hearts to seek and obey the word of God? Do we have a proper view of ourselves before Him? Studying these two books led me to a closer understanding of what my relationship with God should look like and of my purpose not only in the church, but in the Kingdom of God. And the water continued to rise in my pitcher until it was overflowing!

I am grateful for having had the privilege of attending SMBI this term. The Lord is faithful in keeping His promises and if we are thirsty, He will provide for us. “When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.”

Isaiah 41: 17-18.

-Written by an anonymous student from First Term Enhanced.

Thank You!

Jehovah-Jireh! The LORD will provide! Indeed He has provided. Once again, we thank you for being a part of his provision. It is humbling to see God’s faithful provision for the financial needs of the institute. In addition to our regular budgeted expenses, this year we were able to complete several building improvement projects including the replacement of the gym roof, repair of the driveway, remodeling the front porch of the main building, and the addition of 6,000 galloons of propane storage. Obviously, these investments have had their effect on the cash flow, but as we look to the future we believe that “in the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

WATER 2016

Registration is open for the summer missions program which runs June 20 – July 29. Come spend a week on campus in intense orientation and then spend almost five weeks at one of 31 locations of your choice in North, South, or Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, or Asia.

There are several new locations offered this year. Contact the office or visit smbi.org for more information.

Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute
Financial Report

July 2014 through June 2015

Income	
ROOM & BOARD	123,629.60
PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS	40,591.55
TUITION	128,824.98
CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS	70,466.46
WATER	41,565.00
TOUR INCOME	88,857.00
FACILITIES RENTAL	30,152.50
CD SALES	9,722.80
RESALE ITEMS	8,837.25
SNACK BAR	4,334.08
LAUNDRY	3,062.47
TELEPHONE	1,479.80
YEARBOOK	1,867.00
VIDEO INCOME	736.00
TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT	305.00
STUDENT AID	617.05
INTEREST	285.42
Total Income	\$555,333.96
Expense	
PAYROLL	158,347.52
FOOD	60,905.41
WATER PROG	35,783.92
TOUR EXPENSE	84,911.56
FUEL	27,662.63
ELECTRIC	24,243.32
MUSIC	18,803.20
OFFICE & PRINTING	16,293.89
RENT	14,738.84
GIFTS & REMU	11,246.23
PAYROLL TAX	11,920.37
MAINTENANCE & BUILDING REPAIR	9,538.77
BUILDING IMPROVEMENT	68,112.65
SUPPLIES	10,907.07
INSURANCE	6,737.98
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	7,800.27
REAL ESTATE TAX	7,101.15
TRAVEL	4,564.09
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT REPAIR	3,333.41
SNACKBAR	3,109.36
VEHICLE EXPENSE	3,869.25
POSTAGE	2,443.47
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	3,007.26
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT PURCHASE	926.73
SANITATION	2,313.54
VIDEO EXPENSE	11,477.30
YEARBOOK EXPENSE	1,320.00
STUD-AID & TUITION WAVERS	8,343.75
RESALE	3,375.50
LIBRARY	155.65
PUBLICATIONS	237.35
AUDIT & ACCOUNTING	1,460.45
Total Expense	\$624,991.89
Net Income	\$-69,657.93

Did you hear...

Marriages

James Schroeder & [Colleen \(Penner\)](#) ~ June 14

[Joel Kauffman](#) & Rose (Breneman) ~ September 12

Michael Chupp & [Rosie Diller](#) ~ October 10

[Eric Baer](#) & [Chayli Roth](#) ~ November 7

[Brent Schrock](#) & [Annette Beiler](#) ~ November 7

Births

Trent & [Rhonda \(Brenneman\)](#) Clugston

-Elisa Kate

[Kevin & Katrina \(Lehman\)](#) Hurst

-Chase Isai

[Vince & Rachel \(Petersheim\)](#) Kauffman

-Kaitlyn Cherise

Travis & [Crystal \(Gingerich\)](#) Miller

-Samantha Joyell

[Joshua & Lillian \(Nissley\)](#) Yoder

-Gena Amaris

[Jason & Emily \(Stutzman\)](#) Sommers

-Isaiah Philip

Albert & [Juanita \(Riehl\)](#) Stoltzfus

-Landon Kyle

[Virgil & Rachel \(Petersheim\)](#) Wagler

-Zoe Charis

[Ashley & Peggy \(Byler\)](#) Weaver

-Emma Suzanne

[Deaniel & Katrina \(Yoder\)](#) Yoder

-Krystal Tirzah Joy

Calendar of Events

Third Term Jan. 4 - Feb. 11

Missions Involvement Jan. 16 - 17

Annual Night of Music Feb. 5

Choir Tour Feb. 12 - 19

Ministers’ Week Feb. 15 - 19

Fourth Term Feb. 22 - 31

Missions Conference March 11 - 13

Graduation March 25

Choir Tour April 1 - April 22

We have openings for ladies and men in fifth term.

Building Project

As has been noted in previous Monitors, we have been praying about the addition of land and/or staff housing for the institute. God has not provided additional land, so the conclusion became clear that we should do something with the space that God has already provided. At the November 20 association meeting, it was decided to add a garage to the lower level of the existing duplex behind the institute and then add a second level to the entire unit. This will add six bedrooms which can be used as a single family unit or divided into a family unit with extra space for short term use. This will also allow us to discontinue renting one

Tour Itinerary

3rd Term

Feb. 12 , 7pm– Oak Grove Mennonite Aroda, VA

Feb. 14, 9:30 am– Barnwell Mennonite Church Blackville, SC

Feb. 14, 6:30 pm – Foothills Fellowship Westminster, SC

Feb. 15, 7 pm—Pickens Mennonite Church Pickens, SC

Feb. 15,16 Recording at Bob Jones University Studio

Feb. 17, 7pm– Wills Ridge Mennonite Church Floyd, VA

Feb. 18, 7pm– Blue Ball Mennonite Church Blue Ball, PA

4th Term – Western USA & Canada

Note: Passports are needed for 4th term tour

of three houses we currently rent. If you would like to be a part of God’s provision for this project through labor, materials, or financial resources, please contact the institute office. It will be exciting to watch Him at work!

