



E-MANUAL



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You are the World

by Katrina Schrock

Verse 1

You pulled me out of the muck and the mire.
 You cleaned me off and gave me a desire.
 So I'll raise my voice, and I'll sing my praise
 Because you are God, and only you save!

Refrain

I am a part of people everywhere.
 All humankind is underneath your care.
 So we will praise you, our voices cry out.
 Our joy is complete, as we raise this shout.
 Clean us! Shine your light over all the earth.
 Heal us! Bring us the newness of rebirth.
 Teach us! Let us grow rooted in your way.
 Lead us! When you're with us, we won't dismay.

Verse 2

You found me when I was hiding from you.
 No matter what, your promise follow through.
 Your water washes over all the earth.
 You're making it clean; showing us its worth.

Refrain

Bridge

Hear our cry of joy and praise.
 In your name, our voices raise.
 We are yours, and you are ours.
 You're most high, brighter than stars!

Refrain

Verse 3

You make my path, so I will not perish.
 You saved my life, now you're my only wish.
 God, you cleaned me up, picked me up again.
 With you by my side, I know I can stand.

Refrain

Coda

Clean us! Heal us! We know you're with us now.
 Teach us! Lead us! We know you'll show us how.
 Alleluia, you are our king.
 Alleluia, we'll always sing.

This song was written by Katrina Schrock and performed during worship on August 18, 2013.

2013 EMC Retreat

Claire DeBerg, EMC Retreat Chair

After a query about what the Emmanuel Mennonite Church retreat entails, I thought I'd give a quick review about what our church retreat is all about. We have an annual church retreat which is a time for our church body to gather on a weekend (typically a Saturday and Sunday) at a location other than our church building (though it could be at our church building!). It is a time to congregate in a space different than our usual Sunday morning and "retreat" from the routine. The idea is to refresh our relationships with one

another, renew our commitments to our church body and revitalize our communion with Jesus. Doing so contributes to the health of our church and offers an opportunity to reframe the way we think about congregating.

The expectation is that the entire church would attend if they're available. It is especially important for the people of our church since we're considered a "commuter church" which means we don't just run into each at the local grocery store, per se, since most commute from a variety of distances. In other words, our community is accessible in-person only weekly and for some less than that.

In the past we have enjoyed very different retreat themes and platforms. We've had a weekend-long retreat at a campground with overnights in cabins; we've traveled to Wisconsin for a special speaker and stays in hotels; we've visited and volunteered on a community supported agricultural farm; we've spent the day at a state park; we've biked around the city on an immigrant tour and visited neighborhood churches; we've heard from the Latino community leaders in a Mexican-themed retreat. The EMC retreats can look so many different ways!

This year's retreat theme is: Life, Simplified. After several informal surveys about the shaping of the retreat theme this one based on simplifying our lives received the most positive response. We will have 3 blocks of time on Saturday, October 5 and 3 blocks of time on Sunday, October 6 in which we'll enjoy sessions with our special speaker, volunteer work with Mennonite Disaster Service, meals and the talent (or no-talent) show.

Joshua Becker is our guest speaker from Phoenix, Arizona and of the blog *Becoming Minimalist* (becomingminimalist.com). He will be speaking on his family's journey from materialism to minimalism and simplicity in regards to alignment with faithfulness in Jesus Christ 😊. Joshua is a gracious speaker offering to speak at events free of charge as long as transportation and lodging are provided. Due to a generous anonymous gift, we were able to fly Joshua here for our EMC Church retreat. He will be staying with the Kroeker Family

during his weekend in Minneapolis. While Joshua is a member of the Christian Missionary Alliance churches, he is familiar with the Mennonite church as his grandfather is a Mennonite pastor.

There will also be blocks of time in which we are partnering with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) and building the stick frames for homes being rebuilt after floods destroyed homes in Duluth last year. MDS has been hoping for a renewed energy of volunteers especially in Minnesota. I connected with MDS at the Phoenix MC USA Convention since Mennonite Women USA, the organization for which I am the editor, has a joint ministry with MDS. When MDS rebuilds a home for a family having lost theirs to a natural disaster, Mennonite Women USA presents wall-hangings (small, decorative quilts) to the family. This shared ministry between these two organizations has been deep and meaningful on a variety of levels. I'm hoping to have a parallel activity during the retreat in which those interested in pounding nails may do so, and those interested in quilting



wall-hangings for these Duluth homes may do so. One note: typically when a church volunteers to build the stick frames for an MDS site two things need to happen: 1. the church must raise \$50,000 and 2. the church must provide the labor to build the homes both in their church parking lot and on the disaster site. Our situation is very different which is another reason it is working well to include this service portion of our retreat. In our case, the \$50,000 has already been raised and donated for the Duluth MDS homes. Also, a crew of Amish men has already volunteered to erect the homes in Duluth and work on the finishing up there. Our church's role is vital to complete these homes and the timing of our retreat in early October is, as Jeff Koller of MDS puts it, 100% a God thing as the Amish crew starts the foundation building the very weekend after our retreat.

We have the great fortune of hosting our EMC 2013 Retreat at Woodland Hills Church located at 1740 Van Dyke Street, St Paul, MN 55109. Woodland Hills Church has very generously offered parking lot space for stick frame building, over-

night storage space for the frames as well as indoor conference areas for our speaker sessions and meals. I'm excited about this connection with Woodland Hills. We'll spend Saturday there, go to our respective homes Saturday night and return to Woodland Hills Sunday morning for the conclusion of our retreat.

More and more details are being ironed out as this goes to print and each week I'll have more specifics on start times, what to bring, food, childcare and various other activities. Stay tuned!

Emmanuel Mennonite Sunday School

Gloria DeBerg, Emma Kroeker, Henry Kroeker

This year EMC's children's (K-8) Sunday school class raised money for different projects around the world. We raised money to buy two \$75 sewing machines in Sudan, \$50 for plumbing for an irrigation system and \$200 for a greenhouse in Guatemala, \$35 for soap making and \$50 for AIDS education in Laos, \$50 for training women to design fabric in Bangladesh, and \$44 to buy two pairs of rabbits in Palestine. The \$39.79 we had left went to Syria for emergency relief. This total exceeded our original goal.

To raise the money it was hard work. We managed to raise it though by baking and selling pastries, making and selling bookmarks, bringing money from home, and every time we would bring in our Bibles, the teachers added an extra dollar for every person. Even though it was a lot of work and creating, we finally raised our total and were able to give the money to the things we had hoped we would fund.

The assignment was fun, and we are proud to have raised the money we needed to help other people in need and remain a proud family of the Mennonite congregation.

PHOENIX 2013 Experience

Written by: Annika Detweiler and Katrina Poppelt
Edited by: Lydia Detweiler



The temperature was over 105 degrees. We got up Thursday morning at 7 o'clock, which isn't terribly early, but keep in mind that our sleep was interrupted the night before by the hotel intercom, asking us to evacuate. We got up early to make our 8 o'clock salsa dance lesson. Our entire youth group, Jess included, was exhausted but deliriously happy and excited. After dancing for two hours, we took a break. During that break, we took the time to go have a mini-photoshoot and also prepare for our service project, which was to be that afternoon. After we had eaten and changed into clothes for working, we climbed aboard a bus that had no air-conditioning and was filled to the brim with teens and youth sponsors. Our service project was in a squat, cheerful looking building that had a bright sign, proclaiming to be a daycare center. In we went to the glorious air conditioned building, where we worked. Our work consisted of painting the assigned rooms bright colors and with good company. At dinner that night, we treated ourselves to a traditional Mexican restaurant, where we promptly lost track of time. Of course, this time was filled with laughter and lots of protein! Lydia and Katrina dashed out, running to the convention center in hopes of finding a place to sit. Well, they found seats, just 6 rows from the very back of the room. They reserved our six seats, and waited nervously for the others. The rest of the group came in, in the nick of time. The lights were dimming and the band had taken their place on stage, about a quarter mile away from where we were sitting.

Thursday night was something extraordinary. We like to refer to it as a spiritual intervention. For many of us, Phoenix was a new beginning, but until this point, nothing at the convention had truly transformed us to the extent that this night would. The worship service started off with us at the very front of the stage, squeezed against many other exuberant youth who had left their seats to worship God. The band played song after song, as we sang until our throats hurt and our arms ached. We were sent back to our seats by Jeremy Kempf, the band leader, who prayed over us and asked God to kindly enter our hearts. And that He did.

The guest speaker, Ingrid De Sanctis, grew up in a Pentecostal Church. Her father happened to be the pastor of her home congregation in New Jersey. The focus of her message, which had us weeping by the end, were stories of how whispers of grace changed her life, and how nothing could stop her from loving Jesus. In her home church, many services included the option to be anointed with oil. At the end of her message, she gave us this option: to recommit our lives to Christ through the anointing of oil and prayer, at the sides of the auditorium. At this point, most of us were crying in response to the message and to God. We all proceeded to the sides where we were prayed for and anointed with oil. There are no words for what we felt at that moment in time.

After the worship service was over, we didn't leave our seats. As we sat there in silence, we were all absorbing how God had individually touched and changed our lives. Jess eventually broke the silence and pronounced that we had to go upstairs and talk. Still in tears, we tramped up the escalators to the third floor, which had no lights on and few people. A couple of us dashed into the bathroom, grabbing tissues for the inevitable emotional conversation.

There is no better way to describe this evening than a needed answer to many prayers. Over the course of the three hour cry-fest, every single one of us shared personal ways in which we had struggled over the past few years. This intimate circle of six shared our deepest fears, pain and grief that had been weighing us all down. Through the service we had just attended, and our conversation afterwards, we individually experienced God's love, forgiveness, grace and friendship in different ways. Each of us expressed a weight being lifted off our shoulders and our burdens being replaced with freedom and joy.

Phoenix changed us. Phoenix changed us in ways we have yet to understand and in ways we have already experienced. This next year, we all recognize the immense challenges we will experience. However, we have recommitted our lives to Christ and to God's mission, no matter the circumstance. Thank you for everything: the prayers, the

donations and the support we have all received. We are excited to share more of our Phoenix revelations with you!

MCC Learning Tour

You are invited to the MCC Learning Tour
“Ukraine: Addressing the Basic Social Issues of a Broken-Down Society”

July 25 to August 4, 2014

It will provide an in-depth look at MCC projects and social-economical issues in Ukraine. Rudi Niessen, MCC Material Resource Center – Warehouse Coordinator (Akron, PA), will be leading this trip. Space is limited. Contact Anna Yoder, annayoder@mcc.org or 316-283-2720, for more information.

DISCERNING OUR PLACE IN GOD'S MISSION

by Pastor Mathew Swora

On May 12, 2013, during the Christian Education forum, Philip Friesen and I led a discernment process, using questions provided by Steve Nussbaum, to get some sense from you of how God is leading EMC in mission, with an eye toward how God has gifted us for mission, and what the missional needs and opportunities around us are. In bold print are the questions; in light print are your answers. I will also share below some thoughts and reflections on where this discernment may be leading us.

- 1. In reviewing EMC's historic and current missional inventory, what themes and patterns do you see?**
1. Hospitality
2. Lots of international activity—abroad, actually in other countries and also multiculturally in our neighborhood and activities (including missionaries)
3. Relationships as base in our missional activity!--long-term, nurturing community vs. “mission trips”
4. Church planting & church encouragement

locally and internationally (connected to the institutional church)

5. lay-led and individually initiated ministries
6. Traditional ministries continue such as MCC Relief Sale.
7. The lack of one. Many people involved in many things but no one shared experience of ministry (in contrast to an Amish barn raising). Sense of urban experience. Geographic dispersity of congregation. Diversity and multitude of needs. Good Samaritan only had one person in the ditch. We face many.
8. Vision bearers attract a small number of people to a mission activity (e.g. Urban Ventures, Growing Hope farm)
9. Institutional Mennonite activities—TCMCC Sale, Ten Thousand Villages, MCC Projects (perhaps need to be more intentional about sharing history of those agencies)
10. Feeding—immigration, peacemaking-justice, not all evangelical
11. International and local reach
12. Mennonite and non-Mennonites
13. Missional activities are seasonal; they come and go.
14. They reflect the people who come and go; Responsive to a person or small group of people's call or interest. Missions is more reactive due to parishioners' business—an eclectic or no plan to missions is planned.
15. Sometimes a few people do the bulk of the work

2. What is God up to? Where are you sensing movement and energy in our collective life?

1. The connections and network of people and connections—of activities, partners, etc. e.g., Urban Ventures and the farm.
2. Specifically Urban Ventures and Growing Hope Farm—perhaps not a coincidence that so many EMCers are connected to this opportunity—God's hand
3. Music: ...lots of talent concentrated in the congregation—vocal, instrumental. This is an opportunity for connecting (hymn sing) and also for joy & thanksgiving purposes (Big connection with international flavor)

4. Farm
5. Urban Ventures
6. Neighborhood involvement
7. interest in Anabaptist/Mennonite/Peace Church Theology
8. intergenerational connections
9. Energy dispersed—individual inspiration and faith acted out
10. How many things shared?
11. Growing Hope, TCMCC [relief sale]
12. Worship Commission—energy & growth. Taken on a greater role. AV, music, enabling people to worship. Weekly time. Keeping congregation engaged.
13. Energy teaching the kids—even though we lack a superintendent
14. small group—new small group
15. Growing Hope
16. Non-profit volunteer work—people involved in MCC
17. (Not know what volunteer opportunities are at Urban Ventures)
18. For new members—MCC Guide Book to Serve, Auction? Donate?

3. What would need to come true to achieve EMC's vision?

1. Worship
2. peace
3. community
4. hospitality
5. Peace/community—more connecting with like-minded people/congregations who are interested in peace & justice
6. Small groups important role
7. Keep it local
8. Not know one another as much as we think—be open to experience community—get to know each other and choose to do this.
9. We are not very VISIBLE. Too humble. Hide it under a bushel, NO! 20-somethings would be attracted if they knew it.
10. Website can be upgraded
11. Some wild ideas: food truck, pay what you can. Show up at peace events and have a presence.

12. Continue to do what we're doing
13. web presence
14. to be part of our neighborhood as current members and also new neighbors who feel welcome to join with us in worship and activities. e.g., How does EMC respond to the fire? How do we come to be seen as a presence in Phillips?
15. Maintain diversity and variety—EMC people can be involved in many activities—do not need the entire congregation to do one thing.
16. Bring “scattered” (good thing) into a “unified” front when needed.

4. What do we need God to do in and for us to make this all come true?

1. Need encouragement and nurturing for the many EMCers who have a hand in other ministries—need a harmony of these many opportunities
2. Need discernment on how to manage the ebbs and flows of the many partners and missional activities. Perhaps need more faith in and support for the role of the mission commission? Utilizing this structure that's in place—as a method of listening to the Holy Spirit.
3. Keep on doing the same
4. Make an open call to individuals committed to certain tasks
5. Praying for tasks
6. “Crazy ideas” peace poles and peace garden—creating a place of peace and beauty for reflection. Urban areas have ugly spaces galore but not enough beauty. Getting to a place of beauty like Growing Hope.
7. Identify particular populations for outreach—do we want a multi-cultural church? Broader base.
8. Reach out to Mennonite Worker/Local African-American congregation

5. Where might you best fit as a participant in EMC's missional engagement, and what more might you bring to it by way of talents, gifts and passions?

- [We need]A tool to help answer this

- An active and functional web presence to help people see how to engage and give their talents.
- Find a niche, where we fit, and then stick to it!
- Get involved and invite others
- Offering hobby, interests, other than what we do for work.
- Enjoy hospitality both Sunday, etc.
- Small churches—small is good, but everyone has to take on a job.
- Sizes have to be handleable. Some experiences can be intense but short term (a la barn raising)
- ... leading immigration advocacy, children stories, lead worshipers
- money
- quilting
- Farm
- music
- hospitality/church care
- nature
- teaching
- Church diversity has really enriched us.
- Must start with inspiration and hear from God. Let's hear from God.

SOME REFLECTIONS

As I reflected on the contributions above, it seemed to me that we at EMC are at a point of potential growth in gifting and growth in outreach and impact for Christ. We have unique gifts and can do more to tell our unique story/viewpoint as a missional peace church, personally, online and in other ways. We understand that growing our missional impact is tied to deepening and growing our personal and congregational lives in worship, prayer and fellowship. We thought and responded mostly in terms of here, now and the near future, which makes sense. We should expect some continuity between who we are, what we have done, how we are gifted by God, and where God is leading us. But we are located in a place where there are possibilities for fruitful feedback between local and international mission. Yes, for a small church, our missional energies are somewhat scattered among very valuable ministries, with varying degrees of comfort and discomfort over that, so naturally we also desire criteria by which to

evaluate current and future opportunities and invitations. While we seek boundaries to our engagements, and filters by which to discern them, we also seek to bring more energy to bear upon the few things that we are actually called to. Knowing that we can't go it alone, we value partnership and our local partners, such as Urban Ventures and Growing Hope Farm. Still, there is also honor and energy for our historic connections with traditional Mennonite agencies and activities, like Mennonite Central Committee and the local Relief Sale. We hear the call to bring new and old engagements into some sort of overlapping, mutually reinforcing relationship.

I was also reminded through this exercise of some of the unique things we bring to the bigger picture of God's mission to the world, such as an Anabaptist connection of peacemaking-justice concerns with mission/evangelism/church planting, lay-initiated and lay-led ministries, our identity as a ministry to ministers (consider our high number of ministers, ordained and/or in training) and to ministries, e.g., Urban Ventures, our ethnic/linguistic diversity in membership and setting, our Anabaptist/Mennonite faith, connections and traditions, and contemporary needs and hungers for these very things in the wider world.

I hear both God and our members calling us to:

- Put God and God's kingdom first in any thinking about mission, even over and above just growing EMC (although they are related)
- Think of EMC as a movement, not just an institution. That is, to think in bold and daring ways about giving away and replicating elsewhere our gifts and unique contributions to other parts of God's world, and not just how to grow EMC or make it survive. This could take the form of planting new churches or sending and supporting missionaries from our membership.
- Think internationally as well as locally and nationally. EMC's sanctuary is located where East Africa and Latin America meet Minnesota. What happens in Mogadishu and Mexico City affects Minneapolis, and vice versa. That makes us a potential nerve center, training ground and

sending church for leaders and ministers both locally and internationally.

- Value and continue our ministry partnerships
- Cultivate a congregational “culture of call” by which we expect, support, give ministry growth opportunities to, and send missionaries, church planters and ministers from our midst
- Connect the more traditional Mennonite ministries, like the Relief Sale and Ten Thousand Villages, support for Shalom Mennonite Church, with newer ministries, like Growing Hope Farm, for their mutual enrichment.
- Do focused, neighborhood/community outreach, while honoring and strengthening members' ministries wherever they live, work and serve in the area.

All this is based on the missionary call of God through Jesus, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you (John 20:21),” and on the missionary nature of God, a sending, self-sharing God. We do well to remember the words of William Carey, who started a major missional movement (1761-1834) with the two points of a sermon he delivered in his native England in 1792: “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.”

Thank You Corner

Dear Friends of Mennonite Education:

As we anticipate the new school year, we would like to take a moment to thank you for financially supporting Mennonite Higher Education and Racial Ethnic Leadership Education (RELE). On behalf of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), Bethel College, Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite University and Seminary, Goshen College, Hesston College and Mennonite Education Agency we affirm your generous spirit in support of Mennonite-Anabaptist education.

Mennonite education from early childhood through lifelong learning plays an important role in denominational life by providing many opportunities for solid faith formation and leadership development. Students attending Mennonite



educational institutions are given an environment which actively encourages growth in their relationship to God while putting their faith into action. Students receive an education challenging them to move beyond their comfort zone, to think critically about the world around them, and to be leaders and forces for change and justice in their communities. Experiencing God's love and grace during class time and extracurricular programs; along with opportunities to be part of a community where connections with and support from teachers or professors are often as significant as connections with fellow students are an added bonus to Mennonite education....

Your continuing support helps us work to ensure all have access to quality Anabaptist education students and helps prepare students to become servant leaders for churches and communities throughout the world. Thank you for being part of this transforming mission.

Carlos Romero, Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Did you know that because Emmanuel Mennonite Church supports MCC, your congregation is walking alongside tens of thousands of families in more than 60 countries? Thank you for sharing your financial resources and for helping create opportunities to extend a hand, meet people **where they are** and **make a difference in the name of Christ**.

MCC uses the words "relief, development and peace" to describe our work — and the results of your support. So it is with Christ's followers. Many parts, working together to:

- Give relief to ease suffering and bring hope to people in times of war and disaster.
- Strengthen communities through sustainable income, water and agriculture development projects.
- Restore relationships and work for peace where people are living with oppression and fear.

Again, thank you to everyone at Emmanuel Mennonite Church. Please continue to include MCC

in your giving and offerings. Your generous support is vital. Your prayers are needed and appreciated.

We thank you for walking with us and working together in the name of Christ.

J Ron Byler, Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Executive Director



Meserete Kristos College

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First I want to express, on behalf of our President, Kiros Teka Haddis and the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Kelbessa Muleta Demena, and myself, our deep appreciation for the one night you hosted us and shared your food and fellowship with us on that busy six-week fraternal visit in North America this spring. Also, on behalf of our College, I want to thank you for your gifts totaling \$900 for our College which were received in March and June, 2013.

Vera and I continue to work with the Meserete Kristos College from the distance of Virginia. However, we were back in Ethiopia from January 16 to March 15, leading another Experience Ethiopia Tour.

We continue to be impressed with the progress taking place. Now in June, another 74 students have graduated and are joining the other 530 graduates, making a huge impact on the churches and societies of Ethiopia, building the Kingdom of God. Because of their faithful and effective work, many prayers of thanksgiving and praise ascend to God. Yet it is the many generous and sacrificial gifts such as yours that have made all of this possible! May God bless you!

Our struggle to partner with our Ethiopian brothers and sisters in financing this important leadership training program as well as in building the campus continues. Funds have been pledged to launch a liberal arts program by September 2014. Setting up the programs, securing laboratory space and relevant equipment as well as library resources to qualify for accreditation are the immediate challenges. We are still challenged to raise scholarship support for our ongoing Bible and Theology programs. Using the funds we have raised, we must begin construction of a dormitory for women this fall, yet we are still in need of \$250,000 to complete it.

God bless you for your partnership!

Carl E. Hansen, Director of College Advancement