



SHARING THE GREAT INHERITANCE

BY TIM YODER

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Jesus' last words to his disciples were to go into all the world, preach the gospel, and make disciples. This Great Commission has created passionate outreach, sacrificial foreign mission work, and sometimes a sense that the church may not be doing enough. Despite these sometimes mixed feelings, the mission of the church is the Great Commission. When thinking about this commission to mature and multiply believers and churches and what it means to CMC and to me personally in the context in which I pastor, I strive for several ideals:

- First, the majority of church services should be designed to bring about maturity in believers. All seekers should be welcomed warmly, but messages should be designed for those who are believers. This ensures that believers are getting sound teaching that brings about maturity.
- Second, personal evangelism is not an optional add on to maturity. Sharing one's faith is a mark of maturity. Mature believers share their faith with others as they go about their daily lives. This is the first step in making disciples.
- Third, mature believers need to be willing to share their inheritance. In the parable of the prodigal son, the younger son takes his share of his father's wealth and goes and wastes it. He comes back to the father completely broken and helpless. The father throws a huge party for the prodigal son. He gives him a ring. He gives him new clothes. He kills the fatted calf. The older son comes home and is angry. The father tells the older son that all that he has is his. So in reality, the father throws the party and gives the gifts at the older son's expense. This often happens in the church. God welcomes and forgives the broken and the sinners, but they will only become a meaningful part of the church family if mature believers are willing to give up some of what they consider their own to bring about maturity in others.
- Fourth, we must cultivate in our churches a vision for God's work both locally and abroad. There needs to be a conviction that God's name must be known in every culture and people group. Our churches need to understand that

missions are "everywhere to everywhere," and that the gospel most often moves through similar cultures rather than geographically. This means that strategic church plants domestically can sometimes be just as effective in reaching the nations as sending workers abroad. CMC is a mostly rural conference. For CMC to reach our goal to mature and multiply believers and churches, we likely will need to find ways to become more urban in our outreach. This means that as our young people leave our rural churches and move to more metropolitan areas, they will be equipped to either plant a church or partner with a church that is already ministering among the nations.

- Fifth, not everyone I minister to will be best disciplined in my church. Even in areas where there may not be significant cultural differences, some people will simply not fit into your church culture. As you minister to these groups of people, the kingdom of God may be better served by starting a new church plant that can take on the culture and character of this group. This will allow the kingdom of God to be more dynamic in the way it reaches people.
- Sixth, if churches are going to mature and multiply, leaders will need to be willing to give up and send our best. This can be a scary proposition because folks who are best to send usually are the ones who are the most active in the church. They are doing the work in "my" church and I don't know what I would do without them. It is in these times when we need to remember that it is not "my" church. The church is God's; he is the Great Shepherd and we work for him.

My prayer is that through the power of the Holy Spirit our churches will live out these ideals, and that we will increase in effectiveness as we share the great inheritance from which we have been so richly blessed.



Tim pastors at Maple Glen Mennonite Church, Grantsville, Maryland and teaches at Northern Garrett High School. He is married to Londa and enjoys spending time with their four children.

Musings of a Mother...

BY ELIZABETH MILLER



An Annual Conference Upbringing

Attending CMC's summer gatherings has been an annual event for much of my life. When I was a child, my dad, Nathan Miller, served as president of Rosedale Mennonite Missions (now Rosedale International). This meant that every summer our family of seven would pack up and drive to "Conference," as we called it. Each year we stayed with a host family and there were always new friends to run around with. I looked forward to going every year.

As a kid, there was so much to love about our annual conference trip. We had the freedom to be on our own, as long as we were sure to attend the children's programs—which we did find fun and engaging. Singing in the children's choir sticks out in my memory as a big deal. I would get butterflies in my stomach when we would walk out onto the big stage in front of that huge audience, hoping we'd remember the songs we had worked so hard to learn. But every year, after we walked back off the stage, I was so glad that I had participated. As a child, it was meaningful to take part in leading the entire congregation in singing praise to God.

I filled my journal with notes about radical hospitality and dreamed of how I could put it all into practice.

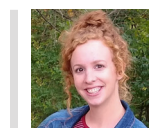
I attended Rosedale Bible College in 2009-10. That following summer a large percentage of my classmates went to Annual Conference for what was essentially a weekend reunion. We missed many of the sessions in favor of catching up with close friends and enjoying the tight community that we had formed together. As the years passed, I realized that while community is a big part of annual conferences, the teaching and learning that takes place in the workshops and sessions is just as valuable.

I vividly remember attending the annual conference in 2014, held in Castorland, New York. By then, fewer of the friends that

I had been used to attending conference with were there that year. I attended every session and workshop possible and was struck with how much I learned and was encouraged. I filled my journal with notes about radical hospitality and dreamed of how I could put it all into practice as a new nurse living in Columbus, Ohio. That was my favorite conference to date. At that time in my day-to-day life, I was not around many Christians, and I was so touched by the entire weekend of worshiping, learning, and fellowshiping with other believers. I felt that I had a little taste of what heaven will feel like.



In the following years—among moving, job changes, and having children—my husband Andrew and I have continued to value attending annual conference (now called Multiply). The weekend packs in many beautiful elements of the church, including community, fellowship, prayer, discipleship, and worship. We want our children to grow up feeling connected to this larger body of Christ and to have godly role models to learn from. It is a privilege for all of us to learn from those who have gone before us, and to connect with people from all walks of life. This year, the annual gathering—Multiply 2021—will be held in Goshen, Indiana. Hope to see you there!



Elizabeth is a long-time CMC conference attendee and RBC alum. She works part-time as a labor and delivery nurse. She, her husband Andrew, and their two small children attend Columbus Network of Microchurches.



110th Annual gathering of CMC
August 6-8, 2021 | Goshen, IN
 Clinton Christian School

What is Multiply 2021? CMC's annual summer gathering is a family-friendly event with plenary sessions, break-out sessions, social functions, and activities for children of all ages. We invite you to join us for a weekend of spiritual renewal and fellowship! For more information and to register, visit our website at www.cmcrosedale.org.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PLENARY SESSIONS – Gymnasium

Worship Leader – Bethany Mullet

Friday Evening 6:30-8:00 pm

Hope in the Storm – Darren Peachey
 (CMC conference pastor)

The Acts 27 account of Paul's experience on a storm-tossed ship illustrates what many in the church have experienced the past 18 months. When all that is familiar and comfortable gets thrown overboard, what do we have to hold on to?

Saturday Morning 10:30-11:30 am

A Body, a Building, and a Bride – Phil Swartzentruber
 (CMC moderator)

We live in a divided nation and world. In John 17 Jesus prayed for all those who would come to believe in him, "May they be brought to complete unity." How do we as followers of Jesus live out the prayer of Jesus?

Saturday Evening 6:30-8:00 pm

A Patient People – Jeremy Miller (RBC president)

The hallmark of faithful believers is patience. In an era of increasing pressure on the church, it is vital for us to reexamine what it means to remain faithful and how we help one another do so.

Sunday Morning 10:00-11:30 am

Christ We Proclaim – Merlin W. Miller
 (pastor of Riverview Christian Fellowship)

The mission of the church is to bring people into the kingdom of God and to teach them to obey what Jesus taught. For direction on how to do that, Paul wrote to the Colossians: "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Whether it is through our words or our actions, Jesus is the message we proclaim.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – Saturday Afternoon

Jesus and the Fox: Considering Church/State Relations
 CCS Gym – Roger Hazen

Session 1 1:00-2:00 pm

Shining a Flashlight on the Foundations

This session will start with a quick review of the Old Testament revelations of God concerning governments, followed by an exploration of some important New Testament texts concerning authorities and governments.

Session 2 2:30-3:30 pm

What's 1525 Got to Do With It?

This session will take a look at how the early Anabaptists thought about the relationship between the church and the state, and how their understanding differed from the other Reformers.

Session 3 4:00-5:00 pm

Who Are We Now and Where Are We Going?

This session will address our particular place in history. Is the Anabaptist understanding of church/state relations worth preserving? How should CMC proceed into the future regarding our relationship with the state?

Conflict Resolution 101 Siloam Children's Worship Center
 Preston & Liz Yoder

Session 1 1:00-2:00 pm

The Making of a Peacemaker

What did Jesus have in mind when he called his followers to be peacemakers? In a world of peace-breakers, and peace-fakers, discover and embrace

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - Continued

your identity as a peace-maker! This workshop will introduce unique personality approaches to conflict. This workshop is for those who want to discover more of their unique, God-given potential to help make peace.

Session 2 2:30-3:30 pm ***The Anatomy of Conflict***

What is the difference between a healthy and destructive conflict? Learn to identify signs that a conflict is spiraling out of control. Understand what is happening in Spiritual Reality as well as the human brain when this occurs. This workshop will give you several strategies to move a conflict to a healthy place, and help parties involved to keep their brain working as God designed it to work... for peace!

Session 3 4:00-5:00 pm ***The Art of Resolution***

How do you know a conflict has ended peacefully? Discover how to brainstorm solutions and negotiate for agreements that represent wins for everyone involved. Learn what to do if you cannot come up with a win-win. Learn how to navigate ongoing tensions when they do not resolve.

Multiplying Churches in CMC – Siloam Room 5 CMC's Church Planting Team

Session 1 1:00-2:00 pm ***Embracing the Vision*** – Ron Embleton

What happens when there is no vision for forward movement, and what can we do to fix it? This session will explore what is happening in CMC, our nation, and the world in regards to church planting, and will outline practical steps for developing a church planting vision in the local church.

Session 2 2:30-3:30 pm ***Planting Churches: Practical Steps Forward*** Jerry Sauder and Darren Peachey

Are you tired of talking about church planting and ready to get on with it? This session will lay out the details of CMC's assistance for churches and individuals interested in planting a church.

Session 3 4:00-5:00 pm ***Relaunching Churches: Life in a New Direction*** Daryl Driver and Travis Hogston

Stagnation and decline are a part of our world and at times are evident in the local church. Relaunching is a way to envision new life and empower a congregation for Kingdom purposes moving forward. This session looks at what a church relaunch is, strategies for successful implementation, and testimonies of actual relaunch efforts.

"What Have We Learned?" Conversation Room

Siloam Room 3

Session 1 1:00-2:00 pm ***What Have We Learned About Church Leadership?***

The past 18 months have been difficult for church leaders. Pastors and their spouses, elders, and other church leaders are invited to join this structured conversation where we will talk about what we've been through and what we've learned from it.

Session 2 2:30-3:30 pm ***What Have We Learned About Outreach and Missions?***

The pandemic brought to an end some of the ways we've done outreach and missions, but it also opened the door for new possibilities. Anyone involved in or interested in outreach and missions is invited to join this structured conversation where we will talk about what has changed and the opportunities that are now before us.

Session 3 4:00-5:00 pm ***What Have We Learned About Youth and Children's Ministry?***

As if youth and children's ministry doesn't already keep you on your toes, add in something like a global pandemic to make things interesting. Youth and children's ministry leaders are invited to join this structured conversation where we will talk about where we've been and where we're heading in ministering to the next generation.

YOUTH SESSIONS – Sanctuary

Ready to Run a Good Race Hebrews 12:1-3

Saturday Morning 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Training for a Good Race – Matthew Cordella-Bontrager
RBC Presentation

Saturday Afternoon 1:00-3:00 pm

Running a Good Race – Joe & Naomi Byler
RI/REACH Presentation

SPECIAL EVENTS

RBC Reception Friday Evening
8:00 pm In the tent

Taste of Missions Saturday Morning
8:30-9:15 am Food served in tent
9:30 am Program in gymnasium

RI Reception Saturday Evening
Reception honoring Mim Musser and Pablo & Judi Kauffman
8:00 pm In the tent

To register, visit our website at www.cmcsrodale.org and click on Multiply Conference.

If you need help with registering online, contact the CMC office at office@cmcsrodale.org or 740-857-1234.



Tired of Church?

BY JEREMY MILLER

In churches across the nation, pastors and congregants are increasingly asking hard questions about the purpose and value of church life as we have come to know it. The statistics are sobering. Lifeway Research reported in a 2019 survey that two-thirds of Protestant young adults stopped attending church services for at least a year after graduating from high school. Some of them returned but many have not.

In April, the Barna Group reported that 29% of all pastors have seriously considered quitting. Church health consultant Tom Rainer reported that, in all of his years working with churches, he has never visited with so many pastors who want to leave the ministry.

Confusion over faith and church life are also highlighted by the “deconstruction” phenomenon leading people out of the church and often away from Christian faith. In Anabaptist circles, the popularity of Conrad Kanagy’s podcast, “The Church Dismantled,” points to the swell of questions among Anabaptist believers about what might be next for a faithful church.

The signs of spiritual tumult are all around us. To be sure, the pandemic has had a devastating effect on the morale of many congregations, but questions regarding the value of church life are widespread and have grown steadily over the last several decades.

Big and broad questions about the very nature of the church can feel unsettling to believers. We crave stability, and we believe the God we serve is stable.

So, what are God’s people to do in seasons of turmoil and confusion? The response of many during this long period of spiritual decline in the North American church has been to look around at the various forms of godlessness and demonize those who participate in and promote it. Some church leaders have promised victory and transformation if only we elect particular politicians and punish opposing people and businesses. Decades of pursuing this strategy have brought us to the challenges we are currently experiencing: a wealthy, politically savvy, biblically illiterate church, frequently lacking spiritual vitality and holiness.

Another response has been to assimilate our churches and personal lives as closely as possible into the culture around

us. “Remove any barriers to the gospel,” has been a popular refrain. This has often led to avoidance of serious study of the Scriptures individually and in our churches.

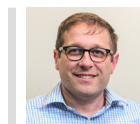
Large sections of the Bible have been glossed over because they take time and energy to unpack, time we don’t have because we are now “on mission.” We don’t want to confuse listeners with difficult passages. Many congregations have lost the ability to handle a fuller picture of God. Concepts like wrath, hell, and how to understand Christ’s work on the cross, are left for smart people to figure out. Meanwhile, our young people have been rendered powerless to really understand the gospel, let alone answer the insightful questions of their increasingly atheistic friends.

Thankfully, the Scriptures point us to a different way. In 1 Peter 4, the Apostle Peter speaks to another church increasingly ostracized from the surrounding culture. He exhorts the church with these words, “For the time has come for judgment to begin with God’s household” (v.17a CSB). God always honors the humble return of his people. Judgment begins with us, not our pagan neighbors. When God’s people return to him, carefully evaluating their lives according to his revealed Word, he meets them and restores them.

Imagine a people who lay down their distractions, give up their time, and begin to seek the Scriptures with hearts to respond in love and obedience to all that God has revealed. When this becomes the focus of our congregations, we can trust the changes that come. Faithfulness over time produces fruit. In times of confusion, our call is to simply pursue the living God as revealed in the Scriptures.

The Multiply Conference, August 6-8, as well as RBC’s leadership retreat, “God’s Mission and Church,” August 18-20, are both geared to this kind of rediscovery. May God speak clearly to us this summer!

**View the Beacon blog for a full version of this article at www.blog.cmcrosedale.org.*



Jeremy lives in Rosedale, Ohio, with his wife Sarah and their four children. He is president of Rosedale Bible College and is committed to its mission to prepare Kingdom workers.



Introducing Mike, Phil and Lexi

BY MADALYN

In the past year, Rosedale International (RI) has undergone several staff transitions. Through these changes, God has shown his faithfulness and led us to the right individuals to fill two vital roles—Mike, Director of Partner Development, and Phil and Lexi, Short-Term Program Facilitators.

Phil and Lexi hail from Sugarcreek, Ohio. Both come to the position of Program Facilitators equipped with missional and mentoring experience. As the son of missionaries, Phil grew up on the mission field, involved in outreach trips and the day-to-day of mission work. Lexi served on yearly mission trips with her high school youth group—and in 2014, joined a REACH team in Thunder Bay, Ontario. For the past two years, the couple has served as worship leaders and youth pastors at Light in the Valley Chapel.

As they follow God's leading into this next chapter as Program Facilitators, Phil and Lexi will dedicate their time to mentoring the young adults who come through the Rosedale International Center (RIC). "We're privileged to do life with the interns, REACH students, and youth groups who come and go [through City Challenge]. We're there to initiate discipleship, encourage personal growth, and model servant leadership."

As they anticipate this coming season of their lives, the couple is excited to foster young adults' passion for Jesus. "We're excited to work with young adults who are serious about their decision to serve in missions.... We look forward to living in a community of believers who share different opinions, but together focus on growing closer to Jesus and sharing his love with others. We also expect to learn just as much from those we mentor as we hope to pour into their lives!"

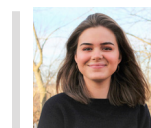
Mike, along with his wife Karen and their five children, will join RI in September. As Director of Partner Development, Mike will focus on connecting with CMC churches and individuals who hope to partner with RI in our work for the Kingdom—whether financially, through prayer, or through missions. His experience in various areas of ministry has uniquely equipped him for this role.

In 2008, Mike began serving as youth pastor for Community Mennonite Fellowship in Milton, Pennsylvania. Five years later, he and his family answered God's call to West Africa. After three years on the mission field, the family returned to the States in 2016, where Mike took the position of senior pastor at Sycamore Grove Mennonite Church in Missouri. During this time, he also served as Eastern Mennonite Missions' Regional Representative for West Africa—a position that connected him with RI and ultimately led him to take the position of Director of Partner Development.

When asked what he most looks forward to in his position, Mike responded with excitement about the connections he will facilitate between CMC members and Rosedale International. "The most energizing aspect will be going to different churches and sharing vision and excitement. I'm excited to connect potential workers to Calibrate, help young adults get involved in the REACH program, or stir up passion in someone who has never considered missions before."

Rosedale International is grateful for the leading of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Mike, Phil, and Lexi, and is thrilled to welcome them to our staff. We feel confident that their skills, vision, and love for Jesus will benefit our work for the Kingdom and bring glory to his name.

Please lift up Mike, Phil, and Lexi as they transition to their new roles. Pray that God would bless them as they put their gifts and passion for the Kingdom to work with Rosedale International. Above all, pray that through them God would be glorified.



Madalyn lives in Rosedale, Ohio. She recently graduated from Grace College & Seminary and serves as Media Coordinator at Rosedale International.