



# The Taftsville Chapel Current

*God calls us as followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as a community of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to our world.*

Sam Carbaugh, *Editor*, Carie Good & Virginia Schlabach, *Newsletter Staff*

June 2012

## ***Psalm 126***

### ***A song of ascents (meaning “going up to worship”)***

Once upon a time, there was a motley group of people  
When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we  
were like men who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with  
songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has  
done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled  
with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.

He who goes out weeping,

carrying seed to sow,

will return with songs of joy,

carrying sheaves with him.

Did Noah sing for joy surrounded by noise and stink  
and thunderstorms?

Did Joseph sing for joy when he was falsely accused and  
thrown in jail?

Did Moses sing for joy with the Red Sea at his feet and  
Pharaoh at his back?

Did Esther sing for joy as she was taken from her home?

Did Job sing for joy when he lost all he had?

Did David sing for joy when hid in a cave in fear for his  
life?

Did Daniel sing for joy as he fell into the Lion's den?

Did Shadrack, Meshack, or Abednego sing for joy as  
they were tossed into the furnace?

Did Jonah sing for joy as a giant fish swallowed him?

Did Elisha sing for joy when he ran for his life?

The list goes on, and the answer is always “NO”, even  
for Jesus while in the garden of Gethsemane, there was  
no singing for joy just then. But, the amazing testimony  
of all the stories is that all the weepers returned with  
joy, the sown seed having produced sheaves. They were  
not merely compensated for their losses, they saw their

distress turned (redeemed) into tangible restoration.  
Songs of joy were the inevitable response.

I find I sometimes want to rush this. He seems to go  
too slow. So I sound the horn of my complaint at Him  
looking for a way to pass and hurry to the destination  
I want. I find I am impatient with God's seasons,  
that to me His winters are too long and dark, and His  
harvest times are too brief.

But the “going out – tears – seed carrying – returning –  
joyful singing – sheave carrying” cycle has a life of its  
own, and all of it is His. God waits until each segment  
in the cycle has come into its own fullness; done its  
own work in us, and produced its own growth in  
Christlikeness before moving on.

One challenge along the way is to remind each other  
(gently) that God's seeming delay in the “tears” part  
springs from His good heart just as much as the “joyful  
singing” part. This is a tricky business, because the  
last thing we want to do is inadvertently rush the one  
weeping by our discomfort with our own tears. “Cheer  
up, your joyful singing is coming”, however true and  
well intended, is not the same thing as “Trust God in  
the midst of your tears, He is with you in a special way  
just now.”

The cycle can not be rushed, but it is, in the end, a  
cycle – a path – a journey with God who is devoted to  
our good and His glory. The hanging banners currently  
up front in the meeting room at Taftsville remind us of  
just that.

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It's not a matter of special sensitivity, but rather a matter of deep trust in God's real goodness that frees us to "rejoice with those who are rejoicing and weep with those who are weeping" (Rom.12:15). As believers, we have already the good seed carried with us. The tears water the seed, the journey weeds the chaff, and the Lord gives the increase. All of us are in the midst of different seasons of God's repeating cycle of ongoing transformation. The direction of all this He has determined from the very beginning, and in His faithfulness He will complete what He started (Philippians 1:6).

Aware of it or not, He is with us just as much in the tears as He is in the joyful harvest. I'm learning to lay off the horn, roll down the window, and breathe. I suspect another word for this is worship.

*by Randy Good*

## **TOGETHER, SERVING IN AFRICA**

Ruth Ellen Dandurand is eager to be on her way to Guinea Bissau, on the west coast of Africa, perhaps as soon as soon as mid-August! She will be a missionary intern with Eastern Mennonite Missions for a term of one year.

### **First a little history about EMM**

In September 1894, a group of 12 young men met in a farmhouse east of Lancaster, PA, with the goal of promoting missions. They named their organization "Home Mission Advocates", which was officially incorporated in 1916 as Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; the popular name Eastern Mennonite Missions was adopted in 1993. The work was largely local in the beginning; the first overseas missionary went to Tanzania in 1934.

### **EMM Presently**

A 10- to 12-member board guides the work of 46 staff and 200 workers in global witness and service in 39 countries. EMM ministries include: discipleship, church planting, leadership training, community development, medical ministries, peace/justice work, and humanitarian aid.

### **Ruth Ellen's Ministry**

EMM's mission is Going where the church is not.... yet. With this in mind one can understand why they would choose the obscure little country of Guinea-Bissau. I am sure most of us have never heard of it let alone know where it is. Ruth Ellen will be living and working in the village of Catal, in northwestern

Guinea Bissau. The ministry that lies ahead is to reach out to neglected and abused children and help educate the community with their approach toward child rearing; which presently means lack of parental supervision. Ruth-Ellen will be working in a local church's preschool helping two African teachers (with no higher than a 2nd or 3rd grade education) improve their teaching technique to two classes of twenty-five students. She will also be working with the current health professionals to implement a healthful living and disease-prevention program. The Health center currently serves 15 villages with an estimated population of 10,000. The village of Catal is safe and the people are very friendly; conditions are primitive; with no electricity, running water or proper sanitary facilities.

### **Her support**

Along with her prayer and financial partners, Ruth-Ellen has a mission support team (MST) that will help her here and when she is away. The team will strive to keep you, her friends and family informed of what is going on and to keep her connected with each of us. We thank you for your love, prayers and support as she begins this new adventure in her life.

MST: Randy and Carie Good, Ken and Jane Glick, Tim Good, Richard and Ruth Ann Glick, Amy Ledyard (best friend in college), Nita Landis (EMM support staff)

## **\*GUINEA BISSAU**



### **Geography:**

Guinea-Bissau, officially the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, is a country in West Africa. It is bordered by Senegal to the north and Guinea to the south and east, with the Atlantic Ocean to its west. It covers nearly 14,000 sq. mi. (slightly larger than the state of Maryland) with an estimated population of 1,600,000. This small, tropical country lies at a low altitude; its highest point is 984 ft. above sea level. The interior is savanna, and the

coastline is plain with swamps of Guinean mangroves. Its monsoon-like rainy season alternates with periods of hot, dry trade winds blowing from the Sahara.

**People:**

The population of Guinea-Bissau is ethnically diverse and has many distinct languages, customs, and social structures. Portuguese natives comprise a very small percentage of Guinea-Bissauans, a result of the exodus of Portuguese settlers that took place after Guinea-Bissau gained independence. Only 14% of the population speaks the official language, Portuguese. A plurality of the population (44%) speaks Kriol, a Portuguese-based creole language, and the remainder speak native African languages. The main religions are African traditional religions (animism) and Islam, and there is a Christian (mostly Catholic) minority.

**Economy:**

Once hailed as a potential model for African development, Guinea-Bissau is now one of the poorest countries in the world. Guinea-Bissau's GDP per capita is one of the lowest in the world, and its Human Development Index is also one of the lowest on earth. More than two-thirds of the population lives below the poverty line. The economy depends mainly on agriculture: fish, cashew nuts and ground nuts are its major exports. It has a massive foreign debt and an economy which relies heavily on foreign aid. Guinea-Bissau is also a major hub for cocaine smuggled from Latin America to Europe. Several senior military figures are alleged to be involved in the trafficking of narcotics, prompting fears that the drugs trade could further destabilize an already volatile country.

**Government:**

Guinea-Bissau has a history of political instability since gaining independence and no elected president has successfully served a full five-year term. In the late 1990s the country experienced a bitter civil war in which thousands were killed, wounded and displaced. On the evening of 12 April 2012, members of the country's military staged a coup and arrested the interim president and a leading presidential candidate. Both were later released and fled the country. A 600-strong force of West African soldiers and police, intended to oversee the return to democracy, began arriving in Bissau late last week. On May 22, Guinea-Bissau's military junta said it was handing power back to the West African state's civilian leaders.

\* Map and information edited from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinea-Bissau>

## **TAFTSVILLE TIDBIT TRIVIA**

Do you remember when...

### **40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*June 6, 1972*

Recognition and special thanks to two families who gave a hot water heater and sink for the church basement. Appreciation was expressed to the plumber who will install these fixtures.

*June 12, 1972*

A speaker from Asbury College, Kentucky will be sharing about the Holy Spirit Baptism which swept through the college.

*June 18, 1972*

Instead of having special services at Bethany Birches for Ascension Day, an outdoor service and picnic will be held at the N. Hartland Dam.

### **35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*June 1, 1977*

Peace Mennonite church is holding a baptism service at Bethany Birches Camp at 1 p.m. We are all invited.

*June 15, 1977*

Good News Bibles have been purchased and are available to any who want them. The cost is \$3.00 for hardback and \$2.00 for paperback.

### **25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*June 28, 1987*

There will be Taftsville Chapel Church Family Portrait taken after worship. Allen Guntz will be photographer.

### **15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*June 29, 1997*

We have our first "Ekklesia Sunday".

#### **Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship**

Located in the village of Taftsville, VT, one block south of Rt. 4 on Happy Valley Road.



**Randy Good, Pastor**

[www.taftsvillechapel.org](http://www.taftsvillechapel.org)

Send your contributions for the Current to: [samuel.carbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:samuel.carbaugh@gmail.com) or contact a Newsletter Staff member: Carie Good & Virginia Schlabach

## Dietitian Heather Wolfe - a Leader in Nutrition

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Live Well/Work Well dietitian Heather Wolfe has been chosen by the Vermont Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (VAND) as its Emerging Dietetics Leader for 2012. She received the award at VAND'S annual conference at The Essex Resort and Spa in Essex, Vt.



Heather Wolfe, RD, LD

The award "demonstrates her commitment to achieving the healthiest population possible starting with the Dartmouth-Hitchcock workforce," said Catherine McIsaac, chair-elect of VAND's Council on Professional Issues. "The awards committee was impressed with her capstone project, the Healthy Beverages Initiative, eliminating the sales of sugar-sweetened beverages from the DHMC campus. This challenging initiative is leading the way for other health care organizations in providing a healthy environment to support their employees and their communities."

Wolfe is thrilled that this initiative has done exactly that, inspiring several neighboring organizations to take a similar stand on sugar.

Her career interests started in eighth-grade health class, when she wrote a report on adolescent nutrition.

"All my peers were reading teen magazines and articles about nutrition and dieting," she said. "I wondered, What do adolescents really need? I was captivated by nutrition, and I've always loved cooking."

Heather's a health coach - someone who helps employees and their family members learn about and make the best lifestyle and nutrition choices for themselves, and tailors plans to a person's chronic health challenges, such as an allergy or high blood pressure.

"Predominantly, I see people coming in for weight loss, so we talk about nutrition in the context of weight management," she said. "We do a nutrition assessment and basic lifestyle coaching, all small steps towards change. Small goals, together over time, create new healthy habits. We work on weight reduction; we also do chronic disease diets such as hypertension and diabetes diets as well."

The first step in changing old habits, Wolfe added, is becoming aware of the old ones. She has her clients keep a three-day nutrition log.

"The exercise develops a sense of awareness," she said. "What's my lifestyle currently like? Then from there, people will make changes without realizing it. You see patterns and things pop out where they could make easy lifestyle changes. It's about awareness building."

Next month, Wolfe will receive her Masters of Public Health from The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice.

"I'm hoping to continue my work in employee wellness," she said. The degree "prepares you to do a lot with Population Health. My population will continue to be the Dartmouth-Hitchcock employee group."

*\*Article taken from Center View Weekly Digest Newsletter May, 8th 2012*