
HOPE HEADLINES

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Randy's Ramblings

It was unsettling, to say the least.

We went to dinner with some friends, and when we came home, the clothes rod in the closet had fallen to the floor ... along with all of the clothes that had been hanging there since we moved in. The shelf above it is also showing a separation at the corner where it meets the other shelf there. We had never noticed that separation before. And when I tried to replace the rod, it was clearly $\frac{1}{4}$ inch too short.

How can that be? We called the builder. He left scratching his head. He'd never seen anything like it. (Neither have we!) He has since replaced the rod with a longer one, but we still can't figure out how it happened.

It's probably because the house is settling. But that's an unsettling answer. It's unsettling because it happened so suddenly. Most settling of houses happens over time. And the builder agrees there would be other places where we would see evidence of settling. It's unsettling, and I want to have a better answer.

Later that week I participated in a Sunday School discussion where we talked about the Peter Enn's book, *The Sin of Certainty* (Harper, 2016). I've not read the book yet, but I have added it to my list of books I want to read. According to Amazon, the book "models an acceptance of mystery and paradox that all believers can follow and why God prefers this path because it is only this way by which we can become mature disciples who truly trust God. It gives Christians who have known only the demand for certainty permission to view faith on their own flawed, uncertain, yet heartfelt, terms."

My own reflections after our class discussion suggest we all have a desire to be certain about things -- even where there is no certainty. I know there are unsettling stories in the scriptures. I also know that the only thing we can know for certain is that God loves us.

Too often, however, we want more than that. We want to be able to sing the children's song with confidence, "I stand alone on the word of God, the B.I.B.L.E." We want to be able to turn to the Bible and find an answer to all of our dilemmas.

Instead, we have a Bible that leaves us hanging, that invites us to experience the mystery as a gift. For the most part, I already knew that. It's only unsettling when I try to explain it. I just wish I felt the same way about our clothes rod!

~~Randy Quinn



Medical Ministry International's (MMI) motto stated on their website is, "Providing health care for lasting change." Their mission "is an opportunity to serve Jesus Christ by providing spiritual and compassionate health care in this world of need." Included in their mission statement is John 13:15, "For I have set an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

January 7-14, my sister Rose Haury and I took the opportunity to join an MMI team traveling to Miches, Dominican Republic, to be general helpers with the surgical team whose purpose was to perform surgeries in the Miches Hospital on residents of Miches who could not afford or did not have access to good health care. I chose to go on this service trip mostly because I strongly believe in serving those in need because Jesus calls us to do so, because I was invited and encouraged to go by Kara Klingenberg (leader of the team), and because I was available since my trip to the Holy Land was cancelled because of the war in Gaza.

I found the people of the DR to be very friendly and gracious, and the country to be very beautiful especially the flowers, the foliage, and the ocean.

Miches is located on the northeast coast of the DR—we could see the ocean from our hotel balcony.

As general helpers, Rose and I were assigned to wash the surgical instruments right after they were used in surgery, package them for sterilization in the autoclave, and then sort them into the supply room after they were sterilized to be ready for the next surgeries. Needless to say, I learned quite a bit about surgical instruments and also the good that can be done for others in a simple, basic, and not modern setting.

One highlight among others was the opportunity to be in the operating room and witness several surgeries, one being a gall bladder removal, a surgery I had experienced in 1986 before gall bladder surgeries were performed by laparoscopy as a general rule. The highlight that made the biggest impression on me, though, was the tenderness, kindness, and compassion the MMI medical workers (surgeons, nurses, technicians, anesthesiologist) showed to the patients as they were fulfilling the purpose of MMI. It touched my heart to see the surgeon carry the little ones into the operating room and then back again to post-op after the surgery and the kindness they showed to not only the patients but to their families as well. This kind of medical care, I'm sure, contributed to the comfort and healing of the patients.

The local MMI people were very hospitable and welcoming to us and put great effort into being sure that we were safe in all aspects while we were in the DR. They served us bountiful and delicious meals making sure we were eating "safe" food and drinking "safe" water so that no one would become ill. We started each day with a hearty breakfast and devotions which was a good and inspiring send-off before we headed to the hospital each day. At the hospital each morning before surgeries began, we were introduced to the patients in the waiting room and together we sang several praise songs and were led in prayer. We were treated to a day on the beach after our week of working at the hospital.

The first day we who were new to this group were told that each team becomes a big MMI family which I experienced to be very true. I hope that my assistance as a general helper at the hospital

contributed at least a little bit to a good change in a few people's lives in Miches.

Thank you, Hope, for your prayers and financial support.

~~Margaret Wiebe

*Bits
&
Pieces*

*Hailey (Heide) Stucky graduated from Wichita State University on December 17th with her Doctorate of Nursing Practice. She will be looking for a job as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

*Registration is now open for the annual Bluestem PACE Race 5K run/walk on Saturday, April 6, in McPherson. Registration by March 20 is \$30 and includes a race shirt. Complete registration online at bluestempace.org/events. Bluestem PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), is a nonprofit that is part of Bluestem Communities and is dedicated to helping seniors with complex medical needs live well at home by providing comprehensive care from one source.



It's time to Celebrate!

Join us for our 150th Anniversary kick-off event at the Goessel Church. Throughout 2024 events are planned to celebrate, experience and learn about the 1874 Mennonite migration.

You are invited to join us on **January 28, 2024**, at 2 pm at the Goessel Church, Goessel, Ks for the Annual Meeting of the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum and for the kickoff event celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the migration of the Mennonites to Kansas.

After the annual meeting, Rod Ratzlaff, Przechowko historian, will present, "Origins of Alexanderwohl, Huffnugsau, & Lone Tree: Legacy of the Old Flemish Mennonites of Przechowko." How do these three Mennonite churches in south central Kansas fit in with a 16th century village in West Prussia (today's Poland)? Come find out! After the program, *faspa* will be served.

Come early to renew your MH&AM membership or join for the first time.

150th Anniversary merchandise will be available for sale before and after the meeting. (Cash or check only, we cannot accept credit cards.)

This event will be live streamed from the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum's Facebook page.

It's not too late to join our winter/spring choir. You don't have to commit to each month. Prior to the Sunday you can sing; come to rehearsals (at least 1) and enjoy singing under the direction of Trae Gehring.



Here is the schedule for the rest of our choir year.

Rehearsals	Sing
February 7, 21,28	March 3
March 6,20,27	March 3 (Easter)
April 10,17,24	April 28
May 1, 8,15	May 19 (choir finale)

If you have any questions, contact Cynthia Loganbill

HYMNS OF THE TRADE

Dentist	Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman	There Shall be Showers of Blessing
Contractor	The Church's One Foundation
Tailor	Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer	There is a Green Hill Far Away
Politician	Standing on the Promises
Optometrist	Open My Eyes that I might See
IRS agent	I Surrender All
Gossip	Pass It On
Electrician	Send the Light
Shopper	Sweet By and By
Realtor	I've Got A Mansion, Just over the Hilltop
Doctor	The Great Physician
PT	He Touched Me

And...for those who speed on the highway!

45 mph	God Will Take Care of You
55 mph	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
65 mph	Nearer My God to Thee
75 mph	Nearer Still Nearer
85 mph	This World is not my Home
95 mph	Lord, I'm Coming Home
Over 100 mph	Precious Memories

February reminders...

February 4

Worship-Natalie
 Scripture-Jerold
 Pianist-Amy
 Song-Galen
 Tech-Scott
 Host-Brenda

Greeters

February 4-Jason; Michelle
 February 11-Connie; Heidi J-L
 February 18-Mike & Val
 February 25-Jim & Barb

February 11

Worship-Natalie
 Scripture-David S.
 Pianist-Ruthie
 Song-Lowell
 Tech-Mike V.
 Host-Lee

February 18

Worship-Lori M.
 Scripture-Kendal
 Pianist-Cynthia
 Song-Lowell
 Tech-Randy P.
 Host-Kendal & Marjie

February 25

Worship-Lori M.
 Scripture-Donna H.
 Pianist-Laurie
 Song-Lowell
 Tech-Michelle J.
 Host-Barb

Sanctuary Prep

February 4-Joanna
 February 11-Connie
 February 18-Lori
 February 25-Russ

Nursery

February 4-Jordon & Emily
 February 11-Eldon & Annette
 February 18-Greg & Leah
 February 25-Donovan & Laurie

Coffee

February 4-Scott & Connie
 February 11-Galen & Cindy
 February 18-Travis & Charity
 February 25-Bob & Delaine

