

Rockville

Reflections

July 2009 Volume 6 Issue 11

Photo Credit: Barbara Ranck, Virginia Coast of Atlantic Ocean at Sunrise

As we, who with unveiled
faces all reflect the
Lord's glory,
are being transformed
into his likeness with ever
increasing glory,
which comes from the
Lord, who is the Spirit."
2 Corinthians 3:18

*A family is like
many things, perhaps
most like a garden.*



It needs time,
attention, and cultivation.

The sunshine of laughter
and affirmation.

It also needs the
rains of difficulties,
tense moments,
and serious discussions
about issues that matter.

And there must be
spade work, where hardness
is broken loose and planting of
fresh seeds
is accomplished with TLC.

God's Garden

Correspondent: Twila Ranck



Here are some suggestions for
fifteen rows worth planting:

Four rows of peas:

Preparedness
Perseverance
Promptness
Politeness

Then three rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash criticism
Squash indifference

Along with five rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful
Let us be unselfish
Let us be loyal
Let us love one another
Let us be truthful

And three rows of turnips:

Turn up with a smile
Turn up with a new idea
Turn up with determination

And then?
Well,
from then on it's pretty simple.

Water,
weed,
tend with care,
and patiently
watch the garden grow.

Someday you'll look back and
realize it was worth
all the years
of all the work
and effort and prayer.



*Like a lovely garden,
your family will be a thing
of grateful pride,
of seasonal beauty,
of daily sustenance.*

--Charles R. Swindoll, Living beyond the Daily Grind

Copy Excerpt shared in the worship service on Father's
Day by Pastor Gene Photos reprinted from God's Garden,
Reflections October 2008 by Jolene Stoltzfus

PICTORIAL OF Operation Space,

held June 21-25



SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINA



WORSHIP TIME



MARV DEMONSTRATING THE HOUSE BUILT ON THE SAND.



MARV'S SURPRISE



ALIENS- FRED AND JOANNE

Rockville Reflections is a publication of
Rockville Mennonite Church

210 Cupola Road, Honey Brook, PA 19344

610.273.9577

Email: rmchurch@ptd.net

Editor: Twila Ranck

Email: twila@familiescatalog.com

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of the month preceding publication

Mission Ideas for Kids - Part 1

Try
a
couple!

....and adults too!

Correspondent: Rhoda Snader

The website for Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) has a great collection of ideas and activities to help us expand our horizons and experience a taste of life in other cultures. Find the complete list under Resources at www.emm.org.

Have
some
fun!

- * Visit an International food store or make a meal from the International aisle of your grocery store. (Rhoda's hint: check out www.allrecipes.com and search a particular country for recipes)
- * Read books from the Heroes of Faith series in the church library.
- * Ask a missionary friend if you can be their pen pal.
- * Attend the EMM annual Global Fair at LMS, Saturday, July 11th
- * Pray for different countries. See Operation World for country information.
- * Send a care package to a missionary family.
- * Collect stamps from all over the world. WATCH FOR MORE IDEAS NEXT MONTH!



SNACK TIME



GAME TIME

CONGRATULATIONS!

to
Craig and Becky Smucker

and
Grandparents
Pastor Gene and Loretta Smucker

on the birth of

Leah May

Born May 15, 2009



LITTLE THINGS

When God makes a lovely thing,
The fairest and completest,
He makes it little, don't you know,
For little things are sweetest.

Little birds and little flowers,
Little diamonds, little pearls;
But the dearest things on earth
Are the little boys and girls.

Anonymous



Calculating the Cost

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a missionary in some far off country?

To live in a remote tribe in the middle of a jungle where you are the only white people who have ever been to the outside world,


and then to learn their culture and translate the Bible into their language?

This is something that I experienced first hand in Papua New Guinea when I had the privilege of visiting Brian & Andrea Holmquist as they worked among the Mariama tribe.

In many ways, life in the bush is a constant project of trusting in God to provide. A few examples would include, trusting God to provide rain when the cistern is just nearly empty and the only other water source is a long, steep, hike to the river which is 300 feet in elevation below your house, or realizing that God is in control when your language helper does not show up and your schedule gets totally messed up. Not to mention food, financial support, and health issues that may arise.

These kinds of things occur on a daily basis, and yet, despite all of this, God has been able to use Brian & Andrea and Mark & Holly Woodard, and countless other missionaries, in a powerful way to bring the gospel to the unreached so that they can have the freedom in Christ that we so often take for granted.

Just Thinking



Correspondent: Janae Lapp

Let no man look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity,

show yourself an example to those who believe

I Timothy 4: 12 NASB

Thinking back on the time that I was able to spend in PNG, being a missionary is a calling which one must be willing to sacrifice their life for. You must be willing to leave family and friends and go spend countless hours straining over a new language, and then translating the entire Bible into that language, a process that takes many years of hard work and attention to detail. I am sure that there would be lots of times when I would wake up and just feel like quitting, It is during these times that we must keep looking to God and just keep our eyes fixed on the finish line.

Would you or I be willing to sacrifice all of this for the cause of Christ?

It is not a decision that should be taken lightly; there will be many trials that arise. However, the rewards of a faithful ministry will definitely be worth all of the sacrifice we must go through before we reap the harvest.

submitted by Josh Stoltzfus



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Do you Know... Zach and Lisa Stoltzfus?

Correspondent: Christina Kurtz

Life is always an adventure but for Zach and I this past year has been a highlight of love, growing, laughter, celebrating, trust, facing fears, comfort, and rejoicing in the One who gives it all.

As most of you know, Zach and I were recently married back in October of last year. The journey of getting to that point is a story in itself, and if you don't already know please feel free to ask some-time. Marriage has been an adjustment as any new change is, but it has been a delightful adjust as we continue to see how God created us not only for each other but how uniquely He made us to complete and compliment each other. Of late, most of our moments go from funny miscommunications of, "What do mean you don't understand I just explained it," to times of just enjoying being together.



During the day Zach stays busy doing remodeling and construction for his business Eagle Springs Construction. He also always has some kind of "home improvement" project going on around here when he is home. I find my days occupied working on various things here and there. I am working a couple mornings a week for George Stoltzfus....and, "No I don't drive any big excavating equipment." I also recently started Interior Design school. The flexibility of online education is very nice. This fall I will also be teaching some of my cousins junior high and high school. Though I never cease to keep myself busy, I think my greatest accomplishment is being able to drive around this area without getting lost, and being able to find my way back home without calling for directions.

In reflection it is amazing to see the gift of God entrusting someone else to your care to love, honor, respect, and cherish. However, it is equally amazing to see this very calling is one that keeps you humble and in realization of how selfish we are without the power of the Holy Spirit. It is easy to find fault, or to become impatient when we look at our spouse (or anyone in our life) and measure them to what we think they ought to look like. Yet, if we have a continual gaze upon the vastness of our Savior's love, patience, and gentleness with us, the things the other person does to cause irritation becomes petty. Though we are continually growing this is one thing we are learning through the journey of marriage.

Another highlight of this year as been the encouragement and extreme blessing we have received through the family, friends, and church body He has placed around us. Speaking for myself this has been a huge part of making my adjustment to PA very easy. It is neat to see how God always provides grace for any situation, and how He uses people to encourage along the way.

Though this is only a brief summary of some things going on in our life, hopefully it is a reflection of our joy as we walk hand in hand following the Lord's will. It will be exciting to see all that God has prepared ahead. submitted by Lisa



Thanks to all! who helped with Vacation Bible School

**you who prayed, sent, supported, came, did,
planned, taught, sang, cleaned, drove, sat, held....**

God knows who you are and what you did!

simply **THANKS.**

