

buzz

From arguments of the head to conversations from the heart

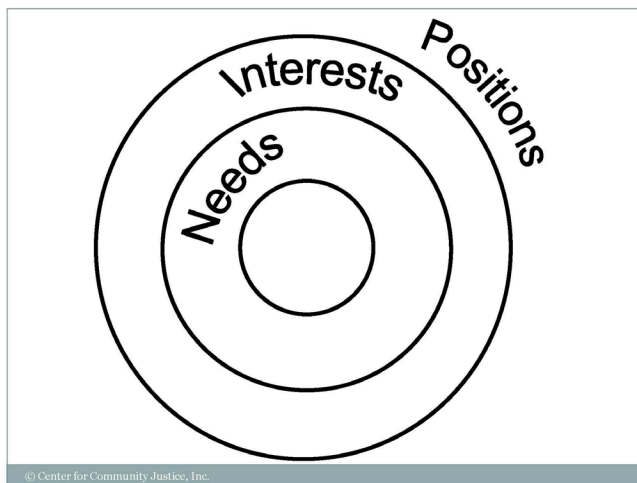
This summer, the CTM committee invites all Sunday School classes to continue exploring the P.I.N. technique by finding a time to practice listening to each other. This can be accomplished through structured exercise on a Sunday morning. It could happen during an evening time of intentional sharing & listening. Perhaps you will find another way to practice P.I.N. listening that is more appropriate to your class.

Whatever form/method you choose, we encourage you as adults at WMC to set aside time for the difficult and very rewarding work of learning to converse and listen to each other. And in order to reinforce the good work from this P.I.N. training, we hope each class finds time to work on this before the middle of August.

To review, during March, the Conversations That Matter (CTM) steering committee organized trainings for all Sunday School classes on the P.I.N. technique. P.I.N. stands for Positions, Interests, and Needs. AJ Delgadillo and Rowan Miller from the Center for Community Justice invited us to think of the different levels of communication that happen when we converse together. As you can see in the diagram, each position statement we make has underlying interests. Under these interests are our basic human needs.

For example: if a church person says, “I’m always told what to do around here!” That is a POSITION statement. Behind that position is an INTEREST. “I want somebody to listen to me!” And underneath that

interest is their basic NEED for acknowledgment and dignity. Understanding positions, interests and needs makes it easier to converse with empathy instead of argument.



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–Aaron Lehman, on behalf of the CTM steering committee: John Kaufman, Christa Graber-Kauffman, Rose Shetler, and Neil Amstutz

P.S. If you're wondering why mid-August – good question. That's when the CTM steering group will meet to start planning for the fall.

Benin Bible Institute Update

As Gilberto Perez shared last week in the service during “God’s Work Among Us,” the BBI Planning Group has been busy. We are happy to announce that Eldon and Rachel Stoltzfus and Karsten Hess have agreed to be our delegates to Benin this fall as we continue to develop our partnership, learn from each other, and support each other in God’s work. My turn as a delegate to BBI two years ago greatly enhanced my understanding of how God is working through BBI. Not only do they nurture church leaders in their understanding of God and the Bible, but they work with the people of Benin to improve their lives through access to medical care via the Bethesda Hospital, loans to help entrepreneurs, and teaching farmers to care for God’s earth through their farm. I am sure our delegates this year will have a similarly enlightening experience.

One key challenge BBI currently faces is the retirement of many of its faculty without many professors ready



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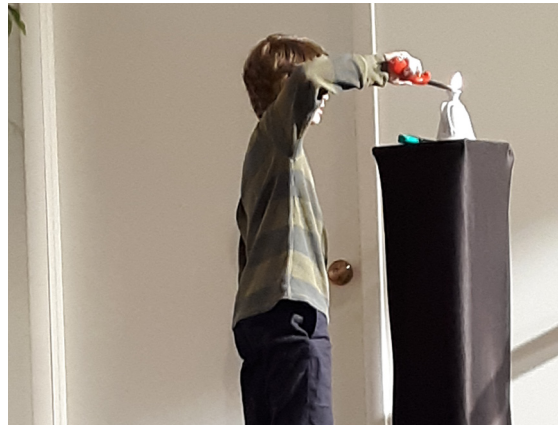
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Eat.Pray.Hope.

Please plan to attend the next Eat.Pray.Hope event at Waterford Mennonite Church on May 29, 2019 from 6-7:30 p.m. We will be watching a video featuring Dr. Danny Carroll (Old Testament professor and noted immigration author) speaking about how we as Mennonites view Immigration from a Biblical and historical perspective. For more about Dr. Carroll see <https://immigrationmdcr.com/>. Following the presentation we'll share a meal of sandwiches and accompaniments during table discussions, ending with a time of communal prayer. Sandwich makings and condiments will be furnished. Attenders are asked to bring food to go with sandwiches.

Venture Club May 12 Sunday Service



Elijah Voth lights the peace lamp.



Gretchen Bateman, Cindy Voth and Lacy Stoltzfus deliver the morning message.

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to take over. There are leaders in seminary now to help with this but it will be several years until there are enough. One way the BBI Planning Group is trying to support them is by coordinating the BBI New Generation Scholarship Fund. We have been working with Mennonite Mission Network and other churches in North America (there are several in Ontario, Canada) who have partnered with BBI to raise funds to send several people through college and seminary. We are brainstorming different ways to raise money with these other groups and submitting grant applications.

The members of the BBI Planning Group would also like to invite you to join our committee. We meet several times a year and work on ways we can grow our relationship with BBI. We also plan for when the Beninese delegates come here and for when we send delegates to them. If you have more questions about it or are interested please let one of us know. Additionally, in the past a larger group of WMC members went to Benin on a learning tour and our committee would like to know if there is interest in doing something like that again. If so please email Rod Hollinger-Janzen at rod@aimmintl.org.

—Mandy Schmidt,
for The BBI Planning Group