



buzz

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Report: Part II

Prison Ministry Seminar

By Gary Chupp, IMMC Delegate

The theme for this summer's annual delegate session was "Built Together," focusing on the passage from Ephesians 2:1-11. While we were not able to meet in person due to the virus, there was intentionality from the leadership team to create an atmosphere of community through our worship, breakout sessions, teaching lessons and seminars.

The seminar I chose to attend was led by Cory Martin, and the focus was on his prison ministry in Elkhart County. Cory referred to the passage from James 2 focusing on "faith by actions." He described the various ministries he provides for the inmates in Elkhart County, including the Bible studies done in prison, but especially focusing on the different support systems offered once inmates are released from prison. His group helps released inmates secure good housing, helps provide stable employment, and provides various support systems to enable a successful transition from prison.

What impressed me most about Cory's presentation was the bottom-up approach he uses with individuals in prison, providing unconditional love and support and stressing how much he learns from prisoners as opposed to teaching, or preaching at inmates. Examples he provided focused on prisoners leading their own Bible studies and baptizing each other, with Cory facilitating instead of leading these activities.

I especially appreciated how Cory defined success, not focusing as much on results or outcomes, but defined by how we follow Jesus. While he naturally gets frustrated at times with poor outcomes with the

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Teaching Session

Submitted by Joy Yoder, IMMC Delegate

Safwat Marzouk, associate professor Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, shared in two different sessions. He shared this prayer, which I think is very thought-provoking and prevalent for our world today.

A Prayer on Diversity

Swee Ann KOH

God of many faces and names,
You created all people in your image.
We thank you for the amazing diversity of races,
languages, accents and cultures in this world you
created.

We thank you for the wonderful diversity reflected
within the First Peoples and Second Peoples of this
land and in our church.

We thank you for the blessings and enrichment we
have received from the rich diversity in the Body of
Christ.

Forgive us for the sins of racism that's part of our
history and the pains and sufferings we cause by our
biases and prejudices.

Forgive us for demonizing those who are different
from us and causing them anguish, distress and
misery.

Forgive us for remaining in our ethnic silos and
failing to reach out to other members of the Body of
Christ.

We pray that in our diversity we will find the unity
that's given to us in Christ and appreciate the gifts

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individuals he is working with, the seeds planted often show up later in life. Cory provided a powerful example of how he lives out "Faith by Actions."

Editors note: If you would like to see Cory Martin's seminar, Safwat Marzouk's teaching sessions or any of the worship services and seminars from the IMMC annual sessions, you can access them at <https://im.mennonite.net/2020-annual-sessions/>

Change of Address:

Simon and Elsie Yoder have moved to:

640 Winslow Dr
Goshen, IN 46526

Also, please note that they no longer have a landline.

WMC Grounds in Bloom



Prayer, (cont. from page 1)

that others bring to us.

We pray that we will reach out to those who are different from us and see you in the faces of the poor, strangers and persecuted.

We pray that we may be transformed, and drawn into intentional, intercultural relationships and community.

Help us to take the steps you call us to take, to build a more just, inclusive community, where diversity is truly embraced, where difference is respected.

