

Mennonite Weekly Review

Putting the Mennonite world together

Concerns of South rise to top for MWC



Liesa Unger/MWC

Members of the planning committee of the Young Anabaptists, meeting alongside the MWC Executive Committee, insisted that support for youth in overcoming visa barriers be part of the planning for the assembly, to be held in Harrisburg, Pa., in 2015.

Standing, from left, are Melani Susanti of Indonesia, Tigist Gelagle

of Ethiopia, Rodrigo Pedroza Garcia of Mexico, Kristina Toews of Canada, Sumana Basumata of India and Carlos Alberto Alvarez Woo of Colombia. Seated are Executive Committee members Adi Walujo of Indonesia, Edgardo Sanchez of Argentina and Sandra Campos Cruz of Costa Rica. Behind the youth is Magali Moreno of Paraguay, MWC

The launch of a website, civilianpublicservice.org, chronicling the experiences of CPS participants, coincides with the 70th anniversary of the first CPS camp's opening.

Wartime witness preserved

CPS website links stories of COs in World War II with peacemaking today

By Ed Nyce
Mennonite Central Committee

AKRON, Pa. — When John L. Horst was growing up in the 1920s and 1930s, he heard stories from men in his congregation who tried to remain true to their beliefs about peace and nonresistance while being pressured to fight in World War I.

The stories of these people who attended Horst's congregation, Ephrata Mennonite Church, played a large role in his own decision not to participate in the military when he became a young man in the 1940s, the days of World War II.

Instead he served with Civilian Public Service, an alternative to the military.

Years later, Horst would tell his own stories to his grandchildren. Pete Brenneman, Horst's grandson, of Kinzers, said he too was influenced by his grandfather's conscience on matters of war and peace.

"My Mennonite upbringing taught me that we should not kill. Grandpa's views and stories made that conviction of mine

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Transition to leader from Colombia fulfills a dream; visas for 2015 a major worry

By BYRON REMPEL-BURKHOLDER
Mennonite World Conference

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The rise of Anabaptist-related churches in the global South is becoming much more than a matter of membership. At a meeting of the Mennonite World Conference Executive Committee May 4-10, actions on staffing and structures reflected that growth.

Setting the tone was the appointment of César García of Colombia as general secretary-elect, to take over the role from Larry Miller on Jan. 1, 2012.

The decision includes the relocation of MWC's head office from Strasbourg, France, to Bogotá, Colombia.

García's appointment fulfills a dream of Miller's.

The Executive Committee approved a proposal for a Global Anabaptist Profile research project.

"It is the culmination of a long march toward leadership from the global South," Miller said. "It's a key position for shaping the direction of MWC and the entire global communion."

After almost 22 years as MWC general secretary, Miller has accepted an invitation to become the first full-time secretary of the Global Christian Forum, which



Merle Good/MWC

MWC Executive Committee member Cisca Mawangu Ibanda of Congo presents carved animals to general secretary-elect César García, right, and current general secretary Larry Miller, left. Ibanda said the animals represent qualities important for service to MWC. Miller's elephant holds its trunk down in a peaceful position. García's giraffe extends its neck to see the landscape of the future.

brings together church leaders to begin new relationships and deepen existing ones. MWC has participated in the Forum for several years.

Concerns from the South also

figured in the acceptance of an offer of U.S. churches to host the next global assembly in Harrisburg, Pa., in 2015.

A major worry was the diffi-

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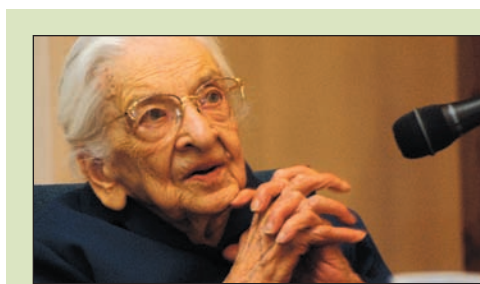
Lancaster Conference mission matriarch looks back

Vision for mission lives on in service of her children

By JEWEL SHOWALTER
Eastern Mennonite Missions

SALUNGA, Pa. — Elizabeth Martin, 101, remembers when a special train of 10 cars transported Lancaster Mennonites to New York to see their first missionaries off to Africa in 1934.

When those first missionaries, Elam and Elizabeth Stauffer, returned for their first home assignment in 1940, Martin remembers that the annual Mission Board conference at New Holland Mennonite Church was so packed the children had to sit on the platform of the pulpit to



Tammy Evans/EMM

Elizabeth Martin recalls an era of mission fervor in the 1930s, including the departure of the first EMM missionaries to Africa.

make room for adults on the benches.

Martin's "101 Years of Stories" on April 19 transported Eastern

Daniel, raised seven children while farming and homemaking south of New Holland.

She remembers the excitement

Mennonite Missions staff members back in time to an era of intense mission fervor in Lancaster Mennonite Conference churches.

Martin and her husband,

when Daniel and Blanche Sensenig, from their home church, New Holland Mennonite, left for Ethiopia in 1947. Daniel Martin wrote an article for *Gospel Herald* about the experience of seeing them off from New York to Africa, taking his title from Acts 20:38, "And They Accompanied Him to the Ship."

"We always gave the children coins for church offerings," Elizabeth said. "But on the EMM offering Sunday, the kids got more

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