

June 2, 2010

RE: Year End 6/30/10 Nehemiah's Call update letter

Dear friend of the Gospel,

Things are shifting. Transition is coming. Nation rises against nation. Israel is a heavy stone. Jesus is no longer the only way. The church is blamed for all that is wrong with people. We are the obstacle to other's true salvation. I have learned over the past year or so that salvation is first and foremost the recognition of authority, need and personal responsibility. It is time to fix our gaze upward and onward; to the coming King.

I have gone through some serious soul searching this past year. I have struggled and wrestled with who I am becoming. My call to preach the Gospel, career as a CPA, business owner, husband and father overwhelms me at times. I am now 45. My life is more than one half over. Where does the time go? I find myself reflective; maybe too much so. I am trying to simplify and looking to meet the needs of others when asked.

I have this call—the call of a Nehemiah. It is a passion for prayer and desire to see transformation in the lives of others. My own people focused on the wrong things and fumbling to make sense of things as our moorings give way. What do I do with this call? How does it shape and go forth? I have learned this year that this is God's call. Not mine.

Bonnie and I have been led to a rural congregation called Trissels. It is a congregation of around 80 or so. It has a long history. Trissels is the oldest established church in Virginia Mennonite Conference. Its mission is to know Christ and to make Him known. I have been given the privilege to superintend the Adult Sunday School this next year ending August 31, 2011. I will be developing and teaching five quarters.

The teaching will be from the Bible. Our summer will begin with 1 and 2 Thessalonians, then on to overlooked themes from the Old Testament, Nehemiah in the winter, Hebrews next spring and the Psalms of Ascent next summer. Please pray for me and our group each week.

Milford Lyndaker continues to work with the Chris and Joya Gorton in San Isidro Costa Rica. His congregation Crest Hill Community Church in Wardensville West Virginia is lending support and connections in prayer. He is planning a return trip within the next year if possible. Pray for this ongoing work, the goat herd and witness to the people.

We have had some turnover in our board. We welcome Stan Zehr and thank Pauline Lehman and Bonnie Yoder for their work and efforts to this mission. We continue to look

for others with similar vision and passion to serve on our board. If you have recommendations of a good fit for us please pass them to us.

The work at New Song Anabaptist Fellowship in Harrisonburg continues with Basil Marin leading and pasturing. He has had some others join him recently and the group was featured in this past issue of Crossroads, an EMU publication. Please pray for this congregation to fly; to take root in the city and be an instrument of the Gospel. Lawrence continues to maintain a close relationship with Basil. Basil supported Lawrence by attending his Jan/Feb 2010 Winter Bible teachings on the Body of Christ at Trissels.

The work in Montenegro continues as well. I get regular updates from Pastor Jovica. He is working hard at planting new churches throughout Montenegro. His new work in Berane among the poorer Serbs is gut wrenching. For those who have seen the pictures it breaks your heart. We are entertaining the possibility of a short term trip this year or next. Please pray for discernment on the proper timing. Lawrence would love traveling with Jovica throughout the country preaching the Gospel and lending a heart and hand.

Our organization is willing to look at new projects or requests. Lawrence is putting his name in for interim preaching and teaching assignments beginning September 1, 2011. He is willing to travel within a radius of 3-4 hours. He is officially letting the Mennonite Church USA, other Mennonite groups, other denominations, non-denominational groups or movements of his availability. Because he is willing to accept requests at less than market value he is a tremendous blessing and value to cash strapped congregations or organizations. Please pray for open doors.

We have appreciated our connection with you in the past. We are requesting a new commitment to pray for these needs this summer and into the fall. We sense the need to strengthen our prayer shield, as Lawrence's overseer (Ervin Stutzman) asked us to do. Please visit our website as it has been updated with some new pictures and clarity.

**BURN BRIGHTLY BEYOND,**

Lawrence R. Yoder  
Nehemiah's Call Inc.