

# AMBS alumni news

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## Hear President Sara Wenger Shenk's inaugural address

A video recording of the inaugural service for AMBS President Sara Wenger Shenk is posted on the AMBS channel of iTunes U. You can listen to her address, and to the sermon by Karen Martens Zimmerly by selecting your preferred method of access on the AMBS Web site: [www.ambs.edu/news-and-publications/iTunesU](http://www.ambs.edu/news-and-publications/iTunesU)

Also, visit AMBS on Facebook to see photos of the Sunday inaugural service and Saturday on-campus festivities: [www.Facebook.com/followAMBS](http://www.Facebook.com/followAMBS)

On September 28-30, Sara had several opportunities to share her vision for theological education in presentations at AMBS. You can find recordings of these on iTunes U also, following the link above.

## Sara Wenger Shenk inaugurated as president

Sara Wenger Shenk, Ed.D., was inaugurated as president of AMBS on October 24, at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church east of Goshen, Ind.

In her address, Sara said, "It is the church and its leaders who, when they are well equipped, call us back to the one thing that is all important—our allegiance to God revealed in Jesus Christ, made known to us by the Spirit."

She then described the three-fold work of the seminary:

- Cultivate worship as our primary theological home, with AMBS continuing as a center of creativity and imagination to lead us "into the presence of the Holy";
- Cultivate Word as storied theology, so that AMBS will continue to equip leaders to articulate and interpret the Scriptures in many settings of ministry;
- Cultivate practices as embodied

theology, with AMBS being devoted to forming lives that are authentically Christ-like.

Sara's address followed a message from Karen Martens Zimmerly (MATS 1986), denominational minister and director of leadership for Mennonite Church Canada. In her conclusion, Karen said, "The Word became flesh and lived among us, and the Word continues to become flesh and continues to live among us." As school and church, "let's enter that neighborhood as friends and as partners, and together let's enter God's neighborhood to see what God will do with us."

Sara joins four other members of the AMBS administrative cabinet: Rebecca Slough, dean; Jeffrey L. Miller, chief financial officer; Ron Ringenberg, vice president; and Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, associate dean. ●



J. Tyler Klassen

During the inauguration service Sara Wenger Shenk, new president, was robed in the prayer shawl created for the AMBS president in 1997, and first worn by the previous president, Nelson Kraybill. Leaving the sanctuary at the end of the October 24 service with Sara were Gerald Shenk, her husband, followed by Karen Martens Zimmerly, who brought the message; Randall Jacobs, chair of the AMBS board; and Ron Guengerich (MDiv 1974), worship leader and member of the AMBS board.

# Intersections of pastoring and parenting



## Lisa Enns-Bogoya, MDiv 1999

Being a pastor for the last dozen or so years has, without a doubt, influenced the way I parent our two daughters who are now ages ten and seven. As Pastor of Caregiving in our congregation, I often find myself on that sacred ground of story and experience into which my members choose to invite me. And walking those places with those cherished people necessarily means that I am touched and changed by the individual struggles and celebrations they each go through.

One significant theme that I have observed in many members—especially women—that contributes to my parenting role of daughters is that of shame. As I sit with young-ish women my age (early 40s), or early retirees, or 85-year old widows, I am struck by the common language of shame that runs through their stories. Lifetimes

of not feeling good enough; feelings of disempowerment accumulated over decades; desire for invisibility (wanting to be swallowed up by the floor when asked to speak in public—I hear that a lot!) alongside resentment at being invisible and not having a voice. I am so deeply saddened to observe special children of God invalidating themselves because somehow they have come to believe themselves as “less than.”

Inevitably, the desire to nurture strong, confident daughters has become crucial to me. Validating and affirming who they are and that God made them innately good and worthy of love is of vital importance to me and my husband. I encourage my members who struggle with feelings of unworthiness, and then I turn around and remind my children how special they are and that their voices are meant to be heard, their thoughts expressed, and their spirits to soar. Through pastoring, I am learning how best to love my children into their God-given identities.

*Lisa Enns-Bogoya and Raúl Bogoya (MDiv 2000), and their two daughters, Sofia and Natasha, will spend 2011 in Colombia, while Lisa is on sabbatical from her role at Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Man.*

## David Elkins, MDiv 2005

One Sunday during the first months of my pastorate I was preaching when my oldest daughter who was four at the time proceeded to jump out of the pew and began running sprints up and down

the aisles. A few chuckles arose from the congregation but I still mostly had their attention and so I forged ahead.

My daughter, encouraged by the attention, decided it was time to dial up the distraction meter a few notches, so she proceeded to run up to the pulpit area to continue her calisthenics. I was pretty sure I had lost everyone then, but it was just the point I needed to hear and to make that morning: don't take yourself too seriously!

That Sunday reminds me how similar parenting and pastoring can be when it comes to interruptions. I have learned that the most meaningful ministry experiences usually don't happen during the scripted and planned events that are clearly mapped out on my calendar like preaching, teaching and committee meetings. Rather, the most meaningful moments of ministry come through the interruptions, the unplanned conversations, the out-of-the-blue call from someone in need.

In the same way, real parenting takes place in the unexpected moments of opportunity when your child asks about a cottonwood seed floating down through the air, when slippery hands drop a glass that shatters on the floor, or when a spontaneous story about a princess and her party drifts from the backseat of the car. Those unexpected moments are there in the parent's and pastor's life to teach us that God's grace can fill every unscripted moment, making it ripe with opportunity to love, forgive and encourage. If it weren't for interruptions in parenting and pastoring I might not get any parenting or pastoring done at all!

*David Elkins is pastor of Lima (Ohio) Mennonite Church. He and Rebecca, his wife, are parents of Kaitlyn and Abigail. ●*



## Keep in touch with AMBS

Subscribe to the AMBS calendar to get notices of new events:  
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Download chapel sermons, forum presentations and guest lectures on iTunes U:  
[www.ambs.edu/iTunesU/](http://www.ambs.edu/iTunesU/)

**Joseph Kamau Kabui (MDiv 2009)** joined a pastor friend in Kenya in reviving Sonlight Christian College. His assignment has been to develop programs in counseling and peace and reconciliation and to act as the principal of the college. They are working with South African Theological Seminary to offer a Bachelor of Theology degree. Ruth, his wife, is teaching at Rosslyn Academy.

**Getaneh Ayele (MDiv 2006)** is instructor and dean of students at Meserete Kristos College and pastor of a church in Ethiopia.

**Susan Kennel Harrison (MDiv 1992)** published an essay, "Dialogue of life: Recalling the living exchange of 2007" in a book she coedited, titled *On Spirituality: Essays from the third Shi'i Muslim Mennonite Christian Dialogue*, (Pandora Press, 2010).

**Theo Beels (student, 1980)** is serving as an internist in the medical department at Tansen Mission Hospital in Nepal.

**Craig Neufeld (MDiv 2008)** is pastor for youth and young adults at Rosthern Mennonite Church, Rosthern, Sask.

**David Heusinkveld (MDiv 1995)** is executive director of Pleasant View Home in Kalona, Iowa. Previously he was director of MDC Goldenrod, a faith-based ministry to people with developmental disabilities.

**Lori Durbin (MDiv 2010)** is in a Clinical Pastoral Education program in a hospital in Orlando, Fla.

**Roger Robins (student 1982)** is an American studies specialist in the English language department at the University of Tokyo. He recently published *Pentecostalism in American* (Praeger 2010), a comprehensive, interpretive survey that intends to help readers make sense of the movement and its appeal to millions in the U.S. and around the world.

**Yusak Setyawan (MATS 2003)** completed a Ph.D. program in New Testament studies and

postcolonial hermeneutics at Flinders University, Australia. He has returned to Indonesia and was appointed head of academic affairs, Faculty of Theology, Satya Wacana Christian University Indonesia. In addition, he teaches in the post-graduate program at the university.

**Joni Sancken (student 1999–2000)** was ordained January 17, 2010, and serves as assistant professor of preaching and practical theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, Va.

#### Birth

**Nadia Bryn Ratzlaff** was born to Audrey Ratzlaff (MDiv 2007) and Aaron Ratzlaff (staff 2004–2007) on June 30, 2010.

#### Deaths

**Steve Estes** (MDiv 1984) died December 19, 2009, in Gridley, Ill. He served as pastor and chaplain and is author of more than 12 books on Mennonite history.

**David A. Shank (BD 1952)** died October 20, 2010, in Goshen, Ind. See news note about a book of his writings on page 4.

### Alumni Ministry and Service Award nominations

The AMBS Alumni Association executive committee will focus its selection of the 2011 recipient(s) for the ministry and service award on those who have been nominated but not selected since 2004 when the award was begun.

However, if there is someone you would like to nominate for the 2011 award, please download a nomination form from the AMBS Web site and send the completed form to Ron Ringenberg no later than January 1. Visit [www.amsb.edu/alumni](http://www.amsb.edu/alumni) to find a link to the form. Or request a form from Ron Ringenberg: [rriingenb@amsb.edu](mailto:rriingenb@amsb.edu)

## Alumni work for peace in Nigeria



In May Obed (MDiv 1990) and Phena (MATS 1991) Dashan and their daughter Nunshelmun (Shel) visited AMBS, the place where they

were students and Shel was born more than 20 years ago. At a special gathering, they shared some of their experiences of living in

Nigeria and their ministries of teaching and pastoring.

They have been involved with a seminary in Gindiri that trains pastors, teachers and evangelists.

The school is located in an area between Jos, which is about 95 percent Christian, and the Muslim groups farther north. Since 2001, this area has been in crisis because of clashes between religious groups.

"The church teaches peace, but personal peace is different than living that faith when conflicts erupt," Obed said.

In September 2001, when there was a very serious outbreak of violence in Jos, Obed went to the chief of his

village to see if they could find ways to prevent the violence from spreading to their community.

One step was to assign Muslims and Christians to patrol the village, holding vigil and keeping the peace.

In a more recent crisis, they said, no one could even go to a church for sanctuary, because churches were the first site of attack.

"You knew you could be dead any time. But you want to stay to give young people hope," Obed said. "We keep praying. We keep hoping. What happens in Gindiri makes us hope for what can happen in Jos." ●



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 A seminary of  
Mennonite Church USA and  
Mennonite Church Canada

## AMBS notes

### Alumni featured in new books

New books published by the Institute of Mennonite Studies and Herald Press feature the work of alumni:

*Prophetic Peacemaking: Selected writings of J.R. Burkholder* includes essays on many issues of discipleship. **J.R. Burkholder** (BD 1955) has been a professor at both Goshen College and AMBS. **Keith Graber Miller** (M.Div. 1988), professor of Bible, religion and philosophy at Goshen College, edited the book.

*Mission from the Margins: Selected writings from the life and ministry of David A. Shank* reflects a lifetime of theological and missiological work. **David Shank** (BD 1952) and Wilma Shank recently received the Culture of Service award from Goshen College. **James R. Krabill** (M.Div. 1978), senior executive for global ministries, Mennonite Mission Network, edited the book.

For information about purchasing these books, see the IMS Web pages:  
[www.ambs.edu/ims/new-releases](http://www.ambs.edu/ims/new-releases)

### Loren Johns honored

**Loren L. Johns**, Ph.D., (M.Div. 1984) was promoted to Professor of New Testament, effective July 1, 2010. AMBS honored him on November 15, and he presented a lecture, "Do Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53-8:11 belong in our Bibles? A case study in scholarship serving the church."

### Coming events

**My soul rejoices in God my savior: Mary in Anabaptist dress**, a conference examining the importance of Mary in Anabaptist history and life, is set for March 24-26. Visit [www.ambs.edu/maryconference](http://www.ambs.edu/maryconference) for more information.

**A pilgrimage to religious communities in Kentucky** will be led, May 22-29, by Marlene Kropf, associate professor in spiritual formation and worship. Visit [www.ambs.edu/academics/courses/summer/kentucky](http://www.ambs.edu/academics/courses/summer/kentucky) for trip details, including a list of pilgrimage sites.



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