



w i n d o w

Making peace with God's creation

J. Nelson Kraybill, AMBS president

"Can we expand our Anabaptist emphasis on peace with God and all humans to include the creation itself?" Mennonite sociologist Cal Redekop asked recently in a letter to *Mennonite Weekly Review*.

His question reverberates as we read about hurricanes and resulting environmental chaos. Humans did not cause the hurricanes. But poor stewardship of the earth probably added to global climate change, making the disasters worse. Rising energy prices remind us that we are consuming irreplaceable natural resources at an increasing rate.

AMBS student Matt Hickman believes Christians must do more than join the secular environmental movement. "Save the Planet" people make the assumption that humans ourselves can save the world," he says. "We cannot, since that is God-level redemption work."

Matt cares so much about the environment

that he is helping to manage a 17-acre hardwood tree planting project at Camp Menno Haven. He also is working to reintroduce native plants at Camp Friedenswald where he is on staff. With encyclopedic knowledge of plants, animals and trees, he is passionate about his love for the natural world.

But just as it takes the intervention of God to save mortals from sin, it will take an act of God to make a "new heaven and new earth." In the meantime, followers of Jesus Christ must care for the world by Kingdom standards. God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, and children of God must show the same respect for the world that God showed through the incarnation.

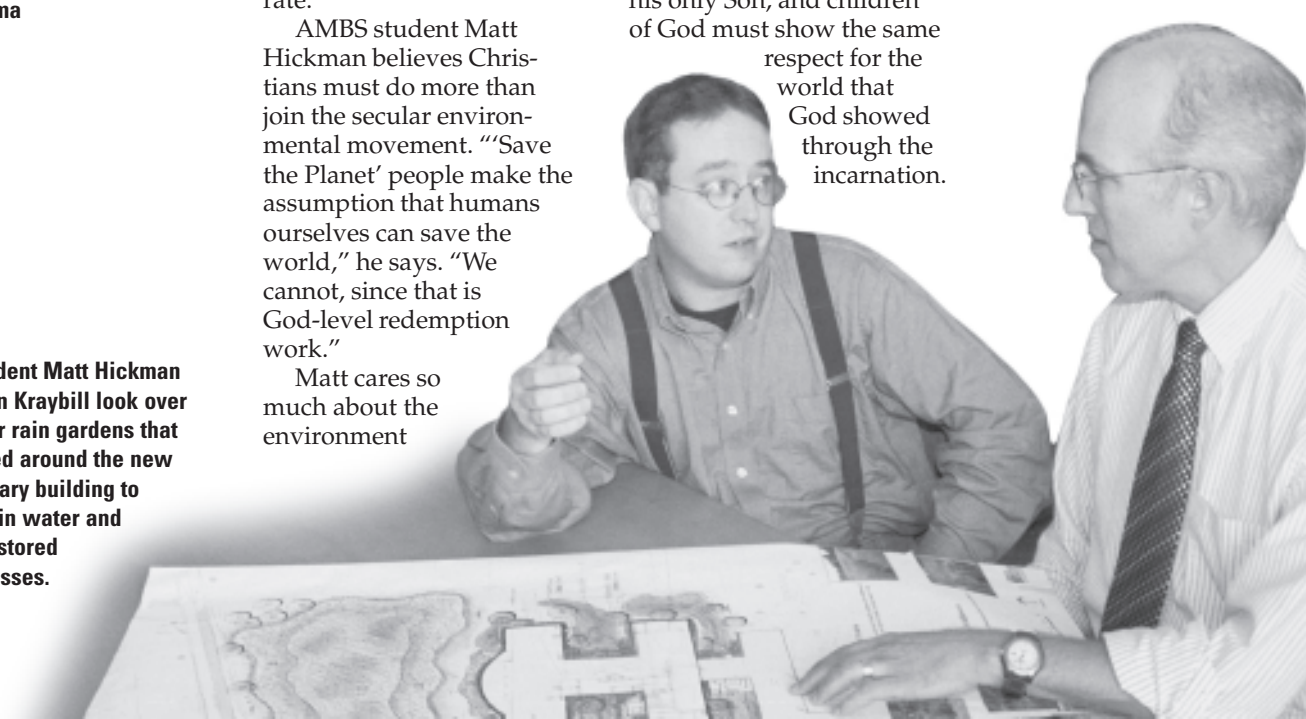
AMBS is preparing to build a new facility for our library and bookstore with construction and operations in harmony with these concerns. Our goal is for this "green" building to serve as a teaching tool in creation care for all who come to campus. (See page 3.)

Theology books in the library testify that restoration of creation ultimately is God's work. But we as Christians are responsible for making choices now to safeguard the natural world in obedience to Jesus, through whom all of creation someday will be set free from bondage and decay. (Romans 8:21). ●

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AMBS student Matt Hickman and Nelson Kraybill look over designs for rain gardens that are planned around the new AMBS library building to capture rain water and support restored prairie grasses.



Mary E. Klassen

New AMBS library and campus center planned

Vision focuses on stewardship and hospitality

For a seminary, the library is the center of intellectual activity and inquiry, just as the chapel is the center of worship life. But while AMBS is undisputed in claiming to have the best Mennonite theological library collection in the world, the facilities which house it need some “home improvement.”

As part of the Next Generation Campaign for Church Leadership, AMBS is working toward building a new facility, primarily for the library.

The vision for the new building encompasses several priorities for AMBS:

- Stewardship of God’s creation with a commitment to building the library as a “green building,” reflected in choices for design, construction and sustainable operation.
- Hospitality to welcome scholars—both students and guests—in a comfortable and convenient place for research, study, reflection and writing.
- Integration of new technologies and traditional materials to support scholarship of past generations and contemporary authors.
- Visibility of the library—and thus the seminary as a whole—as a place for scholarship, theological dialogue and pastoral training.

While the major part of the new building will be a new, completely above-ground library, other improvements also are included:

- new facilities for the AMBS Cooperative Bookstore;
- renovated space (now the library reading room) for the student lounge,

- including a coffee bar;
- renovated offices for the Church Leadership Center;
- a new foyer and gathering area with gallery space;
- reassigned space for offices, a large meeting room or classroom, and a faculty work room.

The new library facility will solve a variety of problems in the existing space, and will provide valuable upgrades. For

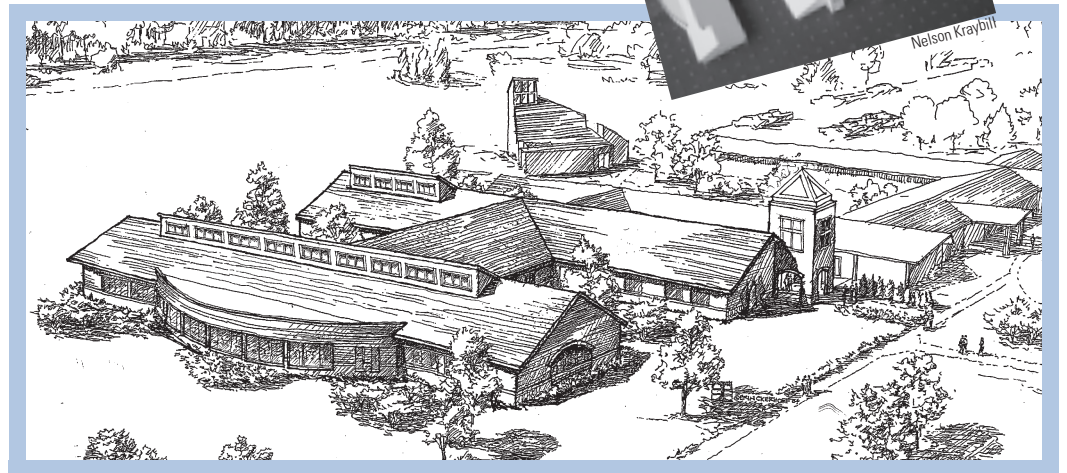
example, all seats in the new library will have power and data connections.

AMBS is seeking contributions to complete the funding of the construction costs so that groundbreaking can occur in spring 2006.

For more information and to make a gift, see the AMBS web site:

www.ambs.edu. Select *For Friends and Alumni*, then *Next Generation Campaign*.

Or send an e-mail message to development@ambs.edu; or call 1-800-964-2627. ●



This artist's sketch shows the proposed library building in the foreground with the chapel in the background. Waltner Hall, the original AMBS building which now houses the library is at the back to the right. The inset photo shows a top-down view of the library model with Waltner Hall on the right.



The AMBS library currently consists of a reading room and workroom that were part of the original 1958 structure, a basement area for periodical stacks and a separate underground room for book stacks. Limited space, water leakage during heavy rains and lack of comfortable work stations are some of the problems in the current bookstack area that make a new library facility a priority for AMBS.

More than books, more than students

This is the only Mennonite library that supports *only* a theological educational institution,” Eileen Saner, AMBS librarian, says. “So the collection focuses on materials needed by faculty and students for training for pastoral ministry and for theological study.” The result is a Mennonite theological library unequaled anywhere else in the world.

The content of materials in the AMBS library offers scholarship in history, theology, biblical studies, pastoral ministry, church leadership and much more. But many books reveal something else—who some of the original owners were. Bookplates and notations show that early resources came from Witmarsum Seminary at Bluffton College (1921–1931), Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Chicago (1945–1958) and H.S. Bender of Goshen College.

Building on these early sources, AMBS has given priority to purchasing library materials for more than half a century. The collection now comprises not only the traditional books, journals and audio-visual materials, but also subscriptions to online collections of full text journal articles and ebooks.

AMBS shares with Goshen College, Goshen, Ind., the Mennonite Historical Library which encompasses a comprehensive collection of Mennonite-Anabaptist materials. The Studer Bible collection is also a key component of the AMBS library (see page 4). In addition, the online catalog gives access to 22 other academic libraries in Indiana, including seven seminary libraries.

Users don’t have to be on campus to take advantage of the benefits of the library. Resources are available to students, pastors and others through the online catalog and library web pages: www.ambs.edu/Library. Several hundred “community borrowers” check out materials and use the library to prepare for sermons, worship leading and teaching ministries. Each year the library responds to hundreds of requests by sending books and journal articles across North America and beyond.

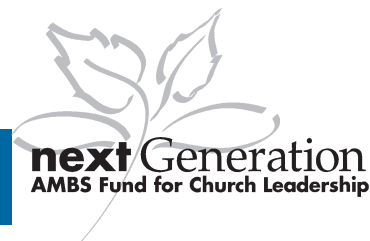
Eileen emphasizes that the library is more than books and it is for more than students. “The library is fundamentally a place where people come for research, study, quiet reflection and access to the riches of the Christian tradition.” ●



The new AMBS Library is planned as a “green” building, with attention to design, construction and operation to make a minimal impact on the environment. Key decisions include:

- Ground-source heat pump for heating and cooling
- Windows that maximize daylight and provide efficient insulation
- Use of locally produced building materials (40%) that can be replenished readily
- Rain gardens surrounding the building (shown above) to make use of runoff rainwater instead of passing it on to city sewers
- Restored prairie grasses to minimize need for mowing
- Bathroom facilities that reduce water use

AMBS is working toward “gold” certification according to L.E.E.D. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.



Campaign Report

Next Generation, the fund-raising effort of AMBS, includes the following components. To find out more, see www.ambs.edu/NextGeneration.

	Goal	Received (US dollars) 9.30.05
AMBS Fund	\$ 5,800,000	Ongoing
Library	6,300,000*	\$5,727,054
Chapel renovation	1,100,000	30,700
Preaching laboratory	170,000	Fully funded
Church Leadership Center	2,800,000	2,310,959
Scholarships	2,330,000	1,642,988
Endowed faculty chairs	1,500,000	1,173,898
Other		368,923
Total	\$20,000,000	\$17,739,612 88.7%

*This goal was set in 2001; the current estimate is \$8,000,000.

Library Facts

Current books	113,000
Projected number of books in 20 years	136,000
New books and AV materials each year	1,200
Current subscriptions	500
Circulation last year:	
AMBS students	5,956
AMBS faculty	1,756
Community borrowers	1,192

Studer Bible collection enhances history and worldwide scope of AMBS library



Mary E. Klassen

Eileen Saner, AMBS librarian and director of educational resources, explores a carefully reproduced copy of the Gutenberg Bible, a donation from Gerald Studer, who has turned over his extensive collection of Bibles to the AMBS library.

Panorama

Faculty on the road

You can find out when faculty members are scheduled to speak in your area. A list of faculty travel is at www.ambs.edu; Select *Church Leadership Center*, then *Faculty on the Road*.

Pastors Week 2006

A focus on important events in congregational life is planned as Pastors Week (January 23–26, 2006) looks at weddings, funerals, baptisms and communion. Speakers include Alan Kreider, Gayle Gerber Koontz, John Rempel, Irma Fast Dueck and Eleanor Kreider. See more at www.ambs.edu; select *Church Leadership Center*, then *Pastors Week*.

Ever since he was a teenager, retired pastor Gerald Studer has been collecting Bibles. The extensive collection he has assembled spans the world and nearly five hundred years of printing history. Gerald chose the AMBS library to be the repository of his collection and recently, as he moved to a retirement home in Souderton, Pa., he made his final donation.

The six boxes that came to the AMBS library this summer included several items that are considered most valuable to collectors. Among them is a two-volume facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible, early nineteenth century printings of the Bible and New Testament and three English translations done by women.

Earlier donations from Gerald included an extensive collection of Bible story books with early 20th century imprints. Some of these have been added to the AMBS collection and duplicates were added to the Goshen College Library curriculum collection. Historic volumes will be placed in a special children's area in the new AMBS library building.

In addition to rare, old copies of the Bible, Gerald collected Bibles in many languages of the world—more than 800 languages, he has reported. AMBS has completed the cataloging of all non-English Bibles and portions of scripture, and an alphabetical list by language is available on request from AMBS Librarian, Eileen Saner, esaner@ambs.edu. ●

Alumni News

David L. Myers (Master of Divinity 1991) is executive director of Teen Living Programs in Chicago, Ill.

Linda Gehman Peachey (Master of Divinity 2004) is director of the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Women's Concerns Program.

Steven M. Nolt (Master of Arts: Theological Studies 1994) and Thomas J. Meyers are authors of *An Amish Patchwork: Indiana's Old Orders in the Modern World*, published in February 2005 by Indiana University Press.

Tim Schultz (Master of Arts: Theological Studies 2000) is youth minister at Clarence Center/Akron Mennonite Church and he continues studies at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

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The purpose of *AMBS Window* is to invite readers to call people to leadership ministries, and to provide ways for readers to become involved with AMBS through financial support, prayer support and student recruiting.

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