



w i n d o w

Singing a new song

J. Nelson Kraybill, AMBS president

When “saints from every tribe and language and people and nation” sing a new song before God’s throne (Revelation 5:9), one section of the choir will include AMBS alumni from every continent. One-fourth of this year’s graduates are from outside North America, and they have taught me much about faithfulness and harmony.

If North American Mennonites think our choir experiences diversity and conflict, our spiritual siblings in Ethiopia might help. Even the name of the Mennonite church in Ethiopia—Meserete Kristos (Christ the Foundation)—points to the source of denominational unity. AMBS student Mulugeta Zewdie, former General Secretary of the Meserete Kristos, says there are 80 ethnic groups and more than a dozen languages among Ethiopian Mennonites. “The only thing that makes us a people is preaching the gospel.”

Increasingly that is true for North American Mennonites. No longer distinctive by dress or traditional physical markers, we become visible by whom we confess as Lord, how we love one another and how we witness.

A peace studies student, Mulugeta believes peace must “start at home.” He is saddened by the irony of a North American peace church being divided by conflict. “There are Mennonite groups here that will not worship together. The world will not hear us speak the gospel if we remain divided.”

Mulugeta challenges AMBS faculty to put as much emphasis on **internal** peacemaking as we do on political and international peacemaking. He urges Mennonites on this continent to embrace the joy of inviting others to know Jesus. “In Ethiopia the church has grown because we evangelize,” he says. I’m ready to learn from

a country where a persecuted Mennonite church grew from 5,000 to 170,000 in just two decades.

AMBS professor Art McPhee says international students often model sacrificial and joyful discipleship. “They come with few funds, leave family behind, and do graduate study in a second language.” Believers with such courage for the gospel can teach me and others. I’m glad international students are at AMBS. Not being a strong tenor, I hope to stand near several of them someday in that great choir before the throne.

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Thirty-seven earn degrees and certificates

Thirty-seven students graduated from AMBS on May 24, 2002. One distinction of this class is that ten of the 37 are from outside of North America, a higher percentage than usual in a graduating class.

Find out more about the graduates here and at the AMBS web site: www.ambs.edu.

AMBS degrees

MDiv	Master of Divinity
MAPS	Master of Arts: Peace Studies
MATS	Master of Arts: Theological Studies
MACF	Master of Arts in Christian Formation
MAME	Master of Arts in Mission and Evangelism

Jairo Arce MATS in Ethics. Plans in process with the possibility of working in the Evangelical University in Nicaragua or an ecumenical organization. He and Ditra Garcia de Arce, who is also a 2002 AMBS graduate, have two children. He is a member of the Mennonite Church in Managua, Nicaragua.

Van Bensett MATS in Christian ethics. Will continue at Programa CIELO, a department of Saint Anthony Hospital in Chicago, Ill., in work that is related to social justice for immigrants and neighborhoods. Van and Saira Perea-Bensett, his wife, have three children. He is a member of Saint Kevin Parish in Chicago. His parents are Lewis and Peggy Bensett of Holly, Mich.

Matt Bistayi (Not pictured) MDiv. Will be associate pastor at First

United Methodist Church, Kalama-zoo, Mich. Matt and Shellie, his wife, have two children. His parents are Joe and Cheryl Bistayi of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Ruth Boehm MDiv. Will teach peace theology at Gindiri College of Theology in Gindiri, Nigeria, through Mennonite Central Committee, a three-year assignment with her husband, Barry Bergen. Ruth is a member of Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, Man. Her parents are John and Leah Boehm of Kitchener, Ont.

Cynthia Breeze Certificate in Theological Studies. Associate pastor of First Mennonite Church, Champaign-Urbana, Ill. Cindy is married to Clark Breeze.

Bridget Butt MAPS. Will return to Africa to continue work on relief efforts for the

Goma volcano disaster with the Mennonite Central Committee, then do consulting work for a Quaker peace program in Kenya, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Bridget is the daughter of R. Wendy and Michael Butt of Gormley, Ont. She is a member of Grace Baptist Church, Richmond Hill, Ont.

James Carlson MATS in Biblical Studies. Will pursue a Ph.D. degree with plans to teach. James is a member of Trinity Evangelical Free Church, South Bend. His parents are Albert and Shirley Carlson of South Bend.

Jeanine Childs (Not pictured) Certificate in Theological Studies. Will begin an internship in Clinical Pastoral Education at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, Ind. Jeanine and Greg, her



Jairo Arce, Van Bensett, Ruth Boehm, Cynthia Breeze, Bridget Butt

husband, have three children. She is a member of Churubusco (Ind.) United Methodist Church. Her parents are Jack and Doris King of Carmel, Ind.

Barbara Kay Cross Certificate in Theological Studies. Associate Pastor at Calvary United Methodist Church, Avilla, Ind. Barbara and Donald Lee Cross, her husband, have four children and one grandchild.

Randy L. Culp MDiv. Will seek a pastoral ministry assignment. Randy and Jami, his wife, have two children. He is a member of Victory Chapel General Baptist Church, Elkhart, and he is the son of Kay F. Culp of Mishawaka, Ind.

Krista Dutt MDiv. Pursuing a pastoral ministry position. Krista is an associate

member of Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, and is a member of Peace Community United Church of Christ, Waldo, Ohio. Her parents are James and Marsha Dutt of Waldo.

Lillian French (Not pictured) MDiv. Will serve as pastor of a congregation in the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. Lillian and Michael, her husband, have three children and three grandchildren. She currently serves halftime as pastor of Dimondale (Mich.) United Methodist Church.

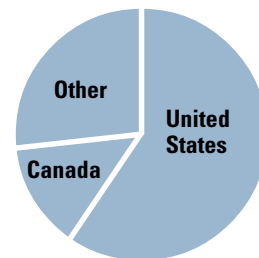
Ingrid E. Friesen MACF. Will continue as dietitian for the Cancer Center at Goshen Health System and will combine training in health, and spiritual care and healing. Ingrid is a member



Even seminary graduates can use a little help from Mom. Tammy Sawatzky, who received the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, got help adjusting her hood from her mother, Bev Sawatzky, administrative secretary to the AMBS dean and Church Leadership Center. Tammy's father is Erick Sawatzky, recently named AMBS Associate Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Ministry.

of Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, and is the daughter of Stan and Delores Friesen of Fresno, Calif.

Countries of 2002 graduates



United States	22
Canada	5
Other	10
India: 2	
Nicaragua: 2	
Thailand: 1	
Korea: 1	
China: 1	
Tanzania: 1	
Ethiopia: 1	
Rwanda: 1	



James Carlson, Barbara Cross, Randy Culp, Krista Dutt, Ingrid Friesen

2002 Graduates

Ditra Garcia MAPS. Will return to Nicaragua to seek ministry opportunities. Ditra and Jairo Arce, also a 2002 AMBS graduate, have two children. Ditra is a member of the Mennonite Church of Managua, Nicaragua.

Chaiya Hadtasunern MAME. Chaiya is a member of the Khunklang congregation in Chiang Mai, Thailand. His parents are Teng and Aia Hadtasunern of Chomthong Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Gene Hartman MDiv. Will continue as lead pastor at Emma Mennonite Church near Topeka, Ind. Gene and Cindy, his wife, have two children. He is the son of Arlene Hartman of Goshen.

Wendy Janzen MDiv. Began a pastoral ministry assignment at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, St. Jacobs, Ont., in

January 2002. Wendy is the daughter of Larry and Doreen Janzen of Rosthern, Sask.

Joann S. Kaiser MDiv. Will serve as director of evangelism for Chesterton United Methodist Church, Chesterton, Ind. Joann and Byron, her husband, have three children. She is a member of First United Methodist Church, Middlebury. She is the daughter of Opal Foster of Monticello.

Teku Kebede MATS in Theology and Ethics. Teku will teach at Meserete Kristos Bible College in Ethiopia and serve the church as education secretary and in preaching, witnessing and training, and writing. He and Misrak Abebe, his wife, have two children. He is a member of the Meserete Kristos Church in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Bock Ki Kim MDiv. Will serve as a church planter for a multicultural church in Toronto, Ont., under the Mennonite Church of Eastern Canada. Bock Ki and Sook Kyoung Park, his wife, have two children. They are members of Charleswood Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, Man. He is originally from Korea.

Nina Bartelt Lanctot MDiv. Will continue as associate pastor of Belmont Mennonite Church, Elkhart, where she was ordained for ministry on May 26. She and Donald R. Lanctot, her husband, have three children. Her parents are Curt and V.V. Bartelt of Lake Lure, N.C.

Elizabeth Landis MAPS. Elizabeth is married to Steven Denlinger and is the daughter of Philip and

Barbara Landis of Lancaster, Pa. She is a member of Ridgeview Mennonite Church, Gordonville, Pa.

Esther Maddimadugu MAPS. Will continue studies at AMBS in the fall. Esther is the daughter of Doris and Das Maddimadugu, Hyderabad, India. She previously received a MATS degree in theology and ethics from AMBS.

Innocent Mashakiro MAPS. Will continue with his career relating to community development and peacemaking. He and Deborah Nyirabera, his wife, have three children. They are members of First Baptist Church, Elkhart. He is originally from Rwanda.



Ditra Garcia, Chaiya Hadtasunern, Gene Hartman, Wendy Janzen, Joann Kaiser, Teku Kebede

“Minister as exiles”

I invite you to minister as exiles,” Juan Martínez told the 2002 graduating class of AMBS in the commencement service on May 24. “I invite you to return to the motif of exile to interpret the church’s mission in the world and also as a way of living wherever God may have you, particularly if you are in the United States or Canada or other parts of the first world.

“God is looking for a faithful community that will work from poverty and simplicity alongside the poor and downtrodden,” he said.

“Go forward in faith, joining that long list of exiles in Hebrews 11. They continued walking in hope,

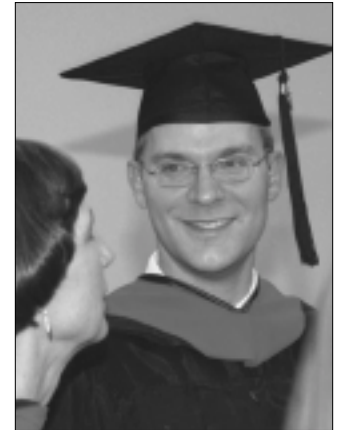


Juan Martínez told graduates to consider themselves exiles as they enter ministry. “Remember that you are part of a worldwide community of faith. Before citizens of the country of your birth, you are citizens of the kingdom of God,” he said.

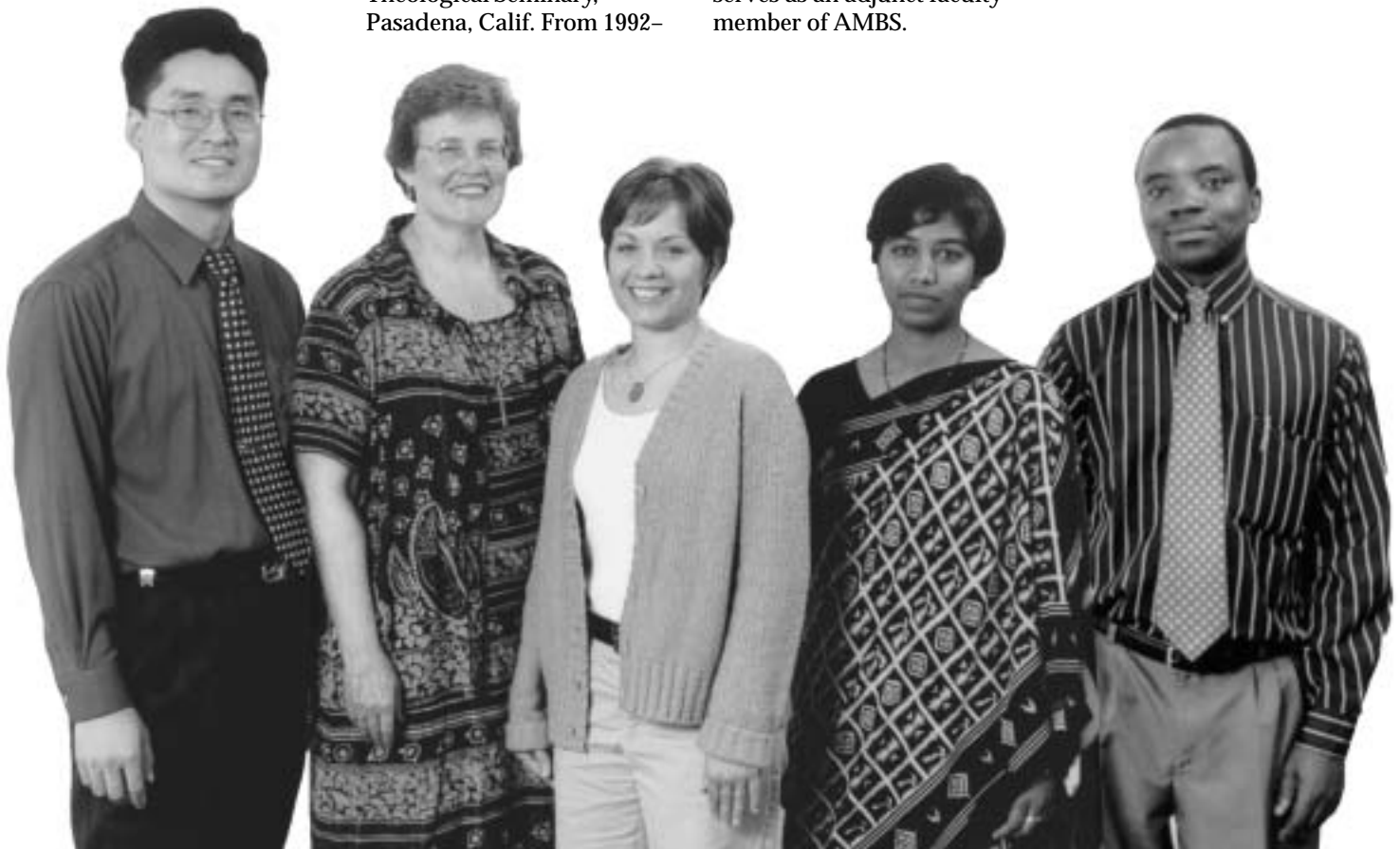
recognizing that they were undocumented aliens, strangers in the land, looking forward to the city whose architect and builder was God.”

Martínez is director of the Hispanic Church Studies Program at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif. From 1992–

2001, he was rector of SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala City, Guatemala. He earned a Ph.D. in intercultural studies from Fuller in 1996, and a Th.M. in Missiology in 1988 also from Fuller. He serves as an adjunct faculty member of AMBS.



Adam Robinson, who earned the Master of Divinity degree, serves with Mennonite Church Canada as human resources coordinator, primarily working with Christian service ministries. From September 2002 to April 2003, he also will be interim Mennonite chaplain at the University of Manitoba.



Bock Ki Kim, Nina Lancot, Elizabeth Landis, Esther Maddimadugu, Innocent Mashakiro

2002 Graduates



Jai Prakash Masih celebrated his Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree with Shireen, his wife, on his left, and his daughters, Sandhya and Rachna. Sandhya studied at Hesston College this past year, while Rachna was a student at Bethany Christian Schools in Goshen. J.P. and Shireen's son, Shobhit, remained in India during their time at AMBS. J.P. hopes to return to India and establish a Mennonite peace center.

Jai Prakash Masih MATS in Anabaptist history. Will work with the Mennonite church in India or serve as a pastor in the U.S., then return to Raipur, India, hoping to start a Mennonite peace center. Jai Prakash and Shireen Masih, his wife, have three children. He is a member of Hebrone Mennonite Church, Kasmunda, India.

Theophilus Odhiambo MATS in Theology and Ethics. Exploring mission opportunities. Theo is married to Agnes Odhiambo and is the son of Narkiso and Peris Odhiambo of Shirati, Tanzania. He is a member of Alichu-Kamageta Mennonite Church.

Rosemary S. Richards MDiv. Pastor of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Bellaire, Ohio. She is a member of the East Ohio Confer-

ence of the United Methodist Church.

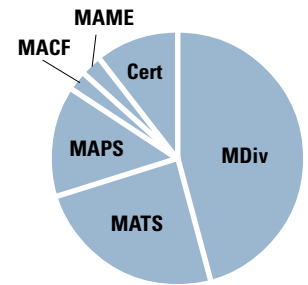
Adam Robinson MDiv. Serves one-half time with Mennonite Church Canada as human resources coordinator. From September 2002 to April 2003, Adam will be interim Mennonite chaplain at the University of Manitoba. Adam is a member of Foothills Mennonite Church, Calgary, and is the son of David and Lorraine Robinson of Okanagan Falls, B.C.

Tamara Sawatzky MATS in church history and the arts. Will serve at a Mennonite camp in Hepworth, Ont. and explore further employment possibilities in Ontario. Tammy is a member of Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen, and is the daughter of Erick and Bev Sawatzky of Goshen.



Jai Prakash Masih, Theophilus Odhiambo, Rosemary Richards, Adam Robinson, Tamara Sawatzky

Degrees of
2002 graduates



MDiv—Master of Divinity	17
MATS—Master of Arts: Theological Studies	9
MAPS—Master of Arts: Peace Studies	5
MACF—Master of Arts in Christian Formation	1
MAME—Master of Arts in Mission and Evangelism	1
Cert—Certificate in Theological Studies	4

Randall Schertz (Not pictured) Certificate in Theological Studies. Will continue serving his congregation, Roanoke Mennonite Church, Eureka, Ill., in areas in which he is called. Randy and Tereza, his wife, have three children. His parents are Wayne and Betty Schertz of Eureka.

Joel Short MDiv with concentration in church history. Will begin September 1 as associate pastor of Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville, Ohio. Joel is married to Karen Short and is a member of Clinton Brick Mennonite Church, Goshen. His parents are LaVon and Linda Short, Archbold, Ohio.

Amy Vachon MATS in biblical studies. Will be department and research assistant for the AMBS Bible Department for the next year

and teaching assistant in several courses. Amy is married to Steve Vachon and has one son. She is a member of Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart. Her parents are Ron and Mary Barker, of Albuquerque, N.M.

Erwin Wiens (Not pictured) MDiv. Will continue as pastor of Windsor Mennonite Church, Windsor, Ont., until July when he and Marian, his wife, plan to work at Jesus Villager Church in Korea under the auspices of Mennonite Church Canada.

Jeff Williams (Not pictured) MDiv. Pursuing a pastoral ministry assignment. Jeff is married to Krista Williams and is a member of Nappanee (Ind.) Brethren in Christ Church. His parents are Larry and Cindy Williams of Big Cove Tannery, Pa.

Jill Ann Wright MDiv. Will serve as pastor of Northwest United Methodist Church, South Bend, Ind. Jill and Bruce, her husband, have two children. Her parents are Donald and Patricia Freers, Elkhart, Ind.

Jackie Wyse MDiv. Will work in the Netherlands with Mennonite Mission Network and the Dutch Mennonite Mission Board. Jackie is a member of Lockport Mennonite Church, Stryker, Ohio, and is the daughter of Sharon and John Wyse of Archbold.

Hongtao Yin MATS in theology and ethics. Hopes to pastor a Chinese congregation in the U.S. Hongtao is married to Hong Gu. Previously he was an evangelist at Chongwenmen Church, Beijing, China. ●



Joel Short, Amy Vachon, Jill Wright, Jackie Wyse, Hongtao Yin



Even after 29 years on the job, there can be surprises. Virgil Claassen, who is retiring from his role as director of business and finance at AMBS, was honored at a special celebration on May 31. His sister Elizabeth Goering (standing next to Virgil) surprised him with the announcement that an endowment fund was initiated by his family to recognize the contributions Virgil and Louise, his wife, have made to the seminary and the church. The fund reached \$50,000 by the day of the celebration. Virgil and Louise determined that earnings will be used for scholarships for international students.

Great Plains director named

Lois Barrett has been named director of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary–Great Plains Extension in central Kansas. She will serve approximately one-half time as administrator and one-quarter time as instructor for the program which offers masters-level theological education for people in the region.

The AMBS-Great Plains program will offer three courses in the 2002–2003 year. See www.amsb.edu/GreatPlains for information.

Erick Sawatzky honored with emeritus designation

Erick Sawatzky was recently named Associate Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Ministry, as he was recognized by the AMBS board for 16 years of teaching and directing the field education program at AMBS. Because of health reasons, Erick will no longer teach after the 2001-2002 year.

At a recent event when faculty and staff recognized Erick’s contributions, Daniel S. Schipani honored Erick for three things: his will to grow professionally, his pastoral wisdom and his collegial spirit. Mary H. Schertz said, “Your ability to hang tough is an act of faith; your ability to let go an act of grace.”

AMBS Window has been published by AMBS since the fall of 1990 without volume and issue numbers. With the redesign that begins in this issue, we are assigning volume and issue numbers, taking into account the twelve-year continuous publication of this newsletter.

Pastors Week

Walter Brueggemann, well-known author and lecturer, will be the featured speaker at Pastors Week, January 27–30, 2003. He will focus on the book of Jeremiah with the theme, “Proclaiming the Old Testament: Finding Gospel in the Hebrew Scriptures.” For information, see www.amsb.edu and search for “Pastors Week.”

Interterm at AMBS

Six courses are offered at AMBS during January:

- Epistle to the Romans, Jacob Elias;
- Isaiah, Ben Ollenburger;
- Liberation Theology: Central American Context, taught in Guatemala by Mario Higueros;
- Anabaptist History and Theology, instructor to be announced;
- Worship and Mission, Alan and Eleanor Kreider;
- Pastoral Counseling and Theology, Daniel Schipani.

For information, see www.amsb.edu and follow links to “Academic Information” and “Courses.”

Day scheduled to honor Erland Waltner

A day to honor Erland Waltner for his life of ministry in the church is scheduled for November 15, 2002, at AMBS. Erland has been a pastor, professor, president of Mennonite Biblical Seminary, president of the General Conference Mennonite Church, and president of Mennonite World Conference.

The events in his honor will include a dinner and a worship service. For information, contact mweidner@amsb.edu or see www.amsb.edu.

John Schrock, Master of Divinity 1994, was ordained for pastoral ministry on May 26, at First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, Ohio.

Anita Schroeder Kipfer, Master of Divinity 1998, was ordained for pastoral ministry on May 26, at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, Kitchener, Ontario.

Bethan Theunissen, Master of Divinity 1994, was ordained for pastoral ministry on June 2 with the United Church of Canada in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The five new overseas mission directors for Mennonite Mission Network are AMBS alumni:

John F. Lapp, Master of Arts: Theological Studies 1988; **Steve Wiebe-Johnson**, Master of Divinity 1993; **J. Robert Charles**, Master of Divinity 1979; **Linda Shelly**, Master of Arts: Peace Studies 1989; and **Sheldon Sawatzky**, who has studied at AMBS.

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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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Photos: Graduate groups—Steve Echols; others—Mary E. Klassen

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