



# w i n d o w

## The center of our hope

*J. Nelson Kraybill, AMBS president*

**T**wo recent letters remind me that church and seminary must be centered on Jesus:

- A minister sent me a copy of an AMBS publicity piece, noting it made references to God but did not mention Jesus. “Many of our churches and church institutions are hesitant or perhaps fearful to use the name of Jesus in a forward manner,” he wrote. “We live in too global a community not to identify clearly which God we are referring to.”

- Another pastor wrote saying he believes Mennonites are less inclined today than a generation ago to teach that Jesus died “in our place, taking the punishment that we deserve for sin.” Implications of this show up in a generation who believe the cross primarily was “the ultimate example of nonviolence.” Such an understanding is a “form of godliness, but no power,” he wrote.

These pastors recognize the primary theological temptation facing twenty-first century Mennonites: to downplay the incarnation and resurrection (because they are socially and intellectually offensive), and to use generic God language (with Jesus as a mere example of ethical

spirituality). Such reduction of the Christian message may be politically expedient, but it is not the gospel.

The first priority in the AMBS mission statement is “to prepare pastors, missionaries, teachers, evangelists and other church leaders both to proclaim and to live according to the gospel of Jesus Christ.” This year’s graduates have been shaped by a variety of biblical images for explaining the cross and resurrection of Jesus. These include *liberation, redemption, and*

*victory over the powers of sin and death. The church needs all these images*

Transforming ministry requires sustained encounter with God made known in Jesus Christ. A new book by AMBS professor Arthur Paul Boers, *The Rhythm of God’s Grace: Uncovering Morning and Evening Hours of Prayer* (Paraclete Press, 2003), is a helpful guide to such encounter. Good prayer books feature a daily cycle of worship: prayers, scripture, and devotional texts organized around the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. When the risen Lord is the center of our lives, the Spirit will empower us to speak and act in ways that honor the One who shows us the face of God. ●

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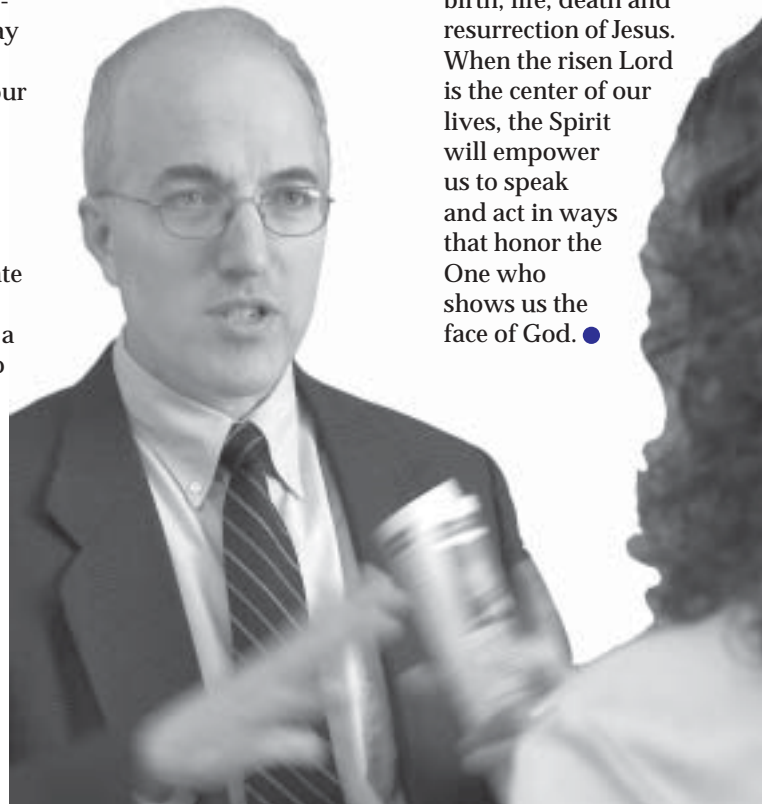
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## Thirty-three earn degrees and certificates

**T**hirty-three students graduated from AMBS on May 23, 2003.

Eighteen men and 15 women completed programs of study to receive degrees or certificates.

Find out more about the graduates here and at the AMBS web site: [www.ambs.edu](http://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

**John T. Abraham** MDiv. (Not pictured) Pastor of Melrose and Sandusky United Methodist Churches in southeastern Iowa. John and Dianne, his wife, have three daughters and one grandson. He is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Keokuk, Iowa.

**Stephen T. (Tom) August** MDiv. Will begin a chaplaincy residency at Howard Community Hospital in Kokomo, Ind. Tom and Mary Ellen August, his wife, have one child. He is a member of North Baltimore Mennonite Church, Baltimore, Md., and an associate member of Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church, Elkhart. His parents are J. Thomas August and Jean N. August, Baltimore.

**Elda Bachman** Certificate in Theological Studies. (Not pictured) Will continue as a volunteer minister

of visitation for First Mennonite Church, Newton, Kan., and in other volunteer roles. Elda has four adult children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Matthew Bailey-Dick** MAPS. Will enjoy full-time parenting and will teach "History of the Peace Movement" at Conrad Grebel University College in winter 2004. Matthew and Nina, his wife, have one son. He is a member of Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church, Waterloo, Ont., and his parents are Karl and Vicki Dick, Kenilworth, Ont.

**James Bontrager** MDiv. Will begin as pastor at Milford United Methodist Church, Milford, Ind. Jim and Jane, his wife, have three children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is a member of Calvary United Methodist Church, Elkhart.

**Gregory Buchner** MDiv. Will continue as pastor of Wakelee United Methodist Church, Marcellus, Mich. Greg and AnnMarie Buchner have two children. Greg is a member of Stevensville United Methodist Church, Stevensville. His parents are Clara L. Lovell and the Rev. Lewis "Bud" Buchner.

**Laura Sue Dueck** MATS in theology and ethics. Pursuing work with a Mennonite service organization in areas of program planning and facilitation. Laura Sue and Allan K. Dueck, her husband, have three children. She is a member of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, Goshen, Ind. She is the daughter of Helen Gene Kennell, Eureka, Ill.

**Karmen Krahn Fehr** MACF with a concentration in worship. Will complete her thesis, "The Rituals of



Steven "Tom" August, Matthew Bailey-Dick, James Bontrager, Gregory Buchner



**Graduate John Kasper, who led a hymn during the commencement service, is pastor of the Galien-Olive Branch Parish of the United Methodist Church in southern Michigan. He and two other United Methodist pastors from southern Michigan, Wayne McKenney and Mark Mitchell, commuted together for seven years to complete their Master of Divinity degrees at AMBS.**

Liturgy and Ethics," in fall, then will seek ways to serve the church as a resource for worship. Karmen is married to Dennis Fehr, and they are members of Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind. Her parents are Bob and Agatha Krahn of Swift Current, Sask.

**Carol A. Harder** MACF. (Not pictured) Pursuing work in spiritual direction with a special focus on food and

spirituality. Carol is a member of Faith Mennonite Church, Minneapolis, Minn., and is the daughter of Betty Harder of Mountain Lake, and the late Walter Harder.

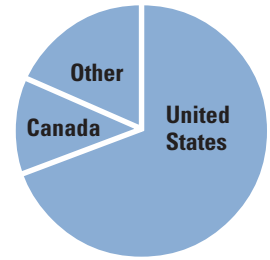
**Deb Hewitt** MDiv with pastoral care and counseling emphasis. Will work at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, South Bend, Ind., as a resident chaplain. Deb is a member of First Baptist

Church, South Bend. Deb has two sons and she is the daughter of Rowena Willsey, South Bend.

**Garry Janzen** MATS. Will continue on the pastoral staff of Sherbrooke Mennonite Church, Vancouver, B.C., where he has served since September 1998. Garry and Diane, his wife, have three children. His parents are Dave and Evelyn Janzen of Rosthern, Sask.

**Daniel Johnston** MDiv. Will continue with Methodist Health System, Omaha, Neb., as coordinator of the Center of Health Ministry, providing educational and health promotion resources to faith communities. Dan and Michelle Stauffer Johnston, his wife, have three children. He attends Brookside Church in Omaha. He is the son of Orvis Johnston, Leonard, Mo.

### Countries of 2003 graduates



United States ..... 23  
 Canada ..... 4  
 Other ..... 6

Ethiopia: 2  
 India: 1  
 Japan: 1  
 Korea: 1  
 Nigeria: 1



**Laura Sue Dueck, Karmen Krahn Fehr, Deb Hewitt, Garry Janzen, Daniel Johnston**

## 2003 Graduates

**John Kasper** MDiv. Will continue as pastor of the Galien-Olive Branch Parish, United Methodist Church, in southern Michigan. John and Debra Rae, his wife, have five children. He is the son of Sidney and Marian Kasper, Ionia.

**Karen Weldy Kaufman** MDiv in pastoral care and counseling. Will continue as chaplain at Oaklawn Psychiatric Hospital in Goshen, Ind. Karen and Dave, her husband, have two children. She is a member of Southside Fellowship, Elkhart.

**Esther Lanting** MDiv. (Not pictured) Will continue as pastor of Hudson Lake Mennonite Church, New Carlisle, Ind., beginning her seventh year in June.

**Yoon Shik Lee** MACF with concentration in Christian spirituality. Will pursue graduate studies in spirituality. Yoon Shik and Jung Og, his wife, have two children. He is a member of Jesus Village Church in Korea and attends Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Elkhart. His mother is Soo Ja Lee of Los Angeles, Calif.

**Todd Lehman** MDiv. Will continue as pastor of Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, Ore., where he has served since October 2002. Todd and Dawn Hardt Lehman, his wife, have three children. His parents are Jerry and Janice Lehman of Aberdeen, Idaho.

**Wayne McKenney** MDiv. Pastor of Webberville United Methodist Church, Webberville, Mich. Wayne and Sally, his wife, have two children.

His parents are John and Cynthia McKenney of Petoskey, Mich.

**Tsubasa Mine** MATS in Biblical Studies. Tsubasa is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ in Miyazaki, Japan. He is the son of Matsuko Mine of Miyazaki.

**Mark Mitchell** MDiv. Will continue as pastor of Homer United Methodist Church, Homer, Mich., and Lyon Lake United Methodist Church, Marshall, Mich. Mark and Joyce, his wife, have two children. He is the son of H. Edward Mitchell of Frankfort, Ind.

**Takele Tassew Mojire** MAPS Will pursue doctoral studies. Takele is a member of the Ethiopian Kale Heywet

Church. He is the son of Matabe Tigro of Wollaitta, Soddo, Ethiopia.

**Titus Oyeyemi** MAPS. (Not pictured) Will begin a post-secondary peace academy in Nigeria. He and Fehintola O. Oyeyemi, his wife, have five children. He is a member of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church. He is the son of Alice Iyabo Oyeyemi of Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria.

**Cheryl Paulovich** Certificate in Theological Studies. Cheryl and David, her husband, have three children. She is a member of East Goshen Mennonite Church, and is the daughter of John and Miriam Beachy of Goshen.



John Kasper, Karen Weldy Kaufman, Yoon Shik Lee, Todd Lehman, Wayne McKenney

## Pay attention to “O”s, poet tells graduates

Commencement speaker Jean Janzen invited graduates “to take the exclamation of ‘O’ and make it a foundation of your living.” Focusing on the “O”s of wonder, of sorrow and of home, the poet and writing instructor called graduates to pay attention to their lives.

“Notice that the ordinary is always extraordinary,” she said, adding that wonder leads to respect and reverence.

Out of wonder and reverence we are called to confession, Janzen continued. The “O” of sorrow is present in life, and she

reminded listeners that we are to “take the ritual of confession with us on our journey.”

Finally, she encouraged graduates to find the “O” of home in God. “We are encouraged to allow Jesus to be our source of nourishment, the vine, the very source of being.” We must make God our home, she said, noting that home is more than comfort; it also is a place of growth and discovery, of pruning and fire.

Janzen teaches poetry writing at Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, Calif., and Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg,



President Emeritus Erland Waltner greets Jean Janzen, commencement speaker, prior to the service on May 23. A poet and writing instructor, Jean invited graduates to make the exclamation of “O” a part of their daily lives.

Va. Her published collections of poetry are *Words for the Silence* (1984), *The Upside-Down Tree* (1992), *Snake in the Parsonage* (1995) and *Tasting the Dust* (2001). She holds a Master of Arts

degree from California State University, Fresno, and in 1995 received the prestigious Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts. ●



Tsubasa Mine, Mark Mitchell, Takele Tassew Mojire, Cheryl Paulovich

## 2003 Graduates



Graduate Amanda Yoder is involved in casework and street outreach with a homeless program in Indianapolis, Ind. She is the daughter of June Alliman Yoder, AMBS associate professor of preaching and communication, and John D. Yoder.

**Kristina Schlabach** MDiv in pastoral care and counseling. Will become pastor of care at Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen. Tina and Jay, her husband, have three children. She is a member of Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, Tucson, Ariz. She is the daughter of Vic and Marie Stoltzfus of Goshen, Ind.

**Yusak Budi Setyawan** MATS in theology and ethics. Will teach at Satya Wacana Christian University in Indonesia. He is married to dr. Dwikorina Dewanti and they have two children. He is a member of a Mennonite congregation in Salatiga, Indonesia. He is the son of Yos Samuel Widodo, Kudus, Central Java, Indonesia.

**Penny Sharkey** MDiv. Exploring a mission assign-

ment. Penny has two children and she is a member of East Holbrook Mennonite Church, Cheraw, Colo. Her parents are Don and Twyla Martin of Colorado.

**Timothy Singenstreu** MDiv. Will continue work with Choice Books. Tim and Loretta, his wife, have one son. He is a member of Pleasant View Mennonite Church, and attends Griner Conservative Mennonite Church, both near Goshen, Ind. His parents are Frank and Sandra Singenstreu of Victoria, Texas.

**June E. Thomsen** MDiv. Will continue as pastor of the Grace Community Church, Chicago, Ill. June and Ib Thomsen, her husband, have two adult daughters. She is the daughter of Reuben L. Emerson, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Mary Ann Weber** MACF with a concentration in Christian education. Will work in human resources and



Tina Schlabach, Yusak Setyawan, Penny Sharkey, Timothy Singenstreu, June E. Thomsen

communications for Mennonite Central Committee—Great Lakes. Mary Ann is a member of Landisville Mennonite Church, Landisville, Pa. Her parents are Floyd and Salinda Weber, Denver, Pa.

**Faith Weedling** MDiv. Will continue as chaplain with Pacific Health Ministry in Honolulu, Hawaii. Faith and Steven, her husband, have two children. She is a member of Wahaiwa United Methodist Church, Wahiawa. Her parents are Raymond and Diane Page, Milford, Conn.

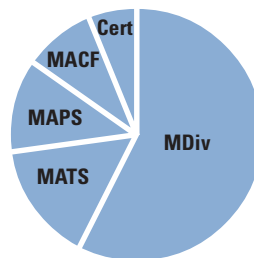
**Eunice Yantzi** MDiv. Will return to Toronto, Ont., to complete writing projects. Eunice is a member of Hillcrest Mennonite Church, New Hamburg, Ont., and also has attended Warden

Woods Mennonite Church and New Life Centre, both in Toronto.

**Amanda Yoder** MDiv. Will do casework and street outreach with a homeless program in downtown Indianapolis, Ind. Amanda is married to Jonathan Schrock and she is a member of College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind. Her parents are John D. and June Alliman Yoder of Goshen.

**Mulugeta Zewdie** MAPS. Will become president of Meserete Kristos College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mulugeta and Mulunesh Shigute, his wife, have two children. He is a member of Meserete Kristos Church, a Mennonite church, in Ethiopia. While studying at AMBS, he attended Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind. ●

## Degrees of 2003 graduates



<b>MDiv—Master of Divinity</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>MATS—Master of Arts: Theological Studies</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>MAPS—Master of Arts: Peace Studies</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>MACF—Master of Arts in Christian Formation</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Cert—Certificate in Theological Studies</b> .....	<b>2</b>



**Thomas Schlabach** helped his mother, **Tina Schlabach**, celebrate her graduation. She received a Master of Divinity degree and will become pastor of care at Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.



**Mary Ann Weber, Faith Weedling, Eunice Yantzi, Amanda Yoder, Mulugeta Zewdie**

## Faculty publications

*The Rhythm of God's Grace, Uncovering Morning and Evening Hours of Prayer*, by Arthur Paul Boers, AMBS assistant professor of pastoral theology, was published by Paraclete this spring. See more about it, including a downloadable study guide and an interview with Arthur, at [www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com); enter *Arthur Paul Boers* in the search box.

A book by Daniel S. Schipani, AMBS professor of pastoral care and counseling, *The Way of Wisdom in Pastoral Counseling*, will be published this summer by the Institute of Mennonite Studies. An early reviewer commented, "Daniel

Schipani recovers a biblical understanding of wisdom and moves beyond a medical paradigm to an understanding of pastoral ministry that facilitates growth in wisdom."

A new book by Willard M. Swartley, AMBS professor of New Testament, has just been released by Herald Press. See more about *Homosexuality: Biblical Interpretation and Moral Discernment* at <http://exodus.mph.org/books/homosexuality.htm>.

See a full list of AMBS faculty writings and publications at the AMBS web site: [www.amsb.edu](http://www.amsb.edu). Look for the link on the home page.

## Interterm courses

AMBS in Elkhart will offer seven courses during January 2004:

- Biblical Spirituality with Willard Swartley (Jan. 12–23)
- Epistle to the Romans with Jacob Elias (Jan. 5–23)
- Church and Society with Walter Sawatsky (Jan. 5–23)
- History of Christian Spirituality with John Rempel (Jan. 5–23)
- Communion with Eleanor Kreider (Jan. 5–23)
- Christian Formation in the Congregation with Marlene Kropf (Jan. 5–23)

In addition, Art McPhee will lead a mobile seminar on Global Urbanization to India during January.

AMBS–Great Plains will offer two interterm courses:

- Spiritual Disciplines Seminar: Prayer, with Kathryn Damiano;
- Spiritual Disciplines Seminar: Congregational Discernment as Spiritual Practice, with Brenda Glanzer Lilliston

See more at [www.amsb.edu](http://www.amsb.edu). Follow links to *Academic Information*, *Courses*, then choose the term for which you want details.

## Ron Ringenberg to be director of development

Ron Ringenberg of Wheaton, Ill., will become director of development for AMBS starting Aug. 1. Most recently he has been involved in a Clinical Pastoral Education program at Rush/Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago. Previously he was vice president for services at Hyperion Solutions in Lisle. He is a member of Lombard Mennonite Church.

**Brian Martin Burkholder**, Master of Divinity 1998, will become campus pastor at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va., this fall. He has been program director of Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Mich., since 1998.

**Kathy Colliver**, Master of Divinity 2001, was ordained June 1 2003, at First Mennonite Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Mark Diller Harder**, Master of Divinity 1993, was ordained May 11, 2003, at First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, Ont.

**Ron Ropp**, Bachelor of Divinity 1962, received the Retired Chaplain Award from the Association of Professional Chaplains.

**Margaret Sawatsky**, Master of Arts: Theological Studies 1996, was ordained June 15 at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Elkhart. She is a chaplain at Greencroft Retirement Communities, Goshen.

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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.

Editor and Designer: Mary E. Klassen  
Photos: Page 1 and graduate groups—Steve Echols; others—Mary E. Klassen

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Graduate Titus Oyeyemi, who earned the Master of Arts: Peace Studies degree, plans to return to Nigeria to establish a post-secondary peace academy. Two other students also from Africa were part of the 2003 graduating class: Mulugeta Zewdie and Takele Tassew Mojire, both from Ethiopia.