



On the Internet — <http://kmmc.mennonite.net>
Web page will be moving. See Tech Update below.

Newsletter of The Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus

From the Director ... Well, here we go! We will come together once again to make music, to share our voices and experience men singing together. Last year I introduced the song, "The Awakening" and it brought out emotions in our singers that I did not expect. As we went through the season, many of you shared with me what the song had come to mean on a personal level. As I read the text to our audiences, I even became emotional. With the incredible reactions to this text, I have chosen to share this wonderful song with my high school choir. We have been working on it for a week and already, I have seen students experiencing the "chills" that we experienced. Music allows us the ability to outwardly express joy, sadness and exhilaration. To see my students already open up because of our shared love of music is a wonderful thrill for me.



It comes down to this: music is a vital part of our lives and it allows us to become vulnerable and show emotions that most men are afraid to. KMMC allows men to come together to experience the joys of singing but even better; we come together to share our love of Christ through our music!

As important as our experiences have been to us through singing with KMMC, we owe it to our friends to allow them to experience the same. We all need to reach out and invite other men into KMMC so that they too can sing so others may live!

p.s. – Yes – we are singing "The Awakening" again this year!!!

See you in rehearsals! ☺ ... *Greg Bontrager* ♪

From Our President ... As your Steering Committee makes plans for another successful concert season, we've been reminded of the variety of gifts necessary to make our organization function effectively. Gifts beyond the joy of singing together and helping raise financial support for the ministries of MCC; of helping select our music and directing rehearsals and performances; of instrumental accompaniments that add beauty to our concerts and administrative and technical skills to help facilitate our registrations, promotional efforts, recordings, travel and all the unique touches that add so much to our singing experience.



Recruitment for these opportunities is much easier when everyone keeps their eyes open for gifted people. And when those of you who are already interested in serving in our leadership simply come to one of us and say, "Hey I'm willing to help-where do you need me?" Perhaps the Holy Spirit is already encouraging some of you in this even today.

One of the two most important opportunities right now is for a vice president who will get acquainted with our administrative work and be ready to take my place when my term as president is completed in 2013; and also for someone gifted in computers to come along-side Jack Mace with your technical interests, to help develop the best technology possible for expediting registration and membership services as we move into the future. Our Technology Team consists of Chairman Daryl Regier, Jack Mace, (Membership Chair), myself and other advisors as needed. We want to hear from any of you about potential help for these important tasks.

We're glad that Cal Frye has joined us as our new Secretary, Mike Lamb and Keith Leinbach for our Promotion and Travel Committees respectively, John Goerzen as our Web Designer and Melvin Miller is our new representative to the MCC Sale Committee. So where might you lend a hand?

One night the Apostle Paul had a dream of a man standing in the distance calling out saying, "Would you please come over here and help us?" Right now you can help us by answering several questions and bringing them to our first rehearsal on Sunday, February 26. You can sign your name or remain anonymous, but thank you for helping us in this way.

- What are 2 or 3 of the most important reasons why you sing in KMMC?
- How can I encourage younger singers to join us and help retain our exciting mix of young and old singing God's praises together "that others might live?"
- Please add any suggestions you'd like to make to the Steering Committee.
- Would you consider serving on the Steering Committee? If so, please sign your name.

Yours as we again "sing that others might live,"
KMMC President, Lee Suderman ♪

Tech Update

e-mail; E-mail allows quick, low-cost communication. **Please be sure we have an accurate e-mail address so you can receive prompt updates.** US Mail is for members without e-mail and those who have sung with us in the past 5 years. Getting this by US Mail means that we do not have your e-mail address, or the e-mail we sent you was returned as undeliverable.

Web Site; Our new web site, www.ksmenschorus.org, will soon be complete. We are looking forward a new design contributing to easier, more frequent updates. The old web address (above) will remain active with diminished content. It will, however, have a prominent re-direct link to our new web site.

KMMC 2012 Music Packets

Learning CD production (finishing on February 6 or 7) has pushed the music packing date to **Friday, February 10**; two weeks before our first rehearsal on February 26. Thus, **singers who want their music and learning CD's before the first rehearsal must get their registrations in at least by February 8.** Due to personal and professional schedules of key persons, the 9th and 10th are reserved for printing various papers needed for packing. Because mail sometimes causes delayed delivery, (and because of the personal schedules), packets for late registrations will be held for delivery at the February 26 rehearsal.

Registrations will continue to be accepted and processed well into our rehearsal schedule.

Packets will not be mailed in the last two weeks before our first rehearsal.

An Update from MCC ... MCC is currently providing relief from the suffering of famine in Ethiopia and other East African countries through their food-for-work programs. In Munathi, Kenya, 63-year-old Kyalo Ivongo has seen many droughts, "but this one is among the worst. There is no water, food for people, or pasture for the animals. Even the goats are hungry, which never happens." But in exchange for labor on sand dams, Ivongo's family has received wheat, beans and cooking oil. These dams will help the community withstand future droughts.

In addition to such relief work, development efforts include employment for women in Bangladesh. Around the world, women must often overcome many obstacles to find work to meet the basic needs of their families. An MCC job creation and fiber research center in Jalchatra tests ideas to make durable, new products out of recycled and natural materials—which are made and sold through income generation products that employ rural women. Such work has transformed the life of employee Bina Morang, 29 year old mother of three who can earn a fair wage for the

first time. "Now we have sufficient food to eat year-round," she says, and two of her children are also going to school this year.

In the past decade, Bolivia's indigenous majority has driven a process of social and political change that has brought hope to some and fear to others. The change has exacerbated traditional divisions between indigenous, western highlands and eastern lowlands, fueling hatred and outbreaks of violence. MCC Bolivia's Connecting Peoples peace exchange program seeks to develop relationships and build bridges between those who consider each other enemies. A weeklong exchange for 26 young people from El Alto and Santa Cruz allowed them a new opportunity to get to know each other and lay the groundwork for peace. "Every day we had reflection, spiritual formation and other activities to help us see things in another way . . . I heard other people's stories and began to understand their background," said participant Hilda Cerezo.

"Thank you, Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus, for supporting the work of MCC!"

John Stoesz Exec. Dir. MCC Central States 🎵



KMMC recruiting folders reported incorrect rehearsal time for our April 15, concert day rehearsal.
The correct schedule is printed below. Please take note of the line highlighted with border and bold text.

Mass Rehearsals

Location	Date	Time	Place	Director
Hesston, KS	February 26	2:30 PM	Hesston Mennonite Church	Greg Bontrager
Hesston, KS	March 11	2:30 PM	Hesston Mennonite Church	Greg Bontrager
Hesston, KS	April 1	2:30 PM	Hesston Mennonite Church	Greg Bontrager

Concert Day Mass Rehearsals

N Newton, KS	April 15	3:30 PM	Bethel College, Memorial Hall	Greg Bontrager
Lindsborg, KS	April 22	4:30 PM	Bethany College, Presser Hall	Greg Bontrager

Take note of concert day rehearsals noted here and arrive ahead of time so we may start promptly.

Area Rehearsals

Location	Day, Date	Time	Place	Director
Hesston, KS	March 4	2:30 PM	Hesston Mennonite Church	Greg Bontrager
Wichita, KS	March 5	7:30 PM	Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church	Vern Zielke
Hesston, KS	March 25	2:30 PM	Hesston Mennonite Church	Greg Bontrager
Wichita, KS	March 26	7:30 PM	Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church	Vern Zielke

Concerts – We Sing that Others May Live

Location	Day, Date	Time	Place	Director
N Newton, KS	April 15	7:00 PM	Memorial Hall, Bethel College	Greg Bontrager
Lindsborg, KS	April 22	7:00 PM	Presser Hall, Bethany College	Greg Bontrager



What KMMC Means to me ... My travel time to and from work lasts about 20 minutes each way. During this time it's an excellent time for me to sing along with the rehearsal CD that our director and others have been making for the last number of years. I can sing till I get it right. Sometimes the emotions take over and the throat tightens up and the words won't come. It is the words of the song resonating with the truth of the Lord that can bring a tear and joyfulness to this singer.

Then there is the live rehearsal. Rehearsing with a large group of fellow Christians and singing praise to Jesus Christ our Lord is something not many people in this world get to experience. I consider myself very blessed to be part of KMMC. Rehearsing brings almost as much enjoyment as singing for a live audience.

Following the rehearsals is the live performance; WOW; the sound of singing from 300 men with a common theme and bond in the Lord brings a wide range of emotion. From feeling so humbled and unimportant to the realization that the words of the music proclaim the truth that God instructs

us to proclaim. What a joy it is to watch the audience as they receive inspiration from a chorus whose motto is "We Sing That Others May Live."

An added bonus for me (and many of you experience) is singing with my son. We have been together in the chorus for many years. It has been very fulfilling to enjoy rehearsing and performing together. Add to that singing with a good friend only heightens the joy.

As treasurer of KMMC I have the great fortune of seeing the offerings come from a wide variety of donors. From the smallest to the largest donations all are given to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee. Over the past 43 years the chorus has received over \$600,000.00 in donations. All donations are sent directly to MCC. "MCC shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice." I count it as an honor and privilege to serve as treasurer and to watch as funds are disbursed to MCC.

Daryl Regier 🎵

Remembering: We begin each new season with recognition of members who have died recently. Another trend is showing up; the number of wives who have died. We need to recognize them as well. They have always been with us in one way or another; concerts, trips and even in some cases at every rehearsal with their husbands. They are truly a part of KMMC. As we prepare for our 2012 concert season, would you make a point to let Lee Suderman (KMMC President leesuderman@cox.net) know of any past singers or wives who have died recently and who haven't been recognized by the chorus.

A Prayer for KMMC? I wanted to include a prayer in this newsletter for the future of KMMC; a poem that would inspire everyone to bring in new members and to volunteer for the responsibilities that Lee speaks of in his article. A great plan; right?

Not really; every time I started writing, a roadblock loomed somewhere between word one and word two. I'd "scrap my work" and start again. Attempt after attempt, I might actually put four or five words together; and hit the roadblock again. Somewhere between attempt four and five it hit me. I was going after what I wanted and not God's will. Let me explain.

I learned a long time ago that prayer **does not** change things.

Prayer **does not** change thee. ... **Prayer changes ME!**

When things aren't going well between someone and me, the appropriate response is **not** to pray for them. I must pray for my own attitudes as they contribute to the problem. If someone is intransigent, it is inappropriate to pray for them to change, but it is appropriate to pray for my attitudes. That

happens far more often than I want to admit. After such prayer it is amazing what a "nice guy" the other person becomes.

Who'd a thunk it?

I also learned not to pray for something before I had a sense of God's will. I assure you; if we wait for revelation God will make it clear to us. I have learned that if I wait and still can't see it, to pray for patience while waiting.

So, there I was writing a prayer that would get our singers inspired to action. I really believe that is what God wants, but I was not taking God's approach. I was working solely on my own approach.

Now, I'm back to waiting on God's will; no prayer here except for this confession; and an invitation for you to join me in waiting and seeking the divine will. Won't you put in your own plea for God's revelation; and if you happen to feel God nudging you to do something, let us know. We sure can use you!

Jack Mace 🎵

Your KMMC Steering Committee

<i>Greg Bontrager</i>	<i>Director</i>
<i>Leland Suderman</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>(Position is open.)</i>
<i>Marvin Zehr</i>	<i>Past-President</i>
<i>Daryl Regier</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Cal Frye</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Jack Mace</i>	<i>Membership</i>
<i>Vern Zielke</i>	<i>Music Committee</i>
<i>Norman Yoder</i>	<i>Publicity</i>
<i>Mike Lamb</i>	<i>Publicity</i>
<i>Melvin Miller</i>	<i>MCC Sale Representative</i>

KMMC Advisors

<i>John Goerzen</i>	<i>Web Designer</i>
<i>Bob Neufeld</i>	<i>Trip Registration</i>
<i>Keith Leinbach</i>	<i>Travel Arrangements</i>

Phone numbers and e-mail addresses of the KMMC leaders above are withheld from this web-based newsletter in order to protect their privacy from spammers. If KMMC members wish to contact them, please refer to previously published hard-copy lists or e-mailed lists which you have received.