



# Hmong Mennonite *United*

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2009

## FIRST EDITION

**Welcome to Hmong Mennonite United.** This newsletter came about through the Hmong Mennonite Mission Conference in June. Sou Vang was elected to be Editor of the newsletter and agreed to take on the task if Pastor Jeff Wintermote would assist him. As those assembled to discuss the purpose and shape of the newsletter met, a common theme shone through – we want to be more *United*. With churches stretching from Hickory to Fresno and from Kitchener to Denver, it is easy to miss what is happening in all the churches. Our hope is that through this newsletter the Hmong Mennonite Churches will find a bond in Christ. As you read each article please stop to pray for those written about.

Sou Vang will be doing the primary work of taking this newsletter and putting it in web page form. Pastor Jeff will do the layout of the email/print edition. A volunteer from each congregation will be passing onto us the monthly happenings of the churches. In these pages we will be celebrating baptisms, weddings and birth. News of what the youth are doing and the vision & dreams given by God for the future of the church will be shared.

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*  
*Pastor Jeff Wintermote*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Hmong Mennonite Youth Conference Held in Denver June 19-21

The youth conference held this past June was spiritually strengthening. We were all able to meet and build a better relationship among ourselves and along with God. Our goals for the conference were to foster connection between the Hmong Mennonite Youth through mutually increased awareness of one another's realities. To depart from the every Sunday Christian life and build an everyday intimate relationship with God on a deeper personal level and to believe somewhere in our walk with God, we don't get caught up with duties and deadlines, but know why we are serving him in the first place. It was very meaningful for me to be able to meet everyone and know that we are still praising and worshiping God altogether.

Penny Moua

Youth President of Hmong Mennonite Churches Missions



**More pictures of youth conference on page 4**

## Father's Day at Union Reservoir

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, the Denver Youth Group held a Father's Day BBQ at Union Reservoir in Longmont, CO, half an hour north of Denver. Even though it was a late Father's Day Celebration, all the father's appreciated the thought and effort put forward from the youth. The youth felt obligated to counter the Mother's Day Celebration a few months earlier. The day started off with firing up a few charcoal grills and propane stoves to meet the lunch dead line at noon. The lunch menu included the typical grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, pork, beef, chicken, etc. There were also other delicious homemade side dishes prepared by the elders. After lunch, everyone gathered around the picnic tables to sing a couple of songs and listen to Pastor Vang Kou deliver his sermon. Yes, the Denver Hmong Mennonite had church service at the picnic area of the reservoir. Following the church service, Pastor Vang Kou led the members to a shallow section of the reservoir. On that warm partly overcast Sunday, 22 of the Denver Hmong Mennonite members were baptized. One by one, Pastor Vang Kou submerged them in the murky brownish- green water. The baptism included all 5 of Pastor Vang Kou's off springs, his son-in-a-law, two children, seven elders, and seven youth members. At the end of the day, no father's were more proud than our heavenly Father above; he received 22 new additions to his family!

### New addition to the Denver Hmong Mennonite Church

Chong Lee and Mao Vang had Connor on May 31, 2009. He weighed 7 lbs, 3 oz and 19.5 inches long!



Baby Conner Vang at 2 months



Pastor Vang Kou and Chia Pao Thao saying a prayer before baptizing Jandon Ramos.

## Denver Hmong Mennonite Baptism List July, 26, 2009

1. Tou Yang
2. Grace Her
3. Pang Vang
4. Long Yang
5. Zang Xiong
6. Thai Xiong
7. Nujira Thoedpraiphanawan
8. Janjira Thoedpraiphanawan
9. Tatdao Thoedpraiphanawan
10. Athit Thoedpraiphanawan
11. Sunee Thoedpraiphanawan
12. Steven Thao
13. Theodor K Thao
14. Nouchee Thao
15. Jandon Ramos
16. Yeudi Xiong-Thao
17. Neng Moua
18. Kongmeng Yang
19. Kevin Yang
20. David Yang
21. Monica Yang
22. Angela Yang

## WHAT IS HMONG MENNONITE CHURCHES MISSION?

The first Hmong Mennonite Church in North America was planted in Kitchener Canada in 1976 when Hmong refugee settled in Kitchener, Canada. Later, the Hmong Mennonite Church planted churches in Fresno, California and then in several cities in the United States. Presently, there are also Hmong Mennonite congregations in Hickory, North Carolina, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Denver, Colorado.

Hmong Mennonite congregations in the United States and Canada had difficulties growing and spreading the Gospel of Christ to Hmong people in the United States, Canada, and Oversea. They also found it difficult to function effectively as Mennonite congregations because of the new organization of the Mennonite Denomination in Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. On August 3-4, 2003 Hmong Mennonite Churches in the United States and Canada met in Denver Colorado for fellowship and worship together. There they decided to establish Hmong Mennonite Churches Mission. The purpose being to provide Area conferences and Mennonite related agencies a means to help the Hmong Mennonite Churches grow and spread the Gospel of Christ to the Hmong people more effectively in the future. Secondly, Hmong Mennonite Churches Mission was established to assist Hmong Mennonite congregations to connect more deeply and to develop better relationships with the area conferences. Thirdly, this organization's goal is to help Hmong Mennonite congregations, Area Conferences, Mennonite Mission Network, and the wider Mennonite Church in planting more churches in the future.



Pastor Shoua preaching at Mission Conference

## Pastor Jeff travels to Laos

During the month of Trinity Mennonite Church in Hillsboro, Kansas collected coins each Sunday to buy children's coats for 3 villages in Khop district, Xayabouli Province, Laos. \$650 was raised from all the quarters, dimes, nickles, and pennies given. 130 coats were purchased in Vientiane along with school supplies which were send via Save the Children vehicle to Xayabouli City. From there a 4-wheel truck took the coats and school supplies to Khop District. Pastor Jeff had hoped to deliver the coats himself to the children, but because of logistics, they were delivered the week before he arrived in Laos. While sad that he could not travel to the Hmong village, Pastor Jeff took advantage of his time in Vientiane to visit the Mennonite Central Committee office, Save the Children office, & an adult English program. The highlight of his time in Laos was attending the Sunday morning worship service at the Phaxay Lao Evangelical Church. The church was packed full and the worship was lively. Pastor Jeff felt privileged to take his interpreter and her friend, both Buddhists, to church with him. It was the first time that either of them had been to a church.

Pictures on page 5

## Updates from Hickory Mennonite Church

Hickory is rejoicing with the arrival of Jonah Vue, baby girl born to Mong Vue and Mee Lee. Congratulations to Mong and Mee!

One of our members was called home to be with the Lord in heaven recently. We mourn the loss of Kia Lee.



*Pastor Jonah Praying with the Youth*



## Pangmone Hmong Village, Xayabouli Province, Laos



**Stuck in the River**



**Waiting Patiently**



**Presenting the school supplies to the teacher**



**Happy Children!!!**

## News from Saint Paul

God has been working closely with our group in all ministries. The women and men ministries both have monthly bible studies and gatherings at different individual's houses. The youth group also meets biweekly for worshipping and song practices. Currently, we have the opportunity for individual members of the congregations to share and study an in depth bible verse for the women and men during Sunday School. This allows for one another to teach each other with their experiences, their interpretation of the scripture, and how God has helping them in their lives. Rev. Neng Chue Vang have been assisting and teaching the congregation and see that many have grown both in leadership skills and spiritual growth personally. Rev. Neng Chue Vang hopes for the coming years are for this congregation to continue its growth in leadership, management, training, spiritual, and bringing more people who are new to Christ to know Jesus and his works.

## Who Are We?

### First Hmong Mennonite Church

93 Doon Road  
Kitchener, ON N2G 3E1

### Hmong Mennonite Church of Fresno

5015 E Olive Ave  
Fresno CA 93727

### Hmong Mennonite Church of Denver

3583 W 76th Ave,  
Westminster, CO 80030

### Hickory Hmong Mennonite Church

3178 12th Ave SE  
Hickory NC 28602

### Hmong Mennonite Church of Saint Paul

1740 Van Dyke Street  
St. Paul, MN 55109

[www.hmongmennonitechurch.org](http://www.hmongmennonitechurch.org)

### New Hope Hmong Mennonite Church

Fresno, CA

You may submit articles to be published in Hmong Mennonite *United* by sending to Pastor Jeff Wintermote at [jeffmote@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffmote@yahoo.com) or to Sou Vang at [souvang1@yahoo.com](mailto:souvang1@yahoo.com). Brief articles as well as pictures may be submitted. Articles may be edited for grammar and space.

Hmong Mennonite *United* will be distributed among the Hmong Mennonite Churches, Mennonite conferences and agencies and other interested parties.