



# *Prayers for Mennonite Education*

SEPTEMBER 2020

*This month we especially remember the athletes, coaches and athletic directors as they experience significant changes to the Fall season with abbreviated, postponed or even canceled seasons. We recognize the value of play, sports and participating on sports teams, and we know this loss hits hard, especially for seniors.*

- 1. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** AMBS graduate students and teaching faculty members are beginning a new semester together this week — virtually. Ask God to bless their study, worship and fellowship even when they cannot be together in person.
- 2. Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for athletes and coaches as they face the reality of a very different looking fall sports season.
- 3. Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for the cross-country runners and coaches, especially new assistant Gavyn Veith, for their safety and health. The season opened September 5, with pandemic protocols in place. Also remember Pray football head coach Terry Harrison, his assistants and the team members, who are scheduled to open their fall 2020 season September 12.  
**MEA's Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH):** Please pray for our professors. Professor Luis Marcos Tapia is teaching a continuing education class to 23 students from USA, Colombia and Mexico, and Professor Byron Pellecer is teaching a full trimester class. Pray that their students will receive new understandings and be inspired anew in their own ministries and leadership roles.
- 4. Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We are grateful to return to in-person learning for the 2020-21 school year. We pray for health and safety for our students, faculty, staff and administration as we maneuver many new COVID adjustments together.
- 5. Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Pray for the six adult students in the new online Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning (CALL) program, a pilot program for the college this year. As these students hone their skills as church leaders who create missional communities, may God transform their heart and minds toward God's purposes in their places of ministry.
- 6. Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Everyone is settling into the new school year amid uncertainty with COVID-19. Pray that this will be a year of growing and learning for students. Pray that faculty will have the wisdom, strength, calmness and patience that allows them to show Christ's love to their students as they teach and guide them.
- 7. MEA's Instituto Biblico Anabautista (IBA):** Pray for the students at Encuentro de Renovacion Mennonite church in Miami, FL, who are studying the course on Preaching. Pray for wisdom and guidance for their tutors, Teresa Perez-Soto and Andres Mendoza, as they lead the weekly Zoom classes. Pray that the students may adapt to new ways of learning. May this course be of blessing for the students, their congregation and community.
- 8. Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** The start of the school year was delayed to September 8. Pray for students and teachers as they work to stay connected, to pay attention to social and emotional well-being and to continue to attend to faith formation during uncertain times.
- 9. Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for teachers as they work with new instructional models for students, for the students as they adjust to these different learning platforms, and for both as they build relationships together.  
**Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for student-athletes, but especially freshmen and seniors, who face extra stresses of adjusting to the new or having to end their college careers in circumstances no one expected.
- 10. Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We are thankful for the many new families, students and teachers who joined us during this unique school year. We pray for our in-person students as well as our remote learners and for our teachers and staff as they work through new technologies together.

11. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray that students, faculty, staff and the community can be inspired to great acts of peace, faith and art as they experience the virtual presence of theologian, poet and peacemaker Pádraig Ó Tuama.
12. **Freeman Academy, Freeman South Dakota:** We ask for prayers for all families returning to a new school year. The nerves, additional requirements and stress of COVID19 is hard on everyone. We ask to uplift players, spectators and officials with fall extra-curricular activities beginning. And we also ask for prayers for our donors and constituents – we want everyone to stay healthy and safe. We know God has the whole world in God’s hands and are thankful for all the blessings God continues to provide.
13. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for participants in *Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology* — a six-week online short course taught by Jamie Pitts, Ph.D. May their learnings about 16th-century Anabaptists help shape how they live out their Christian faith today.
14. **Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania:** The first day of school is September 14, both face to face and online. Pray for a great and healthy year.  
**Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Pray for our faculty as many of them are unlearning and relearning how to teach in a hybrid teaching model. Direct student engagement is a large reason for teaching at Hesston College, and COVID-19 has changed how faculty can related with their students. Please pray for strength, wisdom, and grace as our faculty discover a new way of learning along with their students. May they also find new opportunities in this changes.
15. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** The theme for this year is “Seek Wellbeing” (Jeremiah 29:7). Pray that faculty and students are challenged to be a community that seeks wellbeing by growing as followers of Jesus, becoming better neighbors and creatively working toward wholeness in our world.
16. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for the tennis, soccer, volleyball and cross-country teams who begin their adjusted seasons with many changes this fall.
17. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for all faculty and staff as they work in the time of COVID amid increased anxieties and levels of concern.
18. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We pray that our high school students and faculty would build strong relationships this year, especially in Advisor Groups. These groups will gather every day and will watch and discuss chapels together. This is a new way of doing chapel for this year when we cannot all gather at one time. Pray that this would be a meaningful time for students to grow in their faith.
19. **Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for the many new families who joined EMS K-12 this fall, seeking a smaller setting with 1:1 teacher-student interaction, in person as long as possible, and online if necessary. Pray they will feel welcome and find friends, even in unusual times.
20. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for student-leaders at EMU as they model healthy and safe interaction and build community in the midst of COVID-19.  
**Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Pray for the administration and board at LMS as they face joys and challenges while working with COVID-19 uncertainty, systems and policies as they continue to lead and guide faculty, staff and students.
21. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for the GC community as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and recognize the heritage, culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx people.
22. **Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for the many international students who were unable or denied visas to enter the United States to study this fall. Many are taking online classes at Hesston College with the hope of joining the campus community second semester. Pray for strength and courage as they meet the challenges of studying across vast time zone differences and in a foreign language, and feelings of loneliness as they study alone.  
**Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Remember the students and coaches involved in the fall sports teams at LMS. Pray for good health and safety as they compete and give them the courage to treat teammates and opponents alike with respect and dignity.
23. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** September 23 was to be our annual Service Day, when sports teams typically work together on a community project. Since this can't happen during COVID-19, please pray that coaches and organizers can engage students in other ways of doing service.

- 24. Mennonite Early Childhood Network:** In this time when academic skills seem to be favored, pray that early childhood educators recognize play as the learning mode of young children. Incorporating physical activities, indoors and out, enhance their development in numerous ways activating the wondering spirit of children as they interact with bugs, flowers, water, mud, shadows and more in a range of academic domains.
- 25. Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** We would appreciate prayers for the health and safety of our students, staff, and families so that our building can remain open as we work to grow our mission. We are thankful for the blessings we have received from our faithful stakeholders.
- 26. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Give thanks for God's work in the lives of students in both the graduate and Lifelong Learning programs. Give thanks to God for their call to ministry and theological study and pray that they will find at AMBS a community in which they can learn, grow, be mentored and explore the passions and questions to which they are being drawn.
- Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Pray for our students and their families who have experienced COVID-19 related loss. Family members who are sick, family members who have lost jobs, extracurricular activities/seasons which have been shortened or eliminated, and the loss of the traditional classroom experience.
- 27. Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Athletic Director Tony Hoops and assistant AD Josh Booth as they navigate the daunting task of keeping coaches and student-athletes safe, healthy and informed during a pandemic.
- 28. Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for alumni and friends who are connecting virtually during GC's Virtual Homecoming Week.
- Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** Spiritual Life Emphasis Week will take place on both of our campuses this fall. Speakers will share with students what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and to grow their faith, personally and as a school community. We pray that students would engage, that the Spirit would move in their hearts, and that they would consider how they can draw closer to Jesus.
- 29. Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Our new Racial Equity Group is working to "normalize" conversations about race across all grades, and review curriculum and school culture through a racial equity lens. Pray for open hearts and minds, and growing awareness so that all may feel they belong.
- 30. Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray that our student-athletes and coaches can find meaningful ways to build their teams and their skills, even as the fall sports seasons have been moved to spring this year.

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Mennonite Education Agency (MEA), is the education agency of Mennonite Church USA. These prayer requests, listed alphabetically, were gathered from across all levels of Mennonite education, from early childhood – grade 12, undergraduate schools, graduate schools and seminaries and MEA's Hispanic Ministries Education programs. By partnering with these schools and helping them flourish, MEA works to ***strengthen the church through education***. Thank you for joining us in prayer for our schools.

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