

Strategic planning and Easter egg hunts

While enjoying a special moment of closeness with my five-year-old grandson last spring, I spontaneously posed for him one of life's deep questions. "Samuel," I asked, "What do you think God has planned for your life?" Without a second's hesitation, he replied, "Maybe an Easter egg hunt." What better answer? Our lives do resemble an Easter egg hunt. So many choices. Red, green, yellow, pink. Can we choose more than one egg? What will we find when we open the egg? Will it be empty, rotten, or will we find a prize?

In my datebook I keep the prayer of Thomas Merton, a 20th century monk:

"My Lord God...I do not see the road ahead of me.... Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.... I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it...."

In March, Mennonite Women USA is embarking on our most comprehensive strategic planning time in more than 10 years. (See Grapevine, p. 15.) What is MW USA called to in the next year, five years, ten years? What needs should we focus on—women in our congregation, leadership issues, global concerns? How do we connect with the denomination?

I think of an Easter egg hunt my brother, Dave Shenk, Elkhart, Ind., organized one year for six little boys ranging in age from one to five. Dave set up a system so each child would search for eggs of just one color. Austin could only pick up yellow eggs, Caleb green eggs, and baby Tristan found pink eggs (right in the middle of the room—imagine that). The directions were clear. Pick up your own eggs and leave the others there. Everyone had fun. All the eggs were found, and without competition.

As *timbrel* readers, we ask your prayers that MW USA's March 27–28 strategic planning event will be a joyous and productive Easter egg hunt, trusting God to "lead us by the right road" we are to travel. 📍



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Tristan Keener finding pink Easter eggs.

Courtesy photo