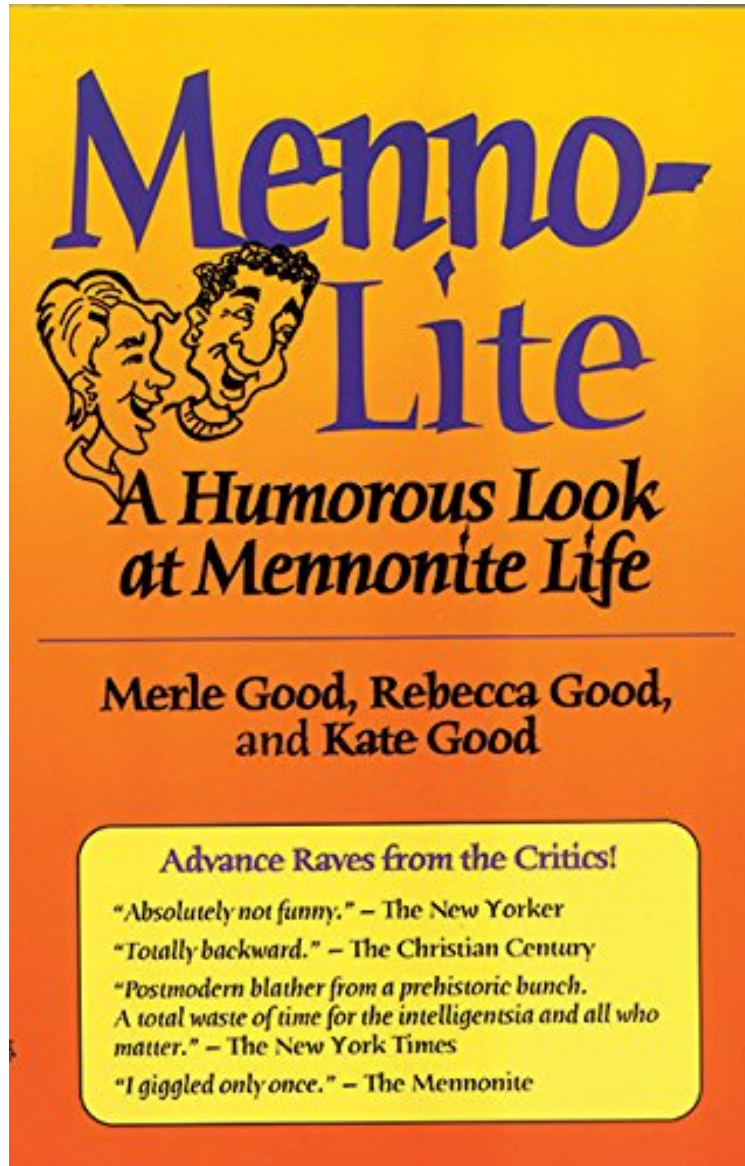


Menno-Lite: A Humorous Look at Mennonite Life

Merle Good

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Merle Good : Menno-Lite: A Humorous Look at Mennonite Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Menno-Lite: A Humorous Look at Mennonite Life:

A lighthearted look at Mennonite life and practice, with all the quirky foibles and contradictions of an idealistic (but

imperfect) people. Includes “Sentences Mennonites struggle to finish,” “10 movies Mennonites should make,” “Top 10 ways to spot an ex-Mennonite,” “How to travel simply (cheaply) by depending on (sponging off) other Mennonites,” and much more!

From the Back Cover Don’t read this book, unless you’re interested in any of the following subjects: • Sentences Mennonites struggle to finish . . . • How to be tight but appear conscientious • Checklist to ascertain whether or not YOU have an MCC-type personality • “A Pacifist’s Day Off” — several modest suggestions • Best overheard conversations by Mennonites using cell phones • Top 10 reasons Mennonites lack a tradition of football • How to make decline look like growth • Good (or not so good) opening lines for a worship leader • 10 movies Mennonites should make • Things to keep in mind when choosing a Mennonite congregation • Things to do when leaving a Mennonite congregation (unhappily) • Nominations for an Anabaptist time capsule • Top 10 things it would take to persuade MCC to stoop to sponsor a beauty pageant • How to travel simply (cheaply) by depending on (sponging off) other Mennonites • 18 politically correct put-downs • Top 10 ways to spot an Ex-Mennonite • Mennonites and sex • Life’s Little Instruction Book for Mennonites About the Author Merle Good has spent most of his adult life (a very long time indeed) observing and writing about Mennonite and Amish life. He lives alone with Kate’s and Rebecca’s mother, Phyllis (also his wife of 31 years) in Lancaster, PA. Rebecca Good is finishing university and hopes to teach English to unmotivated, unappreciative high school students. She currently lives in Harrisonburg, VA. She loves to mimic her family and friends, some of whom don’t mind. Kate Good is a writer living in Washington, D.C. with a truly boring day job. She gets her sense of humor from her paternal grandfather (on her mother’s side). She loves her funny visits with her younger sister. None of the three is an ordained bishop in the Mennonite Church. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction This book was serious enough when we began. After all, who would have the nerve to laugh at Mennonite people? This is heavy stuff. So we invited some friends to contribute, but most of what they sent was too painful to publish—either painfully ha-ha, or plain un-ha-ha painful. Being a Mennonite, it turns out, is a way of life fraught with much emotion and trauma. (Incidentally, the Endnotes on page 94 credit contributions by persons other than the three of us.) So we tried to settle down and do a serious job of things. Trouble is, we kept coming back to the same old question. Why can’t Mennonites laugh at themselves? The real answer is simple—there’s nothing to laugh about. Honest. There is truly no humorous side to a simple people who simply aren’t funny. To readers who aren’t Mennonite, this is our way of breaking the news that you picked up this book by mistake. The title is unfortunately misleading. But we couldn’t afford to go back to the printers, because a Mennonite is nothing if not a penny-pincher. If you’re looking for a serious book, and you end up chuckling, we sincerely apologize.

— Merle, Rebecca, and Kate

1. Stuff about Mennos This chapter explores stuff relative to the real and surreal Mennonite alternatives in the postmodern identity and cognitive crises. Lately. Things to keep in mind when choosing a Mennonite congregation • Is the greeter better than your local Wal-Mart greeter? • Does the pastor drive a used car? • What percentage of the congregation is passive-aggressive? • What are the total assets of the congregation? • Baptism: dunk or sprinkle? • Is the pastor not a man? • Do they have their mission statement posted in the lobby in a decoupled frame? • Are the sermons longer than 8½ minutes? • Do the majority of the Board of Elders compost? • Is the supervisor of childcare already in tears? • “A Pacifist’s Day Off”—Several Modest Suggestions • Here is a list of suggested activities for any pacifist who wants to take a day off from the restraints of convictions and expectations. 1. Join the N.R.A. for a day. 2. Sneak off to a Civil War reenactment and participate in the fight—but refuse to wear the uniform. 3. Egg the Pentagon. 4. Take out the neighbor’s barking dog. 5. Wear something a little red, white, and blue. 6. Play volleyball or basketball with Mennonites (a rather intense, violent sort of sport)—and yell at people to your heart’s delight! 7. Engage in a little road rage. 8. Teach other people’s undisciplined children a lesson or two. 9. Plot sweet revenge. 10. Heap coals of fire on someone’s head—literally. Good (or not so good) opening lines for a worship leader • What’s that smell? • Not having slept well last night myself, let’s stand to sing “Morning has Broken”—with feeling! • All rise! The Honorable Reverend James C. Miller presiding. • Glad youse all could come. Ready for a long haul? • Wassup? • I hope everyone brought something for the potluck, because there might not be enough to go around. • Sorry I’m late—there was a long line at the cigarette counter . . . • If we could please refrain from throwing those tennis balls for a moment — • We want to inform you visitors beforehand, how shall I say, our singing used to be half decent. • I’d like to welcome Pastor John back from Vegas. © Good Books, Intercourse, PA 17534

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Stuff about Mennos Things to keep in mind when choosing a Mennonite congregation “A Pacifist’s Day Off”—Several Modest Suggestions Testing Your Consensus Meter #1 Good (or not so good) opening lines for a worship leader Top Ten Reasons Mennonites Lack a Tradition of Football “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” Menno Simons Shares the Podium with Myron Augsburg and Tony Campolo at the Mennonite General Assembly Movies Mennonites Should Make Nominations for an Anabaptist Time Capsule Sentences Mennonites Struggle to Finish

2. More Menno Stuff Things to keep in mind when choosing a Mennonite congregation Checklist to Ascertain Whether or Not YOU Have an MCC-Type Personality Where Mennonites Say They Live Where Mennonites Actually Live Testing Your Consensus Meter #2 “Who Wants to Be a

Millionite?" Top 10 Ways to Spot a Mennonite Top 10 Ways to Spot an Ex-Mennonite Life's
Little Instruction Book for Mennonites Mennonites and Sex Testing Your Consensus Meter #3 "Who
Wants to Be a Millionite?" Menno-Lite Theater—"Plain Dissy" 3. A Little More Stuff Things to keep
in mind when choosing a Mennonite congregation Best Overheard Conversations by Mennonites Using Cell
Phones 18 Politically Correct Put-Downs "Who Wants to Be a Millionite?" How to Be Tight But Appear
Conscientious Politically Correct Menno-isms Theological Softball Testing Your Consensus Meter
#4 Top 10 Things It Would Take to Persuade MCC to Stoop to Sponsor a Beauty Pageant Menno-Lite
Theater: "Amazing Grace" Mennonite Oxymorons Top Ten Ways the Old Testament Would Be Different If
Mennonites Had Written It Lyrics in search of a Mennonite artist to complete — Please Match Correctly
"Who Wants to Be a Millionite?" Testing Your Consensus Meter #5 Multiple Choice Quiz Church
Bulletin Boo-Boos Cell Phone Etiquette Guide for Mennonites 4. Final Stuff Things to do when leaving a
Mennonite congregation (unhappily) How to travel simply (cheaply) by depending on (sponging off) other
Mennonites How to Make Decline Look Like Growth New Acronyms for 21st Century Mennonites Menno
Simons Sighs and Leans Back in His Seat A Glossary of Proof Texts "Who Wants to Be a Millionite?"
The Muppie World of Conrad Grebel What if God had voice mail? Primer—to Gain Sympathy Testing
Your Consensus Meter #6 Menno-Lite Theater: "A Murder Story" Proper Apologies Noted Answers to
Millionite Quizzes Scorecard for Millionite Quizzes Endnotes About the Authors