

SOJOURNS

Vol. XIX, Issue 17

The Newsletter of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church

September 6, 2009

JOEL MILLER

Hey everyone! I hope that you are all doing very well; staying healthy both physically and spiritually. Last time that I sent an update, I was in El Higo, Veracruz, with the DMT students finishing up our outreach. From there we moved everyone up to Dr. Arroyo where we spent the last month of DMT working with summer groups and helping out in our national pastor's convention which was in Arroyo this year. After the NPC was done, within a few days, everyone went home and DMT 2009 was over... wow, just like that; full-on and then fully off.

This years DMT was certainly a great one, no doubt about it, and though it was difficult to see them leaving and going back to their homes, I prayed that these last 7 months that God had given me to attempt to influence their lives to seek His extraordinary love and will, that I had been a good steward with their young minds and hearts.

Over the years working here at DMT and also with Dayspring, I have learned the importance of these little windows of opportunities that are given to us, whether at 3 p.m. or at 3 a.m., those passing moments; those passing comments; those passing admonitions from the Holy Spirit to, "say this, or do that." I've learned that we need to take them like they are the last time that we'll get a chance to speak, influence; love and make a real, true difference. Like the prophet Ezekiel, I've learned that with every single one of our DMT students, I only have 7 months; very little time.

I pray that as we gear up for DMT 2010, that God would infuse in us as staff a holy awareness of our great responsibility with each and every student that passes through our school and realm of influence. Pray that our mouths would speak God's word but that He would give us the grace to speak them in love and with true conviction.

Also pray for each student who now is at home, wondering what's next? What's changed? What do I do now? Pray hard for these young hearts as they venture out and infiltrate the masses with the love of Christ and a fire for the Father.

So what's next for Joel? In almost one month I'm going to make one of the biggest and happiest decisions of my life and publicly announce that I love Ruthy with all of my heart and that I desire a long life with her by my side; drinking ice tea on the back porch, spitting sunflower seeds and hearing the song of love in our hearts. Sounds great to me!

Pray for us as we continue to make the last arrangements, those last details that'll make our day even better. Pray for our financial needs as we try to do all of this as wisely as we can...and then after, when we begin our lives together; that the Almighty will continue to show us His favor in His work.

We will be living in the "other side" of the duplex; a little 2 bedroom, 1 bath casa that'll be home for us. We hope to begin to help more in leadership in the church here in La Haciendita and of course, get everything geared up for DMT 2010 where, though she doesn't believe me, Ruthy will be la directora! Haha. God bless!

Joel Micah Miller, Dayspring Outreach Ministries
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LINDA HORN

Dear Church Family at Sonnenberg,

It was SO good to be with you on Sunday August 9. I had the privilege of early morning prayer and then Sunday School. Then, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to give the Children's Moment. I had my back to you most of the time and so could not see your faces until we sang "Trust and Obey" together. Then I did see many faces smiling at me, and it felt very good.

Please pray for the stability of the Thai government. We are holding elections on Sunday September 6, for the third or fourth time in three years. A former P. M. is trying to return to power. He is very wealthy and found while he was in power that he could profitably mix his governmental position and his large telecommunications company. The result of this disruption of the government has been some violence between common citizens who support the two major political parties. Thank you for your prayers and support. Much love, Linda

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

The next Diabetic Support Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m., here at Sonnenberg. The speaker will be Bobbie Randall, R.D. This meeting is open to anyone in the community, including persons who are diabetic, as well as family members and support persons. If you have any questions, call Gordon Amstutz at 330-465-8007.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Thank you again for your support of the Pregnancy Care Center. The total you gave to us through the Baby Bottle Project was \$889.15. Great job!

Thanks to your efforts, along with the efforts of other Pregnancy Care Center supporters, we are able to make the lives of our clients a little easier. They join us in saying "thank you" for caring for them!

May God bless you greatly for your sacrificial giving!

Yours in Christ, Karen Noe, Executive Director

PS A special thank you (again) for allowing me to meet with your youth. They are a special group of young people! I am thankful for the time I had with them!

INTERCULTURAL FIESTA

Open Arms will hold its third annual Intercultural Fiesta on Sunday, September 20, 4:00 p.m., at Central Christian School. Participants will be meeting around tables in the gym. Many people have said they don't know their Hispanic neighbors. An interpreter will be provided for each table to help neighbors to get acquainted while they enjoy a light snack. Music will be provided by a choir from Lee Heights Community Church and a Hispanic group. All are welcome.

Open Arms Hispanic Ministries has been welcoming Hispanics to Wayne County and surrounding areas since 2001. Open Arms has depended on the donations of area churches, individuals, and several grants from Ohio Conference. More recently it has been expanding its ministries further through the efforts of Haroldo and Esmirna Nunes. Haroldo is the Hispanic pastor at Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster. For more information about the Intercultural Fiesta, you may call Raul Tadeo, the coordinator, at (330) 828-0040, or e-mail him at rvtadeo@zoominternet.net.

NEWS & NOTES

RELIEF CANNING: Relief Canning dates for this fall are October 19-22, 2009. \$50,000 is still needed for this year's canning. Donations can be mailed to Ralph Basinger at 15102 Arnold Rd., Dalton, OH 44618. Make checks payable to Relief Canning, Inc. Kidron.

HESSTON COLLEGE:

• **CENTENNIAL HOMECOMING:** Be Our Guest.....Hesston College is celebrating 100 years of "Living The Vision" education during the 2009-10 school year. The anchor event is Centennial Homecoming Weekend, September 25-27. Alumni and friends of the college are invited to attend. Go to the alumni page at www.hesston.edu for more information and/or to register. Please call the alumni relations office toll free at 866-437-7866 with questions.

• **ANABAPTIST VISION & DISCIPLESHIP 2009** will be held at Hesston College October 30-November 1: "Learning the Bible in Lifegiving Ways: History, Hooks, and Heilsgeschichte." Join Marion Bontrager, Michele Hershberger, and special guest Ted Swartz as they teach, laugh, and lead participants through Bib. Lit. as taught at Hesston College. Discover how the Bible's stories are connected to each other, and how God has worked in history to "solve the sin problem." For additional information check out Hesston's website: www.hesston.edu.

• **THANKSGIVING BUS TRIP** for Hesston College alumni, prospective students, parents of current students, or anyone who knows anyone in Hesston: leaves Central Christian at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 25, returns Sunday, November 29. Cost is \$70 for prospective students (juniors or seniors); \$135/adult. Payment must be made in full to reserve a seat on the bus. Contact David Horst at Hesston College: 800-995-2757; email: davidh@hesston.edu regarding reservations. Send payment by November 1 to David Horst, Hesston College Admissions, PO Box 3000, Hesston, KS 67062.

CRAFT SHOW & CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL will be held at Beech Mennonite Church, 10037 Easton St., Louisville Saturday, September 12, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. In addition to the craft show and carnival, breakfast and lunch will be served, with a bake sale and fresh farm produce available. Proceeds will go to Shepherds Gate Child Care and other outreach groups of our church. Call Gale 330-875-3464 with questions. Come Bring the Whole Family for some Autumn Fun!

BENEFIT PIANO RECITAL: You are invited to a benefit piano recital for children's leukemia research, to be given by Orrville pianist, George Bixler, on Sunday, September 13, 3:00 p.m., at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville. There will be no admission charge, but an offering will be taken with all proceeds going to Lydia's Hope, a local charity that works with children's leukemia research, as well as support for families who have children with leukemia. A reception will follow the recital. Childcare will be available.

CALVARYMEN QUARTET will be in concert Sunday, October 4, 6:00 p.m., at Chestnut Ridge Mennonite Church. This Southern Gospel Music quartet from Burton, Michigan desires to encourage and challenge people with their music. A freewill offering will be taken. Check out www.calvarymen.com for more information about the quartet.

TRIP TO COLUMBUS, OHIO: The Mt. Eaton-Paint Township Historical Society is sponsoring a trip to Columbus on Tuesday, October 6, boarding the bus at Mountain Top Restaurant in Mt. Eaton at 7:15 a.m. The trip will include a tour of the Ohio State House, Museum and we will meet Representative Ron Amstutz. Following a noon lunch at Golden Corral, we will tour American Whistle, visit Pilot Dogs and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Supper is on your own and we will return to Mt. Eaton by 7:30 p.m. All of this for only \$64.00. Contact Phyllis Lehman at 330-359-5554 to sign up or for additional information.

OHIO MENNONITE WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT at Camp Luz will take place September 18-20. Marilyn Rossiter is the resource person. Registration forms were available in the June Ohio Evangel or see Lisa Zuercher for a copy. Registration forms are due by September 5.

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday, September 20, 2009. Please submit any items for this issue by Thursday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. Thanks!