

SOJOURNS

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The Newsletter of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church

January 24, 2010

NEWS FROM BILL & CORRINE HELMUTH

To our Sonnenberg Church Family :

It has been a real encouragement to hear of your prayers for us. When we experience black ice, driving on Wild Cat Canyon Road with a truck and camper on our trip here and now lots of rain with the possibility of flooding and mud slides in some parts of California a lot of prayer is needed. Thank you!

Our first week of working for Mennonite Disaster Service here in Southern California was warm and sunny. There are three houses being built for persons who meet MDS criteria and the long-term volunteers are thankful for the short-termers (one week) that come from places like Harrisonburg, Virginia, and this week from the state of Washington. There has been a lot of progress on the three houses even with delays because of the many inspections that the state requires and a difficult inspector in this area.

Today is to be our worst rain day with clearing coming, but the past three days started out dry with rain coming mid-afternoon and at night, so we were still able to get quite a bit of work in. We are thankful.

We have been appreciating the updates on Haiti from the Rabers and Johnny. What sadness and what heartbreak for those involved and for persons who have family and loved ones there. Our prayers are needed and we are thankful for those who can help.

—Bill and Corrine

HAITI RESPONSE MCC & Sonnenberg

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is undertaking a multi-million-dollar, multi-year response to the earthquake that struck Haiti January 12. You can help through prayer for the people of Haiti and by donating to MCC's Haiti Earthquake appeal. In addition, MCC is asking for donations of 20,000 relief kits, 10,000 heavy comforters and 10,000 sheets for shipment now through February 28.

During the month of February, Outreach & Service Ministry is planning the missions emphasis around hands-on activities to respond to the request of MCC for comforters and Relief Kits. Their ministry is working with SMW to plan a "Comforter Knotting Bee" on Sunday evening, February 14. On Valentine's Day, send your love to the people of Haiti by planning to help knot comforters here at the church, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Outreach & Service is also planning a time for assembling Relief Kits. See the flyer in church mailboxes today about items needed for the Relief Kits. Purchase items yourself or earmark a donation through the offering of \$25 to cover the cost of each kit you would like to donate. A night will be scheduled here at the church to put the Relief Kits in buckets provided by MCC.

In addition to Sonnenberg Comforter Knotting Bee, MCC Connections is inviting people to come and help them knot comforters. In response to the plea from MCC headquarters for 10,000 Comforters for Haiti Earthquake Relief, the MCC Connections Quilt Room is looking for your help in knotting & sewing comforters to go to Haiti. Stop in anytime during store hours, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., between January 25-February 13, 2010. If you wish to bring a group, please call ahead to schedule. Call MCC Connections at 330/857-7721 and ask to speak with the Quilt Room manager. This is another opportunity to give some hands-on help to the relief efforts in Haiti.

MCC is grateful for the generous financial gifts that people have given to MCC for the people of Haiti, starting just hours after the 7.0 earthquake devastated the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Some of those funds are already at work in Haiti, being used to purchase food and supplies that are available there. MCC is airlifting 70,000 lbs. or 31,750 kg. of canned meat and 1,000 water filters into Haiti as soon as possible. Another shipment of at least the same amount of meat, probably more, will be sent by sea. MCC is also purchasing thousands of tents and tarps.

Contributions can continue to be made through the church offering. Checks should be made out to Sonnenberg Mennonite Church designated for "Haiti Earthquake-MCC" or "Haiti Earthquake-Rabers".

MCC is planning their multi-million dollar response over a number of years, focusing on rebuilding homes and livelihoods. Your help through making comforters, relief kits and donations are appreciated.

LIFE AT SONNENBERG

DID YOU KNOW?...

Did you know that A. J. Conrad, son of Paul & Rhonda Conrad and an eighth grader at Central will be representing Central Christian School at the Wayne County Spelling Bee? The bee will be held tomorrow, Monday, January 25, 7:00 p.m., at Wooster High School Performing Arts Center. There are 41 area sixth-eighth-grade students competing. Congratulations, A.J.!

NEW BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Several new fiction books have been added to the adult library. Stop in and "check them out."

- Who's Kate, by Carol Duerkson/Maynard Knapp
- Nobody's Kate, by Carol Duerkson/Maynard Knapp
- Crossroads, by Nancy Moser
- The Beach House, by Sally John
- Castles in the Sand, by Sally John
- The Sister Circle, by Vonette Bright/Nancy Moser
- An Undivided Heart, by Vonette Bright/Nancy Moser
- Blessed Child, by Ted Dekker/Bill Bright
- Lost Sons, by Judy Clemens
- In This Mountain, by Jan Karon
- Sailing Acts, by Linford Stutzman
- Country Brides, by Debbie Macomber
- Susannah's Garden, by Debbie Macomber
- Between Friends, by Debbie Macomber
- Knit Together, by Debbie Macomber
- Patches of Godlight, by Jan Karon
- A Common Life, by Jan Karon
- Unshaken, by Francine Rivers
- A Circle of Quilters, by Jennifer Chiaverini

NEWS & NOTES

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 330/857-7311

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT OPEN HOUSE: Central Christian School is holding a prospective student open house on Monday, February 15. Scheduled events will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Students will attend classes, chapel and lunch. A tour of the school facility will be given to students and parents. To register or for more information, contact Doris Risser at (330) 857-7311.

TASTE OF CENTRAL: Central Christian School's fourth annual Taste of Central event will be Friday, February 19, starting at 5:30. Twenty chefs will prepare their favorite dish and guests can enjoy a taste-testing extravaganza and vote for their favorites. You will not go home hungry! Tickets are on sale for \$15 each at Central. For more information, contact Kristen Conrad at (330) 857-7311.

THIS EVENING AT KIDRON MENNONITE: Celia Lehman will present an illustrated guided tour of the Holy Land tonight (in case of inclement weather Jan. 31) at the Kidron Mennonite Church at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Lehman traveled with a study group of 11 persons sponsored by the Great Lakes Mennonite Central Committee. The purpose was to visit the Holy Sites where Biblical events took place but more directly where conflict is raging between Palestine/Israel. They observed first hand what MCC is doing to alleviate the suffering.

ORRVILLA COMMUNITY EVENT which was scheduled at OrrVilla Maple Terrace this afternoon, January 24, featuring George Bixler, Executive Director, has been cancelled due to outbreak of flu in the area. This has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

LASTING FLAME MARRIAGE SEMINAR hosted by Chestnut Ridge Mennonite Church will be held February 26-27, 2010, at Central Christian School. The purpose of the Lasting Flame Marriage Seminar is to assist in strengthening marriage and family life. Based on Biblical values, participants will be shown the importance of a healthy relationship with God and be encouraged to make the investment needed to improve the husband and wife relationship.

Michael & Amy Smalley will be the seminar resource couple on the theme, *Becoming a Family of Your Dreams*. Discount registration is available for those who register by February 5. See the poster and brochures on the blackboards in the northeast foyer for additional information

The next issue of *Sojourns* will be printed for Sunday, February 7, 2010. Please submit any items for this issue by Thursday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. Thanks!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Wow! Now there's something you don't see every day!"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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