

SOJOURNS

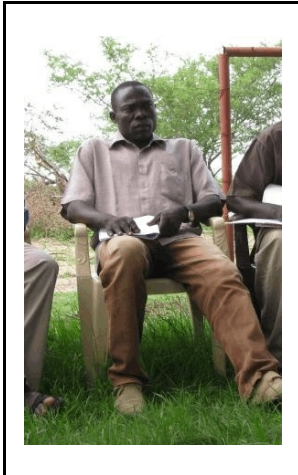
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The Newsletter of the Sonnenbera Mennonite Church

July 4, 2010

KAM UPDATE (Kurt, Angie & Micah Neuenschwander)

I would like you to meet Sharif. Sharif grew up in the Nuba mountains of South Sudan in a small village called



Kauda. Sharif recently gave his life to Christ and as a result is suffering for his faith. His mother and a younger brother died some years back, but his father still lives in the Kauda area. Sharif works with Samaritan's Purse and has proved to be a faithful worker and friend to many of the staff there.

Sharif cannot talk to his family because of his faith. When he announced that he was considering becoming a

Christian his father let him know of the gravity of his decision. He would no longer be considered a son to his father and he would not talk to him again. It was as if he had never been born. His father told him that he had three days to make his decision, but Sharif had already tasted the freedom of living in Christ so the actual decision was easy. The life he has before him however is not. When he meets his father on a path he passes by without saying a word to him. He will never be able to really be part of his family again. How many of us would be ready to make a decision like that knowing the consequences? Yes they have the promise of Christ, but the decision out here casts them into an earthly society where they are unaccepted and outcasts. There are many in the Nuba mountains with this same plight. It is a transitional area mixed with Muslims and Christians. It is exciting to see the changes in people's lives that we are able to be a part of here, however It is not easy for the mission workers or the ones who have converted. It is a harsh land and difficult to eke out an existence here.

I just returned from Heiban (15 miles north of Kauda) where Samaritan's Purse is assisting in building an Arabic speaking Bible Theological School. It's a three

year program which brings Christians from the surrounding area and gives them the necessary tools to go back out and lead churches and witness to the Muslims in the area. All around the Bible school were remnants of things that were brought in by the airplanes I fly. (like this cement mixer, before and after).



The cement mixer has been part of pouring pads and building 30 or so buildings and housing dorms for the students. What a great tool these airplanes are for this ministry!

We are doing well, and continue to live in Nairobi where we support numerous missions like the one above in their projects and mission work. Micah is on summer break from school and looking forward to going back again in August. He will be in 7th grade this year. Warden and Brandon continue to be in Ohio (Canton and St. Clairsville) where they are both still in school. We plan on returning this fall (October/November) but are not sure what our future holds at the moment.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We look forward to catching up with many of you this fall. In the meantime you can always check out our blog at: (neuchnews.blogspot.com) to see what we've been up to.

Kurt, Angie, and Micah Neuenschwander

SUMMERFEST 2010

Summerfest 2010 is less than two months away! The Steve Wingfield Evangelistic Association, in cooperation with the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, will be conducting Summerfest 2010, August 5-8, on the grounds of Central Christian School. Summerfest is an evangelistic outreach with special musical guests each evening and a message of hope from Steve Wingfield.

In preparation for Summerfest, we have scheduled several 2½ hour counselor training sessions (Sharing Your Faith Courses—listed below) in various locations. In order for someone to be certified as a counselor for Summerfest, he or she must attend one of these training sessions. This is a wonderful opportunity to be trained in personal evangelism. The best part is that the sessions are free!

Also, a community choir is being organized under the direction of Sam Van Horn. Rehearsal and performance schedules are listed below.

We look forward to partnering with the Ohio Relief Sale in this endeavor.

Reverend Tim McAvoy
Vice President of Ministry Operations
Steve Wingfield Evangelistic Association

Sharing Your Faith Courses (Counselor Training)

- ✦ Tuesday, July 20, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Grace Mennonite Church, 5750 CR 77, Millersburg, OH 44654
- ✦ Wednesday, July 21, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Maple Grove Mennonite Church, 2121 Smith Kramer Street, NE, Hartsville, OH 44632
- ✦ Thursday, July 22, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Central Christian School, 3970 Kidron Road, Kidron, OH 44636

Choir Rehearsal: Community Choir conducted by Sam Van Horn, August 7 and 8. Rehearsal: Thursday, August 5, 7:00 p.m., at Kidron Mennonite Church.

For more information, visit the following website:
www.SteveWingfield.org

MC USA Convention, 2011

Plans for the next Mennonite Church USA Convention, Pittsburgh, 2011, are steadily moving forward. Convention is the place for all parts of Mennonite Church USA to gather, feel welcome and celebrate what unites us—Jesus Christ. Our hope is that attendance at Pittsburgh 2011 includes all ages and truly reflects the wonderful racial/ethnic diversity throughout our church.

www.mennoniteusa.org/convention has been launched as the official website for the convention. It contains many details you will need to start planning your participation in Pittsburgh 2011. See the first of many promo videos and find out why we are so excited about this year's location!

If you want to be in-the-know as soon as Pittsburgh 2011 events are announced, please join the Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/Pittsburgh2011. You will be part of the community that's talking and sharing ideas leading up to the next Mennonite Church USA convention. We want to hear about the great experience you had in 2009, or what your congregation, family or youth group is doing to plan ahead. Start sharing your stories, photos and videos on this Facebook page so that others can get excited about Pittsburgh 2011. (Check out the video of Kidron Mennonite youth group's "Bridges to (the) Cross" scavenger hunt.)

We ask for your prayers for the adult and youth worship planning committees and for all those involved in helping to make Pittsburgh 2011 a joyful, meaningful and fun-filled week.

Mennonite Church USA Convention Planning Staff:
Rachel Swartzendruber Miller
Scott Hartman
Deidre Bias
Carol Epp

NEWS & NOTES

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: 330/857-7311

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED: Central Christian School is accepting applications for bus drivers for the 2010-11 school year. Pick up an application at the school or call Joel Otto or Bruce Kooker at 330-857-7311 for more information.

CAMP LUZ is missing sound equipment: 2 amps, 2 microphones and stands, and 11 cables of varying lengths. If you have any information about these items, or you would like to make a monetary donation to help us replace them, please call 330-683-1246 or email andrew@campluz.com

MENNONITE VOLUNTARY SERVICE is looking for volunteers for several high-need placements in 2010-2011. Among them, MVS is seeking a person to volunteer as a paralegal for ProBAR in Harlingen, Texas. Fluency in Spanish is required. ProBAR is an organization that helps guide refugees through the political asylum process. MVS is also seeking a program assistant for the Computers for Youth program in New York City. For information about these opportunities, or to apply online, please visit www.Service.MennoniteMission.net. MVS orientation is scheduled for August 8-13, 2010. Persons who wish to be placed for the 2010-2011 season should submit their applications by July 1, 2010. MVS cannot guarantee placement for persons applying after July 1.

The next issue of *Sojourns* will be printed for Sunday, July 18, 2010. Please submit any items for this issue by Thursday, July 15, 9:00 a.m. Thanks!