

# SOJOURNS

Vol. XXVII, Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Sonnenbera Mennonite Church

January 21, 2018

## SENIOR SAINTS—January, 2018 Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy birthday to our senior saints who are celebrating birthdays/anniversaries in January!

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Dave Ross (65), Friday, January 5  
Welcome to the Senior Saints, Dave!

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Dan Cartwright (82), Saturday, January 13  
Belvia Hann (84), Tuesday, January 16



Try to guess who these persons are. Their names are listed on the back of this issue of *Sojourns*.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

- Vocation: 1<sup>st</sup> job: Picking up round bales with an Allis Chalmers tractor and stacking them in a fields or mow in barn  
Present Vocation: Electrician, plumber, HVAC installer
- Favorites:  
Food: my wife's meatloaf  
Book of the Bible: Hebrews  
Song: *Praise to God Immortal Praise*  
Place to visit: Grand Canyon  
Vacation Destination: Any place I can where I can ride a bike  
TV Show: Mayberry RFD
- Hobbies: Riding bicycle
- Pet Peeve: People who leave their car doors open when they are doing something else.
- Least favorite chore: Nothing in particular—everything needs to be done.
- Nobody knows: I like no-bake oatmeal chocolate cookies.



Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

- School I attend: Central Christian  
Grade in School: Junior
- Favorites:  
School subject: Chemistry  
Food: BBQ Ham  
Book: The Oath  
Book of the Bible: Exodus or Judges  
People & Places to visit: Colorado
- Hobbies: playing soccer
- Least favorite chore: Doing laundry
- Nobody knows...I like bugs but hate spiders



## MY CROSS CULTURAL EXPERIENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST By Anna Ressler

This past fall, I spent three and a half months in the Middle East with 19 other students from Eastern Mennonite University. We were mostly in Israel and the West Bank, with just a few weeks in Jordan and Egypt.

Over the course of the semester, we took 5 classes (Arabic and Hebrew, peacebuilding, contemporary issues, religion and culture, and cross cultural social science). Although it was less official credit hours than I usually take, I have never learned more in a semester than I did in the Middle East.

A Few Highlights of the Trip:

- Snorkeling in the Red Sea
- Riding Camels in the Wadi Rum desert in Jordan
- Participating in a simulation of an identity-based peace process
- Drinking sage tea at various Bedouin camps
- Playing an Iraqi ode (the instrument) with the hotel owner in Amman
- People watching in the old city of Jerusalem
- Celebrating Shabbat with orthodox host families
- Watching the sun rise over red mountains
- Cooking with my host mom in Bethlehem
- Playing card games for hours on end with my group members

Some Challenges of the Semester:

1. My inability to speak more than a few random words of Arabic or Hebrew
2. Keeping an open mind
3. Moving around a lot (a new place every couple days or weeks)
4. Navigating markets and learning how to barter for a decent price
5. Figuring out how to listen to and think about horribly painful stories
6. Trying to process, summarize, or talk about the wealth of information and experience
7. Coming home

I cannot accurately summarize my semester, but I can certainly say that it was exciting, challenging, fun, formative and absolutely incredible. I can tell hundreds of stories. All you have to do is ask.

## NEWS & NOTES

**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:** 330/857-7311

[www.ccscomets.org](http://www.ccscomets.org)

- **Central Christian School Singing Valentines, Wednesday, February 14:** Surprise your loved one at home or their place of work with a one-of-a-kind Singing Valentine! Central Christian Varsity Singers have delivered over 300 Valentines to loved ones in Wayne, Holmes and Stark Counties over the past 16 years. You may order a Singing Valentine by calling Karla McMullen at 330/857-7311 or [KarlaM@CentralChristianSchool.org](mailto:KarlaM@CentralChristianSchool.org). Cost is \$25.
- **The Frohliche Dorf Show, Saturday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.:** Join us for an evening of fantastic music and fun-filled skits celebrating small-town life in Ohio and our "cheerful village"! The Frohliche Dorf Show is produced by Tim Shue and Brenda Troyer. Proceeds from the show help subsidize the 44-member Concert Choir's spring tour and participation in Mennonite School Council's annual choir festival. Tickets are \$14-\$17 and may be purchased by visiting [www.ccscomets.org/events](http://www.ccscomets.org/events).
- **Schedule a visit** and experience a day Central Christian: Are you interested in experiencing the difference of Christ-centered education? At Central, we are committed to preparing our students to walk with Christ in all of life. We believe an education that develops the whole person; academically, spiritually, emotionally and physically, will create future leaders for our churches, local communities and beyond. We invite your child to spend a day with us on any school day. Your child will have a designated student mentor to walk through the school day with them, experience chapel, meet our creative and caring faculty and staff, and lunch is on us! To schedule your visit, please contact Christina Lowe at 330.857.7311 or [ChristinaL@CentralChristianSchool.org](mailto:ChristinaL@CentralChristianSchool.org)

**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, continued**

- **Annual Auction:** Saturday, March 3, Breakfast at 7:00 a.m., Auction. 9:00 a.m.: Mark your calendars and bring your friends. With a match of 200 percent, we guarantee this auction to be fun and successful. All dollars raised go toward Central's annual operating budget and mission of growing leaders and building the church.

We are seeking creative and quality item donations from you! Print the Item Donation Form found on our website, [www.CCSComets.org](http://www.CCSComets.org) and return it to Joel Otto, Business Manager.

**CAMP LUZ SUMMER CAMP - 330/683-1246:** Camp Luz has recently announced the 2018 summer camp theme "Rooted" taken from Colossians 2:6-7. Online Registration is open for Camp Luz 2018 Summer Camps! Learn more about our programs and our summer theme "ROOTED" on our website: [www.campluz.com](http://www.campluz.com).

**MCC's Sharing With Appalachia People (SWAP)** program is seeking volunteer groups and summer staff. Summer will be here before we know it, so make your summer plans now to join SWAP in Kentucky or West Virginia. Don't miss out on your chance to serve with this home repair ministry while learning about life in Appalachia. Groups or individuals can volunteer to serve as week-long volunteers. SWAP is also looking for summer staff to serve as job site coordinators and meal coordinators/cooks for three month assignments. For more information about bringing a group to SWAP or serving as summer staff, visit [swap.mcc.org](http://swap.mcc.org) or contact Angela Maggard at [AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org](mailto:AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org) or 606/633-5065.

**SENT 2018:** The third annual gathering of church planters and others interested in seeding the kingdom presence in America, is coming on May 4-6, 2018. SENT 2018 will gather diverse leaders for worship, inspiration, resourcing, networking, and empowerment to take risks that nurture the birth of Anabaptist missional communities. SENT 2018 will take place at Living Water Community Church in Chicago, IL. Early bird registration is January 10 through February 15. Register online at [www.mennonitemission.net](http://www.mennonitemission.net).

**LEHMAN'S COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT:** Enjoy healthy competition and camaraderie during Community Game Night at Lehman's retail store in Kidron! On January 25, from 5:30-8:00 p.m., join a round of bingo, or play new or classic games with friends. Grab a partner and join the rook tournament, or toss your way to a win in the cornhole tournaments! There's a lot of fun to be had over hot chocolate and sweet or savory snacks at Lehman's community game night! - Free admission - Tournaments sign ups open at 5:30 with the first round beginning at 6:15"

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday, February 4, 2018. Please submit items for this issue by Thursday, February 1, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

Answers from  
today's Fun Facts  
#1 Lloyd Miller  
#2 Abby Ross