

# SOJOURNS

Vol. XX, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church

January 10, 2010

## 2010 SONNENBERG QUIZ TEAM

The 2010 Quizzing season began last Sunday, January 3, here at Sonnenberg. Quiz meets will be held every Sunday afternoon, 2:30 p.m., through Sunday, March 21, with a one week break on March 7, unless a previous match has been canceled due to inclement weather. A triple elimination local tournament will be held the last two weeks of the season, March 14 & 21. The invitational tournament will be held here in Kidron the weekend of March 26-28, to end the season.

This year quizzing is covering the books of 1 & 2 Corinthians. Members of the Sonnenberg quiz team are: Chloe Raber, Olivia Ressler, Katelyn Amstutz, Rowena Zuercher and Anna Ressler. They are coached by Michael Amstutz, assisted by Steve Zuercher and Jan Eshleman.

Everyone is welcome to attend their matches and cheer the team on.

## NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

### Linda Horn

January 1, 2010

Dear Sonnenberg Church Family,

Today is the first day of the New Year, and I want to thank you for your financial support and for your prayers. I came to Thailand in October of 1997. I'm sure there have been times when I could have given up, but because of your prayers I have never considered such a thing! There have also been times of discouragement, but discouragement has never been a big deal in my life and ministry here. I have always felt an inner ebullience, hopefulness, and assurance. I can recall more than one morning when I have awakened feeling surprisingly wonderful! I have thought of you and knew, "Someone must have been praying for me. I feel so encouraged."

The year 2009 has been a particularly intense period of labor – plowing the soil and planting the good seed. One interesting new factor has been my physical location. Last February, one of our important local pastoral couples resigned. They had been living in Kosum Phisai for almost a year, beginning a new church-planting effort. I was invited to move into their vacated house to sustain a

presence there. I thought and prayed for three days and accepted the challenge. In the past, I have always been a short walk from the other teammates. Now, I am a 40-minute drive away. This has been both eye-opening and pleasurable for me. I am plowing new ground and establishing a presence almost from scratch.

We now have two English language centers: the one in Borabue and the new one here in Kosum Phisai. We also have two church sites: one in Borabue and one in the little village of Ban Daeng. We offer English to children before worship every Sunday morning at both facilities. I divide my time among these four locations. In addition, I feel that an equally vital ministry is my friendship with my close neighbors around my new rental home in Kosum. God is awakening in my heart a love for my neighbors, especially the elder neighbors.

Alone, I would have very little impact in all of these varied duties, but God has positioned me as one member of a church-planting team. We each have our own post at an oar, and, rowing together, the craft is moving forward. I praise God for the spirit of cooperation I see among the team members.

Our team leaders, Pat and Rad Houmphan of Mennonite Mission Network/WITNESS Canada have worked so hard and accomplished so much because of their love poured out and because of their prayer lives. Just now, they are on deputation in Canada. We have been working in Borabue since 2000. Now, they sense that it is time to begin a new church-plant here in Mahasarakham Province. That initial work is the most labor-intensive part of the ministry. They must go out many times to meet people, follow-up, and begin to know and love them. Please pray that Pat and Rad will return to Thailand and pick-up this challenging work with a renewed sense of joy and excitement. Pray that the Lord will go before them and that they will be happily surprised to find a generous welcome and open hearts. Pray, too, that the Ban Daeng and Borabue church members will continue to hunger to know Jesus even better and to love and study the Bible more. Pray that they will mature in ministry and in self-administration, that both churches will grow, and that they will be reservoirs of help and encouragement to Pat and Rad.

Again, thank you for your love and friendship.

Love, Linda

Financial support: INTERLINK MINISTRIES, INC.

P. O. Box 460, Apple Creek, OH 44606  
earmarked for Linda Horn  
or Jubilee Orphanage, Thailand

## Joel & Ruthy Miller

Hello everyone! I pray that as we walked the last days of 2009, we could all truly declare together that God was good to us the whole year...I know that He has been good to me. Thinking back on the beginning of last year, I was just engaged when the New Year came and now, thank the Lord, He's given me the grace to have Ruthy by my side entering into 2010...that's pretty sweet I think. His grace is sufficient and His mercy is everlasting...praise the Lord.

This is what we have been up to....

- Learning to live together.
- Trying to stay warm; we have seen some good weather, but the colds have been "cold" for us Northern Mexico-ers.
- Trying to teach some Cowboy new tricks...and stop him from being a garbage disposal machine as he'll eat anything put near his mouth!
- Decorating our home with the wedding gifts that were sent by so many of you...thank you!
- Spending a week in El Higo, Veracruz with Roger, Marcus, Vero and others, working on building dorm rooms for the orphanage. It was a lot of work and there's still lots left to do, so pray that God supplies the funds and the workers to be able to get it up and running by late spring, early summer. You can read about the orphanage building project online at: <http://www.dayspring.us/orphanage/index.htm>.
- Practicing for the children's Christmas drama that the church members put on for the kids in La Haciendita
- Me catching the infamous "La Gripe" (the flu) and not getting it knocked down for almost 2 weeks (I still have a bit of cough and stuffiness and I'm willing to pass this gift on to anyone who'd love to take it from me!)
- Spending Christmas with the Tovar family (my in-laws) in La Haciendita eating lots of good food, drinking lots of coffee and really being blessed by seeing God restoring many broken relationships within the Tovar family Christmas evening...praise the Lord!
- Getting ready for the New Year!
- Getting ready for DMT!!!!

So, we've been staying fairly busy these last few weeks, but at the same time, I've really been trying to spend as much time with Ruthy at home as we possibly can, as come mid-January through mid-August, DMT will be in full swing and we'll be directing the training and our time at home will be pretty limited. Deuteronomy 24:5 says, "If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married." Obviously a full year can't happen, but I hope that these last few months together have truly brought Ruthy that same happiness. Pray that God gives us the strength and the grace to lead this next training well and that the impact that it will have on the student's lives will be life-changing.

We'd like to thank you for your continued prayers and support; without you and your generosity in words and

deeds, we wouldn't be here. As well we want to thank everyone for all of the Christmas cards that you sent and we hope to get off some wedding picture postcards soon! Thank you all again and please continue to pray for us as we enter 2010!

Joel and Ruthy Miller

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956.607.4303 or 330.737.3555

dayspring outreach ministries

<http://www.dayspring.us>

<http://www.dayspring.tv/dmt09>

## NEWS & NOTES

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

**SUBSTITUTE SPANISH TEACHER NEEDED:** Central Christian School has a current opening for a long-term substitute Spanish teacher. If interested, please call Eugene Miller at 330.857.7311.

**OHIO MENNONITE MEN'S CHORALE:** The 10th season of the Ohio Mennonite Men's Chorale (OMMC) has begun rehearsals at Kidron Mennonite on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30, now through the first week of February, with the performance on Sunday afternoon, February 7. William Mateer is the director. We look forward to seeing both past participants and newcomers. If there are questions, please call Lois Nussbaum at Kidron Mennonite Church (330-857-3461).

**ORRVILLA COMMUNITY EVENT** will be held at Maple Terrace on Sunday, January 24, 3:00 p.m., featuring George Bixler, Executive Director at OrrVilla. Mr. Bixler, who has a BA in music performance from Bluffton College, will play a variety of styles: jazz, sacred, popular and classical, including Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" on the newly purchased Perzina grand piano. Invite your family and friends. No admission fee. Refreshments will follow the concert.

**SCRAP-A-LOT RETREAT** will be held January 22-24, 2010, at Camp Buckeye. Gather your pictures & memorabilia and join other scrappers for a marathon scrapbooking weekend at Camp Buckeye's Agape Lodge, 6:00 p.m. on Friday through 9 p.m. Sunday. Snacks & meals are provided, along with endless coffee, tea & hot chocolate. The doors will be open at 2 p.m. Friday if you want to get a head start. E-mail: [office@campbuckeye.org](mailto:office@campbuckeye.org) or call 330-756-2380 to request a registration form or check our website & download the form. Entire weekend is \$98 (includes 5 meals & overnight accommodations) or Saturday only - \$50. Space is limited so register early. Only fully paid registrations are guaranteed a spot. Vendors will be available with a variety of supplies & products, as well as equipment for your use. Proceeds go to benefit the children of our community through the camping ministry of Camp Buckeye.

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday, January 24, 2010. Please submit any items for this issue by Thursday, January 21, 9:00 a.m. Thanks!