

SOJOURNS

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The Newsletter of the Sonnenbera Mennonite Church

March 7, 2010

HAITI RESPONSE—THANK YOU

From MCC Connections:

- *We acknowledge with deep thanks your recent gift to MCC of 28 comforters and 125 relief kits. Following the recent devastation in Haiti caused by the January earthquake, there was massive news coverage, and many organizations and individuals sought to provide early relief. However, in the past weeks, news of Haiti's needs has nearly dried up. But the needs remain!*

Many churches and individuals have responded to help MCC meet their goals for relief supplies. Within weeks these supplies were on their way to be a tangible evidence of the love of Christ. MCC is committed to long-term disaster response there, in addition to the many other points of need where they are already ministering. Your gifts help make this ongoing ministry possible. Thank you!

Please pray with us that what is given in gifts and service, as they are received, will carry the "freight" of God's wonderful love, given through Jesus Christ.

From Christianville Mission:

- *On behalf of the staff and board of directors of Christianville Foundation, Inc., we thank you for your generous support of this organization, especially in light of the recent devastation from the earthquake. Portions of the school, housing and medical clinics as well as the entire college will have to be rebuilt. Your financial and prayer support are so crucial at this time. Thank you!*



From Haitian Community Hospital:

- *Your generosity to our hospital as we try to meet needs of the people of Haiti following the recent earthquake is much appreciated. Your donation to our hospital of \$4,100.00 will help us to continue to save lives. Thank you very much!*



THANK YOU

Your congregation's partnership with Mennonite Mission Network in the past year has been vital to our mission and the mission of the church. We praise God for this partnership and thank you for your generosity.

Many sisters and brothers around the world have encountered the good news of God's kingdom because of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church. Your contribution of \$7,008.00 received from February 1, 2009-January 31, 2010, is much appreciated.

Your gifts, prayers, and participation in mission help to create ministries of healing and hope across the street and around the world. May you experience God's blessings as together we seek to *share all of Christ with all of creation.*

We hope you will continue to partner with Mission Network as we seek, together, to be faithful to God's mission to reach all people with God's love. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many people around the globe.

—Stanley W. Green, Executive Director

—Sandy Miller, Directory for Church Relations

LIFE AT SONNENBERG

NEW BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

- What in the Word Is Going On? by David Jeremiah
- Slaying the Giants in Your Life, by David Jeremiah
- Parenting in the Pew, by Robbie Castleman
- Congregations in Transition, by Dudley/Ammerman
- Rethinking the Church, by James E. White
- Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage, by John Coblentz
- The Power of Enough, by Lynn Miller
- Jesus Matters, James Krabill/David Shenk, Editors
- The Basics of Life, by Andy Chrisman, etc.

library staff is working hard to catalog and place new or donated books on the shelves. However, we are unable to adequately evaluate all the materials in a timely manner. We will be more likely in the future to add a book to the library collection if you (the donor) could share a brief book review when you leave a book in the library. Just write a short paragraph or two telling how you have been blessed by the book, or something interesting about the story that would make someone else want to read it. Thank you. Bob Eshleman, Adult Librarian

NEWS & NOTES

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 330/857-7311

- **SPRING FISH FRY** at Central Christian School will be held this coming Friday, March 12, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are available from juniors, Daniel Park, Chloe Raber, Olivia Ressler, and David Yoder. They may also be purchased at the school in advance or the night of the fish fry. Ticket prices are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.50 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under eat free!
- **HAITI RELIEF BENEFIT:** "The Whisper is God" will be presented at Central Christian School this coming Friday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. It will be an evening of the arts held in lieu of the spring musical. The offering from the evening will be sent to Haitian Community Hospital in Port-Au-Prince and Christianville Mission in Gressier where portions of the school, housing and medical clinics as well as the entire college will have to be rebuilt. Please come and enjoy many wonderful performances by the students as an outpouring of love to those in need.
- **KINDERGARTEN DISCOVERY DAY** at Central Christian is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 from 8:00-10:30 a.m.. If you have or know of a 4-year or 5-year old child that would enjoy seeing what a morning is like in Mrs. Bilderback's kindergarten class, call Doris Risser at (330) 857-7311 to register.

CAMP LUZ MEN'S RETREAT will be held March 19-21, 2010. The retreat speaker will be Andy Stoner, Ohio Conference Regional Pastor, on the theme: "The Samson Syndrome: Looking at Male Sexuality, Spirituality and Relationships." Cost: \$85 per person. See brochure on the counter in the foyer or visit www.campluz.com for a printable form.

ORRVILLA COMMUNITY EVENT this month will feature the Varsity Singers from Central Christian School, on Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. This select group of junior and senior students will sing a variety of sacred and secular music. Everyone is welcome—admission is free. Refreshments will follow the program. For more information, call 330/683-4455.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY RECEPTION: Meet Bluffton University faculty, staff and students at a "Discover Bluffton" dessert reception March 21, 2010. The reception is open to all high school age students and their parents. Find out about the impact of a Bluffton education. Bluffton alumni are also welcome to attend. The event will be held at the Pines Golf Club and Restaurant at 7:00 p.m. To register call 1-800-488-3257 or register online at <http://www.bluffton.edu/admission/event/>

CAMP BUCKEYE, a local outreach camping ministry for 25 years is in need of:

1. Board Members – Dedicated persons who can give 4 hours per month & are passionate about reaching out to youth.
2. Summer Staff – Persons who have a week or more this July to serve in various capacities, such as counselor, crafts, kitchen, directors, lifeguard, recreation director. Great opportunity to impact the youth of our community.
3. Sewers – Camp Buckeye currently has inner city children coming for outdoor education during the spring & fall. We have a pattern to make simple backpacks for the children to use, write their reflections on, and take home with them as a reminder of what they experienced at camp. Anyone who would be willing to donate some time to make bags (fabric will be provided) would be appreciated. These are needed by mid April.

Contact us at coordinator@campbuckeye.org, check our website at www.campbuckeye.org; or call us at 330/756-2380.

SALEM MENNONITE CHURCH (Kidron), would like to welcome you to join us for worship at our Pre-Easter Services March 28, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and March 29, 7:00 p.m. We are privileged to have Ervin R. Stutzman, our new MC USA Executive Director, as our guest speaker. His goal is to meet a lot of people and as many churches as possible. His sermon series is titled, "Keeping First Things First." We look forward to having a lot of guests from our sister Mennonite churches join us. We hope we can show our support for Ervin by filling our church so that as many people in the area can get to hear him as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Darrell Ediger (330/466-4077). The offering will go to MCC's work in Haiti.

P GRAHAM DUNN SPRING CELEBRATION will be held Tuesday, March 23 at Central Christian School. A special worship service will include music from local musicians, Sonnenberg Station and Sommers Sisters. Guest speaker, Dr. Tony Evans, founder and Senior Pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas, will give a message that will inspire and encourage us on our Christian journey. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

MFFCU JOB OPENING: MMA has an opening for a part-time (approx. 12-16 hours/week, including Saturday mornings) teller at the Kidron branch of the Mennonite Federal Financial Credit Union. The person would be responsible for processing deposits, withdrawals, loan payments, and similar cash transactions. Qualifications include good math and basic computer skills. Banking background is helpful but not required. MMA is an established, highly-trusted, Anabaptist stewardship organization that helps people integrate their faith with their finances. We are an equal opportunity employer offering a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Send cover letter and resume, or request an application from: Operations at MMA, PO Box 266, Kidron OH 44636; Phone: 330/857-9988, Fax: 330/857-9990; e-mail: barbara.reinford@mmapartners.org.

The next issue of *Sojourns* will be printed for Sunday, March 21, 2010. Please submit any items for this issue by Thursday, March 18, 9:00 a.m. Thanks!