

SOJOURNS

Vol. XXVI, Issue 24

The Newsletter of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church

December 17, 2017

SENIOR SAINTS—December Birthdays/Anniversaries



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

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- Gordon Amstutz (78), Monday, December 4
 Connie Neuenschwander, (69), Tuesday,
**Delo Gerber (65), Thursday, December 7—
 —Welcome to the Senior Saints, Delo!!**
 Nancy Miller (69), Thursday, December 14
 Ada Amstutz (88), Saturday, December 16
 Til Neuenschwander (89), Sunday, December 24
 Paul Wenger (79) Tuesday, December 26



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

Who am I? _____

- Vocation:
 - 1st job: Lighthouse Ministries Summer Enrichment Camp
 - Dream job: Family reunification and advocacy for children who have been placed in foster care after the deportation of their parents
- Favorites:
 - Area of Study/Class: Sociology
 - Food: Cheese
 - Book: The Great Gatsby
 - Book of the Bible: James
 - Song or Hymn: Anything sung by Josh Groban
 - Place to visit: Chinatown in Los Angeles
 - Vacation Destination: Colorado/Arizona/ New Mexico
 - TV show: The Voice
- Hobbies: Movie nights with friends, reading, finding fun new dessert places
- Pet Peeve: Being stuck in traffic
- Least favorite chore: Weeding the garden

Answers from December 3 issue:
 #1 Pam Taylor
 #2 Bill Helmuth



Who am I? _____

- School I attend: Central Christian
 Grade in School: 2nd
- Favorites:
 - School subject/activity: recess & lunch
 - Food: Pizza
 - Book: "I Survive" series
 - Book of the Bible: Micah
 - Song: Little Robin in the Tree
 - Place to visit: Florida
 - Sports team: Cleveland Indians
 - TV Show: Odd Squad
- Hobbies/after school activities: Playing with Legos
- Least favorite chore: practicing violin
- Nobody knows: I cut holes in my shirt at school



OYANGUREN'S

Through this letter we would like to extend our sincere thanks for the help received for the ministry among the Toba-Qom people of Chaco. We know that we are only stewards of what God gives us in his mercy and grace. The vehicle is a special blessing for our family, it helps us a lot, and we are six! For this reason, it is a great blessing for the Toba-Qom people who received the news with great pleasure.

Uses

- Family use: important errands, children's school, purchases in other cities.
- Aid to indigenous people for health: transportation, take them to the hospital in emergencies, etc.
- Visits: churches, homes, rural areas, etc.
- Transporting artisan items made by the women.
- Drive to Bible studies.
- Help with educational trips.

Anecdote: Since we bought the same model and color, some have been surprised and said: "What a good wash you gave the car, José".



NEWS & NOTES

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: www.ccscomets.org; 330/857-7311

- Alumni Night, December 22: Varsity girls basketball game at 6:00 p.m. and Varsity boys basketball game at 7:30 p.m. vs. Lucas High School. All alumni get in free and will be eligible for prize drawings.

KIDRON MENNONITE CHURCH invites you to an extended Family Christmas Dinner which will be held on Christmas Day, December 25, at the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building. The gathering will start at 11:30 a.m. with the carry-in meal at 12:00 p.m. Meat, drink, and dinner rolls will be provided. Fellowship and games will last until 2:00 p.m. Anyone in the community who has no other plans is welcome to attend.

OAK GROVE MENNONITE CHURCH, Smithville, will be performing selections from **Handel's Messiah** accompanied by chamber musicians and led by conductor Brian Wiebe, today, December 17, at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and a free-will offering will be taken. If you would like to join the choir, please plan to attend rehearsals on Friday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 16, at 3:30 p.m.

Additional news from Felipe Oyanguren:

As I write this letter, I pray that God is blessing you greatly. In January of this year I began to be part of the work that the Mennonite Mission does in the Argentine Chaco. For a long time I have had the desire to dedicate my life to serve the Lord. I knew the people with whom I was working since I had lived here from a very young age and so it was just "part of my life" even unintentionally. I also was old enough to be able to carry out a project and collaborate in any field of work. At the same time I studied and I continue to do so, in the career of law.

We all have the call to preach the Word of God and make known His Name (Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to keep all the things that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days, even to the end of the world, Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20), but a personal call from God can be applied in specific and distinct situations as long as that call is related to serving others (James 2:14-17, Galatians 5:13). In this sense it was about a month ago I made the decision to prepare myself and move forward, to grow specifically in the areas in which it is very likely I would end up dedicating my life in a post-study period, and carrying out the personal call of God in my life. To do that, I will need to "leave" my collaborative activities with the Mission from the beginning of next year (2018). I clarify that this "leave" is in quotes, because as I had expressed at the beginning, that these activities were part of my daily life which means that I will continue to help, being part of the life of the community and work, but without the same amount of time, and without receiving the monetary collaboration that I have received.

Once someone said that mission work is carried out thanks to the knees of those who pray, the hands of those who give and the feet of those who go. This is why I want to thank all those who have made this work possible and who were responsible for me being part of it as well. Thank you for being and showing that nothing can be done without the great family in Christ. Thanks from me and the people of the Chaco Argentino, for whom all the work of this mission is dedicated.

For next year I will start a job or internship in a law firm, part time. Since I was a boy I have been connected with music, and am now more committed with praise music in the church, so I also enrolled in a university level career track to teach music. I will attend classes every day, very likely in the evenings/nights. It is a career program that lasts five years. I will also continue with law studies.

I have greatly appreciated this time of work in my life. I was very blessed and I hope I have been a blessing too.

I wish again that God will bless you greatly and "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, Amen." (2 Corinthians 13:14) — Felipe Oyanguren

P.S. from Linda Shelly: At Mission Network we are also grateful for your support of Felipe and his family in the ministry in which they are serving in the Chaco. We give our thanks also to Felipe for the many ways in which he has contributed this year, and will continue to contribute in less formal ways.

Merry Christmas



May the melody of the Christmas spirit fill your life with love, joy and peace. Have a blessed Christmas!

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday, January 7, 2018. Please submit items to the church for this issue by Thursday, January 4, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

Answers from today's issue:
#1 Rowena Zuercher
#2 Nathan Petite