



Conference CRIER

Sunday, August 1, 2010

Celebrating 100 years of God's Faithfulness

Volume 16 • Issue 3

Conference Memories *by Andrew Sharp*

The drama *Remember Us* on Saturday afternoon took the audience in the Dixon Ministry Center chapel back to a CMC world that seemed very different from the present. Many at Conference this year can recall some of those times personally, and a few shared some memories for the *Crier*.

They recalled a different emphasis on the importance of attending Annual Conference. Amanda Byler from Dover, Delaware said when she started attending Greenwood Mennonite Church in the 1950s, she was told that if she wanted to be involved in the church it was important to attend Annual Conference. So she went! She and her husband Joe were also very involved with the Bible school at Rosedale — all nine of their children attended. “I don’t know if that’s a record or not,” Joe said.

Phyllis Maust of Grantsville, Maryland recalled that Conference was important enough that they got new homemade clothes for the event.

Clothing, of course, has changed a lot over the passing decades. Irene Helmuth, of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, has been coming to Conference for about 70 years and recalled the old styles. Different churches did things differently. “The church at Pigeon, Michigan...that one was the most liberal,” she said. “Our Iowa churches where I grew up, we were still wearing cape dresses, for “good,” for dress-up ... another difference I re-

member is the Pennsylvania churches were very conservative, they did not allow the women and girls to put collars on their dresses, they always had collarless dresses...one of those places, they didn’t put collars on the dresses, but they could have large-print dresses. Now we had print, but not flashy large print.” She said they also wore ribbons on their coverings, like the Amish did, but they didn’t tie them. Eventually, the bishop let them stop wearing them altogether.

They had a sense of humor about these differences in style. 1 Corinthians 11 refers to women wearing “power” or “authority” on their heads. Irene’s husband Emery remembered a girl in Minnesota referring to the ribbons as “power lines.”

Irene and Emery remembered the Conference’s missions work as beginning some changes in the area of dress. They worked in missions, and said they saw how the clothing could be a barrier. “I remember some women say, ‘We like your church, we like the way that you love each other...but we’re not willing to wear those special kinds of clothes.’”

While the way Annual Confer-

ence looks has changed with time, some things have stayed the same. Conference was a place to make friends and see old ones. “I was always pleased that we could go, because we made friends, and we’d



Elizabeth Yoder, Molly Rosati, Preston Yoder, and Ryan Freed perform on the one-act play, *Remember Us*, written and directed by Vicki Sairs, who read through letters and documents in the CMC archives to piece together a historical journey through 100 years of CMC history.

only see them at conference once a year. And it’s still that way, I know people that I knew from conference way back,” Irene said. The sessions were an encouragement as well. Amanda Byler pointed to the women’s meetings as a highlight for her, and Irene said she looked forward to the good speakers and the missionary reports. “Now that in recent years we’re getting older and I don’t want to travel that far, I miss it,” she said. ❖

News & Notes

If you see James Zook, son of Max & Brenda, wish him a happy birthday. He's turning 9 today!

First place winner in the crossword puzzle contest is Annette Byler Miller.

Introducing *Among Women*: A year-long conversation (in three retreats) among women of different spheres about God, the Bible, and their lives. Watch for upcoming *Beacon* articles and a blog featuring the following panelists: Lynette Showalter (leader), Mim Musser (single), Naomi Byler (married with children), Dot Chupp (married without children), Louella Mast (widowed), Elnora Miller (divorced), Carla Hochstetler (career), Vicki Sairs (photographer/writer). First retreat: October 15-16, 2010.

If there is someone traveling to Indianapolis or Carmel, Indiana, and could take a box with them, contact Lois Orozco, or leave a message at Room 160.

Looking for a ride for Sandra Campos to Allentown, Penn., or nearby. Contact Ben Shirk at 574-536-8716.

In Hindu culture, the widow is often devalued and abandoned. As many as 30,000 widows are in the high pilgrimage city of Varanasi, North India, waiting to die and

have their ashes scattered in the Ganges. Ask about the "Adopt a Granny" (sponsor a widow) program at the display table of Carl & Joann Benderoth with YWAM, and former RMM associates.

Jaime Prieto Valladares, the author of the book *Mission and Migration*, the story of Mennonites in Latin America, is in attendance from Costa Rica. The book is available at the Choice Books table.

Lost & Found is located at the registration table in the Stevens Student Center.

Conference Prayer Room: Room DMC 105 is designated for prayer, which we hope you will use for corporate prayer meetings, praying with a friend, or time alone with your Father. If your church is thinking of starting a prayer room, stop by to get some ideas. – *Mim Musser, RMM Prayer Coordinator*

Recordings are available by Brad Maust to the left as you are exiting the chapel in the Dixon Ministry Center.

Atencion Hispanos: Para recibir sus audifonos para escuchar las traducciones de las conferencias al español, repórtese a la mesa de INFORMACION en la entrada al auditorio del Dixon Ministry Center, contiguo

a Room 159. Tengan la bondad de devolverlos al mismo sitio después de cada sesión. Gracias.

Read about the conference's first mission project in 1914 — the Amish Mennonite Children's Home at Grantsville, Maryland. The books can be seen and ordered at the display table in the Dixon Ministry Center vestibule.

Friends of Engaged Couples: Pick up the current Engaged Encounter brochure and Application Form at the CMC display and get those couples to an Engaged Encounter. The next one is September 10-12 at Rosedale Bible College.

Time Capsule : Templates to allow you to share your thoughts and anecdotes about CMC with future generations are at the Information Table in the Stevens Center or at the CMC table in the Dixon Ministry Center as well as online at www.cmcrosedale.org. Place completed templates in the boxes at the previously-mentioned tables or mail to CMC by September 15, 2010. Time Capsule will be opened at Conference 2060. Prayerfully consider what you might share with those who will be serving God in the latter half of the 21st Century!

Dirk Wilhelm clay sculpture judging results:

Age 12 and under category: 1st place: Greg Schrock; 2nd place: Layne Headings

Adult category:

1st place: Clayton Peachy; 2nd place: Derek Miller

Congratulations! Thanks to all who sculpted! 1st and 2nd place finishers may pick up their prizes at the conference registration table in the Stevens Student Center.



By Clayton Peachy, age 14



By Greg Schrock, age 12

CMC Centennial Missions Calendar *by David I. Miller*

A compilation of CMC mission firsts. Quotations are from the CMC Conference Reports/Annual Reports of the indicated year.

1910 – Missions Question. In its first meeting, the Conference passed this resolution: “We believe it is our duty to spread the gospel because Christ himself commanded it.”

1914 – First Institution. A children's home was opened by the Conference in the home of Noah and Barbara Brenneman near Accident, Maryland. In 1916 the home was moved to a new brick structure near Grantsville, Maryland.

1917 – Investigation. M. S. Zehr was commissioned to hold meetings and to investigate the possibility of opening mission work in the Ozark Mountains.

1919 – Mission Board Appointed. “After due consideration for no short period of time, it was decided to appoint a board of three ministers to further investigate the advisability of opening mission work under the supervision of the conference, as well as examine such applicants as may apply for such mission work. The appointments were as follows: Christian W. Bender, Elk Lick, Pa.; M. S. Zehr, Pigeon, Mich.; Jonas D. Yoder, Belleville, Pa. This appointment was unanimously accepted by conference body.” After this beginning, the mission board has been a standing board of the Conference and today is identified as the Board of Directors of Rosedale Mennonite Missions.

1920 – Report of Investigation. After hearing reports of investigations by the mission board of possible work in the Ozarks, Detroit, and Youngstown, A. C. Swartzendruber declared, “We are in this work like a child that is learning to walk, who when it falls down, must again stand up.”

1928 – Michigan. A mission was established in Flint, Michigan. Ten years later, evangelistic work was begun at Vassar, Michigan. These ministries were initiated by the Pi-

geon River congregation and are the background of Grace Christian Fellowship in Flint and Pineview Mennonite Church at Vassar.

1946 – Kentucky. The first residential personnel from CMC arrived in Appalachian Kentucky when Alvin and Eula Swartz moved to Turners Creek. This and later outreaches in the general area were the background of the current CMC churches of Turners Creek, Bowlings Creek, Caney Creek,

Panco, and Buckhorn. Prior to the planting of these congregations, CMC churches were located largely in the northern part of the country, along and north of the corridor of U.S 40 and I-70.

1950s and Later – Voluntary Service. An active and expanded “VS” program placed many young people in state-side cities, especially in the south, including Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; Meridian and Jackson, Mississippi; and, as background of the current Faith Community Church, Eldorado, Arkansas.

1950 – Europe. John and Grace Gingerich were sent to Espelkamp, Germany, to administer relief work in Espelkamp, Germany. This marked the beginning of CMC personnel abroad under CMC administration. One year later, Harvey and Mildred Miller were sent as missionaries to Luxembourg. This was stated as the first sending of “missionaries” overseas.

1961 – Latin America. Elmer and Eileen Lehman and Raymond and Susie Schlabach were sent to Cost Rica as the first CMC missionaries to Latin America. CMC work was opened in Nicaragua with a Voluntary Service program in 1968



Elmer & Eileen Lehman, pioneer missionaries to Latin America, participate in one of the vignettes performed during the “Taste of Missions” service Thursday evening. At well-past retirement age, Elmer is an inspiration to the rest of us as he continues to contribute his time to the work at RMM.

and in Ecuador by sending Elam and Doris Stauffer as missionaries in 1980. The ministry of the missionaries resulted in the formation of Mennonite conferences in each of the three countries. Delegates from these conferences are with us in this conference today.

1982 – Muslim Ministry. After decades of missionary outreach in nominal Christian areas of the world, CMC, through its mission agency RMM, moved into a Muslim country.

Recent Expansions – As shown by reports and displays on the conference grounds today and otherwise, RMM ministries abroad have expanded in recent years with personnel working in Muslim and polytheistic cultures by assignment of both long term missionaries and short term programs such as REACH and others. Stateside church planting has been relegated largely to the congregations. ❖



David Showalter, born in the first decade of CMC's existence, is accompanied by his son Richard Showalter as part of the Banners of the Decades presentation.



Ronald Lee Hollingshead, Rosedale, Ohio, represents the decade of 2000 in the Banners of the Decades procession.

Sunday's Schedule

Missions Program: Framing the Next Century of CMC Mission

DMC Chapel

Moderators: Max Zook, Belleville, Pennsylvania, RMM Board chair; Mel Shetler, Goshen, Indiana, RMM board vice chair

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION (9:30-11:45)

Call to worship/hymns: Pablo Kauffman, Granada, Spain

Historical drama (continued from Taste of Missions)

Children's choir: DeAnn Miller, London, Ohio

Announcements

Sharing and stories from mission workers about God at work around the world

Sermon: *Trajectory: CMC's Next Century of Mission*, Joe Showalter, RMM president, Columbus, Ohio

Annual Missions Day Offering (checks payable to Rosedale Mennonite Missions)

Commissioning service

Worship: Kevin Mayer, Rosedale, Ohio

The **Conference Crier** is a daily publication during the Annual Conference of Conservative Mennonite Conference and is available at the entrance of the morning session. Please give announcements to Fern Horst at Room 160 in the Dixon Ministry Center, or send by email to fernh@fern.net, or text to 540-810-5699. The editor reserves the right to edit and/or reject submitted material.

The **100th Annual Conference** is being held July 29-August 1, 2010, at Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio with the theme:
100 Years of God's Faithfulness

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COME SEE OUR NEW TRAINING FACILITY!

RMM is having an open house today at the Rosedale International Center in Columbus, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Directions available at the RMM booth.



CHORAL CAMP 2011

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www.rosedale.edu

Stop by the Choral Camp booth to learn more.



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