

Perspective



Editor: Ann H. Leaman • 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 • Phone/Fax: (330) 453-3793 • E-mail: ohioevangel@earthlink.net

Central Christian to host Intercultural Fiesta

Open Arms will hold its third annual Intercultural Fiesta Sunday, Sept. 20, at 4 p.m. at Central Christian School in Kidron. Participants will be meeting around tables in the gymnasium of Central Christian. Many people have said they don't know their Hispanic neighbors. An interpreter will be provided for each table to help neighbors to get acquainted while they enjoy a light snack. Music will be provided by a choir from Lee Heights Community Church and a Hispanic group. All are welcome.

Open Arms Hispanic Ministries has been welcoming Hispanics to Wayne County and surrounding areas since 2001. Open Arms has depended on the donations of area churches, individuals, and several grants from Ohio Conference. More recently it has been expanding its ministries further through the efforts of Haroldo and Esmirna Nunes. Haroldo is the Hispanic pastor at Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster. For more information about the Intercultural Fiesta, you may call Raul Tadeo, the coordinator, at (330) 828-0040, or e-mail him at rvtadeo@zoominternet.net.

Dayspring to celebrate 25th anniversary

Dayspring Christian Fellowship in Massillon will be celebrating its 25th anniversary Nov. 7 and 8. The theme of the celebration is "Rooted, Established and Growing" with events scheduled from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The celebration will include drama and music reflecting Dayspring's history, food and fellowship, a recognition of pastors and an MYF homecoming. Guest speaker for the celebration will be Glendon Blosser. Everyone is invited to join the congregation in celebrating this milestone. See the anniversary schedule at www.dayspringcf.us.

Discounts remain for OC Pastor-Spouse Retreat

To date, 24 couples have registered for the Ohio Conference-sponsored Pastor-Spouse Retreat, which will take place Nov. 6-8 at the Mohican State Park Lodge. Thanks to donations from Ohio Mennonite Women and Mennonite Mutual Insurance, up to 30 pastoral couples may participate in the retreat at a reduced registration cost of \$199. Others may attend at a registration rate of \$375 per couple. For a brochure with registration form, go to the Ohio Conference Web site (www.ohio.mennonite.net) and click on "Publications."

Perspective: 1) The interrelation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed. 2) Point of view; capacity to view things in their relative importance.

Prayer perspective

Please keep Ken Benner, associate pastor at Kalida Family Outreach Center in Kalida, in your prayers. He has been diagnosed with multiple brain tumors. Initial results from a biopsy indicate a type of cancer called Glioblastoma. A Web page with more information about Ken's condition and treatment has been set up at www.caringbridge.org/visit/kenbenner.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
-

Decisions about Corinthian Plan needed

Has your congregation made a decision about participating in the Corinthian Plan, the proposed health insurance plan for pastors and church employees of congregations in Mennonite Church USA?

As of Aug. 4, only eight congregations in Ohio Conference had signed up to participate in the Corinthian Plan. The deadline of Oct. 1 is rapidly approaching when a decision will need to be made about whether enough congregations have agreed to participate in the plan.

If your congregation has not already done so, please return the Information Form to Mennonite Mutual Aid found at the "sign up" link on the Web site: www.MennoniteUSA.org/TheCorinthianPlan. If you have questions, contact Keith Harder at KeithH@MennoniteUSA.org or (620) 382-7135.

Choice Books of Ohio in merger talks

Discussions are underway for a merger of Choice Books of Ohio, a ministry of Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA which is headquartered in Kidron, with Choice Books of Great Lakes - Rosedale, Irwin, Ohio, a ministry of Rosedale Mennonite Missions. The Choice Books of Ohio Board, chaired by Galen Sommers, has been exploring options since the resignation of director Jan Sohar several months ago.

Choice Books of Ohio serves Choice Books displays in Ohio north of U.S. Route 30 and northwest Pennsylvania, while Choice Books of Great Lakes - Rosedale serves the remainder of Ohio, northern Kentucky, western New York, Indiana, and Michigan. A merger seems like the best and most efficient option for the growth and development of the Choice Books ministry in the region. The proposal being considered would be a no-cost transfer of the assets of Choice Books of Ohio to Choice Books of Great Lakes - Rosedale. Agreements include offering employment to current staff and continuing with the Kidron office/warehouse as a service district for at least several years. Management services could transfer in October or November with the business of Choice Books of Ohio concluding Dec. 31, 2009.

Choice Books of Ohio and Choice Books of Great Lakes - Rosedale are part of the larger Choice Books ministry that currently operates through a network of eight regional Choice Books distributors working cooperatively with a central office in Harrisonburg, Va. The total organization employs approximately 250 staff and volunteers and services more than 9,700 displays scattered across the continental United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The organization's mission is "to share the 'good news' of Jesus Christ in the general marketplace through inspiring and wholesome reading material." Displays can be found in supermarkets, general merchandise stores, airports, mass merchandisers, drug stores, travel centers, gift shops, Army and Air Force bases and a variety of other retailers. For more information about Choice Books, please visit the Choice Books Web site at www.choicebooks.org.

Youth ministry perspective

Sept. 9 is the pre-registration deadline for "Understanding Today's Youth," the youth ministry training event sponsored by the Ohio Conference. The one-day seminar, which will feature speaker Walt Mueller, will take place Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Central Christian School in Kidron. Registration cost is \$35 per person if received by Sept. 9. Special group rates are also available. After Sept. 9, the registration price rises to \$50 per person. For a brochure with registration form, visit the Ohio Conference Web site:

www.ohio.mennonite.net.

Retreat perspective

Registration forms are due Sept. 5 for the fall Ohio Mennonite Women's Retreat. Marilyn Rossiter will be the resource person for the retreat, which will take place Sept. 18-20 at Camp Luz, 152 Kidron Road, Orrville. Registration forms have been sent to all Ohio Conference congregations.

Perspective insert

Included with this issue of *Perspective* is a letter with information about two planned conference calls regarding health care access.

Perspective deadlines

Sept. 10	for Sept. 14 issue
Sept. 24	for Sept. 28 issue

www.ohio.mennonite.net