

Perspective



OHIO CONFERENCE
OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA

www.ohio.mennonite.net

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Adriel seeks new chief executive officer

Adriel, Inc. (www.adriel.org) seeks a new CEO to lead this \$6 million provider of foster care and residential services. Located one hour northwest of Columbus in West Liberty, with satellite operations in Archbold, this Mennonite-affiliated organization has 80 employees and serves more than 1,200 children and their families in 26 Ohio counties annually.

Preferred candidate requirements: Masters-level education, eight years senior management experience, knowledge of and commitment to Teaching Family model, demonstrated long-term organizational loyalty, active involvement in a church congregation, and appreciation of the Mennonite heritage. Candidates should have demonstrated abilities to develop new business lines that provide a positive margin, serve multiple boards, build constituent relations, and provide clear and decisive leadership.

Contact information: Interested candidates should contact Kirk Stiffney with the MHS Alliance at (574) 537-8736 or kirkstiffney@msn.com.

Program features 200 years of Mennonite hymns

The Foresingers, a music group from Leola, Pa., will give a musical commemoration of 200 years of Mennonite hymnals on Sunday, June 20, 3 p.m., at the Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center, Berlin. The public program will be held in the Mural Hall. A freewill offering will be received.

The program features hymns common to the first two Mennonite hymnals published in North America — *Zion's Harp* of 1803 (*Die Kleine Geistliche Harfe der Kinder Zions*) and *Gesangbuch* of 1804 (*Ein Unpartheysiches Gesangbuch*). The second book drew heavily from the *Ausbund*, the original hymnal of the Swiss Brethren, dating from 1564 and still used by the Amish. These hymnals led to the development of the *Church and Sunday School Hymnal*, *Life Songs*, and other hymnals used by Mennonites in the 20th century.

The program is presented as a dramatic story of a family gathering after the death of their parents. Inspired by their musical heritage, the family reunites after their loss. The Foresingers sing in both English and German and dress in period costume. The 13 musicians are from Lancaster and Franconia counties in Pennsylvania. Glenn Lehman of Leola, Pa., organized and directs the group.

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.

Financial perspective

Please remember: The Ohio Conference fiscal year ends June 30. Financial totals for May were not available at press time, but as was reported earlier, the Conference had a year-to-date operating deficit of \$17,420 at the end of April. Check the June 21 issue of *Perspective* for May's financial information.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Hartville Mennonite member honored by MMA

GOSHEN, Ind. — Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA) recently recognized the outstanding achievement of Lois Bontrager of Hartville with its Church Relations Manager of the Year Award. This is the second consecutive year that Bontrager's achievements were recognized with this award, which was presented at MMA's recent National Conference. She and her husband, Paul, attend Hartville Mennonite and have two grown daughters and one grandchild.

René Mejía named MCC Central States director

AKRON, Pa. — René Mejía, pastor of Primera Iglesia Menonita in Defiance, has been named the new director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Central States. Currently treasurer of the MCC Great Lakes board, Mejía brings a background in accounting and administration as well as a passion for Christian service.

Mejía was selected by a six-member committee from the MCC Central States board, with input from a consultant. The region — one of the four that make up MCC U.S. — has been under the direction of an interim staff leadership team since January.

Originally from San Salvador, El Salvador, Mejía graduated from Universidad Católica Jose Simón Cañas and worked as a certified public accountant. During the civil war of the 1980s, he and his wife, Connie, and their three young children fled to Canada. They settled in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where they first encountered Mennonites and were drawn to Anabaptist teachings.

Feeling called to ministry, Mejía enrolled at Goshen College and graduated in 1997 with a double major in Hispanic Ministries and accounting. In Goshen, Mejía was active at Iglesia del Buen Pastor (Church of the Good Shepherd), and also worked as an accountant and educator.

In 1998, he began serving as pastor of Primera Iglesia Menonita (First Mennonite Church) in Defiance. In addition to church work at the congregational and conference level, he is involved in the public schools and serves as a community translator. He is currently working toward a master's degree in peace studies from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.

Mejía has represented Ohio Conference on the Great Lakes board for six years. An MCC learning tour to Colombia and travels in Central America have given him a chance to observe some of MCC's overseas work. As a survivor of civil war himself, it was especially meaningful for him to see how MCC is assisting people displaced by violence in Colombia, he says.

Mejía will join MCC Central States' ongoing efforts to address racism within its regional structures. A member of the Ohio Conference Damascus Road anti-racism team, he is committed to racial justice and reconciliation.

Mejía and his wife are in the process of moving to North Newton, Kan., where the MCC Central States office is located. He will begin his term July 1.

Anniversary perspective

An open house reception celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Melvin and Lois Leidig will be held Sunday, June 27, 2–5 p.m. at the Philomatheon Society Social Hall, 2701 W. Tuscarawas, Canton, near Aultman Hospital. A retired pastor, Melvin served a number of congregations in the Ohio Conference. The Leidigs are members of Beech Mennonite.

If you have letters, stories, pictures or greetings you would like to share with Melvin and Lois, please send the information on an 8½-by-11-inch sheet to Shari Leidig Holland, 1423 Carnegie Ave., McKeesport PA 15132. Items received by June 19 will be included in a 50th Anniversary Memory Book being made for them. If you have any questions, please e-mail Shari at Leidigslh@aol.com.

Perspective deadlines

June 3 for June 7 issue

June 17 for June 21 issue

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Perspective June 7, 2004