

Prayer Prompter for September-October 2009
Ohio Circle of Praying Friends of Ohio Conference

We can't put off prayer until we "get good at it." It is the only language available to us as we bring our unique and particular selves, "just as we are without one plea," into the presence of God, through Jesus. This is what we are all about... from Eugene Peterson's book, The Jesus Way (264)

***Pray for these 6 Ohio Conference Congregations:**

1) Inlet Mennonite Church, Wauseon, Pastor Rick (Cindy) Jones

2) Jubilee Mennonite Church, Bellefontaine, Pastor Tony (Ronda) Doehrmann



➔ *Please pray that Jubilee will continue to listen carefully for God as we discern God's vision for the future of our congregation, and to obey once we have heard God speak.*

3) Kalida Family Outreach Center, Kalida, Pastor James (Dawn) Swihart

4) Kidron Mennonite Church, Kidron, Associate Pastor Lydell (Rebeca) Steiner

➔ *I would like to thank you and the conference for taking the time to pray for the conference and congregational needs. Some of KMCs concerns are the following:*

➔ *Prayer for continued wisdom and direction for our pastoral leadership Terry Shue (leaving) and Larry Augsburger (coming as transitional pastor).*

➔ *Continued guidance and wisdom for lay leaders, as KMC looks to the future and makes important decisions and changes.*

➔ *Our missionaries who are serving abroad.*

5) Lafayette Christian Fellowship, West Lafayette, Sister Margaret Yoder

➔ *Please pray for us to find a new meeting place! Thanks*

6) Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland, Pastor Robin (Cynthia) Miller

***Pray for Ohio Conference Chaplains:**

1) Robert Halfhill, Chaplain, Majora Lane and Holmes County Home

2) Jocelyn Hamsher, Chaplain, Walnut Hills Retirement Community

➔ *I appreciate your energies in this endeavor as prayer is vital for effective, Spirit-led ministry. Thanks so much-Jocelyn*

***Pray for these important ministries which relate to Ohio Conference:**

1) Brazo en Brazo workers: Paul and Ann Conrad, New Carlisle

➔ *Pray for the fundraiser: Fiesta Familiar on Sept. 13, 4-7 p.m. at the Lima Mennonite Church*

2) Open Arms, workers: Raúl and Vanita Tadeo and Haroldo and Esmirna Nunez in Kidron area

➔ *Pray for the INTERCULTURAL FIESTA FOR BILINGUAL CONVERSATIONS. The third annual Intercultural Fiesta of Open Arms will be meeting around tables in the gymnasium of Central Christian Schools in Kidron on Sunday, Sept. 20, at 4 p.m. Many people have said they don't know their Hispanic neighbors. So, 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 Lee Heights Community Church choir and a Hispanic group. Open Arms Hispanic Ministries has been welcoming Hispanics to Wayne County and surrounding areas since 2001. It has depended on the donations of area churches, individuals, and several grants from Ohio Conference.*

3) Norma Duerkson, Ohio Conference Resource Advocate

➔ *Pray for the teacher training workshop that I will provide for Lockport Mennonite Church and their children's department. I will be explaining Gather 'Round curriculum and hopefully inspire these faithful volunteers to teach God's Word with joy and purpose. The workshop is Sept. 26.*

➔ *Pray that I will be able to make contact with many churches to complete the inventory of librarians, education chairpersons, and possible speakers from each congregation. May God give me the listening skills needed to hear what churches need in the form of resources.*

***Let's remember these important gatherings, that those who attend would be blessed and renewed:**

- 1) Ohio Mennonite Women's Retreat at Camp Luz, Sept. 18-20 with speaker Marilyn Rossiter
- 2) Youth Worker Training Seminar with Walt Mueller, Central Christian School, Kidron, Sept. 19
- 3) Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team will meet Saturday, Oct. 17

*** Let's lift up our Ohio Conference Staff, for protection as they travel long distances, the gifts of listening and discernment, and Holy Spirit passion.**

- 1) Tom Kauffman, conference minister
- 2) Andrew Stoner and Matt Hamsher, regional pastors
- 3) Judy King, administrative assistant in the Ohio Conference Office at Kidron
- 4) Ann Leaman, conference editor working out of her home in Louisville
- 5) Sherah-Leigh Gerber, coordinator for the resource teams
- 6) Stanley Helmuth, finance coordinator

Prayer Against the Easy Way

Lord of all enemies, critics, competitors,
It's not that we love violence;
We just hate the hard work of peace.
We would rather not sit with our rivals
We would rather not look them in the eye, seek to understand.

We turn them a cold shoulder.
We ignore their emails and phone calls.
We insult them when we've had enough,
We battle them with our wits, insisting on winning.
We wish them gone, dead.
We assume one of us must leave.

Forgive our haughtiness.
Remind us that you love them as much as you love us.
That they bear your image as much as we do.
That on your holy mountain,
Everyone finds a place
Enemies become friends,
Predators become pets
Vipers become playmates.
Give us the heart and the stamina we need
To take the hard, upward road of peace.

Written by Byron Rempel-Burkholder, editor, Faith & Life Resources, Mennonite Publishing Network, Winnipeg, MB. As seen in the Aug. 18, 2009, issue of PeaceSigns, a service of Mennonite Church USA.