

Evangel

Rich Financial Harvest Reaped at Fall MCC Sales

By Cathleen Hockman-Wert and Phyllis Franz

October brought in a rich and abundant harvest for Mennonite Central Committee projects supported by Oregon's Festival for World Relief and Washington's Mennonite Country Auction, both held this year on October 7.

Oregon Report

The traveling "Share Your Heart" quilt provided a heartwarming beginning for the Oregon event in Albany. The 23rd annual fundraiser for Mennonite Central Committee hosted the heart-motif quilt which is being displayed at relief sales across the country to generate funds for Global Family projects.

Oregon planners had hoped to collect \$4,500 for a project in the Republic of Chad, but were delighted when the "Share Your Heart" fund climbed to \$6,625: more than twice the amount raised for similar projects in previous years. Each donor received a heart-shaped cookie and the good feeling of having made a difference for children in need.

The festival's earnings also were boosted by its best Penny Power year. Thanks to congregations like Salem Mennonite Church, which collected \$1,158.25 in coins, some \$5,014.47 was raised for MCC food projects.

Eight quilts sold for more than \$1,000 this year, with an "Amish Lone Star" in plain dark colors from the MCC Akron Quilt Room bringing in the day's top bid of \$3,000. Zion Mennonite Church's "Snowflake" quilt sold for \$1,600. "Iris Garden" by Lebanon Mennonite Church and New Hope Church raised \$1,000.

Children's activities at the sale are gaining quite a reputation, with a recent "Kid Trips" column from the Salem *Statesman-Journal* promoting the festival. "My kids count down the weeks to this annual event," said columnist Holly Hamlin. "And though I'd like to brag that their fondness stems solely from unselfish philanthropy, the truth is that it's a lot of fun." This year's events, organized by Linda Pauls of Dallas, included a straw bale maze, scavenger hunt, crafts, juggling and other wondrous feats by Evan Gutt, and a children's auction led by Phil Rempel of Albany.



From left, Trevor Oyer, Jason Oyer, Brandon Chupp and Jarent Oyer add coins from Zion Mennonite Church to the Oregon Penny Power container. Photo by Don Bacher.



The traveling "Share Your Heart" quilt. Photo by Don Bacher.

Continued on Page 4

A Word from Our Moderator

During the past week and a half, I have been in Indiana (Mennonite Church USA Constituency Group Council - CLC) and in Utah (Health Sector Assembly - HSA). The first weekend was a time of worship and work with Mennonite brothers and sisters. The last weekend was entirely work related but also included a time of worship with fellow believers of multiple Protestant denominations.

As I was flying home to Spokane, I couldn't help think about the similarities and differences of the two trips and especially of the two worship services. Both meetings included people in leadership positions from all over the United States. While there was a great deal of work done during both gatherings, the tenor was very different. The CLC sessions always opened with prayer and music – and it was not unusual to take time out for corporate prayer during work sessions as well. The Health Sector Assembly meetings were much more “business-like” and what praying was done was private, silent and personal. Spouses of HSA attendees were welcome to attend – and even to sit-in at work sessions if they desired. Attendance at CLC was as individuals. The worship sessions at CLC included the entire group of attendees, while worship at HSA was separated by whether you were Protestant or Catholic and the total attendance at both services was less than twenty of the more than ninety people at the Assembly.

Different meetings, both attended by people wanting to make their part of the world – either the church or healthcare – work better. Many of the same issues were identified: the looming retirement of many of the senior members of the workforce; a shortage of replacement professionals; the need for more and better communication; and the lack of money to continue valued and worthwhile programs. The outstanding great difference was the lack of verbal requests to the Holy Spirit for discernment and guidance. The focus of discussion at HSA was how to further the use of Public and Private Partnerships. But even though there was official representation from the Council of Churches and from the Catholic Health Association, it was interesting to note that there was no mention of a partnership with God. In contrast, at the CLC meeting, the most prevailing value was to seek out how God would have us participate in the work He is already doing!

The biggest difference was how I felt flying home. I returned from Indiana refreshed and feeling renewed. I returned from Utah exhausted and feeling overwhelmed by the work to be done.

At Kalispell 2006 in June, the delegates of our PNMC congregations approved a budget that would need “more-than-usual” donations from churches and individuals to be in balance this year. As the end of the year approaches, I would urge each of you as individuals and as a congregation to increase your “usual” gifts to your PNMC conference and the very important work that our conference pastors and teacher are doing.

As in my first note to you as PNMC Moderator, I request that you remember PNMC, its committees, the Structure and Vision Task Force, and our PNMC staff in your daily prayers. I was greatly honored at our first Board meeting in September to be presented with a “prayer shawl” from the PNMC Mennonite Women that had been knitted by Lucille Miller of Bigfork, Montana. It is a visible symbol of the prayers that I covet from all of you.



Charlotte Hardt, Moderator



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A Church for All People

By Duncan Smith

I write this article from 35,000 feet above Nebraska. I am returning from Constituency Leadership Council meeting of Mennonite Church USA. This gathering consists of representatives from the other 21 conferences across MC USA. It is a place to worship, talk, and hear from each other as well as give counsel to the broader church. Charlotte Hardt, PNMC Moderator, also attends these gatherings.



As I head back to Portland, I recall the rich time of worship, fellowship, and work with brothers and sisters from across the United States. I hear stories of people all across the country who are being touched by the grace, peace and love of Jesus Christ and am reminded that ultimately what our church-wide structures are seeking is to help people in congregations and conferences build up the Kingdom of God. As most of you know, these types of experiences are hard to communicate.

One of the the most frequently discussed items at our meetings is our challenge to truly be a church of all the peoples of this world. It comes up in interesting ways.

There is the difference of culture. Our CLC meetings are usually full of agenda (we do spend at least 45 minutes in worship to start our time and have prayer at different times). I know that for many persons who come from a Latino culture this type of meeting style lacks a strong relational element and energy. These meetings can be wordy and formal. Then for some it is the words and process makes a meeting productive and comfortable.

There are also differences of worship style as we all well know. Without judging but being honest with ourselves, we can admit that most of us have preference of style of worship. At our CLC meetings we had two wonderful piano players (both of whom I enjoyed) with quiet different playing styles. One style worked great when we sang hymns, but if we wanted to sing something more contemporary, the other style was needed.

When I go to these meetings I spend a lot of time reflecting on who we are as God's people in the PNMC, too. I learn as I reflect on our own challenges and hear stories of how other conferences work in their context.

As I write this I am also anticipating another trip in October. I will have another opportunity to be with God's people outside of the PNMC, and again be challenged and nourished in the Spirit of Christ. This time I will be with our brothers and sisters of the Mennonite Conference of Northwest Mexico (CIEMNM). I look forward a rich time with them as we have an official recognition, this time in Mexico, of the new covenant which was made between the PNMC and the CIEMNM.

This time I will be nurtured with the wealth of Spirit. I will be reminded of how wealthy many, not all, of those in our culture are. I will also be reminded of our call to care for the needy around us offering food we find in our gardens and on the shelves of a grocery store and the spiritual food rooted in Christ. But this will all be in the context of sharing with these friends as the body of Christ.

My trip to Mexico reminds me, just as my attending CLC meetings, that there is a whole world in which God is active. That God is bigger than our little world in our congregations or the PNMC, but not too big to be active there too!

Continued from Page 1

One new festival feature this year was the live music provided by youth violinist Christopher Green of Corvallis in the Expo Center entryway. The contributions collected in his open instrument case included a check for \$100.

In sum, the day brought in about \$90,000 for the work of MCC. "Many people were blessed by your work today and many more will be blessed by opportunities and healthier lives because you care," festival chair Jerry Friesen told the gathering. The festival's future is uncertain, as a replacement for director Jerry Friesen has not yet been found; his four-year term is now finished. The next Festival for World Relief is scheduled for Oct. 13, 2007.

Washington Report

A record crowd of 2,500 attended the 29th Annual Mennonite Country Auction and Relief Sale held at the Menno Church grounds near Ritzville, WA.

Good weather and increased media coverage in Eastern Washington was credited with the response. An article in the *Spokesman-Review*, featured the ethnic food to be served along with the history of each. As a result, long lines developed for a taste of Kraut Runza, a beef and cabbage dish encased in a pastry crust. People also waited patiently in line to buy African Groundnut Stew, German Green Bean Soup, and New Year Cookies. German sausage sandwiches, homemade pie and ice cream, Amish cheese from Ohio, and bulk sausage and hams from Montana also had brisk sales.



Energizing bidders at the Washington sale.



The horseless carriage that was auctioned at the Washington sale.

New booths this year included a red school house front which children entered to put together "school kits" for MCC. Many thousands of these kits are collected by MCC annually to be given to needy children in United States and overseas.

A Penny Power collection was also featured at the Washington sale. Even before the sale began, over \$1,000 had been collected by children from area churches for this fund. Then visitors generously stuffed their loose change and bills into the huge glass jar that was display during the sale.

Shopping was brisk and visitors enjoyed watching the various demonstrations of wheat weaving, making apple butter and cider, grinding flour and making ice cream. Many also took time to relax and enjoy the Liberty Quartet's concert of Southern Gospel music.

This professional singing group donated profits from the sale of their CDs and an offering of \$1,272 to the fundraiser.

Quilts did very well at the auction. One named "Third Weekend in October" from the MCC quilt room in Ephrata, Pennsylvania sold for the top price: \$2,600. "Feathered Star", created by Menno Women in Missions, sold for \$2,000. Another quilt, featuring a vintage top, was sold twice raising \$2,550.

An antique 800-pound safe from the former Ruff Warehouse Company was sold to John Jantz, grandson of the former manager of the warehouse, for \$1,400. And George Stevenson of Moses Lake had the winning ticket for the raffle of the ½ scale model of the Horseless Carriage replica car that had been built by Dennis Swinger, Sr. of Lind. Ticket sales at \$1 each amounted to \$5,000.

This year's gross receipts will go over \$110,000, thus setting a new record for the Mennonite Country Auction and Relief Sale.



En-Gingerich-ing Ecuador with the Gospel

By Bethany Keener
Mennonite Mission Network

Finishing up education. Establishing a career. Working on relationships. Changing diapers. These are all normal activities of the late-20s, early-30s crowd. At Portland (Ore.) Mennonite Church, add spearheading a mission initiative to the list. High in Ecuador's Andes Mountains, David and Ericka Gingerich are settling into life in a new culture. Back home, their Ministry Support Team, whose

oldest member is 34, eagerly awaits news from them, which they'll in turn pass along to the rest of the congregation.

The Ministry Support Team model is one way Mennonite Mission Network helps congregations support international workers. Portland Mennonite's pastor, Rod Stafford, said this model has created a great deal of excitement among the younger adult crowd.

"To personally know someone in Ecuador and what they're doing generates energy, passion and thoughtfulness about their own lives," he said.

It's also a way for younger generations to take ownership of an important congregational function. Stafford said the group efficiently raised financial support. They prepared and carried out a commissioning service. Now, they run a [Web site](#) with updated photos and manage a periodical newsletter to help the congregation know how to pray for members serving a continent away.

Angie Gardner is the communication coordinator for the team, and though she has attended Portland Mennonite for three years, she never spoke up during worship services until a few months ago. She was nervous about standing up to announce the Gingeriches' safe arrival in Ecuador. "It was nowhere near as scary as I thought it would be," she said. Visibility through subsequent announcements has helped her meet more people. "I actually feel more connected to the congregation," Gardner said.

"It seems like when a Ministry Support Team is made up of younger people, they don't get nervous [about details] because they don't know any other way," said Marlene Kroeker, development associate at the Mission Network. Kroeker invited the Gingeriches to consider serving and helped set up their Ministry Support Team. "They ask, 'What can we do?' and come up with 100 ideas."

For the Gingeriches, asking their small group, better known as The Flock, to function in this role only made sense.

"It simply felt natural to ask those who already had invested time in building concrete, trusting relationships with us to take on the Ministry Support Team role," David Gingerich said. The group was an "integral part of our discernment process" that affirmed their individual gifts and supported them in prayer.

Sarah Gammell Matthews, who serves as the Ministry Support Team leader, said it's a privilege to accompany close friends in the work they've always dreamed about doing.

As the Gingeriches processed their decision about serving in Ecuador, they participated in a Sunday-school class which was exploring the language Christians use to talk about sharing their faith. Matthews said in the beginning the word "evangelism" carried negative connotations.

"We are uncomfortable sharing [our faith] with words because we think of people handing out tracts on street corners, being obnoxious and saying, 'You have to be saved right now or you'll go to hell,'" she said.

"It can be scary and difficult," Matthews said. "But we have to have words to go along with the actions."

Continued on Page 7

PNMC Seeks Conference Youth Coordinator

I. Qualifications

- A. A solid foundation in the Bible and Mennonite theology.
- B. Experience as a youth sponsor/pastor including experience working with teens from a variety of backgrounds
- C. A calling and a passion for ministry with youth and youth leaders.
- D. Unapologetically Anabaptist.
- E. Administrative and computer skills.

II. Areas of Responsibility

- A. Resourcing congregational youth leaders as a conversation partner (both initiating and responding), encourager, sounding board, and provide link between other youth leaders and groups
- B. Establish and maintain a data base for conference wide youth leaders: 1) Names and contact information of youth leaders; 2) Current events and projects of youth groups
- C. Attend annual MC USA Youth Ministry Council
- D. Submit reports to the Congregational Nurture Committee and an annual report to the Conference for the Delegate Book.
- E. Attend Congregational Nurture Committee Meetings as a staff person

III. Compensation

- A. Stipend \$2000

Please submit a letter of application to Jon Yoder: jyoder@web-ster.com

Salem Mennonite Seeks Community Minister to the Homeless

Reports to: Lead Pastor, Leadership Council Outreach Commission Chair, SMC Task Force on Homelessness

Location of Position: Seattle Mennonite Church, 3120 NE 125th St., Seattle, WA 98125. 206-361-6076. wdnisly@netsmc.net

Hours: Full-time

Salary: To be determined by Leadership Council based on MCUSA Salary Guidelines and SMC benefits package.

Position Description: The creation of a Community Minister position is an outgrowth of SMC's vision for peace and justice as followers of Jesus Christ, by providing a structure for ministering to members of the local community. This centers on providing hospitality, relationship, and needed services to persons in the SMC neighborhood experiencing homelessness. The Community Minister will work in close collaboration with SMC's Task Force on Homelessness to identify and carry out the responsibilities of the position. As this is a new position, it will likely evolve over time as the program grows and resources develop.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

Ministry, counseling, companionship with people experiencing homelessness: 1) Reach out and engage homeless people in relationship. 2) Provide a hospitable and welcoming presence, 3) Help people access survival service needs; 4) Provide resources and referrals to address medical, social, legal, and substance abuse problems and assist folks in moving towards increased stability.

Community outreach & liaison work with stakeholders: 1) Build relationships among homeless residents, church members, neighbors, businesses, service providers, churches, local government officials and police, and other neighborhood organizations allowing for further exploration of needs and abilities of local homeless individuals; 2) Act as liaison with community organizations and churches to collaborate in developing and providing services to the community; 3) Attend and participate in relevant community meetings which may include city-wide forums, Chamber meetings, and our Lake City Task Force on Homelessness.

Program Development: 1) Work with MVS program to develop a position for a full-time volunteer to staff the daytime drop-in center; 2) Serve as liaison for church with community developers in creating permanent housing options; 2) Investigate options for provision of additional programming such as a hygiene center, a nighttime shelter, outdoor café, clothing closet, medical, legal, and social services.

Resource Development: 1) Build relationships with local service providers/agencies for on-site services (e.g., mental health agency workers, drug counselors, healthcare, etc.); 2) Seek out in-kind gifts for providing program supplies; 3) Assist in organizing local fundraisers to engage the community; 4) Pursue additional funding sources for program development and independence; 5) Maintain current external funding sources (e.g., city bus ticket program).

Volunteer Recruitment and Oversight: 1) Recruit, orient, and train local volunteers from SMC, local congregations, and the larger community; 2) Oversee MVS volunteer, providing guidance, feedback, and support; 3) Provide ongoing support to volunteers including recognition of their services.

Administrative: 1) In cooperation with SMC's Task Force, develop the needed structures for delivery of program services.; 2) Oversee existing programs such as Stop, Drop and Roll and Sunday Evening Community Meals; 3) Maintain resources and manage their distribution (resources include cash assistance, bus tickets, hygiene vouchers, etc.).

Public education and advocacy: 1) Advocate at local and state-wide government levels for increased availability of housing, universal healthcare, and income support; 2) Provide opportunities to increase understanding of the realities of homelessness for members of SMC and the broader community.

Desired Qualifications: 1) Master's degree in social science and/or theology. Bachelor's degree with additional experience in a relevant field may substitute. 2) Excellent written and verbal communication skills; 3) Friendly, personable, compassionate listener, and able to maintain healthy boundaries; 4) Demonstrated experience in providing pastoral and/or social services; 5) Experience with or knowledge of homelessness, mental illness, and addictions; 6) Demonstrated interest in urban ministry; 7) Ability to work collaboratively with diverse groups and individuals, with an emphasis on bridge building, 8) Strong organizational and recordkeeping skills; 9) Supervisory experience; 10) Ability to represent SMC to the community and provide effective education and advocacy; 11) Ability to work within the mission, goals, and values of SMC.

Gingeriches - Continued from Page 5

The Gingeriches now have the opportunity to serve in word and deed in the indigenous Kichwa community of Cebadas, Ecuador. They serve in the Ñukanchik Yachay (Our Wisdom) alternative school. Ericka Gingerich joins an indigenous staff as an elementary school teacher. The school has asked her to help them meet their goal of trilingual education for the children: Kichwa, Spanish and English. They also work closely with a local congregation, Iglesia Indígena Evangélica Belén. David Gingerich's role includes teaching and helping with other school, church and community projects.

“David and Ericka’s willingness to serve and genuine love for others will be apparent in Cebadas,” Gardner said. “Those are the building blocks of what mission and evangelism are really about.”

A Child of the Father

By Andrea Wall
Director of Advancement
Western Mennonite School

When Sontaya Sinsopak is asked where she is from and who she is a natural answer would be something like “I am from Thailand, I am the daughter of a father and mother with 9 children and I am half Chinese and half Thai.” Instead, her response is, “I am the daughter of my Father in Heaven.”

Sontaya came to Western Mennonite School this fall from Bangkok, Thailand as a part of MCC’s International Visitor Exchange Program (IVEP).

She is the second IVEPer to serve at Western and is part of the school’s international community that includes 19 students from a variety of countries. Over 35 countries have been represented at Western in our growing international program over the last 61 years.

The international community at Western not only provides a mission field right here on campus, but also a rich cultural enrichment. Sontaya has brought a unique cultural perspective and a passion for God to Western. She has challenged us to think about who we are and where we are from by placing our identity in Christ first. She serves daily in the library, but is a servant to all at Western and inspires us to follow God’s call to servanthood.

Sontaya decided to apply to come to the United States after hearing about how a friend’s faith was impacted by the MCC experience. Sontaya decided to leave her wedding planning business, her marketing position at Yoko Gawa Thailand Limited, a large industrial company, and her family in order to “use her abilities to help others.”

“I am so thankful for God sending me here,” says Sontaya. “I love it here. I love people. I love my colleagues. I love the students. They are so kind to me. I used to think I only loved elementary students. God let me know that whoever the student is I need to love them and I need to let them know how much God loves them.”

After her year with MCC, Sontaya feels that she is called to continue her business, but most importantly to serve God with the students at her home church. Sontaya is hosted by Ron and Gloria Camp and is attending Calvary Mennonite Church.



Sontaya (top row, center, striped shirt) surrounded by Western Mennonite students from a variety of Mennonite Churches including, Salem, Albany, Zion, Western and Plainview Mennonite Church.

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center to Offer Leadership Seminar in Portland

With increasing levels of anxiety being experienced throughout society, churches are reporting:

- Higher rates of burnout and turnover among leaders.
- Increased blaming and victim-thinking among members.
- More destructive conflict.
- The abrupt withdrawal and departure of members from the life of the church.

In addressing these trends, pastors and other church leaders have learned that quick-fix solutions do little to address the multi-generational patterns which characterize the functioning of their congregations.

What can pastors do as part of their ongoing ministries to bring more substantial and lasting change?

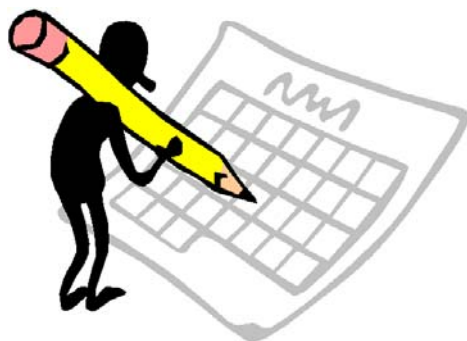
The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) has designed a long-term approach to congregational change grounded in the family systems theory of Dr. Murray Bowen.

Here I Stand: Leading Change Through Self-Differentiation is a three-day LMPC event at which pastors will be trained to integrate this approach into their ongoing ministries. LMPC will offer this event on March 20-22, 2007 at Bridgeport United Church of Christ in Portland, Oregon.

The ***Here I Stand*** approach is a long-term, four-year effort. Drawing on family systems theory, the process calls for reflection on the interplay of relationship pressures and individual thinking. It is designed to elicit greater clarity in the minds of church members regarding some of their own core beliefs and principles.

The three-day seminar will help pastors understand the theory behind the approach, implement the approach within their ministries, and support the approach with their ongoing preaching and teaching. For more information, contact LMPC: 630-627-0507 or Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org.

Conference Calendar



October 26-28 - "Walking in the Way of Peace" Regional Peace Gathering, Albany Mennonite Church, Albany, OR. Info: www.peace.mennolink.org.

November 3-5 - Drift Creek Camp's Annual Meeting Weekend.

November 17-19 - Annual Pastor/Spouse Retreat at Twin Rocks Conference Center, Garibaldi, OR. Info: Todd Lehman, 503-651-2274 or zionpastor@canby.com

November 18 - WMS Singers hosted by Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, 7 p.m. at His-tand residence, 2716 NW Arnold Way, Corvallis.

November 19 - WMS Singers at Albany Mennonite Church, 10:45 a.m.; Albany Mennonite home, 2:30 p.m.; Lebanon Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.

December 10 - Community Hymn Sing, 4 p.m., WMS Chapel

December 12 - WMS Middle School Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

December 14 - WMS High School Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

January 7, 2007 - Community Hymn Sing, 4 p.m., WMS Chapel

January 8-12, 2007 - WMS Cultural Awareness Week

February 6-7, 2007 - Worship Seminar with MC USA Administrator/Music Instructor Marlene Krott and Eastern Mennonite University Music Ken Nafziger, Portland Mennonite Church. Info: 503-234-0559.

February 10, 2007 - WMS Fifth Annual Benefit Concert, 7 p.m.

March 20-22, 2007—*Here I Stand* Leadership Seminar by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Bridgeport United Church of Christ, Portland, OR.

June 22-24, 2007 - Albany-Corvallis 2007, PNMC's annual meeting, this year at Albany Mennonite Church, Albany, OR.

October 13, 2007 - Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief, Albany, OR

Have an event to list in our coming events calendar? Send info to Sue Palmer at office@pnmc.org Submission deadlines appear on Page 2.