

CONFERENCE CARRIER

SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 2005

The 95th Annual Conference is being held August 4 - 7, 2005 at Greenwood Mennonite School, Greenwood Delaware with the theme, *Loving God and Your Neighbors*.

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

who ARE we?

by Conrad Bontrager

A bit goofy. Late to meetings. Love to gab. Making fun of each other. Who is this group of people? Our goofiness came shining through in our amazing ability to flub the simple instructions of handing in two separate ballots.

We also have a problem getting to meetings on time. Ironically, we are the same people who, Sunday after Sunday, are in charge of meetings starting on time.

It is important though that you ask why tardiness is an issue. We genuinely enjoy each other's company. During breaks a group of us may be praying for a colleague who is struggling. Another group may be rejoicing over one of God's victories. All over are groups of us who are simply catching up on the past year.

You see, there is a mutual respect that is shared among this group. It is the respect that allows us to laugh when somebody makes a funny mistake. It is the respect that allows us to disagree and still count each other as brothers.

A more important description though is that we care deeply about expanding the body of Christ. The one thing that brought our applause was an exciting announcement, which will be shared later today, of God's provision for our mission agency.

So who are we? We are the sober, serious men you call your pastors. And we, your goofy, laughing, late-to-meeting, caring pastors want you to pray for us because we care so deeply. Pray that God will give us the wisdom and strength and courage to "prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up."

DEVELOPING A PASSION FOR GOD'S CHURCH

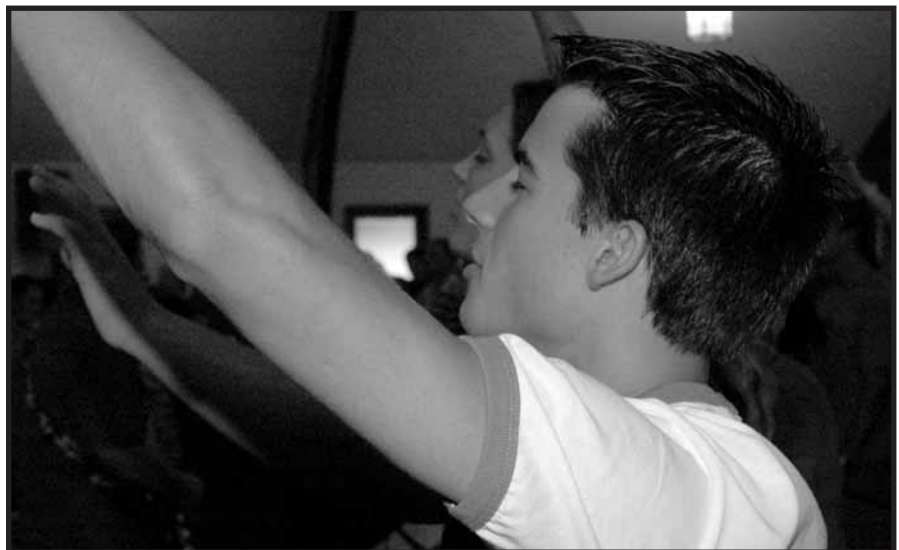
by Anita Rhodes

How does it happen? Somehow, in the midst of our journey with the church, we find ourselves longing for a transformation from the glassy-eyed disinterest of back-pew church involvement to an authentic and passionate interest in the body of Christ. Carl Helmuth of Hilliard, OH, shared some keys, or "Be's" with us at the youth session yesterday afternoon. First, "Be aware that you're in a battle;" when we know what the stakes are, we will begin to "play the game" differently. Carl also touched on the importance of believing prayer, the need to be "forceful" for the cause of Christ, and challenged us to pay attention to the things that are close to the heart of God. God genuinely likes us and wants us to join in the work of His kingdom. Let us ask God to strip us of blinders so that we can see and be a part of His work through the church—the body of His Son on earth.



"Those who lack a biblical foundation for truth speak with their feet planted firmly in mid-air."

-Larry McKinney, explaining the need for biblical higher education



NEWS & NOTES

Teacher and Teacher Assistant Needed for Abundant Life Christian School in Albuquerque, NM. For more information, visit the display booth or call Nevin Nisly @ 505.328.8898 anytime.

The RBC prospects pizza party has been changed from Room 304 to Cannon Mennonite Church. Instead of being held at noon on Saturday, it will immediately follow the youth session Saturday evening.

Heritage Quartet Due to a computer error (or should we say lack of input into the computer by the general secretary!), the Heritage Quartet of the Greenwood area does not appear in the printed program. If the truth be known, the Heritage Quartet will sing at the beginning of the Saturday afternoon session.

New Books Released! Visit the CMC booth to review several books with CMC connections. The new books being displayed are *Without the Loss of One*, the life story of Nevin and Esther Bender as told by their children, as well as *New Moon Over Slick Rock Hollow* by Martha Stoltzfus. Both books are available for purchase. Martha will be available at the booth between sessions to autograph books.

Inventory reduction sale on Rosedale Chorale cassettes - \$1 per cassette! For the price of a hotdog enjoy the sounds of some of the finest music ever written. Come to the RBC booth to browse through the selections.

Worship Forum: Special Interest Luncheon, Room 304 What styles of music and worship are most effective in your congregation—traditional hymns, contemporary, blended, or gospel? How have you best dealt with the “worship wars?” When does worship become an exercise in personal gratification rather than divine glorification? The Music and Worship Committee is hosting a special interest luncheon to allow individuals the opportunity to discuss practical issues and opportunities pertaining to worship. The purpose of the luncheon is not to pour fuel on the fire of controversy surrounding worship styles, but to help us understand how our worship styles can be used to glorify the Father. Pastors, worship leaders, and all worshippers are encouraged to participate.

All persons currently affiliated with RMM as a missionary, missionary intern, mission associate REACHER, RMM office/SEND House staff or board member are invited to an early morning prayer meeting on Sunday morning from 7:30-8:30 in the RMM Prayer Room (#105).

HAVE VAN.... NEED DRIVER.

We came to conference in a Dodge Ram van that belongs to friends in Millersburg, Ohio. We return to Nicaragua August 8th. If you would be willing to return the van to it's owners by driving it back to Ohio after conference, please contact us or leave a message at the registration desk.

~Thanks, Marcos & Lois Orozco

The workshop scheduled to be led by Eldon Miller entitled *Teaching Your Child to Love God* will be led by Earl Swartzentruber in view of Eldon's recent health difficulties.

NEW CONFERENCE PERSONNEL

ELECTIONS

Executive Board - Assistant Recording Secretary
Brian Hershberger, Mt. Dora, FL, pastor of Trinity Chapel

Nominating Committee - 2 yrs
Ed Roggie, Lowville, NY, pastor of Carthage Menn. Church
Clinton Yoder, Seaford, DE, pastor of Cannon Menn. Church

Ministerial Committee - 5 yrs
Duey Matthews Adair, OK, pastor of Zion Menn. Church

Music and Worship Committee - 3 yrs
Conrad Bontrager, Flint, MI, pastor of Grace Christian Fellowship

Publication & Literature Committee - 5 yrs
Tom Mast, Mechanicsburg, OH, associate pastor of London Christian Fellowship

Stewardship Committee - 3 yrs
Eldon Delagrange, Hicksville, OH, associate pastor of Hicksville Menn. Church

Rosedale Bible College Board - 7 yrs
Barry Maust, Grantsville, MD, pastor of Cherry Glade Menn. Church

Rosedale Mennonite Missions Board - 7 yrs
John Martin, Castorland, NY, pastor of Croghan Menn. Church

Misiter's Fellowship Committee - 3 1/2 yrs
Doug yoder, Middlefield, OH, pastor of Maple View Menn. Church

Historical Committee - 3 yrs
John Gingerich, Hartville, OH

APPOINTMENTS

MCC Great Lakes, 3 yrs - Vernon Sommers re-appointed
RBC President, 3 3/4 yrs - Dan Ziegler
RBC Board-appointed Board member, 7 yrs - Tim Kennel
RBC Board-appointed member, 5 yrs - David Landis

1. Consumption of mouth-watering pizza.
2. Introduction to life-changing college.

RBC Prospective Student Pizza Party

Cannon Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall
Saturday following youth session

ATTENTION!!!
IF YOU'VE BEEN
A CHORAL CAMPER...
...it's your chance
to go to the head
of the dinner line!



Pick up your dinner, and follow the signs to the Choral Camp Reunion in the Multipurpose Room.

PARENTS—WIN A CHORAL CAMP 2006 COUPON

20% OFF
PARTICIPANTS LIMITED TO ADULTS

1. Come to the Choral Camp booth.
2. Complete a quiz.
3. Drop the quiz in the correct box:
 - Parents of returning campers;
 - Parents of new campers.
4. Check after the Saturday evening session to see if your quiz has been drawn. (one quiz drawn in each category)





An UNCOMFORTABLE Meeting

by Corby Graber

What is it called? Mens Fellowship Program? OK, that's safe. I'll go . . . I can fellowship as good as any other Mennonite—not too much focus on me, don't have to get out of my comfort zone. Maybe I can sit through the sessions without too much discomfort and talk to old friends, meet relatives, and catch up on the latest news when the break times come . . . you know the drill. The sermon title, *The Father Heart of God*. Again, I can handle that . . . doesn't sound like too much pressure on me. Gustavo Ramirez. Yeah, I've heard of him. He spoke at our church youth camp. My children spoke highly of him.

His story of growing up in Mexico city with an abusive father is not like my upbringing at all. . . . how sad, I think. How can this abusive cycle be stopped? After becoming a Christian, Gustavo forgave his father, and eventually his whole family became Christians.

What a novel idea—forgiving those who have hurt you. The statement of the day: "Forgiveness is not about those who have hurt me, it's about me." Together we said this statement aloud. Individually we said, "Father I forgive . . .," and we named names. And we asked our Heavenly Father for forgiveness for holding onto those grudges. Our ministries can go forward with power because we forgive.

The afternoon sessions, *Moving Forward*, challenged us to be real to the youth in our world. To our own children, our neighbor's children, and everyone we meet. Be real by saying the little things that make a big difference. Work on the relationships, not the religion. Powerful. So much for my comfort zone . . . LET'S GET TO WORK!

Your Friends... YOUR MINISTRY

by Velma Swartz

Friendship . . . close relationships we all long to experience. Coming to Conference is a good time to reconnect with friends. I hope there is no one who isn't looking forward to seeing at least one other person here.

Our speakers on Friday urged us to make our friendship with God number one and then to bless others out of the overflow from God's love to us. I think godly friendship is like God "with skin on." Jesus is our role model in friendships. He chose to befriend people who were "less than," people who did not have much to give back. We were also challenged to use the gifts God has given us to bless others. Those gifts may seem insignificant to us, but God will bless what we offer.

I sat down after the session with one of our speakers, Cathy Troyer, and asked her a few questions.

What encouragement would you give women in friendship?

Friendship is so important because there is so much fragmentation in this world. We need reliable, dependable relationship to get through life. A real friend will be willing to stop whatever they are doing to walk with you in any situation.

What have been the "trickle down" effects for your family?

What you give returns to you in some form, to you and to your family. Having my children affirm what I doing and praying for me has been a real blessing.

Hearing stories about how God uses everyday people and their gifts to draw us to each other in friendships was encouraging. Have you made any new friends since you are at Conference? How about reaching out to someone you have never met and create the spark of friendship!



I'm NOT glad I'm a boy!

by David Swartz

In the 1940s a book was written called *I'm Glad I'm a Boy, I'm Glad I'm a Girl*. Sixty-some years later at Conservative Mennonite Conference, there are some boys and girls and men and women who are not so glad that they are boys and girls and men and women. Some CMC'ers, it seems, would have rather been in a different meeting during yesterday's sessions than the one they actually attended:

- "I would have liked to have gone to the men's meeting to hear Gustavo. Or maybe the youth meeting, which has a wonderful spirit of worship."
--Conrad Bontrager of Flint, Mich.
- "I would have liked to have been at the minister's meeting so I could take a nap."
--wife of CMC pastor and daughter of Ben Shirk, a moderator at yesterday's minister's meeting
- "The women's meeting. It was air conditioned!"
--Mark Fly, MMA representative
- "The minister's meeting—because that's where it's happening."
--George Jones of Virginia.
- "I would have enjoyed the youth meeting—so I wouldn't have to be so still."
--Lynette Showalter of Goshen, Ind.
- "Perhaps the kid's meeting. I'd be too uncomfortable with the women in the main auditorium."
--Barry Maust of Accident, Maryland



SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

CHURCH CONFERENCE PROGRAM Gymnasium

Theme: The Great Commandment
Moderator: Ben Shirk
Assistant Moderator: Adin Miller

Morning Session (9:30-11:30)

Loving God
Worship: Laban Miller, Lexington, KY
Moderator's Address: Ben Shirk, Goshen, IN
Conference Choir: Kevin Yoder, Greenwood, DE
Loving God
Darrell Bacher, Phoenix, AZ
Consecration service (*Newly licensed, ordained, and transferred ministers*)
Scott Hochstedler, Fredricksburg, OH,
outgoing member of the Executive Board
Offering and announcements
For Conference meeting and general expenses (checks payable to CMC 2005)
Noon Recess

Afternoon Session (1:30-3:30)

How to Love God and Love Your Neighbors
Worship: Fran Overholt, Sarasota, FL
Media Presentation
Cherry Glade Mennonite Church
Announcements
Introduction to seminar and workshops
Seminar in Gymnasium—So what Makes God Lovable?
Phil Swartzentruber, Talbert, KY
Workshops: How to Love God and Love Your Neighbors
Afternoon Recess

Evening Session (6:30-8:30)

Loving Your Neighbors
Hymn Sing A Capella:
c/o CMC Music & Worship Committee
Scripture & Prayer
Christopher Yoder, Greenwood, DE
Conference Sermon:
Loving Your Neighbor
Wilbur Miller, Goshen, IN
Offering and announcements
For Conference meeting and general expenses (checks payable to CMC 2005)
Dismissal

YOUTH PROGRAM

Cannon Mennonite Church (1:30-3:30)
From Greenwood, go south on Rt. 13 for about 6 miles. At the fourth traffic light turn right on Rt. 18 for about one mile. Church is on the left.

Moderator: Kirk Kauffman, Plain City, OH
Worship Leader: Shawn Yoder
Opening and announcements
Offering (checks payable to CMC 2005)
Aim Right Ministries presentation
Worship
Passion for God's World
Terry Rohrer
Dismissal

WORKSHOPS

In the Saturday afternoon session, workshops are offered as listed below. At the same time, a seminar is offered in the gymnasium. Choose either the seminar or one of the workshops. These Saturday afternoon workshops are concerned with an aspect of the Great Commandment. Attendance in the workshops is limited because of the classroom space. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. The seminar in the gymnasium is available for all who do not attend a workshop. The afternoon session begins with everyone assembling in the gymnasium at 1:30.

How do I Love Myself?
John Gingerich, Room 302

Practicum in Praying
Mim Musser, Room 301

Who is a 21st Century Neighbor?
Paul Kurtz, Room 303

Teaching Your Child How to Love God
Earl Swartzentruber, Room 01

Teaching Your Child How to Love Neighbors
Grace Kurtz, Room 106

Love in the Psalms
Levi Sommers, Room 02

The Intellectual Side of Love
Phil Barr, Room 304

**Practicum in Loving the World:
Compiling MCC Health Kits**
Greenwood Mennonite Church

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Dale & Shirley Keffer

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