

# CONFERENCE CARRIER

SUNDAY JULY 30, 2006

The 96th Annual Conference is being held July 27 - 30, 2006 at Jonathan Alder High School, Plain City, Ohio with the theme, *The Church in a Post-Christian Culture*.

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

## Introducing Henry Mulandi... A Living Stone & Guerrilla for Christ



by Nathan Miller

One of God's gifts to the North American church is the impact of dynamic, first-generation Christians from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. They unsettle us

with their passion, challenge us with their commitment, and reintroduce us to fresh revival.

Henry Mulandi is one such gift. A skilled cross-cultural communicator, his being with us today is a testimony to God's goodness and transforming power.

Henry's childhood in Kenya was a battle for survival. He says, "We went to bed hungry more often than we had food, and it was hard to get money for school." A Scottish missionary in his village introduced him to Christ, and at age 17 he met Jesus as his Savior.

Soon Dr. David Livingston's missionary stories caught Henry's imagination and fired his passion to see many living stones become the foundation of a great revival movement.

At age 21, while in 11th grade, Henry remembers "getting filled with the Holy Spirit, and this made a big difference in my life." Soon he and other new believers were "guilty" of sneaking off their boarding school campus on weekends - no, not for pizza and movies, but to visit other high schools and to evangelize and make disciples. They preached at school assemblies and left local high school leaders to nurture the new converts. Sounds a lot like Paul's missionary trips.

Soon this band of firebrands dubbed themselves "Guerrillas for Christ." With

Henry helping spearhead this revival movement, they became part of the broader East African revival. In time, they gave birth to what became Regions Beyond Ministries.

This revival brought growth to the African Christian Church, known today as Christian Church International. Transformed from static to dynamic, this fellowship has grown to 320 churches with 23,000 members, with Henry having served as bishop for many years.

Today Henry leads the African Christian Mission - the mission arm of Christian Church International. They

evangelize, train disciples, and do relief as they start churches among unreached people groups in difficult places such as Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

Henry hopes that all of us will take away from today's meetings a renewed passion for missions. He says, "I believe we have a new favor from the Lord and a second chance to share the Good News with those who have not heard about Christ. We must carry with us the compassion Jesus had when he saw the multitudes scattered and without a shepherd."

## What are you taking with you from Conference?



"I've been reminded of the importance of being close to God. I'm going away with a desire to know Him more."



**Jonas Hochstedler** (Kalona, Iowa): "I will remember Stan Shirk's talk the most, and how God spoke to him in his pain. Stan said pain makes us better, or bitter. We must choose."



**Brenda Rice** (Panco, Kentucky): "I will remember that even in the hard times of life God is there for us, just as he was for Esther. I didn't realize how hard her life was. She wasn't pampered and we shouldn't expect to be either."



**Marcos and Gloria Bravo** (Juarez, Mexico): Gloria says, "Anytime I come to Conference I enjoy the fellowship, people I haven't seen for a month or a year. It makes me very happy." Marcos says, "Conference is Miller-time for me."



**Maria Rose Eash** (Buckhorn, Kentucky): "I liked the choir and the children's activities. I especially liked the Bible character Ruth."

## Becoming God Followers

by Brenda Zook

What do Mary Slessor, Hudson Taylor, Nehemiah, Ruth, and Elisabeth Eliot have in common? Over one hundred Conference kids followed the big footprints up the stairs and were encouraged to become God followers like the men and women they discovered waiting for them. Groups of less than a dozen students helped to grind grain with Ruth and found Hudson Taylor's China on a world globe. They handled objects from Ecuador and listened to costumed characters talk about the challenges of being faithful to God in many different circumstances.

Each God-follower role model was represented on a card to be inserted in a booklet "so we can remember what we learned," enthused Peter Jon Showalter. Creating those booklets was a high point according to Harmony Troyer. Her friend Danae Swartz agreed, adding, "We got to decorate our book however we wanted!"

As these youngsters add a picture of themselves to their booklet of God followers, may they (and we!) be challenged to truly follow in the footsteps of these godly men and women who faithfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus. And may all who come behind us find us faithful.

## Singing the Songs of Zion in Babylon

by Reuben Sairs

John Roth describes himself as 'something of an outsider' cheering us on in the CMC. Using Psalm 137 as a starting place, John helped us think clearly about the theme of our conference – living in a post-Christian world.

First, he cheered us on with some bad news. The flashy and hot-button issues that make headlines are only the ripples on the surface that indicate deeper, more powerful currents. When we examine the trends honestly, the influence is not all out there – it's in here, in each of us and in the church. Christians suffer the same outcomes that unrestrained individualism, sexuality and consumerism have visited on the world. Born-again Christians don't



Twila Snider, as Ruth, hand grinds wheat into flour with her students, Michael Gingerich, David Miller, Kenton Bender, and Brock Zutzy.



Nehemiah, aka Jim Hershberger, gets a visit in his palace from the Conference kids. Later they build a "wall" (cardboard boxes) together.



always rise above the sins of racism, divorce, domestic abuse or the other troubles of our times.

All Christians are facing these same challenges. Although contemporary Anabaptist Christians have not necessarily succeeded at resisting the problems, this approach to the faith is especially suitable for our time. First, Anabaptism tells us that it is necessary to "follow" Jesus, not merely report having been born again. John cheered us on by asking us to embrace, enliven, and extend the Anabaptist tradition.

John said that many Mennonites grew up with a faith expressed by "don'ts" – thing that they didn't do or own. When Mennonites root this tradition in the good news of the gospel, practices like nonresistance make sense and we have a faith tradition that can be extended to others.

## Two Kingdoms at War

by Melody and Larissa Stauffer

What is the difference between a good athlete and a great athlete? Lael Barkman answered this at the CMC youth session as he launched into a moving depiction of true spiritual warfare. Both good and great athletes like to win, he says, but the difference is that only great athletes truly hate to lose.

He also talked about the difference between perception and reality. The reality, he says, is that a war is raging for our souls. "There is a wrong perception of the kingdoms of conflict," says Barkman. We too often perceive the enemy incorrectly as not being as bad as he really is. Barkman gave pointers on overcoming the enemy.

In addition to the message, the youth sessions included times of intense worship led by the Mechanicsburg Christian worship team. Worship with so many other youth of kindred mind was a favorite Conference experience for many.

Barkman left the youth with this challenge: "Surrender with reckless abandon and see what God will do with your heart."



David Perry (89) and Sue Yoder (90), of Plain City, take the award for being the oldest couple at conference. Also in attendance was Fannie Peachey (90), and David (87) and Rhoda (86) Showalter.

Psalms 92:14

"They will still bear fruit in old age,  
they will stay fresh and green..."

# NEWS & NOTES

**The Conference Crier** office is located in the northwest corner of the building in Room 134B. If you have any announcements for the Crier, please stop by our office.

**Nursery Care** There will be supervised nursery care for children ages 0-5 during the morning session.

**Sunday's menu: Lunch:** Scalloped potatoes and ham, Peas and carrots, Dinner rolls with butter, Frozen strawberry yum-yum dessert, Beverage

**Are you interested in organizing a work team to Nicaragua?**

If so, RMM's LABOR Team table or contact Dwane and Karen Schlabah at 330-317-1240

**For Sale:** 5 piece Tama Swingstar Drum Set- includes crash/ride, hi-hat cymbals: \$550 614-506-5036

**Bookkeeper Needed for Gospel Echoes Team Prison Ministry** in the Goshen, IN office. Contact Glendon Bender at the Gospel Echoes booth or call 574-533-0221.

**CHOICE BOOKS is in need of help August 7th -18th.** Fran Overholt is laying brick for the new building and we need several youth/volunteer groups to aid in tending and other tasks. **Please contact Al Troyer at 888-809-1368 for more information.**

**Attention Diabetics:** Desserts have been planned with you in mind. There is a separate table with desserts for those of you who are diabetic.

**RMM Prayer Room** Room 105 has been designated as a prayer room with a focus on missions. Stop by to pray and to write a short note of encouragement to a missionary.

**ATTENTION LOCALS:** If you are planning to attend the Spanish Pig Roast next Saturday and haven't signed up on one of the sign-up sheets in the local churches, please call 614-873-1488 and leave your name and the number of persons you will be bringing. The Pig Roast is at the Agape Community Fellowship, 3912 Alton-Darby Creek Rd., Hilliard, on August 5th at 5:00-8:00 p.m. The Rodalla will be playing there again. Food is on a donation basis.

**ATENCION HISPANOS** Para recibir sus audifonos para escuchar las traducciones de las conferencias al español, repórtese al sitio indicado en el corredor hacia la derecha de la entrada al auditorio. Tengan la bondad de devolverlos al mismo sitio después de cada sesión. Gracias.

**CLEAN WATER SHOULD BE MORE THAN A WISH - LET'S FILL THE PENNY POWER WISHING WELL!**

Did you know that one in six people can't get clean water? The children in grades K-8 will be collecting a "Loose Change" offering each day for Mennonite Central Committee's Penny Power Project. This money will be used to help provide clean water to those in need. Watch for children with buckets, dig in your pockets and purses and give them your loose change. The value of your change is doubled thanks to Carolyn and Maynard Sauder of Archbold, OH, who are matching contributions dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 for groups participating in MCC's Penny Power for water in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Wisconsin.

**PLEASE DO NOT TAKE FOOD INTO THE GYM!!!**

Bottled water (with caps) ONLY!

**Parking Instructions** When leaving, if you are headed north to Plain City, please use the north entrance. If you are headed south toward London, please use the south entrance.

**TO ALL FRIENDS OF ENGAGED COUPLES** Please pick up the current Engaged Encounter brochure at the CMC display and get those couples to an E.E. The next one is scheduled for Sept. 8-10 at RBC.

**We Care Program is seeking** several young men interested in a 7 month prison internship in Atmore, AL. This year's team starts Oct 9th. Completed applications are due Aug. 15th. For more details visit the We Care booth.

**"Jesus did not come to make bad people good. He came to give dead people life."**

—Annie Chapman

Submitted by Carmen Pape, Cannon Men. Church, DE



Though Dad Byler insists that children do not come cheaper by the dozen, it seems from their performance that perhaps it is more fun by the dozen! The Byler family sang several songs from down-home country to contemporary.



## Evening Service

(Above) Resurrected from the "moth balls," (according to Pablo) the Ambassadors Quartet and the younger generation, Cross Reference, join together to bless the audience with their rendition of When I Survey.

(Right) Shaun and Joy Freed keep the audience laughing with their antics as Ryan Freed's subconscious. Becky Hostetler and Molly Rosati (not pictured) were the other couplet that let us into the innermost thoughts of Jared Stutzman's subconscious. Together they created a hilarious and insightful drama that reminds us that we do not "walk alone."



# SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

## Missions Program

Gymnasium

Moderators: Joe Showalter, Max Zook

Worship Leader: Pablo Kauffman

## Morning Session (9:00-12:00)

Worship

Missionary testimony

Missions Sermon, Part I - Henry Mulandi

Annual Mission's Day Offering

(Checks payable to Rosedale Mennonite Missions)

Break

Children's Choir - Jared Stutzman

Missions Sermon, Part II - Henry Mulandi

Commissioning Service

Dismissal

Lunch

## *Tour Israel with us!*

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## *Der Dutchman and Dutch Valley Restaurants*

are pleased to co-sponsor the Conference Crier  
and the conference event in Plain City, Ohio.

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## Overheard:

Brenda Zook: "Where is the Conference CRIER office?"

Dan Ziegler: "I don't know, I guess you'll have to listen for the crying."

The following donors generously contributed money toward sound and lighting equipment to be owned by both CMC and RBC. The money was used to purchase sound and lighting equipment that is being used this Conference weekend in the main auditorium and will also be used in future conferences. The equipment will be utilized by Rosedale Bible College for their drama and music touring groups to take on the road during the school year. Thank you to each of you for blessing us with your generosity!

## Churches:

Mt. Zion Mennonite Church - Decatur, IA  
Pigeon River Mennonite Church - Pigeon, MI  
Trinity Mennonite Church - Prospect, VA  
Providence Mennonite Church - Chesapeake, VA  
Dayspring Mennonite Church - Catlett, VA  
Abundant Life Church - Sarasota, FL  
Bethel Mennonite Church - Sarasota, FL  
Berea Mennonite Church - Loogootee, IN  
Pineview Mennonite Church - Vassar, MI  
Oasis Community Church - Lexington, KY  
Pond Bank Mennonite Church - Chambersburg, PA

## Individuals/Organizations:

Mike and Suzanna Simpson - Lexington, KY  
Steve and Phyllis Swartz - London, OH  
Lowell and Verna Bender - MD  
Rosedale Bible College - Rosedale, OH

## Special thanks for help with lighting:

Jeff Neff of Events Lighting in Galloway, OH

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## TOP THREE REASONS YOU SHOULD COME TO CHORAL CAMP

1. You will make lots of friends—the people at Choral Camp are fun!
2. You can go to the Choral Camp Reunions at Conference every year
3. Music is a fun and creative way to worship God—You will do lots of that at Choral Camp.

## For Immediate Release:

### ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

([www.rosedale.edu](http://www.rosedale.edu)) is seeking applicants for two full-time positions beginning in September 2006. The **DIRECTOR of ENROLLMENT SERVICES** is responsible for overseeing all student recruitment activities. The ideal candidate will be able to work independently, enjoy travel, and possess strong communication and strategic planning skills. Experience in student recruitment or sales is preferable. The **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** will coordinate clerical support activities for the college. The ideal candidate will be computer literate and have strong organizational and people skills. Salary and liberal benefits package provided for both positions. Send resume and cover letter to: President, Rosedale Bible College, 2270 Rosedale Rd., Irwin, OH 43029 or e-mail to [dziegler@rosedale.edu](mailto:dziegler@rosedale.edu).

## President and CEO

**Mennonite Mutual Aid's** Board of Directors is seeking a President and Chief Executive Officer to lead a multi-line organization that provides insurance, financial services, charitable giving, and fraternal benefits. Qualified candidates must possess proven leadership skills, high ethical standards, visionary thinking, balanced risk-taking and creativity, ability to advance and guide team collaboration, and exceptional skills to communicate MMA's distinctive stewardship values and services. Candidates will bring personal stewardship experience and involvement in an Anabaptist denomination and congregation.

See Careers at [MMA-online.org](http://MMA-online.org) for more information. Cover letter and resume may be e-mail or sent to:

**Pat Swartzendruber, MMA Board Presidential Succession Committee Chair, 1919 Park Rd., Harrisonburg, VA 22802**  
[pswartz@aol.com](mailto:pswartz@aol.com)