

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

MINISTERS' BUSINESS MEETING

Theater • 9-11:30 & 1:30-3:30

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Living Waters Church

Theme: A Life of Discipleship

Moderator: Dave Burkholder, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Assistant Moderator: Harold Delagrange, Hicksville, Ohio

Worship Leader: Donovan Burkholder, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Friday Morning Session

9:30-11:30

Welcome & Worship

The Cost of Discipleship: Jeremy Lehman, Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, pastor of Pond Bank Mennonite Church

Dismissal

Friday Afternoon Session

1:30-3:30

Announcements & Offering (Checks payable to CMC 2012)

Election

Worship

The Rewards of Discipleship: Jeremy Lehman

Dismissal

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Auditorium

Theme: The Shepherd's Psalm

Moderator: Phyllis Swartz, London, Ohio

Moderator-elect: Naomi Byler, Salisbury, Pennsylvania

Friday Morning Session

9:30-11:30

Opening Worship: Rose Yoder, Goshen, Indiana

Welcome

Psalm 23: Loice Byler, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Ladies Ensemble: Ethel Bontrager

Shepherd's Psalm Gallery Walk

Friday Afternoon Session

1:30-3:30

Opening Worship

Psalm 23: Loice Byler

Ladies Ensemble: Ethel Bontrager

Offering (Checks payable to Women's fellowship)

Shepherd's Psalm Gallery Walk

Gathering Music

Closing

THE CAFÉ

(College/career age)

Café room

Moderator: Kevin Mayer, Rosedale, Ohio

Worship Leader: Jason Ropp, Goshen, Indiana

Theme: Does Peace even Matter? The Complexities of Following Jesus in a Violent World

Friday Morning Session

9:30-11:30

Worship

Session 1: David Swartz, Wilmore, Kentucky, assistant professor at Asbury University

Dismissal

Friday Afternoon Session

1:30-3:30

Worship

Session 2: David Swartz

Dismissal

SENIOR HIGH

Siloam Fellowship

Moderator: Lynae Byler, Salisbury, Pennsylvania

Worship Leader: Micah Miller, Lexington, Kentucky

Theme: People of Peace in a Violent World

Friday Morning Session

9:15-11:30

Opening songs

Welcome

Announcements

Rosedale Bible College presentation

Bethel Camp presentation

Worship

Session 1: Keith Byler, associate pastor of Fairlawn Mennonite Church, Apple Creek, Ohio

Dismissal

Friday Afternoon Session

1:30-3:30

Opening and Announcements

Election

REACH presentation

Offering (Checks payable to CMC 2012)

Worship

Session 2: Keith Byler

Dismissal

Friday Evening

Game night at Bethany Christian school.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Auditorium

Moderator: Barry Maust, Accident, Maryland, outgoing RBC board member

Worship Facilitator: Shawn Otto, senior pastor of Providence Mennonite Church of Montgomery, Indiana

Co-Music directors: Joe Miller and Jenny Miller

Friday Evening Session

6:30-8:30

Words of Welcome

Worship in song and Word

Special Music: Rosedale Chorale

Rosedale Bible College Update: Dan Ziegler, president of RBC

Offering: (Checks payable to rBC) Offertory: Salt and Light

"I Shall Not Perish," How Maximilian Died:

Jon Showalter, Rosedale, Ohio, faculty member at RBC

Announcements and closing

SPECIAL INTEREST MEETINGS

RBC Prospective Student Pizza Party:

Friday 12 noon, Meeting room 4, c/o Elizabeth Yoder.

MCC Alumni Reunion:

Friday 4:00-5:00 p.m. Meeting room 4, MCC will host a gathering for alumni and friends for a time of fellowship. This is open to anyone with an interest in the work of MCC.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Pennies for Peace

Bring your spare change to Conference and bring peace in the lives of victims of human trafficking. We'll collect your coins in a wheelbarrow and donate it to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for their work against human trafficking. Help us spread the message that there is still hope.

Movie and popcorn: Friday 8:45 p.m. *Amish Grace*, Café room

The *Conference Crier* is published daily during the Annual Conference of Conservative Mennonite Conference and is available at the entrance of the morning session. Please give announcements to Conrad Showalter by texting or calling 574-202-3222, by email to conrad@olbarn.com, or by leaving them at the Conference office just inside the main entrance to the right. The editor reserves the right to edit and/or reject submitted material.

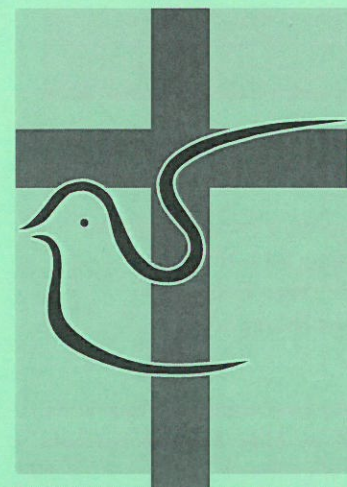
The 102nd Annual Conference is being held July 28-July 31, 2011, at Maple City Chapel, Goshen, Indiana. *People of Peace in a Violent World*

Published by:
Conservative Mennonite Conference
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Editor: Conrad Showalter

Sponsored by:
Dale Keffer
Conservative Mennonite Conference
Rosedale Mennonite Missions
Rosedale Bible College

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CONFERENCE CRIER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012
VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

102nd Annual Conservative Mennonite Conference

Welcome

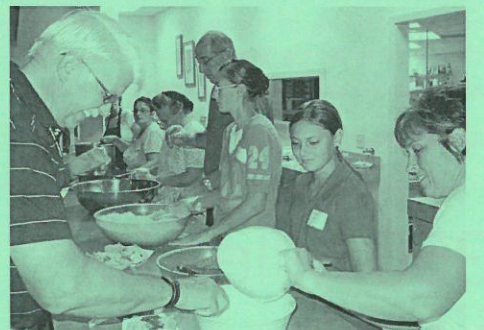
On behalf of Maple City Chapel and the other CMC congregations of Michiana, welcome to CMC Conference 2012! It is an honor to host the 102nd annual CMC Conference, and our prayer is that your time with us will truly be a blessing. Volunteers and staff at Maple City Chapel and other local churches have been working hard for months to prepare for your time with us (kind of like when you finally get to that long "to do" list at home because important company is coming), and we hope that you enjoy our facility and our community. The Welcome Center is located straight in from the front entrance, and it is the place to get your needs met and questions answered.

Meals are a great opportunity for fellowship and connection. There are a variety of options to choose from this year. Traditional lunch and dinner will be provided at the church. A soup and salad bar will be served for lunch on Friday and Saturday inside the building. You can also buy authentic Laotian eggrolls (proceeds will go to support the adoption of 4 children from Ethiopia) or a delicious burrito bowl (proceeds will go to support Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry) on the outdoor patio for lunch on Friday. Mouth watering pulled pork sandwiches or pork burgers will be available to purchase on the patio from Mattern's Butcher Shop for lunch on Saturday. There are also many local restaurants to choose from. Stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a list of ar-



eas restaurants, including Maple City Chapel staff favorites.

Conference is a great time to gather with family, reconnect with old friends, and build new relationships. It is also a time to celebrate our unique Anabaptist heritage, strengthen our faith and develop fresh vision for the future. This year's theme is "People of Peace in a Violent World." A glance at recent news headlines shows the grim reality of the violence in our world: "14 Dead, 50 Wounded in Shooting at Colorado Theater," "200,000 Civilians Try to Escape Violence in Syrian City of Aleppo," "21 Killed in Iraqi Bombings." Being a



people of peace involves more than simply refraining from violence. Rather, it is a commitment to loving action over apathy and inaction. According to Jesus, our mission in this world is to be salt and light, bringing out the God-flavors and God-colors in the world (Matt. 5:13-14, MSG). As Martin Luther King Jr., said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." May we be challenged this weekend to truly be people of peace, driving out darkness with the light of Christ's love.

BOOST
A CHRISTIAN BUSINESS RETREAT
Attention: Business and Professional People
What: A Christian Business Retreat
Where: Farmstead Inn, Shipshewana, Indiana
When: March 7-9, 2013
Speaker: Colin Ferreira, Kalona, Iowa
For more information contact Delores Yoder at delores@cmcrosedale.org.

Tour Israel with us!

Dale Keffer

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FAX: 757-482-0950

Email: dkeffer@cox.net

NEWS & NOTES

RMM Senior Prayer Appreciation Breakfast: Saturday, 7:30-9:00 a.m., Essenhaus Restaurant (Middlebury). For pre-registered seniors already involved in a prayer chapter. Seniors and pastors considering starting or joining a prayer chapter are welcome to check with Mim Musser about the possibility of coming to the breakfast. Special guests: RMM missionaries on home assignment and new appointees.

Conference Prayer Room: Located in the hallway near the main auditorium (see map) is a room designated for prayer. We hope you will use it for corporate prayer meetings, praying with a friend, or time alone with God. If your church is thinking of starting a prayer room, please stop by to get some ideas. Thanks to Edna Shetler who set up and decorated the room.

Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting: For all

RMM staff, board, missionaries, new appointees in the Conference Prayer Room, 8-9 a.m.

RMM Staff, Missionaries and REACHers being commissioned, please meet at the front of the auditorium on Sunday morning at 9:00 for instructions.

A Call to Prayer

Five times a day all over the world devout followers of Islam respond to a call to prayer. During the month of Ramadan they combine their prayers with fasting from sunrise to sunset with the hope that Allah will hear their prayers more than usual. In the last twenty plus years there has been a worldwide movement of Christians who pray for Muslims during Ramadan resulting in millions of Muslims coming to know and follow Jesus. Since we are in the month of Ramadan it seems fitting

that we should come together to pray.

You are invited to:

A prayer meeting with a focus on Muslims
Saturday night, from 9:15–10:00 p.m.

In the Conference Prayer Room
Led by Wilbur and Shirley Miller

Changes

The Saturday afternoon seminar, “Peace in the Business World” by Mike Simpson has been moved to the Jr. High Room.

Los Primos will not be serving lunch today. Instead, you may purchase Laotian eggrolls (proceeds will go to support the adoption of 4 children from Ethiopia) or a delicious burrito bowl (proceeds will go to support Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry) on the outdoor patio.

350 Miles for Missions

By Andrew Sharp • RMM staff writer

It wasn’t last year’s brutal slog over the Appalachian mountains, but the 66 cyclists in the seventh annual Ride for Missions did cover some rolling terrain as they rode 350 miles from Lexington, Kentucky, to the Goshen area. The Ride for Missions raises funds for Rosedale Mennonite Missions through individual and corporate sponsors. This year’s event raised more than \$100,000, a record-setting total.

The ride kicked off on Saturday morning, July 28 from a motel north of Lexington. The cyclists pedaled past many of Kentucky’s famous horse farms, making their way to the small town of Dry Ridge, Ken-



tucky. The next day the route swung toward Indianapolis. It was the longest day of the ride, almost 100 miles, with an extra loop for those who wanted to hit a “century.” The day ended in the town of Greensburg, Indiana. From Greensburg, the riders went straight north through the cornfields to Muncie, Indiana. Then they rode north again to Huntington, just southwest of Fort Wayne. The riders finished their ride on Wednesday afternoon, August 1, rolling into Clinton Christian School east of Goshen.

Each day of the ride, the cyclists left earlier or later depending on how fast they wanted to ride that day. They would stop for snacks, water, and lunch along the way, provided by a dozen support staff who also drove vehicles loaded with luggage and gear. In the afternoon and evening they would arrive a few at a time at the area motel that had been willing to accommodate 66 bicycles. Each evening, ride pastor Roger Hazen, from Vassar, Michigan, shared a devotional and led the group in prayer, and sometimes other riders with

missions experience shared as well.

The Ride for Missions has been an annual tradition since 2006, when Merlin Miller of Middlebury, Indiana came up with the concept and led the first ride. That first year, 18 cyclists took part, riding 225 miles from Goshen, Indiana to Plain City, Ohio. They raised \$23,000.

In the years since, the Ride has grown to become a big part of RMM’s funding. In the seven rides, 269 riders, supported by 52 support staff and 78 corporate sponsors, have raised about \$350,000. The groups have pedaled 2,306 miles—a combined 90,000 miles put in by individual riders. That’s three and a half times around the globe.

People of all ages have joined the Ride. This year there were seven participants 60 or older, and five participants 15 or younger. The youngest was 12-year-old Eve Miller of Harrisonburg, Virginia, and the senior cyclist was Marvin Beachy of Atmore, Alabama (75).



Spiritual Appetites Whetted in Taste of Missions

By Conrad Showalter

The 102nd Annual Conference opened Thursday evening with Rosedale Mennonite Mission’s annual Taste of Missions. The theme was “Building Bridges,” and it was a tasty spread. Paul Kurtz first introduced a group of champions, riders in the annual Ride for Missions. Sixty-six riders covered 365 miles and raised \$106,000. The average age of the group was 40.

Paul then moved to a fast-paced overview of the work of RMM in the past year. The REACH program continues to use the gifts and energies of young men and women in various parts of the world. Twenty-eight people are accepted into the program for the coming year, and plan to participate in teams to six countries. City Challenge brought 250 youth from a dozen youth groups to Columbus, Ohio for an introduction to city ministry as well as spiritual challenges for personal growth and development.

The Latin American Mission Partnership (LAMP) was noted, with young men and women from Central and South America becoming involved in mission efforts in Thailand and other settings in partnership with RMM. The Rosedale Business Group continues to work at business opportunities and partnerships in missions in various parts of the world. Work continues in Asia and North Africa, where believers have been baptized, and relationships are being built—personally and through web sites where people can download the *Jesus* film and other Christian literature. One such website is receiving up to 1,000 hits daily. Paul concluded with RMM’s support for churches here. We, too, can be involved in outreach where we are, with many opportunities for cross cultural ministry here.

The main part of the evening was a panel discussion facilitated by Andrew Sharp about how people are reaching out where they are living and working. There was a good mix of age and experience in the group, as well as variety in location and work.



Left: Panelists from RMM and CMC reflect on sharing about Jesus overseas and at home. Right: Wayne Yoder, Ride for Missions organizer, talks about the Ride as the cyclists are recognized for their accomplishment.

Yacob* shared his recent experience in trekking in Africa and planting electronic seeds of worship and the Word. He noted that one of the difficult aspects of his work was the short-term relationships and the uncertainty of effectiveness of the seed sowing. On the other hand, his joy was evident as he spoke of meeting people, experiencing a new culture, and hanging out with new friends.

Natacha “Naty” Peachey, who was born in Venezuela, now lives in Columbus, Ohio with her husband and family. She described the joy of inviting people into her home and sharing Jesus with them. Naty seemed puzzled by the question about how sharing can be moved to a spiritual level. “It’s who I am,” she said. Her stated goal is to “bring people closer to Jesus than they were before they met me.”

Gary Miller from Goshen, Indiana described how he has become involved with people in need in the local community. He noted the differences in starting points—a place of strength and resources in contrast to a place of weakness and need. Such differences tend to create barriers, but they can be overcome. One of his joys is “lots of friends.”

Cecelia* focused on using friendship and trust as the context for sharing faith. Whether teaching English or how to ride a bicycle, relationship is the key. Even after living overseas for many years, she noted there are always new things to learn about the host culture.

Daniel* has lived in small-town Ohio, but he and his wife Molly* felt led to leave their community. Moving into a southern city and an apartment building where they were a minority was a life-changing experience. Muslim neighbors were eager to talk about

faith. “What qualifies me to be involved in mission?” he asked. “Jesus” was his answer, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Daniel and Molly leave soon for North Africa where they will face new challenges of cultural and language barriers.

The after-service snack was either a traditional American ice cream sundae or, for the brave, a traditional Thai street sundae. The second choice consisted of ice cream in a hot dog bun, topped with coconut, nuts, and whole-kernel corn.

*names changed for security reasons

missions day
2012 offering
Sunday morning, August 5
Invest in spreading the gospel!
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Survey of Bible Doctrine

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SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

CHURCH CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Auditorium

Theme: People of Peace in a Violent World
Moderator: Bob E. Yoder, Catlett, Virginia
Assistant Moderator: Dale Keffer, Chesapeake, Virginia

Saturday Morning Session

9:30-10:30
Gathering songs/Welcome
Worship in Song and Word
Moderator's Address: Bob E. Yoder
Story of Reconciliation: Phil Stutzman and Ferman Yoder, Sugarcreek, Ohio
Sermon on the Mount Reading, Matthew 5: Davy & Collette Slabaugh, Hilliard, Ohio
Offering/offertory (For conference meeting and general expenses-Checks payable to CMC 2012)
Announcements

Seminar/Peace Talks

10:45-11:30

Saturday Afternoon Session

1:30-2:30
Gathering Songs and Welcome
Worship in Song and Word
Peace vignette: Christa Wolf
Consecration of New Ministers: Bob E. Yoder
Story of Reconciliation: Don & Marilyn Showalter, Rosedale, Ohio
Sermon on the Mount Reading, Matt. 6: Davy & Collette Slabaugh
Offering/offertory (Checks made out to CMC 2012)
Announcements

Seminars/Peace Talks

2:45-3:30

Saturday Evening Session

6:30-8:30
Hymn Sing: Laban Miller
Sermon on the Mount Reading, Matt. 7: Davy & Collette Slabaugh
Select Children's Choir: Ken Miller, Rosedale, Ohio
Peace vignette: Christa Wolf
Conference Sermon: Jeremy Miller, pastor of Mennonite Christian Assembly, Fredericksburg, Ohio
Foot Washing Ceremony Among Reconcilers: Brian Hershberger, London, Ohio
Offering/offertory (For conference meeting and general expenses-Checks payable to CMC 2012)
Announcements/Dismissal

SENIOR HIGH

Siloam Fellowship

Moderator: Lynae Byler, Salisbury, Pennsylvania

Worship Leader: Micah Miller, Lexington, Kentucky

Theme: People of Peace in a Violent World
Saturday Afternoon Session

1:30-3:30
Opening Song
Announcements
Aim Right presentation
Offering (Checks payable to CMC 2012)
Worship
Session 3: Keith Byler
Dismissal

Saturday Evening

Polen Band Concert

SPECIAL INTEREST MEETINGS

REACH Connections: Saturday, 12:00 p.m.
Meeting room 4, c/o Austin Beachy. Open to all former and incoming REACHers.

Conexión Con Dios y Unos Con Otros:
Saturday 2:45 p.m. Café room, Este taller será un tiempo de adoración y meditación en español. También habrá un tiempo abierto para conocer otras personas de iglesias Hispanas en este país. Compartiremos visión y testimonios de lo que Dios está haciendo en la comunidad Hispana de CMC. Coordinadores: David Villalta y Dion Peachey

Prison Workers: Saturday, 3:30- 5:00 p.m.
Meeting room 3, c/o Glendon Bender.

RBC Choral Camp reunion: Saturday, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Meeting room 4 c/o Debbie Hochstedler. All Choral Campers and Staff are invited to a reunion. Please eat supper before arriving. Meet with fellow campers and counselors for reunion activities and ice cream.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Pennies for Peace

Bring your spare change to Conference and bring peace in the lives of victims of human trafficking. We'll collect your coins in a wheelbarrow and donate it to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for their work against human trafficking. Help us spread the message that there is still hope.

Book Talk on *Amish Grace*: Saturday 3:45 p.m. MCCh
Theater, Conrad & Lynette Showalter, Goshen, Indiana.

Saturday Evening Concert: Conley Schmidt and First Love (Bluegrass/country music)
Refreshments: Root beer floats and pretzels.

BOOST
YOUR POTENTIAL
A CHRISTIAN BUSINESS RETREAT
Attention: Business and Professional People
What: A Christian Business Retreat
Where: Farmstead Inn, Shipshewana, Indiana
When: March 7-9, 2013
Speaker: Colin Ferreira, Kalona, Iowa
For more information contact Delores Yoder at delores@cmcrossdale.org.

Tour Israel with us!
Dale Keffer
Join us in Jerusalem
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FAX: 757-482-0950
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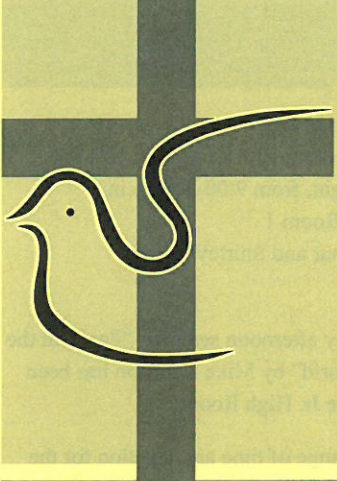
The 102nd Annual Conference is being held August 2-5, 2012, at Maple City Chapel, Goshen, Indiana. *People of Peace in a Violent World*

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CONFERENCE CRIER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2012
VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

102nd Annual Conservative Mennonite Conference



Loice Byler delights in the 23rd Psalm. It is, she says, “such a rich psalm,” and in it we can get to know God as “a provider, a guide, our comforter, our protector and our healer.”

Drawing on Scripture, the writing of Philip Keller, Elizabeth George, and Henri Nouwen, and her own experience in struggling with depression, Loice brought Psalm 23 to life during Friday's women's session.

“Do you know the Shepherd?” she asked. Jesus is very interested in being our shepherd, in taking care of us, and in healing our hurts, but we need to be willing to let him do that.

Loice described sheep (us!) as timid creatures who are near-sighted, stubborn, and easily frightened. Sheep also have no homing instinct and get lost easily. Prone

“Do you know the Shepherd?”

Loice Byler talks to women about the 23rd Psalm

By Vicki Sairs

to parasitic infection (think nose flies – yuck!), bloating, and getting stuck on one's back, sheep really are unable to take care of themselves. “We need a shepherd because we are needy,” said Loice.

She walked us through the 23rd Psalm, using Scripture to enrich our view of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and making each verse personal, challenging us to ask if we're allowing Jesus to take care of us the way he wants to.

Loice especially focused on Jesus as our healer, using the pain in her own life as an example of the way Jesus can use our struggles to bring healing to those around us.

And she talked about what happens when we don't do that. Sheep cannot lie down in peace when there is friction in the flock, she said. “We can be each others' worst enemies,” she said. “We can butt heads [like unhappy sheep] . . . we can be unkind.”

“I believe this comes from wounded women,” she said. “A wounded person hurts other people.” We carry around our own pain and hurt others with it. Doing that can keep us from walking in wholeness, she said. “We need inner healing.”

She encouraged her listeners not to be

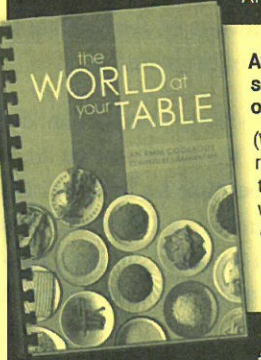
ashamed about seeking counseling. “Jesus is our shepherd and he wants to heal you.” Loice has found that when she shares about her mental health issue openly, “others receive healing.”

God redeems pain; he does not waste it. He knows us and desires to heal us. “Will you allow him to heal you?”

Loice closed with a quote from Henri Nouwen. “Jesus is God's wounded healer; through his wounds we are healed. Jesus' suffering and death bring joy and life . . . As followers of Jesus, we can also allow our wounds to bring healing to others.”

The World at Your Table

AN RMM COOKBOOK



Available for a suggested donation of only \$15.
(With inflation, that's roughly 30 cents less than last year!) **AND** we will waive shipping charges if you pick up the cookbook at our display table!

Rosedale
MENNONITE MISSIONS

NEWS & NOTES

Kids Grades 5-8: Bring a laptop, tablet, or smartphone to the Sunday morning meeting to discuss the talks in a chat room setting at www.todaysmeet.com/md12kids. If you don't have access to a device, we'll try to connect you to one. So, if you're a kid who needs a device, please sign up at the RMM display. And if you're an adult willing to share your device with (sit with?) a kid who doesn't have access, please sign up at the RMM display.

Conference Prayer Room: Located in the hallway near the main auditorium (see map) is a room designated for prayer. We hope you will use it for corporate prayer meetings, praying with a friend, or time alone with God. If your church is thinking of starting a prayer room, please stop by to get some ideas. Thanks to Edna Shetler who set up and decorated the room.

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A Call to Prayer

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You are invited to:

A prayer meeting with a focus on Muslims
Saturday night, from 9:00–9:45 p.m.
In Meeting Room 1
Led by Wilbur and Shirley Miller

Changes

The Saturday afternoon seminar, "Peace in the Business World" by Mike Simpson has been moved to the Jr. High Room.

Note the change of time and location for the Saturday evening prayer meeting.

Lost and Found items may be picked up at the information booth.

RBC Bookstore Liquidation Sale is happening in Theater Row. (Actually, not a sale but a giveaway; books may be taken on a donation basis!)

"I Shall Not Perish"

By Conrad Showalter

The Rosedale Chorale opened Friday evening's Christian Education program. Following a time of congregational worship, RBC President Dan Ziegler shared an update on the new Student Center.

Jon Showalter, recently returned to Rosedale Bible College after several years in North Africa, gave the Friday evening address entitled "I Shall Not Perish: How Maximilian Died." Maximilian was a twenty-one-year-old who lived in North Africa at the end of the third century; he was put to death for refusing induction into the Roman army. His story illustrated the dilemma faced by believers in every generation—how "followers of Jesus relate to the coercive power of the state."

According to Showalter, Maximilian did not die for being a Mennonite or an Anabaptist. He died "because he had read the gospels, he had become a Christian" and "he concluded that he could not both confess Jesus as Lord and serve as a soldier in the Roman army."

The story of Maximilian was contrasted



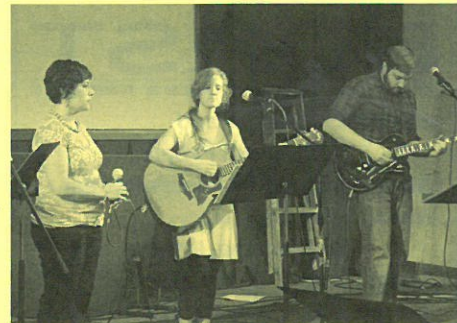
with that of a more famous North African churchman—Augustine, important to the topic of peace because he developed the doctrine of "just war," the belief that Christians may, and should, kill enemies when the cause is righteous and when directed to do so by civic authorities.

Historically, Conservative Mennonite Conference has been aligned with Maximilian rather than Augustine. Many changes in the present, however, are challenging that alignment. We have changed, the world we live in has changed, and we have more interaction with a wide range of believers through current communication options. In relation to such interaction with other believers, we often ask whether a particular point of difference is a salvation issue. The question is rarely a helpful one, according to Showalter, since the implication is that whatever doesn't qualify as a salvation issue is therefore not very important. Rather,

"we must learn to hold firm, gracious convictions—and know why we hold them—even as we interact with Christians who see things differently."

In looking at the future, Conservative Mennonite Conference will likely follow one of two options—we may reaffirm our commitment to following Jesus in the way of peace, or we may join the mainstream evangelical world in its support of Augustine's doctrine of "just war." Showalter concluded with the "hope that we reaffirm our conviction that Christ-followers do not kill their enemies, even when the government instructs them to," with the hope and prayer "that a new generation of radical followers of Jesus discovers for themselves what expressions those convictions will take in their era...not primarily because it's part of our history and must therefore be preserved," but because "it's the life Jesus invites us to."

Below: Worship session.
Right: David Swartz addressing the Café on the topic of peacemaking.



Third Way in the Café

By Andrew Sharp

Does peace even matter? That was the question David Swartz was supposed to answer in the Café sessions on Friday (for those around college age). Swartz's passionate presentation left no doubt in anyone's mind that the issue of how to deal with war, violence, and a broken world matters, whether or not they agreed with his conclusions.

Swartz, who is an assistant professor at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky, laid out some basic perspectives on peace within the Christian faith. These ranged from actively promoting peace and opposing violence, to refusing to personally use violence but saying the government can or should, to embracing violence as a means of advancing the faith (as the crusaders did in the Middle Ages).

Swartz argued that the biblical message is a call to peace, not violence. In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, he said, Jesus addressed the cultural context of the law of Moses and the Roman empire. Jewish law allowed violence—an eye for eye. Victims could legally get revenge. The Roman empire established peace through overwhelming force, much like nations today do. Jesus repeatedly said he had come to fulfill the Jewish law with a higher standard, Swartz said. "You have heard...but I say to you." His message also flew in the face of the Roman way, as he called his fol-

lowers to love their enemies and do good to persecutors.

Swartz admitted there are big questions that come with a repudiation of violence. Are those who believe in peace hopeless idealists striving for a utopia that will never exist? Are they weak people who rely on others to protect them from evil?

Before he addressed those issues, he dealt with the other side of the debate. A common idea among Christians who accept war is that it is a terrible thing, so it can only be acceptable if it meets certain conditions—the concept of "Just War." Swartz said while there are issues with peace, there are serious issues with waging "just war" as well. Although the ideas make sense, they get most of their support from philosophy and human reason rather than the Bible, in his view. The early church, he said, rejected violence. Another problem, he said, is that people who hold to the Just War theory never apply it—the United States has fought many wars, and few if any have met the criteria for "just war." Yet the churches that hold to "just war" never condemn these wars. He also focused on the dehumanizing effect that violence and war have on soldiers and others.

When he came back to the problems with peace, he said he did not think the church should strive for some kind of idealistic uto-

pia. Rather, believers should strive to create glimpses of creation the way it was supposed to be—in line with the Hebrew concept of Shalom, or right relationship with God, his creation, and other people. Believers should also point to the coming kingdom of God that has not yet been fulfilled.

Swartz also did not ask believers to irresponsibly stand by and do nothing while evil runs its course. He offered what he called a third way—actively making peace in imaginative ways. He offered examples of ways this had been done, including the story of a group of protesters who broke up a Klu Klux Klan "white power" rally by simply dressing up as clowns and chanting ridiculous slogans like "white flour!" and "white flowers!" They were able to highlight the ridiculousness of "white power" without violent resistance and the Klan eventually gave up and left. Swartz called on those in the Café to come up with their own imaginative ways to make peace.

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SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

MISSIONS DAY PROGRAM

Auditorium

Moderators: Mel Shetler, Goshen, Indiana, RMM Board Chair; Joe Showalter, Columbus, Ohio, RMM President

Sunday Morning Session

9:30-11:45

Announcements

Stories from the Harvest

Offering (checks payable to Rosedale Mennonite Missions)

Ambassadors of Jesus Christ Within the Tumult of Nations: David W. Shenk, Mountville, Pennsylvania, Global Consultant at Eastern Mennonite Missions
Commissioning prayer

The *Conference Crier* is published daily during the Annual Conference of Conservative Mennonite Conference and is available at the entrance of the morning session. Please give announcements to Conrad Showalter by texting or calling 574-202-3222, by email to conrad@olbarn.com, or by leaving them at the Conference office just inside the main entrance to the right. The editor reserves the right to edit and/or reject submitted material.

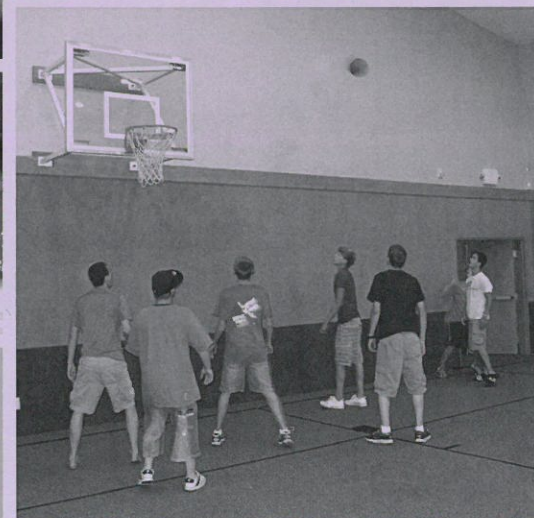
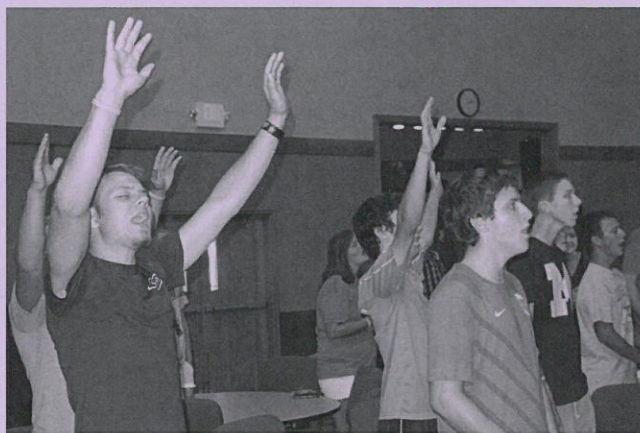
The 102nd Annual Conference is being held August 2-5, 2012, at Maple City Chapel, Goshen, Indiana.
People of Peace in a Violent World

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True Gospel

Keith Byler, youth pastor from Fairlawn Mennonite Church in Apple Creek, Ohio addressed high school youth in three sessions on Friday and Saturday. In the first session, Byler looked at the nature of the gospel. After examining several distortions of the gospel, or things the gospel is not, he identified the “bull’s-eye of the gospel” as “life with God.” God is not the way we find treasure; God is our treasure.

The second session focused on the relationship between Jesus and religion. Are the two compatible? Does Jesus not reject religion? No, it is hypocrisy that Jesus was against. Jesus and religion should be together. “Our religion must be driven by Jesus, or religion becomes dangerous.”

In the final Saturday afternoon session, Keith explained how Jesus is our peace. Using advertising clips, he demonstrated how the world attempts to sell peace. Insurance of every sort also demonstrates how much we seek security. (The most bizarre form of insurance is alien abduction insurance—40,000 policies sold!) True peace is knowing that God loves you. Peace comes from being sold out to following Jesus.

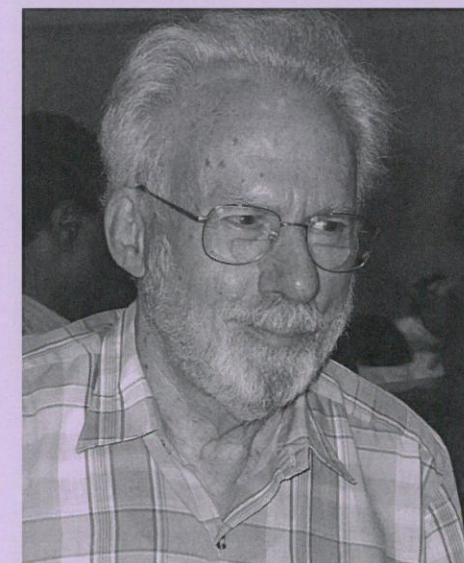
CONFERENCE CRIER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2012
VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

102nd Annual Conservative Mennonite Conference

Reading (and Smelling) David Shenk in North Africa

Josiah Waywood*



Nearly five years ago, David Shenk (unfortunately, Grace wasn’t able to join him) spoke over several days at a gathering of believers from around the world in the North African country where we had followed God shortly before his visit. I remember that he spoke from the book of Revelation on the perseverance of the saints and the

worship of the slain Lamb. But what I remember more than the content of the talks was the smell in the room while he spoke. No, I’m not talking about body odor, but Body odor. When I remember David, I think of the verse where Paul calls believers to “spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ.” Not only does David waft of Jesus, but his words also are seasoned with salt that makes people thirsty to know his Lord more. David has spent much of his life sharing the fragrance and taste of Christ with Muslims. His conversation with a Muslim colleague about their similarities and differences (*A Muslim and Christian in Dialogue*) stands as a much-needed model of graceful/truthful Christian witness.

David’s witness also extends to the Western church. In his book *Journeys of the Muslim Nation and the Christian Church*, he gently but persistently challenges the myth that Christian faith is compatible with worldly power. He writes, “The Gospel and Islam offer different responses that are engraved on our histories and hearts by two different journeys and two different cities: Jesus of Nazareth saying ‘yes’ to the cross as he traveled into Jerusalem surrounded by singing children; Muhammad of the Quraish migrating to Medina, where he commands political and military power. For the Muslim army entering Mecca, a truth that suffers seemed impotent for establishing the peace of Islam....Muslims give witness to the peace of Islam. However the calling of the church is to give witness to the peace

of the Messiah. In that calling the church gives witness to the vulnerable truth of the Gospel. This is a gift offered; it is a gift freely received or freely rejected. Such truth needs bold and faithful witness. It requires no other defense.” (159)

David is a rare evangelical voice because he sees the connection between sharing the Good News that God has forgiven sinners through Jesus, and his command that we do the same by loving and forgiving our enemies. He quotes a Muslim objection to Christian witness: “The great inconsistency within the Christian church is that you claim with your mouths Jesus is Lord, but your lives reveal that you really believe Jesus is not practical. *Your lives show that you agree with Islam, that the teachings of Jesus are an impossible ideal.* So you divide your lives in compartments, rejecting Jesus in some areas, and obeying him in convenient areas.” (174, emphasis mine)

It is David’s witness among both Muslims and fellow Christians to the hope and peace found only in Jesus that makes his presence so appropriate at a gathering with the theme of “People of Peace in a Violent World.” He offers CMC an opportunity to renew our commitment to Jesus and “bold and faithful witness” to his Gospel, being *evangelically Anabaptist*, whether among the nations or in American’s heartland. I only wish I could be in Goshen on Sunday to catch a whiff of Jesus as David speaks. It’s a smell that makes me want to love Him more. *names changed for security reasons

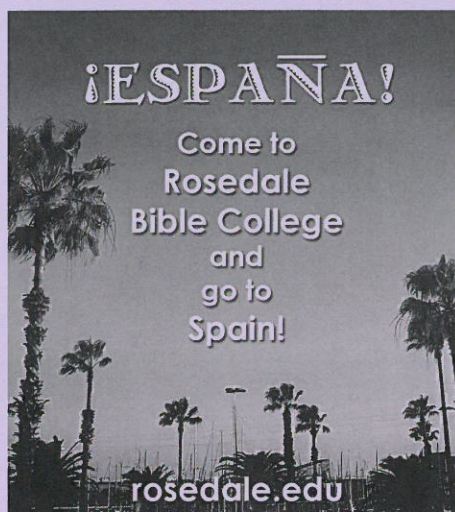
NEWS & NOTES

Attendance Stats: Thursday evening—600; Friday evening—733; Saturday morning—566; Saturday afternoon—503; Saturday evening—729.

Anyone that is available after lunch on Sunday to help tear down tables and chairs would be greatly appreciated. The opportunities to join in should be obvious. Thanks for your help!

Lost and Found items may be picked up at the information desk.

Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry in Goshen, Indiana seeks a Receptionist/Bible Study Coordinator, a voluntary service position. Call or text Glendon Bender at 574-238-0485.



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Moderator's Address

In the Saturday morning program Conference Moderator Bob Yoder spoke on the importance of Christ's peace within. He told the story of operating a crane in a very noisy, chaotic environment. While working he noticed a sparrow sitting in a corner, oblivious to the noise, but obviously singing its heart out. He questioned whether we can have a similar presence in a chaotic world—praising God, and at peace, no matter the circumstances around us.

Following the moderator's address, two CMC pastors shared insights from their experiences of working together, being separated by conflict, and being restored to a positive working relationship in the same church. When asked about the beginning of conflict, Phil Stutzman noted differences in vision and views of church authority. Ferman Yoder identified a hidden disrespect for each other, even to the point of wishing for the failure of the oth-

er. After each experienced failure in their own goals for ministry, their hearts were turned toward each other and to reconciliation. Ferman's plea to any pastors experiencing conflict and division: "Reconcile at any cost."



THANK YOU to everyone who helped with this year's Ride for Missions—the riders, corporate sponsors, volunteer planning committee, support crew, and donors! We really appreciate your hard work and sacrifice! The ride raised \$108,000 for the work of sharing the good news.

BOOST

Attention: Business and Professional People

What: A Christian Business Retreat

Where: Farmstead Inn, Shipshewana, Indiana

When: March 7-9, 2013

Speaker: Colin Ferreira, Kalona, Iowa

For more information contact Delores Yoder at delores@cmccrosdale.org.



Round Tables

In the Saturday morning and afternoon sessions, the conference was filled with round table talk, as well as several seminars, all focusing on various aspects of peace-making. Whether driving or gaming, business or friendship, the family or the church, religion or politics—every area of our lives needs to be filled with peace. Discussion was animated, and some conversations continued long after closing time.

