



Conference Crier

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IN THIS ISSUE

Seeds of Faith:

An introduction to the hosting congregations

A Taste of Missions:
Meet some of RMM's missionaries!

The **Conference Crier** is published daily during the Annual Conference of Conservative Mennonite Conference and will be distributed at the entrance of the morning session. Announcements should be dropped off at the *Crier* office (ask for location at the Information table) by 5:00 p.m. the day before the announcements are to appear. The editor reserves the right to edit and/or reject submitted material.

The **94th Annual Conference** is being held July 29-August 1, 2004, at Beaver River Central School, Beaver Falls, New York with the theme, *The Great Commission*

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Seeds of Faith

by *Natasha D. Siegrist*

Lewis County is so proud to welcome the 2004 Conference to New York! I have only recently returned to live in this area, but my family, like most families here, has roots that extend for generations. I would have to say that the best part about being a Mennonite in Lewis County is being able to see the fruit of the faith of our forefathers. Their dedication to serving Christ without compromise set an example for a rich heritage that can be seen on almost everyone we meet here. We live in a forest that was sown almost two hundred years ago with their seeds of faith, by divine "accident."

In 1886, Michael Zehr, his wife Anna and their nine children came through New York on their journey to Ohio. Perhaps it was the beautiful rolling hills, or the fertile soil, or simply God's hand leading them, but they never continued on. Instead, they made their home in a French settlement that we now know as Croghan.

This family helped establish the Croghan Amish Mennonite Church in 1836. By 1910 the church had expanded to meetings in both Croghan and Lowville. As one body, they joined the Conservative Amish Mennonite Conference, but eventually they developed into two separate congregations. In 1912 the Croghan congregation built their first church building. From there the two congregations eventually spread to surrounding areas.

The Croghan congregation still meets at the same location after several renovations and additions. It has grown immensely, and the members of that congregation have gone on to be leaders in not only their community, but also the entire world. One of those who is currently leading in that

(continued on page 2)

"We are all testimonies to the faith that was planted here, not in the soil, but in people's hearts."

A Taste of Missions

by *Phil Weber*

What route did you take to get to conference, and how long did it take to get here? If you came up Interstate 81, did you take the "official" route through Watertown, or the cutoff along Route 177? Several families featured in the Thursday evening missions program came much further than most.

Another couple started from their home in Sanliurfa, Turkey, flew to Istanbul, caught another plane to Toronto, did some visiting in Canada, and finally drove to Beaver Falls from there. Sanliurfa is the site of biblical Harran, and even though it is strongly Muslim today, they and their coworkers are pleased to see a group of 20-25 persons meeting in the name of Jesus on Sunday mornings. The meet-

(continued on page 2)

News & Notes

Special thanks to the Gospel Echoes for the use of their sound equipment.

Conference recordings are available this year on CD format. Check with Bradley Maust at the recording studio.

Special thanks to Visual Message, of Cleveland, Ohio for the use of the high lumens projector. Stop by their booth for information on projectors available for churches to buy.

The workshop entitled *Sharing Faith With Increasing Effectiveness in the Neighborhood*, c/o Janice Showalter is designed especially for women.

Sharing Faith Among Muslims Workshop: John and Sue Doe (pseudonym), workers in Central Asia, will be leading the workshop on Sharing Faith Among Muslims. Other RMM workers will share stories of how they are sharing the gospel with Muslims. This will be an excellent way to learn first-hand how people following Islam learn to know Jesus.

Special Announcement for Local Folk: There will be an MDS breakfast meeting for anyone who is interested in knowing more about how MDS operates and MDS's history. The breakfast will be on Saturday, August 7 at 7:00 AM at the Lowville Mennonite Church. Rollin and Betty Rheinheimer will be the guest speakers. They have been acquainted with MDS for a long time, and will be sharing stories after the meal. Everyone is invited. Please call 376-4737 to make your reservations. Although reservations are not necessary, they are appreciated for food estimation. *Please stop at the New York Mennonite Insurance booth to sign up!*

Special Interest Meetings

The special interest meetings are open for all who are involved in or who have interest in the ministries indicated.

RMM Prayer Room: Room 137 is designated as a prayer room throughout the conference days and is open continuously for that purpose. Please stop by to pray for the work of RMM. While you are there take a few minutes to write some notes of encouragement to RMM Personnel. Thank you.

RBC Prospective Student Pizza Party: Saturday, 12:00 noon in the band room, c/o Phil Weber

Prison Workers: Saturday, 3:30-5:00 p.m. in Room 144, c/o Roy Van Pelt

Stewardship Resources from Mennonite Mutual Aid: Saturday, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Room 142, c/o Mark Fly

Overseers: Saturday, 3:45-5:00 p.m. in Room 141, c/o Steve Swartz

REACH Connections: Saturday, 4:45-6:30 p.m. in the chorus room. Open to all former and incoming REACHERS, c/o Davy Slabaugh

RBC Choral Camp Reunion: Saturday, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in band room, c/o Phyllis Swartz

RMM Prayer Meeting: Sunday morning, 7:45-8:45 a.m. in Room 137. All RMM Personnel are invited to attend. We will look forward to seeing you.

(A Taste of Missions, continued from page 1)

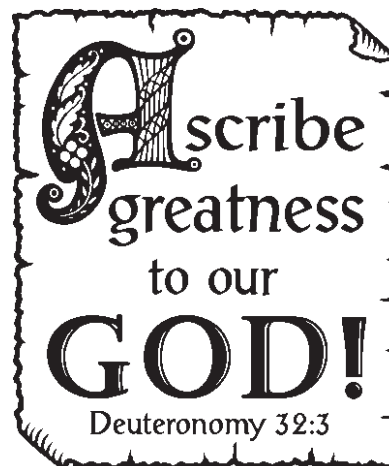
ings circulate among several homes and three of the local believers have been formed into a lay leadership, or service group. They say, "God was there before we were, and we are excited to be a part of what He is doing."

John and Sue Doe (pseudonym) came to conference from a city of 600,000 located along the ancient Silk Road to China. (They say lots of Asian and European tourists visit their city, but not many Americans. We are all invited to their place!) The Does are particularly excited about an answer to prayer in the form of an invitation from their neighborhood association to run a community center. The invitation came with a rent-free facility, and the Does and their coworkers now offer classes on cooking and English, and provide activities for youth and children right along with Christian friendship. Joe and Sue took a train from their home to Tashkent (5 hours), a plane to Istanbul (5 hours), another plane to New York City (11 hours), and then most of them flew to Canton/Akron before driving to Beaver Falls. For anyone feeling sorry for them, they also took a vacation excursion from Istanbul to the Mediterranean coast for several days!

The missions meeting included testimonies from these families as well as reports from missions in Germany and an explanation of new mission fields and approaches on which RMM wants to focus in the coming days. The evening concluded with a sampling of foods from Germany and coffee from Central America. The apple and plum kuchen seemed to be

the preferred offerings, though some said they preferred the saltzstangen. (If you don't know what that is, you should have come to the meeting!) ❖

"God was there before we were, and we are excited to be a part of what He is doing."



(Seeds of Faith, continued from page 1)

congregation is John Martin, who is married to Kathy (Roggie).

Lowville Mennonite's building was built in 1914. The congregation grew just as steadily as Croghan's, and there are many examples of fruit that has come through that church. Eileen Lehman, together with her husband Elmer, went on to serve as missionaries in Costa Rica for several years. Donna (Zehr) Keener grew up at Lowville Mennonite and is now serving as a missionary in Vietnam. Dan and Geanne Jantzi are missionaries in Indonesia and Terry and Lisa Zehr are pastoring a church in Watertown.

The Pine Grove Mennonite Church was planted in 1948. This church was a mission endeavor sponsored by the Croghan / Lowville churches. The mission became fruitful and today is a self-supporting congregation. Vernon and Esther Zehr were originally pastoring, but out of that congregation their own son, Nathan Zehr, rose up and took over the pastoral position.

The Naumburg Mennonite Church was planted because of the over abundance of members in Croghan and Dadville. On June 21, 1964 a church building was dedicated and Naumburg established its own congregation. Out of that congregation has come Nelson Roes, who still attends, and is very involved in missions in Haiti along with Simon and Diane Gingerich.

The Carthage Mennonite Church was planted in 1957. It began with around twenty attendees and has grown to more than sixty. Edward Roggie, who is presently the pastor, grew up attending the Lowville Mennonite Church. He felt God's call on his life and attended Rosedale during the summer terms, preparing himself for the ministry. He ended up serving as assistant pastor under Earl Zehr for several years before taking over the pastorate. He has been shepherding the people at Carthage Mennonite for over 18 years now. His wife, Betty, has been a true biblical helpmate, encouraging her husband every step of the way.

These are only a few of the many followers of Christ who have carried on the traditions of our faith. There is hardly a day when you can walk down the main street of Lowville, or enter a shop in Carthage or Croghan, or visit with any person in Lewis County, where you do not meet someone who shares part of this history. We are all testimonies to the faith that was planted here, not in the soil, but in people's hearts. ❖

Tour Israel with us!



October 11-20, 2004

All you need is a passport and \$2,195.00!

Contact us on conference grounds or at

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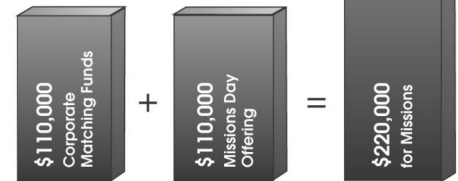
www.biblehistorytours.com

Email: dkeffer@cox.net

Inviting the Nations to Worship Jesus

RMM has raised \$110,000 in advance funds for Sunday's Missions Day Offering.

With your help we hope to raise an additional \$110,000 on Sunday, resulting in a total of \$220,000 for missions.



Rosedale Mennonite Missions

ROSEDALE

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- ◆ Register for the free pizza party
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Only **30** procrastinating days not to apply for first term until the late fee kicks in!

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Der Dutchman Restaurants



are pleased to co-sponsor the Conference Crier and the conference event at Beaver Falls, New York 2004.

For the finest in Amish kitchen cooking, visit a Der Dutchman in Plain City, Sugarcreek, Walnut Creek, and Waynesville, Ohio

Friday's Schedule

Women's Fellowship Program

Auditorium

Theme: God's Design on the Quilts of our Lives

Moderator: Martha Stoltzfus, Bowlings Creek, Kentucky
Assistant Moderator: Edith Nissley, Tallahassee, Florida
Worship Leader: Charlene Moser, Croghan, New York
Guest Speaker: Barbara Borntreger, Harrisonburg, Virginia;
Author of A Mother Held Hostage, My Journey with Jon

Morning Session (9:30–11:30)

Opening and Prayer

Worship

The Sin That So Easily Entangles: Barbara Borntreger

Missionary Speaker: Joyce Beachy, Middle East

Run With Perseverance: Barbara Borntreger

Noon Recess

Afternoon Session (1:30–3:30)

Worship

Business Meeting

Special Music: Charlene Moser

The Cloud of Witnesses: Barbara Borntreger

Missionary Speaker

Voluntary testimonies

Prayer time

Dismissal

Men's Fellowship Program

Naumburg Conservative Mennonite Church: Four miles NW of Beaver Falls via 126, then 1/2 mile W via 410

Theme: The Great Commission

— A Man's Call to Fish —

Morning Session (9:30–11:30)

Moderator: LaVern Maust, Salisbury, Pennsylvania

Worship Leader: Marvin Zehr, Carthage, New York

Gone Fishing (A man's call to his family & work): Jim Roger, Dover, Delaware

Break

Fisherman Stories: Testimonies

Noon Recess

Afternoon Session (1:30–3:30)

Moderator: Lyn Byler, Dover, Delaware

Business Meeting

Worship: Larry Moser, Castorland, New York

Setting the Anchor (A man's call to his church): Elmer Miller, Kalona, Iowa

Break

Fisherman's Cafe: Questions and answers; exchange of ideas

Dismissal

Ministers Business Meeting

Band Room (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Semiannual business meeting of CMC ministers

Youth Program

Croghan Mennonite Church: Three miles NE of Beaver Falls via 126 through Croghan to Kirschner Rd, one mile east.

Theme: The Great Commission

Worship Leader: Kirk Kauffman, Plain City, Ohio

Morning Session (9:14–11:30)

Moderator: Kurt Beachy, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Welcome and opening songs

Business Meeting

Rosedale Bible College presentation

Worship

The Great Commission — Part I: Jason Carpenter, Richmond, Kentucky, Evangelist and Conference Speaker

Noon Recess

Afternoon Session (1:30–3:30)

Moderator: Joel Ulrich, Goshen, Indiana

Opening & Announcements

Bethel Camp presentation

SEND presentation

Worship

The Great Commission — Part II: Jason Carpenter

Dismissal

Friday Evening Youth Activity

Meet outside Beaver River Central to go to Croghan Ball Park by hay wagons. Activities include softball under the lights, basketball, volleyball, group singing, and rollerblading. Bring your own rollerblades and skates. Pizza, soda, and other snacks will be available. Return transportation to Beaver River Central by hay wagon at 11:45 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.

Friday Evening: Christian Education Program

Beaver River Central Auditorium (6:30–8:30)

Moderator: Eli Gingerich, Plain City, Ohio

Worship Leader: Ken Miller, Rosedale, Ohio

Worship

Message of Welcome: Edward Roggie, Lowville, New York, pastor of Carthage Mennonite Church

Special Music: Rosedale Chorale

Rosedale Bible College Report: Leon Zimmerman, Rosedale, Ohio

Learning to Think Christianly: Dr. Johannes Reimer, Founder and Director of LOGOS International, Germany

Offering and Announcements (Checks payable to Rosedale Bible College)

Closing



ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

Announces Choral Camp 2005:

Camp I: July 11–15

Camp II: July 18–22

*Choral Camp is for children in grades 2 through 8.
Stop by the Choral Camp booth for registration forms.*