

CONFERENCE CARRIER

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 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 2

Rosedale Bible College Unveils New vision

by Vicki Sairs

"What's going on at Rosedale Bible College?" If you're a member of a CMC church or an alumnus of Rosedale, you've probably been getting postcards and bulletin inserts that have made you ask that question.

And if you attended last night's session, you got some answers. Everybody from the president to the Drama Team took the stage last night to share a little bit of RBC with the rest of Conference. President Dan Ziegler unveiled the details of the RBC Vision, the Rosedale Chorale performed several songs, and faculty member Reuben Sairs spoke about why evangelical Anabaptism matters.

Evangelical Anabaptism was at the heart of last night's session because it is the focal point of RBC's vision: to be a center for the advancement of an engaged and evangelical Anabaptist faith.

President Dan Ziegler presented Rosedale's plan of action for achieving that vision, stressing that the goal is for RBC to "grow in its effectiveness and its impact for Christ." Highlights of the plan include:

- Becoming an intellectual and spiritual gathering place for the evangelical Anabaptist faith community.
- Furthering a strong commitment to academic excellence.
- Providing students with experiences and training designed to develop practical ministry skills.
- Creating a nurturing campus environment.
- Developing quality facilities and support services.

Dan concluded with an invitation to the CMC community to join with the college in making the vision a reality. "Our hope is that this little college can be a witness to an Anabaptist faith grounded in Scripture."

After an offertory by the ensemble Cross Reference, Reuben Sairs addressed the skeptics: those who have concerns about embracing Anabaptism because they equate it with being out of touch or irrelevant. He outlined his reasons for believing that evangelical Anabaptism is not a liability but actually an asset when telling the world about Jesus.

"As I see it," he said, "evangelical Anabaptism is the most suitable expression of Christian faith for the time we live in."

'Can't you give me hope?' Stan Shirk Talks About God, Pain, and Faith

by Kevin Miller

Stanley Shirk was on day 11 of his juice-only fast this past January when he felt as if someone was looking at him as he prayed. Shirk, who suffers from autoimmune polyneuropathy, which robs him of the sense of touch, told the 125 men listening to his message on Friday



that he knew it was God. Shirk asked, "Can't you give me hope?"

The clear answer was two words: "I am." Shirk only later realized that the answer was God's name and his assurance of being with him in the midst of the struggle.

Four years of increasing pain and disability have taught him that pain is a gift – though a difficult one – from God. Doctors have informed him that his disease leads from a cane to a walker to a wheelchair – and finally to being bedfast.

During his message, Shirk acknowledged Dr. Leo Yoder, a Mennonite leprosy specialist, in the audience. "Leo taught me that a leper's fingers fall off because the patient can't feel them and injures them," Shirk said. "Just last week I burned my fingers badly while camping for the same reason."

Shirk called Job and Paul his "friends" for what they taught him about reacting to pain. "What did Job do when he lost all his kids in one day? He bowed down and worshiped God. He said, 'Though he slay me, yet will I trust him.' That's the kind of faith I want."

Shirk delivered his speech seated and shuffled off the podium using a cane.



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.

Editor's note: We are looking for several good quotes from this Conference to be printed in Saturday's and Sunday's Criers. If you hear a good quote, either from a speaker or an attendee, please write it down and drop it by our office, Room 134B. We need to have both the speaker's name and your name!

Nursery Care There will be supervised nursery care for children ages 0-5 during the morning and afternoon sessions, and for children ages 1-3 during the evening sessions.

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

RBC, CMC & RMM would like to invite anyone interested in seeing our building and campuses to an open house this afternoon from 3:30-5:00pm. We'd love to see you there!

Many thanks to Dale Hall of Hall Electronics, Inc 815 E. Hudson St Columbus, OH for donating the use of the walkie-talkie radios to the hospitality committee this weekend.

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.

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 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. This will help to eliminate cross traffic congestion.

If you have brought an R.V., please park in the south side parking lot.

TO ALL FRIENDS OF ENGAGED COUPLES Please pick up the current Engaged Encounter brochure and Application Form at the Conservative Mennonite Conference display and get those couples to an Engaged Encounter. The next one is scheduled for September 8-10 at Rosedale Bible College.

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 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

For Immediate Release:

ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

(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. Applicants for both positions should have a desire to serve in a ministry setting and a commitment to an evangelical, Anabaptist faith perspective. Salary and liberal benefits package provided for both positions. On-campus housing may be available. Send resume and cover letter to: President, Rosedale Bible College, 2270 Rosedale Rd., Irwin, OH 43029 or e-mail to dziegler@rosedale.edu.

Centennial publication announcement

Announcing: The release in 2010 of a centennial history of Conservative Mennonite Conference. Nathan Yoder, Eastern Mennonite Seminary professor and son of Paul H. and Marie Yoder, begins archival research in August. Nearly \$20,000 needs to be raised. Earmark contributions for "Centennial Publication" for deposit in any conference offering this weekend.



Opening Salvos and Parting Shots at the Ministers' Meeting

by **George Jones**, non-ministerial observer

"When the roll is called [at Ministers Meeting]..." The roll was taken, and the ministers were there, but the roll call sheet was misplaced someplace "up yonder."

Minor glitches aside, it was a productive meeting. Dan Ziegler reported on Rosedale Bible College, saying that "RBC is an impressive gift that has been given to CMC" and adding that its impact has been large compared to its size.

Top Ten Mennonite Jokes

by **David and Lisa Weaver Swartz**

1. Q. How was copper wire invented?
Two Mennonites found a penny.
2. Q. What do you get when you cross a Mennonite and a Japanese car?
A Toyoder
3. Q. Why are Mennonite guys afraid of meeting their dates' father?
They might play the Mennonite Game and win.
4. Q. What goes clip clop, clip clop, bang, bang, clip clop?
An Amish drive-by shooting
5. Q. What's a significant Mennonite ethical dilemma?
Free beer
6. Q. Why don't Mennonite women wear sleeveless dresses?
They refuse to bare arms
7. Q. What did the three GC Mennonites who were ice fishing say?
Wiebe Friesen Fast
8. One day there was a van of Mennonites driving up the highway, and they saw a sign that said "Maximum 50." So they let off seven people.
9. Q. Why did John Hostetler leave his Mennonite church for the church down the road?
He wanted to live a little Luther.
10. Q. What's the difference between a canoe and a Mennonite?
A canoe tips



Annie Chapman with Moderator Edith Nissley

The Peace Witness committee "delivered a couple of parting shots." They encouraged pastors to help young men document their position on war BEFORE the draft is reinstated and keep it on file.

RMM reported on efforts to begin new works. God has opened new opportunities and called people to the work...but there is a need for increased funds to support the work.



Grace Kurtz worshipping during the Women's Meeting

Esther and Annie Find Healing and Mercy

by **Rachel Yoder**

CMC's women welcomed Annie Chapman to the platform Friday. In word and song, Annie testified to God's provision and presence in her own life, drawing from the experiences of Esther.

Facing tremendous obstacles, the resilient Esther witnessed God's hand in the most difficult of situations. "It's about God taking bad things and bringing good out of them," Annie explained. "We are more than what has happened to us, and we are more than what we've done to others," Annie said. "We're all monsters in need of a Savior."

Esther spent twelve months beautifying herself for her presentation to the king. While Esther's radiant transformation was cosmetic, we have a Great Physician long-ing to "give us a lift" that is both permanent and ongoing. Our expert Physician sees past our weaknesses and desires to change and heal us.

Annie challenged us to live courageously as modern-day Esthers. Our relationship with God is a duet: God's part and our response. Trust Him and grasp firmly to His will, knowing He has brought you to this place in life "for such a time as this."

Thank you to the following donors who sponsored Annie Chapman:

Elsie Gingerich,
Betty Miller, Linda Beachy,
Delores Yoder, Carol Troyer

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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SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Church Conference Program

Gymnasium

The Church in a Post-Christian Culture

Moderator: Ben Shirk

Assistant Moderator: Adin Miller

Worship Leader: Laban Miller

Morning Session (9:30-11:30)

Worship

Conference Choir - Pablo Kauffman

The Church in a Post-Christian Culture'

John Roth

Congregational song

Consecration of new ministers - Ben Shirk

Offering and announcements

For conference meeting

and general expenses

(Checks payable to CMC 2006)

Noon recess

Afternoon Session (1:30-3:30)

Mini-Latino concert and celebration
of Latin American Affiliates

Announcements

Introduction to seminar and workshops

Workshops

Seminar in auditorium

Church/state relationships - John Roth

Workshops

Afternoon recess

Evening Session (6:30-8:30)

Worship

Moderator's Address - Ben Shirk

Hymn Sing

Quartets - *Ambassadors and Cross Reference*

Drama - Vickie Sairs

Byler Family Singers

Announcements and offering

For conference meeting and general expense

(Checks payable to CMC 2006)

Closing song

Saturday Afternoon Youth Program

Rosedale Bible College Chapel (1:30-3:30)

Moderator: Preston Yoder

Worship Leaders: Joe Byler and Joelle Kurtz

Opening and announcements

Offering (Checks payable to CMC 2006)

Aim Right Ministries presentation

Worship

Making an Impact for Life/Eternity

Lael Barkman

Dismissal

6th Annual CMC Golf Scramble Winners

1st Place: Martin Graber's team (Lael Barkman, Nathan Miller, Paul D. Miller); **2nd Place:** Leroy Knepp's team (Harold Yoder, Eileen Yoder, Pablo Kauffman); **Longest Drive Ladies** - Eileen Yoder; **Longest Drive Men** - Lael Barkman; **Closest to the Pin** - Harold Yoder; **Longest Putt** - Pablo Kauffman; **Most Honest team:** Russ Miller's team (Wes Ropp, Jeff Kircher, Bruce Pape)

Workshops

Topic/Instructor Room

Planning a worship service of singing
Bob Brenneman 143

Leading a small group
Terry Rohrer142

Helping needy people
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Rod Christy124

How to prepare an expository sermon
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Telling stories effectively
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The *Conference Crier* is published daily during the Annual Conference of Conservative Mennonite Conference and will be distributed at the entrance of the morning sessions. Announcements should be dropped off at the Crier office (Room 134 B) 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.

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Saturday's menu:

Lunch: Baked chicken breast with gravy, Noodles, Hot mixed vegetables, Fruit delight Beverage

Supper: Taco salad, Tortilla chips, Jello with fruit, Pumpkin or chocolate whoopie pies Beverage



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