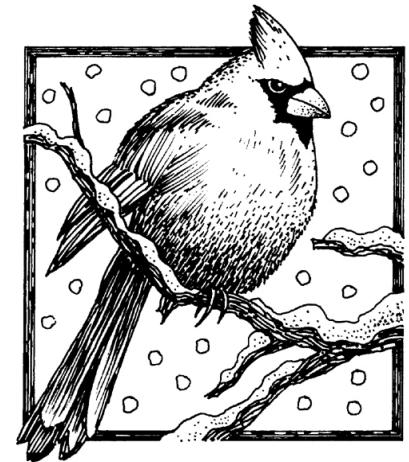


IN TOUCH

Volume 22, Number 4

February 21, 2010



SPIRITUAL LIFETM SURVEY

We need YOUR help!
As the Elder Council continues to look at the present and future of our congregation, we realize the incredible importance of the spiritual

growth of all of our people. Whether you're just starting to explore the Christian faith, or you're a long-time Christ-follower, we want to do everything we can to help you on your spiritual journey.

In order to help us to plan for the future, we want to know what's helping you grow spiritually, and what's getting in the way.

We're asking for your feedback on our church and your spiritual journey through a Spiritual Life Survey you can access on the internet. This survey will be open for 2 weeks, beginning March 6, and we will have 2 sessions at the church building during those weeks for those who do not have internet access or who are uncomfortable working online.

There are four things you need to know about this survey:

- It's comprehensive and thought-provoking
- It will take about half of an hour.
- It's completely anonymous so you can be open and honest with your feedback

It's *extremely* important. The findings from this survey will shape our decisions about how to create the best possible ministry strategies to serve you better.

You will hear more about this in the coming weeks. It's called the Spiritual Life Survey. Please plan to participate.

1305 West Market Street
Orrville, OH 44667

Phone: 330-682-5801

Fax: 330-682-5841

E-mail: omc@zoominternet.net

Pastor Bill Seymour

Home—330-682-5804

Cell—330-347-7034

Email—omcbill@zoominternet.net

Youth Pastor, Tara Steiner

Cell—330-749-6933

Email—

taramichelle@zoominternet.net

Web Page:

www.orrvillemenno.net



Central Christian School Annual Auction

Central Christian School's annual auction date has been changed to Saturday, February 27. There will be a pancake breakfast hosted by Central's softball team at 8:00 a.m. that morning and the auction will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Lodging for Bible Quiz Tournament

Approximately 70-80 quiz teams from Pennsylvania, West Liberty, Ohio and Archbold, Ohio areas will be coming here on March 26-28 to participate in the Bible Quizzing Tournament at Central Christian School. We need your help to give them a place to sleep! Host families will host a quiz team and coaches for the weekend. The teams expect to sleep on the floor so beds are not necessary. Hosts will need to **provide transportation for the teams** to and from Central Christian School on Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning. **Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday** will be the only two meals that need to be provided by the host families. If you are interested in helping in this area, please sign-up in the fellowship hall. If you sign up you will receive confirmation and information via email or letter when we have matched teams with host families. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Jenny Schartiger at 330-201-3148. **There is a sign-up list posted on the Quizzing Bulletin Board in the fellowship hall.**

Women's Christian Prayer Network

A special invitation is extended to all area women to the annual Women's Spring Prayer Breakfast, "Blessed Assurance", on Saturday, March 20, 8:30—10:30 a.m. at Das Dutch Kitchen in Dalton. Music and drama by Raylene Hlaverty as Fanny Crosby. A buffet breakfast will be served for \$10 each, and is due with your reservation by March 12. We invite all women to join us for a special morning of fellowship, music, inspiration and prayer. Registration forms are available by the mailboxes. Call Marilyn Mokma at 330-264-7573 for more information.

Camp Luz Men's Retreat

March 19-21, 2010

Registration brochures are available by the mailboxes or check out the camp website www.camluz.com

"The Samson Syndrome: Looking at Male Sexuality, Spirituality and Relationships"—We as men can learn a lot from Samson and his relationships. This retreat will look at some of the issues that men deal with, handling sexual temptation, sexuality and self-esteem, and how things change as we age. Andy Stoner will speak in an open and frank manner, leaving time for questions and dialogue. Andy is no stranger to those familiar with Ohio Conference. He has served as regional pastor for 9 years, relating to 48 churches. Previously, Andy served for 20 years as a pastor in congregations in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Ohio and had a marriage and family counseling business for 12 years. He holds an D.Min. from Eastern Baptist Seminary. He and his wife, Anita currently live in Elida, Ohio. They have two adult daughters and nine grandchildren.

Thank You Notes

From Mennonite Mission Network—Thank you! Your contributions (\$1,525.00) and prayers help make possible the sharing of God's healing and hope through the ministries of Mennonite Mission Network.

From Wayne United Chaplain Ministries—On behalf of the Governing Council and Chaplains of WUCM, we thank you for your recent financial gift (\$250.00) to our ministry. The life-changing work of our Chaplains is made possible through the grace of God, the spiritual gifts of our devoted and talented Chaplains, and through the support of our community. Your gift is an important part of this powerful combination, and in turn, you are a powerful partner to this outreach ministry. In a time when financial resources are scarce and human needs are great, we appreciate your faithfulness to WUCM and give you our assurance that we will work to be the best possible stewards of your gift....Hundreds of lives are affected daily by the work of our Chaplains, and we once again thank you for helping us to fulfill our God-directed mission to care for our fellow man, in hospitals, college campuses, prisons and wherever God's Spirit leads us in the future.

From Mennonite Central Committee—Thank you for the contribution of \$1,721.00 to Mennonite Central Committee designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief. Thank you for joining MCC as we work alongside Haitian communities facing unimaginable destruction. Your donation reflects a generous compassion for the people of Haiti. It mirrors the sort of Christian compassion MCC workers are witnessing as their Haitian neighbors and friends reach out to help each other in any way they can. Because of your generosity MCC is undertaking a multimillion-dollar, multiyear response to provide emergency assistance and long-term rebuilding and trauma support. People of all ages are touched by MCC's work and feel deep gratitude for the opportunity your funds provide. Thank you for supporting MCC work and showing care for humanity, in the name of Christ. ~ Arli Klassen

SOAP FOR HAITI!

You can help by donating BATH SOAP AND/OR LAUNDRY SOAP!

Purchase bars of bath soap (leave in wrapping) or bars of laundry soap (Fels Naptha, Sunlight, Zote). A basket is provided for your donations. Also, families can consider shopping together for relief kit contents (a list of the contents is provided with the relief kit display in the fellowship hall).

More bang for your buck! Mennonite Central Committee has a buyer who can purchase relief kit contents in large quantities for about \$25 per kit. If you or I went shopping to buy the contents of a kit, we would spend closer to \$50 per kit. You can donate to MCC's Haiti Earthquake appeal by sending a check to MCC Great Lakes-Kidron, 4080 Kidron Road, PO Box 19, Kidron, Ohio 44636-0019.



So, what do YOU think about 2 Corinthians 7-10



Focus verses for this week:



2 Corinthians 9:7-9 "7Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

I just wanted to let you know that I really wanted to write on these chapters because I wanted to tell you a story. One that is 100% true and it happened to me. This is a story about tithing. I know you have probably heard plenty of talks on tithing; I know I did growing up. In chapters 8-9 Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to follow through on their promise of a financial gift to the Christians in Jerusalem. He talks a little about the blessing of giving and that is what I want to focus on here.

Now I want you to take a moment here and think about tithing. Do you tithe? How much? How frequently? Why or Why not?

Now is the story of my tithing journey. First off I had always been inconsistent in my tithing. I would give out of guilt at a specific message, or due to sympathy invoked during a sermon but I eventually got around that by just not bringing cash to church. Then I went through a time where I worked in ministry and justified my lack of tithing by arguments along the lines of: I am in ministry, that is my tithe, or I don't make enough money to tithe, I will tithe my time instead. I found out later that these arguments were just keeping me from God's blessings. We have all heard that all blessing come from the Lord, well our money comes from Him as well. When I finally realized this I made a decision to honor God with my finances and tithe regularly. Here is the story of my life since I made that decision.

There are three parts of this story, these are by no means the whole story either. The first involves a camera. I have an old bulky one and wanted one that was smaller. The week after I first tithed I found one. This camera belonged to one of the other employees at camp. When I returned the camera to this employee they told me that they had lost the camera over a year ago (seriously, no one knows where it had been hiding for that year either) and had already replaced it so I could just keep it. The second part involves a job. I had been looking for a while and my savings were almost out. I had just received my last paycheck and if I paid my tithe I would not have enough money for my bills that month. I prayed and said to God that it is his money anyway so he will have to provide for me. The day after I paid that tithe I got a job making more money than I had ever made before, and not only that but they gave me money when I got hired so I could pay all my bills. The third part involves a good winter sleeping bag and well those are really expensive but I knew that tithing was important and I would have to wait for a few months to save up money. But then my boss gave me a \$500 gift card for Christmas. Again the day after I tithed. This is just the beginning of my tithing journey and I feel is a good example of the financial blessings that God gives back to us when we honor Him through tithing.

But the most important thing that I have received is not the money or gifts mentioned above but rather that when I surrendered my money to God he gave me a heart that gives joyfully. I never regret tithing and have even begun to look forward to it. It is such a blessing to give not only to the church but also directly to people who need it. I know it seems like you are too young to give to the church but just remember that it is never too early to start the habit of tithing, you will NEVER regret it. So here are some things to think about.

What could you tithe? What would you have to give up? Why is important to plan your giving rather than give when you feel like it (not that being led to give spontaneously is wrong)?

In ch.9 v.7-8 Paul encourages us to give cheerfully knowing that God generously provides all we need. How can you take this passage and make it a lifestyle? What would your life look like if you did? ~C. Ryan Miller