



# SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXV, Issue 1 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church January 4, 2026

## SENIOR SAINTS January, 2026 Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in January, 2026!

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Dave Ross (73), Monday January 5  
Donna Johnston (70), Friday January 9  
Don Gable (87), Friday January 16



## Tortuga's Musings and Journeys

Our hearts are full as we celebrate Christmas, close out 2025, and get ready for a new year. We have truly seen God's hand this past year. We also thank the Lord for each and every one of you that has been part of this journey with us. We truly would not have been able to do any of this without your faithful support.

As you likely know we are starting a new term in January. For that term, we need to raise 6,185 a month, \$868 more per month than last term. As we approach the end of the year, we know that you have many great opportunities to give, and we are honored that you partner with us. If you have not already, would you prayerfully consider continuing your faithful financial giving? Or even increasing the amount to assist with the rising cost of living? Or even tell someone else about what God is doing in Honduras and how they can be a

part of it? If you are able, we would be so thankful! The link to support is at the bottom of the page.

Here's a small glimpse into this past month:



Maria is one of our young Honduran staff. She comes from a very difficult part of Honduras that is ruled by gangs and comes from a very very broken family. However she decided to serve the Lord and has been with us for three years. Gris has been a very active mentor in her life. Due to several situations, she had to stop high school early, but while working as staff she also began working on a high school degree, kind of like a GED. This past Sunday, we had the privilege of being at her graduation, being the first in her family to graduate high school. It was beautiful to see her reach a dream and to know we could be a part of it! It might seem small but for her it was a huge goal. We're so excited for Maria!

Kairos: in November we hosted a Kairos course for 12 participants from 3 countries. At the end of the course we even had several people break into tears as they realized God's heart for the nations. It's beautiful to be a part of mobilizing His church!

Work team: the multi-purpose building continues on, as we received a work group from Florida who came to work on the bathrooms. We are excited for the building to be finished and see it used for God's glory.



### Praises:

Hearts changed through Kairos

Maria's growth and goals reached.

Being able to bless Pastor Arlen's church in La Esperanza.

Unified staff as we end this year.

### Prayer Requests:

El Nido and community Christmas parties this weekend, that they'll be able to see God's love.

Replacements for staff who are leaving next year.

Peace and transparency in Honduras' election cycle that is still continuing.

Connections as we raise funds for next term.

Gris' family as we mourn the loss of her grandpa.

## NEWS & NOTES



### OrrVilla Retirement Community:

Is continuing its Speaker Series each month. OrrVilla's Speaker Series events are a 1-hour presentation (2:00 – 3:00 PM) on a variety of topics. These talks are free to the public, with an RSVP (330-462-1038), and are intended to be informative and educational.

**Tuesday, January 6 they'll offer New Ways to Use Your Library in the New Year.** Representatives from the Orrville Library will share creative ideas and helpful reminders about the tools and resources available at the library. They'll also provide updates on exciting renovations coming soon! Join us for practical tips and fresh ideas on how to make the most of this incredible community resource.



**CAMO Collection:** CAMO collects more than just medical equipment. Each month they'll focus on new or gently used items. For January & February they'll accept items for their carpentry, maintenance & trade school. Items can be mailed or dropped off at....

322 Westwood Ave,  
Orrville, OH 44667

Tools (all types)

tool boxes, bags,

and/or belts

saws

leaf blower

electric lawn

mower & string

trimmer

snow blower

shop vac, moving blankets/tarps, ratchet straps, flash

lights, box cutters & utility knives.



JANUARY 16-18, 2026 AT SONNENBERG  
All Adults Enrichment Weekend

*Being the Church in the 21st Century*

with Dr. John Byron



**Speaker, Author, Scholar. Helping people know what they believe and why they believe it.**

Friday evening, 7:00-8:30 "Being the Church in Exile"

Come at 6:30 and enjoy a time of beverages, snacks and fellowship before the session begins.

Saturday morning, 8:30-10:00 "Being the Church in the Story of God"

Come at 8:00 for Coffee, tea, juice, pastries & fellowship

Break 10:00-10:30

Saturday 10:30-12:00 "Being the Church to my Neighbor"

Saturday 12:00-1:00 Lunch is catered. Sign up if you wish to participate. No cost, but consider donating towards the expense.

**Sunday Morning:**

Sunday School Hour 9:30-10:15 "Many Manuscripts One Book"

Sunday Worship 10:30 - "Resurrection: Christian Hope for the World"

*This Week in Anabaptist History...* Peter Dyck died on January 4, 2010 in Scottdale, Pennsylvania, USA. He was a Mennonite Central Committee administrator, storyteller, and pastor. Peter was born December 4, 1914 in Lysanderhoeh, Russia. He was the fifth child in a family of three sons and six daughters. Peter married Elfrieda Klassen on October 14, 1944. They had two daughters, Ruth and Rebecca.

In 1927 Peter arrived in Canada with his family. He was baptized in the Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church on May 20, 1934 by Elder Johannes Regier. After graduation from Rosthern Junior College, Peter attended the University of Saskatchewan. Peter interrupted formal studies to pastor several struggling United Churches in Ontario.

In 1941, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) called Peter to serve victims of World War II in England, where he also met Elfrieda Klassen who separately had been called to serve as a nurse. While they were both working at Taxal Edge, a boys home, they were married in 1944 at Whaley Bridge, near Manchester, England.

Elfrieda and Peter were asked to begin an MCC relief program in the Netherlands for Mennonites fleeing Russia, followed by assisting refugees in Germany. Here they were at the forefront of escorting refugees to South America (known as the "Berlin Escape") on four different voyages, twice jointly. On two occasions Elfrieda single-handedly masterminded the transport of refugees.

Following the rescue of refugees in 1949, Peter and Elfrieda traveled extensively in North America to convey stories about MCC relief programs, the refugees and their resettlement. Upon returning to North America, Peter also continued his studies at Goshen College, Bethel College, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries in Elkhart, and at Bethel Theological Seminary in Chicago, where he completed requirements for a Master of Divinity degree in 1968.

From 1957 to 1967, Peter and Elfrieda were based in Frankfurt, Germany, where Peter served as MCC Director for Europe and North Africa. Upon their return to North America, Elfrieda nursed at the Fairmount Rest Home near Akron. Peter became administrator at the MCC headquarters until 1981, and served as promoter of MCC and Christian service in North American constituencies.

Peter was ordained as a minister of the Gospel on October 26, 1947, initially to give credence to meeting the spiritual needs of refugees. The ordination was performed by Jacob Johann "J. J." Thiessen in the Tiefengrund Mennonite Church, near Laird, Saskatchewan. As pastor, he and

Elfrieda pastored the Eden Mennonite Church in Moundridge, Kansas from 1950 to 1957, and Kingview Mennonite Church, Scottdale, Pennsylvania, from 1983 to 1985. Peter and Elfrieda held dual memberships with the Mennonite Church and the General Conference Mennonite Church.

In 1950 Queen Juliana of the Netherlands knighted Peter for providing relief services for refugees, and in 1974 the University of Waterloo in Ontario awarded him with an Honorary Doctorate Degree. At the banquet Elfrieda was specifically credited with having "made service luminous and attractive, as a Christian pilgrim and refugee, a healer of tragic division and a Good Samaritan in the best sense." In 1993 Peter received Goshen College's Culture for Service Alumni Award.

Peter remained resilient and true in the face of challenges and injustice, all in the interest of seeking the well-being of others. He argued his convictions in public church forums and at MCC Board meetings. In word and deed, Peter devoted himself to exemplifying the Lord whom he served, never wavering in his passion for peace, justice, service and commitment.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Dyck,\\_Peter\\_J.\\_\(1914-2010\)&oldid=138826](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Dyck,_Peter_J._(1914-2010)&oldid=138826)



## Ohio MCC Comforter Bash

March 12-14, 2026

*Times to be determined*

*Snacks and coffee/tea will be provided. Please pack your own food for meals.*

**MCC Material Resources Center**  
4080 Kidron Road, Kidron, OH 44636



*This year we are gathering at the new MCC Material Resources Center! With the new location, the format will be a bit different with the event spread over three days. We still need volunteers for knotting and trimming comforters, along with sewists to bind and finish them. Specific times and more information will be coming soon.*

*Comforter tops (60" x 80") and backs (65" x 85") are accepted throughout the year at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron.*

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday January 18, 2025. Submit items to the church office by Thursday January 15, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.