



# SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXIV, Issue 13 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church July 6, 2025

## SENIOR SAINTS July, 2025 Birthdays/Anniversaries



*Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in July, 2025!*  
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*Don/Ellen Nussbaum (42), Thursday, July 3*  
*Henry/Julie Beun (47), Thursday, July 10*  
*Janice Geiser (73), Wednesday July 16*  
*Ron/Janice Geiser (9), Wednesday July 16*  
*Marvin/Rhoda Sommers (49), Thursday July 17*  
*Robert Eshleman (71), Sunday, July 20*  
*Marjean Lehman (81), Sunday, July 20*  
*Robert/Jane Eshleman (44), Sunday, July 27*  
*Richard/Laurel Horst (53), Thursday, July 31*

## LINDA HORN in THAILAND

*( Linda sent in her latest prayer letter on June 24th about the Lord's work Thailand )*

Dear Prayer Partners,

I am not sorry to say that it has been a busy year. Looking back over the prayer letters that I have sent this year:

18 July 2024: I told the great story of God coming on time to rescue school principal Ampa from having to participate in a Buddhist school ceremony, I sent a photo of the Saeng Arune Church building project well underway. I told of changes in church staff positions precipitated by Compassion International closing their work in Thailand with lady Pastor Ja being named as head Pastor in Borabue. I had a photo of my Christian employee Naa completing the first four books of the S.S.P. Bible Literacy Program.

11 November 2024: I shared photos and stories of our free English Camp during mid-term school break.

I gave it at our most struggling church smallest, of our four churches. I hope to do a free camp

there at Ban Daeng Church every year. Some years ago, I used to pick up two teens from their grandmother's house to study English and Bible. Both Oil and her brother Boss became Christians and were baptized. To my surprise, Oil showed up at Ban Daeng Church and sent her five-year old son Arthur to English Camp. Please pray for the salvation of Oil's mother. I also mentioned a wound on my leg (still not completely healed).

And I advised you that I would travel to Norway to visit my daughter April and her family for the first time in five years. It was a delightful visit! But also challenging because their home is not wheelchair friendly. April found me a cute apartment just a three-minute walk from their home. And they got me a residency visa to Norway. Good news! But the drawback is a requirement to stay in Norway six months each year. I am also required to learn Norwegian! Være så snill.

19 January 2025: I wrote from Norway using photos and news that Naa sent me on-line. Naa was my only employee. She lived alone at Jubilee, fed the dogs, cats, and chickens, and took care of everything. We have four churches now. Three of them held Christmas Celebrations, two of them also held First Fruit Celebrations in late January - after the annual rice harvest season.



**Linda with grandchildren in Norway**



**Linda teaching English and Bible**

Naa represented me at all

these Celebrations and helped out at all of them. PTL!

5 April 2025: I sent my Jubilee update only to my home church Sonnenberg for display at their annual Maple Syrup Missions Festival. The display showed photos of the Free English Camp in October at Ban Daeng Church. There were photos of the good progress of the Saeng Arune Church's construction project. Pastor Ja of Borabue Church has a vision for teaching teens from a picture story Bible and training them to be future leaders of the church. I was proud to support this goal and to expand on it by giving these easy to understand Bibles to older members and Seekers. The April update also included a photo of Naa visiting an older member and bringing him lunch.

And now: As soon as I landed in Thailand, I was bitten by mosquitos and became quite ill for an entire month. ( I feel fine now. Thank You, Jesus!) When I felt well enough to return to the Jubilee farm, Khruu Ohng came and applied for work. He came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ while working overseas in Taiwan. He came back to Thailand and attended and graduated from Bangkok Bible College. He has church work experience and enjoys preaching and teaching. His work here will be largely agricultural and building maintenance. He will preach once a month at our Dhong Kheng Church. He will teach or preach once or twice a month at our Saeng Arune Church. I hope he will not be bored, but will really enjoy working for Jubilee.

Surprise, surprise! I will also be preaching once a month at our Borabue Church. I have done it once already this month, and it went quite well PTL!

I like to watch Anglican Pastor (Canon) John on his show "Facing the Canon". Last week I saw Dave Bell on the interview. Dave is a strong

Christian Worship Leader. He had an intense struggle for ten years with a rare and aggressive cancer starting at the age of 16. This week I watched John and Jade Reynolds on the program. At the age of twelve she was stricken by an autoimmune disease which left both legs paralyzed. She expected to live as an invalid at her parent's home for the rest of her life. But God encouraged her to be brave and try to live in the dorm at a Bible College four hours from her home. To her surprise she was welcomed, cared for, and successful. She married John who remarked during the interview that Jade is the most joyful person he has ever met. God blessed them to give birth to two healthy children who are doing well. John and Jade work from home (something about social media) so both can care for their children.

These two interviews really encouraged me. My long-range plan is to not get discouraged and retire, but to plod forward as Father God calls the shots.

Myron and Gladys Amstutz some years ago urged us at Sonnenberg to read through the Bible every year, and I like to do so. My most recent happy strategy is to use three bookmarks. I start with one at Genesis, one at Psalms, and one at Matthew. Each day I read a little from each section. I never get bored or bogged down. Right now it is late June, and I am reading Habakkuk and Revelations. So you see I am behind. In fact, this busy year, I am not up-to-date in a lot of areas. But I am thriving, hopeful, and enjoying life.



**The new Saeng Arune sanctuary is almost complete.** God has amazed me by His timely financial help.

Wishing you all "joy in the journey",  
Linda





**VBS: True North**  
**From June 26-29**  
**a total of 32 kids attended Vacation Bible School**

**seeking out Jesus through the North Country.**



**Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Auction**

needed to park cars and drive golf carts at the Ohio Mennonite Relief sale on July 11 and 12, at the Mt. Hope Auction Grounds. Please contact Jack Badertscher at 330-857-7361, or at [jajobadertscher@gmail.com](mailto:jajobadertscher@gmail.com). Thank you !



**CCS is hiring:** CCS is currently seeking qualified candidates for a 5th & 6th Grade English Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher (Full-time), and an Elementary & Middle School Spanish Teacher (Part-time) for the

2025-2026 school year. More information is available at [www.ccscomets.org](http://www.ccscomets.org).

#### **International Student Host Family Needed:**

CCS needs a host family for a female high school student from South Korea. She just completed her sophomore year at another school in the Midwest and hopes to continue her U.S. education and graduate from CCS. Central needs to secure a host family for her by mid-June. We are partnering with American Home Life International (AHLI), a trusted agency with over 30 years of experience placing students from around the

world in safe, caring, Christian homes. AHLI provides strong support for both students and families throughout the school year. If you are interested in being a host family, please contact Stacie Tschiegg at [staciet@centralchristianschool.org](mailto:staciet@centralchristianschool.org).



**Hope's House:**  
 To be included in their text feed for freezer meals, to be contacted for needed items or if you want to

volunteer you can call or text the phone number...  
 (330) 439-2236 [hopeshouse1832@gmail.com](mailto:hopeshouse1832@gmail.com)

To donate financially (they are a 501c3) Checks can be made to:

Hope's House

Pure Gift of God

PO Box 292

Berlin Oh 44610

Or you can donate through Venmo



#### **OrrVilla Retirement**

**Community:** You are Invited to Celebrate Vision 2027!

We are excited to announce the formal Groundbreaking for the newest phase of OrrVilla Retirement Community. Join us as we mark the beginning of this expansion of our campus, which will increase independent living units and add a beautiful community clubhouse. The ceremony will be held on Saturday July 19th, at 9:30 am, directly south of Maple Terrace, with light refreshments served before and after the service. For this brief service, bring your own chair if you want one; a limited number of chairs will be available. Come Celebrate with us!



**CAMO Collection:** CAMO collects more than just medical equipment. Each month they'll focus on new or gently used items. For June & July they'll accept the items for the

Community Gym. Items can be mailed or dropped off at....

322 Westwood Ave,  
 Orrville, OH 44667

Jump ropes  
Scooter Boards,  
Bosu balls  
Volleyball supplies  
(Nets, Poles, Pole  
Padding, Knee Pads)  
Basketballs (full size),  
Shin Guards, Fox 40  
Whistles, Ball bags,  
Stopwatches, Ball  
baskets (collapsible), Jerseys (any), Shorts, tennis shoes,  
and soccer cleats. (sizes 12 youth- 10 adult)



**MCC** MCC Connections Thrift Shop in Kidron is hiring a Staff Assistant to join our team in late August. This is a part-time, paid position (three days a week: Monday, Wednesday, and every other Friday/Saturday). The role provides vital support in both the donation area and the retail store. The ideal candidate will support the mission of MCC, be flexible and willing to learn, and have strong people skills. Applications will be processed as received. Apply online at [www.mccconnections.com](http://www.mccconnections.com) or request an application by calling 330-857-7802, ext 1# or send an email to [Michael@MCCconnections.com](mailto:Michael@MCCconnections.com).



**BUILDING  
HOPE  
75  
YEARS  
1950 • 2025**

Are you organized, detail-oriented, and passionate about keeping operations running smoothly? Do you have

knowledge of and passion for the MDS mission and vision? At MDS we are looking for a Warehouse and Equipment Coordinator to manage our warehouse in Columbus, MS, to maintain our inventory and ensure our equipment is ready for our projects.

Some of the responsibilities are to organize and maintain the warehouse and content, identify and facilitate maintenance and repairs for all vehicles, trailers, equipment and tools. Assist with setting up or closing project sites as requested. The complete job description and application are available on our website at [Employment](#)

*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* On July 6, 1683 the English schooner *the Concord*, a 500 ton ship measuring 130 by 32 feet, left Rotterdam. Twelve Quaker families (many who were former Mennonites) and one Mennonite family, the Lenssens, from Krefeld, sailed for the port of Philadelphia where they landed on October 6, 1683.

In 1681, William Penn, an English real estate entrepreneur, received a large grant of land from King Charles II. This grant included present-day Pennsylvania and Delaware. Penn, a Quaker, chose to draft a charter of liberties for his colony guaranteeing free and fair trial by jury, freedom of religion, freedom from unjust imprisonment, and free elections. The colony was to be a refuge for Quakers who were facing persecution. James Claypoole, a London businessman and Quaker who knew William Penn, purchased 5,000 acres of land in the new settlement and chose to move his family and business to America.

The group, known as "The Thirteen", were greeted by a German lawyer, Franz "Francis" Daniel Pastorius, a close friend of William Penn. Pastorius assisted the newcomers in establishing the Germantown Mennonite Settlement.

The Germantown Mennonite Settlement, the first permanent Mennonite settlement in North America, six miles (10 km) north of the then one-year-old town of Philadelphia. The first Mennonite group settlement in America, however, was established by Pieter Cornelisz Plockhoy in 1663 with Dutch settlers at Horekill on the Delaware some 70 miles (120 km) south of Germantown, which was destroyed by English raiders a year later. Earlier even than this, scattered individual Dutch Mennonite immigrants or traders were found at New Amsterdam and Gravesend (Long Island), but they did not form a congregation and left no trace.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Concord \(Ship\)&oldid=105200](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Concord_(Ship)&oldid=105200)

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday July 20, 2025. Submit items to the church office by Thursday July 17, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.