



SOJOURNS



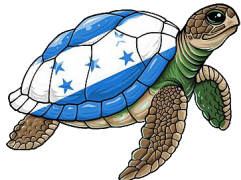
Vol. XXXIV, Issue 15 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church August 3, 2025

SENIOR SAINTS August, 2025 Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in August, 2025!
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Ken/Connie Neuenschwander (56), Sat, Aug. 2  
Linda Speer (78), Saturday, Aug. 2  
Roy/Ruth Steiner (58), Tuesday, August 19  
Larry Geiser (67), Thursday, August 21  
Lloyd/Jane Miller (55), Wednesday, August 27  
Marilyn Shetler (79), Thursday, August 28  
Cliff Lehman (93), Saturday, August 30  
Jan Eshleman (68), Sunday, August 31



## Tortuga's Musings and Journeys

Tuesday night, June 10, a tree fell on the new two story multi purpose building. Fortunately, no one was injured and didn't cause as much damage as it could have. We were able to find a local lumberjack who took down the tree without causing further damage.

Honestly, we're so thankful it wasn't much worse. Personally I can see the hand of God protecting us. That being said, we need to repair the damage caused by the tree and continue with the project. If the Lord puts it in your heart to invest in this building project to repair the damage and also complete it would be greatly appreciated.

O&S decided in mid June to put \$1,000 from their account toward the repair as seed money and



invite the congregation to contribute and help to make this building whole again.

Also in June swarms of buses and cars filled the base. We've never had this many people at one time. Amor Viviente brought 130 youth to learn about missions! The day was full of singing, food, and passionate sermons. I (Austin) had the privilege to share about how God calls all of us to be on mission with Him. It is exciting to team up with what God is doing and sharing this passion with others! This is just one of the events a building of this type allows us to do.

As far as other news, El Nido held a spa day for the mothers, where the volunteers straightened hair and painted their nails. One of the young ladies



came up to me (Gris) and told me she was able to feel very relaxed during the event. For many it might seem normal to go to a salon, but for many of the El Nido moms, it's impossible. We are able to show Christ's love by making it possible.

VidaNet Honduras staff also served at the Honduran Mennonite churches celebration commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Anabaptism movement. It was a privilege to serve and share with brothers and sisters from all over Honduras and celebrate this historic event together!



#### **Praises:**

God bringing Juan and Naty to cook and minister with us.  
Changed lives in El Nido.  
New perspectives in Vida REAL.  
Great Kingdom connections at COMIBAM in Panamá.  
Relaxing team building on the beach in Omoa with the staff.  
A fun unified staff group!

#### **Prayer Requests:**

Julia, a teenager, who we are helping through a difficult situation in her home.  
Finances for VidaNet.  
For staff that are finishing terms and for God to bring new workers to Honduras.  
Anabaptist churches that are celebrating 500 years here, that God will use us to provoke fresh mission vision in the churches.

For the Interface one day mission's seminar that we'll be leading for pastors in Tegucigalpa.

Thank you all so so much for being apart of everything going on here. We would not be able to do this with out you. Know that God is using you to impact the church in Honduras.

Gracias!

- Austin and Gris



#### **Sanctuary Overhaul:**

The pews were moved out this week and work began in earnest on the new flooring. The

sound booth expansion project continues as well. Before that drywall was repaired and the walls repainted.



It hurts to lose a loved one.

Find help at GriefShare.

GriefShare helps group members apply biblical principles to the healing

process after the death of a loved one. Throughout the videos and workbook, participants see how the gospel brings hope and restoration. Plans are being made to start a new GriefShare group on Wednesday, September 17, depending upon expressions of interest in doing so. The sessions are 75 minutes in length (4:00-5:15 p.m.) once a week for 13 weeks including a video presentation and group discussion. If you would like more information, or to express interest in joining, please contact Gladys Geiser (330-201-1510) or Carl Wiebe at the Kidron Mennonite Church office (330-857-3461). Please respond by August 13 if you are interested.



#### **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



**Love Inc T-shirt Fundraiser:** Support the mission of Love INC by purchasing a t-shirt! Choose between 3 designs. \$25/shirt. All proceeds go to Love INC of Wayne County! Place your order by August 12 at [LoveINCWayne.org](http://LoveINCWayne.org)



**Women's Health.** Items can be mailed or dropped off at...

322 Westwood Ave,  
 Orrville, OH 44667

Bras; Sanitary Napkins (disposable only);  
 Premie, Infant & Pediatric Diapers; Manual breast pumps; Post-partum supplies; Baby Bundle Kits ( cloth diapers & diaper pins, baby blanket (not knitted) Infant t-shirts, baby lotion, brush or comb ).



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).

**15TH ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CATFISH FRY**  
**SATURDAY, SEPT. 13**  
**4:00 - 6:30**



**Dine-In or Drive-Thru**  
 at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church  
 14367 Hackett Rd., Kidron, OH 44636

### MENU:

**Mississippi Catfish**  
 (gluten-free available)  
 Hush Puppies

**Dine-In**  
 Butter Garlic Potatoes

**Pickles**  
 Cole Slaw  
 Apple Sauce  
 Cookies/Bars  
**Drive-Thru**  
 Potato Chips

**All donations directly support mission projects of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church.**



**OrrVilla Retirement Community:**  
 Is continuing its Speaker Series in August by joining with the day-long Orrville Senior Fun Fair scheduled for Tuesday, August 5th.

The Senior Fun Fair will be held in the gym at Orrville

Christian Church and is sponsored by the Wayne County Senior Services Network (WSSN).

OrrVilla has had an integral role in the planning and implementation of this event for the past three years. We continue to support this local, free event. Those approaching retirement and their senior years will participate in “fair” games and learn about local services as they meet vendors from a wide range of services in one location with coffee, donuts and lunch provided!

RSVP is essential. RSVP by 7/25/25 to Mary Vicars at 330 419 4923.



### MCC School Kit

#### Challenge:

MYF is encouraging the congregation to join in on the school kit

challenge. Items can be purchased and placed in the large brown box inside the church foyer or you can donate towards the purchase of supplies please noting “school kits” through the offering.

**August 10** is the deadline for giving monetarily towards school kits. Sunday, **August 24** is the deadline for bringing physical items.

Put us to work !



Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families who struggle to afford basic school supplies. School kits are often requested after disasters and help bring normalcy to children whose families have been forced to flee their homes.

#### Contents (NEW items only)

- ☐ 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- ☐ 8 new unsharpened pencils
- ☐ 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- ☐ 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- ☐ 1 large eraser
- ☐ 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- ☐ 1 small *all metal* pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

**Instructions:** School kits are distributed in a useful double-drawstring cloth bag. You may sew the bag yourself, request bags from an MCC collection center or donate contents that we will place in a bag. For bag-making instructions and collection centers, visit: [mcc.org/kits/bag](https://mcc.org/kits/bag).

Thank you for limiting your generosity to the items listed.

*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* S. F. Pannabecker married Sylvia Lydia Tschantz, of Dalton, Ohio, on August 3, 1921. He was born on April 15, 1896 at Petoskey, MI to Jacob Nelson Pannabecker and Luna May Plowman-Pannabecker.

Samuel and Sylvia's children were Richard, Robert, Alice Ruth (m. Robert Ramseyer). Reared in a Mennonite Brethren in Christ (Missionary Church) home, S. F. Pannabecker graduated from Bluffton College (AB, 1917), Witmarsum Theological Seminary (MA, 1918), Garrett Biblical Institute, (BD, 1933), and Yale University (PhD, 1944) and was awarded honorary doctorates by Bethel College, Bluffton College, and Bethany Biblical Seminary (Chicago).

After teaching science for five years at Bluffton College, he went to China as a missionary and educator under the General Conference Mennonite Church (1923-1941). Proficient and well-trained in the Chinese language as well as in biblical and historical studies, from 1935 to 1941 he was chairperson of the China mission of the General Conference of Mennonites at Puyang [formerly Kai Chow], Hebei [Hopei] Province, China. After completing doctoral studies at Yale and teaching one year at Bluffton College, he returned to China, 1945-1946, he opened the Mennonite Central Committee relief unit in Kaifeng.

Unable to continue missionary service in China because of the Sino-Japanese War and later the People's Revolution, he served Mennonite Biblical Seminary, first as dean and professor of missions, then as president in Chicago (1947-1958), and then, in Elkhart, as dean (1958-1964), registrar (1964-1969) and archivist (1969-1977). Highly appreciated and respected as missionary mentor, seminary administrator, and church historian, he authored three major publications, *Faith in Ferment* (Newton, 1968), a history of the Central District Conference (GCM); *Ventures of Faith* (Elkhart: Mennonite Biblical Seminary, 1975); and *Open Doors* (Newton, 1975), the history of the General Conference Mennonite Church based on his Yale doctoral dissertation.

Samuel was skilled in photography and had a twin brother, Charles Lloyd Pannabecker, a medical missionary and ophthalmologist. S. F. Pannabecker died September 14, 1977.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Pannabecker,\\_Samuel\\_Floyd\\_\(1896-1977\)&oldid=169057](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Pannabecker,_Samuel_Floyd_(1896-1977)&oldid=169057)

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday August 17, 2025. Submit items to the church office by Thursday August 14, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.