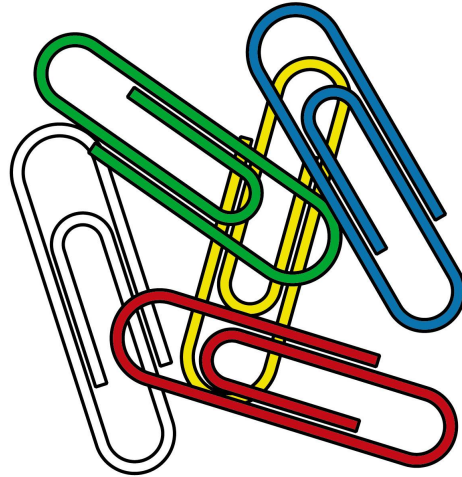


# Oak Leaves

Oak Grove Mennonite Church  
*Monthly Newsletter*

West Liberty, Ohio  
**September 2010**



As we begin a new school year,  
may we show  
God's love and peace  
to everyone.



## LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW:

Browsing through the shelves of the Oak Grove Mennonite Church library I recently ran across "The Merging- A Story of Two Families and their Child" by Evelyn King Mumaw. When I attended EMC (now EMU) Evelyn was the Dean of Women. This book proves Evelyn an excellent storyteller. Evelyn researched her family tree and wrote informative chapters about her ancestors, some of which she and I and possibly other Oak Grove attendees share in common. She begins her book with stories from Europe including factual information as well as some speculation and continuing on through immigration to America (not yet United States) and ending with Evelyn's recollections of her childhood years, joys as well as tragedies, growing up on a farm.

I read several chapter of "The Merging" to my grandsons, Cameron age 13 and Michael age 12 while they were visiting in West Liberty in July. They were fascinated on learning of their ancestor's imprisonment for his faith in the 1600's in Switzerland. There may be other chapters of particular interest to your family. The book also includes pictures, genealogies and some copies of wills.

Anyone interested in genealogy, curious about the beginnings of Anabaptism in Europe, immigration to America or learning about Mennonite family life in the early to mid 1900's will benefit from reading this book. *Gretchen Christopher*

## Amber Pill Bottles Needed

There is a great need for empty pill bottles to be used in depressed countries. Many carry their pills, prescribed by missionary doctors, in their hands. The American Baptist Women are sending these bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they are sent to various countries. Please bring your empty amber medicine bottles, with labels removed, to the church and place them in a box in the narthex.

**NEW: Shaping Families Update**, a weekly email newsletter is now available. Includes a stress tip, a praise phrase for your family, the recipe of the week, and information on the current and next week's program. Go to <http://www.thirdway.com/subscriptions/> to subscribe.

Also, you can visit [www.shapingfamilies.com](http://www.shapingfamilies.com) for information about radio programs, podcasts or transcripts.

This newsletter is compiled by the Oak Leaves committee (Valerie Kauffman, Esther Witmer and Lisa Hershberger).

A major purpose is to strengthen community at Oak Grove Mennonite Church. Submissions are welcome! Items can be put in the Oak Leaves mailbox or emailed to [oakleaves@oakgrovemennonite.org](mailto:oakleaves@oakgrovemennonite.org) or [rv@kauffmanfamily.net](mailto:rv@kauffmanfamily.net). Oak Leaves is distributed monthly. Hope to hear from you soon!!

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE IS SEPT 19.**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

4 Joshua Childs  
10 Jordan Kauffman  
16 Sharon Kauffman  
18 Tara Larson  
20 Lilyana Yoder  
Rachel Larson  
21 John Seymour  
23 Doris Enns  
Rachael Neer  
25 Jill Schlabach  
26 Rachel Clasen  
Hayden King  
27 Josh Kratz  
30 Hannah Hartsel

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

10 Don and Sharon Kauffman  
16 Joe and Cheryl Smucker  
18 Myron and Joan Yoder

*Mark 10:6-9*  
*"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."*

## Welcome back, Pastor Dick!

"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love."  
I Thessalonians 5:12-13  
(The Message)

## ***Dick's Dialogue***

### **Finding God in the Journey - Part III**

Wow! Hard to believe but it is almost time to return to work. The old adage must be true, “the more time off you have, the harder it is to go back.” Yes, in some respects it seems like I have been gone for a long time, but in others it seems like I just left. Is it really time to go back? Well, my golf game is telling me it is time to go back. That peaked weeks ago. My body, mind and soul is telling me it is time to go back. Mary is telling me it is time to go back! Most importantly, God is telling me it is time to go back.

Has my sabbatical time been profitable? As I look back on some of my goals that I had set for myself prior to going on sabbatical, it is hard to tell. It certainly has been relaxing and refreshing. My time off allowed me to spend more time on the relationships that are most important to me, those that perhaps were neglected somewhat in the past few years. I spent a lot of time reading, especially about Anabaptist and Mennonite history, trying to get a grasp of what Anabaptist/Mennonite faith meant for its founders in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and what it means for us today at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But there are a lot of books I didn't get to as well. In fact I am not sure if my pile of books to read in the bedroom has gotten smaller or larger. Which is just one of the many reasons Mary is telling me it is time to go back!

My assignment with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in Israel/Palestine was most enlightening. While I have wanted for many years now to visit the Holy Land, to see and personally experience the areas which we read about in the Bible, to walk the same soil that Jesus walked, I think I would have been disappointed if I had gone on just a sightseeing trip. While many go there to re-live the past and to experience the God of history, one could tour all the holiest of sights and not see what is going on today, specifically the oppression of hundreds of thousands, if not millions of Palestinian people. It helped me to see that as Christians we serve a God who is not just a God of the past, but a God who still lives today in the resurrected body of His Son, Jesus Christ and through the power of His Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be a “peacemaker” today, in a world which seems to know of very little peace, or at best false peace? To quote from the prophet Jeremiah (18:11), “They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say when there is no peace.” After the trip to Israel/Palestine I am convinced more than ever that achieving peace in this world is very difficult, sometimes even impossible, whether it be among families, churches, neighborhoods, peoples or nations, but also convinced more than ever that is who God calls us to be, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons (and daughters) of God” (Matthew 5:9).

I am not even sure if I was able to achieve the most important goal of my sabbatical, to improve the most important relationship in my life, my relationship with God. Yes, I spent considerable time with Him each and every day, went away to be with Him for days and weeks at a time, but also came to realize all the distractions we have in our world today, even when we are away from work. Our family members, friends, sports, hobbies, books,

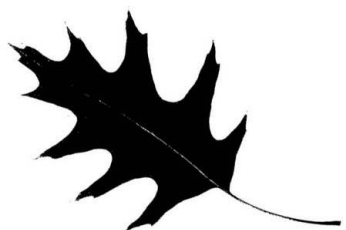
television, the more modern technological advances of cell phones, internet, facebook, and twitter are all vying for our time and attention which takes us away from time alone with God. Yes, at times God may be found in the busy places of our lives, but more often than not He is found in the quiet places. And more often than not we do not find God in the journey, He finds us. Also from the prophet Jeremiah (30:21), “I will bring him near and he will come close to me, for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me,” declares the LORD.” As my spiritual director recently pointed out, “it could take months, even years, to realize how God has worked through you during this three month sabbatical. God does not work the way we want him to work. If you’re waiting for it to feel like it is the right time to go back, you’ll never go back!” I hate it when some people can be so direct and honest. Maybe I should have just listened to Mary, “It’s time to go back to work!”

So, I guess I am ready to come back to work. And I come back not just refreshed and renewed but with much excitement and anticipation as we look forward to what God has in store for us together on this next stage of our journey, especially with Alex (& Erin) beginning in a couple of weeks as our next Associate Pastor. As we continue to move forward on our journey together, we are going to pause and see where we have been. One of the questions that came up during Alex’s candidating was what he specifically believed and how his faith fit with what we believe, especially with him being from a little bit of a different faith background. Which made me think, do we really know what we believe, as Anabaptists and Mennonites in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, especially since many of us are from different faith backgrounds? So beginning Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>, and taking us through the beginning of Advent, we will be looking at “What We Believe - The Anabaptist Vision.” What are our core beliefs - those that we hold in common with many other Christians and where do we differ?

My prayer is that this will not be a series that is just one way, with me speaking and people listening. That it will spark dialogue, hopefully in Sunday school classes and beyond. Each Sunday I will provide a few questions for the Sunday school classes to begin the dialogue. And I hope you will provide feedback, not just in the classes but perhaps during the sharing time, or by e-mail, or maybe even by blog. One of the strengths of the Anabaptist/Mennonite vision has been that our faith is not just dogmatic - what we believe, but that it is a faith that is supposed to be lived out in our everyday lives. Not to be handed down from one, two or a few authoritative figures, but to be discerned by the corporate body of all believers, that which is consistent with the Word of God - both the written Word found in the Scriptures and the living Word, Jesus Christ. May we do so with the Spirit of Love as we begin our next stage of our journey together as we continue to *Share the Love of Christ in our own community and around the world.*

*In Christ,*

***Pastor Dick***



## INTRODUCTIONS:

*Our new associate pastor, Alex Dye and his wife, Erin, will be joining us this month. Below are their biographies (**which are a few months old by now**) to help you get to know them a little better.*

### **Alex:**

#### **General:**

My full name is Alexander Richard Dye. I was born June 10, 1986 in Columbus, Ohio and will be 24 in less than a month. My family and I moved from Westerville to West Liberty the summer before I entered fourth grade. Erin and I were married 8/8/08 and are excited to celebrate our 2 year anniversary in August.

#### **Family:**

My parents are Rick and Cheryl Dye of West Liberty Ohio. They attend Hi-Point Church of Christ in Bellefontaine, OH. My brother is a 2006 graduate of Hi-Point/West Liberty, has been attending Edison Community College, and will be attending Bowling Green in the Fall.

#### **High School:**

I graduated from West Liberty in 2005. While attending, I was involved in Varsity Track and Varsity Soccer, sang in the choir, participated in the musicals, and was an officer in FFA, among other things. I worked at various places in the community, including Sam Goody, Wendy's, and Kroger. I attended various youth groups and activities, such as Calstumi, Alive Festival, Ichthus, and the Mt. Carmel Evangelical Friends youth group. I played in a Christian Rock band and enjoyed going to concerts with my friends.

#### **College:**

I attended college at Johnson Bible College in Knoxville, TN and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Bible with concentration on Preaching and Church Leadership. During college, I was involved in various ministries and played guitar and bass for different worship bands.

#### **Ministry Experience:**

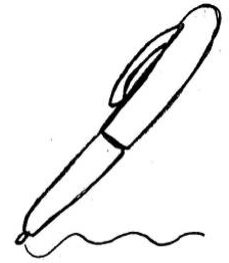
I have served as an interim minister at Belle Center Church of Christ, Rotational Minister at Harvest Christian Church, interned under the senior pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, and have preached at various other churches, including at a revival in Indiana. Additionally, I worked with an inner-city after school program for Kids, interned at a hospice, worked with homeless at Knox Area Rescue Mission, and spent two spring breaks with Erin and a group of friends from Milligan working in Indianapolis with various inner-city Mission organizations.

#### **Goals:**

I am currently attending Emmanuel School of Religion, a graduate seminary in East Tennessee, and working on a Master of Divinity with concentration on Church History. I would like to continue my education, finish the degree, and eventually enroll in a PhD. program. I am also interested in getting certification in Clinical Pastoral Education, and I would like to write.

#### **For Fun:**

Despite all of the busyness listed above, I still like to have fun. I enjoy hiking, exploring, and camping. I like to play ultimate Frisbee and Disc Golf, and I have been known to shoot some pool. Another passion of mine is reading and music, both listening to and playing, and I have recently taken a Jazz Improvisation class at Milligan College. I love to spend time with friends talking, drinking coffee, watching movies, and pushing one another spiritually.



### **Erin:**

#### **General:**

My name is Erin Nicole (Aulls) Dye. My birthday was November 10, 1987 and I am 22 years old. My husband Alex and I were married 8/8/08, and we are thrilled to be celebrating our 2 year anniversary in August.



## **Family:**

My parents are Mark and Tammy Smith of West Liberty, and Ron Aulls of Bellefontaine.

## **High School:**

Erin attended WL-S from kindergarten to graduation. There she was heavily involved in band, choir, musicals, student counsel, and leadership organizations. She was active in the Mt. Carmel youth group and helped put on various activities like 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter and New Years parties. She attended youth events like Willoughby Hills Youth Explosion and ALIVE. She worked at the Tastee Freez, Mt. Carmel Friends Church, Sam Goody, Skyline, and Champaign Bank.

## **College:**

Recently graduating from Milligan College, Johnson City, TN, Erin earned a degree in psychology and a minor in Bible. She was most interested in Greek, counseling, and abnormal psychology. She was part of the Institute of Servant Leadership and Psi Chi, the psychology national honor society. She attended the Missionary Convention two years in a row, and the second year worked with Youth in Ministry's program. Right away in college, Erin worked with serving the homeless, whether it was sitting down with them at breakfast on Saturday mornings to working as a case manager at Good Samaritan Ministries. She also interned with the Family Advocates in the ICU at the Johnson City Medical Center. She was involved in the brass and pep band, One Acts, small group, Bible study, hiking, and enjoyed late night games of ultimate frisbee.

## **Goals:**

Hopefully in the near future, Erin will go to school for her Master of Social Work and perhaps pursue a certification in counseling. As far as immediate goals, Erin is looking forward to getting involved with a church family again and putting her time into serving the community. She plans to take this next year to deepen connections with her church family, gain more experience at local social work agencies, and support Alex in his endeavors.

## **For Fun:**

Erin loves to eat, especially when it's with other people! She enjoys taking pictures and scrapbooking them. She likes to be outside and do physical activities, but also enjoys sitting down for coffee and chats. She likes to play board games and goof off!

## **A Quarter**

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?"

"Yes," he replied.



"Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is an example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

*-submitted by Anita Bartlett*

# Testimony of Tigist Alamirew of Meserete Kristos College

*Recently, Carl and Vera Hansen, mission workers to Ethiopia for many years, shared at Oak Grove about Tigist. This is her personal written testimony. The need for donations for Tigis of \$2400 to pay a one-year scholarship to finish college was presented, and Oak Grove Stewardship Committee has sent the money from our funds. Individual donations are being accepted toward her tuition payment.*

**God is the God of history; I am nothing I don't have my own history all of my history is the history of almighty whom He moves in my life I want to share how God save my life and protect me from difficulties.**

## **Part I: Beyond the Change of My Life**

I was born in the northern part of Ethiopia, Finoteselame town where orthodox Christianity is dominant; I grew up in this religion by respecting all the rules. While I was practicing everything in this religion, I was eager to know more about God. At that time, In 1987, I was grade 11 student, in Damot secondary school I had a friend from Catholic church. She was telling me different testimonies about what God was doing, and then my heart was ready to know Him personally and to attach to Him.

In 1988 she left Fintoselam and went to Asmera to her parent. When I was 18 years old, one of my friends, who received Christ, witnessed me about the love of Christ, and the true meaning of Christianity. Then after, since my heart was opened to receive Christ as my personal savior I received Him as my savior. Later my parents also realized that I am converted, and they told me that I need to be re-baptized and cleansed in the Orthodox church tradition so that I would forget this new religion. I explained to them how my new life is wonderful, and that I did not want to forget Him, or throw Him away.

September 23, 1989 my parents chased me away from home, and I fled to my aunt's home for shelter. While I was with her I faced different persecutions in different direction. After passing indifferent problem on may 9, 1989 my aunt, an orthodox priest, the witch who was living in the community and neighbors discussed on the situation and planed to force me to recant this 'new religion' using a traditional ceremony with fire. They made a large fire, to try and scare the so-called 'demon' from me. They beat me with rubber seriously. During that time I was seeing a vision of Jesus Christ's suffering for death, rising up from the death and I did not feel the sense of beating. When I see Him rise up from His burial suddenly I stood up and started to rejoice, jump, clap, shout Jesus Christ is risen. Next to this, many people healed my arms and legs, and my face was pushed down

into the fire, and I was severely burnt. When I lost my conscious they realized that I was almost dead and fled. The next morning I was taken to hospital for medical help.

After my medical help my health improved even though my face left burnt, later the head office of MKC brought me to Addis Ababa and paid for me medication expenses, and continues to attend in Black Lion Hospital, as well as employed me in the church's head office. Currently I work at MKC College. Until now I never thought of revenge for my perpetrators. Rather I have fasted and prayed for them hoping that they would come to know the love of Jesus Christ. Due to my continued witness, my aunt with her family now received Jesus into their lives, my sister and my great uncle came to Christ. After several years of treatment and four times plastic surgery the Black Lion hospital patient referral Board recommended that I should go abroad for delicate plastic surgery to remove the scars from my face. In relation to this I like my face to be restored. So that I went to USA thanks many brothers and sisters those who were willing to help me, may God bless them abundantly, I never ever forget the love they showed me. Now I look tubful sorry I did not add my recent picture I can do it if you want to see please let me know.

Furthermore, seven years ago God put in my heart to start believers family fellowship I obey and start it still going on, its main purpose is to pray for other relative to come to Christ as a result, my other aunt, my sisters, brother and my grandmother came to know Christ. Indeed God did miracle on His time, at the time of my suffering I was thinking/waiting the time of my death, yet this was not God's plan His plan was to reach my family and relatives through me.

## **Part II: Some clues how God moves in my life:**

After I came to Addis Ababa I was at the head office of MKC my God taught/trained me personally: as a mom, as a dad, as a friend really He takeover every thing and covers every place, He leads me every step. I was like Samuel in His house I felt that and many brothers and sisters used to said that too. Don't forget even though I am in God's house there were different challenges make me cry day and night all of them are God's instruments to shape me.

For several years God spoke to me He will going to use me. God keep saying "My child this is the time of preparation. Seek my face. By His grace I committed myself for prayer my address became 'under His thrown'. As He keeps speaking to me; I ask what do you want me to do? I am praying persistently and serving you in all my time, mean while, the ministers whom they study at MK Bible college my work place advising me to study theology, I never think that before after a while the thought feel in my heart and in 1998 January I start my BA degree in Bible and Christian Ministry part time. Every thing is new for me Biblical words are new in English though it was challenging. Thanks to the Lord by 2004 I felt to graduate in A/degree. Then I went to my boss the academic dean and talked with him, said I do not have any idea yet I heard soft voice in my heart to graduate by A/degree, at our conversation I said to him since I start in BA degree I want to work on that, will you allow me to do that?

After he discussed with Academic committee; allow me to graduate, I graduate on that year and continue my BA in Peace and conflict resolution remaining some course to finish, 2006 door's open for me to go to USA.

To be honest I was straggled a lot said Lord I don't want to go I want to live in my country, I want to live with you being close and close every time. I was afraid if I go there I will loss the intermit relationship with God. Continue praying and ask Him to speak me clearly, Is this your will? God my heart desire is to please you and serve you. He spoke to me personally and by friends who they have Burdon and pray for me. That is His will. And He said I have a work to do there, I have a purpose, He said your journey is not for treatment alone your treatment is just the way.

I hardly continue praying take time before the Lord and ask Him to tell me how long I will stay? Keep asking am I staying their or coming back soon? Is this the time you promised me ten years ago? That you said I will send you to abroad for ministry? This is not ministry. Then, I felt I am not coming back home soon my friends had the same understanding too. After all this conformation I sold and give away what I had and went to USA.

### **What happen there?**

I saw every thing is as God promised. God provide all my needs, Family and friends, I got the treatment I never had in my life time before. Everything works well for me. Even my surgeon likes to spend much time with me, when he asked why? He said when I spent time with her I got a great joy. I invited and took him and his wife to the church two times he is like a father to me, we become close even he invited me and my hosting family to

restaurants and his home too. Not only him but also most Christian like to spend time with me. God favor me very much. Yet there was a great challenge too by the power of God I passed all. Even I was tested God helps me to overcome, then God said I by you and you by me then we overcome and defeated Satan. Most brothers and sister who lives in USA was amazed and challenged by my decision.

After eight month I had big surgery then after I went to Virginia stay three month, Anna, Jim and zack came were I was and took me to their home I visited them, their lovely doughtier left her room to me for a week and I had wonderful visit with them and other friends too. Then went back to New York to my surgeon visit, Aftear year my treatment was once a month, so I went back to Virginia then every month back and forth to New York for my treatment. While I got board and I am very sensitive I do not want to be a burden of somebody then I start fast and pray stop talking with people no email no phone just with the Lord. God told me He is going to open place for ministry

As He said Chevy Chase Baptist church invite me to serve with them as director of children ministry and administrative assistance I used to teach Sunday school every Sunday and help in the office three days per week they gave me a house free to live then I start living in DC and support me for my food.

AS you know English is not an easy language however God uses me to transfer most American, He gave me a chance to speak in Radio three times, in TV as well as in news paper many are touched. More over, the most I rejoice is December, 2008 I was invited to New York youth retreat at Pennsylvania. 50 yang students received Christ in to their life 22 backslider renewed their faith totally 72 yang students confess their sin and deicide to follow Christ.

### **His plan in the future**

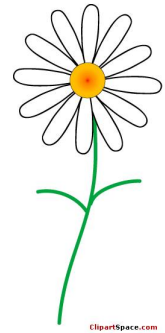
God premised me He will going to use me in mighty ways. He will make me a blessing for many. He will going to make me the mother of many children. He will speak in my mouth; actually I have the same thought like Mosses I am not orator indeed God is able to speak in me. every day I try to do what the lord wants me to do as much as I heard and understand in my life .Please keep me in your prayer that God will finished what He start in my life.

May The Lord continue in His blessings! Thanks a lot for the privilege you gave to me being here and share with you today.

## Who Am I...? \*

- I was born in Dayton, Ohio and grew up in Kettering.
- My favorite childhood memory is sitting on the swing-set in our yard listening to our neighbor give music lessons in his home. My neighbor was the conductor for the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra.
- My first job was checking passes at the neighborhood swimming pool.
- My favorite vacation was the week spent at a friend's vacation home on Sanibel Island, FL. The beaches and water were like paradise!
- My favorite hobbies are doing crafts and growing plants. I also enjoy playing with the dog, swimming and board games.
- If I had no work or responsibilities for the entire day, I would spend my day outside admiring God's creation.
- Philippians 4:4-9 is very meaningful to me.
- I appreciate Oak Grove's commitment to service as Christ directs.

(Answer can be found hidden in this issue of the Oak Leaves, marked with an \*)

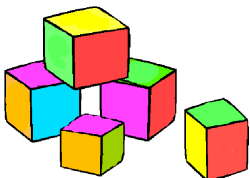


## Who Am I...? \*\*

- I was born and grew up in Tiffin, Ohio.
- I can't pick a favorite childhood memory, but I loved going on weekend trips with my family. We could always seem to find reasons to laugh uncontrollably!
- My first job was babysitting.
- I like the book, "What's So Amazing About Grace" by Phillip Yancey.
- Not many people know that I used to play the violin.
- A favorite past vacation was a trip to Poland. But more recently I had a great time in Panama City Beach, FL with my family.
- I enjoy baking, going for walks and spending time relaxing with family and friends talking or watching movies.
- If I had no work/responsibilities for the entire day, I would spend time outside (if it was warm!), read, go for a walk and call or visit relatives.
- A meaningful passage of the Bible to me is Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."
- I appreciate how Oak Grove as a church seeks after God and has a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

(Answer can be found hidden in this issue of the Oak Leaves, marked with an \*\*)

## Congratulations and blessings to . . .



Ryan and Amy Pratt on the birth of Carter!  
Kim and Jon Leichty with the birth of Rylan!  
Reed and LeAnn Jones for the birth of Eli!



## WHAT IS NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

Take a look at some new additions to the church library! Look for them on the east side of the library where the VHS tapes used to be. We appreciate any donations of recent fiction/non-fiction books, or DVDs for any age group. As always, if you have any suggestions for items to be purchased for the library, please let a library committee member know.

– Lisa Hershberger, Sarah Leichty, Gretchen Christopher & Janet Schlabach

### ADULT FICTION

**Cape Refuge Series by Terri Blackstock** – To the casual eye, Cape Refuge is just an island in the waters off Savannah, Georgia. Look deeper though, and you'll discover a closely knit community with stories to tell – and secrets to hide... follow these stories of suspense and faith.

**Cape Refuge, Southern Storm, River's Edge, Breaker's Reef**

**Season's Series by Beverly LaHaye & Terri Blackstock** - Life in a quiet cul-de-sac called Cedar Circle is pleasant, if uneventful, for four diverse neighbors. Brenda is a happy career mom, homeschooling her children. Tory, more overwhelmed by her role as mother, finds her children to be a challenge. Sylvia, meanwhile, suffers from empty nest syndrome, and Cathy is raising her three children alone after a divorce. Follow these women as they come together to cope with life's challenges and find strength through God. **Seasons Under Heaven, Showers in Season, Times and Seasons, Season of Blessing**

**Bryson City Novels by Walt Larimore, MD** – Welcome to Bryson City, a small town tucked away in a fold of North Carolina's Smoky Mountains. Follow Dr Larimore as he takes you along on his journey as a young doctor settling into rural medical practice. **Bryson City Tales, Bryson City Seasons**

**The Centurion's Wife by Davis Bunn & Janette Oke** – The story of the dramatic events surrounding the birth of Christianity – and the very personal story of Leah, compelled into a betrothal she never wanted, drawn by a faith she never expected...

**A Proper Pursuit by Lynn Austin** – The World's Fair, Chicago 1893.. Violet's world will open wide before her eyes. But in this discovery, she must find a way to determine which path, and which man, will ultimately be the right lifetime choice for her

**Until We Reach Home by Lynn Austin** – Life in Sweden feels like an endless winter to Elin Carlson after the death of her parents and she determines to find a safe haven for her sisters. So begins the journey of 3 sisters to America. Will their hopes for the future ever be realized?

**A Promise for Spring by Kim Vogel Sawyer** – England-born Emmaline pledged her life to Geoffrey and then bid him farewell as he set sail for America. Now five years have passed and when Emmaline finally joins Geoffrey in Kansas, she can't wait to leave and go home to England...

**Inside Story by Susan Page Davis** - Claudia is a prize-winning journalist at a magazine and she prides herself on

her stories. Soon Claudia find herself in over her head as she interviews a member of a US Navy special operations unit in the Philippine jungle. Will her ambitions cost Claudia her life?

**Ransome's Honor by Kaye Dacus** – Can Julia and William overcome their hurt, reconcile their conflicting desires and find a way to be happy together? Honor, faith and love are intertwined in this novel from the Regency era...

**Three Roads Home by Travis Thrasher** - In 3 novellas, relationships come undone – but are they beyond repair? Come explore the trials that these couples must weather and the unexpected shelter they find in the restorative love of God.

**Wisdom Hunter by Randall Arthur** – A dynamic church leader in Atlanta, Pastor Jason Faircloth seemed to have it all. But when a tragic turn of events causes him to lose everything, Jason finds himself in a serious crisis of faith.

### ADULT NON-FICTION

**Chasing God, Serving Man by Tommy Tenney** – Using the backdrop of Bethany and the house of Mary and Martha, Tenney explores how to balance worship and service, both in the individual and in the church.

**Mary's Prayers & Martha's Recipes by Tommy Tenney** – (Sequel to *Chasing God, Serving Man*) Tenney serves up a delectable meal of passionate pursuit and practical service. Learn how you can combine your spiritual passion with compassionate service...

**Disciplines of a Godly Man by R. Kent Hughes** – The church needs real men today, men willing to follow the path of Godliness, no matter the cost.

**Stuff Christians Like by Jonathan Acuff** – Sometimes you fall in love on mission trips even though you know you'll break up as soon as you get back. Sometimes you think "I wish I had a T-shirt that said 'I direct deposit my tithe' so people sitting near me at church wouldn't judge me". Sometimes the stuff that comes with faith is funny. Welcome to the funny side of faith.

**Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours by Dr Kevin Leman** – Yes - you can raise responsible, happy children without raising your blood pressure! Let Leman show you how and why his Reality Discipline really works.

**YBH (Yes But How) Getting Serious About Your Faith by Vernon C. Grounds** – We want to be disciples of Jesus, We want to be productive Christians. We want to bear much fruit to the glory of God. Yes, but HOW do we do and become those things?

# Faith and Family Pilgrimage

by Esther Witmer

On July 5<sup>th</sup> I joined The Wenger Tour Group in Ephrata, PA for a faith and family tour of Germany, Switzerland and France. There were 38 persons in the group; seven from my immediate family: five of us siblings and a brother and sister in-law. We left Philadelphia International Airport at 4:15 Pm, arriving in Frankfort, Germany 5:30 AM Germany time (11:30 PM Ohio time). At the Frankfort airport we met our German tour guide, Hildrun and bus driver, Gunther.

The main route through Germany was the Romantic Road. We made several stops along this route, visiting historical villages, castles and other sites of interest. Many of the villages dated back to medieval times. They have been well preserved. The first day was a long, tiring day because I did not get much sleep on the plane.

One of the main destinations of this tour was Oberammergau, Germany. The attraction here is the performance of the "Passion Play" given every ten years. The history of this play goes back to 1634, when this quaint village was threatened by the deadly and contagious disease known as the Black Plague, killing two thirds of the population of Germany. The people of Oberammergau pledged to perform the "Passion Play" as a sign of their repentance and remorse over the suffering and death of Jesus. The chronicles relate that from the day the people gathered around the cross to swear their sacred vow, no further person died of the plague. Since that date, the play has been performed every ten years. The performers in the play are all local persons who live in Oberammergau. It lasts 5 hours, with two, two and one half hour segments. The emphasis this year was on the ministry of Jesus. It was a very powerful and moving experience.

As we bid farewell to Oberammergau, we turned toward Switzerland. This is the country where we visited many sites connected to Anabaptist history and my Wenger roots. To begin this section I think it is appropriate to give a brief history of the Anabaptist movement, written by Samuel S. Wenger. "Conrad Grebel was one of the early leaders, with Felix Manz, of the Anabaptist movement, more specifically of the Swiss Brethren

at Zurich (of which the Mennonites and Hutterites are the direct theological descendants). Grebel and Manz, both well educated men of standing in Zurich were among the first supporters of Zwingli's reformation. But following the reformer's lead, the study of the Bible, they came to see the obvious differences in the apostolic churches and those of their own day. This difference lay most visibly in the practice of and theology behind infant baptism. Their resistance crystallized when in the fall of 1524 Grebel's wife bore a son. The Grebels refused to baptize their son and other parents followed their example. Other important issues for these early Anabaptists included the role of church and state, the taking of oaths of allegiance and objection to Military Service. The persecution of Anabaptists was the dark chapter of the Reformation. Anabaptists were seen as a threat to the order of society by both Catholics and Protestants. As a result, they were intensely persecuted and frequently executed in hideous ways."

Our first Anabaptist stop was the village of Scheitheim. This is where the document named the Scheitheim Confession of Faith was written. The local museum in this town has a second floor devoted entirely to Anabaptist history. The next city of interest was Zurich. Here we did a walking tour of Grossmunster, old-town Zurich where Conrad Grebel, founder of the Anabaptist movement once lived. We visited the Reformed church where Zwingli worshipped, saw the house where Felix Manz's mother lived and where the first adult baptism took place. We walked along the Lammit River to a memorial plaque honoring the drowning of Felix Manz in 1527 and the beheading of Hans Landis in 1614.

Another city of interest in our history is Bern, Switzerland. Here we saw the place where Anabaptists were sentenced and executed. It was a very sobering experience. Near Bern, is the Trachselwald castle. This castle served as a prison for Anabaptists who refused to renounce their faith. One woman in our group told the story of how some of her ancestors were detained and died here.

A beautiful area in Switzerland is the Emmental Valley. Here we visited the birth place of Christian Wenger, my grandfather, nine generations back and the home he lived in after he was exiled from Bern. He moved to America in 1727, settling in Lancaster County, PA. Other sites in this region included a hike to a cave where the Anabaptists met in secret to worship, and visited the Emmental Mennonite church. This is the oldest Mennonite church in the world. Many Wenger families still live in this valley.

The bus trip to the cave was incredible. The roads were high in the mountains, winding and narrow... only wide enough for one car, let alone a bus!! Our guide arranged for a driver to go ahead to stop cars coming up the pass so the bus could get through. The valley below was so beautiful, but it was kind of scary to see how close we were to the edge of the road. We were thankful for a good bus driver. When we descended back to the valley, Gunther said he is never going to drive that route again!!

Another beautiful spot in Switzerland is the village of Wengen. This village is located in the foothills of the Jungfrau Mountain range in the Swiss Alps. Skiers and hikers frequent this village. To get to Wengen we had to ride a cograil train from Lauterbrunnen, uphill. We enjoyed the beauty of the Alps as we slowly made our way up the steep hillside. We had a free day, so several of us in the group took the cograil train up to the highest train station in Europe at 11,300 ft. We sure felt a temperature change when we got to the top. It was a clear day. Scenery was awesome. At the top we walked out on a glacier, looking down over ice fields. Instead of taking the cograil train all the way back to Wengen, one of my brother's and I walked part of the way. One could hear the cow and sheep bells ringing as the animals grazed in the mountain meadows. In the evening we had a vesper service. It was a **wonderful** day!! The Swiss Alps are majestic and can easily be seen from Wengen, on a clear day.

On our way back to Germany we drove through the wine country of Alsace, France. We stopped at the quaint town of Riquewihr, an old French farming town. Vineyards surround this village. It is a beautiful small town with cobbled streets, and picturesque timbered houses. A Mennonite

community is near this village. The last stop of the day was Ibersheim, Germany. This is where the great-grandfather of Christian Wenger (immigrant 1727) also named Christian lived during his final days after being exiled along with his daughter, from the Emmental region in 1671. The current Ibersheim Mennonite church is a member of the Conference of South German Mennonites, and the Palatine-Hessian Conference. We met a Stauffer family who lives in this village and attends the Mennonite church there.

On the last day of our tour we took a boat ride on the Rhine River. I saw many bicycles on a trail along the river. I ask Hildrun, our German guide, whether a person could ride a bike from Germany to Switzerland on this trail. She said yes, and that we should do that sometime, saying we could stay in Bed and Breakfast establishments along the route. Sounds good to me....next year??!!

All in all, this was a wonderful trip. The group members got along very well. We were blessed to have a wonderful guide. On the way to the airport Friday morning, July 16<sup>th</sup>, Hildrun, said, "I'm a Wenger wannabe." We thought that was pretty cool.

I just want to share a few tidbits I learned that may be of interest:

Germany has no national holidays due to lack of pride in its country.

Since the Europeans do not embalm and use only wooden caskets, the graves are reused every 30-50 years. Often older gravestones are lined up against an outside wall of the church. Beautiful flowers cover each grave.

There are 15,000 traditional Mennonites in Germany.

65,000- 70,000 Mennonites from Russia and Prussia have moved to western Germany and other European countries since the Berlin Wall came down 20 years ago.

We traveled over 2000 miles by bus during the 10 days in Europe.

## **What was your most favorite part of the summer?**

*(If we missed you, you can still be in next month's Oak Leaves if you send us your favorite.)*

LeAnn and Reed Jones  
The birth of Eli

Lisa and Andy Hershberger  
Seeing Andrew and Erika get married and spending time with extended family at the wedding. Trips to the Zoo with the boys.

Kim and Jon Leichty  
Going on vacation to Michigan, watching Conner enjoy the outdoors and finally remodeling our front porch.

Ryan and Amy Pratt  
Welcoming Carter to our family, watching Andrew LOVE Lake George on our family vacation.

Kate Cramer  
Spending a week in Atlanta with the youth group

Sam and Melanie Park\*\*  
Going on vacation to Florida and seeing how much Robert is growing

Darrin and Kate Turner  
Having a job to go to in the fall, tractor rides with our nephew Isaiah

Valerie Kauffman  
Being in my sister's wedding.

Ryan Kauffman  
Taking the boys to the beach.

Jason and Amy Steider  
Spending a week in Virginia for vacation. Getting Jackson ready for Preschool this fall.

Dixie Idle  
Besides the days when the temperature was below 90 degrees, other favorite parts were a trip to Holmes County in June, and a recent trip to Dearborn to Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. These were both second-time-around trips. I like historical "stuff." On a local level, I enjoyed the church barbeque and the Cotubic auction with its great results!

June and Joyce Hostetler  
Our trip to the Hostetler family reunion in the state of Washington held July 13-16.

Grace and Jake Leichty  
Our bike rides in Millersburg to Holmesville, Gambier to Danville; Brookeville N & S; Midland, MI, N & S, numerous rides from Urbana to County Line Rd. and our family trip with kids and grandkids to the Gascho cottage on Saginaw Bay in MI.

Don and Sharon Kauffman  
Outdoor activities, warm weather, volleyball with grandchildren. Cookouts. Ball games.

Jake Leichty  
We took a couple of spring bike trips in other states. One in Georgia-Alabama and another in southeastern Virginia, seeing new country and exploring it from the seat of a bicycle is something Grace and I enjoy.

Phil and Shan Neer  
We were able to have our Idaho family with us for almost a month this summer. We all had such a wonderful time. We did a few special things but we mostly just spent a lot of time together.

Joan Yoder  
Spending time with my sister and husband and my Dad in Kansas. There is never enough sister time living so far from each other.

Myron Yoder  
My sister and her daughter paid us a visit for a few days in July. It is always special to have siblings around to catch up on whats happening in each others lives.

Doris Enns  
Being part of VBS Team

Esther Witmer  
Having the summer off and trip to Europe.

Joe Smucker  
Being able to spend more time at home than other summers, not working as hard and spending more time with friends.

Bruce and Janet Schlabach  
We visited Jill and our niece and nephew in Hawaii  
the first week of August. Will write more later.

Judy Conrad  
Spending time with family and more relaxed  
schedule.

June Seymour  
Spending the week of the Union County fair with  
Cathryn and all her animals.

Gretchen Christopher  
Playing with grandchildren, Cameron, Michael and  
Isla

Earl and Penny Hawke  
We visited with Karen a week in July and enjoyed  
sight-seeing in and around Denver, CO.

Gertie and Dave Kuhl  
We went to a family reunion in New Jersey and had  
a wonderful time. It is always good to be with  
family.

Jim and Anita\* Bartlett  
We picked up Dan and all went to visit relatives in  
the Finger Lakes area of New York.

Arlis Gascho  
Andrew and Erika's wedding, Eli Reed Jones' birth,  
spending time with grandkids.

Matt Kauffman  
Vacation in West Virginia with family

Erin Barrett  
Going to New York for a week

Garret King  
Band camp

Hannah Clasen  
SLEEP!

Cat Seymour  
Vacation in Cape Cod with my boyfriend and his  
family

Bekah Kratz  
Going to Georgia with the youth group

Alyssa Kauffman  
Being at camp for 4 weeks and missions trip in GA.

Robin Kauffman  
Time off work to relax and spend time with family

Jason Kauffman  
Extra time with the kids

Cynthia King  
Time with the kids at the fair

Joel Kauffman  
Trip to Chicago, Wisconsin and Michigan

Steve Neer  
Spending time relaxing with my family on vacation.

Brian Yoder  
Camping in Michigan with my family.

Sherrie Yoder  
Reconnecting with lifelong friends in PA

Chuck Kratz  
Camping trip through the West—loved the national  
parks and west coast

Trish Kratz  
Visiting both coasts with my family and seeing  
God's amazing creation!

Patrick Neer  
Vacation—we went to Tennessee with Michelle's  
parents

Michelle Neer  
Seeing my parents while at the Smokey Mountains  
with my family

Jerry & Roxanne Kauffman  
Traveling to Kansas and Pennsylvania to attend  
family reunions and having a new appreciation for  
my Christian heritage and God's faithfulness  
throughout the years.

Roberta Yoder  
Spending time with family and church family  
camping at the church retreat at Camp Cotubic

Jeff Yoder  
Eating at a Japanese steakhouse where they cook  
the food right in front of you.



Alan Kauffman  
Spending time with my extended family.

Erica Alspaugh  
Our road trip out west. DJ, Andy and I drove to Oregon to see family and some friends along the way. DJ had just gotten his drivers permit, so he was able to get about 40 hours of his 50 required! We got to see lots of our beautiful country and had a great time!

Alan and Kari Regier  
Getting to know our new daughter and seeing our son become a true big brother!

Reminders  
Enjoying the blessings of family!

Todd Buschur  
Being out of school

Dorthea Headings  
My favorite part was the wedding of my granddaughter in Bluffton.

Joan Thoman  
I enjoyed working and planting flowers in my flower boxes and yard. We have been blessed with good rains.

Rudelle Matthews  
Two family reunions, a long weekend with my daughter to the Smokey Mountains

Jake and Marce Leichty  
Our visit to Indiana and also our trip to Holmes County, Ohio

Miriam Headings  
My family reunion in Pennsylvania with the memorial celebration for Ron

Shirley Kauffman  
When everything outdoors in spring comes alive

Willard and Lydia King

Family reunions at our place

Everett Yoder  
Weekend with family, also I enjoy mowing lawns

Christopher Buschur  
My favorite part of this summer was when my dad and I went to Mid-Ohio Sportscar Course for the IndyCar race.

Josh Kratz  
Trip to California!

Nikolas Yoder  
When we went to Michigan and camped

Isaac Kauffman  
Going to Camp Luz for boys camp, vacation in Kentucky and starting football

Jacob Regier  
Swimming

Kayla King  
State fair

Katie Overholt  
I went to North Carolina

Catherine Williams  
Watching NCIS

Rose Yoder  
Going to Michigan

Christy Kauffman  
Camp Luz

Grace Buschur  
I went to the gallery my dad gives his art to and got to take her dog for a walk

Lilyana Yoder  
Camp Luz



### **DID YOU KNOW...?**

- LeAnn Jones completed her Masters in Education at the end of July.
- Heather King took a new job; she will be an intervention specialist at Brookwood Community Learning Center in Columbus, a charter school, working with students grades 4-12 who are on the autism spectrum.
- Kate Turner is now a full-time preschool teacher in the Graham school district.

Our group was large this year and we gathered with much anticipation. The destination was Tranquil Lodge near Belleville in beautiful Big Valley, the same place we met last year. We came in cars, campers, and some using tents. We were four generations and sixty-six in number.

Mother/Grandma, seven children and eight spouses, twenty grandchildren (all but four), nine grandchild companions, and twenty-one great-grandchildren!

We enjoyed a variety of delicious meals prepared by sibling families. Friday night's menu was lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread and "dump" cakes. Saturday morning we enjoyed breakfast burritos, baked oatmeal, and fruit. Lunch was pulled pork, slaw, bean salad and cookies. Saturday evening we feasted on grilled chicken and beef fajitas, corn bread, tossed salad and homemade ice cream. Sunday morning we ate waffles with various toppings, yogurt and fruit. There was lots of good food left for Sunday's luncheon buffet. The coffee pot was always on!

With so many of us present, there were circles of conversation and laughter, and hotspots of activity happening throughout the weekend. The weather was beautiful and the children enjoyed being outside. Grandma brought a puzzle which attracted several of us to that corner of the room. Others preferred to play chess or card games.

Marilyn read a story, "Waterbugs and Dragonflies" to the children. Chris offered to paint the fingernails of three delighted little girls. The children also enjoyed a dragonfly sticker craft.

Saturday afternoon offered the opportunity to indulge in one's favorite past time. For some it was computer time or a DVD, and for others it meant catching a few winks. In the evening we gathered in the family room to enjoy some family musical talent and a sing-a-long.

Perhaps the most anticipated and memorable event of the weekend centered around a memorial tribute to Ron, with a hike up Thousand Steps and the spreading of his cremains at the top of the mountain. Howard provided an opportunity for reflection and Jill shared a reading. Ron's girls brought Ron's cremains to PA in a specially decorated box. Forty of us joined the caravan to Thousand Steps. Meredith placed the box in a backpack and carried it to the top.

We climbed the path to where the stone steps begin and paused for a group photo, then continued the upward trek, each at his own pace. With a pause for breath, walking sticks, and a helping hand now and then, we made it to the top...a workout, that's for sure!

Poignant and holy moments....feelings and images we will hold forever in our hearts; "Mountaintop experience" redefined. Jill and the girls took part in the final act of the memorial. Howard had gathered some smooth small stones for us to express a word for this moment. They took some stones and built a memorial and laid their small stones in it. After some photos etc. one by one, we made our way back down the trail. As Sunday came, one by one we headed for home.

*Miriam Headings*

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At the end of July, Tisha, Leah, Anna, and Emma went to Leo, IN for Beyeler Mini Camp or BMC as we call it. BMC has become a tradition in our family and this was our 8th year. Every summer we head to Grandpa and Grandma Beyeler's home for a week and Tisha's sister (Denise Harshbarger) and her three boys, Joe, Koby and Trey (grandsons of Paul and Sally Harshbarger), come too. Each summer has a different theme planned for the children and this year's them was "Factory Tours." We planned a different factory tour each day including Sechler's Pickles, DeBrand Chocolate, Kokomo Opalescent Glass, Warsaw Cut Glass, and Hitzer Stoves. Leah enjoyed watching the men put the hot glass through the flattening machine to make stained glass at Kokomo Opalescent Glass. Emma's highlight of the week was also from that factory. She liked watching the workers pour the hot glass.

Anna's favorite part of the week was eating a giant chocolate sundae after the chocolate factory tour. In addition to factory tours, we filled our days with crafts, playing outside, eating, devotions, journaling and swimming. We even made a kidwash one day which is like a carwash but made for kids. The children helped build it out of PVC pipes. They got to measure, use a saw to cut the right lengths and drill holes. Then we hooked it up to a garden hose and sent them through! I got the plans online so if you would like them let me know. The cost is only about \$40. We screen-printed T-shirts with gears on them to represent the factories we went to and we ended the week with a treasure hunt and water balloon fight. It was a great week and we can't wait until BMC 2011!

*Tisha Kauffman and girls*

# Camp Luz 2010

by Alyssa Kauffman

This summer was pretty exciting for me. I had the chance to work at Camp Luz for a couple of weeks during the summer. I was working as a Staff in Training which is for 15 year olds who want to experience working at camp for just a couple of weeks.

The first week I was at camp was in the middle of June. That week was Staff Training. Staff Training included cleaning up camp, going over the staff manual and getting to know other people who were on camp staff too.

Youth Camp was the week right after Staff Training. I went to Youth Camp as a camper and had a good time getting to know other people at camp. This week was a lot different from the week before. We had chapel, swimming, crafts and other activities that made it a fun week.

Working at camp was really different from being a camper I found out the first week that I worked. I worked at Fledgling Camp my first week as a counselor. It was pretty tiring, but it was fun doing activities with campers.

The second week that I worked as a counselor was at Girls Camp. This was an easier week because

the girls in the cabin had all been to camp before, so they knew what to expect. I had a new experience during the week. There was a girl there during this week who had some special needs. She stayed in the cabin that I was a counselor in. It was new to me to work with her and talk to her during the week. I knew her from the first year I went to camp because she is my age, but because of her brain and muscle functions she needs help with some activities. This girl, though, encouraged me to try new things and to keep trying. Some activities during the week she would get frustrated, but she kept trying sometimes. I was not the only counselor in the cabin though. There was four of us so we would switch on and off helping her with some activities. The rest of the girls in the cabin and some in different cabins would do activities with this girl which was great. The week was a good one and less tiring, but was fun.

Overall the summer working at camp was exciting and I am hoping to go work again next year. I encourage the kids at church to go to camp sometime. It is a good experience, fun and you will get a closer relationship with God.

Camp Luz 2010 theme: Come and follow me.  
Verse: **“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19 (NIV)**

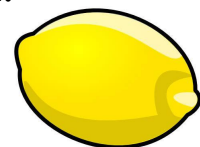
**Camp Luz Father Son Retreat** on September 10-11. This retreat is geared for sons who are 9-15 years old, though all ages of fathers and sons are invited (grandfathers too!) We will be staying in cabins, but doing outdoor activities most of the time, weather permitting.

Also on September 11, **E3 Youth Worker Training** will be holding "Shaped by the Story", which is intended for those who work with youth. Guest speaker for the day is Michael Novelli. This event is at Camp Luz, however for more information please contact Joe Troyer at [jtroyer2@gmail.com](mailto:jtroyer2@gmail.com)

**Camp Luz Fall Youth Retreat** November 12-14. Randy Keeler, Assistant Professor of Religion at Bluffton University and Regional Youth Pastor Advocate of the Ohio Conference of the Mennonite Church, will be our guest speaker for the weekend. Churches are encouraged to register their youth as a group, though individual registrations are also accepted. Registration and permission forms will be available on our website ([www.campluz.com](http://www.campluz.com)) very soon.

Once again, the youth group will be running a **lemon shake stand** at the West Liberty Labor Day festival. All proceeds will go to support the youth group's trip to the next Mennonite convention in Pittsburgh, July 4-9, 2011.

Never had a lemon shake?  
Come find out what you've  
been missing!



# Broken Expectations

by Jason King

It is surprising how much things break. Just think of the countless cars, equipment, electronics, and bones for the matter that break each year across the world. Inevitably, we are left fixing everything or trying to at least (or if you're American you just buy a new one). However the brokenness does not stop in the physical realm. Think of the countless broken hearts and souls across the world. Broken families have shaped the overall cynical attitude of the youth in this generation. In the same way we are left fixing our lives or trying to at least. I wish I could say that Camp Wesley was a perfect experience, but not even an innocent summer camp can escape the influence of brokenness.

It's easy before entering a ministry job like working at a camp to have expectations. Everyone has expectations. I had my own entering this summer. I expected to have quite a bit of opportunity speaking to children at worship services, getting involved with the staff spiritually, along with a chance to lead worship. I cannot say that this expectation was fully broken but everything turned out differently than I envisioned. Phil Vischer, the creator of Veggie Tales, credits his bankruptcy and downfall due to the fact that he was chasing Godly dreams but not God. My expectations were good expectations but they were not God's plan for the summer. It was a constant battle to follow God's plan rather than our expectations. Over the course of the two years

working at Camp Wesley I've seen God acting out his plan which sometimes follows my expectations and many times does not. However sometimes broken expectations are a good thing.

One of the best broken expectations I had this summer was José. I did get the opportunity to counsel this summer for our "Movie Madness" week. José was a quiet young guy that seemed to have fun, but he was never vocal during our cabin devotions. I never heard him make one spiritual comment the whole week. I was not upset with him; I just expected that he was not at the point of interest. However my own brokenness and doubt was confronted when I found out he made a decision to personally accept Christ. As far as I know, no one spoke one on one with José. He just listened and made the decision himself. The whole week, José had been internally processing and battling. Christ used a place with many broken things, with broken staff members and my broken expectations to develop a relationship.

When Christ was Crucified, His broken flesh and soul were used to redeem many. Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Because we are crucified with Christ, He uses our brokenness as well to bring many to Him. Camp was an enjoyable experience this past summer spiritually and programmatically. I am humbled by how many ways God moves. Thank you Oak Grove for all your encouragement and support this summer!

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## Youth Group 2010

by Alyssa Kauffman

Many of you have heard about the main thing we did this summer. The youth group took a missions trip to Atlanta, Georgia. We took this trip through the DOOR program.

**Discovering  
Opportunities for  
Outreach and  
Reflection**

I think many of us who went had a great experience doing activities to help people around the

city of Atlanta. Some activities we did was work at day camp facilities, deliver meals, mulching and painting.

Another activity the youth group did was go up to Cedar Point for a day. I did not get to go because I was at camp, but I am sure some of the youth who went probably had fun.

The Youth Group also did a service at church in July. During the service most of us who went on the missions trip talked about something we did while in Atlanta. This is where many of you heard about the activities we did in Atlanta.

