



SPRING 2006 ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT

WHERE: Freeport Church of the Brethren, Freeport, Ill.

WHEN: March 17-19, 2006. Registration begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The retreat ends following worship on Sunday. REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 10! We need at least 12 people registered by this date, or the retreat will be cancelled.

WHO: Everyone currently in 9th through 12th grades. Friends are always welcome!

COST: \$30 (fee waived for advisors accompanying youth)

LEADERSHIP: Our keynote speaker will be Tom Benevento, the Latin America/ Caribbean specialist for the Church of the Brethren General Board. Tom lives in Goshen, Ind. but spends much of his time in Central America working with the poor and the marginalized. He is also an artist and enjoys working on bikes.

THEME: "Living Simply." In the middle of the Brethren tagline, between "Peacefully" and "Together," is that word, "Simply." Brethren consider simple living a significant part of continuing Jesus' work. Living simply, however, isn't always so simple. What does it mean to live simply in today's consumer-oriented world, and in a country where having "things" is so important? Tom and his family have modeled a life of simplicity and sustainability. He will share from that experience.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Worship (including leadership in Sunday morning's service at Freeport), games and recreation, a service project, NYC preview, and plenty of fun, food, and fellowship.

FOR REGISTRATION FORM AND MORE INFORMATION: Visit www.cobyouth.org.

CAMP EMMAUS CELEBRATES ITS OWN 'LEGEND,' BILL HARE



Few, if any, camp administrators in the Church of the Brethren have had a tenure equal to Bill and Betty Hare's service at Camp Emmaus in Mount Morris, Ill. The Hares completed their 40th year running the Illinois/Wisconsin District's northern camp in 2005.

The two met and married in Nigeria, and wanted to find a way to continue to be in mission when they returned to the United States. "We came home to an empty feeling," Bill Hare says. "We needed to be doing something specific. When the call (for Camp Emmaus) came, that service was what we were looking for. It was a mission field right here at home."

Bill became the camp's manager, while Betty answered phones, did scheduling, and provided nursing services. They lived on-site for summers only until a cabin was renovated into a home in 1974. The program expanded to year-round activities when a retreat lodge opened in 1980.

Camp staff this past summer put on a skit titled "Bill Hare the Legend" to honor the four decades of service. A "Bill Hare the Legend" T-shirt has been created for sale in the camp store. The Hares' dedication was recognized during a camp dinner this past fall, and the camp board gave the couple a restaurant gift certificate and purchased a Heifer International llama in their honor.

"It never occurred to us to be here this long," says Bill Hare, now in year 41. "We never thought about that."



All District Event - All are Invite
Spring Working Fellowship
Panther Creek Church Project
Saturday, April 29th
Starting at approximately 9:00 AM

Come and be a part of the first of what we pray is many “**All District Working Fellowships**”. Our Sisters and Brothers at the Panther Creek Church of the Brethren are in need of some good old fashion Brethren help. Their meeting house is starting to show signs of its age and needs a little fixing up. The Leadership Team thought this would be a great way to get the District together and do some good for one of our own churches. The New Church Development Board weighed in and agreed - why not a little “*old*” church development. So, we have a need for people. We want there to be a problem of too many Brethren in one place on this project. (There are plenty of things to be done; we need all the help we can get.)

What are we doing: scraping, priming, and painting both outside and in the sanctuary (of course weather permitting on the outside). There is electrical work like replacing switches, installing outlets, installing breakers, and even new lights on the outside. **What do we need you to bring:** ladders, paint brushes, scrapers, tarps, electrical tools, and maybe even a few yard tools. We may be needing to rent scaffolding; we will see. **Lunch will be provided.** Fellowship will be abundant!! The Spirit of God will enjoy our being together, working for the Lord and our Sisters and Brothers of the Panther Creek CoB. **See you there!!**



GATHER 'ROUND

Gather "Round: Hearing and Sharing God's Good News is the new Sunday School curriculum for Sunday School, worked out jointly by writers from the Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church Canada, and Mennonite Church USA. This series, thoroughly Bible-based and theologically sound, will replace Jubilee, which has been in use for eleven years. With strong emphasis on tying together church and family, material has been planned for every level, all studying the same Bible texts at the same time, encouraging family conversation during the week centered on the Sunday studies.

For churches with a large number of children, age level materials are graded according to preschool (ages 3 and 4, with suggestions where two-year-olds are included), kindergarten, primary, junior, junior youth, and youth. Recognizing that many congregations have only a few children and youth, a separate multilevel approach has been worked out for those where several age levels must be combined.

Because different children learn in different ways, sound educational principles are incorporated—stories, music, memory work, dramatization, arts and crafts, discussion, problem solving, with adequate teacher helps so that each teacher can choose which learning styles fit the particular children in the classes. For parents and caregivers there is a separate book suggesting ways in which the lesson materials can be utilized for conversation and for getting along in the family, at school, and in the world.

Developed on a four-year cycle, the material begins in the fall of 2006, the memory passage being the Shema—Deuteronomy 6:4-6, with the instruction to remember that there is one God, “And you shall love your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength,” and that you shall *gather 'round* to tell those words to your children. It begins with creation—and our need to care for God's creation. From the Genesis stories the children talk about what it means to be in a family—what happens when it seems that one child is favored over another, for instance—the Cain and Able story, the Jacob and Esau bit. Joseph finding that what seemed like adversity really prepared him to save not only the strange people he was sold into, but how important forgiveness is in the family and in the world.

Mennonite and Brethren persons met in Pittsburgh ten days ago to plan ways to introduce this new curriculum to individual congregations. So far three sessions have been planned by the Mennonites, who will welcome Brethren to these three-hour Saturday sessions, 9:00a.m.-12 noon: April 22, Roanoke Mennonite, Roanoke; May 6, Science Ridge Mennonite Church, Sterling. A training session for the Elgin-Chicago area will be in the making by Brethren as well as by Mennonites. Watch for those plans.

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