



The Menno Beacon

September 2014

Volume 59 Number 1

Mark Your Calendars for the 37th Annual Mennonite Country Auction

By Bill Dyck

It's time again for the 37th Annual Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale (MCA), at the Menno Mennonite Church grounds on October 4, 2014. Since 1978, when the sale was first started, over \$2.5 million dollars have been raised for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and their projects of peace, relief and development around the world (www.mcc.org).

The preparation for the sale grounds starts on the Sunday before the sale, with kids and adults joining together to raise the tent. Friday, people start gathering to start the setup of the booths, awnings, stage, tables, and chairs. A meal is provided Friday evening for those who helped during the day (contributions for the meal are counted toward the sale).

Saturday events start with breakfast from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., with the booths opening at 10:00 a.m. Some of the booths include: *Ten Thousand Villages*, *Country Store* (homemade

baked goods and garden produce), *Quilter's Corner Plus*, *Great Gatherings*, freshly made New Year's Cookies, pies, freshly made apple cider, apple butter, Amish cheeses from Ohio, sausage, Christmas hams, and bacon made in Montana, sausage and hamburger sandwiches, BBQ ribs, African ground nut stew, a hummus plate and other vegetarian options, and the Etcetera and Crafts booths. Parking will be different this year, so watch for directions.

Coffee mugs and water bottles with a special design on them will also be for sale.

The "Penny Power" project this year is to gather pennies and other coins to help MCC with the Philippines Typhoon Haiyan relief project. Pennies will be collected in the participating churches prior to the sale, with an opportunity to give your change on the sale day also. More information can be found on the MCC website at: <http://mcc.org/stories/rebuilding-philippines>.

Activities for the kids include a *Kids Booth*, bounce house, and a basketball shoot.

At 10:30 the pastors will explain "Who are the Mennonites?" in the church sanctuary and answer any questions.

At noon the auction will start with the traditional auctioning of the "loaf of bread" that will be used for the following day's worship service communion. Quilts, handcrafted items, collectables, more quilts, four tickets to the U of W / WSU Apple Cup, two tickets to the Seahawk / Rams game Dec. 28, even more quilts, and other items of interest, are just a few of the items at the auction. Did I say quilts? Some of the quilts come from the MCC Quilt Room, Ephrata, PA, others come from Canada, and local quilters as well as quilters from other states.

After the sale is over, many help with the teardown of the booths and cleanup of the grounds. Sunday there will be a special worship service in the tent (weather permitting) with guest speaker Seth Leamon, Administrative Director of the West Coast MCC. After the service there will be a light meal provided, and those who need to leave can have their meal "to go." The tent comes down and things are packed away for next year's Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale.

For the latest information and pictures of some of the auction items and quilts, go to MCA's website at: www.mennonitecountryauction.mennonite.net or google Mennonite Country Auction. Call Menno Church at 509-659-0926 or 509-347-6847 or email the church at: mennopastor@scml.us for more information or questions.



37th Annual Mennonite Auction & Relief Sale

Saturday, October 4th
Menno Mennonite Church Grounds

Breakfast 7 - 9 am
Booths Open 10:00 am
Auction Starts 12:00 Noon

Free Admission & Parking
RV Parking (No Hookup)

(509) 659-0926

1378 N. Damon Rd, Ritzville, WA 99169
www.mennonitecountryauction.mennonite.net

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Ritzville, WA 99169

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Liberty Quartet Performs at Menno

By Bill Dyck

It was a nice evening September 6 at Menno Church, for the evening performance of the Liberty Quartet from Boise, ID. As the crowd started gathering, a bus load from the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Moses Lake, WA arrived. By concert time, the sanctuary was almost full. After the first song, the Hutterite ladies filled the rest of the sanctuary. There were 139 in attendance.

Liberty Quartet consists of Royce Mitchell, bass, Philip Batton, tenor, Doug Wiley, lead/baritone and Paul Ellis, baritone/lead. They tour throughout the west coast. Royce started Liberty Quartet and has been going on the road since 1996, 18 years. They are a traditional Southern Gospel Quartet. You can get more information about them by going to their website: www.libertyquartet.com

About 20 minutes into the concert, Liberty was singing, when their PA system quit so they finished the song a cappella. While the PA was being fixed, Royce had the Hutterite ladies sing a few songs, one in German. It was noted by many that they used their cellphones to see the words to one song they sang!

After over 1-1/2 hrs. of singing, the evening ended with a traditional hymn (one of my favorites) Holy, Holy, Holy. A love offering was taken during the intermission for the group.

Where's the Beacon?

Recently, my husband commented that we hadn't received a Beacon in the mail in quite some time; following "the look" I gave him, he realized that he was talking to the editor and quickly dropped the subject. It's been difficult to gather submissions for the Beacon these past two years—often, calls for announcements and reports have been met with the overwhelming sound of silence (and here, a special shout-out to those like Bill Dyck who answer the call).

A year ago, I made the decision to accept Beacon submissions on a revolving basis, then publishing the Beacon once enough content had been submitted (it is much easier on an editor when she only needs to provide filler content instead of 3-4 pages of content). Obviously, this method has been unsuccessful. Perhaps now is the time to discuss what it means to produce a newsletter in a very connected age, and how does such a newsletter stay relevant when social media allows us to share in real time? Additionally, there are privacy concerns to consider. If you'd care to join in this discussion, find the Menno Beacon group on Facebook (it's a closed group so you have to search for it and then request to join), and share your thoughts.



Welcome Baby!

Pastor Mathew and Shawna Yoder are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Wren Abilene, on June 21. She arrived at 12:55 a.m. and was 8 lbs 5 oz and 20.5 in long. She is happy, healthy, and growing fast!

The *Menno Beacon* is published at the whim of the editor and submissions to the *Beacon* are now accepted on a rolling basis. Publication will occur once the editor has received enough content. Any address corrections, additions, or deletions can be sent to: **Menno Mennonite Church – 1378 N. Damon Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169**, phone 509-659-0926. Web site: <http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>. If you wish to help with mailing costs of the *Beacon*, donations can be sent to the above address. Mathew Yoder pastor, email: mennopastor@scml.us, mennosecretary@scml.us, Tina Shields, publisher, and Donna Hostick, editor. You can contact Donna at: 509-585-9214 or email at: djhostick@charter.net.

The Menno Beacon now has a group page on Facebook; just search for "Menno Beacon" and request to join the group.