



The Menno-Hof Newsletter reunion



Gifts used well!

by **Jerry Beasley**

Menno-Hof executive director

Sometimes I find myself imagining what God might say to one of His followers as they pass from this world. For some I can envision Him looking down as family and friends grieve the loss and somehow communicating to the one who has passed, "its ok, welcome home!" After this comforting welcome, I can imagine God saying, "great use of the gifts I gave you" or "we need to talk about where those gifts are that I gave to you." I am convinced that God expects us to use the gifts He has distributed to us.

We treasure all of the Menno-Hof volunteers and staff and the gifts they bring in their roles here. Earlier this year we lost two individuals, **Harvey Chupp** and **Joel Kauffmann**, who used their gifts to help shape Menno-Hof into what it is today. Not only did they contribute to the birth and development of Menno-Hof, they were available as needed over the years.

Several previous Menno-Hof executive directors who had the privilege of working with both Harvey and Joel shared these thoughts:

Tim Lichti (exec. director 1988-2000): Harvey and Joel were two very close and dear friends and in the very essence of the word they
(cont. on page 3)

Learning about, from and with: a reflection on connecting with the Amish community

by Dave Stobbe, Winkler, Manitoba, Canada

My wife Candace and I volunteered as host and hostess at Menno-Hof in May of 2014 and 2015. I discovered Menno-Hof while exploring the scenic Amish countryside in and around Shippshewana during our son-in-law's doctoral studies at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

When not hosting tours at Menno-Hof, one of my favourite activities was touring the rural community with a pocket camera in search of artistic inspiration. One day I came across an Amish farmer ploughing with a team of eight horses. I quickly snapped a few pictures, put my camera away and watched the two-bottom plough fold over the lush green pasture to reveal rich, dark, soil. The sounds of plodding hooves and straining harness, and the smell of horse sweat brought back images of my father and grandfather. Sixty years ago they still kept a few work horses on our Manitoba farm which was their new home when they immigrated to Canada from the Russian Ukraine in the 1920s.

When the farmer returned to my end of the field he rested his horses and came over for a visit. Twenty minutes later, Dave and I were



getting to know each other. He was curious about my family's journey to Canada and about my Manitoba Mennonite community; he was especially interested in the Hutterite folk I have met.

A few days later I returned to check Dave's fieldwork progress and he introduced me to his 14-year-old son Joel who was cultivating with a five horse team. Dave said "I hope you don't mind, but I told an Amish bachelor just over the hill that you were from Canada and he said he'd sure like to meet you." So, off I went to meet 55-year-old Samuel who lives with his single sister, Esther, and widowed mother, Susan. We arranged for an evening get-together the next week.

Dave Stobbe guiding the work horses of an Amish friend.

cont. on page 2

Learning about, from and with (cont. from front)

When I arrived a week later, Samuel was busy with chores so I helped carry a few pails of chop to feed the calves. On the way back to the house he checked on the newly hatched bluebirds in their bird house and showed me his gas-powered sawmill and the



Wally Jansen (center) and Dave Stobbe (center right) enjoy an evening on the porch with their Amish friends while Dave plays his mandolin.

Dawdy Haus where his parents had lived. As we walked through a narrow field of emerging corn, he commented that he has sometimes sown by hand and then we checked on the budding grapevines.

In the kitchen, the four of us chatted amiably until the light faded and Samuel lit the gas lantern hanging from the ceiling. He got out his well-worn Atlas to show me the many places across North America that he has visited. We munched on popcorn and sipped a warm chocolate flavoured beverage Esther prepared from roasted Sorghum grain. I offered that in the dirty 30's my folks drank "prips," a roasted grain drink they made when money for coffee was scarce.

We compared all manner of experiences: our church calendars - Advent, Lent, Baptism, Communion; Pennsylvania Dutch and a handful of my Low German expressions. He and Esther had attended school just down the road. He described his soil and his ideas about how it originated from after "the flood." I sensed he may have been joshing a little with me on this point though?

In our second May at Menno-Hof (2015), Candace and I invited Manitoba friends, Ruth and Wally Jansen, to volunteer with us at Menno-Hof. They joined us for a few return visits to Samuel's place. It turns out that Samuel, like Wally, is an avid birder. They compared sightings and Samuel shared how he participates by telephone in a Birding Hotline that an Amish fellow maintains. Samuel and Wally compared ideas on the problematic Starling invasion. One evening Ruth and 83-year-old year old Susan chatted away as they swung high into the sunset on

an aged swing-set.

Samuel's family was also quite interested in Ruth and Wally's family journey from Russian-Ukraine through Hilter's war-torn Europe and then Paraguay enroute to Canada.

On another evening Wally and I came across an Amish family finishing off a day of haying. A young boy perched atop a loaded hayrack while his dad and grandpa made their final round collecting the green bales from the gas powered baler that their team of horses pulled. I snapped a few pictures and the boy returned my wave. A few minutes later I heard a whistle and his grandfather pointed up the road toward a place where we should meet. Once again this led to a wonderful visit.

I commented that seeing his grandson on the bales filled me with nostalgic memories of my childhood. At his invitation I clambered up beside Alvin and without hesitation he handed me the reins as the team pulled the load to the hayshed. After he unhitched the team, I guided the 1,800-pound Belgians to the barn. I appreciated a few helpful pointers from the 9-year-old boy but I tried to ignore the quiet giggles of his barefoot and bonneted sisters.

Alvin commented that he had never been to Menno-Hof, so we set a date for a visit. Just after supper a few days later, two buggies arrived carrying his wife, son, daughter-in-law and seven grandchildren. I gave them a personal tour and they were quite observant. The woman were very interested in the design details of the century-old dresses that hang in a corner of the Dirk Willems display area.

These are just a few of the many wonderful encounters I had with the area Amish community. In our last week we visited three Amish homes. I took my mandolin and fiddle along and played a few tunes. One extended family group sang "The Parting Song" for us in Pennsylvania Dutch before we left.

Through all of this I've learned a few things about how to interact with these fine folk. Reading Donald B. Kraybill's work has helped me be a more "informed" visitor. I love maps and found that exploring the Indiana Amish Directory in Susan's office allowed me to appreciate their lives a little better. (cont. on page 3)

by the numbers

4 buses of visitors from Jayco Australia on July 1!

2,980 visitors in June and

3,216 visitors in July.

944,267 visitors to-date (since Menno-Hof opened in 1988.)

"We absolutely loved this place! We were so inspired by the martyrs that gave their lives."

—recent online review

7th Annual Singspiration

Sunday, September 13, 5 p.m.

Come and enjoy a cappella singing of familiar hymns on the Menno-Hof lawn in the traditions of the Amish Church, Amish Mennonite Church, Conservative Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church USA. There will be ice cream and pretzels and more singing inside following the worship service. **Bring lawn chairs for seating.** Rain location: Farmstead Inn pavilion, Shipshewana (just north of Menno-Hof)



Gifts used well! (cont. from cover)

were true collaborators and I will always celebrate the times we saw Jesus in the midst of our busy-ness. They served their calling well and I was not ready to lose them.

Harvey's development of a slide show and lecture series in the 1970s, that he presented at Shore Mennonite to area tourists, provided many opportunities to discover what people were curious about. As Harvey began to experience voice difficulties, I joined the presentation by giving the church history section and he showed the slides about the Amish. In my memory, we made an excellent team. We seldom disagreed, it seemed like we were always on the same page which, given our growing up years, should never have been the case. We found many times to laugh and occasionally to cry together. Harvey's visibility in the community gave credibility towards the movement of the creation of an Amish-Mennonite visitor center which was something this young minister from California (myself) had not yet achieved. The slide show presentation became the outline for the

program at Menno-Hof. Ours was a pastoral vision for Menno-Hof that witnessed to the tourist but also reminded the Amish and Mennonites of the calling we had received.

When I tapped Joel for the work at Menno-Hof, he needed to be convinced. He was in the middle of moving a script into a movie (*The Radicals*) and was already producing cartoons for many different publications. It was Joel's work ethic that kept the group of Menno-Hof volunteers moving forward by writing piece after piece and giving us a sense of possibility. His sense of humor, his laughter and his loyalty made it possible for us to hear and be challenged. The seriousness of his convictions were never in doubt as we doubled over with laughter.

Joe Yoder (exec. director 2001-2008 and 2009-2010): In 2001, shortly after being hired as executive director of Menno-Hof, I went to meet Harvey Chupp. From that point until my last visit shortly before he died, Harvey was my friend and mentor. I learned so much from him. He was a man of great passion and love for Christ and the church. (cont. on back)

Thanks to the **LaGrange County Community Foundation, Inc.,** for the annual Menno-Hof Endowment Fund grant which helped cover several unanticipated expenses.

Beginnings & endings hosts & hostesses

Lawrence & Marilyn Martin

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada | Sept.

Fred Tillery

Sept. - Dec.

Lorne & Hilda Epp

Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada

Oct. - Nov.

May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven & earth. | Psalm 115:15

Wish List

~4-wheeled wagon for gardening

~2) 8 ft. banquet tables

Learning about, from and with (cont. from page 2)

For example I learned whose fathers were bishops or ministers, where their schools were located and where some of their extended family lives. Mostly, I have learned that the Amish are much like me; they enjoy a genuine two-way conversation—with some good hearted laughter thrown in. David Smith in *Learning from the Stranger* suggests that as we get to know new people we can move from “learning about, to learning from and finally, to learning with.” In many of our visits we uncovered areas of commonality. An attitude of mutuality and good listening go a long way to helping with this.

No doubt Dave, Joel, Samuel, Esther, Susan, Alvin, John, Joanne, Carrie and Perry—are telling their own stories about “those interesting Mennonites from Canada.” Perhaps our visit will even be mentioned in *The Budget*. We look forward to a return visit to Menno-Hof next fall. And I wouldn't be surprised if in the meantime Samuel calls to say he's coming by for a tour of my Manitoba neighbourhood.

Dave and Candace live in Winkler, Manitoba, Canada, and attend Covenant Mennonite Church. They have three children and three grandchildren.



Dave Stobbe trying on hats in the Menno-Hof Amish Room.

DIRECTOR'S DESK



Jerry Beasley
executive director

Gifts used well! (cont. from page 3)
As a Mennonite, Harvey represented well the distinctives of a true Anabaptist: peace, service and evangelism. It was precisely this passion that made Menno-Hof a reality. The influence of Harvey's life will never die.

During my time as director, I was also privileged to work with Joel Kauffmann on two newer venues: the Dirk Willems display and the Amish room. Joel had an amazing sense of humor along with a brilliant and creative mind. I recall a Monday morning when Joel came to work on the Willems project and he had the entire display drawn up on a piece of scrap paper. He grinned when he told me "this idea came up during yesterday's sermon and I didn't

want to forget it." It was perfect—we used it. God used Joel Kauffmann in a remarkable manner in his short journey on earth. His influence will live on for ages to come.

Oliver Yutzey (*interim exec. director 2000-2001*): I did not have the privilege of working closely with Joel and Harvey but I did work with the projects and materials they created for Menno-Hof. Harvey had a passion for telling the Anabaptist story and relating it to present day Amish and Mennonites. I understand Joel did most of the audio and written material development. These materials continue to bring together an effective presentation and view of the Amish, Mennonites and Hutterites for visitors today.

I (Jerry) also had the privilege of knowing and working with both Harvey and Joel here at Menno-Hof and will simply say "Amen" to these acknowledgements of talents and passions. Although we are saddened by their loss, (cont. below)



MENNO-HOF

AMISH-MENNONITE VISITORS' CENTER

P.O. Box 701

Shipshewana, Indiana 46565

*See and Hear
the Amish-Mennonite Story*

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SHIPSHEWANA, IN
46565
PERMIT NO 17

Reunion is published quarterly to keep our friends informed of happenings at Menno-Hof. Send questions or comments to director at info@mennohof.org

Menno-Hof Amish-Mennonite Visitors' Center

PO Box 701
510 S Van Buren St, SR 5
Shipshewana, IN 46565
Tele: (260) 768-4117
Fax: (260) 768-4118
E-mail: info@mennohof.org
Web site: www.mennohof.org

Hours:

Monday—Saturday: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Summer hours (June, July, August)

Monday—Friday: 10 a.m.—7 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Menno-Hof staff:

Jerry Beasley, executive director
Susan Miller, managing director
Charlotte Long, program and communication associate
Don Miller, facility and grounds associate

Board of Directors:

Larry Chupp, president, Shipshewana, Ind.
Lovina Rutt, vice-president, Goshen, Ind.
Dorothy Hostetler, Shipshewana, Ind.
Donna Jones, Shipshewana, Ind.
Orie E. Lehman, Shipshewana, Ind.
Daniel B. Miller, Goshen, Ind.
Jim Neff, Goshen, Ind.
Wayne Schrock, Millersburg, Ind.
Don Stauffer, Union, Mich.
Alvin J. Yoder, Shipshewana, Ind.
Fern Yoder, Millersburg, Ind.

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 (cont. from above)

we are confident they have moved on towards the destination Christians hope for, a heavenly presence with our God. May God bless the families and loved ones left behind.

Harvey Chupp, 77, Shipshewana, Ind., passed away Feb. 13, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, three children and seven grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Shore Mennonite Church.

Joel Kauffmann, 64, Goshen, Ind., passed away May 8, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, two sons and one granddaughter. A memorial service was held at College Mennonite Church.

Because of Harvey's and Joel's involvement with Menno-Hof, both the Chupp and Kauffmann families named Menno-Hof as one place to send memorial contributions. If you would like to make a gift in honor of Harvey or Joel, please send it to: Menno-Hof: PO Box 701, Shipshewana, Ind. 46565