fruits of the fellowship

musings and news from a Mennonite congregation October 2008

Gone for the Summer

by Jessica Fridley

Instead of working, taking classes, or going on vacation I did a combination of everything. I went on SST (Study Service Term) to Nicaragua for twelve weeks. For six weeks I was studying the culture and history of Nicaragua along with improving my Spanish language skills in the classroom. I was staying with a Nicaraguan family during the week and traveling with a group of 23 Goshen College students to a variety of weekend trips to important parts of Nicaragua; cities, farms, national parks, etcetera. It was a wonderful learning experience with weekly quizzes included.

Eventually we were all deemed ready and packed our bags to go on the service part of SST. We went off to different parts of Nicaragua alone or with one or two other people. Though we were all on the same side (west) of Nicaragua the type of location varied from the muddy campo (countryside) to the out-skirts of cities to small towns and everywhere in-between. I did my work part of the summer in the hot campo near the city of Leon. Though it was called service and I didn't get paid for what I did it sure felt like work digging holes and planting trees every morning.

For more information on the general overlook and a large amount of pictures of SST Nicaragua go to www.goshen.edu/sst/nica2008

Random Nicaragua Information

- This summer was the first time that Goshen has sent a group to Nicaragua for SST since the late 1960's
- There are two other Fellowship of Hope members that have gone to Nicaragua for SST
- Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Americas (Haiti is the poorest)
- Nicaragua has a split history due to the East Coast being settled by England and the West Coast by Spain; this history affects the culture, language, and government on both sides of the country
- In the 1970's the United States accused Nicaragua of being a communist state though it was actually more of a socialist government
- Nicaragua is know for growing great tasting coffee but most Nicaraguans are unable to buy their own coffee and use instant coffee

Fellowship Retreat

August 30 and Sept. 1

Hope you were able to attend this retreat, an annual affair. There is always next year if you missed it. There were approximately 30 adults and children present throughout the weekend at different times.

Sat. afternoon Jonathan and Julie led us in some games including the elephant, monkey and mosquito game & then, the most popular "Pass the Banana game." If you missed it ask Barb Fridly what she did with her banana. Sylvie's feet were made for this one.

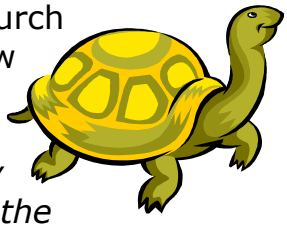
Saturday evening Dave led us in a time of looking at a time-line of Fellowship of Hope which included pictures. We then made our own time-line depicting ways we felt God was speaking to us or involved in our lives in significant ways. This was followed with board and card games, such as Dutch Blitz, Cranium, etc.

Throughout the meals and different events, Roller Derby A.J. Weaver entertained us whizzing around. Sunday morning outdoor worship included skits depicting different Bible passages.

After a wonderful lunch some still got in hiking or swimming! Any guesses how many biked both ways? -Cindy Janzen

Answer the question

When the congregation was asked "What has been your favorite memory for church retreats?" this is how they answered:



Watching baby turtles come out of the ground and skitter towards the water. And it happened 2 years in a row. –Barb Fridley

My favorite memory from a Fellowship of Hope Church Retreat is singing beautiful hymns together after lighting candles and setting them adrift into the water around the dock. I remember that Keith and Gretchen Kingsley were there, and Keith may have begun the song everyone sang together--clearly a hymn very familiar and meaningful to the Fellowship of Hope community. More than the words of the song, I remember thinking to myself how grateful I was to be in the midst of a community with so much faith, that I could sing boldly with them about a Christ and God about whom I have many questions, and know that their faith was strong enough to hold and carry me

during my times of weakness and doubt. Pauline Thompson

...being rambunctious kids and throwing oranges on the ceiling fans at camp amigo. They sliced up the oranges and put juice on the walls. The excitement is that we didn't know where the fan was going to throw the orange. I had a great time hanging out with the old gang (Tony, Simeon, Chris W., Adam, Sohars, etc.) -Ben Graber

gang (Tony, Simeon, Chris W., Adam, Sohars, etc.) -Ben Graber

Community Opportunities

Volunteers needed for home care My wife and I are members of Church Without Walls. My wife Louise is currently at an assisted living facility in Indianapolis. Upon her return home we will need volunteers to assist her with daily routines. Louise will need someone who will provide in-home assistance that includes:

- Training (certification) for a ventricular heart device; training will be from the nursing staff by phone and on-hands training will be provided by myself.
- Personal hygiene (lifting) Louise in and out of her wheelchair, and going to restroom Volunteers are needed Monday thru Friday 2:15 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. in shifts; more information regarding the times will be available. I will need volunteers from September thru mid January to (sign up). Currently there are no capable assisted living facilities trained in Elkhart for VAD patients. If you are interested, please contact me at (574) 294-7149 home, (574) 329-6344 cell. Sincerely, Henry Griffin

Eric Kanagy, president of **Downtown Goshen, Inc**., and others will give an up-to-date look at what is happening to Goshen's historic downtown at the Goshen College Afternoon Sabbatical on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. What and who are the forces behind the great changes that we are seeing downtown? From the facade program to First Fridays to entrepreneurial vision, Goshen is a

"City on the ˝Go" being talked about throughout Michiana.

Christian author Philip Yancey will be the keynote speaker at the **2008 Mennonite Economic Development Associates** (MEDA) convention -- **"Business as a Calling: Dividends of Hope"** -- **Nov. 6–9** in Columbus, Ohio. The full-time rate for pastors/spouses is $349. A special rate of $99 for the Thursday dessert/plenary session, Friday breakfast and seminars is available to Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana pastors/spouses. See **www.businessasacalling.org** or call 717 560-6546.

Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series: "Digital Discipleship: Forming Faith in an Electronic Culture." Nov. 7–9 at **Hesston (Kan.) College.** Speaker: Shane Hipps, pastor of Trinity Mennonite, Glendale, Ariz. To learn more, see **www.Hesston.edu/AVDS** online or contact Michele Hershberger: 620 327-8292 or **micheleh@hesston.edu**

New Wine/New Wineskins -- Mennonite Central Committee's international discernment process -- will hold a regional gathering on **Saturday, Nov. 15, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.** at Clinton Frame Mennonite, Goshen, Ind. For details about the process, see **mcc.org/newwineskins**. Please RSVP to **GreatLakesOffice@mcc.org** by Oct. 27 (lunch is included).

Interested in biking to Convention 2009 in Columbus? Some youth from Sunnyside Mennonite in Elkhart, Ind., are interested in biking to Columbus this summer, and their sponsor is willing to help organize the trip, preferably with another Mennonite Youth Fellowship group and other leaders who have experience in longer bike trips. If you'd like to explore this option together with Sunnyside, contact Amy Kratzer: 574 534-8268 or **amykratzer@yahoo.com**