



AAMA/ LARK NEWS



Spring Edition

April 2009

A Plan to Together Provide Health Care for Pastors and Church Workers

The **Corinthian Plan** is an investment in the health and the health care of Mennonite Church USA pastors and other church leaders.

This plan is more than simply health coverage for our leaders; it brings us together to ensure that:

- All eligible pastors and church workers would have access to health coverage.
- No one is discriminated against for having health or financial problems.
- Pastors can move from one congregation to another in Mennonite Church USA and continue to have health coverage.

The **Corinthian Plan** offers all congregations the opportunity to share in the giving and receiving of resources, just as Paul urged the sharing of resources in 2 Corinthians 8:14, *"It is a question of a fair balance between your abundance and their need."*

More information is available at
www.mennoniteusa.org/corinthianplan.

The Testimonial of Juanita & Eligio Nuñez follows:



Photo by Jaime Velasco for Mennonite Church USA

A LIFE INVESTMENT

Juanita Nuñez, moderator of *Iglesia Menonita Hispania*, and her husband, **Eligio**, were fortunate to escape serious injury in a December 2006 car accident. But the experience brought them face-to-face with their vulnerability.

The couple doesn't currently have health insurance. The main reason for going without coverage is due to the financial situation of the congregation they co-pastor, the Ebenezer Christian Church in Apopka, Fla.

"Even though we have 80 members, some of our people are low-income," explains Juanita. *"They have a hard time paying for coverage."*

Juanita and Eligio try to live healthy lives. For the past 25 years, they've gone to a community health clinic that bills patients according to income.

"We try to get our regular check-ups done, and we go to the dentist every year," says Juanita. *"We take care of ourselves."*

But even those who are responsible stewards of their gift of health can find themselves in unforeseen situations, like the Nuñez's car accident. Juanita believes the Corinthian Plan is vitally important because many Hispanic and other ethnic leaders in the denomination don't have insurance.

"We work hard for the church and the Kingdom, and we invest our lives in the ministry," says Juanita. *"This is a great opportunity for pastors to get coverage."*

Mennonite Church USA, April 2009

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BREATHE IN AND STEP OUT AT CONVENTION 2009

For the first time, the Mennonite Church USA Convention will host a **step competition**. If your youth group has a step team or would like to create one, listen up!



Our 2009 competition will be at **9:30 p.m., Thursday, July 2nd** in the *Convention Center Recreation Hall (Hall F)*.

We look forward to seeing your talents and naming the first-ever **Mennonite Church USA step competition winner**. Our first-place team will receive a trophy, many new fans and a feature story in the daily Convention 2009 newspaper, *MPress*.

“Step up” today and e-mail your team’s information to *Rachel Swartzendruber Miller* at **RachelSM@MennoniteUSA.org** if you want to sign up. Include your team’s name, number of participants, congregation’s name and address and your contact information. The deadline for entry is **May 22**. If you don’t have e-mail access, call **1-866-866-2872** and ask for Rachel Swartzendruber Miller. Please be sure your team’s chants, music or beats include only appropriate language. *Music is not required.*

HINT: Teams who incorporate our Convention 2009 theme of “Breathe and be filled” somewhere/how in their routine might receive extra points.

Get creative!

Convention Chronicle, March 2009, p. 6

COLUMBUS 2009 AAMA Gathering

AAMA will sponsor a gathering on **Wednesday, July 1st** during the Columbus 2009 convention. The gathering will take place at **7:00 p.m.** Please check your Columbus program book for the location.

Columbus 2009’s theme is, *“Breathe and be Filled,”* based on **John 20:21-22**.

More information is available online at **www.mennoniteusa.org/convention** or by calling **1-866-866-2872** (*ask for Convention Planning*).

The **early registration rate deadline** is **April 30, 2009**.
We hope to see you there!

LARK LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Lark Leadership Scholarship Program seeks to enhance the ministry and church leadership skills of persons serving as leaders in African American Mennonite Association churches. AAMA church leaders are eligible to apply for financial assistance to enroll in college-level courses which will enhance their ministry skills.

The following criteria applies for benefiting from such AAMA programs as the Lark Scholarship program:

- (1) active involvement in AAMA including sending delegates to the AAMA Biennial Assembly;
- (2) contributing annually to AAMA;
- and (3) designating an active AAMA advocate.

Applications for the *Lark Leadership Scholarship* program may be downloaded from

www.aamamcusa.org

(click on the Lark tab)

and mailed to:

Mennonite Education Agency
63846 CR 35 • Suite 1
Goshen, IN 46528