

Pilgrim's Hostel

One morning as I awoke the idea came to me. Taking only about ten steps from the bed this concept literally popped into my head. Ohio Conference has been a very active and Christ centered community in the history of Mennonite Church. As in Pilgrim's Progress, many people have worked hard to serve their church communities and their families to glorify Christ Jesus while on their pilgrimage through life. Wouldn't it be nice to have a place to honor these people? I had never given it one second of thought prior to this. At the same time I knew that OMW had supported Camp Luz for many years in many ways and Camp Luz is home for our Girl's Jamboree and our Women's Retreats. When asked in our retreat evaluation if they would like to change the location, the women tell us that they want to stay at Camp Luz.

After having given this idea some thought, I spoke with Deb Horst, Camp Luz Director. She told me that it had long been her desire to have a place, located near the prayer labyrinth, where campers and visitors could sit, reflect and meditate in a simple, quiet, peaceful surroundings. A place of comfort and rest. What better place than a rustic shelter which enclosed a wall with the names of people throughout Ohio Conference, who mentored, encouraged, taught, served and blessed their church communities and Ohio Conference. These people could be from years past or the present day. These people could be relatives, neighbors, teachers, pastors, or friends. They could be anybody who in some way inspired you, encouraged you, mentored you or supported you at some point in your pilgrimage. Ohio Mennonite Women with the blessings of Mennonite Men, Camp Luz Board of Directors, and Ohio Conference Leadership is undertaking such a project.

The plans are being drawn, a team is being put together to help with the construction. A wall is being planned and thoughtfully designed which will hold the names of people, male or female, throughout the conference that are being honored for simply being there for somebody. The vision for this wall is for it to have a border with a quilt design. Why a quilt? Quilts are very much a Mennonite tradition. Quilts represent the piecing together of many patterns, colors, and shapes into one beautiful piece of warmth and comfort. This will be a place where a person can feel the shelter of God's warmth and comforting arms and actually see the names of people who have in some way cared for their sisters or brothers in Christ while on their pilgrimage.

Prayers are being offered in support of this project.

Of course, this is going to take funding.

We have determined that a minimum donation of \$25.00 would put one name on a plaque on the wall.

Other donations towards building materials and volunteer help offered in the construction would also be appreciated. A date will be set for the construction sometime this summer. We will keep you posted as the project comes together. We would like to have it finished and have a dedication in September at our Women's Fall Retreat.

In the meantime we ask for your prayers in this endeavor. It is exciting and I know it is of God. We hope that all of Ohio Conference will benefit from this.

Thank you,

Ohio Mennonite Executive Board

Wall of Comfort

The Wall of Comfort is a place where people throughout Ohio Mennonite Conference can be honored for their faith, service, care, work and support of their church, family members and their communities.

You may honor them by donating to the Wall of Comfort which will hold a plaque on which the name of that person has been engraved.

As visitors and campers come to Camp Luz and walk through the Prayer Labyrinth he/she will be able to stop at the shelter where the Wall of Comfort is on display. They can read the names of those who have lived their faith and receive the encouragement, strength and abilities to continue his/her own faith journey by reflecting, praying or meditating on what these people did on their faith journeys to make them memorable servants of Christ to others.

If you would like to honor someone by placing their name on the Wall of Comfort please fill out the bottom section of this paper and return along with your check made payable to :

Ohio Mennonite Women

For questions, please call

Edna Troyer, Treasurer, OMW

Jean Emery, 330-494-1914

230 Montrose Way

Wellington, Ohio 44090

I/We _____ from _____
(Please print your name and phone#) (Church)

Wish to have a plaque placed on the wall in honor of:

(Name)

(Church this person attended)

Donation _____ (a minimum of \$25.00 per name please)

Please feel free to write a short paragraph about this person and how they gave encouragement to you.

