

IN TOUCH



Autumn has arrived and everyone's fancy lightly turns to... meat canning! The 2016 MCC Canning for Relief is scheduled for October 15, 17 & 18 at the Gerber Center, located behind Central Christian School in Kidron. The project is now in its 78th year of operation in Wayne County. Brand new, as of last year, is a replacement cannery truck, retiring the rig built in 1993 that was in need of regulatory upgrades. The kinks have now been worked out, so we are excited to move ahead with canning 5,000 additional lbs. of turkey meat this year over last year (a total of 30,000 lbs.) to address the ever increasing need of nutritious, safe, high quality protein for many of the world's most vulnerable peoples suffering from effects of war, natural disasters, and malnutrition. Last year shipments of canned meat were sent to Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti, Uganda, Ukraine, North Korea, and Zambia among others. Some cans remained in the area and were distributed to area widows and soup kitchens/food banks.

The work begins each day at 4:55 a.m. and concludes around 8:00-9:00 p.m. Due to the increased amount of meat to be canned, there will be three full days of work. There is a special need for help on Saturday so we can finish up on time on Tuesday. Volunteers are welcome to come and go throughout the day as their schedule permits; meals and snacks are provided by local churches and area businesses. There is something for everyone to do including cutting and grinding turkey meat, working the canning line, and drying, labeling & boxing cans. There is also canning floor set-up & cleanup. Note to Jeff and our Axis Youth Group members: there is a special call out to youth groups to help this year; a time can be scheduled with Jess Hamman 330-464-3725.

Again this year, happening concurrently with the meat canning, is the partnership with "Manna for Many, an Anabaptist Mission". This local ministry bags dried soup for distribution locally and abroad with CAM-Christian Aid Ministries. Come check it out!

For more information on the broader bi-national MCC Meat Canning ministry follow this link: <https://mcc.org/media/resources/4179>

We will be collecting the money saved throughout the last year in your "MCC Meat Canning piggy bank cans" on September 11th & again on September 18th. One carton containing 24 cans of processed turkey meat can be sponsored for \$90.

~ Marcia Lewandowski, Missions Communicator

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Bill's Buzz

Grow Groups Have Arrived!

Over the past 6 months, you may have heard occasional mention, promise almost, of little groups called Grow Groups. Over the past 6 weeks, they have been mentioned even more and this past Sunday, September 11, we had a kick off meal and Grow Group demonstration time. Thirty eight people attended the demonstration and thirty four expressed interest in being a part of a Grow Group. Kids were also participating in the demonstration and those who were there are also willing to be part of a group. For all of this, I thank the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Grow Groups are groups of three to five people who commit to Scripture, Listening, and Prayer for each other. The purpose is to grow in community and discipleship. This happens through accountability to Scripture, listening, and prayer along with accountability for transformation. Each group is encouraged to seek others who don't yet know Jesus and to become two groups when they regularly have six people in their group. There are cards available by the mailboxes and in the back of the Sanctuary that contain the Grow Group process as well as sign ups sheets in both locations.

There are four ways to join a Grow Group.

1. Sign up and ask us to place you in a group
2. Find your own group to participate in
3. Be a Gatherer and create a group
4. Be asked by a Gatherer to join their group

Any way you get in or form a group, please let us know so we may encourage you. Marilyn Kamp and I are the point people for overseeing Grow Groups.

Of the thirty four people who have signed up, almost everyone asked for us to place them in a group. Two started a group and three volunteered to be gatherers. A gatherer is someone who is willing to create a group and lead it. Danae King, Jeff Fisher, and Marilyn Kamp will recruit people for their groups.

We will have a second Grow Group demonstration on September 25, again during Sunday School. At this gathering, we will put together groups with the people who have signed up.

We will have a meal together on December 11 to hear stories of how Grow Groups are going and to celebrate how God is moving. Enjoy God's incomparably great power TOGETHER.

Let's walk together in the love of Jesus!

In Christ,



Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary sent a letter thanking Orrville Mennonite Church for providing a scholarship for seminary student, Bishop Amos Joseph Muhagachi from Tanzania. Along with the letter of thanks came information about him.* He is pursuing a Master of Arts in Peace Studies with a Conflict Transformation concentration. He is a Bishop in the Tanzania Mennonite Church and Director of the Tanzania Peacebuilding Initiative. His family includes his wife, Esther and four children: Violet (22), Victor (20), Grace (18) and Peace (14). On pursuing a degree at AMBS: *After working in conflict situations with senior government officials and church leaders, I was feeling I needed to look for a place where I could receive training in peace studies. When I return to Tanzania, my work as director of the Tanzania Peacebuilding Initiative will be full time, and I have already gotten the blessing for this work from the Tanzania Mennonite Church and the Ecumenical Board of Tanzania.*

* If you would like to read the information in its entirety, it is posted on the Missions Bulletin Board.