

Calendar of Events

Fifth Term	April 15 - May 24
Missions Involvement	May 4- 5
Priority Registration Ends	May 1
Choir Tour	May 24 - 30
W.A.T.E.R.	June 24 - August 2
Family & Youth Week	Aug. 5 - 9
Staff Retreat	Sept. 13 - 14
First Term	Sept. 16 - Oct. 24
Missions Involvement	Sept. 28 - 29
Choir Tour	Oct. 25 - Nov. 1
Second Term	Nov. 4 - Dec. 12
Christian Nurture Conference	Nov. 15 - 17
Choir Tour	Dec. 13 - 20

Fourth Term Tour

April 5, 7:00	Pilgrim Christian Fellowship, <i>Stuarts Draft, VA</i>
April 6,	Travel, Rest, and Sightseeing
April 7, 9:00am.	Zion Christian Fellowship, <i>Lebanon, PA</i>
April 7, 7:00pm.	Shady Grove Christian Fellowship, <i>Mifflinburg, PA</i>
April 8, 7:30	Silver Lake Mennonite Church, <i>Perry, NY</i>
April 9 7:00	Lawrence Christian Fellowship, <i>North Lawrence, NY</i>
April 10, 7:00	Bethany Mennonite Church, <i>Bridgewater Corners, VT</i>
April 11, 7:00	Union Church of South Foxboro, <i>Foxboro, MA</i>
April 12, 1:00pm.	Doolittle Home, <i>Foxboro, MA</i>
April 13,	Travel, Rest, and Sightseeing
April 14, 6:00pm.	Appleton Baptist Church, <i>Appleton, ME</i>
April 15, 7:00	Petitcodiac Mennonite Church, <i>Petitcodiac, NY</i>
April 16,	Travel, Rest, and Sightseeing
April 17, 7:00	Bethel Mennonite Church, <i>Waterville, NS</i>
April 18, 7:00	Aylesford Baptist Church, <i>Aylesford, NS</i>
April 19,	Travel to Prince Edward Island
April 20	Sightseeing on Prince Edward Island
April 21, 10:30am.	Alexandra Baptist Church, <i>Alexandra, PE</i>
April 21, 2:00pm.	Central Christian Church, <i>Charlottetown, PE</i>
April 21, 6:30pm.	Andrews of Stratford Seniors' Residence— <i>PE</i>
April 22, 7:00pm.	Brunswick Church of the Brethren: <i>Wales Meeting House, Wales, ME</i>
April 23, 7:00pm.	Cape Cod Alliance Church, <i>Brewster, MA</i>
April 24, 7:30pm.	Fairhaven Mennonite Church, <i>Myerstown, PA</i>
April 25,	Recording by Altar of Praise Studio, <i>near Lebanon, PA</i>

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the Monitor

A Defense of Nonresistance

By Daniel Yoder

An “Apologia” for Being a Conscientious Objector

“We want to understand the biblical basis for nonresistance, including why God allowed warfare in the Old Testament and not in the New Testament!” This was in essence what the nine ladies and eight men gave as the reason for wanting to study nonresistance in the Peace and Simple Life course offered during the third term 2013 here at SMBI.

After wrestling intensely with why God allowed, yes, even commanded, warfare under the old covenant and looking at the New Testament basis for nonresistance, the students were required to write a defense paper for being a conscientious objector. The students were to imagine making their defense for Biblical nonresistance before a tribunal of military generals. The following is one of those defense papers written by Daniel Yoder from Westcliffe, Co.

-Wayne Schrock, Catlett, VA-

In reflecting on why I am a conscientious objector, I determined that my convictions about non-involvement in warfare are grounded in my understanding of the Bible. My position has also been influenced by the historical position of my faith tradition. Before explaining my position in more detail, I want to make it clear that I am a follower of Jesus Christ and that I am committed to living my life in obedience to his teachings. My status as a conscientious objector is not based on social, humanitarian, or political concerns, but rather is determined by the fact that nonresistance is clearly taught by Jesus. I am not a conscientious objector because I am unwilling to serve my fellow man or because I am afraid of death. On the contrary, I am willing both to serve mankind and to lay down my

life. However, I want to do both of those out of love, and not out of hatred or violence.

Jesus taught his followers to not resist evil or retaliate when they are mistreated. When I read Jesus’ teachings, I understand that he is commanding his followers to not engage in any sort of violence or warfare. For example, Jesus said, “Do not resist evil” and “Love your enemies.” I believe that Jesus meant everything he said. I personally do not see how to understand those words of his in such a way that would permit a follower of Jesus to serve in the military.

Jesus also taught about the Kingdom of God. He made it clear that his Kingdom is not of this world. Therefore, citizens of his Kingdom are called to live by a different standard than the citizens of the nations of this world. The governments of this world serve a different function than the Christian community and have been authorized by God to use methods such as physical force to accomplish their purposes. However, the use of force is not an option for the person who is seeking to be a citizen of the Kingdom that Jesus announced.

The Bible also speaks about the sanctity of human life. Mankind is presented as having been created in God’s image and God is presented as the giver of human life and the only one with the authority to take away that life. My responsibility as a Christian is to love my fellowman (including my enemies), recognize that they are made in the image of God, and seek to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. The Gospel of Jesus is a Gospel of Peace, and is the only way for man to experience true peace. The peace that is brought about by the military is at best an external peace. However, Jesus offers internal peace, and as a follower of Jesus my work is to share the peace of heart that he has made available. As I mentioned earlier, I am willing to serve my fellow man. One of the most effective ways for me to do that type of service is to find

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~ Births ~

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Tim & Katie (Koop) Croft

~Amelia Rose

Kevin & Rhonda (Shaffer) Benito

~Kristopher Randall

Larry & Karla (Mullet) Beiler

~Kendrick Bryant

(Continued from page 1)

ways to share the Gospel with people, and thereby enable them to be reconciled with God and with each other.

An additional reason for my position as a conscientious objector comes from my reading of church history. The earliest Christians (in the first 150 years after the life of Jesus) believed that the use of force was not an option for the Christian. That was their understanding of the words of Jesus. At times throughout history many in the Christian church have lost that understanding. However, when certain restoration groups throughout history have sought to return to the teachings of the New Testament, they also have arrived at similar conclusions. One of the best known of those examples is the Anabaptists. When the Anabaptists began nearly five hundred years ago, they determined that the New Testament did not permit them to resist evil or mistreat their enemies in any way. Historically, the Anabaptists have maintained that position. I am now an Anabaptist, and my personal study of the Bible has led me to the same conclusion that many Christians throughout the centuries, including the Anabaptists, have claimed.

My conviction as a conscientious objector leads to my understanding that I cannot serve in the military. However, that conviction also affects my life in other ways. For example, I do not play video games (many of which are very violent), participate in sports such as paintball, or watch movies with excessive violence. I have never learned any type of self-defense, such as karate or boxing. I do not participate in protests, strikes, or pickets. It is my goal for my life to be consistent with my convictions as a conscientious objector. My conviction is definitely my own- I am not a conscientious objector simply because other people have been, although I do find confidence in the fact that many other Christians also hold similar beliefs. Ultimately, my conviction to be a conscientious objector rests in the words and example of Jesus Christ, the Jesus who came to announce peace, model peace, and enable us to experience true peace.

We have room for more students & families to enroll in 5th term, 2013 and our summer WATER program.

Our new 2013-2014 catalogs/handbooks are now available. Contact your local church or call/email SMBI for more info or a catalog.

2013 Ministers Week Sessions CDs are being reproduced and available to buy. Please contact the office or Elijah Yoder if you would like a copy.

We are working on updating our address database, especially churches, so if you would like to add or delete your address or church, please let us know and we will make those changes for you.



NYC- Missions Involvement



We are grateful to Kevin & Krista Yoder and their daughter, Hope for giving of their lives and talents as Assistant Administrator, Instructor, and Choir Director the past 2 1/2 years. They have relocated to Abbeville, SC and will be greatly missed.



Benjamin & Ann Good (Warsaw, NY) with their children, Gloria, Leon, and Cassie have consented to fill these positions and are doing a wonderful job. We are thankful for their willingness and sacrifice.

W.A.T.E.R. ~

June 24 - August 2, 2013

World Awareness Training In Evangelistic Responsibility

We welcome you to join us for a week of training at SMBI and then join a mission team in the U.S., Mexico, Belize, Grenada, Haiti, Bangladesh, Liberia, Southeast Asia, & more for 4 1/2 weeks in ministry. There are over 25 locations to choose from. Come prepared to bless and be blessed.

Family Week ~ August 5 - 9, 2013

Family and Youth Week provides classes for parents, grandparents, youth, and children. This is a dynamic, relaxing time for families to connect with each other while attending stimulating classes. Children's Institute (ages 6 - 12) and Child Care (ages 5 and under) will provide activities for the children during classes. Contact the institute for a brochure or further information.

Ministers' Week ~ February 17-21, 2014

This week is designed to help church leaders practically apply doctrinal teachings to the body life of their local churches. The classes are designed for those in leadership and their wives, but we welcome anyone who has a desire to study the Word of God. Brochures are available in mid-November 2013.

Facilities Availability

The SMBI facilities are available during the summer for reunions, family gatherings, seminars, etc. At this time, we have June and July weekdays open but no weekends. Please contact the SMBI office for details and available dates.

~ Weddings ~

Dave Brubacher & Janet Martin
10.20.13

Ken Eash & Heidi Ulrich
11.6.12

Kyle Brubaker & Brooke Vinar
12.29.12

Jesse Peters & Charissa Byler
1.5.13

Justin Doutrich & Esta Miller
1.26.13

Shaena Bontrager & Freeman Beachy
2.16.13

Devon Hartzler & Melissa Martin
2.16.13

DJ Troyer & Maria Yoder
3.16.13