

On the Road to Nashville

Vol.1, No.3 December 2000

Service project, servant project- What's the difference?

Well, plenty, really.

For years, we've made it a tradition at our Mennonite Youth Conventions to participate in projects aimed at meeting very specific, short-term needs in the communities surrounding the convention site.

And we'll do that again this year. Already, our assistant coordinator in Nashville, Gina Bixler, has begun contacting various local agencies to line up some projects. And, as in past years, the types of projects will include working with children, carpentry/construction, painting, yard work and cleanup work, evangelism, and food drive projects.

"We want to approach these projects with a servant heart," says Jorge Vallejos, MBM Short-Term Mission director. "We're going there to learn. We realize the contribution we will make is not a huge one. But because we are Christians, we believe that the good news must be proclaimed in both word and deed."

In other words, the emphasis is going to be on



attitude rather than action. "I'd like for participants to learn the attitude of servanthood," Bixler says. "It's not just a feel-good thing to do; rather, it's a lifestyle calling. In Nashville, it's such a fad to do service projects, but it's not driven by faith. We want faith to be the driving force for the Youth Convention projects."

The other assistant coordinator working on the Nashville projects is Jacob Nafziger of Archbold, Ohio, who will help line up the on-site coordinators who will be needed to make the projects run smoothly. If you would like to serve as an on-site coordinator, contact the Youth Convention office.

Mennonite Youth Convention
POBox 1245, Elkhart, IN 46515-1245
219-294-7523
fax:219-293-1892
e-mail:mennyc@juno.com
web:nashville2001youth.mennonite.net



Servant Projects



When?

Servant Projects will be from 12:30 to 5 p.m. on Monday, July 2; Tuesday, July 3; Thursday, July 5 and Friday, July 6. There will not be any Servant Projects on July 4th.

Cost?

There is a \$6 charge per person to help cover transportation costs.

Kinds of opportunities available

- House building/repair
- Food bank, homeless shelter, serving food
- Yard work/cleanup work
- Work with community children
- Work with Mennonite convention children
- Environmental work
- Open to any of the above assignments

Signing-up as a group

It is our preference that your youth group talk about the kind of opportunity they would like to be a part of and sign up as a group. Only the contact sponsor should indicate first and second choices for the group on their registration form. The contact sponsor should also specify the first and second time slot preference on their registration form.

For reasons of safety and accountability it is better to keep youth and sponsors together during Servant Projects.

Servant Projects are meant to be intergenerational. If you know of adults from your congregation who will be in Nashville and are thinking about signing up for a Servant Project, encourage them to serve alongside your youth group. Don't pass up this wonderful opportunity for youth to interact with adults from your congregation!

After your youth group has signed up for a Servant Project you will receive a confirmation letter with additional information by the end of May. The letter will include the actual day of your assignment along with a brief description and name of the agency you'll be serving. The letter will also include more details about the type of work you will be involved in. You should have this information about a month before the start of the convention.

Special Project

One of the special Servant Projects you can prepare for before we arrive in Nashville is for your youth group to collect non-perishable food items and bring them with you to convention. We will receive your servant offering of food then present it to the City of Nashville.

Financial Challenge

All youth groups are encouraged to tithe from their fundraising efforts to the Nashville 2001 Scholarship Challenge. While youth groups are encouraged to raise their own funds for Nashville 2001, these tithes along with other contributed funds will be made available to assist those whose personal and congregational resources are limited. The Youth Convention office has established as a priority funds to help all youth who wish to attend this event who might not otherwise be able to go. Financial requests can be made as an individual, youth group or conference/district. All inquiries and applications for financial assistance need to be mailed to Mennonite Youth Convention, P O Box 1245, Elkhart, IN 46515-1245. You may request an application in writing, by calling 219-294-7523, or emailing a request to mennyc@juno.com. The post-mark deadline for financial assistance is Friday, March 30, 2001. You will be notified by April 20, 2001 with the amount of assistance you will be receiving.

Registration

Anyone attending any daytime sessions, whether full-time or part-time, must register. Registering early will help make your arrival and visit a more pleasant experience, save you a late registration fee, and allow time for you to receive confirmation. If necessary, you may register on arrival at the hotel/convention center, but meal packages will not be available for purchase.

Youth Registration. Participants may register on-line or by mailing registration forms to the Youth Convention office. To register on-line, see the Nashville 2001 Youth Convention website at: Nashville2001Youth.mennonite.net. All participants are encouraged to register early. Early registration, postmarked or received by April 30, 2001 will be US\$155 or CNS209 for the entire week. There is a discounted rate of US\$145 and CNS199 for registering on-line. Daily registration fees for those attending part-time will be US\$40 or CNS60. For every five youth registered, a sponsor may register at a discounted rate of US\$95 and CNS130. There is no additional discount for sponsors registering on-line. After April 30, late registration for youth or sponsors will be US\$180 or CNS246. Cost for hotel and meals are not included. Youth groups including sponsors are asked to register as a group.

Adult, young adult, and junior youth registration. Adults, young adults and junior youth are to use a separate form. Information is available from Nashville 2001, 421 South Second Street, Suite 600, Elkhart, IN, 46516-3243, 219-294-7131 or 721 Main Street, Newton, Kansas, 67114-0347, 316-283-5100. You may also find information on the web at www.Nashville2001.org or email a message to info@nashville2001.org.

Registration for infants, toddlers, children. Sponsors who are registered with the youth convention may also register their children for the Children's Convention through the Youth Convention office. You may request a registration form from the Youth Convention office or download it from the website.

Online registration

We are encouraging all youth groups to register on-line. By doing so, each youth may receive a \$10 discount on their registration. To register on-line, go to the website

<http://nashville2001youth.mennonite.net>, then go to the registration page. Once you have read the instructions, register and receive \$10.00 off your registration.

If you do not have access to the internet, there is another way to register. Registration forms have been mailed to congregations, so ask your pastor or youth sponsor for it. You may also request one from the Youth Convention office.

Each person must register individually whether registering on the internet or using paper forms. Payment must accompany all paper registrations. For those registering on the internet and whose costs are being paid as a group, choose the option "bill me later." Your contact sponsor will then be "billed" for the group. Payment for the group can then be made with a check, money order or credit card. It is important that you provide your congregation name and contact sponsor so that when we receive a payment from your congregation we can credit it to all persons in your group. If you have registrants in your group who are under 18, we must have a parent signature from each one in order to complete registration. The contact sponsor will collect signatures on one form for all on-line registrants and submit it with payment. *Your registration will not be finalized until we receive payment and the parental permission form.*

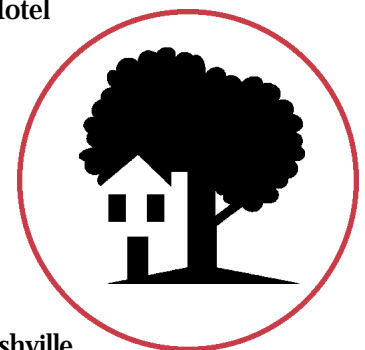
For Canadian registrants: all Canadians must pay their registration by check. We will convert your fee from Canadian dollars to U.S. dollars when deposited at the bank.

Lodging

All lodging reservations must be made directly with Opryland Hotel

by April 30, 2001. Up to four persons per room will cost US \$89.50 to US \$199.50, depending on the room type chosen. The lodging reservation form is a separate form from the registration form. The Nashville

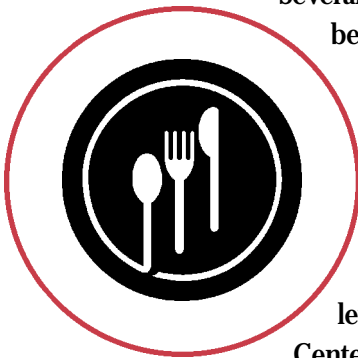
2001 Lodging Reservation Form can be faxed to 615-871-5728 or mailed to: Opryland Hotel, 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, Tennessee, 37214-1297. Or you may call the reservations phone at 615-883-2211.



All youth convention participants will be at Opryland Hotel. The Convention Center where we will meet is connected to the hotel. You may check out Opryland facilities at www.oprylandhotels.com

RV camping is available at the Opryland KOA Campground. It is approximately 2 miles north of Opryland Hotel on Music Valley Drive. Please call them directly at 615-883-9113 for more information. Shuttles will not be available for campers.

Meals



Several meal plan options will be offered. You will need to choose which option you want on the registration form. All meals will be served in Ryman Exhibit Hall B located in the lower level of the Convention

Center. The official meal pack-

et will begin with breakfast on Tuesday morning and end with breakfast on Saturday morning and costs US \$142. Requests for meal packages must be post-marked by April 30, 2001. No meal packages will be offered after that date.

Meals can be purchased individually and at your own expense at Opryland Hotel at the Delta Island Food Court, Rachel's Kitchen, Old Hickory Steakhouse, Ristorante Volare, and Cascades Restaurant. Do keep in mind that pricing does differ greatly from the meal package offered by the Youth Convention.

Local area restaurants are also available within a 15 to 30-minute walk of the hotel. Such restaurants include a food court at Opry Mills Mall with a variety of options such as with Rainforest Café, and Alabama Bar and Grill. Across Music Valley Parkway to the north are located: Bob Evans, Cock of the Walk, Cracker Barrel, McDonald's, Piccadilly Cafeteria, Santa Fe Cattle Company, Schlotzky's Deli, and Shoney's. Please keep in mind the schedule of convention events and time available before considering purchasing meals outside of our meal plans.

Refunds

Registration fee: before April 30, 2001, the Youth Convention office will provide a full refund less a US\$40 or CN\$60 per person service fee. After April 30, half the mail-in registration fee (US\$77.50 and CN\$104.50) will be refunded. After June 1, 2001 no refunds will be given for canceled registrations.

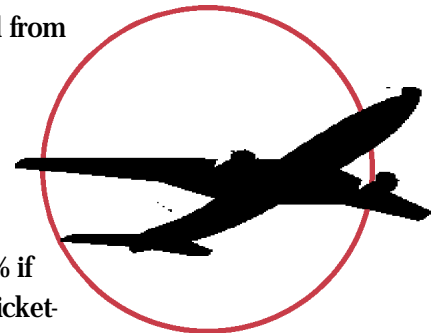
Meals: Full credit less a US\$40 or CN\$60 per person service fee if cancellation is made by April 30, 2001. No refunds will be given after April 30.

Transportation

Participants will primarily be arriving by car, bus or airplane. If you are traveling by bus or car, instructions on where to unload and park will be available as you enter Opryland Hotel. Parking will be available at the hotel at no charge.

Special discount air fares to Nashville can be obtained from Opryland International Travel (OIT). They offer 5 % off all fares on American Airlines, United Airlines, and USAirways.

There is a discount of 10% if the flight is booked and ticketed 60 days prior to flying. In addition, there is a 10% discount on Southwest fares except for promotional fares. You will be provided with \$200,000 flight insurance at no charge. Round-trip airport shuttle service will be provided at a cost of \$7.00 (an \$11.00 savings) when you purchase your ticket from OIT.



Opryland International Travel is located in Opryland Hotel and can be reached by calling 800-677-9526 from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday CST. You may also fax requests to 615-871-5794. A transaction fee of US \$10.00 will be charged per airline ticket for shipping and handling from Opryland International Travel.

Calling for generosity

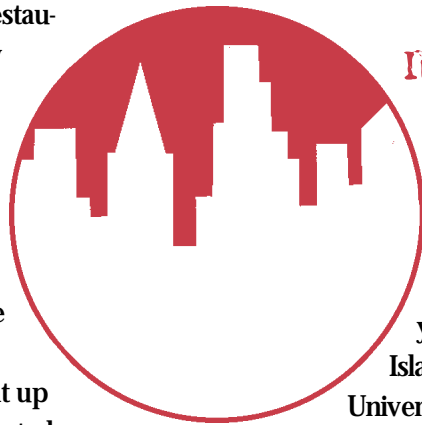
As you work on fundraising activities, we suggest that you consider laying aside for each person an amount to be used as tips during your trip and stay at Nashville 2001. Why?

We anticipate being richly blessed in many ways during our travels and during our time together at Nashville. There will be persons at Opryland Hotel who will be working very hard to see that we have a good time while there. Some of these people are hotel cleaning staff who clean our room and bathroom each day, waiters and waitresses who serve our food when we decide to eat in a restaurant, bellhops who carry our heavy luggage, etc. They work hard and some will even drop their work momentarily to guide us to the place we can't find.

A very appropriate way to say "thank you" and show them that we really do appreciate their help, is to hand them a tip. Their face will light up with appreciation in return. A suggested amount for the hotel cleaning staff is \$1 per person per night that can be left on your pillow as you leave your hotel room each morning, \$1 per piece of luggage to the bellhop, or 15% of your bill when eating in a restaurant where food is served to you. This can be left on the table or charged if paying by credit card.

Furthermore, giving a tip to express our generosity and appreciation may be one way that we can leave a testimony for Christ, to let them know who and what a Christian really is.

Try it! Your generosity will speak and will be appreciated!



Anti-Violence Forum

Thursday, July 5th, 1:00 to 3:45 p.m. the Youth Convention is sponsoring a forum for all participants entitled "Peace Takes Guts: A Forum on Anti-Violence." Participants will be invited to make a decision to follow Jesus' way of peace and will learn faith-based, non-violent tools for practical witness. A variety of activities, including Bible learning, drama, singing, and small group interaction will keep the forum high interest.

Seminars following the forum will delve deeper into subjects introduced during the forum. The seminars will be from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

mTOWN

You'll surely want to go to town — that's mTOWN, a village about the size of a Wal-Mart superstore that's inside the convention center! It's the exhibit and activities area for both youth and adults where you'll find the Missions Courtyard, Peace Island, a large Provident Bookstore, the University, and other unique displays. You'll also enjoy shops, galleries, project centers, educational activities, and concert at Menno Folk and Blau Rock Café. Children will find a Tots' Playground and youth will enjoy recreation areas. Play a game of ping pong, sign up to contribute to the bloodmobile, or join in with others browsing through the creative displays.

Choirs

Interested in singing in a choir? There will be two options from which to choose. Ken Medema will lead one choir and Natalie Francisco will lead a gospel choir. If you are interested in one, sign up on the registration form. The fee for the music will be US \$8 and CN \$12.

Check the web

Check in at Nashville2001Youth.mennonite.net to see sights and information about Nashville and the Opryland Hotel. You will also be able to download this newsletter.

Deadlines

Financial Grant Applications

March 30, 2001

Youth Convention Registration Forms

April 30, 2001

Lodging Reservation Forms

May 31, 2001

Meal Requests

April 30, 2001

Videos

Nashville 2001 Youth Convention Promotion Videos are available for viewing from your conference youth minister, your conference/district office or the Youth Convention office. Show your youth group what you have to look forward to in Nashville.

Registration Forms

Registration forms coming in a few days

Registration forms for the Nashville 2001 Youth Convention should arrive in a few days at your church address in care of "Youth Sponsor." Registrations online will begin January 1, 2001. See inside this newsletter for more information. Also check our web site at: Nashville2001Youth.mennonite.net.



Mennonite Youth Convention
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