

AUGUST 2009 MFSA Iowa Chapter MEMO

“FOR I WAS IN PRISON...”

MFSA's Fall Statewide Gathering will be a continuation of this theme, which was the topic for the Regional Gatherings in the fall of 2008. The Gathering will be held on **Saturday, October 31st**, at **Epworth UMC**, 412 Euclid Ave., in **Des Moines**. Folks are asked to **arrive by 9:45 AM** to view displays from CURE, Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners, Women at the Well, Voices to Be Heard and others. DOC (Department of Corrections) Board member and former State Senator, Johnie Hammond, will speak on "The Changing Climate for Corrections in Iowa," and Lu Ann Smith, Community Treatment Coordinator for the Fifth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services, will talk about "An Offender's Journey Post Sentencing." We will hear from Diane McClanahan, pastor of Trinity UMC, which is an active participant in the re-entry program, and from an ex-offender who has taken part in the program. Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck will lead the devotions, and Jim Davis will give information about how churches can be involved. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about needed prison reform and to build support for reentry/aftercare programs. Following lunch there will be a short business meeting, and the Gathering will end no later than 2:00 PM.

FROM HIROSHIMA TO A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

The annual observance of Hiroshima/Nagasaki will be held on **Thursday, August 6th**, at **7:30 PM** At the **Japanese Bell**, west of the Iowa Judicial Building on the **Capitol Grounds in Des Moines**. **Mayor Frank Cownie**, a leading member of "Mayors for Peace" will speak on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Please bring lawn chairs for your comfort and flowers to lay at the Japanese Bell. Rain site is Calvary Baptist Church, 606 E. 9th St. MFSA is a co-sponsor of this service.

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS!

MFSA joins Physicians for Social Responsibility, American Friends Service Committee, the Des Moines Area Ecumenical Committee for Peace and other peace organizations in hosting a **multimedia presentation on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty** (CTBT). The event will be held at **Central Library**, 1000 Grand Ave. in **Des Moines** on **Saturday, August 8th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**. The United States is one of 180 countries that has signed the CTBT, but is one of a small number that have not ratified it. World religious leaders, as well as 87 percent of the general public, support ratification, recognizing it as a critical step toward making the world safer from nuclear danger. Please come and learn more about the CTBT and how you can support this effort.

SIouxLAND PEACE COALITION MEETING/PICNIC:

The Siouxsland Peace Coalition will hold a meeting and picnic at the home of Rita and Doug Swan, 1930 Delaware Ave., in **Bronson**, on **Saturday, August 15, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. RSVP to 712-948-3295, or childinc@netins.net.

TAKE THE 10:10 CHALLENGE!

The General Board of Church and Society has issued a challenge, based on John 10:10b, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Seeing the next 10 weeks as critical for health care reform, they are calling on persons of faith to participate in the 10:10 Challenge by forming teams and taking specific actions each week in support of health care for all. Paragraph #3201 in the 2008 Book of Resolutions states that the United Methodist Church supports a Single-Payer System. Now is the time to urge Congress to make that a reality. For more information, or to take the 10;10 Challenge, go to: www.1010challenge.org.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL?

"...The United Methodist Church is committed to health care for all ...and therefore advocates for a comprehensive health care delivery system that includes access for all, quality care, and effective management of costs..." 2008 Book of Resolutions. MFSA's Fall Regional Gatherings will focus on the complex issue of health care. Here is the schedule of times and places. Find the one nearest to you and join us for this valuable discussion.

Saturday, September 26, 2:00 PM at First UMC in Fort Dodge
Sunday, September 27th, 2:30 PM at St. Timothy's UMC in Cedar Falls
Sunday, October 18th, 2:00 PM, Corning UMC
Sunday, October 25th, 2:00 PM, Morningside College in Sioux City
Sunday, November 8th, 2:00 PM, St. Mark's UMC in Iowa City

JUSTICE and JOY!

The 10th National Reconciling Convocation will be held at the **YMCA of the Rockies**, Estes Park, Colorado, **September 4 – 7, 2009**. Celebrate RMN's 25th Anniversary as you rest and relax, learn and organize, pray and play. For more information, go to www.rmnetwork.org/convo2009.asp.

BOOKS FOR SALE:

Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent, by Eduardo Galeano, one of the great books in its field, is available from Bob Williams (bowanswmswia@wesleythevillage.net) for \$9.00. (List price is \$18.00.) This was the book that Pres. Chavez gave to Pres. Obama when Obama was on his South American trip. Part of a famous quote from the book reads, "...In this world of ours, a world of powerful centers and subjugated outposts, there is no wealth that must not be held in some suspicion."

FAIR TRADE DISPLAY:

There will be a **Fair Trade Display and Sale** at **St. John American Lutheran Church**, 201 1st Ave. NW, **LeMars**, **September 20 and 27 till Noon** each Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY CELEBRATION!

Siouxland Peace Coalition will celebrate **International Peace Day** at the **Riverfront Peace Pole**, in **Sioux City** on Monday, **September 21st**, at **7:00 PM**.

ONFIRE AT BORDER LINKS:

Join OnFire at BorderLinks on the **US-Mexico border** this October! Young adults (ages 18 – 25) will spend four days, **October 28 – 31**, on the US-Mexico border exploring issues of border [in]justice. MFSA is subsidizing the trip, so the cost to each participant is reduced from \$300 to \$200, plus travel. To sign up, contact: umonfire@gmail.com, or call Jennifer Mihok@202-546-8806. For more information, visit: www.borderlinks.org; www.umonfire.blogspot.com; www.mfsaweb.org.

Sabeel Conference:

Friends of Sabeel, North America presents a two day conference, “ **A Free Palestine and a Secure Israel: From Occupation to Liberation and Reconciliation.**” It will be held on **October 9 – 10**, at the Schindler Education Center, **UNI Campus in Cedar Falls**. For more information, please contact: sabeeliowa@hotmail.com.

Help Fill in the Gaps!

MFSA is trying to fill in some gaps in the record of persons who have received the Social Action Award, given each year at Annual Conference. We don't know who received the awards in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1988. If you know who any of those recipients were, please send that information to me (ecranke@mchsi.com). Thanks!

Looking Ahead:

The Wisconsin Chapter of MFSA is sponsoring a retreat and workshop at Pine Lake Camp on the theme, “Worshipping God...Just for Us or For Justice,” **January 22-23, 2010**. Our own **Phil Carver** will be the workshop leader. For more information, contact Steve Zekoff at: szekoff@charter.net.

Check It Out!

MFSA's web site, www.mfsaiowa.org, contains articles, links, actions to take and places to go. See pictures from the 2009 Awards Event at Annual Conference. Check it out!

Please Send Information:

Friends, we would like to publicize **events around the state** that might be of interest to MFSA folk. However, I can't include them, if I don't know about them. Please send information about events in your area by the last week of each month for inclusion in the next month's E-Mail Memo. Also, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES! You can contact me at: ecranke@mchsi.com

Questions about Membership?

Contact Mike Biklen at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761, or by phone at: 563-263-1439, or by e-mail at: wmbiklen@juno.com

Where to Send Your Membership?

Memberships and other contributions should be sent to Brian Carter, 7218 El Rancho Ave., Windsor Heights, IA 50324.