

From Canada to California, Cloquet to Concordia: Hoff joins CM staff as director

By Amy Johnson

As of Oct. 3, something important has joined the fellowship, coffee and snacks that are aplenty in the Campus Ministry Center: a new director.

Clinton Hoff is has replaced Steve Arnold, bringing with him a variety of experiences and interests in his efforts to "present Jesus to the students."

Born and raised in Canada, Hoff grew up on a farm in Southern Alberta where he spent most of his childhood building snow forts in the winter and hunting gophers in the summer. Following graduation, he attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton where he received a bachelor's degree in physical science and in secondary education.

Hoff also taught junior and senior high school students before moving to Southern California with his wife, Lalita, where he attended the Talbot School of Theology in La Mirada, working towards a master's degree of divinity.

During this time he prepared to go into the ministry and decided to join the Free Lutheran Church. The church required him to move to Minnesota for two years, where he lived in Cloquet and

Plymouth.

While Hoff was in Minnesota he decided to get his PhD and moved to St. Louis, Missouri with his wife. They lived in St. Louis for three years while Hoff completed his doctoral program at Concordia Seminary. The opportunity to return to Minnesota arose when he was offered a job at Concordia.

In his new job, Hoff will work side by side with Eric Selle, the Campus Ministry Associate, who had nothing but positive things to say about Hoff and his new position.

"He is easily approachable and is a very caring individual who is willing and eager to listen to the students," Selle said.

The goal of the Campus Ministry Center is to be a place where students can go to identify with one another and to receive spiritual care in a safe and relaxed environment. One of the goals that Hoff has for himself as the new Director is to get to know the students so that they feel like they can come to him with any questions or concerns that they might have.

"I would love to be able to help students out in the spiritual aspects of their lives," Hoff said. "Our door is open and I want to get to know you."

Trick or Treating with a twist

By Jasmin Ziegler

More than pumpkins will decorate the front doors of Saint Paul neighborhoods this Halloween. Thanks to Reverse Trick or Treating, an event sponsored by the Concordia Mission Society, this year's Halloween decorations promise to include canned food along with other non-perishable items, toiletries and blankets.

"Reverse Trick or Treating is a really fun way to have a food drive," said Haidee Kuehne, a member of CMS who is in charge of the event. CMS has sponsored this event for the last several years.

"This year is special, because the food and other things that are donated will be going to help the victims of hurricane Katrina," Kuehne said. "This is a great way to partner with the community and show people that we care about what is going on in the world."

It begins Oct. 23 from two to four p.m. Students will separate into co-ed groups and walk around the nearby Saint Paul neighborhoods distributing brochures that ask the individual households to gather any non-perishable food item, toiletry or blanket and have

it ready for distribution to the students of Concordia University between two and four p.m. on Oct. 30. The households are welcome to place the donations on their front step or entryway for convenience.

It is called *Reverse Trick or Treating* because after the students collect the charitable items, they give the household some candy. After the items are collected CMS will bring them to the main Minneapolis and Saint Paul branch of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, which then distributes these items to the victims.

"How fun could this be: strolling the neighborhood in costumes with friends and candy for a good cause," Kuehne said. "This is a great way to spend time with friends, get out in the community, be active and help a good cause."

Sign up sheets for this event will be in the Campus Ministry Center and for more information, interested individuals may e-mail Kuehne at Kuehne@csp.edu.

"This event involves two Sundays," Kuehne said. "If you cannot come for one Sunday, grab your friends and come for the other one!"

Remembering the dead

By Kristy Lorfeld

For thousands of years, in virtually every community around the world, people have celebrated a festival in which the dead are remembered, honored and usually feared.

Travel to Taiwan in early April and you will experience Tomb Sweeping Day, a festival in which the citizens worship and maintain the tombs of the deceased ancestors who look after the family. Japanese people welcome the spirits of the dead into their home during the 15-day festival of Obon in August. In Guatemala, beautiful kites the size of houses are flown on Nov. 2 to raise the souls of the dead to heaven and to turn away evil spirits. Mexicans celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) in which they honor the deceased by playing with death and making

people laugh during the first two days of November.

While Halloween is the most widely known holiday in the U.S. that celebrates death, All Saints Day is a historic holiday in which Christians worldwide remember the dead annually just one day after Halloween on Nov. 1.

This holiday, began by Pope Boniface IV in 609 and officially put on the church calendar in 835, was intended to celebrate and honor all martyrs: those who died because of their faith.

Saint Stephen, the first martyr found in the Bible who was stoned to death, is among the many known and unknown martyrs remembered. Today the festival celebrates all those who died in Christian faith.

Religion professor Jim Found believes that one major difference between All Saints Day and the many other celebrations and

festivals of the dead is the fear of ancestors and spirits. As a former missionary in Taiwan, Found experienced first-hand the fear of Tomb Sweeping Day.

"Taiwanese people are fearful of their dead ancestors and do not dare to go to the tombs any other day of the year, especially alone," Found said.

Kristy Grannis, former volunteer missionary in Japan, agrees that the dead are somewhat feared in Japan.

"Whatever bad things happen that year is because of the spirits that do not find their way back to the grave site," Grannis said.

Unlike most festivals celebrating the dead, the celebration of All Saints Day is not a festival that takes place out of fear, but it is a day that Christians can honor the memory of all other Christians who have died and give a peek into their eternal destiny.

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