



2020 National Convention Report

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Spice it up!

If variety is the spice of life, the *Christian Leader* could use more spice! When we reviewed the list of churches that send us bulletins and newsletters (hard copy or electronic) we discovered that many churches are not sending the information we need to provide readers with a well-rounded diet of USMB church news. Help us spice up the CL!

- ⇒ Ask your church secretary to add the CL to the bulletin/newsletter mailing list. Email newseditor@usmb.org or send hardcopy to PO Box 155, Hillsboro, KS 67063
- ⇒ If your church regularly shares news/updates on your website or Facebook page, please let us know. Email us at newseditor@usmb.org
- ⇒ We want to know how your congregation is:
 - Developing new leaders through internships, mentoring, etc.
 - Involved in planting new churches
 - Evangelizing in your community
 - Serving the needs of your community
 - Discipling people of all ages
 - Networking with community churches/ministries and other USMB churches

Share your story recommendations by going online to <https://christianleadermag.com/submit-a-story-idea/>

My recommendation is ...

You can recommend people to highlight in our “Testimony” and “5 Minutes With...” columns. Share your recommendations by going online to <https://christianleadermag.com/submit-a-story-idea/>

Congratulations!

Janae Rempel has been with the CL for three years and has done excellent work. She was promoted to associate editor, beginning January 2020. In her new role, Janae is assuming responsibility for the magazine’s BodyLife department and is taking on other tasks.

Frequent CL writer and mission worker Aaron Myers received a first place award in the Evangelical Press Association 2019 Higher Goals contest in the evangelism article category for “Real Simple Sharing,” published in the April/May 2018 issue.

Help wanted

Are you a journalist looking for freelance opportunities? The CL is expanding our list of contract news writers. Please contact editor Connie Faber (editor@usmb.org) if you are interested in joining our team of freelance news writers. A degree in journalism and/or experience writing for a newspaper or magazine is preferred.

Highlights

YouthCon coverage: The CL staff was privileged to attend YouthCon 2019, the USMB national youth convention held April 3-7, 2019, at Glorieta Adventure Camp. We provided online coverage and social media posts during the convention, and the BodyLife department in our May/June issue focused on the event.

U.S./Mexico border tours: Our understanding of immigration issues has benefited from CL associate editor Janae Rempel's two trips to the U.S./Mexico border sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee. The January 2019 tour was specifically for USMB leaders while the 2020 tour was open to anyone.

Vision 2020: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” — Matthew 22:37-40*

We chose these words of Jesus as our publishing theme for 2020. Loving God with all we are and regarding our neighbors as highly as we do ourselves is not always easy, but obeying Jesus' command will impact and transform our homes, churches and communities. Thanks to the writers who have challenged us to evaluate our obedience to this command.



COVID-19 coverage: The CL staff began working from home and cancelled travel plans due to the realities of and responses to the coronavirus. We were busier than usual in March and April. Editor Connie Faber provided excellent coverage as we published weekly updates from USMB and Mennonite Brethren and inter-Mennonite agencies and ministries regarding their responses to the coronavirus. We reported on how local congregations initially responded to stay-at-home guidelines, including finding new ways to celebrate Easter. For six weeks, we published C-Link weekly instead of biweekly, and we adapted the May/June and July/August BodyLife news coverage to include stories related to how USMB congregations responded to the coronavirus, including meeting needs in their communities.

News in your inbox

Sign up for C-Link, our free biweekly e-news digest. C-Link includes news from USMB as well as updates from a variety of USMB partner ministries and full-length local church stories that are often abbreviated in the magazine's Church News department. Sign up here:

<https://christianleadermag.com/c-link-form-2/>