

# FIRE IN THE HILLS, June 5-7

A time for revival?

Ken Stoltzfus

## Fire In the Hills

I took in FITH in 2024 and '25, and eagerly look forward to '26 even though I have concerns about some of the previous program.

I urge you to consider coming this year even if you have intentionally stayed away before. Please read on.

Our Anabaptist community needs repentance more than anything else, and the FITH tent is a perfect setting for that. Remember the sawdust trail of old?

We need a call to repent of our love for the world and the things of the world that handicaps our loving God in a way that leads to our obeying Him (John 14:21 & 23) and fulfilling the Matthew 28:18-20 Great Commission in Acts 1:8 Holy Spirit power and lifestyle.

CHURCH, the fields are ripe for harvest, the workers are few and the time is short, but aren't we too otherwise occupied to get seriously involved?

## Opportunity Knocks

I have no voice in plans for FITH but God does. Could this be the place where revival begins? It would take a concerted prayer effort first, interceding that God would break into men's plans and pour out upon us a spirit of repentance and of turning back to Him.

I know some of the speakers well and trust them as men of God whom He could use in a way that launches revival. Repentance-based revival.

But first the Church must pray, some with fasting but all searching our own heart as in Psalm 139:23-24, and then coming with expectation and with our own hearts open to the Holy Spirit.

## The Anabaptists

We of the Mennonite/Amish community have unusual capacity (and thus responsibility?) to serve Jesus as He builds His Church in these Last Days. (Matthew 16:18) Are we ready for that?

Our Biblically-based Anabaptist culture of industriousness, diligence and integrity naturally produces wealth that God intends to be used for His purposes, but haven't we somehow convinced ourselves that it's okay to spend it on ourselves in impressive houses, more hunting land, fancy pickups or horses and buggies, gun collections, expensive hobbies and "just one more" of this or that?

Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of lost souls have never heard the Name of Jesus, and millions of our brothers and sisters in Christ suffer from lack of daily essentials like food, shelter and safe water. All of that, while effective ministries are handicapped for funds.

Eternal ROI is gained in such Kingdom investments, but don't we more highly esteem our earthly "wealth managers" advice? Don't our pulpits and pews conspire to enable that – as long as we "give God the glory" for our wealth and put something in the offering?

Do we have a problem here? Or not?

I am conflicted in saying this because I know there are many in our cultural community who give generously, but I'm compelled to say it because I'm sure that within 50-miles of Kidron, "Anabaptist" hands hold tens or hundreds of million\$ of laid up earthly treasure that Jesus specifically forbade in Matthew 6:19.

What are Anabaptists "about" today?

## Kingdom Life

Do we realize how much our earthy-mindedness costs in terms of Abundant Life for ourselves and a diminished testimony of "life in Christ" that would draw others to Him?

The Matthew 7:13-14 narrow path leads to the narrow gate that opens into the endless expanses of the spiritual riches of life in the Kingdom of God.

The narrow path itself, offers the priceless treasures of Romans 14:17's righteousness, peace and joy. And it is the place of safety and security in this world of danger and chaos and the only place where the hunger and thirst of our souls can truly be met – yet don't we often think of it more as hindering "the good life" as we continue to chase earthly stuff?

How much Kingdom life and fruitfulness are we missing? (John 15:1-11)

## Handicapped?

Haven't we continued in our love for the world in a way that handicaps the life-focus that Jesus presumed when He said, "As the Father sent Me, so send I you"? (John 17:18)

He couldn't have fulfilled His calling without first turning His face toward the Father in a way that separated Him from the world's affections, nor can we.

We Anabaptists are a called people, but trying to be separate from the world without that primary focus produces the forms and traditions of dead religion. Our community knows a lot about that - and it's not just the Amish who have a problem with it.

## Kingdom Power

Acts 1:8 is intended to lead to the Spirit-empowered holiness and mission that marked the Church in Acts - and the Anabaptists of the 1500's.

But this is where it gets challenging. Yes, we need Jesus' Matthew 3:11 baptism of the Holy Spirit for empowerment, but also His baptism of purifying fire to make us fit to exercise it in a Kingdom-focused life.

That combination marked Jesus and will mark His disciples, including the Luke 9:23-26 way of the cross and the kingdom mindset of Matthew 6:19-34. Demonstrations of His power will follow as we carry out the Great Commission in His Name. - - and for us that could only follow life-altering repentance.

Don't forget Matthew 7:21-23.

## Acts 1:8a & b, "The Charismatics"

Ever since Elaine and I were baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1972 I have been burdened by a shallowness in the "Charismatic" community that has defamed the Name of Jesus and brought much confusion and division in the Church.

For years we took in the conferences, read the books, listened to the tapes and advanced the truths of Acts 1:8 and the New Testament Church – but always with some restraint because it has seemed to me that many wanted the exciting power of Acts 1:8a but refused the life-altering, "and you shall be witnesses" of Part b.

That too, needs to change. Could it happen at FITH '26? It could.

## Who Are the Intercessors?

Please contact me if you are willing to be part of an email-based intercessory team. Would there be 10, or 100, or 1,000 of us? Please invite your friends!

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## FIRE IN THE HILLS

June 5-7, Friday & Saturday at 7-pm

Sunday at 10-am at:

Timbercrest Campground  
5552 OH-515, Millersburg, OH

Food and coffee trucks!