



carry
the
light



Church of the Brethren



For the Church of the Brethren in the US, 2014 has been dominated by the tragic violence that is devastating EYN, our sister church in Nigeria. The crisis has called forth the time and energy of the whole church. Staff and volunteers have worked to equip Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria. Congregations have joined in prayer, fasting, and generous giving.

At the same time, with God's grace the church's other ministries have been carried out and new ones have been initiated: an inspiring National Youth Conference, training for church planters, leadership in worldwide efforts for peace, a new children's curriculum, medical clinics in Haiti, and much more.

Even when the night seeks dark, we see the first light of dawn. The sun rises, and our spirits awaken. Together we are carrying the light.

Hanley Proffinger
General secretary



Photos: Left to right and top to bottom:
Jay Wittmeyer, Glenn Riegel,
Kendra Harbeck, Susan Mark
Cover: Keith Schurr



On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned

— Isaiah 9:2 NIV



As violence against Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) escalated dramatically, staff assisted EYN leaders in a long-term response to the crisis. The US church has responded swiftly and generously,

making it possible to relocate the headquarters and supply emergency food, housing, and trauma training. The need is so vast that assistance is also being sought from ecumenical partners and humanitarian organizations.

The work in Nigeria is calling for major efforts by Global Mission and Brethren Disaster Ministries. Additional staff and volunteers have been recruited as well. Members of both EYN and the church in the US

have been encouraged by the prayers and formal resolutions of a number of ecumenical bodies and denominations.



Photos: Left to right
and top to bottom:
Cliff Kindy, Roy Winter,
Roxane Hill, David
Sollenberger, Roxane Hill,
David Sollenberger
Background:
Courtesy of EYN



Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations. . . —Matthew 28:19 ISV



While the crisis in Nigeria has required major attention, the church continues to engage in mission in other countries around the world.

In Haiti, the social service ministry of L'Eglise des Freres has employed three full-time staff to provide agriculture extension, community development, and community health in remote areas. The mobile medical clinics conducted 48 clinics in 2014, and the endowment for that program has reached over \$300,000.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the group's annual planning conference included a community outreach event, child dedications, and five baptisms in Lake Tanganyika.

Iglesia de Los Hermanos España, the Church of the Brethren in Spain, held its second annual conference. There are seven growing congregations, and others are seeking to be part of the movement.

A small delegation attended the dedication of La Descubierta church in the Dominican Republic, a diverse, bilingual congregation on the border with Haiti.

The Rio Verde congregation in Brazil has launched a community garden project as a means for former prison inmates to learn new skills as they transition into civilian life.



Prison ministry in Brazil #jobskills #communitygarden

Brethren Peace Center gets a well #SouthSudan



Despite civil unrest in South Sudan, progress was made on the Brethren Peace Center, where a well has been drilled. Two evangelists have been placed in the remote village of Lohilla, where construction began on a school and a church.

Global Mission and Service staff made important visits to build relationships with the two groups in India—the First District Church of the Brethren and the Church of North India.

Photos: Left to right and top to bottom: Carolyn Fitzkee, Kendra Harbeck, Alexandre Gonçalves, Jay Wittmeyer, Carolyn Fitzkee
Background: Jay Wittmeyer

"Teach with Your Life" #workcamps

Pedal power promotes Brethren Volunteer Service #BVSCoasttoCoast





I will turn the darkness before them into light

— Isaiah 42:16 NRSV



In addition to providing leadership for the crisis response launched in Nigeria, Brethren Disaster Ministries continued long-term home-rebuilding projects in New Jersey. Children's Disaster Services expanded capability in the Gulf Coast through a partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

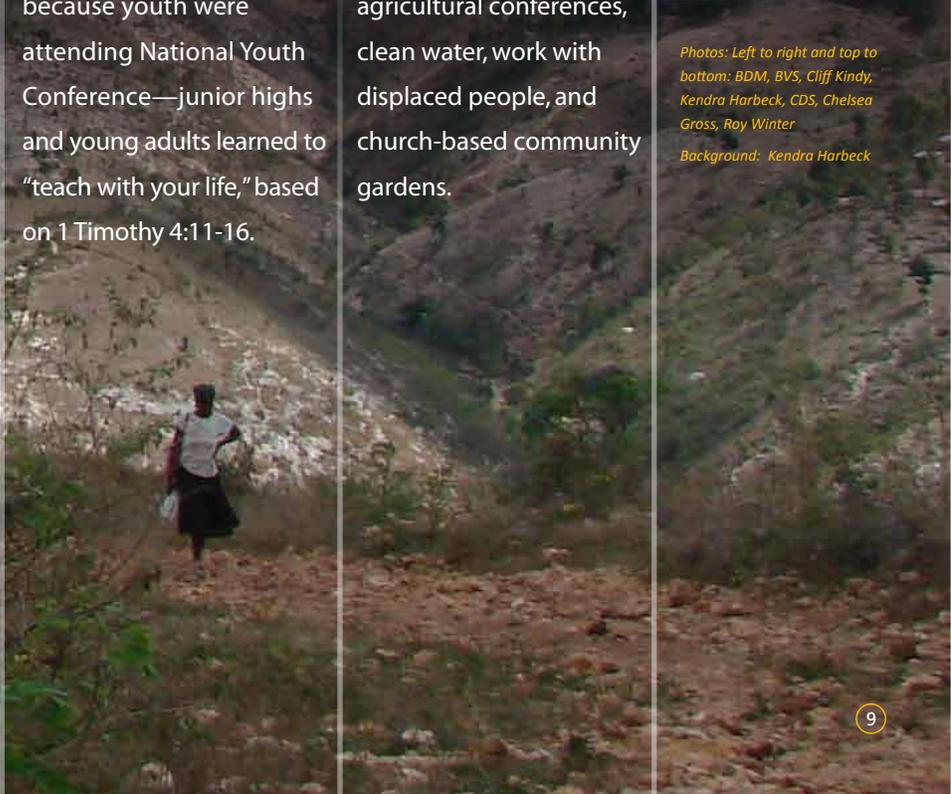
Brethren responded to disasters and emergencies in 10 countries spanning Asia, Africa, Central America, Europe, and the Middle East. The largest grants responded to conflicts in Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Gaza.

Brethren Volunteer Service supported 46 volunteers in the US, 13 in Europe, 5 in Latin America, and 3 in Japan. In the summer workcamp season—trimmed back because youth were attending National Youth Conference—junior highs and young adults learned to “teach with your life,” based on 1 Timothy 4:11-16.

The Global Food Crisis Fund helped partners across the US and in 10 other countries. These projects included women's cooperatives, university researchers, agricultural conferences, clean water, work with displaced people, and church-based community gardens.



Photos: Left to right and top to bottom: BDM, BVS, Cliff Kindy, Kendra Harbeck, CDS, Chelsea Gross, Roy Winter
Background: Kendra Harbeck





A teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples

— Isaiah 51:4 NRSV

Stan Noffsinger and other church leaders met in Armenia to address the challenges for faith communities in the crisis in Syria. Earlier he represented the US churches in a meeting in Geneva. "There was a strong voice at the meeting that peace must be for everybody in Syria and Iraq," he said. "The concern was for Muslim and Christian neighbors."

The Church of the Brethren has also been a leading voice on the issue of drone warfare. The church's recent Annual Conference statement has led to significant involvement, including co-sponsorship of an interfaith conference on drones.



A number of Brethren participated in 70th anniversary celebrations of Heifer International. The relief organization, which served families in 32 countries in 2014, was started in the Church of the Brethren, and the church has a permanent seat on the board of directors.

The Going to the Garden initiative is growing, and has added a Brethren Volunteer Service worker. The program helps congregations develop community gardens as a way to address food insecurity, poverty, and environmental degradation.



Advocating nonviolent change in Syria #generalsecretary

Seeking to live the peace of Jesus publicly #OfficeofPublicWitness



Photos: Left to right: Regina Holmes, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Penny Gay, courtesy of Rebecca Davilla, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford Background: Lars Mudin

Called by Christ: Blessed for the Journey Together #NYC #DunkerPunks

There's an app for that #AnnualConference #NYC

Now we have 24 districts #WelcomePue...



Let your light shine before others

— Matthew 5:16 NRSV



Photos: Left to right: Glenn Riegel, Amy Gingerich, Glenn Riegel, Glenn Riegel
Background: Nevin Dulabaum

The air was electric as crowds of youth streamed forward at National Youth Conference to commit themselves to following Jesus. The "Dunker Punks" movement inspired by speaker Jarrod McKenna draws its identity and energy from the eight people who began the Brethren movement in 1708. The quadrennial

conference in Colorado drew 2,386 participants representing almost every district, as well as Brethren bodies in other countries.

The new Shine Sunday school curriculum attracted an array of other denominations signing up as partners, the newest being the American Baptist Churches. Shine, which is co-published

with MennoMedia, was a major sponsor of Faith Forward, a conference for people involved in children's and youth ministry.

Two new Bible studies were added to the Vital Ministry Journey, along with a congregational vitality survey and a resource on discerning spiritual gifts.



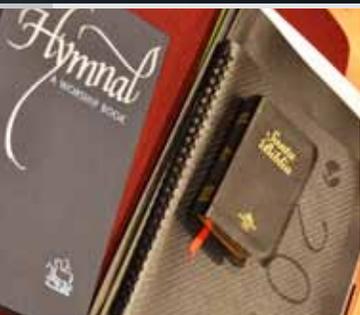


Web-based learning opportunities were plentiful. Webinars in 2014 focused on topics such as Anabaptism, urban missions, families, youth, and spiritual practices. Face-to-face workshops were offered at Annual Conference and across the denomination. Congregational Life Ministries helped plan a conference on the church and post-Christian culture.

Plant Generously, Reap Bountifully: Toward an Intercultural Future #SeparateNoMore

Looking back in order to move forward #Sankofa #racial righteousness





In him was life, and the life was the light of all people

—John 1:4 NRSV

The biennial church planter training event focused on an intercultural future; keynote topics were mission, immigrants, and cultural diversity. The conference brought together nearly 100 people from 16 districts.

Principe de Paz church in Santa Ana, Calif., hosted an intercultural event aimed at building bridges across racial, cultural, ethnic, and religious boundaries. A particular emphasis was listening to the stories of urban churches.



A group of Hispanic Brethren pastors took part in a first-ever Christian Churches Together gathering of Hispanic leaders. They met afterwards at the General Offices to explore ways to nurture their ministries within the Church of the Brethren.

In an effort to grow in racial understanding, several church leaders have participated in a “Sankofa Journey” that pairs people with African American partners for a bus trip through key civil rights sites in the South.

Photos: Left to right: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Regina Holmes, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford
Background: Nancy Newman





The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining — 1 John 2:8 NRSV



Through the faithful generosity of congregations and individuals, contributions to Church of the Brethren programs and ministries increased from \$4.7 million in 2013 to \$5 million in 2014, an increase of 5.6%. These donations provided vital support for Congregational Life Ministries, Global Mission and Service, Brethren Disaster Ministries, and Global Food Crisis, among others. Overall program and ministry income grew from \$6.8 million in 2013 to \$7.2 million in 2014, an increase of 5%.

One of the highlights from 2014 was giving to the Emergency Disaster Fund. Donations to this fund increased from \$1.3 million in 2013 to \$1.8 million in 2014. These funds helped to support \$1.5 million in Brethren Disaster Ministry expenditures in 2014. These funds were used in international projects in Nigeria, Sudan, Haiti, Honduras, Afghanistan, Congo, and Liberia. Domestic disaster projects included assistance in New Jersey, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Washington. Material Resources continued to

support emergencies throughout the world with clothing and medical supplies. Once again, Church of the Brethren donors have shown their compassion in times of world-wide need. The Global Food Crisis Fund donations increased from \$201,000 in 2013 to \$361,000 in 2014, a 79% increase. These funds provided for \$288,000 in Global Food Crisis expenditures and grants, an increase of 23% from 2013. Additional Global Food Crisis projects and grants are planned for 2015.

Positive market gains helped investments grow to \$29.3 million in 2014, an increase of \$1.3 million from 2013. Return on investments help to make up any potential short-fall between ongoing church operations and annual contributions from donors.



Program and Ministry INCOME

Donations Service Fees Event Income Net Sales Subscriptions Other

2014 \$7,181,882 Income



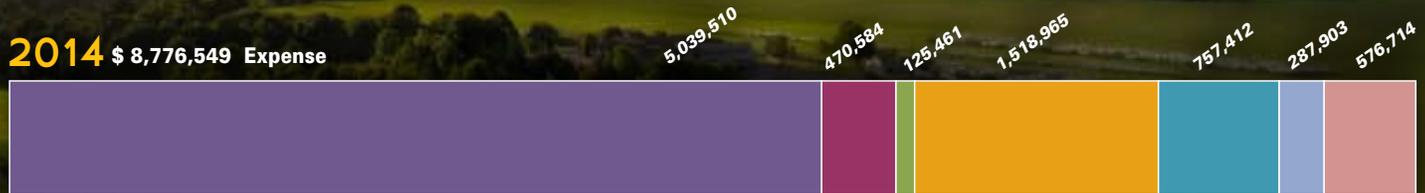
2013 \$6,837,759 Income



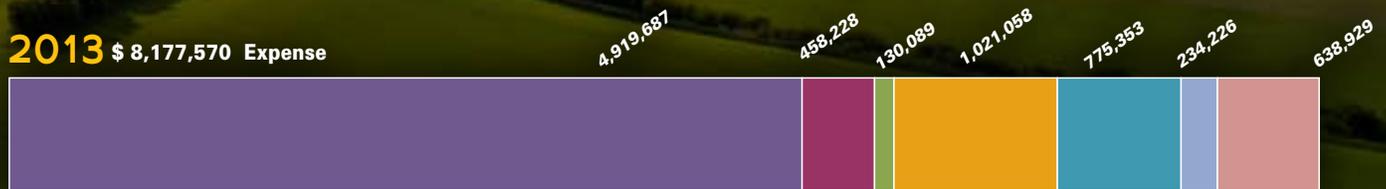
Program and Ministry EXPENSE

Core Ministries Brethren Press Messenger Brethren Disaster Ministries Material Resources
Global Food Crisis Conference Office

2014 \$ 8,776,549 Expense



2013 \$ 8,177,570 Expense



Intra-fund accounts and transactions between these ministries have been included. Income shown does not include gifts to endowments. For complete financials, see the audited financial report.

Photos: Left to right: Nevin Dulabaum, David Sollenberger, Mandy Garcia,
Background: Tommy Clark



... out of midnight,
out of sorrow and travail
God is bringing light to life,
God is bringing life to light.
Listen to the sunrise.
Listen to the first and glorious day.

from "Listen to the Sunrise," by Ken Morse



Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together. #Brethren



Photos: Left to right: Wendy McFadden, Carolyn Fitzkee, Roxane Hill, Courtesy of Jenna Walmer, Glenn Riegel

Background: Jin Lee



Church of the Brethren

Under the direction of the Mission and Ministry Board, whose members are elected by Annual Conference, the Church of the Brethren engages in ministries across the United States and around the world:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE • BRAZIL • BRETHERN ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP • BRETHERN DISASTER MINISTRIES • BRETHERN PRESS
BRETHERN HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES • BRETHERN SERVICE CENTER
BRETHERN VOLUNTEER SERVICE • CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICES • CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR • CHURCH PLANTING • CURRICULUM AND BOOKS
DEACONS • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO • DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
DONOR RELATIONS • ECUMENICAL RELATIONS • EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND
EVANGELISM • FAITH FORMATION • FINANCE OFFICE • GENERAL OFFICES
GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE • GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS FUND • GOING TO THE GARDEN • HAITI • HEALTH AND DISABILITIES • HOME REBUILDING • HUMAN RESOURCES • INDIA • INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY • INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES
INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRIES • MATERIAL RESOURCES • MESSENGER MAGAZINE • MINISTRY • MINISTRY SUMMER SERVICE • NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE • NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE • NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE • NEWSLINE • NIGERIA • NIGERIA CRISIS RESPONSE • NORTH KOREA • OLDER ADULTS • PUBLIC WITNESS • SHINE • SPAIN • SPIRITUAL LIFE AND DISCIPLESHIP • STEWARDSHIP • SOUTH SUDAN • VIETNAM • VITAL MINISTRY JOURNEY • WEBINARS • WORKCAMPs • WWW.BRETHERN.ORG • YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE • YOUTH PEACE TRAVEL TEAM • ZIGLER HOSPITALITY CENTER

Visit www.brethren.org/annualreport to access a digital version of this pictorial report with videos and links embedded. Look there also for a PDF of the full written report reported to delegates at Annual Conference.