

Church of the Brethren

Another way of living



How do we demonstrate another way of living? We see it in the growth of new mission projects built on simple, one-on-one relationships. In countercultural efforts to build peace.

We see another way of living in church gatherings that blend mission and service. In Bible study that takes place among children on Sunday morning, young people at a mountaintop event, and older adults at the lakeshore.

We see another way of living whenever people come together to struggle to hear God's voice so that they can follow Jesus more closely.

These pages give brief snapshots of the 2017-2018 ministries of the Church of the Brethren. Use this calendar throughout 2019 as a guide for prayer and a reminder of the living water that flows to a thirsty world.

Yours in the work of Jesus,

David Steele

Left to right: Kelsey Murray, Glenn Riegel, Cheryl Brumbaugh Cayford



Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of **living water** —John 7:38



INCOME

2017 Total \$6,956,192



2016 Total \$6,896,616



The Church of the Brethren carried out ministries totaling more than \$10.7 million in 2017. That includes the church's Core Ministries, gross expenses for self-funding ministries, and responses to disasters and other areas of need.

Giving to Core Ministries was up slightly from 2016, and the fund ended with a net surplus of \$196,930. Giving to the Emergency Disaster Fund increased significantly from 2016, primarily due to a generous outpouring of support for the 2017 hurricane response.

EXPENSE

2017 Total \$8,677,390



2016 Total \$9,931,942



*Beginning in 2017, Messenger appears within Core Ministries. Internal transfers between ministries have been included. Income shown does not include gifts to endowments. For complete financials, see the audited financial report.



Burundi



London



Venezuela



Nepal



You will be my **witnesses**

—Acts 1:8

JANUARY 2019

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The Church of the Brethren is growing in surprising ways, with seeds blowing across the world. The Great Lakes region of Africa (Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo) is seeking a holistic gospel of peace and reconciliation. Outreach there includes agricultural projects, trauma healing workshops, and church construction. ■ At the same time, interest grows in Venezuela, where groups are attracted to Brethren beliefs and practices. And Dominican Brethren who planted the church in Spain have now started a group in London. ■ A new statement on global mission is guiding the development of these autonomous Brethren bodies, who are seeking mutual encouragement, sharing resources, and supporting each other's efforts.

Main photo: Jay Wittmeyer. Left to right: Karen Meriguete, courtesy of Joel Peña, Smith Gameti.



Young Adult Conference



Mission Alive Conference



Vega Baja, Puerto Rico

Above all, clothe yourselves with **love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony —Colossians 3:14

Being in community is an essential part of the gospel for Brethren. We work things out in big gatherings like Annual Conference, where we can greet brothers and sisters face to face, and we also meet across the miles through MESSENGER magazine and many forms of online media. ■ We travel far from home to serve others, and while we're serving we also grow together in faith. When one part of the body suffers because of natural disaster or violence, the whole body suffers. ■ We meet in conferences like Mission Alive to learn what the church looks like in different places and to deepen our commitment to Christian witness. We gather in community because we believe that is what God calls us to.

Main photo: Keith Hollenberg. Left to right: Kelsey Murray, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Roy Winter.

FEBRUARY 2019

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GraceWay Church of the Brethren



Elgin, Ill.



Mission Alive



O come, let us **sing** to the Lord
—Psalm 95:1

MARCH 2019

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Wherever we gather, worship is at the center. Formed by the weekly worship of our congregations, we carry this attentiveness to God in all that we do. ■ Worship is the highlight at all our conferences—in fact, youth take part in two lively worship services each day at National Youth Conference. Many volunteers across the church plan the services for Annual Conference, workcamps, even committee meetings. Denominational employees gather every Wednesday for weekly chapel services. From these experiences, we learn that our mission, our service, our discipleship all are shaped by our devotion to God.



Nigeria



Annual Conference

Mission and Ministry Board meeting

He came and proclaimed **peace** to you who were far off and peace to those who were near —Ephesians 2:17

Workcamps to rebuild burned-out churches in Nigeria have attracted volunteers from the US, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Nigeria. The US church also gave \$200,000 in grants to help 40 churches in Nigeria rebuild. ■ The Office of Peacebuilding and Policy is bringing together humanitarian and peacebuilding organizations that focus on northeast Nigeria. The office has arranged special meetings between Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) leaders and the State Department. ■ The Nigeria Crisis Response, a partnership of the Church of the Brethren in the US and EYN, now includes four Nigerian nonprofit partners and Switzerland-based Mission 21. Despite the ongoing effects of Boko Haram, the church continues to grow, with four new districts and many new congregations announced in 2017.

Main photo: Donna Parcell. Left to right: Zakariya Musa, Glenn Riegel, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford.

APRIL 2019

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Mission Alive Conference



National Junior High Conference



Evangelism Connections meeting



Bear much fruit and become my **disciples** —John 15:8

MAY 2019

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Inspiration and learning bring Brethren together at age-level conferences large and small. "Generation to generation we're called to welcome Jesus, even as Jesus welcomes us, every moment of our lives," said speaker Rodger Nishioka at the National Older Adult Conference. These words could be said of the other gatherings, too, which provide rich opportunities for growing in faith outside the congregational setting. ■ For congregations, Brethren Press prepares curriculum for all ages, with a special emphasis on children through *Shine: Living in God's Light*. Discipleship Ministries supports congregations through deacon workshops, coaching, resources for church revitalization and church planting. A particular emphasis is cultivation of the church's intercultural community and helping the wider church better understand issues of race. And the Office of Ministry undergirds the calling and preparation of pastoral leaders.

Main photo, left, right: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford. Middle: Glenn Riegel.



Gijon garden project in Spain



Nigeria



Going to the Garden retreat in New Orleans



If you offer your **food** to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday —Isaiah 58:10

Sharing food is one of the ways Brethren show God's love, whether it is a potluck meal in the local fellowship hall or a new crop of soybeans in Nigeria. ■ A retreat of several of the Going to the Garden project leaders, held in New Orleans, brought energy and momentum to those working on church-funded growing projects. The Global Food Initiative (GFI) gave grants to community gardens in Maryland, Ohio, Illinois, New Mexico, and Alaska. ■ In the Great Lakes region of Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi), GFI promoted sustainable farming practices among the Twa people. New projects are underway in China, Ecuador, India, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic. US volunteers traveled to GFI-funded projects in Nigeria, Haiti, Spain, Mexico, and Kenya.

Main photo: Lubungo Ron. Left to right: Jeff Boshart, Christian Elliott, Martin Hutchison.

JUNE 2019

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Knoxville, Tenn.

Lybrook, N.M.



We Are Able workcamp



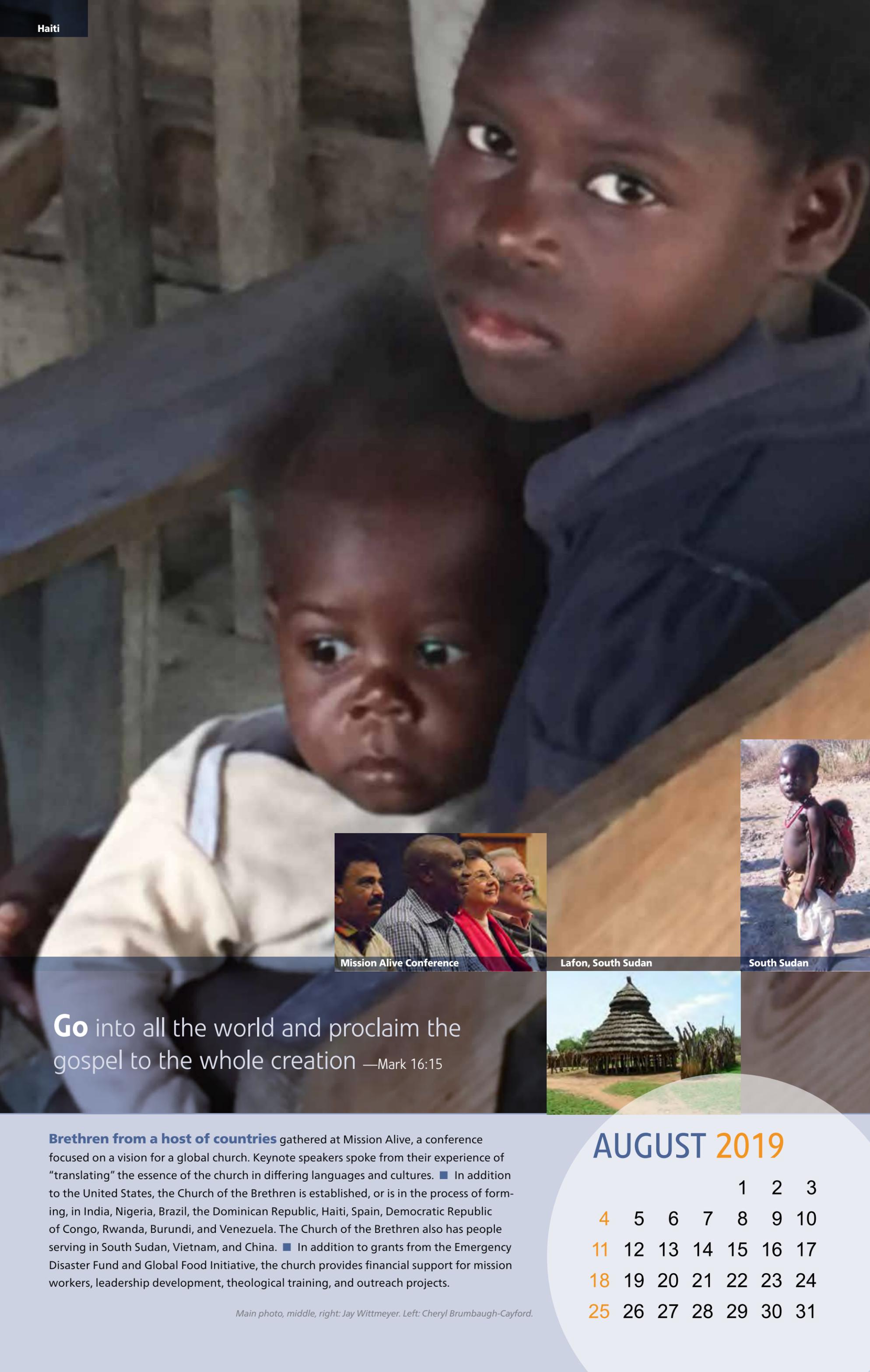
Those who **love** God must love their brothers and sisters also —1 John 4:21

JULY 2019

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A week of service each year and a year of service in a lifetime: That's one of the goals of the Church of the Brethren. The practice starts early, with workcamps for junior highs, high school youth, young adults. Workcamps for those with intellectual disabilities and intergenerational groups offer even more opportunities. ■ The project sites benefit from the labors of hundreds of workcampers. But maybe just as important is the spirit of Christian service that is planted in each volunteer. Youth and adults leave home for a week—some traveling as far as Nepal in 2017 and Burundi in 2018—to meet new people, worship together, work hard, and grow in faith.

Main photo: Smith Gameti. Left to right: Workcamp Ministry, Hannah Kraenbring, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford.



Mission Alive Conference



Lafon, South Sudan



South Sudan

Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation —Mark 16:15

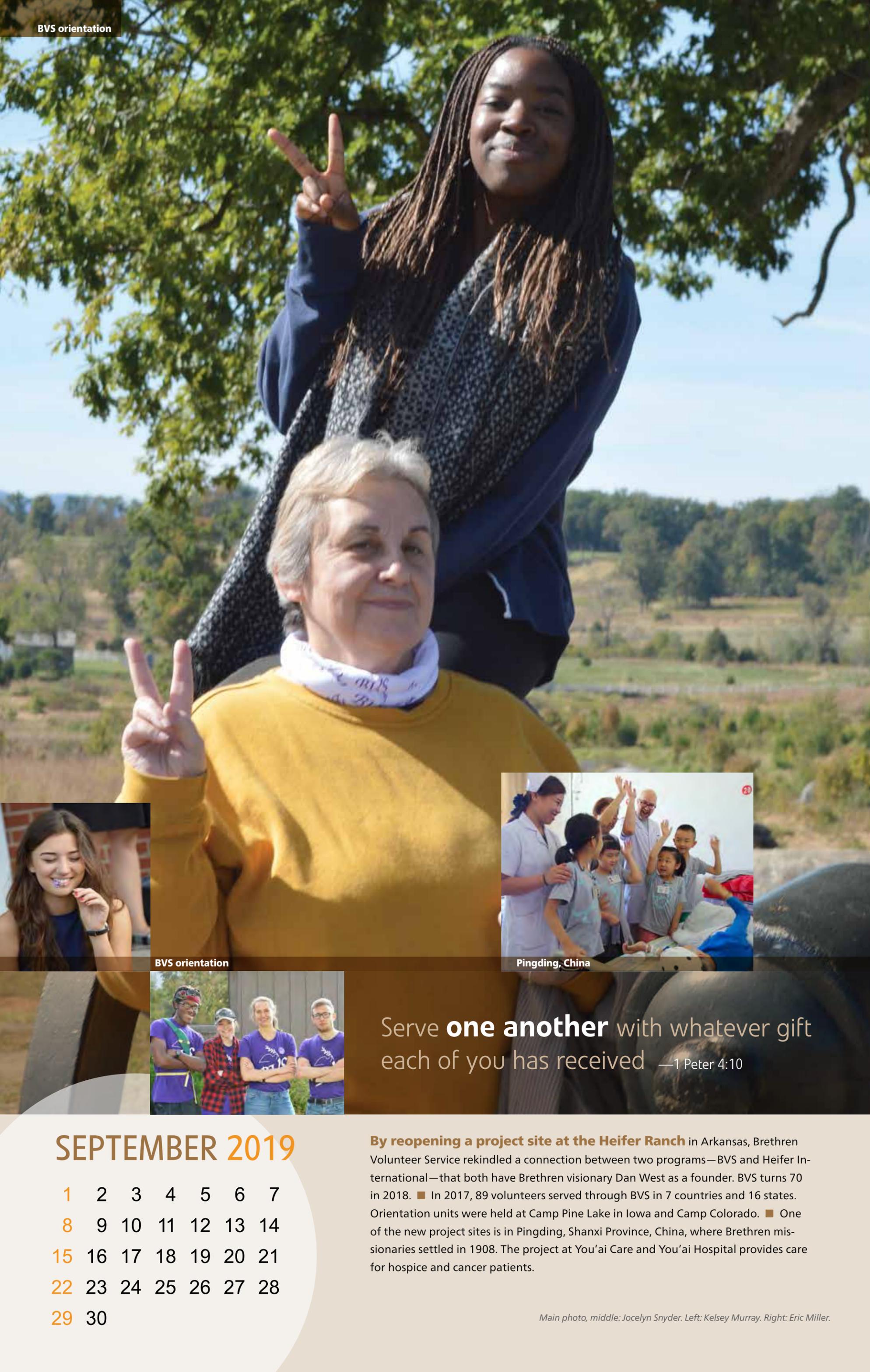
Brethren from a host of countries gathered at Mission Alive, a conference focused on a vision for a global church. Keynote speakers spoke from their experience of “translating” the essence of the church in differing languages and cultures. ■ In addition to the United States, the Church of the Brethren is established, or is in the process of forming, in India, Nigeria, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Spain, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Venezuela. The Church of the Brethren also has people serving in South Sudan, Vietnam, and China. ■ In addition to grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund and Global Food Initiative, the church provides financial support for mission workers, leadership development, theological training, and outreach projects.

Main photo, middle, right: Jay Wittmeyer. Left: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford.

AUGUST 2019

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BVS orientation



Pingding, China



Serve **one another** with whatever gift each of you has received —1 Peter 4:10

SEPTEMBER 2019

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By reopening a project site at the Heifer Ranch in Arkansas, Brethren Volunteer Service rekindled a connection between two programs—BVS and Heifer International—that both have Brethren visionary Dan West as a founder. BVS turns 70 in 2018. ■ In 2017, 89 volunteers served through BVS in 7 countries and 16 states. Orientation units were held at Camp Pine Lake in Iowa and Camp Colorado. ■ One of the new project sites is in Pingding, Shanxi Province, China, where Brethren missionaries settled in 1908. The project at You'ai Care and You'ai Hospital provides care for hospice and cancer patients.



Washington, D.C.

Torit, South Sudan



Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God —Matthew 5:9

The Church of the Brethren has long been known as a historic peace church. But to emphasize that we are a witness today as well as yesterday, we also call ourselves a living peace church. ■ Sometimes that living peace expresses itself in acts of service and friendship; other times it's through a visible witness in places of power. The Office of Peacebuilding and Policy carries Annual Conference statements onto Capitol Hill to address issues such as drone warfare, environmental justice, peace in the Middle East, conscientious objection, immigration. The church also works with Christian Peacemaker Teams. ■ The church's peace witness is especially visible in high-risk areas such as Nigeria, South Sudan, and the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Main photo: Jessie Houff. Left: Wendy McFadden. Right: Athanasus Ungang.

OCTOBER 2019

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Michigan



South Carolina



Oklahoma

Serve one another humbly in love

—Galatians 5:13 NIV

NOVEMBER 2019

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In one of the heaviest seasons of Brethren disaster response ever, volunteers in late 2017 mobilized in the wake of hurricanes Irma and Maria. Back-to-back disasters summoned Children’s Disaster Services volunteers, who responded to a record 16 domestic disasters, including tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, flash floods, a dam breach, a train disaster, and a mass shooting in Las Vegas. ■ Home rebuilders continued work in South Carolina, West Virginia, Missouri, and in short-term projects in Kansas, Illinois, Texas, and Florida. Over 2017, 976 volunteers repaired or rebuilt homes for 77 families. ■ Through the Emergency Disaster Fund, the Church of the Brethren assisted in Nigeria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, and other countries. ■ Material Resources responded to needs in 21 states and 15 countries, handling 587 shipments totaling 603 tons of supplies.

Main photo: Loren Habegger. Left to right: Living Peace Church of the Brethren, BDM, Pearl Miller.

By the tender mercy of our God
the dawn from on high will break upon us
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death
to guide our feet into the way of peace

—Luke 1:78-79



Annual Conference



BVS



In both word and action, the church preaches the good news of the One who saves. Together we give light to the world that God so loves. Together we continue the work of Jesus.

DECEMBER 2019

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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 ▪ BURUNDI ▪ CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICES ▪ CHINA CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR ▪ CHURCH PLANTING ▪ COACHING
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION ▪ CREATION CARE ▪ CURRICULUM AND BOOKS ▪ DEACONS ▪ DEATH ROW SUPPORT PROJECT ▪ DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO ▪ DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ▪ ECUMENICAL RELATIONS ▪ EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND ▪ EVANGELISM ▪ FAITH FORMATION ▪ FINANCE OFFICE ▪ GENERAL OFFICES ▪ GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE ▪ GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE ▪ GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROJECT ▪ GOING TO THE GARDEN ▪ HAITI ▪ HEALTH AND DISABILITIES ▪ HOME REBUILDING ▪ HONDURAS ▪ HUMAN RESOURCES ▪ INDIA ▪ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ▪ INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES ▪ INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRIES ▪ MATERIAL RESOURCES ▪ MESSENGER MAGAZINE ▪ MINISTRY ▪ MINISTRY SUMMER SERVICE ▪ MISSION ADVANCEMENT ▪ MISSION ALIVE CONFERENCE ▪ NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE ▪ NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE ▪ NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE
NEWSLINE ▪ NIGERIA ▪ NIGERIA CRISIS RESPONSE ▪ NORTH KOREA OLDER ADULTS ▪ PEACEBUILDING ▪ RWANDA ▪ SHINE ▪ SPAIN ▪ SPIRITUAL LIFE AND DISCIPLESHIP ▪ STEWARDSHIP ▪ SOUTH SUDAN VENEZUELA ▪ VIETNAM ▪ VITAL MINISTRY JOURNEY ▪ WEBINARS
WORKCAMPES ▪ WWW.BRETHERN.ORG ▪ YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE



Church of the Brethren

Visit www.brethren.org/annualreport for the full written report to delegates at Annual Conference, the video report to delegates, and a digital version of this pictorial report.