

Church of the Brethren

MESSENGER

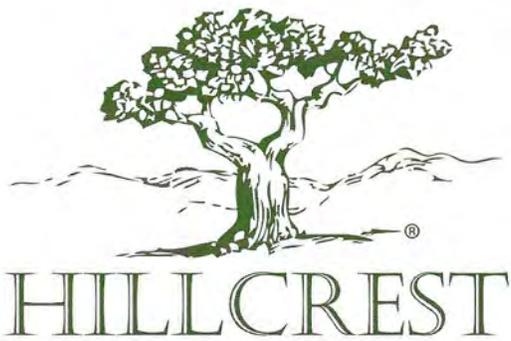
JUNE 2012 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG



A SIMPLE CALLING

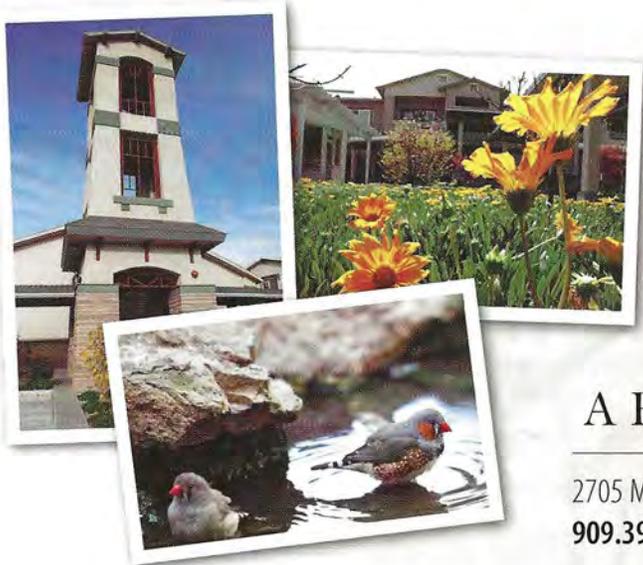
AC 2012 MODERATOR TIM HARVEY

Love Your Life



A Remarkable Brethren Community

- In following our Brethren roots of Peacefully, Simply, Together
- On-site full-time Chaplain, vesper services
- Three Brethren churches within 5 miles of Hillcrest
- University of La Verne is walking distance from Hillcrest and offers senior audit programs
- The Interfaith Festival, Doctor's Symphony and shuttles to cultural art activities
- Community Gardens
- Great location, campus and weather
- Hillcrest offers all levels of care. You will be welcomed with open arms and enjoy the love and comfort of lifelong friends!



Remarkable Residents



{ Residents Jerry & Berkley Davis }

Jerry and Berkley Davis are very involved at Hillcrest, participating in several aspects of campus life. Jerry heads up Channel 3, the community's in-house television station, while Berkley serves on the management team of the Hillcrest gift shop and assists with the production of "Hillcrest Happenings," the community's resident newsletter. "There is more to do and learn here than one can imagine," says Jerry. "I think we made a good choice in Hillcrest!"



{ Resident Shantilal Bhagat }

"Hillcrest, a model community for retirement: orderly not chaotic, unambiguously secure living with caring residents, friendly responsive associates and staff, top-rated physical facilities for swimming, exercising, dining, nursing and healthcare. You are in experienced hands at Hillcrest, why go anywhere else?"



{ Chaplain Tom Hostetler }

"Hillcrest... what a great place to live and work! As chaplain, I am privileged to participate in the spiritual life of many of the residents and the community as a whole. Opportunities abound for worship at all levels of care; bible studies, phone devotions, sharing and inspiration to meet a variety of needs and expectations. The care for neighbors, the interaction and activity of residents, the desire to learn and grow, and the beautiful facilities and surroundings all work together to make Hillcrest a remarkable place. Come and see!"

A Remarkable Retirement Community®

2705 Mountain View Dr., La Verne, CA 91750
909.392.4375 | www.LivingatHillcrest.org



DSS #191501662
Certificate of Authority #069

“... publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works” (Psa. 26:7b KJV).

Church
of the
Brethren

MESSENGER

Editor: Randy Miller Publisher: Wendy McFadden News: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford Subscriptions: Diane Stroyeck Design: The Concept Mill



ONTHECOVER Tim Harvey is good at keeping his balance—whether on a unicycle or in his role as Annual Conference moderator this past year. Maintaining balance at a time when our denomination is covering some bumpy roads can be challenging. But our youthful leader has proven up to the challenge, as our cover story reveals, facing obstacles with vigor, grace, and a sense of humor. Whatever speed bumps and potholes he may have encountered haven’t curbed his progress. In fact, as years atop a unicycle have undoubtedly taught him, unless you’re moving forward, you’re likely to topple.

7 A simple calling

When moderator Tim Harvey takes the gavel this summer during the July 7-11 Annual Conference in St. Louis, Mo., he will challenge his fellow Brethren to renew their own commitment to living out Jesus’ call to discipleship and evangelism. “We Brethren have discovered that our calling is not to make the institutions of this world more holy and righteous,” Harvey writes in his description of this year’s theme. “Our calling is to be the Kingdom of God in the midst of the kingdoms of this world.” In this profile by Karen Doss Bowman, we get a glimpse of a man whose steadiness and poise serve him well both in the moderator’s chair and on a unicycle.

13 Paving pathways for peace

“Interfaith relationships can seem daunting, mainly because of unknowns,” say Nate and Jenn Hosler, reflecting upon the years they spent in Nigeria recently fostering peacebuilding between Christians and Muslims. “What are their expectations? What do they think of me? How do I act? What if I do the wrong thing? We discovered that a willingness to risk uncertainty is crucial in knowing and understanding our ‘neighbors’ of many types.”

17 Anchored to stay

Brethren writer and inspirational speaker Kay Bowman shares a poem/prayer based on Job 13:15: “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him.” Although rough seas abound, when we are anchored in God, our faith can withstand the storm.

18 Scriptures we would rather ignore

“Every Christian has a passage of scripture that contradicts his or her view of the world,” says Joshua Brockway. For many Brethren, Brockway asserts, Romans 13 is one such passage. In this study, he takes a look at why this may be so, and how we might approach it.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 From the Publisher
- 3 In Touch
- 6 The Buzz
- 20 News
- 25 Youth Life
- 26 Media Review
- 27 Letters
- 29 Turning Points
- 32 Editorial



There can be an element of suspense when opening personally addressed mail at work, since you can't tell from the outside what is coming your way. But I had a clue with one small envelope that arrived this spring. It had a friendly look, and the return label identified the sender as the Wednesday Prayer Breakfast.



WENDY McFADDEN
Publisher

The sender was in fact a whole group of people who were writing to let me know that they had prayed for me that day. There was a warm personal note, followed by signatures from the 25 or so individuals who had been present for the prayer breakfast. The back of the attractively designed card said that the group had begun Jan. 15, 1986.

I learned later that the group decides that day who should be prayed for, and members then volunteer to write the notes. Many of the prayed-for are from the congregation, and some (like me) are not.

I can testify that being prayed for by this group was uplifting. And if prayer is also a force for transforming the one who prays, then surely this congregation is spiritually rich. More than 25 years of weekly prayer by some 25 people is a lot of prayer.

Which leads me to wonder: Could a ministry of humble prayer be the way out of no way for a broken church? Not just a going-through-the-motions prayer, or a prayer that others will see the light. I mean the kind of prayer that's all about the mind of Christ and not so much about us. For example:

What if any critical letter couldn't be sent until the sender had first prayed fervently for the recipient? What if a sincere prayer had to be uttered just before hitting the send button on an angry Facebook comment? What if a prayer had to be incorporated into the introduction of any mean-spirited blog post? In other words, what if our first impulse was to ask God to hold and care for the people who had hurt or angered or offended us?

It would be a little like praying without ceasing. With all that practicing, what might we become? Might we begin to look like . . . Christ-followers?

Wendy McFadden

HOW TO REACH US

MESSENGER

1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:

dstroyeck@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039 ext. 327
Fax: 847-742-1407

Advertising:

messengerads@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039 ext. 308
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:

messenger@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039 ext. 376
Fax: 847-742-1407

Subscription rates:

\$17.50 individual rate
- \$32 for 2 years
\$14.50 gift rate
\$14.50 church club rate
- \$27 for 2 years
\$ 1.25 student (per month)

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to MESSENGER Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically: For a free subscription to Newline, the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@brethren.org.

Visit MESSENGER online at www.brethren.org/messenger.

A free study guide for each issue of MESSENGER is available at this site, along with other information.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Member of the Associated Church Press. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. Copyright © June 2012, Church of the Brethren.

MESSENGER (ISSN 0026-0355) is published 10 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren. Periodicals postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120-1694.



Printed on recycled paper
(20% post consumer)

A launch pad for ministry

The occasional visitor to the Mechanicsburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren worship service might assume there are several pastors serving the church. In fact, the worship leader assisting on any given Sunday may well be a licensed minister. Even regular worshipers might find the number of people who have participated in the licensed ministry program at Mechanicsburg to be remarkable. Many parishioners have assisted in preparing Mechanicsburg's 13 licensed ministers over the past several decades.

In the early days of the denomination, when congregations called men to the ministry, these budding pastors were rarely educated by institutions of higher learning. Instead, their lessons were drawn from the everyday challenges of parish life. Despite their lack of formal training, these men were no less committed to the Christian faith than those who followed with diplomas in hand.

It should be noted that in the 1800s—and up through the mid-1950s—women traditionally were not welcome in this role. Despite this rejection, women held steadfastly to God's call, and since the latter half of the 20th century there has been a steady stream of both male and female applicants emerging from the Mechanicsburg congregation. These young people—some fresh from Brethren Volunteer Service—were eager to explore the ministry as a vocation. From the mid-1980s until today, they have sought and received encouragement for their exploration of licensed ministry at Mechanicsburg.

Although not a mega-church (the average attendance at Mechanicsburg is around 170), two Sunday worship services are offered there year-round. And MESSENGER subscriptions among the congregation stands at 76, and is offered as a gift to all who wish to receive it. One class makes it a practice to review each issue of MESSENGER at the end of every month.

Church members and licensed ministers often form lifelong friendships as they travel together in this journey to prepare for the most sacred of functions. Helping to launch ordinary persons on their quest to represent God's voice in the world is humbling, and viewed as a sacred honor by members of the Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren.



Members of the Mechanicsburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren participate in the licensing ceremony for Glenn Brumbaugh.

By Sara Wilson and Sherri Kimmel. Sara Wilson's husband, David, was licensed to the ministry at Mechanicsburg in 1954.

YOU SAID IT

"As the church increasingly finds itself on the margins of our culture, we must rethink what it means to do faith formation."

—Josh Brockway, director of spiritual life and discipleship for the Church of the Brethren, speaking of the "Children, Youth, and a New Kind of Christianity" conference held May 7-10 in Washington, D.C.

BY THE NUMBERS

2,157

Number of health kits, school kits, emergency clean-up buckets, baby kits, and quilts collected this spring by Shenandoah District for Church World Service

Accolades for Brethren composer Shawn Kirchner

Shawn Kirchner, pianist/organist/composer-in-residence at La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren, has been named Swan Family Composer in Residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, effective July 1, announced Master Chorale music director Grant Gershon. In addition, Kirchner's choral composition, "Cornerstone," which had its premiere at the 2002 Brethren National Youth Conference, will be featured at a number of Olympics-related events in London this summer. And his choral arrangement of the Kenyan song "Wana Baraka" was performed during festivities for the Diamond Jubilee Pageant May 10-13 celebrating Queen Elizabeth's 60-year reign.

"Shawn is one of the most prodigiously gifted composers and arranges in the choral world today," said Gershon in a statement issued from the Chorale. "We are eager to increase his visibility and impact on the music scene at large with this appointment. Shawn is an artist of deeply compelling musicianship and skill, whose music the Chorale has performed more often (outside of the works of Morten Lauridsen) than any other American composer."

Kirchner was music coordinator for Church of the Brethren National Youth Conferences in 1998, 2002, and 2006, and who wrote the 2010 NYC theme song, "More than Meets the Eye." He was annual Conference pianist in 1993, 1998, and music coordinator/pianist in 2003. In 1999, at the Milwaukee Annual Conference, the folk group Kindling, of which he is a member, offered the Saturday evening concert. He has led music at numerous regional



Brethren youth conferences, and also provided music leadership at many Brethren Song & Story Fests. His TV/film credits include serving as music director for the Church of the Brethren's 2004 Christmas Eve Special on CBS, and singing on feature film soundtracks including *Avatar* and *Horton Hears a Who*, among others.

Kirchner, who has been composing since the age of 8, has sung tenor in the Master Chorale for 11 years. The Chorale has sung several of his works, including



Buckets of help for CWS

The Crest Manor Church of the Brethren in South Bend, Ind., recently finished a project of creating 38 clean-up buckets for Church World Service. The five-gallon buckets filled with cleaning supplies for disasters were sent to New Windsor, Md., where they will be warehoused and distributed through the Brethren Service Center. "In all, we collected the materials for these buckets, one item per week, through Lent, and finally finished, blessed them a few weeks ago, and sent them off," said pastor Bradley Bohrer. Last year, for Annual Conference, the church used the same process to create 171 school kits.

popular arrangements featured in its annual "Holiday Wonders: Festival of Carols" concert, as well as three world premieres: "Memorare" and "Heavenly Home" in 2010, and "Behold New Joy: Ancient Carols of Christmas" in 2011.

"It is a great honor and privilege for me to accept the Composer in Residence position," Kirchner said. "The Master Chorale represents the summit of achievement for American choirs, whether approaching any symphonic work in the repertoire, however forbidding, or paring itself down to a handful of singers for music of the greatest intimacy. It is any composer's dream to collaborate with such a choir, and with the person at the helm responsible for such achievement, Grant Gershon."

Kirchner's music will be heard by many in England this summer, including members of the royal family. During their upcoming London tour, members of the Monterey Peninsula Choral Society and Carmel High School choirs, under the direction of Sean Boulware, will perform "Cornerstone," which will include performances at the Olympic park, village, and stadium, as well as the Royal Albert Hall, where members of the royal family will be in the audience for one of the presentations.

For the Diamond Jubilee Pageant in May, performing ensembles from around the world were invited to be part of the equestrian pageant held on the grounds of Windsor Castle. The Nairobi Chamber Choir was selected by pageant director Simon Brooks-Ward to perform. Among the pieces in their repertoire was Kirchner's arrangement of the Kenyan song "Wana Baraka" which, Kirchner says, "I first learned from fellow young adults at the 1994 Young Adult Conference at Camp Eder, in Pennsylvania. Four years later, I arranged it for choir, and it was one of the featured anthems at the 1998 National Youth Conference.

"My father and I attended one day of festivities at the Diamond Jubilee Pageant, on May 13, and heard the Nairobi Chamber Choir perform 'Wana Baraka.' We also attended the evening equestrian pageant, when Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip were in attendance. The biggest surprise of the day was that the Kenyan choir sang 'Wana Baraka' at a much slower tempo than what we were used to. They said it was because of the prayerful nature of the text, which means, 'They have blessings, those who pray; Jesus himself said so.' But when they perform in their own churches, it is often in the lively, upbeat tempo that we were accustomed to.

"To my knowledge," Kirchner added, "this is the first time a Kenyan choir has discovered this 'American' arrangement of a Kenyan song."

LANDMARKS & LAURELS

The church's Global Mission and Service staff congratulate India Brethren member Vivek Solanky on his recent graduation from Bethany Theological Seminary. Solanky attended the seminary with support from the denomination's Global Mission office, accompanied by his wife, Shefali Solanky. He completed his studies at the campus in Richmond, Ind., with a master of arts degree with a concentration in Brethren Studies. His presentation was titled "History of the Conflict Between the Church of the Brethren-India and Church of North India: A Possible Step Toward Conflict Resolution." Solanky's path to seminary began when he attended the Historic Peace Church meeting in Asia in 2007, where he became curious about peacemaking and was encouraged to pursue studies at Bethany by American Brethren leaders.

Jay A. Wittmeyer, executive director for Global Mission and Service, has been appointed as the **Church of the Brethren representative to the Board of Directors of Heifer International**. Wittmeyer will represent the founding denomination of Heifer, which began as the Church of the Brethren's Heifer Project.

Ivester Church of the Brethren in Grundy Center, Iowa, celebrated its 100th anniversary on June 24. **Bear Run Church of the Brethren** in Mill Run, Pa., celebrated 90 years on March 25. And **Plumcreek Church of the Brethren** in Shelocta, Pa., held its 150th anniversary celebration and homecoming on June 3.

Michael G. Long, associate professor of religious studies and peace and conflict studies at **Elizabethtown (Pa.) College**, has edited the book *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters*, a collection of writings by the civil rights activist. The book, published on the centennial of Rustin's birth in anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the historic civil rights March on Washington, held in 1963, is Rustin's life story told in his own words. It includes over 150 of his letters, with correspondents including the major progressives of his day: Eleanor Holmes Norton, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, Ella Baker, and Martin Luther King, Jr. The book is published by City Lights Publishers, San Francisco. Visit www.citylights.com/book/?GCOI=87286100330920 for information about Long's multiple-stop book tour.

The Brethren Heritage Center in Brookville, Ohio, is making a newly updated book available for purchase: *Roots by the River: The History and Doctrine of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church in Miami County, Ohio*, revised and updated in 2011. The book, first published by Marcus Miller in 1973, covers the history of early Brethren moving from the east to the then-wilderness called Ohio. An index has a large collection of personal and family names, with photographs listed in bold. For further information visit <http://brethrenheritagecenter.org>.

During the Pacific Southwest District Youth Retreat at Camp La Verne in April, the entire cast and crew of the *Grey's Anatomy* television show was onsite filming the season finale. "It involves a plane crash," reported district youth advisor Dawna Welch. "It was very exciting!" Camp La Verne is located at an altitude of 6,900 feet, in the mountains above San Bernardino, Calif. The show aired this spring on ABC.



CULTUREVIEW ↔

➔ **An inter-religious delegation of senior Muslim and Christian leaders** began a fact-finding visit to Nigeria on 22 May, where an increase in violence has threatened relations between the two religious communities in Northern Nigeria. The delegation is being led by Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan, chairman of the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought. The delegation, by its presence, is expressing the concerns of the international community about the violence. [See the article on pages 13-16 about Nate and Jenn Hosler's work to foster peacebuilding between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria.]

➔ **A broad coalition of educators and religious groups**—from the National Association of Evangelicals to the National School Boards Association—on May 22 endorsed a new pamphlet to help teachers tackle such thorny issues as school bullying. Authored chiefly by the American Jewish Committee, "Harassment, Bullying and Free Expression: Guidelines for Free and Safe Public Schools,"

contains 11 pages of advice on balancing school safety and religious freedom. [See this month's "Media Review" (p. 24) for an analysis of the film *Bully*.]

➔ Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley conducted three experiments that show **less religious people perform acts of generosity more from feelings of compassion** than do more religious people. "The main take-away from the research is that there may be very different reasons why more and less religious people behave generously, when they do," said Robb Willer, an assistant professor of sociology at Berkeley and a co-author of the studies. "[W]e found compassion played a much bigger role in the way that less religious people treated others. Religious people, in contrast, tended to behave as generously as they would regardless of how compassionately they felt." At the same time, Willer said, the view of nonreligious people as cold and amoral needs adjustment. "We find that nonreligious people do feel compassion for others, and that those feelings are strongly related to whether they choose to help others or not."



JUST FOR FUN: MATCH

ALL SUMMER LONG Summer is here! In the puzzle below, match the word for "summer" on the left with the language in which that word is used on the right. Answers are printed below.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. lato | a. French |
| 2. verano | b. Italian |
| 3. agazari | c. Japanese |
| 4. sommer | d. Portuguese |
| 5. estate | e. Turkish |
| 6. kyuuka | f. Spanish |
| 7. été | g. Polish |
| 8. yaz | h. Hausa |
| 9. verão | i. German |
| 10. sommar | j. Swedish |

ANSWERS: 1-g; 2-f; 3-h; 4-i; 5-b; 6-c; 7-a; 8-e; 9-d; 10-j.

QUOTEWORTHY

“Every single one of us can stand an increase of faith.”

—Leah Hileman, preaching at the New Church Planting Conference held May 16-19 at Bethany Seminary in Richmond, Ind.

“God helped me learn to forgive—the most difficult of all lessons. It didn’t happen in a day and it wasn’t easy. But I finally got it.”

—Kim Phuc, the young girl burned by napalm, depicted in the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo made 40 years ago June 9 by AP photographer Huynh Cong “Nick” Ut

“All we did was ask questions. We just raised concerns. There’s no sin in that.”

—Julie Anne Smith, who is facing a \$500,000 defamation suit from her former church, Beaverton Grace Bible College, after she and other former members used a blog to question the church and its pastor

“One of the big points of dialogue is ‘how will the miter fit over my dreadlocks?’”

—Justin Duckworth, who was just appointed the Anglican bishop of Wellington, New Zealand. The unconventional bishop-to-be has dreadlocks and is usually seen around town in shorts and bare feet.

“Who you will become is determined in large part not by what you acquire, but by what you give—and how you give of yourself.”

—Rabbi Will Berkovitz, senior vice president of Repair the World, a national organization that seeks to make service a defining element of American Jewish life, from his essay “The graduation speech I wish I could give”

“Scripture teaches that the Spirit of God was in that still, small voice. But every now and again the Spirit arrives with flapping wings and honking, too. Like that old gray goose.”

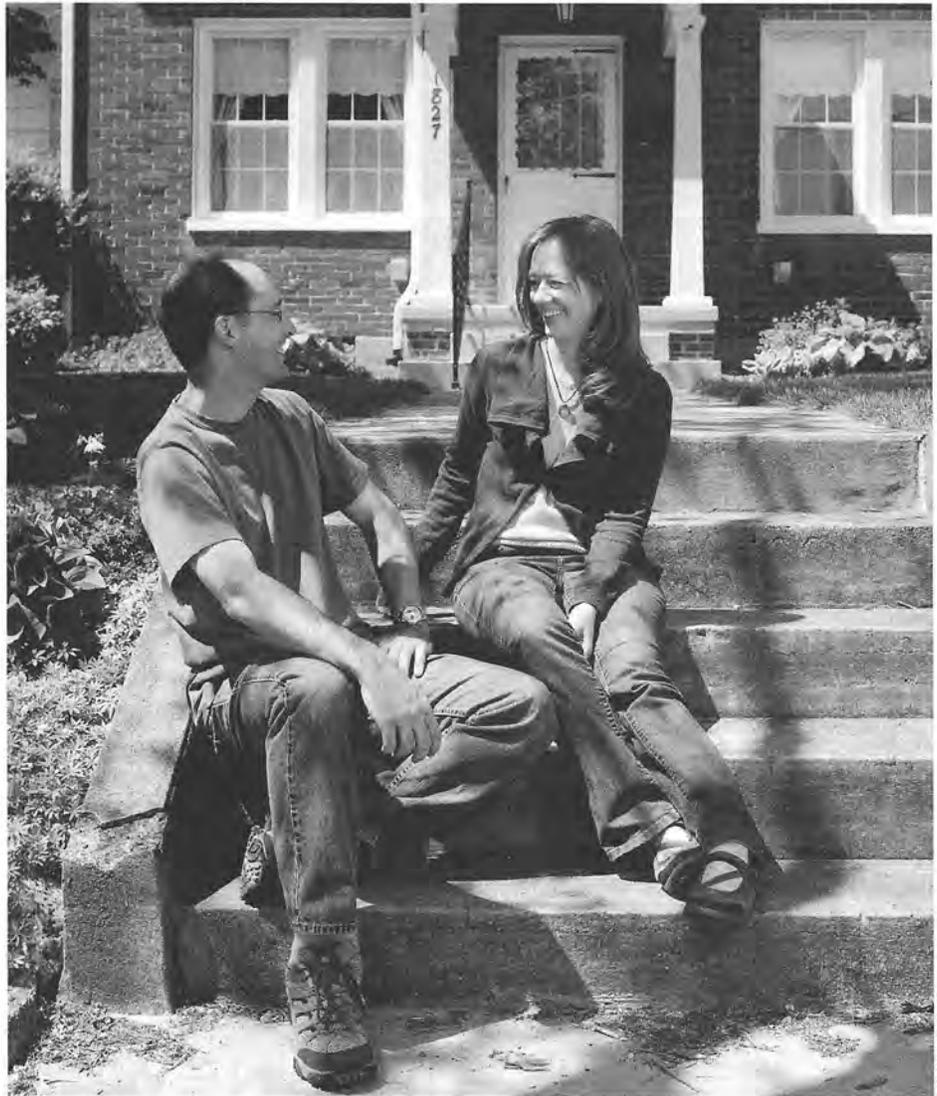
—Award-winning religion journalist and *Sojourners* web editor and director of new media Cathleen Falsani

“Whatever our faith tradition, wherever we live, we are united in shared convictions that the vitality of the church depends on children and youth, and that young people are dear to God’s heart.”

—Dave Csinos, founder and chief planner of the May 7-10 “Children, Youth, and a New Kind of Christianity” conference, held in Washington, D.C.

Continuing
the work
of Jesus

Annual Conference moderator Tim Harvey shares a laugh with his wife, Lynette, at their Roanoke, Va., home.



Christina Snoweller

Annual Conference Moderator Tim Harvey

A SIMPLE CALLING

by Karen Doss Bowman

Tim Harvey's call to ministry didn't come in a flash of blinding revelation. Instead, it was a quiet, steady call that he believes came about as a result of the constant presence of the church throughout his lifetime.

While attending National Youth Conference in 1990, a fellow church leader simply asked him, "Have you ever considered the ministry?" Because the seeds of his calling had been planted years before, "it was easy to say 'yes,'"

Harvey says. "All the hard work had already been done."

"The calling came at a church event, through a perceptive church leader who recognized what the Spirit was doing in my life," Harvey adds. "It wasn't an out-of-the-blue kind of thing. It came through the structure of the church, simply doing what the church ought to be doing—tapping all sorts of people, young and old, to greater faithfulness and discipleship."



Christina Snoweller

To keep up with Dad, they knew they'd have to master one-wheeler's themselves, as this photo proves Tim Harvey's children have done.

"Along the way, Brethren have discovered that our calling is not to make the institutions of this world more holy and righteous," Harvey writes in his description of this year's theme. "Our calling is to be the Kingdom of God in the midst of the kingdoms of this world."

A native of Broadway, Va., Harvey grew up attending the Bethel Church of the Brethren, where he was baptized in

When Harvey takes the gavel this summer during the July 7-11 Annual Conference in Saint Louis, Mo., he will challenge his fellow Brethren to renew their own commitment to living out Jesus' call to discipleship and evangelism, as found in the Great Commission of Matthew 28. Throughout the denomination's 300-year history, says Harvey, the Brethren have lived out Jesus' teachings—evangelizing throughout the world and within their neighborhoods, responding to desperate needs worldwide and witnessing as peacemakers. This year's theme, "Continuing the Work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together," calls Brethren to revive that ministry.

1983. The Harvey family—parents Hobert and Barbara, and his sister, Sarah—were at church every time the doors were open, Harvey recalls. The Bethel congregation emphasized the importance of activities such as Sunday school, youth group, and service opportunities. The church was particularly faithful in nurturing the faith and spiritual gifts of its children and youth. Harvey recalls participating in leadership opportunities during youth-led Sunday worship services, even "unimportant and unimpressive jobs" like reading the morning announcements.

"It was simply a matter of the church doing what the church

Continuing the work of Jesus

VISITING NEW BRETHREN GROUP IN SPAIN

by Tim Harvey

[Annual Conference moderator Tim Harvey has reported on the annual moderator's international trip to visit mission points or to meet with international Brethren or ecumenical partners. This year the moderator visited with an emerging Brethren group in Spain. —Ed.]

In February, my wife, Lynette, and I were privileged to visit the Church of the Brethren in Gijón, Spain. We traveled with pastor Fausto Carrasco and a team from Nuevo Amanecer Iglesia de los Hermanos in Bethlehem, Pa.

The trip was scheduled to provide ministerial and theological training for the three Churches of the Brethren in northern Spain. In considering the options available for my international trip, I was glad to visit the Brethren in Spain because they are so eager to be

included among the global community of the Church of the Brethren.

The Church of the Brethren in Spain began as members of pastor Santos Feliz' family began moving from the Dominican Republic to Spain looking for work. In the global economy, Spain often has been a place for Latin Americans to move for jobs. Generally the women move first, and often are able to quickly find work in domestic trades such as cooking and cleaning. After the women have lived in Spain for a year, it is fairly easy for them to bring the rest of the family to join them.

That was the case with pastor Santos' family. They (and other members of the family) initially moved to Madrid, where they worked long, unpredictable hours. Eventually, they realized that they were slipping away from church life altogether, so they

gathered their family and began meeting as a church. In time the Spanish economy deteriorated and only the women were left with jobs.

After moving to Gijón the work of the church continued. The church there meets in a storefront location in a very nice, commercial part of town. The congregation works very hard at incorporating Latin American immigrants into their community life, helping them get settled, handle necessary paperwork, make new friends, and expand the church. They have been very effective at this, and their congregation has members that hail from seven countries.

Incorporating native Spaniards has been difficult due largely to the racial prejudice our brothers and sisters encounter.

Throughout the week, and amid very busy and demanding work schedules for those who have jobs, the con-

WHEN HARVEY TAKES THE GAVEL THIS SUMMER DURING THE JULY 7-11 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SAINT LOUIS, MO., HE WILL CHALLENGE HIS FELLOW BRETHREN TO RENEW THEIR OWN COMMITMENT TO LIVING OUT JESUS' CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND EVANGELISM, AS FOUND IN THE GREAT COMMISSION OF MATTHEW 28.

is supposed to do—being a steady presence in people's lives, identifying people's gifts and giving people the opportunity to try doing things they might not otherwise do," says Harvey, who is an avid runner and enthusiastic unicyclist. "It wasn't that there was anything all that spectacular [about the church]. It was faithful, which is a much better thing to be."

While Harvey's church family was instrumental in nurturing his spiritual growth throughout his life, he also credits former Bethel pastor Jerry Ruff—the only pastor Harvey knew until he went to college—as an "inspiring example as a pastor and engaged church leader." Another pastoral mentor was Marianne Pittman, who was Harvey's pastor at Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren in Blacksburg, Va., where he attended during his years as a student at Virginia Tech. It was a time of spiritual renewal for him.

"Rather than walking away from church in college, I actually walked

toward it, and I was feeling great satisfaction and usefulness," Harvey says. "Marianne Pittman was another church leader who was incredibly committed to involving others in the life of the church and giving them opportunities to grow."

After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1992 with a degree in chemistry, Harvey married his high school sweetheart, Lynette (Showalter). The couple lived for three years in Wilson, N.C., where Harvey worked as an analytical chemist at Southern Testing and Research Laboratories. Though he



Photo courtesy of Tim Harvey

Tim Harvey (left) during his visit to Spain poses with Spanish Brethren pastor Santos Feliz, lead pastor in Gijón (center left); pastor Fausto Carrasco (center right) and translator Lymaris Sanchez (right) both of Nuevo Amanecer Iglesia de los Hermanos, a Church of the Brethren congregation in Bethlehem, Pa.

gregation meets for worship or study multiple times including Saturday and Sunday evenings for worship. While we were there, the Saturday evening worship was led by the women in the congregation, and Lynette was invited to preach. The entire congregation appreciated her sharing; the women were especially grateful when they found out this was her first sermon! I was blessed to preach at the Sunday service.

There are several steps that need to be taken before the Spanish church is officially recognized as a mission point of the Church of the Brethren. Along the way, their presence with us raises some perspectives that US Brethren would do well to consider.

First, what does it mean to thrive as an immigrant church? During one class of theological training, we were studying Matthew 5:44, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." I asked the group if any of them had ever been persecuted. Everyone raised a hand. They know what it is like to be

the victim of racial prejudice.

With this, I told them that they understand this verse better than I. When questioned about this, I raised my own hand and asked, "Does skin color matter?" Everyone's eyes widened with the realization that it does. This opened up a helpful conversation about how the prayers and loving support of the church family are a vital part of enduring suffering. Our brothers and sisters in Spain gain spiritual strength and unity because they turn to Christ and the church in the face of suffering.

Second, in spite of a significant focus on outreach, the Brethren in Spain have not yet had an impact on the Spanish culture where they live. This is partly due to their status as immigrants. But it is

also partly because they are evangelical believers in a predominantly Catholic, yet essentially secular, culture. It is difficult to be taken seriously when you are a persecuted minority.

What might American Brethren learn from our Spanish Brethren on these points? How is our faith encouraged in the face of suffering? Do we suffer for our faith? And, as the dominant culture, how effectively are we impacting the world around us? These are important questions for us to consider.

The presence and faith of the global Brethren can be a great encouragement to our faith in the US. There is a good chance Spanish Brethren will be with us in St. Louis; I pray you will seek them out. 



Glenn Riegel

planned all along to heed the call to ministry that had come two years earlier, Harvey decided to pursue a short career in chemistry to give him some time for “growing up and maturing.”

In 1995, the Harveys returned to the Shenandoah Valley, where Tim attended Eastern Mennonite Seminary and worked full-time as youth pastor at Dayton (Va.) Church of the Brethren. He graduated with a master of divinity degree in 1999.

Harvey's first full-time pastorate was at New Hope Church of the Brethren in Patrick County, Va., from 1999 to 2004. For the past eight years, he has served as pastor of Central Church of the Brethren in downtown Roanoke. Lynette is a math teacher at Patrick Henry High School, and the couple has three children—Emily, Zachary and Rose.

Harvey's roots in the idyllic Shenandoah Valley could not have foretold the challenges and personal growth opportunities he would experience serving an urban congregation. The position has been exciting for him, giving him new insights into mission and ministry.

“I find myself theologically conservative, but my experience in Roanoke has caused me to be socially progressive in terms of [thinking] we need to understand poverty and racism and the effects that our social policies have on them,” Harvey explains. “And what is the role of the church is in light of those realities? What does it mean when our children go to school and are in the classroom with a child



UP FOR DISCUSSION AT CONFERENCE

Ten items of business—two unfinished and eight new—are slated for discussion at Annual Conference in Saint Louis, Mo., on July 7-11. The two items of unfinished business are “Query: Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper” and “Query: Guidance for Responding to the Changing of Earth’s Climate.” New business items are explained briefly below.

Query: Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper

The Congregational Life Ministries staff charged with revising the Ethics for Congregations document requests more time to complete the revision. A hearing will be held at this year's Conference, and by 2014 a revised document will be presented for final approval.

Query: Guidance for Responding to the Changing of Earth's Climate

Peace Witness Ministries and a working group brought together to respond to this query are requesting an additional year to prepare an answer. Since the query was brought in 2011, the

group's response has included examining the spiritual, ethical, and scientific implications of climate change; initiating a collaboration among Peace Witness Ministries, New Community Project, and the Outdoor Ministry Association to sponsor an exhibit at this year's Annual Conference; examining ways that individuals, congregations, and the denomination can respond to climate change, and noting actions already being taken.

Query: Annual Conference Elections

The query is brought by La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren and Pacific Southwest District. Citing previous Annual Conference statements upholding gender equality, but a voting

record showing men more likely to be elected to denominational office than women, it asks, “How will Annual Conference ensure that our ballot preparation and election process support and honor gender equality in all elections?”

Query: More Equitable Representation on the Mission and Ministry Board

This query was formulated by the Southern Pennsylvania District Board. Citing inequitable representation in relationship to percentage of membership in the five areas of the denomination, it asks, “Should the bylaws of the Church of the Brethren be amended to more equitably apportion Mission and Ministry Board representation with the membership of the church?”

HARVEY HOPES THAT BRETHERN COMING TO ST. LOUIS THIS SUMMER WILL RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TO “TAKING THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY” AND MOVE BEYOND THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE THREATENED TO DIVIDE US IN RECENT YEARS.

who might be homeless or a child who might not eat well outside of school? What are the implications of the gospel on that social situation?”

Harvey has found satisfaction working with Congregations in Action, an ecumenical partnership of churches in downtown Roanoke—including the Central congregation. The group strives to bring about positive change in the lives of students, teachers, staff, and parents at Highland Elementary School, which is located in the downtown neighborhood and has one of the city’s highest poverty rates (as measured by free and reduced lunch rates). Volunteers from Central Church are involved with a variety of activities, including tutoring and mentoring, reading to classes and serving as lunch buddies, and sponsoring a backpack program to send nutritional food home with kids each evening and on weekends. The congregation also hosts a Brethren Volunteer Service position who serves the school by managing the backpack program and

working as a teacher’s aide.

“It simply involves the congregation in missions and finding out the different stories and different mission fields that are literally within walking distance of our church building,” Harvey says. “Jesus was constantly surrounded by people who were on the fringes of society. They found great welcome and comfort in his presence. I think culture and society has a tendency to trample upon those people. The church’s witness can be to reach out to those persons and to be a place of welcome for them.”

As Harvey prepares to fill the moderator role in St. Louis this summer, he has enjoyed traveling throughout the denomination, meeting folks and learning how other congregations are living out their faith. In February, he and Lynette visited the Church of the Brethren congregation in Gijon, Spain—one of three denominational church plants located in the country. Both Tim and Lynette were invited to

Church of the Brethren Vision Statement 2012-2020

The following Vision Statement is proposed for the Church of the Brethren this decade: “Through Scripture, Jesus calls us to live as courageous disciples by word and action: To surrender ourselves to God, To embrace one another, To express God’s love for all creation.” The full document includes an introduction to the statement, an expanded description of each phrase in the statement plus related biblical texts, and a section on “Living into the Vision.”

Revitalization of Annual Conference

A task force created in 2010 was charged with making a recommendation about the mission and core values of Annual Conference and analyzing whether the meeting should remain in its present form. Based on their findings, four recommendations have been made: to maintain the present timing and length of the Conference, release Program and Arrangements Committee from the

requirement of holding the event from Saturday evening to Wednesday morning, release polity requirements for a strict geographical rotation to allow focus instead on locations that maximize stewardship and minimize costs, and incorporate by 2015 the recommendations of the 2007 “Doing Church Business” paper.

Revision to Ministerial Leadership polity

The proposal is to approve this document as a study paper to come back for adoption by delegates in a future year. The paper contains the procedures for calling and credentialing of ministerial leadership for the Church of the Brethren. The proposed revision would replace the 1999 Ministerial Leadership Paper and all previous polity documents.

Revisions to polity on districts

For several years the Council of District Executives has been working on revisions that will reflect the updating of districts. Revisions relate to a polity document that dates back to 1965.

Updating structure for Program and Arrangements Committee

This brief item recommends that polity be amended to remove a requirement for the Church of the Brethren Treasurer to be on the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.

Church of the Brethren ecumenical witness

This report comes from a study committee that has been reviewing the history of ecumenism in the Church of the Brethren and reviewing the work of the Committee on Interchurch Relations (CIR), in place since 1968 to carry forward conversations and activities with other church communions and encourage cooperation with other religious traditions. The recommendation, “given the changing nature of ecumenism,” is to discontinue the CIR and “that the church’s ecumenical witness be expressed by the staff and the church at large.” 



Woodworking is another of Tim Harvey's many passions.

preach for separate worship services.

These opportunities allow Harvey to see the best the Church of the Brethren has to offer. Still, he acknowledges that we continue to struggle over the recent discussions and business items related to human sexuality. He hopes the church can begin to take seriously Jesus' call to reconciliation and unity. He encourages Brethren to move forward and allow God's spirit to move among us.

"The problem there is that we can only deem to discuss this issue as if there are two options: complete acceptance or complete exclusion," Harvey says. "So no matter where we enter the debate, we can only see those two possibilities and meanwhile the 1983 paper describes some other areas that we ought to be having conversations about. There are issues of compassion and personal safety that persons who are gay or lesbian should not be concerned about. These have not been there in the past two years, even in church discussions. What I think has happened is our continued inability to move anywhere on human sexuality is having an impact on other areas of mission and ministry.

"There's a credibility problem. We act as if the only part of the 1983 paper we need to pay attention to [addresses] homosexuality, but when divorce or people living together out of wedlock [occurs in high rates among Christians]—there's chapter and verse in the Bible about those, too. We are being selective about what we talk about."

"TIM HAS A GREAT LOVE OF THE CHURCH," SAYS SHUMATE, WHO ALSO IS IMPRESSED WITH HARVEY'S FAMILY LIFE AND COMMITMENT TO HIS FAMILY. "HE HAS DEEP ROOTS IN THE SCRIPTURE AND AN EVANGELICAL SPIRIT."

But how can we deal with that as a church?

"I think naming it—let's be honest," Harvey says. "When Jesus says do not judge—to take the log out of our own eye before taking the speck out of another's—it doesn't preclude our speaking to sin when we see it. But it does say not to be hypocritical about it and to be upfront about our own shortcomings. But I think this is precisely the place where Jesus has said he'll be with us, where two or three are gathered to try to bring unity to the church."

Mending the hurt feelings and disagreements may be a difficult task, but Jerry Ruff says Harvey is the right kind of church leader to guide delegates and other participants to understanding, compassion and love for one another.

"I believe Tim understands where people are coming from, and when they speak, he can appreciate what they bring," Ruff says. "He's very much the real thing. He isn't just saying niceties—he's genuine and sincere. With Tim, I always felt like we could get into discussions, and if he disagrees, he wouldn't just pass over you. He would say what he honestly felt, but he'd let you know in a loving manner. You never felt threatened. He has a compassionate way of letting you know that he loves you."

Former Annual Conference moderator David Shumate, Virlina District executive, says Harvey's "even-handed" leadership style and administrative talents are a plus for the moderator role.

"Tim has a great love of the church," says Shumate, who also is impressed with Harvey's family life and commitment to his family. "He has deep roots in the scripture and an evangelical spirit."

Harvey hopes that Brethren coming to St. Louis this summer will renew their commitment to "taking the Bible seriously" and move beyond the discussions that have threatened to divide us in recent years. Through reconciliation and unity, the Brethren have a strong witness to offer the world, he says.

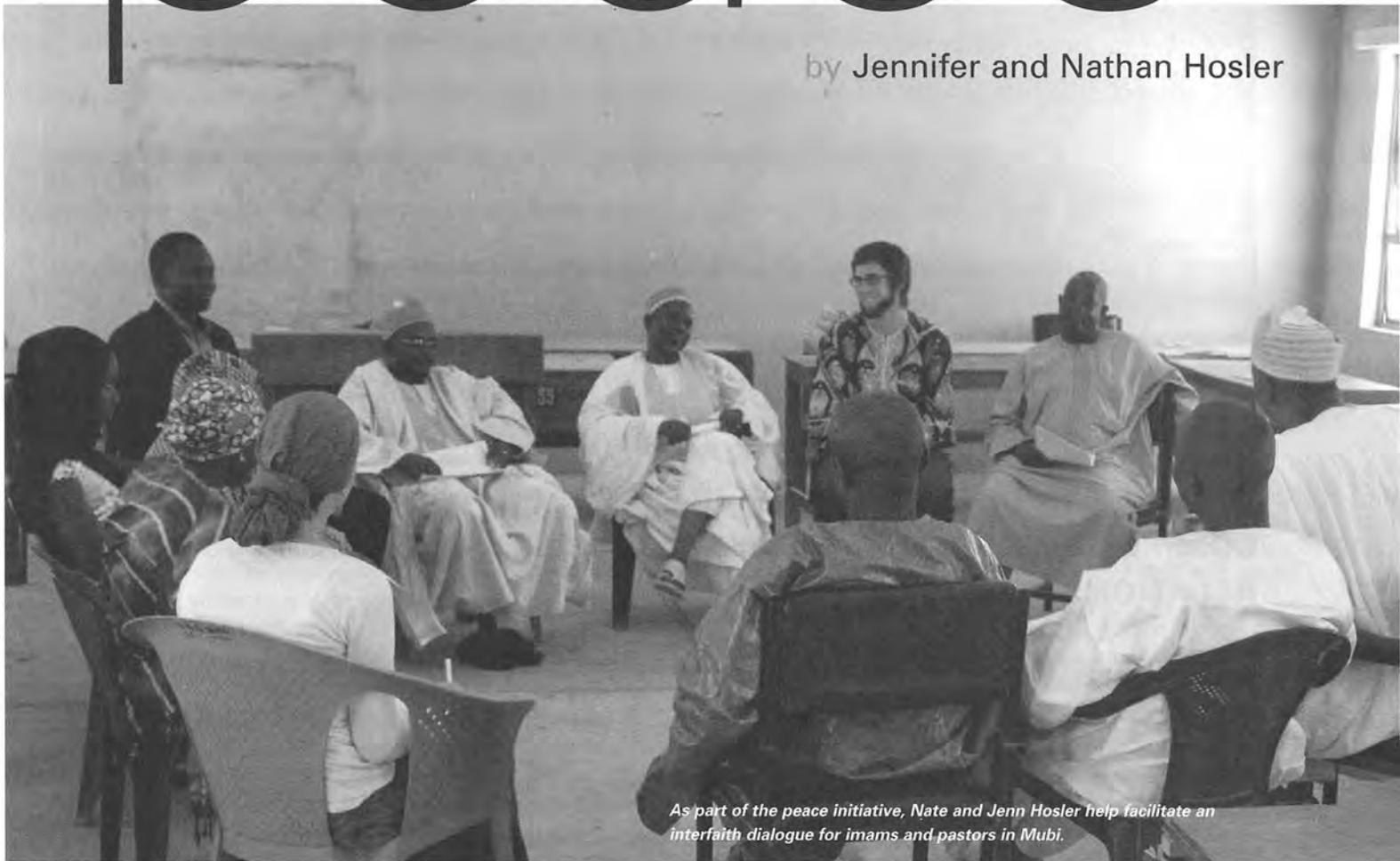
"My hope for Annual Conference is that we can do exactly what the theme says: Continuing the work of Jesus—peacefully, simply, together," Harvey says. "I hope that we would move beyond some of these debates we have been having and put our attention on mission and ministry. We have taken our eyes off our first calling. It is time to put our attention back on what Jesus has called us to do." ❧

Karen Doss Bowman is a freelance writer based in Bridgewater, Va. She is a member of the Sunrise Church of the Brethren in Harrisonburg.

Paving pathways for

peace

by Jennifer and Nathan Hosler



As part of the peace initiative, Nate and Jenn Hosler help facilitate an interfaith dialogue for imams and pastors in Mubi.

In the well-known “Peace Prayer of St. Francis,” the person praying asks to be made an instrument of God’s peace, seeking, among many other things, not “to be loved as to love, to be understood as to understand.” As followers of Jesus, we are called to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves (Mt. 22:36-40).

Thinking about how we want to be loved and treated is a helpful way to think about how to love others. We all want to be understood, to be heard by others, to be given a voice, a chance to talk. Therefore, one aspect of *loving* our neighbor is seeking to *understand* our neighbor.

But just who is our neighbor? Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan indicates that “neighbors” include those who may

be different from us, may dislike us, and may not trust us. This means that we Jesus-followers need to work to understand those who are different from us, whether they are Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or atheist. As disciples of Jesus, living as the Body of Christ, we can demonstrate the love of Jesus by reaching out intentionally to meet and learn about people of other faiths.

Building relationships and friendships across cultures and faiths can be challenging, but it is very rewarding and, we believe, part of our calling as followers of Jesus. We would like to share the reflections and insights that we ourselves learned about this while doing peacebuilding work with Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)



Jenn Hosler with some CAMPI (Christians and Muslims for Peacebuilding Initiatives) committee members.

David Schenberger

DESPITE DIFFERENCES IN RELIGION, DRESS, NATIVE LANGUAGE, AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND, CAMPI MEMBERS HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN COOPERATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MUBI. THIS COMMONALITY PAVED THE WAY FOR MUTUAL WORK AND FOR RELATIONSHIPS TO BE BUILT.

from September 2009 to December 2011.

EYN is its own church. That is, it has its own leadership, ordination process, habits of life together, budget, modes of evangelism, projects of rural development, choirs, and buildings. The Church of the Brethren in the United States *partners* with EYN. Because of this, our story is not really our story as “foreign missionaries” but as co-workers in the work of Christ. EYN seeks to live out Jesus’ teachings of reconciliation and peace, and they asked us to serve alongside them to help them grow in this witness. EYN peace work continues now, in our absence.

A significant part of our work involved capacity building within EYN. Capacity building means increasing the resources of an organization to complete specific functions or tasks. EYN wanted to increase its own ability to do peacebuilding, so our work had a large capacity building focus. One main task was to develop and teach peace and reconciliation curriculum at Kulp Bible College (KBC), EYN’s main ministry training school. These courses—a requirement under revised KBC curriculum—give future pastors, evangelists, and church leaders the theological foundations for peace in the Bible, mediation, restorative justice, trauma healing, and many other areas in the theology and practice of peace.

Another focus was strengthening the EYN Peace Programme, EYN’s own peacebuilding organization. The EYN Peace Programme works 1) to equip the denomination with the skills, knowledge, and resources for constructive conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and 2) to promote peacebuilding initiatives and collaboration within the broader community of northern Nigeria. Under the leadership of peace coordinator (and KBC provost) Toma H. Ragnjiya, we worked to develop basic literature on conflict resolution, started a Peace Resource Library at KBC, formed a Peace Club of KBC students for discussion and outreach, and coordinated an interfaith peace committee of Muslims and Christians.

Since June 2010, a group of Muslims and Christians has been meeting together as an interfaith peace planning group. It meets under the name CAMPI, or Christians and Muslims for Peacebuilding Initiatives. CAMPI is composed of five Muslims and five Christians, four of whom are women and four of whom are young adults. Its goal is to bring together peace-minded Muslims and Christians in the Mubi area (close to Kulp Bible College) to plan and implement projects that promote understanding and harmony between the two religious groups. The first project, held from September to November 2011, was an inter-

group dialogue and conflict resolution training for five imams and five pastors. CAMPI, as a planning committee, is currently making progress toward its second peace-building initiative, developing Peace Clubs in high schools and universities in Mubi.

While doing this interfaith peace work and working cross-culturally, we learned several things that can be useful to practice when engaging our neighbors from different faiths: start with the commonalities, cultivate an intentional interest and curiosity, risk uncertainty, and build relationships.

In life, and especially in conflict, our tendency is to emphasize our differences. It starts when we are small and continues as we grow up. “He’s a boy and I’m a girl.” They are from “that school or neighborhood,” from “that religious group,” or they are “people who eat that type of food.” Defining people by their differences can make it difficult for us to see that we have anything in common. Where do we start when we are so different?

A great basis for initial interaction can be a commonality. This could be a religious commonality—such as being monotheists or acknowledging that Abraham is a patriarch for Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Non-religious commonalities are more plentiful and apply to all humans: desires for peace, security, healthy families, freedom to worship, respect, and equality. Working together for a common goal—such as reducing poverty, ending hunger, or building peace—can also strengthen ties across groups.

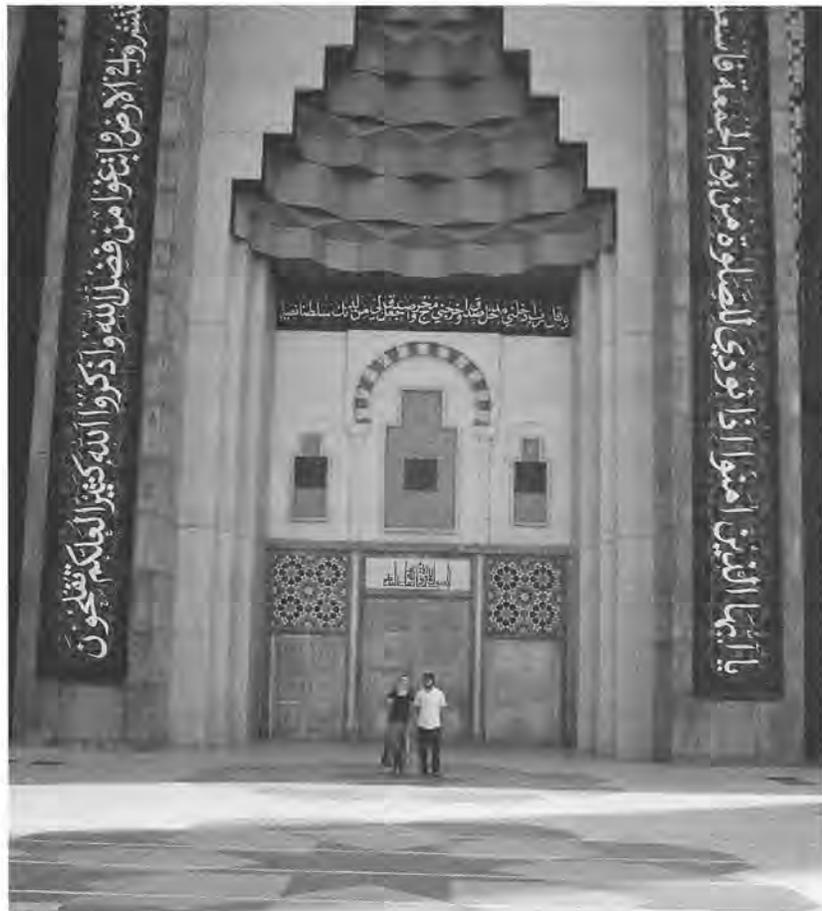
For CAMPI, the commonality was being people of sincere faith who desired peace in their communities. Despite differences in religion, dress, native language, and ethnic background, CAMPI members have a common interest in cooperation for the betterment of Mubi. This commonality paved the way for mutual work and for relationships to be built.

Desiring to learn and being interested can build bridges where you least expect. They have the potential to break down cultural and religious barriers. A willingness to learn about another culture and become vulnerable can go a long way in expressing love. We learned this in numerous circumstances during our life and work in Nigeria.

We really love food from around the world and trying new things (though Jenn’s grandparents testify to her being a very picky eater growing up). Because of this habit and interest, Nigerian cuisine was not a challenge for us. Though we did not fully switch to a Nigerian diet, we ate their food regularly, and with our hands. Apparently, our Nigerian sisters and brothers noticed. Toma, our Nigerian

supervisor, started telling us that people would report seeing us eating with our hands at a local restaurant. They were surprised and happy with the new Brethren from the US (and, we assumed, if people were happy with us, they were more likely to be content with our work for peace).

Another example comes from a trip to Abuja, the capital. A friend of a friend gave us the opportunity to visit the Abuja National Mosque—the biggest mosque in Nigeria. Few Nigerian Christians have visited, and all non-Muslim visitors require a Muslim to apply on their behalf. We accepted, eager to see the beautiful architecture up close. Our tour on a Friday (after everyone left from their prayers) was led by the director of maintenance. We asked him about his work and, while talking, he offered to let us come again on Monday to be able to



Nate and Jenn Hosler in front of Abuja National Mosque

climb up to the base of the mosque’s dome. Again, we accepted the unique experience and, from then on, we had a friend. We did not enter Abuja often but when we did we made sure to greet our new friend in person each time. This relationship—formed by curiosity and small initiative on our part—also opened the door for an EYN leader to continue the relationship after our departure.

Interfaith relationships can seem daunting, mainly because of unknowns. What are their expectations? What do they think of me? How do I act? What if I do the wrong



The CAMPI committee at the farewell meal for the Hoslers last December.

thing? A willingness to risk uncertainty is crucial in knowing and understanding our “neighbors” of many types. One positive element that we noticed is that the impact of social faux-pas or blunders goes down significantly when there is established relationship. With good relationships and trust, mistakes or offenses are more easily overlooked.

CAMPI committee meetings are held at least once a month, or sometimes more frequently for project implementation and planning. At one such meeting, Nate made a mistake. Nigerian Muslims typically do not shake hands across gender. Yet at this meeting, in his enthusiasm to greet one of the CAMPI members, Nate extended his hand to greet Maimuna, a Muslim woman. In some situations, this might have been offensive.

Because of our good relationship, it was only mildly awkward. Maimuna, instead of being offended, graciously gave his hand a light tap. Our relationship with her consisted of more than awkward handshakes: we had a history of greetings by phone, visits to her workplace and home, eating together, and of working together for peace with CAMPI. In an interfaith context, a demonstration of good faith and concern for the person—in connection with relationship—makes it much easier to work through (and overlook) religious or cultural faux-pas.

When working across cultural and religious lines there will be times when it is not entirely clear how you should respond. What does one do about cultural and religious disagreements? One time we were told by an imam that he would invite us to his wedding with his fourth wife. While we may not religiously or socially support this, he was a friend and an active part of the interfaith dialogue. Even in the case of a very kind and benevolent husband, there seems to be an underlying assumption of wives as some type of property. What do you do?

While CAMPI’s goal is to raise awareness, educate, and conduct projects for peace, the act of meeting as a committee has helped foster peace in and of itself. People lis-

ten to each other’s opinions, discuss, and eat together. CAMPI members genuinely care for one another, attending gatherings across religious lines—including a Christian wedding and a goodbye party for us hosted at EYN headquarters.

Another relationship was with the emir of Mubi. An emir is a traditional Muslim ruler who works along with the elected politicians of the local government. We originally went along with Toma, the EYN peace coordinator, to pay

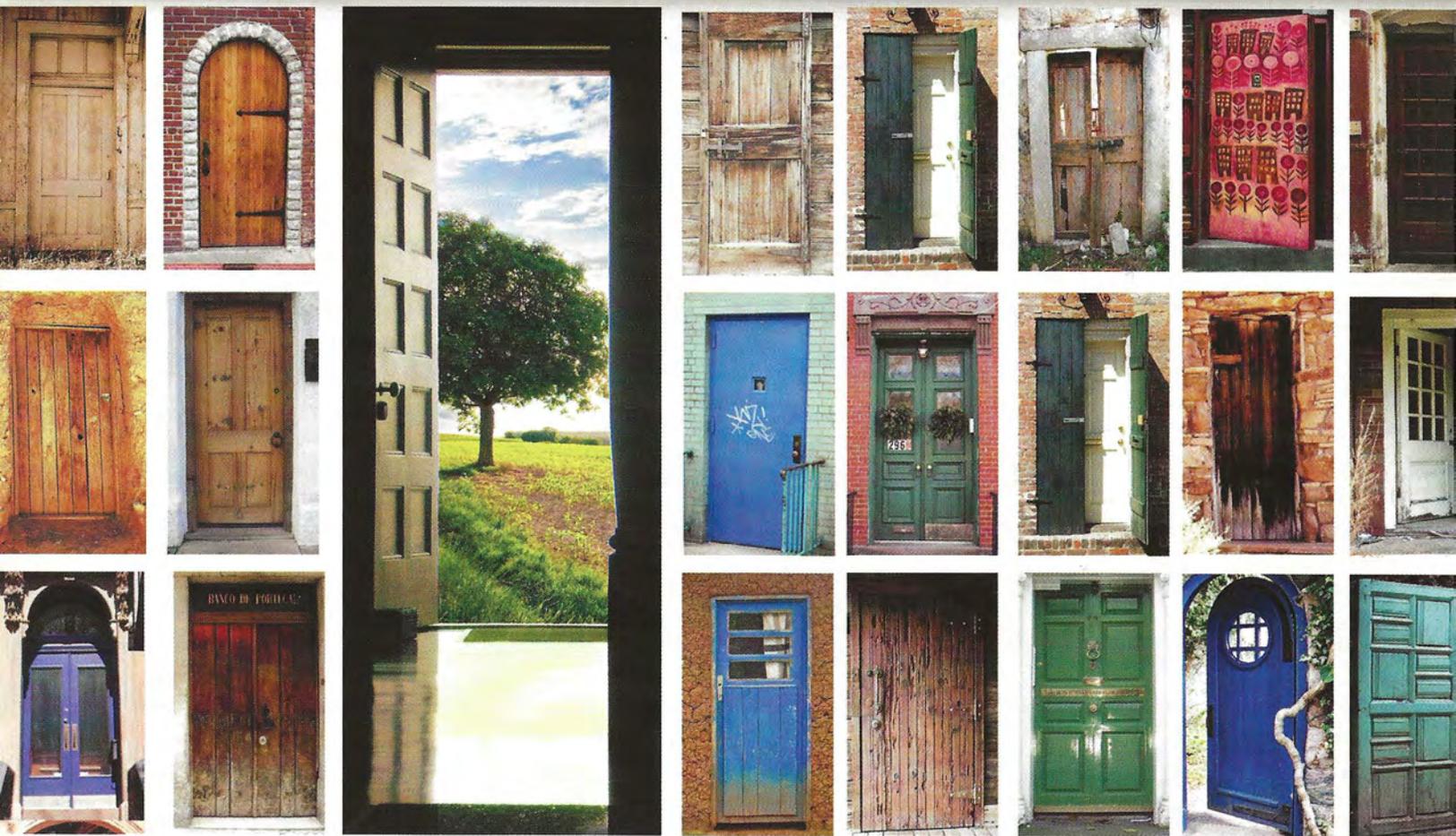
a courtesy call to let the emir know of the peace program and show our appreciation for his support for peaceful coexistence. After several initial visits, the emir would ask about us whenever he would see Toma or another person with whom we had connections. When Nate’s parents came to visit, the CAMPI group insisted they come along on a visit to the emir. He enthusiastically greeted them and surprised them by having them sit next to him on the sofa in his meeting area. Upon learning of our impending departure from Nigeria, he gave us gifts as a demonstration of thanksgiving. After hearing of these gifts, a Nigerian friend commented that emirs do not give gifts, they receive gifts.

With interfaith relationships, when crises and violence occur because of one side or the other, it is less easy to jump to the conclusion that “all Muslims are violent” or “all Christians are violent.”

When violence occurred in Mubi and another town near KBC after elections in April 2011, we were fearful and alert. Since some Muslim protestors were causing the violence, what does that mean about how we think of Muslims? Then we thought of our Muslim friends—Maimuna, Jibrilla, Husseini—and were reminded that the actions of some do not represent the actions or feelings of all. The faces and love of friends break down stereotypes that ingrain violence. Relationships, started by building on commonalities and cultivating intentional interest, are the tools which pave pathways for permanent, long-standing peace.

There are many other stories we could share about our interfaith relationships in Nigeria and the insights that we learned—too many to document here. But we remain grateful for this experience, and for the lives of the “neighbors” whom we now call friends. ❧

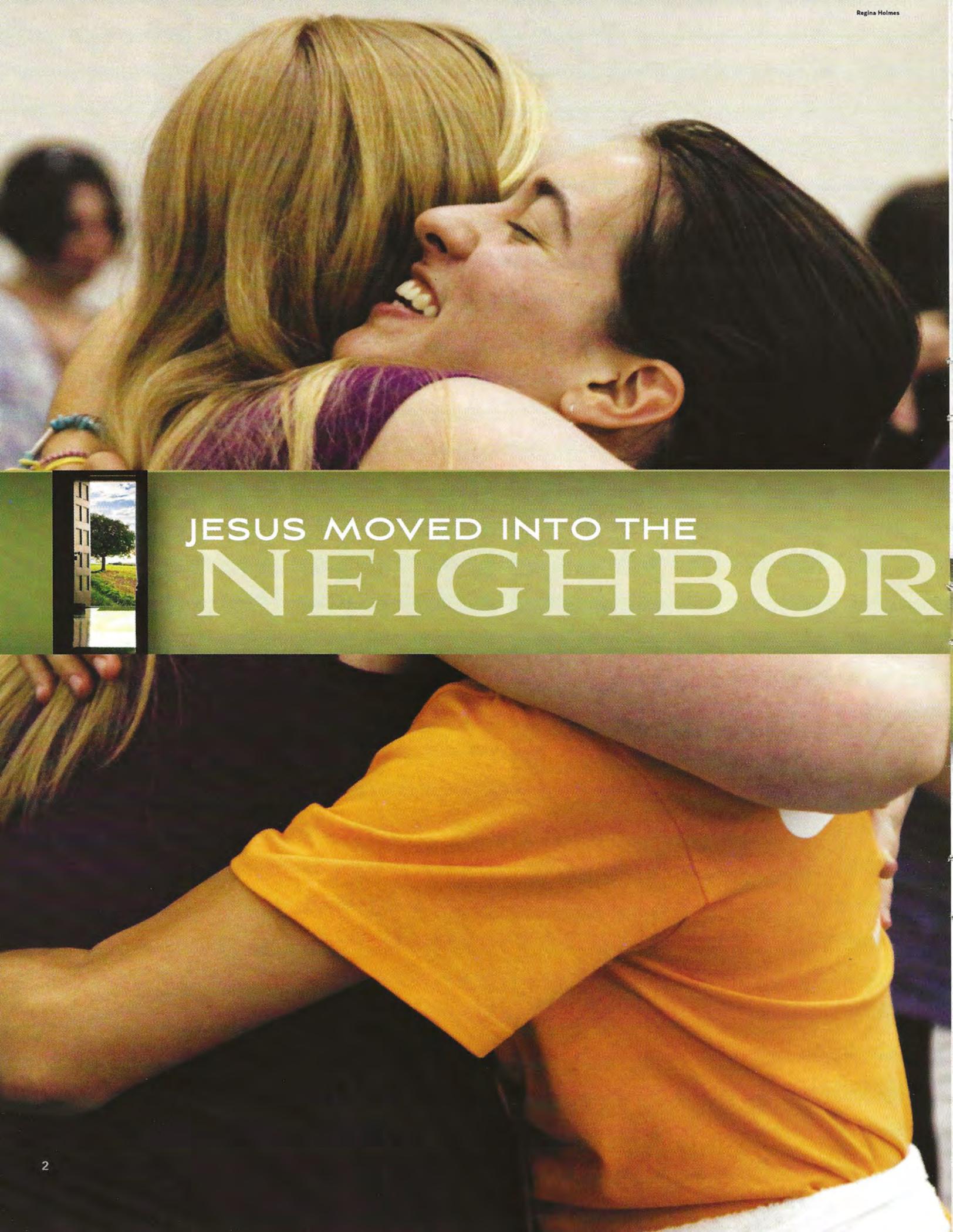
Nate and Jenn Hosler live in Washington, D.C. Nate is advocacy officer and ecumenical peace coordinator for the Church of the Brethren and the National Council of Churches.



JESUS MOVED INTO THE
NEIGHBORHOOD

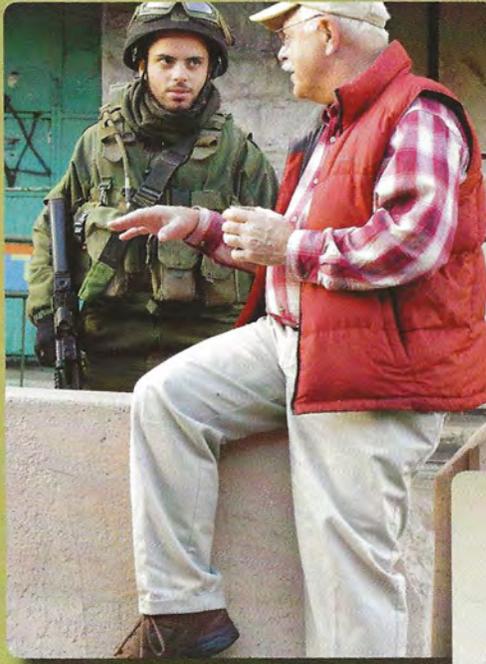


Church of the Brethren



JESUS MOVED INTO THE
NEIGHBOR

Michael Snarr



CROSSING BOUNDARIES
IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

A PLACE TO CALL HOME
IN HAITI

Wendy McFadden



HOOD

What does it mean when Jesus moves into the neighborhood? For the Mission and Ministry Board and the staff of the Church of the Brethren, answering this question takes us many places:

It invites us into areas of preparation and growth—resources and training for disciples of all ages and backgrounds. It leads us into lives of Christian service and compassion. It sends us to places of witness and mission—in the US and around the world.

Follow us through these pages for pictorial highlights of the past year. Find a full report at www.brethren.org/annualreport. And keep in touch at facebook.com/churchofthebrethren.

Stanley Proffinger





JESUS MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

BRETHREN

"... 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 1:79 NRSV



← CELEBRATING PEACE IN ITALY

—goal—

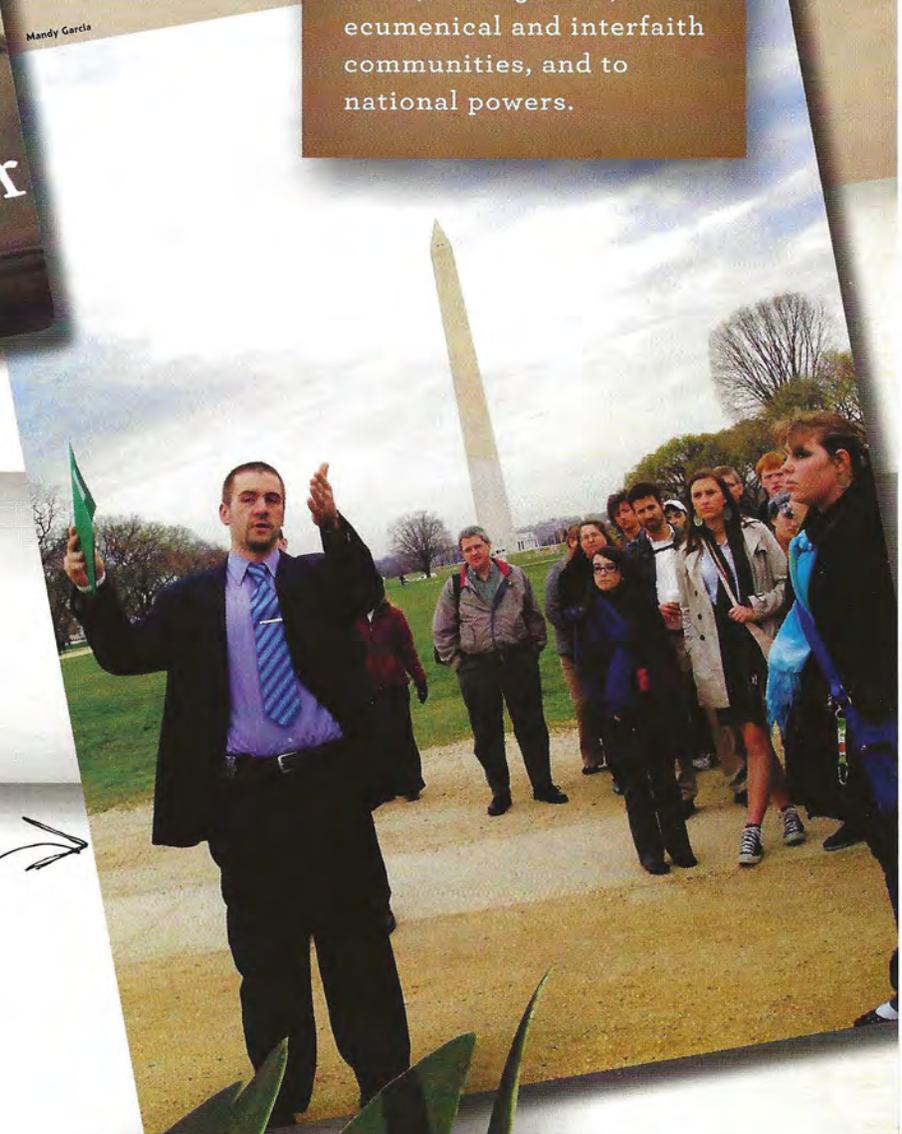
BRETHREN VOICE

Equip the Brethren to speak Christ's peace and love to each other, to neighbors, to ecumenical and interfaith communities, and to national powers.

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

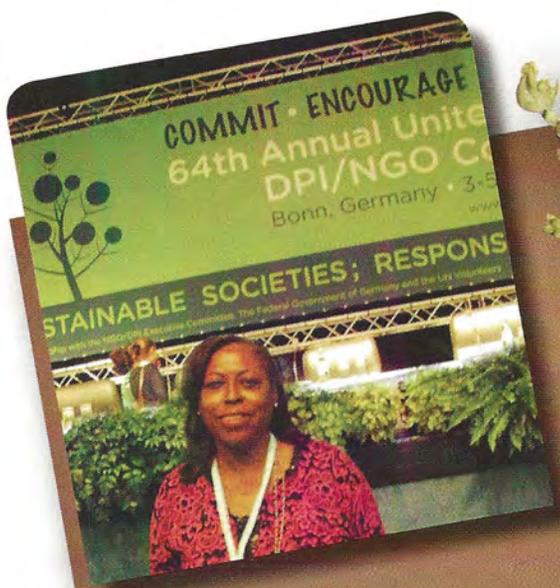


Mandy Garcia



VOICE

CONNECTING FAITH AND CITIZENSHIP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.





JESUS MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

SERVICE

"... let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." -1 John 3:18 NRSV

Church World Service



← CWS BRINGS RELIEF IN JAPAN

← TENNESSEE

—goal—

SERVICE

Challenge and equip the Brethren to integrate faith and service, deepening our faith as we respond to human need.

Brethren Volunteer Service



← REBUILDING HOMES IN PULASKI, VIRGINIA.



Don Fourn

Sharon Pratt-Harrington

Carol Fike

Paul Jeffrey



RESPONDING TO DROUGHT
IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Randy Miller

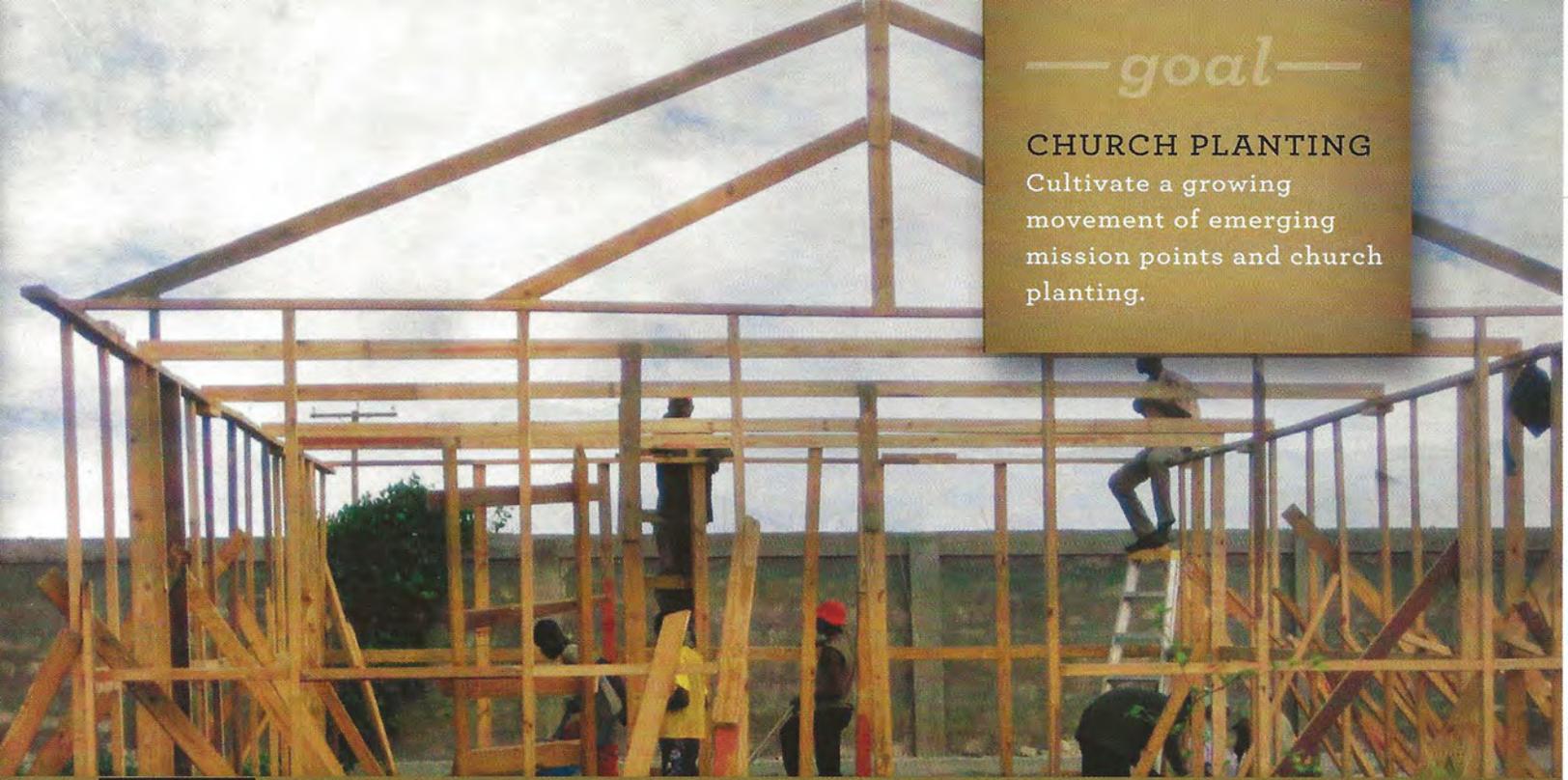


CARING FOR
TORNADO VICTIMS
IN ALABAMA

Carol Hamilton

—goal—

CHURCH PLANTING
Cultivate a growing
movement of emerging
mission points and church
planting.



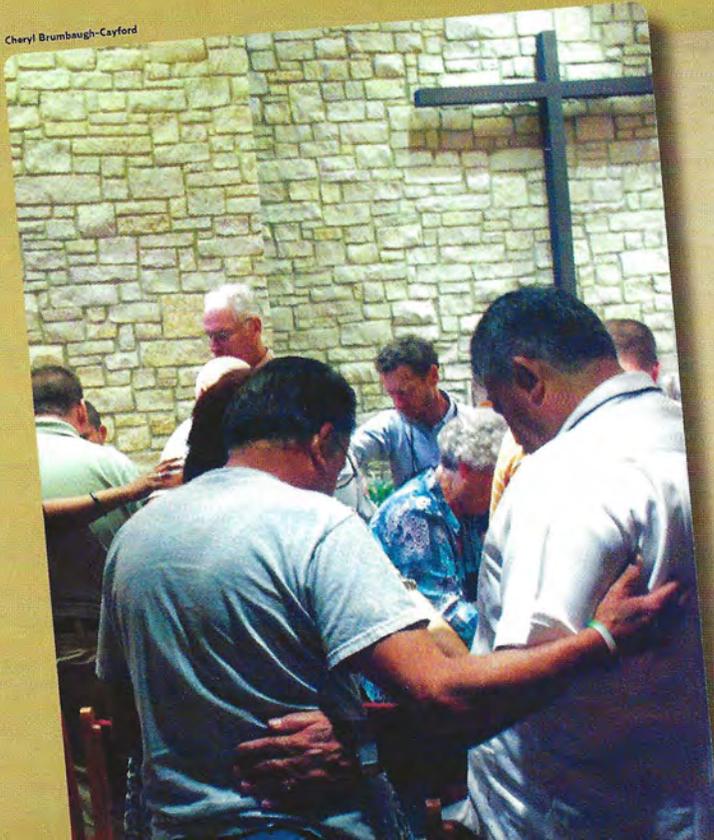
JESUS MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

CHURCH PLANTING

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

—1 Corinthians 3:6 NRSV

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



**Plant
Generously,
Reap
Bountifully**



STRENGTHENING
CHURCH PLANTERS





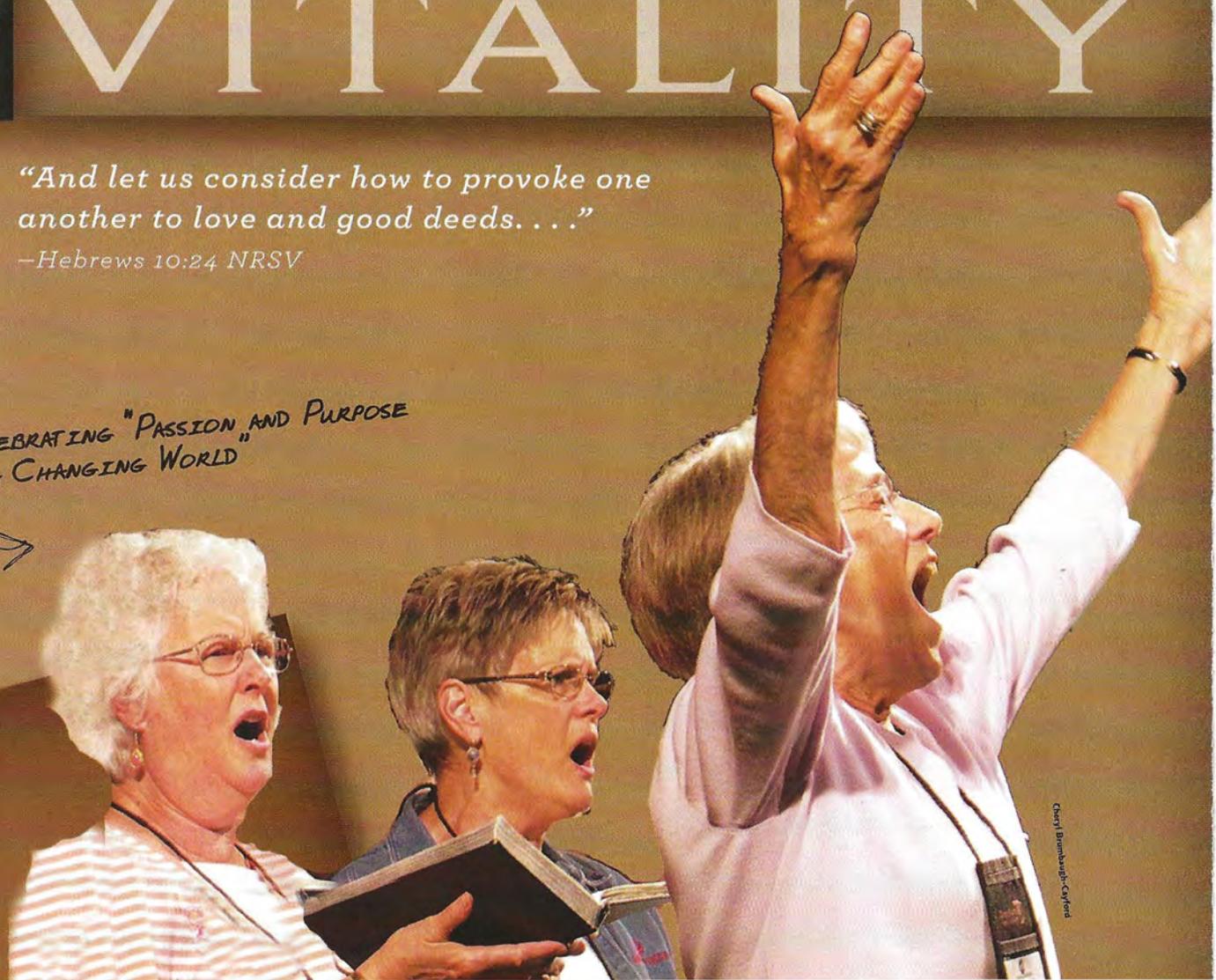
JESUS MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds. . . .”

—Hebrews 10:24 NRSV

*CELEBRATING “PASSION AND PURPOSE
IN A CHANGING WORLD*



NURTURING JUNIOR
HIGHS IN PENNSYLVANIA

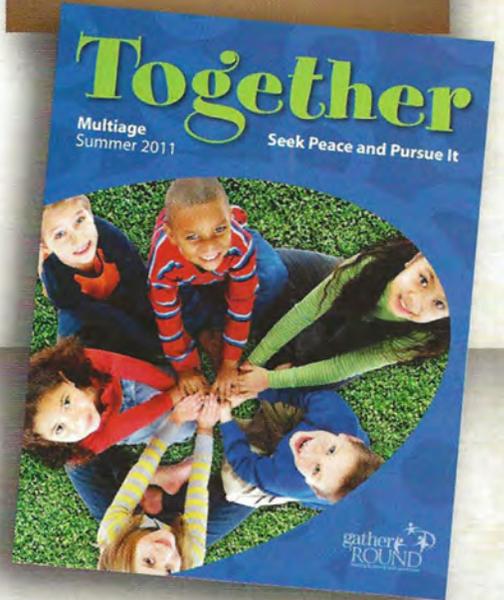
Kelsey Murray



— goal —

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

Strengthen the Brethren
as we live into our calling
as joyful communities
of radical, compassionate
disciples.



Mary Eller



TRAINING
MINISTERS IN
SPANISH



JESUS MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MISSION

“Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations. . . .”

—Matthew 28:19 (International Standard Version)

HAITI
↙

Jean Billy Telfort



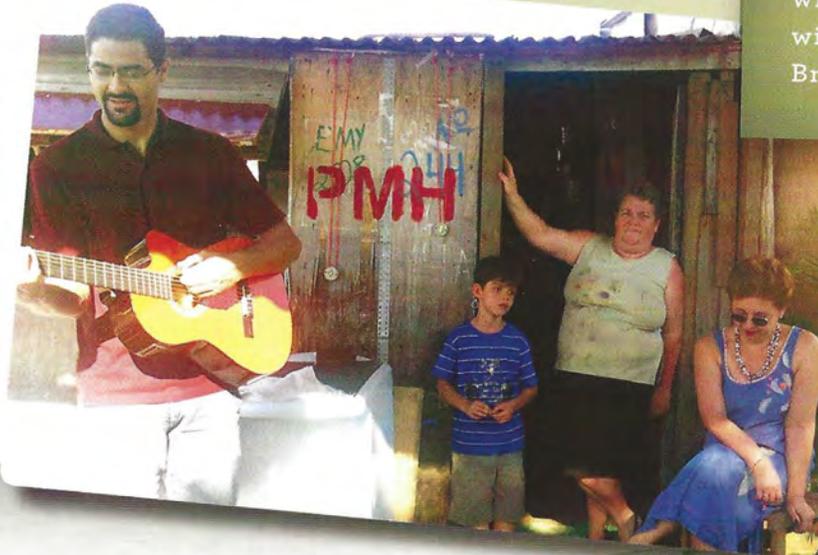
WORKING FOR
PEACE IN SUDAN

—goal—

MISSION

Grow the church of
Jesus Christ around the
world in partnership
with sisters and brothers
within the Church of the
Brethren and beyond.

Marcos Inhauser



DEVELOPING
COMMUNITIES IN
BRAZIL

DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

Jay Wittmeyer



NORTH KOREA

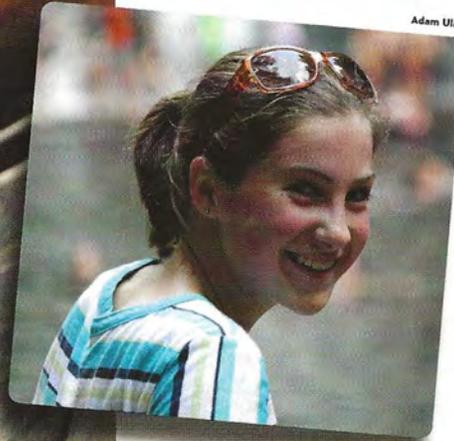
Courtesy of Robert Shank



Glenn Riegel



“All the members of the body, though many, are one body.” This year’s charts make it easier to see the totality of the church’s ministries, which all strive toward the same goals regardless of the source of income.



Adam Ulm

The charts also make clear that in 2011 the church found it necessary to reduce staffing and other expenses in order to match income. While the organization has always sought to make the most of every dollar, it now has

JESUS MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

SUSTAINA

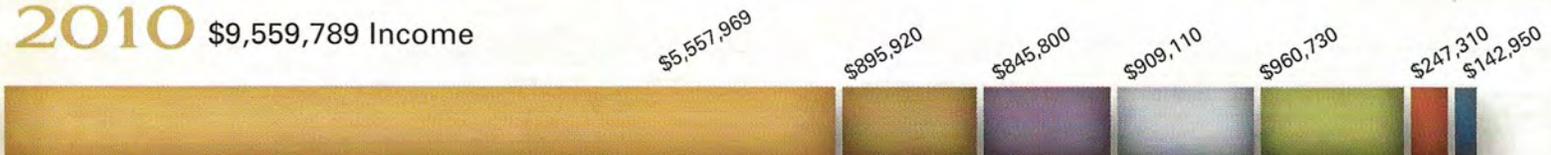
PROGRAM AND MINISTRY INCOME

■ Donations ■ Facility Rental ■ Service Fees ■ Event Income ■ Sales ■ Subscriptions ■ Other

2011 \$8,880,052 Income



2010 \$9,559,789 Income



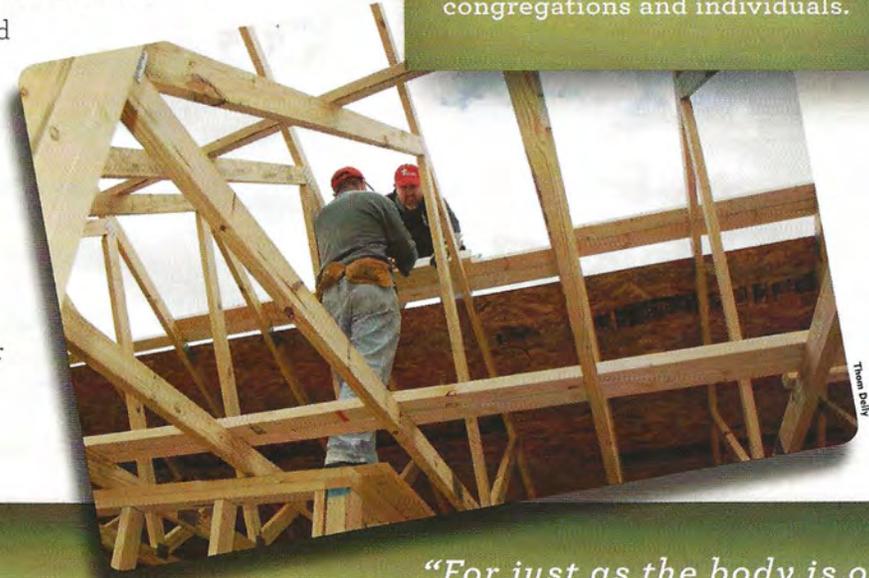
— goal —

SUSTAINABILITY

Assure that the vision for the Mission and Ministry Board is embodied in an organization that is sustainable, flexible, streamlined, and interdependent, and which calls forth committed support from congregations and individuals.

a sharpened focus on the goal of “sustainability”—that is, ensuring that the structure for carrying out the church’s ministries is both strong and flexible.

Sustaining these ministries is a direct result of the faithful support of congregations and individuals. The members of the Mission and Ministry Board and the staff of the Church of the Brethren are deeply grateful for your participation in the church’s ministries. Together we welcome Jesus to the neighborhood. Together we are the body of Christ.



BILITY

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

—1 Corinthians 12:12 NRSV

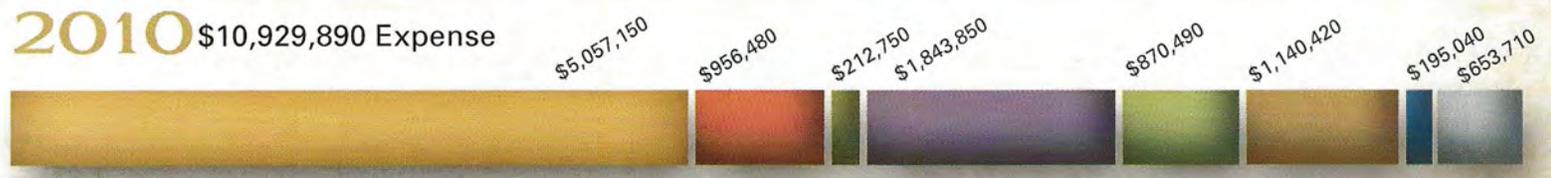
PROGRAM AND MINISTRY EXPENSE

- Core Ministries
- Brethren Press
- Messenger
- Brethren Disaster Ministries
- Material Resources
- New Windsor Conference Center
- Global Food Crisis
- Conference Office

2011 \$10,022,955 Expense



2010 \$10,929,890 Expense



Church World Service



THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND BLOOD, AND
MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE
SAW THE GLORY WITH OUR OWN EYES, THE ONE-OF-A-KIND
GLORY, LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON. GENEROUS INSIDE
AND OUT, TRUE FROM START TO FINISH.

—John 1:14 *The Message*



Church of the Brethren



www.facebook.com/churchofthebrethren



www.brethren.org



twitter.com/ChoftheBrethren



Printed on 10% post-consumer recycled paper

© 2012 Church of the Brethren

Anchored to stay

by Kay M. Bowman

*Though He slay me,
yet will I hope in Him.*
—Job 13: 15

An old seaman once said
As he looked over the sea,
“In fierce storms that come,
There’s one thing that must be.

“For there’s only one way to survive
Fierce storms of the sea,
Put the ship in position
And not let it go free.”

So it is, Lord, with my spirit
When rough seas assail,
I must stand firm in you,
And trust you without fail.

I must anchor myself firmly,
Steadfastly, Lord, to you,
When no sun lights the way,
When night shadows block my view.

Reason cannot help me,
Past experience sheds no light,
When the storm is bearing down,
To You I must hold tight.

With my soul in your position, Lord,
Then come whatever may—
Wind, waves or rough seas,
I am anchored there to stay. 

Kay M. Bowman is a writer and inspirational speaker living in Harrisonburg, Va. She and her husband, Harold, served almost 40 years in pastoral ministry in Church of the Brethren congregations from coast to coast. A writer for more than 55 years, she was editor of church newsletters for 12 years and wrote her first book at age 12.

Scriptures we would rather ignore

by Joshua Brockway

Every Christian has a passage of scripture that contradicts his or her view of the world. Some have named certain passages of the Old Testament “texts of terror” for their portrayal of violence. Others choose to skip over a burdensome scripture that contradicts some personal value. Thomas Jefferson has come to be the prime example of physically doing to the scriptures what we usually do only in our minds: cut out the uncomfortable or inconvenient passages.

For many Brethren, Romans 13 is one such passage. In the shadow of the Sermon on the Mount and the service-oriented portrait of the last judgment in Matthew, submission to the rules of the earth seems outright unconscionable.

Many of us have been deeply influenced by stories of nonviolent resistance to the degree that Paul’s words seem to run contrary to any vision of social transformation. If we are to be “subject to the governing authorities” (Romans 13:1) then how can we stand for the Kingdom vision in which we desire to participate? Even more problematic is the idea that resistance to worldly authorities equals resistance

to God (Rom. 13:2). This seems to fly in the face of the resistant pacifism Brethren have long valued. In essence, this scripture holds a clear critique of the ways we have envisioned our core value of peacemaking. What are we to make of Paul’s exhortation to the Roman Christians?

Some have tried to write off Romans 13 through radical contextualization. This argument proceeds by saying that Paul is so embedded in his place as a Roman citizen that there is no possible way he could have imagined the atrocities of totalitarian regimes. Others set aside Paul’s exhortation to submission by elevating our own context. These readers posit that Paul could not have accounted for a representative democracy such as our own. The logic of social contract, it is argued, mitigates the problems of submission through our assent to and participation in the democratic system. Either way, these two arguments seek to set aside the text simply because its language of submission and subjection run against the very ideals of freedom embedded in American culture.

Our ears, used to the language of totalitarianism and the modern nation-state, might easily miss the subtle critique

within Paul's language of Romans 13:1-7. The Greco-Roman vision of imperial leadership understood the person of the emperor to be a divine being. Paul, however, says the emperor's rule is a product of God's good grace. The effect is to subordinate the emperor to God. The emperor is not a god, but in fact rules contingently by the will of the one true God.

Here it is clear that Paul has a specific hierarchy in mind. God is over the rules of the society, just as the governors are over the people. The Christian, though aware that all powers and principalities of the world have been overcome by the death and resurrection of Christ, is still subject to the emperors. There is to be no zealous overthrow of governments by Christian armies seeking to inaugurate the reign of God. Instead, Christians living within the ordinances of God will have nothing to fear, for their conduct is good and will be judged not by the rulers, but by God alone.

There is a difficult logic at work here for those of us whose perspective has been shaped by democracy. Though we are subject to the governments of the land, our conduct is not ultimately accountable to those governments. (After all, leaders in a democracy are elected to serve the people.) We are subject to, yet not judged by, civic authorities.

This is often why the stories of the early martyrs of the first centuries of the church confound our modern sensibilities. When we read of Polycarp offering a prayer of thanksgiving on a pyre, or of Perpetua handing over her newborn infant just before her own death, our modern minds recoil. The very idea of death as an ultimate witness to God's reign smacks of fatalism. Yet, these early martyrs embodied Paul's vision of subjection to worldly authorities. Submission does not mean overturning the rulers of the age, but living in the will of God no matter the costs. These martyrs could have lived had they simply agreed to burn incense at the altar of the emperor. Instead, they opted for the freedom they found in Christ, knowing full well the consequences of their actions.

Alexander Mack also exemplified Paul's admonition to the Romans. Confronted by the questionable actions of Count Charles August after the baptism of a widow in his territory, Mack wrote a deferential letter defending their actions. In the very first paragraph Mack alludes to Paul's epistle asking the count "whether this proceeding is according to the will of God, who established the authorities to punish the wicked and protect the good." What follows in the letter is a litany of biblical texts outlining how their actions were in obedience to the ordinances of Christ. For his only crime, he notes, "is that Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, desired that we do what we are doing." Yet, unlike protests of modern Americans, he does not petition for a change of policy or legislation for the protection of his rights. Instead, he defers to the ruling of the count by freely following the decree that he leave the territory. He will continue to act out of obedience to Christ regardless of the outcome.

Today, we sing Mack's theology through his hymn "Count

MACK'S EARLY ADMONITION— ALONG WITH THE STORIES OF THE EARLY MARTYRS—REMINDS US THAT FAITH COMES WITH A COST. WE REALIZE JUST WHAT WE ARE FACED WITH AS WE SEEK TO LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH.

Well the Cost." In doing so, we bring to verse the faith of the martyrs and Paul's exhortation in Romans 13. "Are you resolved though all seem lost, to risk your reputation, your self, your wealth, for Christ the Lord . . .?"

Being subject to—or as the New International Version says, submitting to the ruling authorities—is one of the costs we must count as we follow Jesus. Though the governments of the world may or may not be legitimate in light of modern political theory, we as Christians follow Christ's own example. For, though he could have overthrown the Roman rulers in his rights as the Son of God, "he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:8).

Modern pacifist movements want to have their protest and their rights, to have their cake and eat it too. Democratic ideology has been constructed such that witness and loss are no longer two sides of the same coin. However, the great stories of nonviolent transformation reveal the realities of subjection that Paul outlines for the Romans. Martin Luther King's nonviolent protests resulted in not just jail, but water hoses and even death. When confronted with atrocities and wrong we, as followers of Christ, cannot help but do what is right, come what may, at the hands of those in power. To assume that active protest or participation in democratic processes will somehow guarantee life and liberty ignores the reality that the ways of Christ are often in direct conflict with the rules of the day. To be subject to these powers often entails a cost, a cost that is welcomed.

Mack's early admonition—along with the stories of the early martyrs—reminds us that faith comes with a cost. We realize just what we are faced with as we seek to live a life of faith.

The Christian life does not provide the security often promised in tent revivals, or even the guarantees of freedom we sometimes take for granted in the Bill of Rights. Rather, it is a life that brings both risk and reward. Ours is a delicate dance between submission and witness, between comfort and counting the cost. **W**

Joshua Brockway is director of spiritual life and discipleship for the Church of the Brethren.



Adam Dubrovna/FEMA

An elderly couple stands in the midst of destruction following Alabama tornadoes.

Grants made for disaster rebuilding in Alabama, food crisis in Africa

Brethren Disaster Ministries has received an Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grant for \$17,000 to continue its work in Arab, Ala., following an EF 4 tornado that hit the town on April 27 last year. In another recent EDF grant, \$8,000 has been given to aid food security in the Sahel region of North Africa.

In other news from Brethren Disaster Ministries, associate director Zach Wolgemuth has been elected to the board of National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).

At the rebuilding project site in Alabama, in the area of Arab, more than 200 volunteers have given more than 1,400 days of service to build two new homes and repair 20 others. Brethren Disaster Ministries' current case load includes one additional new home and approximately six home repairs. The grant will underwrite operational expenses related to volunteer support including housing, food, and travel expenses incurred onsite as well as volunteer training, tools, and equipment needed for rebuilding and repair. Previous EDF allocations to the project total \$30,000.

The allocation of \$8,000 responds to a Church World Service (CWS) appeal following unusually low rainfall, low crop production, and food insecurity in the Sahel region of North Africa. Also a factor in the food insecurity is political strife/violence in north and West Africa. This complex humanitarian crisis affects more than 15 million people. The Church of the Brethren grant supports CWS as it leads a response to the emergency working with partner organization Christian Aid in providing emergency food assistance, seeds, and other emergency assistance to more than 83,000 people in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal.

Brethren disaster volunteer Steve Keim receives awards

Steve Keim, a volunteer project leader for Brethren Disaster Ministries, was named Volunteer of the Year by National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) on May 8, during the 2012 Annual VOAD Conference in Norfolk, Va.

A second and completely unexpected award, the President's Volunteer Service Award, was facilitated by Points of Light and presented to Keim by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Then, to top off the award-giving, FLASH (Federal Alliance for Safe Homes) presented him with tickets to Disney World.

The National VOAD Team selected Keim "for exemplifying the core values of the VOAD movement: Coordination, Cooperation, Communication, and Collaboration,"—known as the four Cs. Brethren Disaster Ministries executive director Roy Winter reported that Keim had a standing ovation from the 500-plus people present at the awards ceremony.

Since the beginning of last year, Keim has served 349 days at Church of the Brethren disaster recovery projects in Indiana, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Alabama. While serving in his leadership role with Brethren Disaster Ministries, he consistently embodies the "4 Cs" of National VOAD in his relations with clients, partner agencies, local businesses, building inspectors, local churches, and disaster volunteers.

"Steve understands the value of volunteers, and he always ensures that

each volunteer, regardless of skill level or background, is made a part of the team," said Zach Wolgemuth, associate director of Brethren Disaster Ministries. "He makes safety a priority and provides proper training, directions, and appropriate work. Steve is a truly deserving candidate for the National VOAD President's Award," said Wolgemuth, who had nominated Keim for the award. "He has proven to be an invaluable volunteer with an unquenchable passion and dedication to service."

Gene Borochoff, NECHAMA



Steve Keim, a volunteer project director for Brethren Disaster Ministries, received awards at the 2012 National VOAD conference on May 8. He was named Volunteer of the Year by National VOAD, and received the President's Volunteer Service Award. He is shown here (at left) with Daniel Stoecker, executive director of National VOAD.



Courtesy of Bethany Seminary

Bethany Theological Seminary held its 107th commencement on May 5, 2012, with some 150 people present to celebrate the achievements of 16 graduates. The graduating class and their degrees include (front from left) Jeanne Davies (MDiv), Linda Waldron (CATS), Jiae Paik (MA), Rebekah Houff (MDiv), Katie Shaw Thompson (MDiv); (standing from left) Aaron Shepherd (MA), Andrew Duffey (MDiv), Benjamin Harvey (MA), Dennis Webb (MA), Vivek Solanky (MA), Nicolas Miller-Kauffman (MA), Parker Thompson (MDiv), Jerramy Bowen (MA), Matthew Wollam-Berens (MDiv), Brandon Hanks (MDiv); (not pictured) Diane Mason (CATS).

Bethany Theological Seminary grants 16 degrees at 107th commencement

Bethany Theological Seminary held its 107th commencement the morning of May 5, in Nicarry Chapel on the Bethany campus in Richmond, Ind. Approximately 150 were present to celebrate the achievements of 16 graduates.

Nadine S. Pence, director of the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion in Crawfordsville, Ind., gave the commencement address. Pence previously held the position of professor of theological studies at the seminary. Entitled "Border Crossings," her comments drew on the scripture texts John 21:1-14 and Acts 10:34-48, recounting the period between Christ's resurrection and Pentecost.

"You are a border crosser . . . someone who stands between the places of your life—in the gaps and interstices of life—and who will work to know the people and contexts to which you are called, and the vocation you are to serve among them," she said. "We are called, as Christians, to live as border crossers, testifying to the presence of the Spirit, to the presence of the Christ when he appears among us."

President Ruthann Knechel Johansen addressed the gathering with appreciation for both the contributions of faculty and staff to the success of the graduates and the graduates' own personal and academic gifts. "I mention with gratitude an amazing array of attributes that our faculty and ministry placement supervisors have identified in

the students we honor today: deep thinking, compassionate hearts, impressive scriptural knowledge, self-confidence, wonderful wit and humor, humility, strong relationality, teachable spirits, and commitments to social justice."

Professional accomplishments by the faculty also were noted, among them the promotion of Tara Hornbaker to professor of Ministry Formation; the completion of a doctor of ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary by Amy Gall Ritchie, director of Student Development; and the promotion of Julie M. Hostetter to executive director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

Seven graduates received master of divinity degrees: Jeanne Davies of Elgin, Ill.; Andrew Duffey, Westminster, Md.; Brandon M. Hanks, Hatfield, Pa.; Rebekah L. Houff, Palmyra, Pa.; Katie Shaw Thompson, Grundy Center, Iowa; Parker Ammerman Thompson, Grundy Center, Iowa; Matthew Wollam-Berens, Middlebury, Vt.

Seven graduates received master of arts degrees: Jerramy D. Bowen, West Milton, Ohio; Benjamin Wil Harvey, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Nicolas Miller Kauffman, Goshen, Ind.; Jiae Paik, Seoul, South Korea; Aaron Russell Shepherd, Richmond, Ind.; Vivek A. Solanky, Valsad-Gujarat, India; Dennis John Richard Webb, Naperville, Ill.

Two students received certificates of achievement in theological studies: Diane E. Mason, Unionville, Iowa, in absentia; Linda S. Waldron, Clayton, Ohio.



JoAnn Sims

Brethren folksinger Mike Stern (center, at microphone) gave a peace concert in Hiroshima, Japan, at the invitation of the World Friendship Center. WFC directors JoAnn and Larry Sims, who work at the center through Brethren Volunteer Service, helped organize the event that also featured the WFC Peace Choir and other Japanese musicians.

BVSers help organize Hiroshima peace concert

Brethren Volunteer Service workers at the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan, recently helped organize a concert for peace given by American Brethren folksinger Mike Stern on April 13.

The World Friendship Center sponsored and organized the concert. Steve Leeper, chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and a member of the board of directors of the World Friendship Center, served as Stern's translator. The Hiroshima Peace Culture

Foundation is the city organization that directs all events at the famous Peace Park and directs the Peace Memorial Museum and the International Peace Conference Center.

In addition to Stern, the concert featured Asaka Watanabe, World Friendship Center Peace Choir director, and Japanese musicians sharing songs of peace. The concert was held in the Memorial Cathedral for Peace to an audience of over 400.

'Witness to Host City' will be school collection

Delegates to the 2008 Annual Conference in Richmond, Va., processed an item of business entitled "Query: Conference Witness to the Host City." The query acknowledges that because Annual Conference is held in various cities, it would be good to give witness to a shared faith in Jesus Christ in these places. Delegates in Richmond adopted the concern of the query and referred it to Program and Arrangements Committee for implementation.

The Annual Conference witness to the city of St. Louis, Mo., will

involve the collection of school supplies for the St. Louis Public School system. During the 2012-13 school year, the St. Louis Public Schools will serve approximately 28,000 students in 72 different schools.

Several Church of the Brethren congregations around the denomination have learned recently that a significant part of urban revitalization involves a strong public school support system. Churches, including Churches of the Brethren, are providing leadership in their local communities through their involvement

with the local school system. Through these ministries, the churches are finding renewed life in Christ as well.

Conference attendees who participate in this outreach are invited to bring their donations of supplies to the Sunday morning worship service at Annual Conference on July 8, where they will be received during the offering. Representatives from the St. Louis Public Schools will receive the supplies during the afternoon business session on Tuesday, July 10.

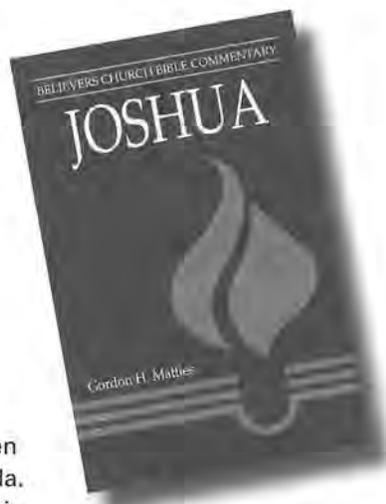
Joshua is newest Believers Church Bible Commentary

Joshua, by Gordon Matties, has been released as the newest volume in the *Believers Church Bible Commentary* series. The series is a cooperative project of the Church of the Brethren, Brethren in Christ Church, Brethren Church, Mennonite Brethren Church, Mennonite Church USA, and Mennonite Church Canada. The series is published by Herald Press and MennoMedia, and is available to purchase through Brethren Press.

Also new from Brethren Press is the summer quarter of *A Guide for Biblical Studies*. Written by Kim McDowell, pastor of University Park Church of the Brethren in Hyattsville, Md., the lessons for June-August focus on the theme "God Calls for Justice" and study texts from Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and the Kings and Chronicles books, as well as the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.

Joshua is the 25th volume in the commentary series. In it, Matties calls for "an openness to the unexpected" in the book, and suggests that reading *Joshua* carefully will open windows into how and why we read scripture at all. "In an age of fear and insecurity, in which ethnic nationalism continues to give rise to conflict and war, we dare not avoid critical engagement with biblical texts that have been used to justify colonialism, conquest, occupation, and ethnic cleansing," said a publisher's release.

Matties is professor of biblical studies at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.



Brethren World Assembly planned for July 2013

A Brethren World Assembly, consisting of constituents and friends of the Brethren groups descended from the German Anabaptist/Radical Pietist religious leader Alexander Mack in the early 1700s, will be held in the Dayton, Ohio, area Thursday-Sunday, July 11-14, 2013.

The meetings will be hosted by the Brethren Heritage Center in Brookville, Ohio, with evening worship services at Salem Church of the Brethren and Brookville Grace Brethren Church.

Utilizing the theme "Brethren Spirituality: How Brethren Conceive of and Practice the Spiritual Life," the program will include daily plenary addresses, workshops, and panel discussions on such topics as "Brethren Hymnody," "Separation from the World and Engagement with the World," "Brethren Devotional Literature and Poetry," and more. Friday and Saturday afternoon tours will be offered to historic Brethren sites in the

proximity of Brookville and southern Ohio.

A planning committee for the event has been meeting regularly and is being led by Robert Alley, immediate past moderator of the Church of the Brethren. Other groups participating in the event include the Brethren Church, the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International, Dunkard Brethren Church, Old German Baptist Brethren Church, and Old German Baptist Brethren Church, New Conference.

Registration will open at 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2013, and the assembly will conclude with Sunday worship services at congregations of the various Brethren groups. Further details regarding lodging, registration costs, and specific program details will be released as the event draws closer. Updates will be available through www.brethrenencyclopedia.org and through the Brethren Heritage Center at www.brethrenheritagecenter.org.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

June 18-22 National Young Adult Conference, Knoxville, Tenn.

July 6-7 Ministers Assoc Pre-Conference Continuing Education Event, St. Louis, Mo.

July 7-11 Annual Conference, St. Louis, Mo.

July 7 Mission and Ministry Board meeting, St. Louis, Mo.

July 27-29 Northern Ohio District Conference, Ashland, Ohio

July 27-29 Southeastern District Conference, Mars Hill, N.C.

July 27-29 Western Plains District Conference, McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren and McPherson College

Aug. 2-4 Southern Plains District Conference, Falfurrias (Texas) Church of the Brethren

Aug. 3-5 Northern Plains District Conference, Cedar Rapids (Iowa) First Church of the Brethren

Aug. 17-19 Michigan District Conference, Camp Brethren Heights, Rodney, Mich.

Brethren

MUTUAL AID AGENCY

WHEN YOU WORK WITH BRETHREN MUTUAL AID AGENCY YOUR INSURANCE PREMIUM DOES DOUBLE-DUTY...

... it gives you top quality insurance protection at a competitive price and supports the work of the Church of the Brethren and its members.

BRETHREN MUTUAL AID SHARE FUND

Brethren Mutual Aid Agency is owned by a nonprofit organization that uses a large percentage of the agency profits to fund the efforts of Brethren Mutual Aid Share Fund. The Share Fund is the agency's way of reaching out to those in need within the Church of the Brethren. Since its inception it has provided over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in matching funds to assist Brethren individuals and families in crisis.

CHURCH OF BRETHREN PARTNERSHIP GROUP

In addition to funding the Share Fund, the agency also assists the Church as the sponsoring agency for the Church of the Brethren Partnership Group with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company.

When Church of the Brethren churches and related ministries in the partnership group collectively enjoy a good claim record, Brotherhood Mutual pays a dividend to the Church of the Brethren. Since the inception of the partnership just nine years ago, the Church has received four dividends totaling over four hundred thousand dollars.

So when you are looking for exceptional insurance coverage, turn to Brethren Mutual Aid Agency. You'll not only get great insurance coverage at a competitive price, you'll also be helping the Church of the Brethren and its members.

For more information on the coverage options provided by Brethren Mutual Aid Agency or information on the Brethren Mutual Aid Share Fund, contact us at:

800-255-1243

3094 Jeep Road, Abilene KS 67410-6064

MAABRETHREN.COM

Rising soccer star from Lititz joins Montreal Impact

Andrew Wenger, a youth from the Lititz (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, and recently a senior at Duke University, was named the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Men's Soccer Scholar Athlete of the year by ACC Commissioner John Swofford. Wenger led Duke's six selections to the 2011 All-Academic Team. The most decorated men's college soccer player in ACC history, Wenger was voted the conference freshman of the year in 2009 and the league's Defensive Player of the year in 2010. Andrew also received the MAC Herman Trophy, awarded annually to the top player in NCAA Division 1 Men's Soccer. On Jan. 11 of this year, Wenger was selected number one overall in the 2012 Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft, and began his professional soccer career with the Montreal Impact.



Duke University / Jon Gardner

Andrew is the son of Jim and Kathy (Gibbel) Wenger who reside in Lititz and are also members of the Lititz Church of the Brethren. The grandparents are Henry and Joan Gibbel and Nancy and the late Earl Wenger, all members of the Lititz church. Andrew has a younger brother and sister at Warwick High School in Lititz, from which Andrew graduated. Andrew was an active member of the church youth group while in high school.

"Warwick and Lititz were my life for the first 17 years, and I think where, in addition to my family, I procured my morals and values," he told his cousin, Marisa Bertrando, who wrote an article about him for *The Lititz Record*. When asked about what it takes to get to this level in his sports achievements, he replied, "Lots and lots of hard work, but fortunately, I really enjoy playing soccer and, therefore, it is more fun for me to play and work hard."

Brethren students recognized for excellence

Bridgewater (Va.) College students recognized by the Department of Philosophy and Religion for academic excellence at the annual awards convocation on May 1 included two Church of the Brethren members: Rebekah L. Miller of Bridgewater Church of the Brethren and Jesse Winter of Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren. Miller was presented the Outstanding Senior Award in Philosophy. Winter, a junior, was selected for the Ruth and Steve Watson Philosophy Scholarship Award, receiving a scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year. Also receiving an award from the department was Blake Strother, who received the Outstanding Senior Award in Religion.

Brethren student Tyler Goss receives Christian Experience Scholarship

Five Bridgewater College students, including Church of the Brethren member Tyler Goss, are recipients of a 2012 Summer Christian Experience Scholarship and will spend 10 weeks in the summer working at church camps. Each student was awarded \$2,500 from the scholarship program, which is funded by the Bridgewater College endowment fund. Goss will serve at Camp Bethel near Finckle, Va. Also receiving the scholarship are Morgan Elkins and Whitney Fitzgerald, who will serve at Shepherd's Spring in Sharpsburg, Md.; Stina Kang, who will serve at Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa.; and Emily Ridenour, who will serve at Camp Eder in Fairfield, Pa.

Manchester College



Manchester Trustees approve name change to "University"

Manchester College will change its name to Manchester University on July 1, 2012, to reflect the growing complexity of the institution, the Board of Trustees decided at its spring meeting on April 21. The timing is optimal as Manchester grows in complexity beyond its 123-year-old undergraduate, residential liberal arts core with a new professional doctoral program in pharmacy, with faculty engaged in research; a new non-residential campus in Fort Wayne, and graduate programs in athletic training and education, with more possibilities.

"A new name will help us communicate our expanding academic competencies and goals," said president and Manchester graduate Jo Young Switzer. "What we will not change is our mission to graduate persons of ability and conviction who will work to improve the human condition."

In August, the first 70 students in Manchester's new doctoral pharmacy program begin classes in a new facility in north Fort Wayne. When that first class graduates in four years, 280 students will be enrolled in the Pharm.D. program.

Don't see this film alone

There are good films. There are films that make a difference. Occasionally, there are good films that make a difference in the world.

Bully, a feature documentary, is such a film.

If *Bully* doesn't make you angry, then you're not paying attention. If *Bully* doesn't make you want to reach out and hold your kid tightly, then you're not paying attention. *Bully* is the kind of film that some will accuse of exploiting the very subject of which it speaks—they are wrong.



RICHARD PROPEs

Bully isn't a flawless film, but it is an incredibly well done film. Directed by Lee Hirsch, *Bully* starts on the first day of a school year and ends on the school year's last day. In between, we

become intimately woven into the lives of a small group of people impacted by bullying.

This moving and insightful documentary challenges the idea that bullying is simply "kids being kids" just as society is starting to come to realization that, perhaps, bullying is actually a rather horrifying social issue. *Bully* is so effective in communicating its message that it could be said that anyone who has experienced bullying and/or simply the awkwardness of living

THE PURPOSE OF *BULLY* IS TO HUMANIZE THE ISSUE AND TO MAKE IT PERSONAL FOR ALL WHO SEE THE FILM.

life as a "different" child or youth shouldn't see the film alone.

Hirsch focuses *Bully* on five specific families, but the film really encompasses a much broader picture of bullying and an emerging movement hoping to bring light to the issue and to do something about it. The stories brought to life here are all disturbing,

Alex is a 14-year-old from Sioux City, Iowa, who experiences daily humiliation and assault. Despite the intensity of his daily experiences, he can't bring himself to tell his parents and, on a certain level, he's learned to identify this behavior as representative of friendship. Almost equally as disturbing is the pathetic response of the school's adminis-

trators as Alex's bullying comes to light.

Ja'Meya is a 14-year-old Mississippi girl who has cracked under the pressure of repeated bullying and pulled out a gun on a loaded school bus. Her actions resulted in the filing of 45 felony counts, a fact which is almost tauntingly presented by a local sheriff with a not so stunning lack of insight into the cycle of abuse.

Tyler from Georgia and Ty from Oklahoma are two teens whose suicides are given much attention during the course of the film, with both suicides largely triggered by years of harassment and abuse.

Kelby, a high school athlete from Oklahoma, comes out as a lesbian and experiences a wealth of harassment and abuse from neighbors, students, and her teachers.

Some may fault *Bully* for its non-analytical approach to the subject of bullying and the lack of attention that Hirsch actually gives to the bullies themselves. Yet, it's fairly apparent to anyone who's paying attention that Hirsch is more concerned with painting an authentic portrait of the impact of bullying on the psyche of our children, families, schools, and communities than he is at necessarily trying to explain it away. It's not that he doesn't care about the root causes, but it really feels like the purpose of *Bully* is to humanize the issue and to make it personal for all who see the film.

Mission accomplished.

Hirsch does an extraordinary job of painting a vivid portrait of a culture of bullying that often lies within the fabric of our academic institutions, a fact that will undoubtedly be denied by school

administrators and teachers, while students will be sitting there watching the screen going, "Yep. Been there and experienced that."

Bully continues working its way around the country in limited theatrical release, a tremendous accomplishment for a feature documentary. While it's not always an easy film to watch, *Bully* is an important film for adults and children to watch together and to discuss with open hearts and minds. **Z**

Richard Propes is a licensed minister from Indianapolis, Ind., currently serving as interim pastor at Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren in Hagerstown, Ind., while attending Bethany Theological Seminary. He is the publisher of the film website TheIndependentCritic.com and author of the recently released book *The Hallelujah Life*.

ABOUT THE MOVIE

Title: *Bully* (originally titled *The Bully Project*). **Theatrical release:** March 30, 2012. **Running time:** 1 hour, 38 minutes. **Director:** Lee Hirsch. **Written and produced by:** Lee Hirsch and Cynthia Lowen. **Distributed by:** The Weinstein Company. In a review of the film, *New York Times* critic A. O. Scott said, "*Bully*, Lee Hirsch's moving and troubling documentary about the misery some children inflict upon others, arrives at a moment when bullying, no longer tolerated as a fact of life, is being redefined as a social problem. 'Just kids being kids' can no longer be an acceptable response to the kind of sustained physical and emotional abuse that damages the lives of young people whose only sin is appearing weak or weird to their peers."



THE PAPER CALLS ON US TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROBLEMS OF HOMOSEXUAL PEOPLE IN OUR CULTURE AND TO BE FRIENDS WITH THEM SO THAT WE CAN WORSHIP TOGETHER IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE **“OPEN, FORTHRIGHT CONVERSATIONS” CAN TAKE PLACE.**

Doing exactly as the 1983 Statement instructs

I am dismayed, although unfortunately not surprised, about the controversy that has arisen over the decision of the Program and Arrangements Committee (P&AC) to grant an exhibit booth to the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests (BMC) at Annual Conference in St. Louis this summer. The April issue of MESSENGER includes a letter which states that “this action flies in the face of AC statements and biblical understanding.” Well, no, it does not! In fact, the P&AC is doing exactly what the 1983 paper on Human Sexuality, which was reaffirmed last summer, says to do.

In spite of the Special Response process, it appears there are still many people who are not aware of the details of the 1983 Statement. It does not say that homosexuals are much worse sinners than the rest of us and therefore should be shunned. Instead, the paper says that we should welcome “all inquirers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior into the fellowship of the church.” It may be hard to understand why any homosexual person would want to be a part of our denomination, but in spite of everything, some do, and the paper clearly says to welcome them. In so welcoming, we are admonished to create an atmosphere of “non-accusatory acceptance and to offer redemptive help with Christian love and with gentle evangelistic skills.”

The paper calls on us to be supportive of the problems of homosexual people in our culture and to be friends with them so that we can worship together in an atmosphere where “open, forthright conversations” can take place. Specifically, the paper

states that “proof texts, condemnation, and a sense of guilt will not empower change.” That is the way we are instructed to deal with homosexual people who want to worship in the Church of the Brethren. If we are supposed to treat homosexuals that way in our congregations, then why should it be different at Annual Conference?

It seems to me that in light of the reaffirmation of the 1983 statement, the P&AC quite properly did its homework, studied the detailed instructions for our behavior that the statement contains, and concluded that it had little choice but to allow the exhibit booth for the Brethren Mennonite Council. After all,

the BMC is not just any interest group, but instead is made up of individuals who either are members of the denomination or wish to be and who not only are people whom our statement calls on us to welcome, but also are our neighbors. Hopefully, we have not forgotten what Jesus said about that!

Contrary to the fears of some, the BMC’s exhibit booth at Conference this summer will not “validate” anything other than the value of dialogue—as recognized and encouraged by the 1983 statement. Of much greater concern is the fact that several letters recently have suggested that opinions are not going to change about the

WE ARE HERE TO
HELP EACH OTHER

CALLIN
DEACON MANUAL
CARING

The new revised and expanded Deacon Manual equips you for the challenges of deacon ministry. Each volume provides practical tools for continuing the work of Jesus in an ever-changing world.

THE NEW DEACON MANUAL
HELPING YOU HELP OTHERS

AVAILABLE SUMMER 2012

Brethren Press
www.brethrenpress.com
800.441.3712

I WOULD HAVE TO ASK YOU, WHICH OF THESE TWO COMMITTED THE GREATER SIN: THE YOUNG MAN, WHO A SHORT TIME LATER TOOK HIS OWN LIFE, OR THE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO REJECTED HIM?

homosexual "issue." That may be true, but it is nothing to celebrate. One would hope that we as a body of Christ are always open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. If we are not, then we have a problem much more urgent than any issue raised by the Statement on Human Sexuality, and all of us should be down on our knees asking God to forgive us.

Jeffrey D. Scott
Westminster, Md.

Who will cast the first stone?

Many of the letters and comments regarding the subject of homosexuality are coming from a religious dogma

point of view. I am a retired biology instructor and National Science Foundation Fellow and have studied this issue in depth for many years. I have found that the scientific literature is replete with in-depth studies relating to the lifestyle known as homosexuality.

The results of my studies and research indicate that homosexuality is a naturally occurring physical phenomenon occurring in 10 percent or more of the population. The condition is influenced in part by the environment and genome and is not reversible. The expression of the gene is influenced in part by the environment and can be detected as early as 2

years of age in children. There is some differentiation in specific areas of the cerebral cortex which have been identified in brain biopsies.

Based on this information, I believe that it is time for all Christians to become better informed and thereby more understanding, loving, accepting, and tolerant. Those who prefer to dwell only on religious dogma, please reread Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him." Whoa! My good brothers and sisters in Christ, could this possibly mean that God created both straights and gays?

There was a recent case of a family refusing to allow their gay son to



ENGAGE

NOV 2, 2012
MAR 1, 2013

a day of options designed for you
to explore the Bethany experience

 800-287-8822
www.bethanyseminary.edu/26mp/engage

 **BETHANY**
Theological Seminary

 Pontius' Puddle

bring his partner into their home. So to those of you who still believe homosexuality is a sin, I would have to ask you, which of these two committed the greater sin: the young man, who a short time later took his own life, or the family members who rejected him? We need to decide who is going to cast the first stone.

Irwin Porter
Quinter, Kan.



An excellent letter

Larry Fogle's letter in the April MESSENGER was excellent concerning the exhibit booth at Annual Conference granted to BMC [Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests]. It would appear that the members of the [Annual Conference] Program and Arrangements Committee have abused and misused their responsibilities. Thank you, Brother Fogle, for stating the feelings of the majority of the denomination. Brother Huse, in his letter in the same issue, promoted compromise at any cost.

Carolyn Graham
Martinsburg, W. Va.

Ignoring some verses in favor of others

I am writing to share some thoughts about the letters printed in the MESSENGER regarding the topic of homosexuality and Annual Conference. I think it is wise to allow a booth at Conference for those who may still want to explore materials to help them learn more and resolve in their minds how they feel about this timely issue.

Those who hold the power in churches and make decisions for people who must abide by those decisions may take for granted the effect that they have in others' lives. Is that what Jesus would want? Gay people still feel left out, and many feel that sexual orientation is genetically based and, therefore, they should not be shunned as is happening in the church. People are leaving churches as it is, and to show again the hypocrisy that exists in

What Holds Brethren Together?

Join us for the
Brethren Press/Messenger Dinner
Sunday, July 8, 2012 • St. Louis, Missouri



Guy E. Wampler



Brethren Press
This day.

MESSENGER



A limited number of tickets will be available in the registration area.

HE ELABORATED UPON THE EXTENT OF THE CASSEL COLLECTION, **HOW IT FILLED HIS HOUSE AND BARN TO OVERFLOWING** AND HOW BROTHER CASSEL WROTE TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO CATALOG HIS COLLECTION.

making people feel less than welcome does not add to the number on the church rolls.

If you are a fundamentalist and believe that the entire Bible is without error, then you must think about how you are responding today to the verses in the Bible that say people who commit adultery or who get divorced should be stoned to death. There are several verses that state this clearly. How can you ignore some verses and pick out others to condemn other people?

Let us worship God and not the words in the Bible. He alone will judge.

Sherry Hope
Baltimore, Md.

'Abraham Harley Cassel is my hero!'

For several reasons, I thoroughly enjoyed Frank Ramirez' article about Abraham Harley Cassel in the May issue of MESSENGER. I will restrict my comments to what the late Donald F. Durnbaugh said about Brother Cassel in an Annual Conference insight session several years ago. Dr. Durnbaugh told us, "Abraham Harley Cassel is my hero!" Don related some of the same anecdotes that Frank included in his article. He elaborated upon the extent of the Cassel collection, how it filled his house and barn to overflowing and how

Brother Cassel wrote to the Library of Congress for advice on how to catalog his collection. Don told us how M.G. Brumbaugh, a Brethren minister, while governor of the state of Pennsylvania, went on an extensive speaking tour to raise money to buy a major part of the Cassel collection, which he then donated to Juniata College, where he later served as president.

Brother Cassel collected many of his books, covering a wide range of topics, when he worked as a substitute teacher in various towns. He would spend his evenings going door to door asking for books written in German, for sale or to be donated. The owners of the books had often inherited them and could not read German. Reluctant to trash them, and fearing that they might be sacred volumes, they were happy to hand them over to Brother Cassel.

Jobie E. Riley
Elizabethtown, Pa.

ASK SOMEONE WHO HAS TRAVELED WITH US!

2012 TOURS

- EUROPEAN HERITAGE with JOHN RUTH (July 10-23)
- LANDS OF THE BIBLE: JORDAN and ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR TYLER HARTFORD (July 19-28)
- ALASKA CRUISE TOUR (August 23-September 3)
- TOUR to LITHUANIA (in partnership with LCC International University) (September 12-19)
- MENNONITE STORY in POLAND and UKRAINE (September 18-29)
- SCENIC AUTUMN CRUISE: CANADA and NEW ENGLAND (October 6-16)
- MEDA TOUR to ETHIOPIA and TANZANIA (October 12-24)
- SERVICE TOUR to ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR JAMIE GERBER (October 13-22)
- ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR DOUG KLASSEN (October 17-26)
- ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR KEITH BLANK (November 7-16)
- VIETNAM and SINGAPORE (November 12-26)
- MUSIC and MARKETS: DANUBE CHRISTMAS CRUISE (December 1-9)

2013 TOURS

- JAMAICA - Its PEOPLE, NATURAL BEAUTY and FRUITS (January 11-20)
- AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND (February 1-21)
- CHURCHES and SAFARIS in KENYA and TANZANIA (February 8-20)
- PANAMA CANAL CRUISE (February 26-March 8)
- MEDA in MOROCCO (April 2-12)
- ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR PHIL WAGLER (April 16-25)

MYSTERY TOUR (April 17-26)

- LANDS OF THE BIBLE with PASTORS SEBASTIAN and CAREY MEADOWS-HELMER (April 28-May 7)
- EXPLORE the WORLD of PAUL with TOM YODER NEUFELD (May 1-17)
- EUROPEAN HERITAGE with PAUL ZEHR (May 2-15)
- GREAT TREK TOUR with JOHN SHARP (May 7-18)
- HESSTON COLLEGE TOUR to EUROPE (May 24-June 6)
- EUROPEAN HERITAGE with JOHN RUTH (June 6-19)
- ICELAND ECO TOUR (June 10-19)
- COLUMBIA BIBLE COLLEGE ANABAPTIST HERITAGE TOUR (July 2-15)
- FOLLOWING the STEPS of MOSES with PASTOR NELSON KRAYBILL (July 22-31)
- RUSSIA and UKRAINE (September 9-21)
- THE BRITISH ISLES (England, Scotland and Wales) with DAVID and JOYCE ESHLEMAN (September 13-25)
- BEHIND the VEIL - EXPERIENCING EGYPT (October 17-28)
- CHINA and a YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE (November 1-15)
- EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS (December 9-15)

2014 TOURS

- THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST and GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (January 16-26)
- SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA and its FJORDS (June 13-26)



"Building bridges among Mennonites and other Christians and faiths around the world through custom-designed travel."

CALL 1-800-565-0451 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

E-MAIL: office@tourmagination.com WEB: www.tourmagination.com

9 Willow Street
Waterloo, ON N2J 1V6 Canada

Reg. #50014322

2308 Wood Street
Lancaster, PA 17603 USA

CLASSIFIEDADS

"Roots by the River": The History and Doctrine of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church in Miami County, Ohio Revised is now available for purchase from The Brethren Heritage Center. The book was first published by Dr. Marcus Miller in 1973. Historically, it covers the very early Brethren moving from the east to the wilderness called Ohio. It explains the doctrines and traditions of the early Brethren and their place in local society. There are several maps and great photographs of early Old German Baptist Brethren leaders. It has since been corrected, expanded and updated to include the story of the latest division in 2009. This new book is large, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, 377 pages and has easy-to-read type. A very comprehensive index has a large collection of personal and family names, with photographs listed in bold. Use the Table of Contents to find the section that interests you the most. This first printing was limited to 400 copies. The price is \$40.00 or \$36.00 (plus tax in Ohio) for Heritage Friends. If you are not a Heritage Friend but join now, we will give you the discount. Call 937-833-5222 or email amack1708@brethrenheritagecenter.org.

Please send information to be included in *Turning Points* to Jean Clements, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120; 800-323-8039, ext. 320; jclements@brethren.org. Information must be complete in order to be published. Information older than one year cannot be published.

New Members

A Life in Christ, Cape Coral, Fla.: Johnny Schoendorf, Lennie Garland, Olivia Bissell, Willie Johnson, Sherrie Johnson, Rusty Bissell, Sally Bissell, Brian Lochner, Tony Zimmer
Agape, Fort Wayne, Ind.: Ella Kart, Kendra Morris, Rick Wagner, Melissa Wagner, Kaleb Wagner, Alea Wagner
Beachdale, Berlin, Pa.: Weston Hilliard, Autumn Foust, Kelsie Musto
Beacon Heights, Fort Wayne, Ind.: Allison Eby Gerardot, Jennifer Crill Johnson, Jevon Johnson, Jennifer Schall, Alexis Shoda, Greg Shoda
Chambersburg, Pa.: Betty L. Bitner, Christa Bailey, Bennett Gorman
Community of Joy, Salisbury, Md.: Rob Rappold, Lachelle Rappold, Ben Yu, Amy Yu
Conestoga, Leola, Pa.: Dawn Reed Lowey, Albert Reichard
Dayton, Va.: Rick Spitzer, Jane Spitzer, Rob Ham III, Jessica Rohrbaugh, Crystal Lynn, Todd Lynn, C. W. Roberts
Dixon, Ill.: Duane Reynolds, Delores Reynolds, Vernon Dean, Edna Dean
Faith Community of the Brethren Home, New Oxford, Pa.: James Uhl, Patricia Uhl, Karen Hoshal
Florin, Mount Joy, Pa.: Julia Kyle
Goshen City, Goshen, Ind.: Stephen Mishler, Becky Hollenberg, Regina Roberts, Jenny Austin
Hagerstown, Md.: Oneida Stevenson, Katie Hardy, Kayley Main, Mason Parker, Riley Parker

Heidelberg, Myerstown, Pa.: Brayden Heisey, Blake Stauffer
Hempfield, Manheim, Pa.: Jaynelle Troxell, Nathaniel Dum
La Verne, Calif.: Teresa Davenport, Alex Bache, Marlyn Silva, Jonathan Bay, Nadine Pence, Robert Mullins
Ligonier, Pa.: Breanna Deemer, Jenna Deemer, Zoe Mastrilli, Matthew Rummel, Jacob Zimmerman, Michael Zimmerman
Lititz, Pa.: Phares Gerhart, Sandra Gerhart, Mary Zerbe, Carson Weaver, Honey Dew, Brady Dissinger, Jim Roth
Manchester, North Manchester, Ind.: Robert Lynn, Debra Lynn, Kristin Pittman, Laura Stone, Alison Beery, Yvonne Dilling, Paul Fry-Miller, Kathy Fry-Miller, Trisha Hanes, Jennifer Jones, Roland Young, Monie Harley, Bob Hollenberg, Helen Hollenberg, Emery Kintner, Ashleigh Maxcey
McPherson, Kan.: Kate Johnson, Ilanna Moyer, Isabelle Moyer, Dennis Pfeiff, DeShawn Pfeiff, Stephanie Pfeiff, Rebecca Ullom-Minnich, Amber Beard, Nancy Young
Mechanic Grove, Quarryville, Pa.: Kyle Johnson, Gwen Faulkner, Nicholas Casadonti, Hannah Pollock, Anna Rasmussen, Josiah Reimold, Annie Hooper
Mill Creek, Port Republic, Va.: Janice Miller
Modesto, Calif.: Evan Campbell, Pat Easley, Rehana Franklin
Myerstown, Pa.: Jason Zimmerman, Christine Blackwell, Michael Torres, Catherine Schott, Richard Carpenter, Margaret Carpenter, Lois Yoder, Thomas Hoffman, Dolly Hoffman
Nettle Creek, Hagerstown, Ind.: Sylvia Hoover, Rinda Kiefer
Palmyra, Pa.: Robert

Donachy, Bethany Clark, Jan Wessell
Panther Creek, Adel, Iowa: Jesse McLearn-Montz, Anna Overla
Paradise, Smithville, Ohio: Allen Kahler, Shannon Kahler
Peace, Portland, Ore.: Jen Davis Tate
Prairie City, Iowa: James Oldham
Quakertown, First, Quakertown, Pa.: Peter Narainswamy, Lucille Narainswamy, Alyssa Narainswamy
Reading, Homeworth, Ohio: Agnes Hayhurst
Ridge, Shippensburg, Pa.: Kiah Krall, Donald McCurdy, Darlene McCurdy, Bernard Park, Brian Trayer, Stephanie Coldsmith, Annie Pierce, Sherrie Calaman, Cody Heckman, Becky Dodge, Maurice Dodge
Ridgeway Community, Harrisburg, Pa.: Stacey Lewis
Roaring Spring, First, Roaring Spring, Pa.: Allen Keith, Emily Keith, Matt May, Jen May, Meghan May, Stephen Wertz, Wendy Wertz, Livia Wertz, Rick Dillon, Tonya Dillon, Matt Dillon, Michael Claybaugh, Samantha Claybaugh, Zach Croft, Merissa Dibert, Chelsey Dick, Kilee Frye, Vincent Miller, Gino Petre, Autumn Toth, Cody Wyland, Tom Glunt, Missy Glunt, Joe Horton, Kim Horton, Kevin Bishop, Brady Bulatto, Ryan Butler
West Charleston, Tipp City, Ohio: James Samuels
Wilmington, Del.: Michael R. Haas, Diana Marie Mingoia, Robert T. Mingoia, Daniel Fisher, Benjamin Fisher
Woodbury, Pa.: Ryleigh Teeter
Wyomissing, Pa.: Mark Henderson, Sandra Henderson, Bob Hollinger, Marcia Rogala, Robert Rogala, Sarah Sallada, Dan Ulrich, Kathy Ulrich, Karen Moran-Wells, Neil Wells

Wedding Anniversaries

Adams, Cecil and Mary Margaret, Freeport, Ill., 70
Barkley, Robert and Betty, Fort Wayne, Ind., 65
Beal, Albert and Phyllis, Friedens, Pa., 60
Brady, Bill and Beverly, Kalamazoo, Mich., 55
Brubaker, John Henry and Orlena, Manheim, Pa., 70
Conn, Paul and Marlene, Somerset, Pa., 50
Gibble, Eugene and Janet, Manheim, Pa., 50
Hadley, Leon and Susian, Lincoln, Neb., 65
Kurtz, Robert and Beatrice, Lancaster, Pa., 60
Landes, Olin and Alice, Harrisonburg, Va., 75
Miller, Melvin and Hilda, Penn Laird, Va., 74
Ridenour, Jim and Carolyn, Middlebury, Ind., 50
Wagoner, Richard and Ruth, Perry, Iowa, 60
Watkins, Earl and Nellie, Berlin, Pa., 50
Wilson, Donald and Andrea, Union Bridge, Md., 50
Wort, Gene and Mary Jo, Hometown, Ind., 60
Deaths
Adams, Cecil Carl, 90, Freeport, Ill., Feb. 14
Allen, Lois Jean Vest, 54, Mechanicsville, Va., April 6
Amos, Evelyn E., 89, Dayton, Ohio, April 14
Bane, William, 95, Burlington, W.Va., March 31
Bollinger, Jean Elizabeth, 86, Lititz, Pa., Jan. 27
Bowman, Lufreda N., 102, Hagerstown, Ind., May 15, 2011
Brant, Leah E., 92, New Oxford, Pa., March 3
Brennecke, Jack, 77, La Verne, Calif., Feb. 8
Buckingham, William I., 87, Reasnor, Iowa, April 15
Byerly, Jessie Hammer, 105, Augusta County, Va., Feb. 2
Carper, Blanche, I., 88, La Verne, Calif., Jan. 27
Clark, Deloris, 96, North Manchester, Ind., Oct. 5
Clingenpeel, Catherine P., 84, Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 26
Cunningham, Mary, 87, Adel, Iowa, Feb. 18
Danville, Virginia M., 85, Kaleva, Mich., Dec. 18
Davis, Mary Boone, 105, Roanoke, Va., Oct. 27
Delk, Brian P., 52, New Madison, Ohio, April 3
Dhue, Jane R., 75, Greensboro, Md., March 17
Dilling, Marjorie M., 80, North Manchester, Ind., April 19, 2011
Doll, Virginia Lee, 78, Dover, Pa., April 13
Engelmann, John L., 95, New Oxford, Pa., March 20
Evans, Helen A., 89, North Manchester, Ind., June 11, 2011
Faus, Doris H., 70, Manheim, Pa., April 6
Franklin, Lawrence K., 85, Blue Ridge, Va., April 17
Frantz, Robert S., 92, North Manchester, Ind., Aug. 18
Fries, Arthur H., 88, McPherson, Kan., April 5
Fritz, Julia B., 45, New Oxford, Pa., Feb. 5
Garber, Paul M., 95, Middlebury, Ind., July 20, 2011
Gorman, Sandra Lee, 64, Leola, Pa., Aug. 23
Harlacher, Betty E., 87, New Oxford, Pa., Feb. 16
Hawbaker, Roy B., 96, Mercersburg, Pa., Oct. 7
Heagy, Richard M., 86, Manheim, Pa., March 25
Hemminger, Mona Lou, 85, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 2
Hershberger, Pauline E., 67, Middlebury, Ind., Dec. 5
Hoover, Betty Jane, 92, Hagerstown, Ind., March 2
Horst, Reba K., 96, Lancaster, Pa., March 18
Jarrels, George Olin, 99, Harrisonburg, Va., Jan. 31
Jarrels, William B., Sr., 84, Grottoes, Va., March 17
Jinks, Merium Knight, 75, Dyke, Va., Feb. 2
Johnson, Roy A., 83, New Windsor, Md., March 25
Keepert, Ralph G., 98, Reading, Pa., Jan. 21
Kerkove, Hannah Lynne, newborn, Adel, Iowa, Jan. 28
Kimmel, Mildred Marie, 90, Ozawkie, Kan., March 10

Seeing the starfish

Sitting in my dentists' waiting room several years ago, I noticed a new piece of art on the wall.

I looked at it for a long time but couldn't make sense of it. It seemed to be some kind of abstract art.

A few weeks later, at my doctor's office, I noticed a similar piece. There seemed to be some uniformity to it, and it was pleasant enough to look at, but I didn't think much more about it until someone in the waiting room mentioned that, if you looked at it just right, you could see a three-dimensional object that appeared to be floating in it.



RANDY MILLER
MESSENGER Editor

No kidding? Wow!

I stared at it for several minutes with great anticipation.

Nothing.

I stared at it some more. I squinted. I tried getting very close, and then I stood on the other side of the room. Still nothing. What was I doing wrong?

It turns out I was trying too hard.

All that squinting at the lines and squiggles in search of whatever

was floating in there had been in vain. In fact, it had been counterproductive.

These pieces of art, I later discovered, are called hidden image stereograms. The key to seeing the image in these pieces of art is to relax—relax your eyes, relax your focus.

So I tried it. It didn't happen right away, because I was so

they reply "Four," he storms off, crying out in frustration, "Four? Four? No!"

The same thing occurs when Mendelson approaches fellow patient Patch Adams, played by Robin Williams.

But one evening Adams finds Mendelson, who is at a desk working out elaborate math equations. After chatting a bit, Adams asks Mendelson about the four fingers.

"How many do you see?" Mendelson asks, holding his fingers in front of Adams' face.

"There are four fingers, Arthur."

"No, no!" Mendelson says. "Look at me!"

"What?" Adams asks.

"You're focusing on the problem. If you focus on the problem, you can't see the solution. Never focus on the problem. Look at me! How many do you see?"

By peering past the fingers and looking at Arthur, Adams slowly begins to see eight fingers.

"Eight," Adams says.

"Eight!" Mendelson exclaims. "Eight! Yes! Eight's a good answer. Yes. See what no one else sees. See what everyone else chooses not to see out of fear, conformity, or laziness. See the whole world anew each day!"

Sometimes I think God must identify with Mendelson, observing us from afar as we fret over this scripture and that, mired in the minutiae and missing the big picture. We may be "right," from a technical standpoint, as we lift up a verse to prove a point—in much the same way I was seeing

I WAS NOT WRONG, IN TERMS OF WHAT I WAS SEEING, BUT LOOKING AT IT IN ONLY THAT WAY KEPT ME FROM SEEING THE DEEPER IMAGE—THE TRUE PICTURE.

used to seeing what was immediately apparent: the obvious thing in front of me. For a while, it was frustrating. Then gradually I learned to let go. I kept looking at the piece, but I allowed my eyes to relax. Slowly, an image began to appear. It was a starfish, hovering seemingly in midair. Amazing! I no longer focused on the details, and the image just beneath the surface was now clear. I just had to learn how to see it.

This exercise in seeing things in a different way made me think of one of the characters in the movie *Patch Adams*. Arthur Mendelson, an eccentric intellectual, is a self-committed patient in a mental hospital. He constantly approaches those around him and, thrusting four fingers in their faces, asks, "How many fingers do you see?" When

perfectly the image right in front of me before I learned how to view the stereogram. I was not wrong, in terms of what I was seeing, but looking at it in only that way kept me from seeing the deeper image—the true picture.

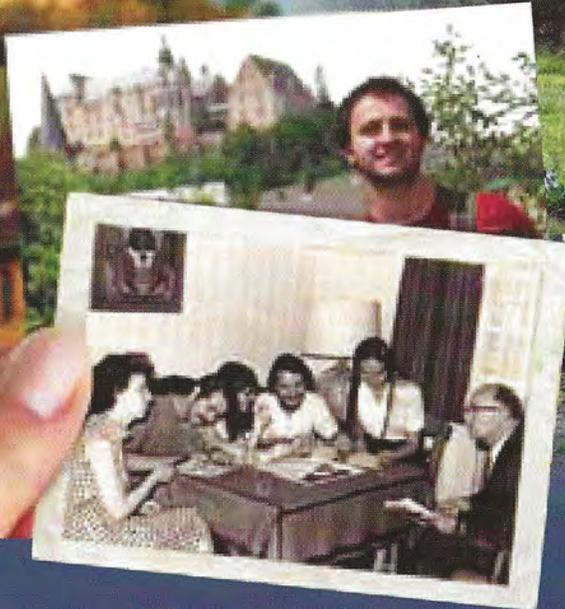
At brethren.org, if you click the "About Us" tab, you'll find, right under the "Welcome" heading, these words: "In the New Testament, the word 'brethren' describes a community of men and women who chose another way of living: the way of Jesus."

Jesus tried to show us another way of living. He tried to help us see the starfish. When we relax our death grip on our particular take on things and let the Spirit breathe, we might be amazed by what we see. 

COMING IN JULY/AUGUST: Our agricultural roots, models for new churches, Bible study, media review, reflections, letters, and more.


BCA Study
Abroad
Bridge • Connect • Act


BETHANY
Theological Seminary



Read Memories from the
FIRST 50 YEARS

“One year abroad 45 years ago was the turning point in my life. It turned me internationally, and I have never stopped turning.”

Judy Minnich Stout,
Strasbourg, France 1966

Share Your Story:

www.bcastudyabroad.org/memorybook

Questions?

Call us at
866.222.6188

or email us at
memories @bcastudyabroad.org

Imagine

freeing the inner life for outreaching
service to neighbor and stranger

www.bethanyseminary.edu

800-287-8822

*master of divinity
and master of arts*

*one-year
certificate program*

*local and
distance tracks*

Your Brethren College Network

Bridgewater College
www.bridgewater.edu

Elizabethtown College
www.etown.edu

Juniata College
www.juniata.edu

University of La Verne
www.laverne.edu

Manchester College
www.manchester.edu

McPherson College
www.mcpherson.edu

Bethany Theological Seminary
www.bethanyseminary.edu

BCA Study Abroad
www.bcastudyabroad.org

**There is an international fellowship
emerging
of like-minded people
committed to Jesus' way
of simplicity and peace,
wanting to be together,
wanting to be Brethren.**



Your donation supports

- Domestic church planting
- New mission work overseas
- Current mission workers
- Theological education
- Bible distribution
- Translation of materials for use by our international brothers and sisters

**Emerging Global
Mission Fund**



www.brethren.org/partners/emerging-global-mission-fund.html

(800) 323-8039 x363 or (847) 429-4363