

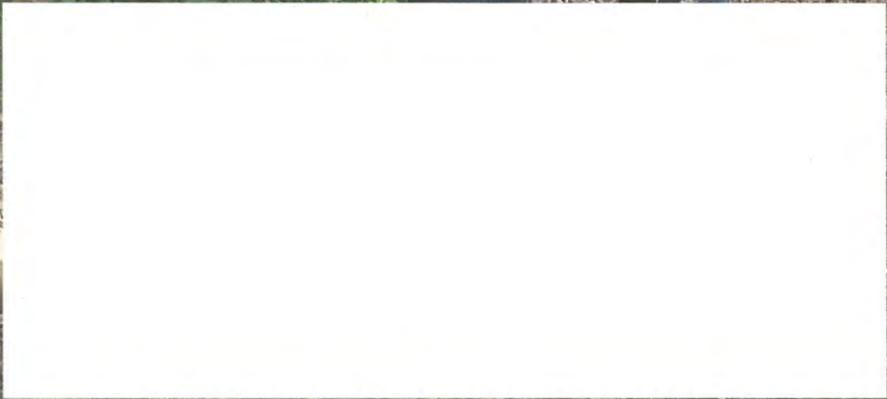
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MESSENGER

JULY/AUGUST 2013 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG



Modeling
**Brethren
values**
through interfaith
cooperation





Rebuilding what Sandy took away

Super Storm Sandy left behind massive destruction in coastal communities of New Jersey and New York. More than 650,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. Many more lives were disrupted. Months later, tens of thousands of people remain homeless.

Recovery is just beginning. It will take years to rebuild what Sandy took away. Brethren Disaster Ministries is prepared to send volunteer teams to rebuild homes wherever they are most needed.

Your support will enable Brethren Disaster Ministries to lift the burden of Hurricane Sandy survivors in Jesus' name.



Photos by Liz Roll, FEMA

Send your gift to:

**Emergency Disaster Fund
Church of the Brethren
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120**

Give online at www.brethren.org/edf

Find us on the web at www.brethren.org/bdm



**BRETHREN
Disaster Ministries**

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN MESSENGER

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

July/August 2013 VOL.162 NO. 6 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG



Zandra Wagoner



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



Cher McMonigle

8 Modeling Brethren values through interfaith cooperation

Although the percentage of Brethren students on Brethren campuses may be dwindling, Brethren values at those institutions—infused with a dose of ecumenism—are stronger than ever. Eboo Patel, named by *US News & World Report* as one of America's Best Leaders of 2009, talks about his visits to Brethren campuses, and why his hopes are so high for today's youth.

12 The table leans

If you've got a good voice and a guitar, why stop at just preaching? Check out the lyrics to a song written by one Brethren pastor who talks about a table "spread with the cup and the bread."

13 Being a healing balm in troubling times

With a nod toward Ecclesiastes 3, while there may be times to kill and times to heal, Brethren traditionally have sought ways to foster the latter. Where do we stand in this equation today? Are we still seeking out ways to heal, or are we missing opportunities to foster peacemaking?

16 Walkin' on broken glass

Searching for treasure at the shoreline can reveal important life lessons for young and old alike, as this short metaphor reveals.

17 Getting to know mission worker Carol Smith

At a time of heightened violence and tension in Nigeria, why would anyone choose to do mission work there? One American woman shares why she has returned, and what she hopes to accomplish.

18 The arms of compassion

God's compassionate reach is always available for everyone, including those who are themselves worn out by caregiving.

departments

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 FROM THE PUBLISHER | 25 YOUTH LIFE |
| 3 IN TOUCH | 26 LIVING SIMPLY |
| 6 REFLECTIONS | 27 LETTERS |
| 7 THE BUZZ | 31 TURNING POINTS |
| 20 NEWS | 32 EDITORIAL |
| 24 MEDIA REVIEW | |

on the cover

Even weeding can be fun when you're doing it with others, as University of La Verne student Jackie Valencia Perez discovers early one morning working with the Grow Better Together service project. Photo by Zandra Wagoner

A full-page article in the *Chicago Tribune* describes a company that has begun marketing a line of bulletproof clothing for American schoolchildren. The line includes a bulletproof backpack (“fully functional as a bag”) that costs \$300, a puffer vest for \$1,040, and an armor T-shirt for \$2,057.

According to the Tribune, there’s no such demand in company president Miguel Caballero’s native Colombia. “But the United States is a different market: a country where there are about as many firearms as people . . . and where mass shootings have simply prompted some to stock up on weapons and seek other forms of protection.”



WENDY MCFADDEN
PUBLISHER

Says Caballero: “The rest of the countries in the world try to disarm, but in the United States they say, ‘Let’s protect ourselves.’ So in that light, that’s a business opportunity.”

Follow the money, as they say. In this case, follow the money to find out who we are. Sometimes the straight-forward observations of business interests clarify what’s really going on. In the midst of a controversy that renders legislators immobile, it appears that we are a nation more willing to pay for the consequences of gun rights than to reduce the threat.

It’s “a complete indictment for our gun policy that we’d put bulletproof clothing on our children instead of stopping the bullets in the first place,” says Josh Horwitz, head of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, in the Tribune article. The coalition consists of 47 religious groups, child welfare advocates, public health professionals, and social justice organizations—including the Church of the Brethren.

Eight children in America die from gun violence every day, according to the Children’s Defense Fund. Between 1979 and 2010, 119,079 children and teens died from guns. This is more deaths in 32 years than US soldiers killed in action in the Vietnam, Korean, Afghanistan and Iraq wars combined. It’s hard to think of words to describe a nation that is willing to pay a price this steep.

Kudos to the Beacon Heights Brethren (page 3) who have studied the theological aspects of gun violence and also expressed support for a city official who is speaking out in Indiana. They are following Brethren convictions on self-defense that date back to Annual Meeting of 1785. Those convictions are also as current as today, with the denomination’s participation in Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence.

Designer bulletproof clothing? As people of faith, let’s model something different. “Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body” (Colossians 3:14-15).

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
messengersubscriptions@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.

Digital Messenger offers enhanced content. Go to www.brethren.org/accessmessenger.

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 © July/August 2013, 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)

Indiana mayor speaks to Brethren about gun violence

Fort Wayne, Ind., mayor Tom Henry recently spoke to an adult education class at **Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren** in Fort Wayne. The class has been studying the book *America and Its Guns: A Theological Exposé* by James E. Atwood.

Henry was there as a representative of “Mayors Against Illegal Guns,” a coalition of more than 900 mayors in the US who are demanding an end to gun violence. Henry was the first mayor in Indiana to join the coalition. The group works together to find innovative new ways to advance the following principles:

Courtesy of Nancy Eikenberry



Fort Wayne (Ind.) mayor Tom Henry with members of a class on gun violence at Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren.

- Punish—to the maximum extent of the law—criminals who possess, use, and traffic in illegal guns.
- Target and hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who break the law by knowingly selling guns to straw purchasers.
- Oppose all federal efforts to restrict cities’ right to access, use, and share trace data that is so essential to effective enforcement, or to interfere with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to combat illegal gun trafficking.
- Keep lethal, military-style weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines off our streets.
- Work to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns.

- Support all local state and federal legislation that targets illegal guns; coordinate legislative, enforcement, and litigation strategies; and share information and best practices.
- Invite other cities to join in this new national effort.

Mayor Henry indicated that there are 300 million registered guns in this country, and estimated that there are probably another 100 million that we do not know about. He was disappointed that Congress did not pass the recent Manchin-Toomey bill that would expand background checks to include sales of all guns. He feels this was the result of the NRA being a very powerful lobby, which contributes huge amounts of money to politicians’ campaigns.

He also spoke briefly about the recent rash of gun violence in Fort Wayne. He indicated that there are five major gangs there, with a total of about 250 members, mostly men. They are between the ages of 17 and 24, and are usually armed with a 9 mm handgun, which is easy to conceal and is very powerful. Most shootings are due to gang retaliation, the high street value of drugs, and some drug trafficking by the affluent population in the city of 250,000.

When asked what individuals can do to advocate for stricter gun laws, he said that the best thing to do is to pressure lawmakers by telephone, e-mail, letters, and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Beacon Heights members expressed their appreciation for the mayor’s time and effort by presenting him with a copy of the book that the class has been studying.—Nancy Eikenberry

Nancy Eikenberry attends Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren and with Kyla Zehr has been leading the church’s adult education class on gun violence.

Congregation Close-Up

by the numbers

100

Number of Brethren Volunteer Service workers who have spent terms at Gould Farm, a recovery-based, therapeutic community in Monterey, Mass., for adults living with mental illness or emotional distress. Gould Farm is the longest-running BVS project site in the organization’s history.

Do you have district or congregational stories that might be of interest to MESSENGER? Short items with a photo are best. Send them to MESSENGER, c/o In Touch, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 or messenger@brethren.org.

Seeds are blessed for a field of hope

Members of the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren in Myersville, Md., scurried into a barn as rain fell on their 55-acre Field of Hope. But the inclement weather did little to dampen their spirits at their annual Blessing of the Seeds event, held May 19 on the farm of church members Jeff and Patty Hurwitz.

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren member Patty Hurwitz, Growing Project chair, talks at the Blessing of the Seeds event about the program being sponsored this year in the Dominican Republic.



It's something they and eight other area Brethren churches have been doing for the past eight years as part of their effort to raise money for the Christian non-profit organization Foods Resource Bank. In 2006, Jeff and Patty Hurwitz allocated 55 acres of their farm for use by what became known as the Growing Project. Crops produced in the field are sold, and the money raised each year is directed toward a particular Foods Resource Bank project.

This year the churches expect to raise some \$25,000—bringing their eight-year total to nearly \$200,000—which will go to a project in the Dominican Republic known as the Bateyes Program. The program helps Haitian immigrants and their descendants in the Dominican Republic who are living in former

sugar cane work camps acquire skills in crop management, establish community seed banks, and learn economic management. In previous years, money raised at the Field of Hope has gone to programs in Kenya, Zambia, Congo, Malawi, Nicaragua, and Mozambique.

“We’d planned to hold the Blessings of the Seeds outdoors, but the rain changed our plans,” Patty said. Nevertheless, church members and others managed to elbow their way into the drafty structure to listen to music and learn more about the program.

The Blessing of the Seeds event is held every year in early summer, and a harvest festival concludes the project with a celebration in the fall.

Young riders took a hayride from Grossnickle Church of the Brethren to the farm of Jeff and Patty Hurwitz for the Blessing of the Seeds service.



LANDMARKS and laurels

➔ **Bridgewater (Va.) College has announced numerous student awards** at the close of the school year. Of note for Brethren, **Katie Furrow** of Monte Vista Church of the Brethren in Virlina District has received the Esther Mae Wilson Petcher Memorial Scholarship in memory of Esther Mae Wilson Petcher, a former missionary to Nigeria. **Scott R. Griffin** received the **Dale V. Ulrich** Physics Scholarship in honor of the former professor of physics and dean and provost who served 38 years on the faculty. Seniors **Tyler Goss** and **Stephanie R. Breen** were recognized by the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Goss received the Outstanding Senior Award in Religion. He is a leader of Outspoken, the chapel praise band; a member of the Brethren Student Movement; and a member of the Deputation Team that provides worship services for

churches. Breen received the Ruth and Steve Watson Philosophy Scholarship Award. Four students received Summer Christian Experience Scholarships and will spend 10 weeks working at Church of the Brethren-related camps: **Patricia A. Ajavon** and **Kirsten Roth** will serve at Shepherd’s Spring in Sharpsburg, Md.; **Kaitlyn Harris** will go to Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa.; and **Shelley Weachter** will serve at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Va.

➔ **Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren celebrated Lois Wine’s 48 years of service** as organist with a time of special music during the morning worship service on May 12. “She has played for innumerable occasions throughout the years from 1965-2013,” said the church newsletter. “Lois Glick Wine left the console for the next organist on Easter Sunday, 2013.”



Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren held a celebration in honor of what would have been Paul Ziegler's 20th birthday on May 5. Family and friends of the late McPherson College student joined in a long weekend of events in and around Elizabethtown as part of the 3000 Miles for Peace campaign of On Earth Peace in Ziegler's honor.

Campaign brings healing to Paul Ziegler's congregation

On Saturday, May 4, nearly 150 people gathered at Colebrook, Pa., along the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail to bike, walk, and ride horseback as a part of the 3000 Miles for Peace campaign of On Earth Peace. A report from the agency noted that the trail ride kicked off a long weekend of events in and around Elizabethtown, Pa., in honor of the late Paul Ziegler who would have celebrated his 20th birthday on Sunday, May 5.

"In a world where we are constantly bombarded by the bad news of guns, drones, bombs, wars, and domestic violence we just lived the good news of faith and peace," commented Elizabethtown pastor Greg Davidson Laszakovits by e-mail after the weekend. "Inspired by Paul's vision, refusing to feel powerless against an often violent world, we saw that we can and do make a difference—one step, one pedal revolution, one person at a time."

Among the crowd were many friends and family of Ziegler, who had been a member at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren. Included were his parents Deb and Dale Ziegler. Grandfather Woodrow Ziegler and his wife, Doris, who are members of Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren, were there. Aunt Karen Hodges ran registration, and brought in staff and faculty from Elizabethtown College. Uncle Don Ziegler welcomed everyone to the trail ride, including On Earth Peace's Bob Gross, who had just concluded a 650-mile walk from Indiana.

"We had a perfect day," said Don Ziegler in the On Earth Peace report.

The trail ride was followed by a birthday celebration at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren on May 5. Music, stories about the campaign, singing, discussions around peace, and birthday cake were enjoyed by all who attended. The congregation raised \$6,524 in Ziegler's honor.

The weekend was a demonstration of church and community coming together, reported Lizz Schallert, development assistant at On Earth Peace. "So many volunteers of Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren and members of Paul's family worked to make the weekend a success. It was a time of support for the Ziegler family, and a tangible expression of advancing the programs Paul cared about."

Remembered

Marion F. Showalter, 96, who had served for many years as a Church of the Brethren mission worker in Nigeria, died on Dec. 17, 2012. He was a life-long member of Empire Church of the Brethren in Modesto, Calif. In 1964 the Showalters decided to volunteer for Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) and traveled to Nigeria for what was to have been a two-year stay. However, they remained in Nigeria for a total of 19 years, retiring in 1983. After retirement he continued to serve the church in many areas including doing opening and closing and ongoing maintenance of Camp Peaceful Pines, a Church of the Brethren camp located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. "He was a mechanic by trade and anyone who knew him knew that if something was broken then he could likely fix it," said the obituary in *The Modesto Bee*.

James E. Renz, 94, died May 19 at Pinecrest retirement community in Mount Morris, Ill. He was a former director of social welfare for the Church of the Brethren, and in 1960 established an outpatient alcohol treatment center for the Elgin community, which now serves thousands of people, and for which he served as director until his retirement in 1986. The *Daily Herald* newspaper notes that when Renz started the center 52 years ago it was a one-man operation in a small office on the second floor of a downtown building. It was Renz' hard work and dedication as a Church of the Brethren pastor with a lifelong commitment to service that propelled the center to become one of the largest nonprofits that serve northern Kane and western Cook Counties of Illinois, said the newspaper. One year before his retirement the board changed the name of the agency to Renz Addiction Counseling Center. Renz was a pastor in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois before he moved to Elgin to serve on the denominational staff in 1952.

D. Eugene Lichty, 92, died May 20 at McPherson (Kan.) Hospital. He was a former director of development for McPherson College, and served as a board member of On Earth Peace. He was born April 14, 1921, in Waterloo, Iowa, son of Ray W. and Elizabeth McRoberts Lichty. He married Eloise Marie McKnight on Aug. 20, 1944, in Quinter, Kan. He was a graduate of McPherson College and Bethany Theological Seminary in Chicago, and was a Church of the Brethren pastor.

Thatching helps reveal the truth

Here in central Washington, on the bank of the Wenatchee River near its confluence with the great Columbia, eagles fly past at eye level, surprising me when they appear just over my lawn. Finches cross the river to our bird feeders, bobbing up and down in flight. In desert country, on the east slopes of the Cascade Range, rain is scarce and rivers are the lifeblood of the region. Sage and tumbleweeds are common, plentiful enough down my riverbank. With irrigation water for my yard and about 300 days of clear sunshine a year, the lawn thrives. So do orchards and vineyards.



JOHN A. BRAUN

I'm part of the river. Yes, it's true! The water that I drink comes from wells drilled into aquifers 200 feet below the Columbia River. Since I am somewhere around 70 percent water, you could say that the river flows through me.

A biblical image comes to mind about the river of the water of life, flowing from the throne of God.

Water has mysterious properties. Each droplet's ability to form beautiful

snowflake crystals depends on the love and gratitude it receives. In Masaru Emoto's book *The Hidden Messages of Water*, photographs and descriptions reveal that negative and hostile messages destroy a water droplet's ability to form such crystals. Imagine how our words can damage others, not only

wave frequency, somewhere around 42 octaves above middle C! Those rocks in my waterfall are really intense packets of concentrated, oscillating energy, not impervious to my thoughts. Is this idea disturbing or is it incredibly awesome, mystifying, and inspiring?

We are uniquely formed, hard-wired even, for purposeful connection to nature. Jesus spoke to the storm and it became quiet. He spoke to illness and it let go. A new window of comprehension is dawning. I look to the rivers, valleys, and mountains around me and say thank you. I pray for the healing of the earth. I bless the waters, for they nurture the farms and sustain life for all. The Columbia's current, detectable miles out into the Pacific Ocean, carries my blessings around the world.

Back to thatching: The truth of God is planted with deep roots into our conscious and subconscious beings. Too many edifices of belief and philosophy get structured on top of, and tangled into, our deeply rooted truths. It drives us to

Randy Miller



I look to the rivers, valleys, and mountains around me and say thank you. I pray for the *healing of the earth.*

mentally but in every cell of their bodies.

When I pull a thatching rake through my lawn, sometimes clumps of poorly rooted grass come along. Panicked, I check more closely but see that healthy and deeply rooted grass remains. In my imagination, the lawn seems to say, "Thank you, thank you." It radiates wellbeing. It is part of God's promised blessing of abundance, new crops being brought in before the old are depleted. So we need to be in tune, as suggested in Romans 8:19: "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God."

Quantum string theory says there is nothing solid at all in the universe, only so-called strings of energy, vibrating at brain

distraction. Thatching is good mental exercise. Perhaps that is one way we can nurture a deeper trust in God.

Words from Isaiah come to mind: "The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail" (Isaiah 58:11). **AM**

John Braun is former pastor of the Wenatchee Brethren-Baptist Church United. He is executive director of Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services International (THARSinternational.com). A variation of this article appeared in the *Wenatchee World* April 12.

There is a certain power when young and old come together—we can do more together than we can do on our own.

—Shane Claiborne, former Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference speaker, and co-author with Tony Campolo of *Red Letter Revolution*

“Jesus says [to] love our enemies. So I was sitting in Starbucks and thought, ‘Maybe I’m the one person who needs to do something.’”

—Martha Mullen, a Virginia woman and mental health counselor who helped arrange the burial of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev in a Muslim cemetery in Doswell, Va.

“Violence against women is the most prevalent and the most hidden injustice in our world today. From rape as a weapon of war, to human trafficking, to the attack of a young girl seeking an education, the treatment of women and girls across the globe is in a state of crisis.”

—Jim Wallis, CEO of Sojourners, and author of *On God’s Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn’t Learned about Serving the Common Good*

“This theology is, in a word, abusive, for it blames the victim for whatever calamity, abuse, or tragedy she suffers and says it is deserved.”

—Evangelical writer Rachel Held Evans, criticizing Minneapolis pastor and author John Piper for using natural disasters, such as the Oklahoma City tornado, to explain the wrath of God

cultureview

► **Former first daughter Chelsea Clinton** is co-founder and co-chairwoman of New York University’s Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership program. Its website says the institute “supports a new generation of religious and civic leaders who, deeply rooted in their own religious and spiritual traditions, reach across faith boundaries to solve social problems together.” Clinton is Christian and her husband, Marc Mezvinsky, is Jewish. She told *Time* magazine last year that she was interested in helping to create, support, and sustain multifaith leadership.

► **In an international conference on Christians in the Middle East**, Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), highlighted the significance of the cross as a symbol of hope for the global church in solidarity with Christians in the Arab

world. “We are called to carry our cross as disciples, but we must also carry one another’s cross, showing how we share this cross as a uniting symbol among one global ecumenical family,” said Tveit at the conference, organized by the WCC in collaboration with the Middle East Council of Churches May 21 to 25 in Beirut, Lebanon.

► **Laws on blasphemy and apostasy** have been used by countries around the world—including many who are allies of the United States—to suppress political opponents, according to a US State Department report released in May chronicling a decline in religious freedom that has resulted in rising bigotry and sectarian violence. The report singled out eight countries for particularly egregious and systemic repression of religious rights: China, Eritrea, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan.

Heard 'round the world

“Sometimes I doze off, the fatigue of the day makes you fall asleep, but he [God] understands.”

—Pope Francis, speaking about his nighttime prayers to a crowd in St. Peter’s Square

“I was inspired by their warm fellowship and hospitality, and will not soon forget their kindness.”

—Carolyn Fitzkee, Global Mission Advocate for Atlantic Northeast District, referring to her visit in April with groups in Spain who are interested in becoming part of the Church of the Brethren



Modeling Brethren values through interfaith cooperation

by Eboo Patel, Abhishek Raman,
and Laura Hollinger Antonelli

[What's going on at Brethren colleges and universities these days? With dwindling percentages of Brethren students at these institutions, what kind of values are being instilled on those campuses? As it turns out, good old Brethren values like community service, simple living, peacemaking, stewardship of the earth, and ecumenism are in vogue. And they are being fostered from within and without, as the following article explains. Eboo Patel, founder and executive director of Interfaith Youth Core, brought a shot of enthusiasm for these concerns to Brethren campuses this spring when he spoke at Elizabethtown College's commencement ceremony, and at the University of La Verne's Fasnacht Lecture Series. "The Fasnacht Lecture, which encourages discussion about the place of religion in society, is grounded in the core values of who we are as an institution," said ULV president Deborah Lieberman as she introduced Patel. Read on to learn how Brethren values, by any other name, continue to smell sweet and flourish on our campuses. —Ed.]

College campuses at 8 a.m. on any given day look like a ghost town. An invitation for a student to come out at that hour is synonymous with pressing the snooze button. So what motivated a group of students at the University of La Verne to come together for a service project that early on a sunny California morning in April?

Interfaith cooperation.

Students like Tahil, Tiffany, and Caleb, inspired by their religious and non-religious traditions, donned gloves,

COMMITTED TO HISTORIC VALUES

Brethren

MUTUAL AID AGENCY

HOMEOWNERS • FARM • AUTO
CHURCH • BUSINESS • RENTERS

PERSONAL INSURANCE

Brethren Mutual Aid Agency has been meeting the insurance needs of Brethren families since 1885. We have a longstanding history of exceptional service and protection, affordable premiums and a commitment to Brethren values of community, service and simplicity. We are confident you will enjoy doing business with us; we take a genuine interest in meeting your insurance needs.

CHURCH INSURANCE

Brethren Mutual Aid Agency has been in the business of insuring churches for many years. Our experienced staff stands ready to assist you with the special insurance concerns that congregations have. With the peace of mind that a well designed policy brings, your church leaders can be free to concentrate on the work to which God has called them.

Contact us at:

800-255-1243

3094 Jeep Road, Abilene KS 67410-6064

MAABRETHREN.COM

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

La Verne student Jackie Valencia Perez helps remove weeds during the Grow Better Together service project.

Students like Tahil, Tiffany, and Caleb, inspired by their religious and non-religious traditions, donned gloves, picked up shovels and gardening tools, and started weeding plants, picking fruit, and cleaning out vegetable beds.

picked up shovels and gardening tools, and started weeding plants, picking fruit, and cleaning out vegetable beds. Each volunteer wore a T-shirt with a quote on the back saying: “Students of all faiths and traditions are taking action together and changing the world.”

The event was part of a larger campus initiative called Grow Better Together, which aims to feed the hungry, build community relationships, and promote sustainability. The university’s chaplain, Zandra Wagoner, described the event as “not simply a community service project,” but an effort to model interfaith cooperation by bringing students from different traditions together to intentionally work across differences to address issues of common good.

By exemplifying interfaith leadership, these students are changing the narrative often heard in the media that religious differences lead to violence or intolerance. Even though there are myriad examples throughout history and in contemporary times wherein people of different religious and non-religious backgrounds have worked together to make our country a better place, these are not usually the stories taught in our colleges and universities or broadcast on the news. So our society continues to be a place where religious diversity is perceived as challenging and sometimes dangerous. This is where interfaith leaders like Tahil, Tiffany, and Caleb come in. Interfaith leaders have a vision that religious diversity is a strength. They have the knowledge required to bring together people from different backgrounds, and they have a skill set to lead by example and mobilize others to join in.

Those of us at Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) believe that this kind of leadership is about more than merely maintaining a delicate sense of tolerance. Interfaith leadership is about intentionally shifting cultural attitudes, so that interfaith cooperation becomes a social norm. The term “environmentalist” meant very little 100 years ago, and “human rights activist” was a new idea only 50 years ago. Today, recycling has become a social norm with a

Zandra Wagner



Students Tiffany Koval and Caleb Ulrich plant in the garden.

Elizabethtown College students David Boretti, Katelyn Wunder, Tamara Eichelberger and Kristen Chernick, with Beth May of Church World Service, deliver food bags that will greet a Bhutanese family newly arrived in the United States.

Elizabethtown Magazine/Elizabethtown College



leadership category of “environmentalist” attached to it. We believe that a network of compelling, articulate interfaith leaders, with clear expectations for shifting knowledge, relationships, and attitudes, can make interfaith cooperation a social norm.

College campuses are microcosms of the wider world. They have the potential to play a vanguard role in creating this social norm, nurturing students who will take the interfaith framework into leadership positions in different fields across the country and around the world. As a result, college students and their staff allies have a remarkable opportunity and responsibility to model for the rest of the country what our society should look like. Movements like the sustainability movement, the service-learning movement, and the multicultural/diversity movement have gained much of their ground and momentum at colleges

and universities, supported by curricula and classroom work, academic research, student life initiatives, and institutional financial resources. Similarly, by responding to the reality of their students’ encounters with religious diversity, universities can actively prepare students to lead the interfaith movement.

IFYC partners with college and university campuses to help institutions strategize and build capacity to cultivate interfaith cooperation on campus. Through online resources, capacity-building workshops and trainings, and short-term and long-term institutional partnerships, IFYC equips institutions of higher education to be models of interfaith cooperation for the broader society.

Elizabethtown College is an example of a vibrant partnership between a Brethren heritage college and IFYC. Elizabethtown’s motto is “Educate for Service,” and administrators of the college thoughtfully cultivate the values of service, peacemaking, and justice through curriculum and programs. Through an institutional partnership with IFYC, leaders at Elizabethtown are drawing connections between service, peace-making, and interfaith cooperation. In an institutional partnership, IFYC works with campuses to identify existing assets and resources for building interfaith cooperation and craft a shared institutional vision for leveraging these assets to incorporate interfaith initiatives

Nawal Atoura speaks to a group assembled at the University of La Verne last year for the Interfaith Student Roundtable for Hope and Peace about the possibility of multiple faiths coming together for a single cause. At the end of the event, the group discussed participating in the interfaith program Better Together.

Scott Mirimani/University of La Verne



Interfaith leaders have a vision that religious diversity is a strength. They have the knowledge required to bring together people from different backgrounds, and they have a skill set to lead by example and mobilize others to join in.

La Verne student Tahil Sharma and IYC staff member Rachel Breck work in the community garden.

Zandra Wagner



in all aspects of campus life, from coursework to student leadership training to campus communications.

Elizabethtown's leaders are now weaving the priority of interfaith cooperation into numerous aspects of campus programming through strong collaboration between campus departments, including the offices of the chaplain, Residence Life, Diversity, International Student Services, and the Religion Department. The college's new Strategic Plan highlights multicultural and global initiatives, of which interfaith understanding has been named as a core element.

This past spring semester, a Better Together interfaith action campaign was launched on campus to provide opportunities for students to build interfaith literacy and participate in interfaith community service. The highlight among their interfaith programming this spring was the Better Together Freedom Seder. This multicultural, interfaith event, rooted in the Jewish ritual of Passover, drew upon the inspiration of the civil rights movement to bring participants together in a shared commitment to freedom.

Juniata College is also a leader in building interfaith cooperation. Campus chaplain David Witkovsky and Lauren Seganos, an alumna of the college, were successful in creating a staff position called interfaith service coordinator, through AmeriCorps. Lauren has served in this position for two years, and has led creative interfaith dialogue and service activities such as interfaith bread baking, where students teach each other recipes from their various traditions—ranging from the Middle East, Central Asia, and Pennsylvania Dutch culture—and then serve this bread

alongside the meal at a local soup kitchen. Much of the work of the college's Campus Ministry Office at-large is interfaith, including supporting a variety of religiously diverse student clubs, organizing an interfaith baccalaureate service, and providing an interfaith meditation room.

In his book *Acts of Faith*, one of the authors of this article emphasizes the importance of faith communities, educational institutions, teachers, and mentors to a young person's developing values and identity. In order to proactively shape our communities to build bridges of understanding, rather than barriers of division or bombs of destruction, our institutions and our leaders must partner with young people to create active engagement with others of diverse religious and non-religious traditions (Patel, 2007).

Interfaith leaders at La Verne, Elizabethtown, and Juniata are enacting the Church of the Brethren value of peacemaking through advancing interfaith initiatives across curricular, co-curricular, and student leadership programming. Programs that provide space for students to increase their appreciative knowledge of a religious tradition, to build new relationships with peers of different religious and non-religious identities, and to improve their attitudes toward those different from them contribute to shaping civically engaged global leaders committed to the Brethren values of service, justice, and peace-making. ■

Eboo Patel, named by *US News & World Report* as one of America's Best Leaders of 2009, is the founder and executive director of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), a Chicago-based institution building the global interfaith youth movement. He is also author of the award-winning book *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim*. **Laura Hollinger** and **Abhishek Raman** are campus engagement managers for IFYC who help cultivate interfaith cooperation and develop new campus partnerships for the organization.

Mitchell Alesman/Campus Times/University of La Verne





The Table leans

by Dennis Webb

"*The Table Leans*" is a song written by Dennis Webb, pastor of the Naperville (Ill.) Church of the Brethren. In addition to being a pastor, he also is a speaker, songwriter, and performer. He has made presentations at the Church of the Brethren's Annual Conference as well as its National Older Adult Conference.

Originally from Jamaica, Webb was brought up in the Baptist church. At the age of 20, while at a teacher training college in Kingston, Jamaica, Webb received a call to the Christian ministry during the closing service of the Jamaica Baptist Union's Annual Assembly. Upon completion of his teacher training, he taught high school for two years, after which he attended the Jamaican Baptist Union for theological and pastoral training at the United Theological College of the West Indies.

Webb spent 10 years as pastor of several Baptist churches in Jamaica before migrating to the United States in 1999. He was called to be the pastor of the Naperville Church of the Brethren in November 2002. He currently serves on the district deacon board of the Illinois/Wisconsin District, as well as on the denomination's Intercultural Consultation and Celebration Committee.



The table is spread with the cup and the bread.

Welcome one and all to the table that is spread.
Everyone's invited into Christ the living head.
But one little fact about the table must be said:

The table leans, the table leans, the table leans.

The table leans in the direction of the poor.
It leans to accommodate those shut outside the door.
It leans to lift up all those trampled to the floor.
The table leans, the table leans, the table leans.

Broken, but my place is at the table still.

Guilty, but invited to the table by God's will.
Tired, from the battles I've been fighting up the hill,
I come to the table in my health or if I'm ill.

Come to the table, your place is secure.
Never will you hunger or thirst anymore.
Come to the table, your place is secure.
Never will you hunger or thirst anymore.

Being a healing balm in troubled times

by Bill Kidwell



Timothy H. O'Sullivan, 1863

Was the Battle of Gettysburg really necessary? What about any war? Is war ever justified?

Grub worms invaded my neighbor's lawn. They had a field day eating the tender roots and left dead spots all over the place. From an ecological point of view, a person might disagree with what my neighbor did. He applied deadly chemicals, soaked them in with water, and successfully killed the grub worms. The lawn began healing and soon was green and growing again. For those in the lawn care business there is a time to kill things such as worms and other pests, and there also is a time to heal.

One time Jesus encountered a man whom the townspeople said was possessed with demons. The authorities bound him with chains, but he broke them and ran naked among the tombs at night. In a dramatic and perhaps pre-scientific report, we learn from the gospel writer that Jesus exorcised those demons, brought them out of the man, and killed them. The next day, when the townspeople came to the market-

place, they found him fully clothed and in his right mind. A time to kill and a time to heal.

One man said that when he learned he had cancer it felt as though some demonic force had entered his being. Anyone who has gone through the ordeal of chemotherapy knows all about the demons and the deadly poisons used to kill them. For this man, and for them, thank God, there has been a time to kill, and now a time for healing.

My dog, Jenny, was a spoiled little thing, always whining and begging for food at the table and getting it. One night a bone lodged in her throat and she began choking to death. How thankful I was for that skillful veterinarian who extracted the bone and restored her to health. Jenny grew to be an old dog, partially blind and deaf. When it was her time to go, how thankful I was for that veterinarian who gave her the shot that put her to sleep.

A time to heal and a time to kill: that's the way it is with animals. But what about people?

The case of Karen Ann Quinlan is one with which we can sympathize. Quinlan was a teenager who experienced massive brain damage as a result of taking drugs with alcohol. She was kept alive with a breathing machine and a feeding tube.

The following excerpt from a letter to a newspaper editor sums up the feelings of many at the time. "The current court action initiated by the parents of Karen Quinlan to allow her to die with dignity should be supported. It is immoral for scientists to attach human beings to machines that perpetuate a meaningless existence. It is immoral for codes and laws to trap sensitive, loving parents in an intolerable situation. Let nature take its course. Let's be done with artificial devices that frustrate the human organism's right to die. Which is more important, laws or persons? I say persons. Let the girl die."

Others, and even the courts, disagreed. Their response was: "Leave her on the machine. She is a human being, a child of God. Regardless of her quality of life, she has a right to live. The medical community is morally bound to keep her alive."

A time to kill and a time to heal. That simple affirmation can involve some very difficult moral and ethical decisions.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3 reminds us that "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: time to kill, and a time to heal." The truth of the text sometimes can be found in its reversal. First a time to heal and then a time to kill. Certainly this was true in the case of my dog.

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



And any farmer who expects to turn a profit in the livestock business understands this. Lest disease and epidemics infect his herd, he sees that the animals get the necessary inoculations. If a steer is injured, the farmer calls the veterinarian to see that proper healing takes place. But when his fatted calves reach the proper market weight, what does he do? He puts them in a truck and ships them off to market to be slaughtered.

And it happens every year at the county fair. There always seems to be a young lad who is not prepared for what happens. His eyes well up with tears when his prized animal is taken by the highest bidder and led off to be slaughtered. But that is life, in which there is a time to heal and a time to kill.

Sometimes this is the attitude we take with people. A man murders another and stands before a judge for sentencing. The sentence is pronounced: death by lethal injection. The man is placed in a cell on death row. Somehow he gets hold of a deadly capsule and the guards find him in the throes of death. They rush him to the prison hospital. His stomach is pumped. He is restored to health and taken back to the prison cell, healthy again and, ironically, ready for execution.

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought July 1-3, 1863. General George C. Meade led a Northern army of about 90,000 men to victory against General Robert E. Lee's Southern army of about 75,000. The two forces met accidentally in the little town of Gettysburg, Pa. The armies spent the first day maneuvering for position. On July 3, Lee decided to aim directly at the Union center. In a famous charge, General George E. Pickett's troops advanced across an open field and up the slopes of Cemetery Ridge into murderous Northern fire. They reached the crest of the ridge, but could not hold the position. Lee withdrew his battered army to Virginia. His forces suffered more than 20,000 casualties. Meade had about 18,000 casualties.

Four months later, on November 19, President Lincoln spoke where many of the fallen lads were buried. These were his closing words: "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Was the Battle of Gettysburg really necessary? What about any war? Is war ever justified? Is there ever a time for war? The majority opinion among the greater Christian community is a qualified "yes." Yes, the thinking goes, war

The Church of the Brethren, a historic peace church, has been a minority voice, declaring in one way or another throughout much of its history that **all war is sin.**

What do you think? Can we have peace? Can the church make a difference? I believe we can. We may not turn the world around in our time. But we can make a difference.

is justified if certain criteria are met. According to the just war theory, to put it simply, seven criteria must be met:

- The war must be declared by a legitimate government.
- The cause must be just.
- The intention in fighting must be right.
- The war must be a last resort.
- Only right means may be employed in the conduct of the war.
- There must be a reasonable hope for victory.
- The good to be achieved must outweigh the evil effects of the war.

This has been the majority voice of the Christian church ever since the days of Constantine. But there have been minority voices who disagree. Desiderius Erasmus, a 16th century Roman Catholic scholar, is a case in point. He declared:

Consider how many crimes are committed under the pretext of war. In the midst of armies, laws are silent. How many abuses, thefts, rapes, acts of sacrilege! And this moral contagion lasts even when the war is over. And if you conquer, you lose more than you gain. What kingdom can you set against the lives of so many thousands? And yet the greatest amount of mischief affects those who have no part in the fighting. The advantages of peace reach everybody; while in war even the conqueror weeps; and it is followed by such a train of calamities that the poets say well when they represent war as coming from hell and sent by the furies. Peace builds up, war pulls down. It is the people that build cities, it is the follies of princes that destroy them. If gain is our object, no war was ever waged that did not bring more evil than good, and even the victor damages fearfully his own subjects. But you say the rights of sovereigns must be maintained. I only know this, that extreme right is often wrong. There are princes who first decide what they want, and then look out for a title with which to cloak their proceedings. It is generally the private interests of princes which give occasion to war. O, the amusements of Christian princes! Thus we turn everything upside down, and yet think ourselves Christians. When shall the general utility alone be regarded? (John Alfred Faulkner, *Erasmus the Scholar*, 142)

The Church of the Brethren, a historic peace church, has been a minority voice, declaring in one way or another throughout much of its history that all war is sin. The Brethren made their position clear during the Revolutionary War: "We have dedicated ourselves to serve all men in

everything that can be helpful to the preservation of men's lives, but we find no freedom in giving, or doing, or assisting in anything by which men's lives are destroyed or hurt" (*The Brethren Encyclopedia*, Volume 2:1106).

When it comes to war, from the perspective of the early Brethren, the only war to which the church calls its people is a war on poverty, disease, hunger, and injustice. But today, in a world addicted to violence, how can the church confront what seems to be an overwhelming system of terror and counter-terror?

Consider this German parable. It's a conversation between two birds. One is a dove, the other is a sparrow:

The sparrow speaks first and says to the dove, "What is the weight of a snowflake?" The dove thinks for a moment and responds, "The snowflake weighs nothing, even less than nothing." The sparrow replies, "In that case, let me tell you a story. Not long ago I happened to be sitting on the branch of a fir tree when it began to snow. The snow did not come in a blizzard fashion with wind and raging. Rather, it fell gently and heavily in large flakes. Since I didn't have anything to do I decided I would count the flakes that fell on my branch. I had counted 1,357,452 snowflakes, all of which weighed nothing or less than nothing as you said. However, when the 1,357,453rd snowflake fell on my branch, the branch collapsed and dumped me onto the ground." Having said that the sparrow flew away. The dove has been an authority on peace ever since Noah's time. The dove sat and thought awhile and finally said to herself, "Perhaps we need only one more voice to speak for peace, and we can bring peace about."

What do you think? Can we have peace? Can the church make a difference? I believe we can. We may not turn the world around in our time. But we can make a difference. We can be faithful.

Jesus made a difference. He taught us to love one another, to do justice, and to love mercy. But he hardly got started in his ministry when he was killed. But in that sacrificial death there is healing balm. The writer of the old hymn had it right:

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin sick soul.

Healing, not killing, that was Christ's business. Healing, not killing must be our business, too. 

Bill Kidwell is pastor of teaching and pastoral care at Oakland Church of the Brethren in Gettysburg, Ohio.



Walkin' on broken glass

by Cher McMonigle

I love to hunt. Not for animals, but for treasure—particularly, glass. Shattered, splintered, tumbled, aged, and polished glass. Sea glass, to be specific. Thankfully, the ocean-front conditions are ideal for such treasures near my home in Key West, Fla.

Many places with more pristine or perfectly sandy beaches may not have the sea glass that we see here in town. The especially good sea glass beaches are hard to find even here, and I am frankly not willing to share the location of these beaches with just anyone. However, I do take my friends and family on occasion so they may share in my treasure hunt.

I sometimes find it hard to relax and focus on a particular task without thinking about 20 different things. My mind can get distracted so easily, and it appears to be getting worse with age, stress, and raising children.

Sometimes (okay, most times!) my rampant brain images prevent me from enjoying what is right in front of me. But I have discovered that, for some reason, I completely relax and focus while I hunt for sea glass. I think my brain goes on sabbatical. I may actually be thinking about things, but I am not stressed. After a good hunt, it feels like I have just had a good nap, or been on a short cognitive vacation—sea glass meditation, if you will.

My favorite hunts are when I take my daughter, Scarlett, along with me. She loves it as I do. But we sometimes

struggle trying to decide what to do with some of the pieces we find. Do we keep them or do we send them back into the sea to get tumbled and polished a little more?

Each time we do this I am reminded of what an excellent metaphor this is for life. I have shared this with Scarlett, now 8, and will do it again at every stage of her life for which it seems relevant:

In the beach of life, you will come upon a person, just like when you find a beautiful piece of sea glass. You will notice his or her beauty and be so excited that you found someone so wonderful (just like we do every time we see a new piece of sea glass). You will want to hug them and keep them and call them your own. You will want to be their best friend or girlfriend, or maybe even their wife.

But, you must take care with people, just as we do with sea glass. You must appreciate all their beauty, but know that sometimes they aren't ready for you to hold them. Sometimes they need more time. Time might make them less shiny, but if you let them go, their rough edges will be smoothed. They will get tossed around and polished in the sea of life and maybe, in a few months or a few years, they will be much better for you. If you take them too soon, when they are shiny and fresh, they can hurt or even cut you deeply.

Also, you shouldn't just look for one color or type of glass, for each color is beautiful in its own way, and each piece of glass has a story that can be appreciated. You don't know where it's been or what it's been through, but you can still find beauty in it no matter the size, shape, or color.

It's hard to throw the glass back into the sea, but sometimes glass (and people) need time and space to become even more beautiful than they are now. And after you get cut a few times, you will learn this the hard way. But I am your mother, so I am going to try to teach you ways to keep yourself safe, and recognize when people still need a little polishing.

Until then, my darling Scarlett, keep walkin' on broken glass. You will be better for it. And your mama will be right there with you. 



Cher McMonigle was born and raised in Madrid, Iowa, where she was a member of the Ankeny Church of the Brethren. She has lived in Key West for the past eight years with her husband, Joe, and her children, Max and Scarlett. They are leaving the beaches of Key West for a three-year adventure in southern Italy, where her husband has been transferred. McMonigle received her Ph.D. in preventive medicine, and is currently a research analyst for the Navy's Family Support Programs.

Getting to know mission worker Carol Smith

Zakariya Musa, secretary of the “New Light” publication of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN—the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), provided the following interview with Church of the Brethren mission worker Carol Smith.

■ Tell us a little about yourself.

I came from a family with a long Church of the Brethren heritage. Not only my parents but also my grandparents and at least some of my great-grandparents belonged to the Church of the Brethren. When I was young, my father worked at a Church of the Brethren hospital in Puerto Rico. I grew up surrounded by Brethren Volunteer Service workers and learned that service was the best way to live. My academic areas of specialization include mathematics, computer science, and, most recently, Montessori education.

■ Tell us about your missions in Nigeria.

I have taught mathematics at Waka Schools (1972-1976), Borno State College of Basic Studies (1976-1977), Ahmadu Bello University School of Basic Studies (1978-1982), and EYN Comprehensive Secondary School in Kwarhi (2011-2013). I’m hoping that EYN headquarters will approve a transfer so that when I return to Nigeria in the fall I will be able to teach a Montessori classroom at Brethren Schools in Abuja.

■ What encouraged you to come to Nigeria in such a time as this?

Having friends in Nigeria whom I already know from when I was here 40 years ago has been powerful in bringing me back. It makes me want to encourage EYN and let people know that they are not forgotten. Having been here before makes me feel more qualified for working here than for working in other places where I have never been.

■ On your arrival in Nigeria, what were your impressions?

When I first looked out of the airplane window over Kano back in 1972, I felt like I was opening a storybook about lands where I had never been, but had only seen pictures. When I arrived in 2011, I landed in Abuja, a city that did not even exist 40 years earlier, and I was surprised to see wealth that I had never before seen in Nigeria. Both there and in Kwarhi I found Nigerian people who were as friendly as always.

■ What is your wish for Nigeria?

Peace and unity and a common belief in God and in the goodness of God is much of my wish for Nigeria. I would like to see a nation where people cooperate together for the good of all. That is why I am so eager to work in a Montessori preschool. In a Montessori classroom, children learn to concentrate on their work and then they automatically and spontaneously and joyfully start behaving better and working harder and cooperating with each other.

■ What message would you like to add in general to the public?

Don’t give up. It is truly amazing what problems can be solved with simple persistence. I appreciated the EYN president’s reminder in his speech at Majalisa (annual conference): Jesus taught us not to fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul (Matthew 10:28).

■ What is your view on the EYN-Church of the Brethren working relationship?

It is my personal opinion that the EYN-Church of the Brethren working relationship is excellent. EYN works hard to help me, a Church of the Brethren worker, to feel safe and to have the tools that I need to do my work and to live comfortably

in Nigeria. The Church of the Brethren makes me available to EYN as well as providing workcampers and other workers like Roxane and Carl Hill. I have noticed that the Church of the Brethren is interested in EYN and EYN is interested in the Church of the

Brethren. Persons in each group are interested in learning the history of the other group, of claiming our common heritage, and in attending each other’s Majalisa. Both groups pray for each other, and everyone is trying to do God’s will. ❧

Photo courtesy of Carol Smith



Miracle of the loaves and fishes by James Tissot, French, 1836-1902



The arms of compassion

by Chris Keating

It was an unlikely yet gripping scene: a man who worked as a restaurant dishwasher was eating a McDonald's sandwich when he heard a woman pounding on a door across the street. Moments later, Charles Ramsey broke down the door, freeing Amanda Berry from 10 years of captivity.

The release of Berry and her sister captives, Gina DeJesus and Michele Knight, was a story of fierce hope and steadfast courage in the face of evil. It was a story of three harassed and abused women encountering compassion. Cellphone video shows the freed women tearfully collapsing into the arms of police officers and neighbors.

Freed from their captivity, they rushed into the arms of compassion.

The sixth chapter of Mark's Gospel also narrates gripping and unlikely stories of compassion. The chapter begins with Jesus' rejection by his neighbors in Nazareth, and ends with crowds rushing toward him, begging for the touch of his healing hands. Sprinkled throughout the chapter are other gripping tales, including the amazing mission of the disciples (7-13), the beheading of John the Baptist (17-29), and Jesus' appearance to the disciples in the midst of the storm on the sea (45-52).

But in the center of these stories there is the especially remarkable offer of Jesus' compassion to those who are troubled and harassed. In 6:30-44, Mark explores Jesus' compassion for the crowds in the wilderness, a throng of people who were "like sheep without a shepherd."

Jesus has invited the disciples to go away for a bit of a retreat. Yet when he steps off the boat, he is greeted by a crowd. I imagine his eyes getting moist as he sees those standing before him. There are blind persons and poor beggars. There are widows and tax collectors, those with plenty and those with little. Their haggard faces tell the entire story. They are indeed sheep without a shepherd.

It is a gripping scene that quickly becomes tense. Mark tells us the disciples have just returned from their mission trip. They're like kids coming home from a couple weeks at camp, piling out of the church van. Tired, excited, and hungry, kids rush toward their parents, reeking of campfires, wet socks, and ripe underwear. Their lives have been changed, and now they long to text their friends and eat their mom's food. They're exhausted and exhilarated at the same time.

Likewise, the disciples return to Jesus, having witnessed a world full of need. Commissioned to proclaim the good news, cast out demons, and bring healing, they return filled with all sorts of stories. Can't you hear them? "Hey, Peter, tell Jesus the one about the widow we met." "Jesus, you wouldn't believe what we did!" Excited and exhausted, they are now ready for a familiar face. Most of all, they just want some alone time with Jesus. As Mark tells us "many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." They just wanted some time off.

Can we blame them?

In the face of need, Jesus invites the disciples to rest. Caring for people is emotionally demanding. He takes the disciples off

After Jesus shared the bread and the fish, an abundance remained. This too is a sign of God's provision, a reminder of the way God meets us in the *deserted places of life*.

to a secluded place—but the problem is, the crowds get there ahead of him. Their needs change Jesus' plans.

By definition, interruptions force us to be flexible. Need has a way of knocking on our door, like the phone call that interrupted our family's Mother's Day celebration years ago. Our dinner table was set and the steaks were ready to go on the grill. Our girls had made pretty cards for Mom. Then the phone rang. A man from church, who lived by himself, needed to get to the hospital quickly. Doctors had been carving out cancerous tumors from his body for years. He called everyone he knew. My wife and I knew this would be his last hospitalization. He was alone, and he was dying. In the face of need, our plans changed.

This is the tension in the story: the need for disciples to rest, and the needs of those who were harassed and helpless. In the center of that tension stands Jesus. This becomes a defining moment in Mark's Gospel. Jesus comes to stand with those who are in pain, to bring comfort and healing. Here, in the wilderness, Jesus' mission as the Son of God is clearly defined. Far in the horizon, the outline of a cross begins to appear.

This is our good news: In Jesus Christ, we encounter a God who is passionately in love with the world. We meet a God whose compassion is not cheap or trite, but rich and life-giving. God in human flesh stands with those who are bruised, torn, battered, and broken. God hears the cries of those who have been broken by injustice, and those who are worn down by evil.

Yet the tension with the disciples—the caregivers—remains. When their stomachs begin to growl, the disciples come back to Jesus. It seems as though their egos are still just a little bruised. They have come to this place, after all, to be alone with God. They need time to renew. They've had it with these crowds, and so they tell Jesus, "It's dinner time. Send them on their way." Jesus' responds rather tersely: "You give them something to eat."

This passage evokes mixed feelings within me. I under-

stand the command and authority that Jesus has given to the disciples. They are commissioned to speak his words, and expected to act with his authority. Yet I also know that compassion fatigue will eventually erode anyone's ability to extend compassion. When we are hungry, anxious, lonely, or tired (therapists call this the "HALT" syndrome), we are in no shape to care for others.

In their fatigue, the disciples seem irritated with Jesus, and understandably miss the poignancy of how Jesus is offering compassion both to the crowd and to them. Here is a God who provides for those whose lives are depleted—worn out disciples and anxious sheep alike.

Eventually, the disciples will understand. After Jesus shares the bread and the fish, an abundance remains. This too is a sign of God's provision, a reminder of the way God meets us in the deserted places of life. Later, Jesus comes to the disciples on the sea. Once again they are in a lonely place, and once again God meets them. By now, however, they are scared in addition to being tired.

But when Jesus arrives, he offers the disciples the opportunity to be renewed through his compassion. He walks toward their wind-battered boat, responds to their cries, and says, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid" (v.50).

God hears the cries of those worn out by caregiving as well as the hunger pangs of those exhausted by the storms of life. Indeed, in Jesus Christ, God stands on the shoreline of human misery, inviting us to come away and rest. Assured of Christ's presence, we are sent back again and again to feed those in need. That is the message Mark shows us, and it is what it means to have the arms of God's compassion release us from our captivity. ❧

Chris Keating is pastor of Woodlawn Chapel Presbyterian Church in Wildwood, Mo. Serving as MESSENGER's Bible study writer during 2013, Keating is connected to the Church of the Brethren through the University of La Verne and an internship with MESSENGER in the 1980s.

Small church leaders encouraged to take part in God's mission

Throughout the Strengthening Your Small Congregation event, leaders of small churches received essentially the same guidance from various speakers and workshop leaders: know yourself, know your

lay leaders of small churches, and several afternoon workshops.

The conference was organized in large part by Congregational Life Ministries of the Church of the Brethren, with leadership from executive director Jonathan Shively and other members of the staff. Contributing or endorsing partners also included Northern Indiana and South/Central Indiana Districts, Bethany Theological Seminary and the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, along with districts and conferences and a seminary of the Mennonite Church USA. The event was hosted at Camp Alexander Mack near Milford, Ind.

Designed for pastors and lay leaders of churches numbering under 100, the event offered professional growth and training. It also was an opportunity for mutual support and encouragement—and even cheerleading—for small church leaders who often feel alone and isolated, and may become discouraged in a society that equates success with size.

Gaier and Meyer focused worship on biblical texts that speak of God's mission and call to faith communities both large and small. A series of Bible readings opened with Deuteronomy 7:7-8a: "It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you—for you were the fewest of all peoples. It was because the Lord loved you. . . ."

For more about Congregational Life Ministries, go to www.brethren.org/congregationallife. Find a link to a photo album from Strengthening Your Small Congregation at www.brethren.org/album.



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Coyford

The Strengthening Your Small Congregation event gathered leaders of small churches from across the Midwest.

congregation, seek out God's purpose for you and your church.

A brainchild of the pastors of two small congregations in Indiana—Kay Gaier of Wabash Church of the Brethren and Brenda Hostetler Meyer of Benton Mennonite Church—the one-day conference April 13 included worship, a keynote speech by Margaret Marcuson, a panel discussion with pastors and



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Coyford

There are three things a small church leader has to do, said keynote speaker Margaret Marcuson. "Know yourself, your purpose, and your people."



“The greatness of your church is determined by the success and strength of your mission ministries NOT by the numbers of your members.”

Charlene J. Smith,
minister of Evangelism
and Vitality in the national
office of the United Church
of Christ (UCC)

BDM directs grants for rebuilding in New York, and sends canned meat to Caribbean

Brethren Disaster Ministries staff are directing grant money to support a continuing home rebuilding effort in New York State following flooding caused by Hurricane Irene in 2011, and a church effort to distribute canned chicken in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Another recent grant of \$4,000 supports the work of Church World Service following the massive tornado that struck Moore, Okla., in mid-May.

A \$40,000 grant from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) continues funding for the Brethren Disaster Ministries home repair and rebuilding project in New York, started in the small town of Prattsville in July 2012, and now extended to Schoharie. These Catskill towns are in some of the lowest income regions of New York, in an area where creeks rose more than 15 feet in less than 12 hours. Many of those affected were uninsured or elderly. The grant provides support for volunteers to assist

in the repair and rebuilding of homes for qualified individuals and families. As of early May, more than 350 volunteers have provided some 2,500 days of labor to rebuild 15 homes. Previous allocations made to this project total \$60,000.

An EDF grant of \$13,000 is making it possible to “pre-position” a supply of canned chicken in Haiti and the DR, in the event of disasters. The grant covers the cost of shipping canned chicken donated by Southern Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic Districts, customs fees, and in-country distribution costs.

Haiti and the DR are vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters, especially hurricanes and flooding. Last fall, for example, Hurricane Sandy brought heavy rain and winds that caused flooding in both countries, leaving many homeless and without stored food in communities with Brethren members. The grant provides for the pre-positioning of 37,500 pounds of canned chicken, with

M. Wilson



A group of Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers and staff work on a house in Prattsville, N.Y.

the Haitian Church of the Brethren's ministry center receiving 7,200 28-ounce cans and 10,800 cans designated for the DR, to be divided between the Dominican Church of the Brethren and the Social Service of Dominican Churches, a partner organization.

For more information go to www.brethren.org/bdm. For more about the Emergency Disaster Fund go to www.brethren.org/edf.

Children's Disaster Services teams go to Moore following tornado

Children's Disaster Services (CDS), a department within Brethren Disaster Ministries, sent members of its Critical Response Team to care for children and families affected by the powerful tornado that struck Moore, Okla., on May 20 causing 24 confirmed deaths including at least 9 elementary school children.

The American Red Cross requested the CDS volunteers for their Family Assistance Centers. CDS mobilized two teams for the work in Oklahoma, including four Critical Response Childcare volunteers, several regional caregivers, and a project

manager. The CDS Critical Response Team has additional training to help children and families cope with extreme trauma and loss of loved ones.

Established in 1980, Children's Disaster Services works cooperatively with FEMA and the American Red Cross to provide care for children and families following disasters, through the work of trained and certified volunteers who set up child care centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers. Specially trained to respond to traumatized children, the volunteers provide a calm, safe, and reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos created by disasters.

Donations to the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) of the Church of the Brethren support the response by Children's Disaster Services. Go to www.brethren.org/edf or send a check to the Emergency Disaster Fund, Church of the Brethren General Offices, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.



FEMA/Tony Robinson

A glimpse of the destruction caused by the massive tornado that hit Moore, Okla., on May 20.

Upcoming events

June 29-July 3
Church of the Brethren Annual Conference,
 Charlotte, N.C.

July 11-14
Fifth Brethren World Assembly,
 Brethren Heritage Center, Brookville, Ohio

July 26-28
Northern Ohio District Conference,
 Ashland, Ohio

July 26-28
Southeastern District Conference,
 Mars Hill, N.C.

July 26-28
Western Plains District Conference,
 McPherson (Kan.)
 Church of the Brethren and McPherson College

Aug. 1-3
Southern Plains District Conference,
 Family Faith Fellowship Church of the Brethren, Enid, Okla.

Aug. 2-4 Northern Plains District Conference, Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Brethren/Baptist Church

Aug. 16-17
Michigan District Conference, Camp Brethren Heights, Rodney, Mich.

Mission workers report from annual meeting of Nigerian church

“Our first Majalisa was a good experience,” reported Carl and Roxane Hill, mission workers with Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN—the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). “We were given an opportunity to give a short welcome so both Carl and I spoke for a few minutes. There were over 1,000 in attendance. We were also put on a committee to hand out ballots and count the votes for the elections.”



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Carford

The Hills are serving as Church of the Brethren mission workers with EYN.

EYN’s 66th Majalisa (annual meeting) was held April 16-19 on the theme, “Reclaiming Our Heritage as Peace Church in Such a Time Like This.”

The Hills serve with EYN alongside another Church of the Brethren teacher, Carol Smith. During the meeting, the Hills had an opportunity to meet with several pastors as well as the district secretary from Maiduguri to hear first hand about the trouble that has occurred in that northeastern Nigeria city.

“It seems that the reports given to the public are often inaccurate in terms of the number of deaths,” the Hills wrote. “One thing they have not mentioned is that more Muslims have been killed by the violence than Christians.” The Hills reported that they have learned from two different sources that the ratio “may be even two to one” in terms of numbers of Muslims killed as compared to numbers of Christians killed by terrorist attacks in Nigeria in recent years.

Toma Ragnijiya spoke several times during the conference about the theme, “Reclaiming Our Peace Heritage.” EYN president Samuel Dali gave an opening speech highlighting the vision for the future of EYN including new construction projects and the creation of new boards. He challenged the EYN church to remain wise as serpents but gentle as doves through this time of persecution.

The new boards created by EYN include:

- An Education Board that will focus on the quality of existing EYN schools as well as assess the need for additional schools. A grant from Japan will be used to build a new primary school at Nyeji in Nasarawa State.
- A Health Management Board that will oversee the major health clinics. Two doctors have been requested from the Church of the Brethren in the United States. Meanwhile, an offering was taken during the Majalisa to provide a salary for local doctors. Three ambulances and other medical equipment has been supplied by the MDGS.
- A Security Board responsible for obtaining and training security personnel. It will focus on gathering intelligence as well as providing security. Press releases will be handled through this board.
- A Microfinance Bank Board will empower the EYN community economically. When operational, these banks will provide employment and small loans. The church in general was very excited about this new venture.
- An Agricultural Board to oversee various agricultural projects.

In other business: Musa Mambula was re-elected to the post of spiritual advisor. Two trustees were elected, one for the Garkida area and one for the Lassa area. Audit reports from last year were favorable. An increase in wages for EYN workers was approved. Directors will now be promoted from within departments instead of opening the jobs to outside applicants. For more about the Brethren work in Nigeria go to www.brethren.org/partners/nigeria.

Tools for Vital Ministry Journey include new Bible study resources

Congregational Life Ministries is making available a set of three Bible study tools for congregations and districts embarking on the Vital Ministry Journey. The Bible studies have been published as three paperback booklets:

- *Study, Sharing, and Prayer: A Bible Study for Congregations on a Vital Ministry Journey*
- *Worship: Responding to God's Love*
- *Vital Passions, Holy Practices: Exploring Spiritual Gifts*

Although these Bible studies are designed as part of the Vital Ministry Journey, they can be used as stand-alone resources—in particular the spiritual gifts material. A congregation does not need to be part of the journey initiative to use the resources.

Each study book includes focus scripture texts, guidelines, and questions for conversation, space for personal journaling, and guidance for congregational leaders and group facilitators. Ideally, a congregation takes part in the Vital Ministry Journey as part of a district process, with accompaniment and coaching from

Congregational Life Ministries staff. A few congregations already have begun the journey on their own, after consulting with Congregational Life Ministries staff who provide counsel and resources.

Staff are training people in each district to work with the congregations. District leadership identifies people from the district to serve as coaches. These “called out” individuals (not all have to be pastors) receive training in the Vital Ministry Journey process. The district coaches work with churches that become involved with the process after a district decides to become a sponsor for the journey. The flexible process may be adapted by each district and congregation for its particular context.

More Vital Ministry Journey Bible studies are envisioned to help congregations focus on the call to serve, congregational care, and spiritual discipline. Materials will be available in Spanish as well as English. For more information, contact the Congregational Life Ministries office at 800-323-8039 ext. 303 or 847-429-4303.



Material Resources ships 27,000 pounds of clean-up supplies

In response to storms and the flooding that plagued the state of Illinois this spring, the Material Resources program has shipped clean-up supplies on behalf of Church World Service (CWS) in late April. The Material Resources staff shipped 500 CWS clean-up buckets to DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Wheaton—the equivalent of 14 pallets of buckets or 8,089 pounds of supplies.

Another shipment of 1,008 CWS clean-up buckets—28 pallets weighing 19,190 pounds—was made to the American Red Cross bulk distribution site in Peoria.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Denise Kettering-Lane

has been hired as full-time assistant professor of Brethren studies at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., as of July 1. She has taught Brethren studies at Bethany in a part-time capacity since 2010, with the majority of her courses in online and weekend-intensive formats. The Brethren studies position has been expanded to full-time as a result of the seminary's

recent curriculum review. In addition to making a greater number and wider variety of Brethren studies courses possible, this change creates potential for the incorporation of a Brethren focus into new classes across the curriculum. Students who complete additional courses in Brethren studies beyond the required credits also now will be able to name it as an emphasis as part of their degree. Kettering-Lane holds a bachelor of arts from Ashland University, a

master of theological studies from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and a doctorate in religious studies from the University of Iowa.

Raymond C. Flagg has been affirmed as treasurer of the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC), which is affiliated with the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. Flagg is a graduate of the University of La Verne in California and Texas A&M University,

and presently is employed as adjunct instructor in mathematics at Harrisburg Area Community College, the Lancaster (Pa.) campus. He is a member of Annville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren.

Amy Milligan, SVMC program coordinator, recently earned her doctorate and has resigned her position with SVMC effective July 31. She will begin a new position as visiting assistant professor of Women and Gender Studies at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College.

Redemption at Creekside

My home church had a very active youth group in the early 1950s, when I was a teenager. There was a good reason for that—in our small rural community, church events had virtually no competition. There was no little league baseball, no soccer (we didn't even know what soccer was!), there were no dance studios, no festivals. The only action in town was church! Oh, there was scouting, but the scout leaders were also churchmen.



FRED W. SWARTZ

Hence, there was no conflict with church activities. Even camping trips ended on Saturday night so that we could go to church on Sunday.

Consequently, the church youth group was a major influence in my life. Our youth group teacher took a special interest in each member of the group. One Sunday after class he stopped me and said, "Fred, I have a book I think you would like. I'd be glad to loan it to you." He handed me Charles Sheldon's *In His Steps*. I thanked him and took the book

home. *In His Steps* was one of the first books to raise the now popular question: "What would Jesus do?"

The story is a fictional account about a town that was having serious troubles. Members of the community decided that before making any more decisions they would first ask, What would Jesus do? Can you imagine a town council in 21st century America deciding to solve their problems using that criterion?

The book definitely made an impact on me. On the Halloween that followed my reading of that book, some of my peers suggested we pile into a truck and knock down some mailboxes as our Halloween activity. I hesitated and, with Sheldon's book in mind, considered the results that such activity might bring. I decided not to join the pranksters. The next morning I was especially glad I hadn't because the group had piled corn shocks, pumpkins, and other debris to block the entrance to the school where my dad was principal. He had to move the mess himself in order to open the school. Thank goodness he knew where I was on Halloween night.

The recently released *Redemption at Creekside* reminded me of that event, and also brought to mind Sheldon's *In His Steps*. Author Keith Nonemaker exhibits a creative and impressive imagination in this, his first novel. The attention to detail is evident and reveals a broad knowledge of human relationships and technical savvy. Imagination and detail are two indispensable ingredients necessary to create believable fantasy, and they are evident here.

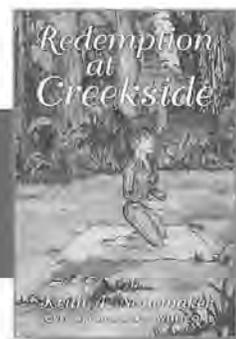
Nevertheless, I was not far into Nonemaker's book before I, in my adult skepticism, began questioning whether Hank, the main character, was entirely believable. A high school dropout, Hank is accused of committing a violent crime, rocking the serenity of a small community, and has fled to the woods to hide. In the midst of this his thoughts seem almost too reasoned in light of his status as a fugitive. And Amy, a young woman he finds praying in the woods, is almost too pure and good to be true.

But my reaction is typical of someone who has lived long enough to be cynical. My experience does not permit people to be purely altruistic or even maintain reason in the face of difficulty. Fantasy, however, appeals to the young mind searching for challenge and options in a stagnant world. That's why I see *Redemption at Creekside* particularly suited for teenagers whose imagination could accept and learn from the sacrifices Amy makes to prove Hank's innocence. Ideally, the book should be discussed in a youth group where there is a pastor or intuitive layperson on hand to help define "redemption."

There is a faint connection in the book between the sacrifices made by Amy and the expanded meaning of the redemption of all creation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The book tactfully handles questions Hank raises before he can understand and accept the redemption brought by Christ.

Redemption at Creekside is a good discussion starter and a good story to get youth thinking about a key tenet of the Christian faith. Congregations looking for an elective for youth church school study or Sunday evening youth meetings would do well to consider this book along with a proven leader. **M**

Fred Swartz, of Bridgewater, Va., is a retired Church of the Brethren pastor and former Annual Conference secretary.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Title: *Redemption at Creekside*. Author: Keith Nonemaker. Publisher: WestBow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson. Publication date: Feb 13, 2013. Number of pages: 130. Hardcover price: \$26; paperback: \$10.76.

Preach

Sharing in the Gospel

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy... because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.
Philippians 1:3-5 NRSV

Our Mission Offering emphasizes service and international mission. This year, we focus on our calling to bring witness to the gospel in daily living—whether at home, across the street, or on the other side of the world.

Find out more at
www.brethren.org/missionoffering.



Mission

offering

22

September

 Church of the Brethren



Learn more about our special offerings online: brethren.org/offerings

How will I learn to hear God's voice?

Bible curriculum for children,
youth, and their families



gather
'ROUND
hearing & sharing God's good news

www.gatherround.org

**"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "
Here am I; send me!" —Isaiah 6:8**

The Brethren effect

This reflection by Christy Crouse is in honor of all the Brethren students who celebrated graduation this spring. The author wishes them well, and says, "May your next steps be ever guided by Jesus, and may you never lose your 'Brethren effect.'"

Regardless of where I've called home throughout my life, the Church of the Brethren has been an influential presence. When I was very young, my parents intentionally located our family in communities that fostered Brethren ideals. Now, as a young adult heading off to college, I realize how much those communities influenced who I have become.

We lived in Rocky Mount, Va., until I was 4, and I have few memories of that place apart from Antioch Church of the Brethren. I think of church-wide potluck dinners, swinging with my best friend Beatrice, and visiting church members' houses to fellowship and watch *Veggie Tales*. Rocky Mount was where I learned the joy that comes with generosity, and that togetherness is paramount.

My parents became missionaries in the Dominican Republic when I was 5. I didn't speak a word of Spanish, and the children at school treated me like an outsider—but the church was different. The people there were the most hospitable I had ever encountered, sharing what little they had with our family whenever possible. The simplicity of the Dominican people was profound, and taught me that a life focused on people, not possessions, is the will of God.

After four years in the DR, we moved to Missouri and found a home at Warrensburg Church of the Brethren. There I was taught by the examples of my congregation, and encouraged to be an advocate for peace. The Warrensburg church taught me the value of peacefully



resolving conflict, and there I developed a passion for maintaining God's creation.

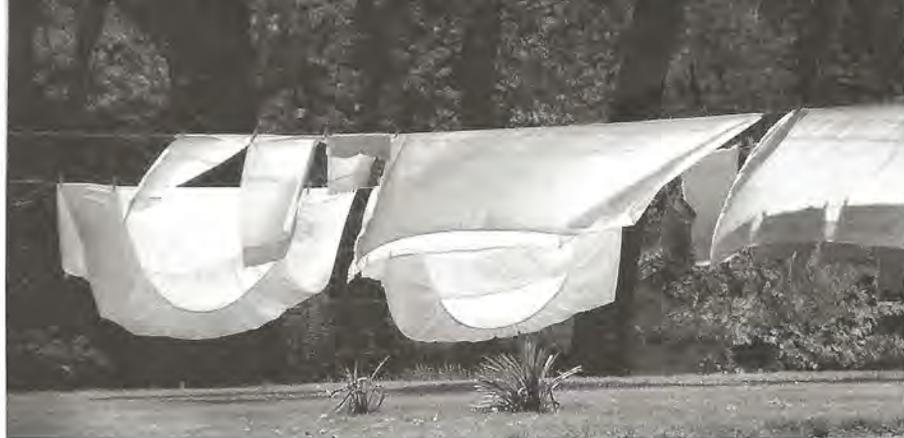
I just graduated from high school, and will be attending Truman State University in the fall. My new home is located in the rural town of Kirksville, Mo., and is more than 100 miles from the nearest Brethren church. But I am confident that what I have learned from my Church of the Brethren family over the past 18 years will not leave me. I believe that the lessons I've learned will continue to influence my decisions. And I know that I can use the principles I've been taught to preach another way of living in my new community—a way of peace, simplicity, and togetherness.

— Christy Crouse

Manchester University seniors on their way to graduation ceremonies.



Speaking of carrying on Brethren values after graduation, a group of nine Manchester University graduates are planning to join Brethren Volunteer Service this year. They will take part in either the summer or fall orientation units.



Making laundry a breeze!

[Simple living is something Brethren have espoused for centuries. But putting belief into practice is not always easy—especially in today’s complex society. A few suggestions for ways to simplify our lives, and perhaps be better stewards of the earth, certainly would come in handy. Living Simply offers tips for how to do just that. —Ed.]

Ah, summer. The days are warm and getting longer. The breeze rustles through the big green tree leaves, and I’m doing laundry like there’s no tomorrow.

Not that I love doing laundry, but I’ll admit that hanging freshly cleaned sheets on the line is one of my favorite



MANDY GARCIA

little things about summer. There’s something deeply satisfying about harnessing all that free, natural energy to dry my linens. And of course, nothing beats inhaling that fresh air scent off a pillow case as you are drifting off to sleep to the hum of a fan in the open window.

These are just a few simple pleasures that I try to remember to stop and savor, and a small part of how I’m learning to live a little more simply

in the midst of a far-too-often complicated life.

I used to think that “simple living” meant traveling by horse and buggy, sewing my own clothes, or reading by candlelight (all things that I’d be happy to do, by the way). But all that seemed like such an intimidating jump to make from my car-driven, store-bought, lamp-lit life. Simplicity just seemed too out of reach.

But a few years ago a good friend reminded me that taking a turn in a new direction doesn’t have to be a U-turn—it can be a gentle fork in the road. The nice thing about forks is that they don’t seem drastic at first, but over time they take you to a very different place than where you were originally headed.

In addition to what I save by line-drying, I’ve taken to reducing the cost of laundry by making my own detergent.

The ingredients cost about seven dollars and can be purchased at any hardware store. The recipe I use makes approximately three gallons, and a little diluted vinegar works like a charm for fabric softener.

Maybe one of these days I’ll get myself a sewing machine. But, in the meantime, at least my sheets are drying in the breeze. 

Mandy Garcia is associate director of donor communications for the Church of the Brethren. She also produces eBrethren, stories of Brethren stewards, every other week for the Church of the Brethren. For information, contact mgarcia@brethren.org.

Laundry Detergent

1 cup washing soda
1/2 cup borax (optional)
1 bar soap (I use Fel’s Naptha)
3+ gallons water

- Bring four cups of water to a very gentle boil in a large pot.
- While it’s heating, shred the entire bar of soap using a box grater.
- When the water is hot, add the soap in small handfuls, stirring to dissolve.
- When all the soap flakes are dissolved, remove the pot from the heat.
- In a separate large container (I use a 5-gallon bucket) add three gallons of warm water, the washing soda, borax (if using), and the soap solution.
- Stir, cover, and let sit for 24 hours.

After 24 hours your detergent is ready to use. Its texture will vary depending on the type of soap you use (mine is usually rather slimy and globby). When you’re ready to wash, use the same amount that you would with a store-bought detergent.

A gracious and merciful God

Brother James Myer's letter in the May MESSENGER about heaven and hell emphasizes the "great chasm" between them as being a literal distance as described in Jesus' parable about the rich man and Lazarus. I would agree that there is a distance between them but it may not be literal. The parable "Revelation at the Paradise Diner" by Earle Fike, Jr., doesn't eliminate the idea of there being a judgment, or of a miserable spiritual existence (hell) in a life after death, but it does it in a way that is consistent with the idea of a God who truly is always gracious and merciful and never gives up on anyone. That seems to me to be more consistent with the comprehensive message of the New Testament.

Paul Coffman
South English, Iowa

Christian communities should lead the way

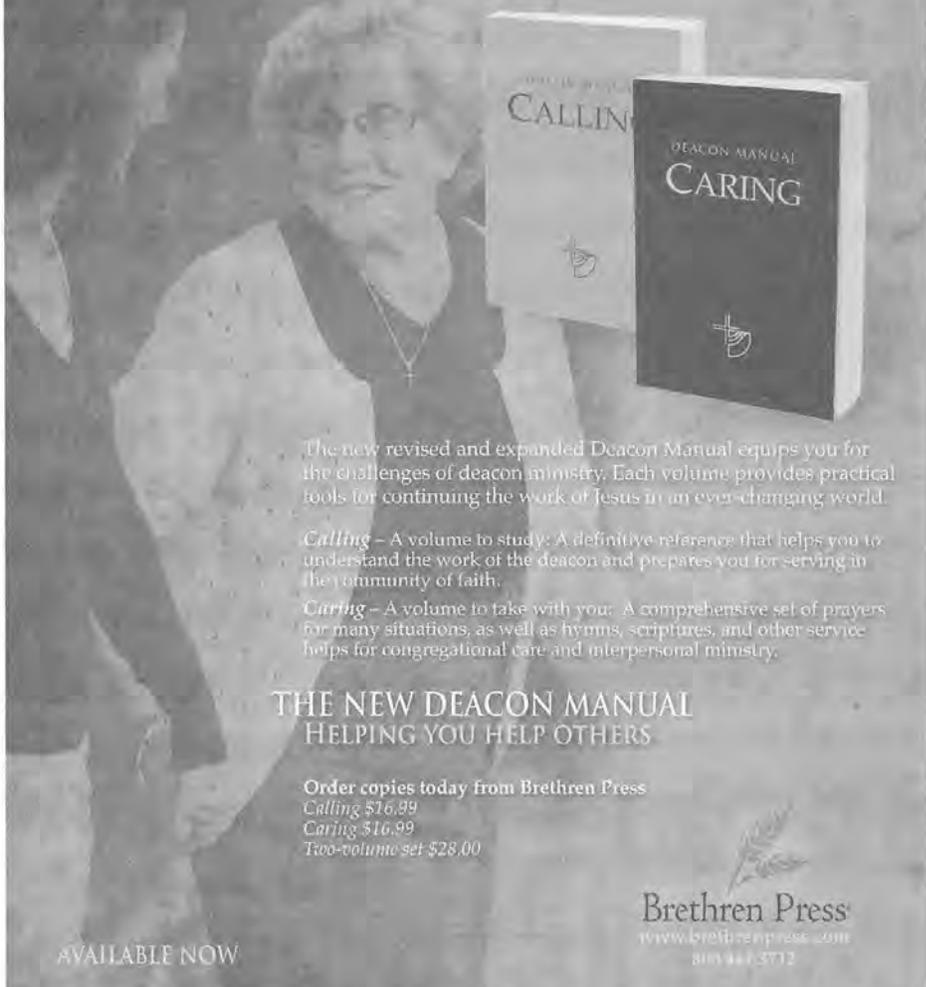
Carl Myers' letter in the June MESSENGER stressed the benefits of new technology in the oil and gas industry, such as hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking. Myers' letter was in response to a note about Duane Ediger, who among others is seeking a moratorium on fracking activity in Illinois. Myers notes that fracking (plus horizontal drilling) may lead to the release of huge quantities of cheaper natural gas which could significantly reduce the cost of home heating for many in the Northeast, and that land owners who have new deep wells located on their property will profit from incurred royalties. Whether or not cheaper gas will eliminate the push for more nuclear power development remains to be seen.

As with any new technology in the extractive industries, there are potential public health and environmental hazards. A recent CBS report summarized these as the following: 1) Fluids used in fracking contain toxic and carcinogenic chemicals. 2) Numerous environmental

Pontius' Puddle



**WE ARE HERE TO
HELP EACH OTHER**



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.

Calling – A volume to study: A definitive reference that helps you to understand the work of the deacon and prepares you for serving in the community of faith.

Caring – A volume to take with you: A comprehensive set of prayers for many situations, as well as hymns, scriptures, and other service helps for congregational care and interpersonal ministry.

**THE NEW DEACON MANUAL
HELPING YOU HELP OTHERS**

Order copies today from Brethren Press
Calling \$16.99
Caring \$16.99
 Two-volume set \$28.00

AVAILABLE NOW

Brethren Press
 www.brethrenpress.com
 800.447.3712

Since God has created this beautiful planet and explicitly charged us humans to be caretakers of God's goodness, we should *move with caution* in implementing any techniques that may have serious negative consequences.

and public health impacts have been documented. 3) Companies doing this work do not reveal the chemical composition of their fracking fluids. 4) Fracking requires and may contaminate huge quantities of water. 5) Fracking operations significantly impact the local communities where they operate, including a spider web of new roads, increased traffic of heavy trucks, noise pollution, and the potential for waste water spills and drinking water contamination. 6) Drillers are not

regulated under either the Clean Water Act or the Clean Air Act.

Considering these potential threats to public health and the environment, it seems reasonable to call for a moratorium on deep well drilling until more research has been done to clarify the risks. Then the federal government or the various states can pass legislation to regulate the industry to maximize safety and health benefits.

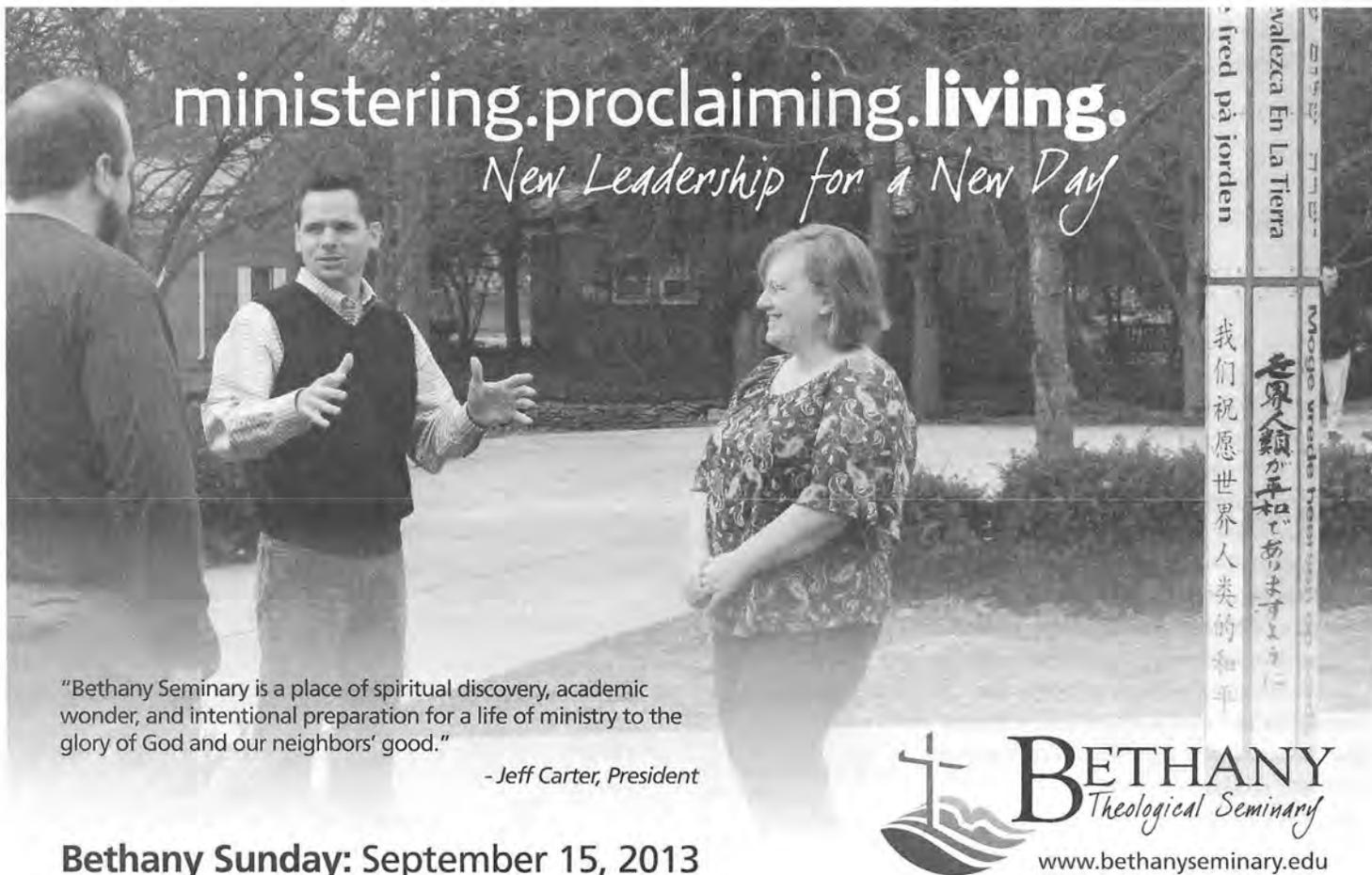
Since God has created this beautiful planet and explicitly charged us humans

to be caretakers of God's goodness (Gen. 1: 26) we should move with caution in implementing any techniques that may have serious negative consequences. Christian communities should lead the way in this effort.

Dave Fouts
Maysville, W.Va.

Lacking expertise

In his letter in the June MESSENGER regarding natural gas and the fracking process needed to extract it, Carl Myers points out that Duane Ediger and his congregation don't have the same level of expertise as someone like himself, who evidently has spent his career in the fossil fuel industry. But Ediger and friends bring values and perspective to the discussion that Myers and his colleagues may not.



ministering.proclaiming.living.
New Leadership for a New Day

"Bethany Seminary is a place of spiritual discovery, academic wonder, and intentional preparation for a life of ministry to the glory of God and our neighbors' good."
- Jeff Carter, President

BETHANY
Theological Seminary
www.bethanyseminary.edu

For one thing, while natural gas is seen by some as better than coal or fuel oil in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, its extraction and combustion still release massive amounts of carbon dioxide and methane, both potent greenhouse gases. Indeed, according to a Cornell University study, life-cycle climate impact of natural gas may be greater than those of other fossil fuels.

Myers suggests natural gas may save us from turning to nuclear power as an energy source of the future. Perhaps, but the current boom and lower prices have both undermined the need for energy conservation and distracted the nation from pursuing a robust renewable energy strategy. With carbon dioxide levels having now reached 400 parts per million (the highest levels in perhaps 10 million years), we cannot put off a rapid transition to renewables and much greater efficiencies.

He also brings up the issue of safety. I

would argue that Ediger and many others are right in questioning the “frack now, do safety studies later” approach of the Bush-era beginnings of the current fracking boom. We risk polluting our groundwater supplies at our peril.

Myers notes that the fracking process will provide economic relief to those left in the wake of shifts in coal production, and provide a lower-cost fuel for some families. This may be an outcome of this current boom, but booms tend to bust, and in any event certainly was not a goal of the industry, which makes billions in profits every year. Halliburton alone, the world’s largest provider of fracking equipment, saw profits of nearly \$3 billion last year.

Finally, Myers describes church involvement in such social issues as “troublesome,” and suggests this isn’t “the Lord’s work.” Good thing the Lord himself wasn’t of this mind—otherwise he wouldn’t have challenged the sys-

Faith-based travel at its best with TourMagination!

Experience God’s world with other believers on our range of tours.

CRUISES

- ALASKA (August 3-13/2014)
- LEGENDARY RHINE & MOSELLE CRUISE (May 30-June 12/2014)
- ANTARCTICA (Jan 18-28/2015)
- HAWAIIAN ISLANDS (Feb 15-28/2015)

ECO-ADVENTURE TOURS

- AMAZON RAINFOREST & GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (Jan 16-26/2014)
- SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA & ITS FJORDS (June 13-26/2014)
- POLAR BEAR EXPRESS (Oct 16-25/2014)
- AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND (Jan 30-Feb 19/2015)

EDUCATIONAL TOURS

- BRITISH ISLES (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & WALES) with DAVID & JOYCE ESHLEMAN (Sept 13-25/2013)
- CHINA & YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE (Nov 1-15/2013)
- EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS (Dec 9-15/2013)
- JAMAICA: ITS PEOPLE, NATURAL BEAUTY & FRUITS (Jan 18-27/2014)
- JAPAN & KOREA (Sept 15-25/2014)
- CHURCHES & SAFARIS in ETHIOPIA & TANZANIA (Oct 10-21/2014)
- VIETNAM & SINGAPORE (Nov 10-24/2014)
- CUBA with JACK & IRENE SUDERMAN (Jan 9-18/2015)
- CHURCHES & SAFARIS in KENYA & TANZANIA (Feb 6-18/2015)

CUSTOM TOURS

- HAITI CUSTOM TOUR (Feb 27-March 9/2014)
- HESSTON COLLEGE STUDENT CHOIR TOUR to EUROPE (May 13-June 3/2014)

HOLY LAND TOURS

- HOLY LAND: HARVEST THE OLIVES & EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (Oct 12-21/2013)
- ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR RICH BUCHER (Nov 5-14/2013)
- HOLY LAND TOUR with PASTOR PHIL WAGLER (Feb 12-20/2014)
- ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR DAVID BOSHART (April 24-May 3/2014)
- HOLY LAND TOUR with PASTOR DARREL TOEWS (Feb 19-28/2014)
- FROM NAZARETH to ROME with PASTOR JIM BROWN (Nov 3-15/2014)

HERITAGE TOURS

- RUSSIA & UKRAINE: THE MENNONITE STORY (Sept 4-16/2013)
- INDIA: HISTORY, CHANGE and the CHURCH with BERT & MARTHA LOBE (Oct 6-21/2013)
- EXPERIENCE SOUTH AMERICA (Oct. 18-31/2013)
- EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA (March 16-28/2014)
- EUROPEAN HERITAGE with JOHN RUTH (June 24-July 7/2014)
- AMISH EUROPEAN HERITAGE TOUR (July 6-28/2014)
- POLAND & UKRAINE: THE MENNONITE STORY (Sept 18-Oct 1/2014)

SOLD OUT!



BOOK YOUR LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY TODAY! (800) 565-0451

E-MAIL: office@tourmagination.com

WEB: www.tourmagination.com

Reg. # 50014322

Original Brethren Home
c. 1905



The faces and buildings may have changed, but the peaceful small town setting and our commitment to provide a lifetime of quality care has never faltered.

A Brethren Continuing Care Retirement Home



A Legacy of Excellence
A Century of Trust

Est. 1893 in picturesque
Mt. Morris, Illinois

View our virtual tour at
www.pinecrestcommunity.org
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!
Look for our information on
“Try Us Out For The Winter!”
or call 815-734-4103

Active Adult Cottages

Independent Living
Apartments

Intermediate and Skilled
Nursing Care

Specialized Memory Care

Pinecrest Village
c. 2012



tems of his day that exploited the poor, degraded women, and saw materialism as a blessing not to be questioned. The writer warns that these same kinds of social involvements keep us from bringing people to a relationship to Christ and the church. Interestingly, this past spring several Brethren pastoral families from out East lamented to me that their own children are turning away from the church specifically because of its lack of involvement in such concerns.

David Radcliff
Peoria, Ariz.

Ancient versus modern interpretations

P. V. Lee Smith is right when he argues in the January/February and June issues of MESSENGER that the “ancient interpreters” thought the Bible was without errors. Don Zigler is equally right when he argues in the April

MESSENGER that the public became aware of the gulf between the “ancient interpreters” and the “modern interpreters” at the end of the 19th century. Hence, there was resistance and movement to preserve the fundamentals when the modern interpreters emerged.

A book that has been very influential for me over the years is Alan Richardson's *The Bible in the Age of Science*. He describes the developments in the fields of science, history, literature and theology in the 19th and 20th centuries that gave rise to the modern interpreters described by Kugel. There is indeed a gulf between the pre-scientific world view and the modern world view. And there is a gulf between the ancient interpreters and the modern interpreters. Christian and Jewish scholars and biblical interpreters have been working on accommodating the two for many, many decades.

Robert McFadden
Bridgewater, Va.

CLASSIFIEDS

Have you placed your Sunday school curriculum order yet? This is the time to place your fall order for Gather 'Round, Guide for Biblical Studies or other Sunday school curriculum. If you have had an automatic, yearly order in the past, you need to renew that order now for the upcoming Sunday school year. Please call Brethren Press at 800-441-3712 or visit us on the web at www.brethrenpress.com.

A new devotional book, *Tears Within My Heart: A Modern Day Psalms Collection*, by Kay M. Bowman (Prince of Peace Press, 2013) is now available from amazon.com. These modern-day Psalm prayers cover aspects of our daily living from trials and struggles, loss of loved ones, deliverance and restoration, to God's guidance toward peace and contentment. *Tears Within My Heart* will touch each human soul with poignancy, purpose, and power to feel God speaking comfort, courage, and compassion to hurting hearts.

Are you looking for adventure? Then we might have an opportunity for you. The Stover Memorial Congregation in the Oak Park/Highland Park neighborhood of Des Moines, Iowa, is looking for a few good folks who might want to live and work in Des Moines, helping us create a new “point of light” in our neighborhood.

Stover will make the parsonage available to these adventure-seekers, and the Stover church house will be available for meetings, Bible study, worship, community events, etc.

We have been in an intentional discernment process for the past five years as our membership has declined. We believe that God is not done with us yet. The Northern Plains District has expressed its full support for this endeavor. Please come and join us on this new journey as we continue God's work together.

Contact Pastor Barbara Wise Lewczak, 515-240-0060 or bwlewczak@netins.net with your interest, questions, and prayers.

Please send information to be included in *Turning Points* to Jean Clements, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120; 800-323-8039, ext. 520; jclements@brethren.org. Information must be complete in order to be published. Information older than one year cannot be published.

New Members

Akron, First, Akron, Ohio: Terry Axline, Jackie Bennett

Alpha & Omega, Lancaster, Pa.: Linette Salgado, Mildred Colon, Aricelis Cupeles, Celeste Estevez, Giovanni Escribano, Pascual Cosme, Rodulfo Contreras, Christian Robles, Stephanie Putt, Gabriela Putt, Briana Allen, Luis Hernandez, Hector Melendez, Rafael Figueroa, Carmen Rosado, Judelkys Flores, Milagros Rielo, Rosa Santiago

Annville, Pa.: John Makatche
Baltic, Ohio: John Kalman, Sam Bucher, Luke Bucher

Beech Run, Mapleton Depot, Pa.: Ellen Dell, Michael Aurand, Mikayla Aurand, Abigail Aurand, Ed Walker, Marvin Banks, Jr., Kaylee Winnick, Ciera Shoop, Lilyan Hawbecker, Merissa Hagans, Debra Shope

Bethany, New Paris, Ind.: Eldon Bontrager, Randall Chupp, Rhonda Schwartz, Zachary Wagner, Jim Fackler, Janice Fackler, Roger Eberly, Mim Eberly, Alexis Zook

Canton, Ill.: John Lund, Jeanine Lund, April Lund, Isaiah Lund

Chiques, Manheim, Pa.: Abigail Wagner, Lily Wagner

Defiance, Ohio: Buddy Hasselschwert

Florin, Mount Joy, Pa.: Bob Johnson, Yvonne Johnson

Geiger, Friedens, Pa.: Joseph Woy

Gettysburg, Pa.: Walter Browning, Joyce Browning, Roy Fluke, Junko Fluke, Dustin Fluke, Aaron Orndorff, Jennifer Swartz, Daniel Wagner, Kathryn Wagner, Mitch Wagner, Hannah Woodward, Joe Zemo

Goshen City, Goshen, Ind.: Charity Collazo-Guevara

Hempfield, Manheim, Pa.:
Joel Kettering, Penny
Kettering

HIS Way, Mills River, N.C.:
Alejandra Zamora, Genesis
Lagos, Anabella
DeCampos, Emily Pizarro-
Lopez, Juan Escobar,
Hector Alfonso, Fernanda
Lagunes, Alicia Lagunes,
Marta Montoya, Ariel
Perez, Michel Carolina
Davila, Osvaldo Davila

Lancaster, Pa.: Gladys
Clemens, Judi Peffley,
Dean Peffley

Live Oak, Calif.: Don
Ferguson, Deby Ferguson

Longmeadow, Hagerstown,
Md.: Patricia Cross, Sonja
Davis

McPherson, Kan.: Emily
Ayers, Matt Ayers, Jd.
Bowman, Becki Bowman,
Donita Goyen, Andrew
Gustafson, Colleen
Gustafson

Meadow Branch,
Westminster, Md.: Debbi
Hooper, Richard Jasper,
Nella Savage, Tommy
Schreck

Mohrsville, Pa.: Joe Elacqua,
Jennie Elacqua, Charles
Adams

Mountain Grove, Fulks Run,
Va.: Chuck Comer,
Michelle Comer, Vernon
Parker, Debbie Parker,
Nathan Fulk, Tara Dean,
Harlan Phillips, Cindy
Dove, Beth Simmers,
Brent Dove, Jennifer
Jenkins

Mount Vernon, Waynesboro,
Va.: Annaka Noelle Shaver

Pleasant Hill, Ohio: Gwen
Hillenburg, Brian
Huffaker, Anna Fox,
Tristen Paul, Cody Skilling

Troy, Ohio: Wiley Collett,
Kaitlyn Roop, Bill Machen,
Nancy Swigart

Union Center, Nappanee,
Ind.: Alex McBride,
Melanie Fervida, Dan
Schmucker, Kayla
Schmucker, Verda Jump

White Oak, Manheim, Pa.:
Cody Fahnestock, Elias
Fahnestock, Logan
Fahnestock, Karyssa
Martin, Michael Martin,
Carson Miller, Ashton
Zimmerman, Darla Eberly,
Matthew Eberly

Wedding Anniversaries

Blocher, Sherman and
Shirley, Lincoln, Neb., 60

Cormany, Melvin and Pearl,
Orrville, Ohio, 60

Crist, Wilford and Louise,
Scott City, Kan., 70

Evans, Dick and Lucille,
Goshen, Ind., 55

French, Herb and Charlotte,
Harrisonburg, Va., 60

Guy, Don and Jackie,
Independence, Mo., 55

Hepner, John and Kathleen,
Farmersville, Ohio, 50

Miller, Merlin and Maxine,
Bradford, Ohio, 50

Miller, Ronnie and Elisa,
Easton, Md., 50

Mowry, Kenneth and Janice,
Greenville, Ohio, 50

Murray, Andy and Terry,
Huntingdon, Pa., 50

Oxley, Derald and Audrey,
Onalaska, Wash., 65

Schultz, Herschel and Ruth
Ann, Greenville, Ohio, 60

Squire, Jon and Sharon,
Linthicum, Md., 55

Stryker, G. Brad and Jo,
Goshen, Ind., 60

Stump, Clyde and Jane,
Greenville, Ohio, 60

Tankesley, Jere and Doris,
Lancaster, Pa., 50

Ziehm, Tom and Cathy,
Linthicum, Md., 50

Deaths

Ainsley, Ruth Z., 94,
Masontown, Pa., May 6

Allen, Wilda I. Riffle, 86,
Ravenna, Ohio, Jan. 20

Aitlund, Lucille Fox, 92,
Carlisle, Pa., April 19

Brightbill, Eunice S., 98,
North Manchester, Ind.,
Jan. 25

Buch, Jeanne Olyveen
Hamme, 88, North
Manchester, Ind., April 16

Buirley, Pauline Catharine,
86, Troy, Ohio, April 24

Burkholder, Noah A., 91,
Chambersburg, Pa., May 5

Cadd, Reba Crumpacker, 90,
Roanoke, Va., April 3

Carlisle, Helen Louise, 88,
New Windsor, Md., June
2, 2012

Check, Calvin E., 95,
Greenville, Ohio, May 15

Coe, Mary M., 85, North
Manchester, Ind., July 14,
2012

Crist, Dorothy J., 92,
Quinter, Kan., May 9

Crist, Wilford D., 93, Scott
City, Kan., April 21

Deal, Jane Sue, 67, Sidney,
Ohio, April 18

Dickensheets, Rada M., 88,
Hanover, Pa., March 10

Donithan, Dorothy Anne
Murphy, 82, Pulaski, Va.,
March 26

Dotterer, Elverta W., 102,
Lititz, Pa., March 19

Dowdy, Carolyn Hess, 77,
Huntingdon, Pa., April 20

Draper, Lois A., 68, Eldora,
Iowa, Dec. 10

Ezell, James Robert, 84,
Citronelle, Ala., Jan. 27

Flickinger, Evelyn M.
Burkholder, 86, Wakarusa,
Ind., Feb. 8

Flora, Clifford H., 95,
Elkhart, Ind., Aug. 11,
2012

Freeman, Roy Howard, 85,
Plymouth, Ind., March 3

George, Galen Wilbur, 80,
Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 15

Gilbert, Mildred Lucille
Morris, 87, North
Manchester, Ind., Oct. 3

Hershey, John K., 93,
Manheim, Pa., Feb. 4

Hess, Nelson L., 83,
Harrisonburg, Va., April 16

Hileman, Ronald S., 85,
Kittanning, Pa., Dec. 19

Hollenberg, Helen R., 80,
North Manchester, Ind.,
Feb. 27

Hooker, Anna Claire, 82,
Nokesville, Va., April 17

Horst, Helen Elizabeth
Herman, 95, Wooster,
Ohio, Jan. 25

Hull, Debra René, 55,
Trotwood, Ohio, March 25

Keys, Elizabeth Nadine, 73,
Manassas, Va., April 17

Kurtz, Charles David, 49,
Somerset, Pa., Feb. 27

Layman, John P., 64,
Lancaster, Pa., May 7

Leake, Olin Norman, 88,
Harrisonburg, Va., April 15

Leckrone, Robert H., 90,
Silver Lake, Ind., Feb. 19

Leffel, Carolyn I., 84, North
Manchester, Ind., Jan. 27

Leslie, Norma J., 78,
Plymouth, Ind., April 21

Mateika, Iris F., 88,
Freeport, Ill., Dec. 18

McAvoy, James Otho, 80,
Yuba City, Calif., May 20

McNaull, Bonita Grace
Heifner, 91, Ashland,
Ohio, April 18

Menke, Elizabeth Janette, 80,
Greenville, Ohio, April 26

Miller, Earl A., 74, Mount
Morris, Ill., March 12

Miller, Louise Reed, 98,
North Manchester, Ind.,
Aug. 19, 2012

Moore, Leslie A., 68,
Johnstown, Pa., April 27

Morningstar, Gladys May,
94, Goshen, Ind., Feb. 6

Musselman, Raymond F., 89,
Hanover, Pa., March 22

Myers, Elizabeth Mae, 93,
Milford, Ind., Sept. 16,
2012

Olwin, Willard Ray, 97, La
Verne, Calif., March 27

Reuter, Cornelius, 99,
Milford, Ind., Feb. 7

Rock, Anna Rebecca, 86,
Chambersburg, Pa., April 17

Rohrer, M. Alpheus, 90,
North Manchester, Ind.,
Dec. 26

Rowe, Ruth H. Bendsen, 86,
North Manchester, Ind.,
May 13, 2012

Saiz, Maxine, 84, Garden
City, Kan., April 22

Sales, Harold M., 90,
Eureka, Ill., April 10

Schwanning, William
Theodore, 91, Trappe,
Md., April 24

Shipp, Mary Lorraine, 83,
Hagerstown, Md., Jan. 28

Showalter, Marion F., 96,
Modesto, Calif., Dec. 17

Shrider, Paul Lavonne, 70,
North Manchester, Ind.,
April 26

Smith, Judith Ray, 71,
Harrisonburg, Va., April 15

Snell, E. De Wayne, 92,
North Manchester, Ind.,
April 13

Sroufe, L. Louise, 87, North
Manchester, Ind., Aug. 4,
2012

Stone, Robert Staunton, 83,
Citronelle, Ala., Aug. 3,
2012

Texiere, Evelyn Flory
Showalter, 81,
Bridgewater, Va., May 6

Vires, Joe, Jr., 62,
Nokesville, Va., March 21

Whitcraft, John M., 96,
Winona Lake, Ind., April 30

Wilson, Stanley, 82, Carlisle,
Pa., Feb. 20

Wolfe, Helen M. Sliger, 98,
Whitehall, Pa., March 25

Woodson, Frederic Arnold,
87, Roanoke, Va., March 25

Zug, Robert B., 83,
Manheim, Pa., July 8,
2012

Licensing

Derck, Joy E., W. Pa. Dist.
(Plumcreek, Sheloceta,
Pa.), April 28

Goss, Tyler J., Virlina Dist.
(West Richmond,
Richmond, Va.), April 28

Hollenberg-Duffey, Timothy
L., Mid-Atl. Dist. (West-
minster, Md.), May 12

Painter, Duane E., Shen.
Dist. (Newport, Shen-
andoah, Va.), April 21

Scarr, Jennifer K., Pac. SW
Dist. (Pomona Fellowship,
Pomona, Calif.), April 21

Ordinations

Ballew, Joel E., Shen. Dist.
(Lebanon, Mount Sidney,
Va.), April 21

Ballew, Linetta S. A., Shen.
Dist. (Lebanon, Mount
Sidney, Va.), April 21

Cassell, Dana E., Mid-Atl.
Dist. (Manassas, Va.),
May 19

Miller, John G., Atl. N.E.
Dist. (Mohrsville, Pa.),
April 28

Placements

DeCoursey, Audrey, pastor,
Living Stream, Portland,
Ore., Sept. 1, 2012

Kreighbaum, Jennifer
Sanders, pastor,
Quakertown, First,
Quakertown, Pa., May 19

Parkhurst, Janet S., associ-
ate pastor, Free Union,
Va., Jan. 12

Parkhurst, Richard L., asso-
ciate pastor, Free Union,
Va., Jan. 12

Price, Susan M., assistant
pastor, Empire, Modesto,
Calif., April 26

Richey, Kevin W., team pas-
tor, Good Shepherd,
Blacksburg, Va., May 19

Shock, W. Russell, team pas-
tor, Good Shepherd,
Blacksburg, Va., May 19

Older than they think they are

Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.”

That was the message Benjamin Spock delivered to young mothers in the middle of the 20th century. Spock was an American pediatrician whose book *Baby and Child Care* was one of the biggest best-sellers of all time.

I heard a variation on this quote when I was in Brethren Volunteer Service orientation (Unit 110—the “discipleship unit”—in case anyone’s keeping track). It was uttered by one of the Church of the Brethren’s elder statesmen, M. R. Zigler,

and it was directed at the Baby Boomer children of those mothers Spock was addressing in his book.

Zigler told us this: “You’re older than you think you are.” He said this not because several among us were trying to look older by sprouting scruffy beards and wearing bib overalls. It was because Zigler, in the accumulated wisdom of his years, knew something we didn’t: that we really did have something more to offer the church—and the world—than



RANDY MILLER
MESSENGER EDITOR

rock ‘n’ roll, macrobiotic cooking, and tie-dye T-shirts. We had something to say, and we would do well to sit up straight, look the world in the eye, and muster the courage to say it.

Whether those of us in Unit 110 accomplished what Zigler was hoping for is open to debate (and it’s been a *long* debate,

with her as she goes to college in the fall.

If that’s not enough, have a look at Mandy Garcia’s advice in her new MESSENGER column “Living Simply” (page 26). Simple living—a long-held Brethren value if ever there was one—is not some distant dream for Mandy, but a daily reality. She even gives us a recipe for how to make our own laundry detergent.

In the June MESSENGER, BVSer Tricia Ziegler, who graduated from Bridgewater College two years ago, and who is coordinating Brethren workcamps this summer, expressed an articulate argument for why she finds God not only in expected locales like the Bible and church, but also in the ever-changing universe in which we live today.

And take another look at the MESSENGER Reflections column in March, written by high school student Gabriella Stocksdales, who clearly understood and expounded so eloquently on the power of love, grace, and forgiveness in Victor Hugo’s masterpiece, *Les Misérables*.

Those are just a few examples from the magazines you have within reach from your La-Z-Boy!

Sure, stories about young people making poor choices abound. Lindsay Lohan, Amanda Bynes, and even England’s Prince Harry come to mind. And let’s not forget our “first cousins” in the TV show *Breaking Amish*, who’ve caused no small amount of consternation for their elders. But the great thing about grace is that it allows for second, third, and even “70-times-seven” chances to turn things around.

Meanwhile, take another look at your own kids, at the youth

Zigler’s point remains true: Our youth are not just adults-in-waiting; they really do have something to say now!

since those of us from Unit 110 are now old enough to attend NOAC—the Church of the Brethren’s National Older Adult Conference). But Zigler’s point remains true: Our youth are not just adults-in-waiting; they really do have something to say *now*!

Thankfully, many of them are sitting up and speaking out.

If you don’t believe me, check out “Youth & Young Adults” in this issue (page 25), in which high school graduate Christy Crouse talks about how important her Brethren upbringing has been in her life, and how she hopes to carry those values

in your church, in your camps, in your districts, and in our denomination. Math has never been my forte, but I definitely think there are more than 70-times-seven reasons to celebrate the youth among us. They may have flip-flops, goofy hair, tattoos, and piercings. But their hearts are full of love and hope.

May we have wisdom enough to encourage them and stand by them as they shape their future. And may they look back with kindness and gratitude upon the foundations we have helped lay for them. **AM**

COMING IN SEPTEMBER: “Historical drift,” and the implications for leadership in the church.



**Where
actions
speak.**



Stan Noffsinger
General Secretary,
Church of the Brethren
Manchester alumnus



Chris Douglas
Director of Annual
Conference,
Church of the Brethren
Manchester alumna



Jo Young Switzer
President,
Manchester University
Manchester alumna



Nevin Dulabaum
President,
Brethren Benefit Trust
Manchester alumnus



Madalyn Metzger
Board Chair,
On Earth Peace
Manchester alumna



YOU
Manchester alumni

Manchester University alumni are leaders:

in the church, in other non-profit work, in business, in science, in government, and elsewhere. At Manchester, we graduate people who draw upon their education *and* faith to lead principled, productive, and compassionate lives that improve the human condition—and even change the world. Could **YOU** be next?



604 E. College Ave. | North Manchester, IN 46962 | www.manchester.edu

Your Brethren College Network

Bridgewater College
www.bridgewater.edu

Elizabethtown College
[www.etaown.edu](http://www.etown.edu)

Juniata College
www.juniata.edu

University of LaVerne
www.laverne.edu

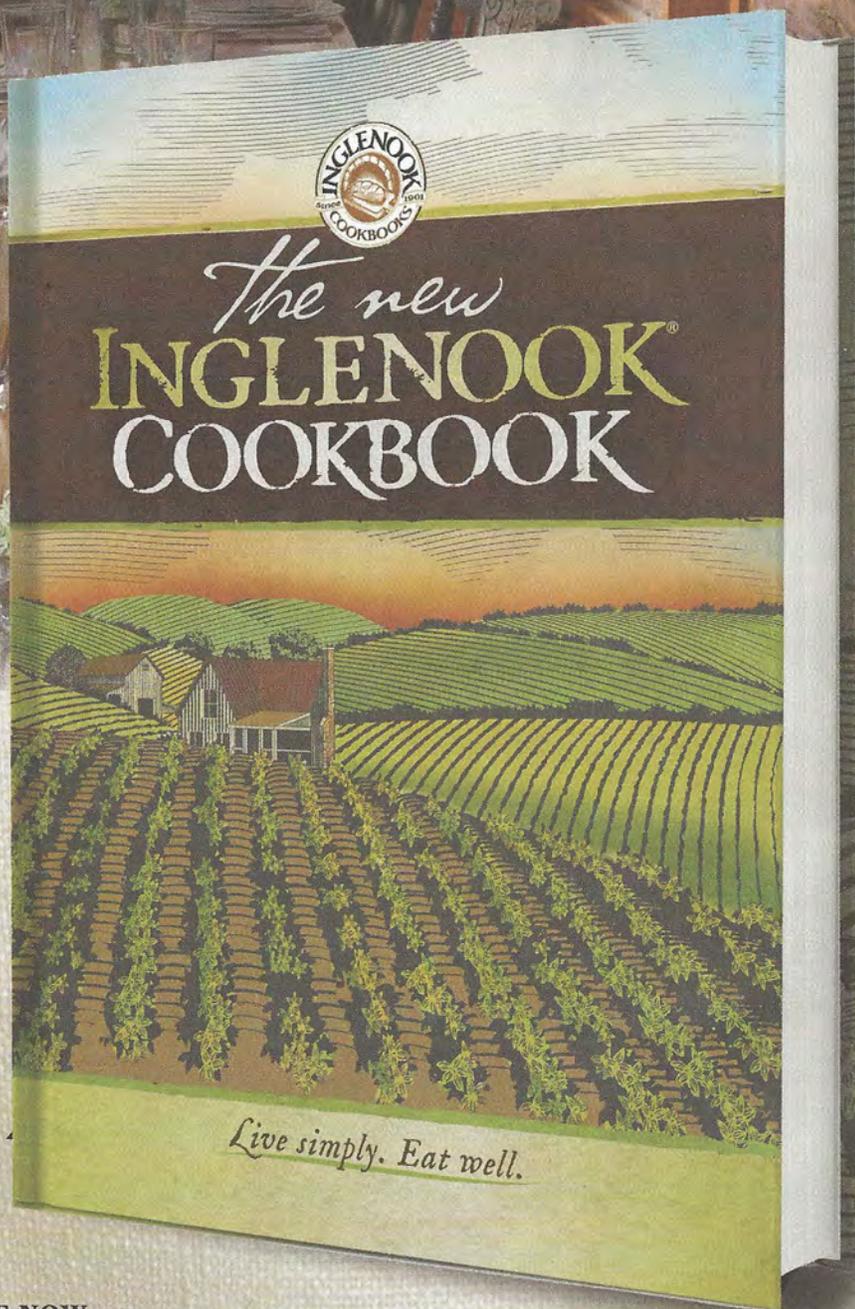
Manchester University
www.manchester.edu

McPherson College
www.mcpherson.edu

Bethany Theological Seminary
www.bethanyseminary.edu

Brethren Colleges Abroad
www.bcaabroad.org

BRINGING GENERATIONS TOGETHER SINCE 1901



Inglenook cookbooks have been feeding people for over a hundred years. *The New Inglenook Cookbook* continues that tradition by assembling more than 400 tried-and-true recipes that bring us to the table and nourish both body and soul.

Live simply. Eat well.



Brethren Press

AVAILABLE NOW
www.inglenookcookbook.org
800-441-3712