

Church of the Brethren

MESSENGER

JUNE 2010 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

EMBRACING GOD'S CALL

PROFILE OF MODERATOR SHAWN FLORY REPLOGLE



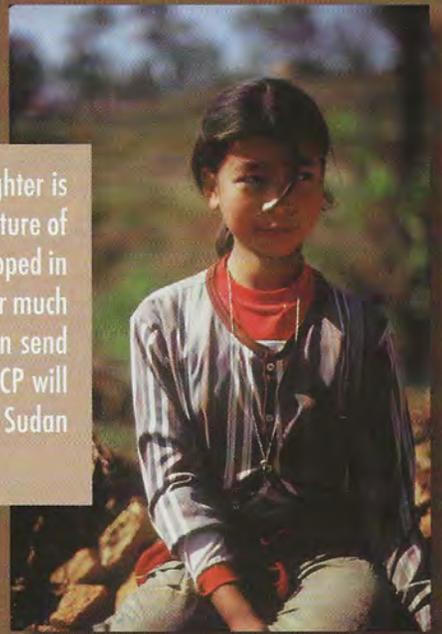
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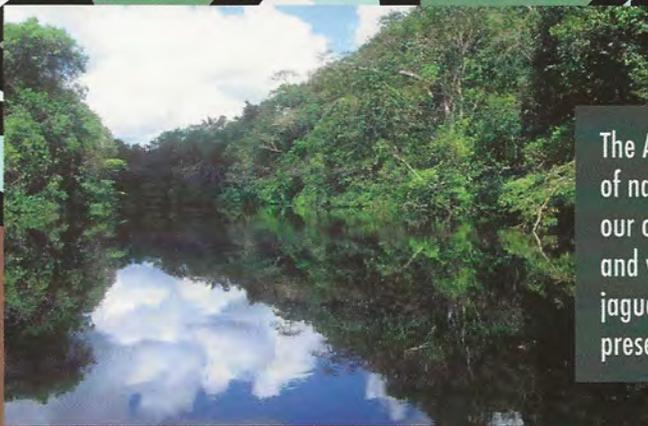
How does your garden grow? Food production is, ironically, one of our biggest environmental problems. Fuel, fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, greenhouse gases—they all take a toll. Local, organic, lower on the food chain are part of the solution—and all are practiced by our Sustainable Living Homestead. Come for a visit—and bring your gardening gloves!

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Young people in the USA spend an average of 28 hours a week using electronic media. Some schools are hiring recess coaches—to teach kids how to play with each other. Our Learning Tours help young (and old) people have a personal encounter with our neighbors and God's earth. In the next year we'll be visiting Burma, Sudan, Guatemala, Nepal, the Amazon and the Arctic. Go. Meet. Grow. Change—yourself and your world!



The Amazon Rainforest is home to 30 percent of terrestrial species, thousands of native people, and a myriad of medicinal plants; produces 20 percent of our oxygen and fresh water; is one of the planet's last places of mystery and wonder—and disappearing at a rate of 50,000 acres per year. We saw a jaguar there on a Learning Tour. No jungle, no jaguar. NCP is purchasing and preserving rainforest. Cost: \$200 an acre. Value: Planetary.

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

Church
of the
Brethren

MESSENGER

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8 Embracing God's call

“We were made for this culture and time in history,” says Annual Conference moderator Shawn Flory Replogle. “The historic way in which we have lived out our understanding of Jesus has included a nonviolent way of interacting with the world and each other; it's included a lifestyle that is simplistic and frugal; and it has emphasized relationships within the community of faith.” In this profile by Karen Doss Bowman, we get a glimpse of the man who'll hold the gavel at this summer's Annual Conference.

12 Preparing for Pittsburgh

Conference participants will gather to worship and discuss business in a “green” convention center in Pittsburgh July 3-7. Situated on the banks of the winding Allegheny River, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center is a far cry from what the Brethren had in 1909. In addition to the site itself, learn about worship speakers, items of business (page 11), and the “special response” process implemented to deal with controversial issues (page 13).

14 Annual Conference 101 years ago

They met under big tents, hauled water from fire plugs, and butchered several head of cattle for lunch. Things were different for Conference-goers in 1909. Moderator-elect Robert Alley takes a look at how Conference was done then—a helpful exercise, perhaps, as delegates in Pittsburgh this summer consider a query from the Southern Ohio District that asks whether our big meeting is still fulfilling its mission to unite, strengthen, and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus.

18 God's way in the context of pain and distress

“God's way in wisdom's path is an invitation to share our feelings even when our complaints are directed against God,” says Bob Neff in this study which examines Job's struggle with God. “This honest expression of our condition is the way to God and healing.”

26 To the land of Oz and back

Being detained, questioned, and searched is not what Sarah Farahat had in mind when she tried to enter Israel in January as part of an On Earth Peace and Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation. Upon arrival at the airport, however, she and OEP executive director Bob Gross were not permitted to enter with the others. She speculates it may have had something to do with her being Arab-American.

DEPARTMENTS

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ONTHECOVER

Since his stint as NYC (National Youth Conference) Coordinator in 1994, Shawn Flory Replogle has answered God's call in various ways. He is shown, at right, helping with the 2006 NYC. Now as moderator, he takes the gavel and plans a conference “full of opportunities for as wide a group of people as possible.” Cover photo by Ken Wenger



Ken Wenger

Like you, I read Messenger's five-year "Journey through the Word" Bible study series one installment at a time. With Church of the Brethren scholars as our guides, we began learning about Genesis in January 2005 and ended last December with Revelation. The series was so well-received that some of you suggested that the articles be published again as a book.



WENDY McFADDEN
Publisher

That's exactly what we've done, and *A Dunker Guide to the Bible* will roll off the presses in just a few weeks. Compact enough to keep with your Bible, the collection will serve as a simple commentary to accompany your scripture reading.

But you might consider reading it straight through, something you wouldn't normally do with a commentary. Studying the Bible as a whole gives the rare opportunity to gain a sense of the sweep of the biblical story and to be reminded of God's faithfulness over many generations. Not only is this book brief enough to read in its entirety, but the warmth and personality brought by the writers (maybe you know some of them) make the chapters appealing and accessible.

There's a second new book that incubated in the pages of Messenger. *A Dunker Guide to Brethren History* is also a journey of sorts—a quick trip through 300 years of the church's history, delivered in 50-year blocks of time.

The history is told primarily through the individual stories of a collection of memorable personalities, with these narratives supplemented by sidebars, photos, and interesting facts. The book culminates in a forward-looking section that shifts the focus from the past to the future.

We're calling these two books "Dunker Guides." Thanks to former editor Walt Wiltschek for developing the two series, and to the many writers who helped them come to life. If you have ideas for other topics that would benefit from this sort of concise and accessible treatment, send us a note at brethrenpress@brethren.org.

Wendy McFadden

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How sweep it is

Cape Coral church creatively aids Haiti

If some shelves of the Cape Coral, Fla., Wal-Mart were a bit bare in late April, you might ask members of the local A Life in Christ Church of the Brethren congregation about it.

On April 18, members and friends of A Life in Christ hit the superstore in search of a list of items—items needed to assemble Church World Service hygiene kits for Haiti earthquake survivors. Teams searched the aisles in a friendly competition, each equipped with \$150 to buy as many supplies as possible, but enough to cover the entire list.

The effort had a head start, as local agencies had already donated some extra toothbrushes and bars of soap to be part of the kits. Money for the rest of the supplies—such as washcloths, combs, and nail clippers—came via loose change that was put into the congregation's offering plates each week. The funds went into the youth account, and the youth decided to arrange the "Supermarket Sweep" to aid Haiti.

In an eight-minute YouTube video, church teams can be seen going around the store asking, "What can we still get?" as they tried to calculate their remaining budgets. Eventually one team reached the checkout lines first, singing "We Are the Champions" as they pulled their cart up to the register.

After all the teams had finished, the group went to their meeting space and formed an assembly line to package the items for shipping.

"It was a fun, creative, unorthodox way to spend the church's outreach money, but also get the church members themselves involved in the process," A Life in Christ pastor Leah Hileman said. "It was hands-on, and there was something for everyone. Even the littlest one among us filled her bags and zipped them up."

It was the second time the church group did a similar "Supermarket Sweep." Last summer one was done for the local food pantry.

In the video, Hileman interviewed one of the youth group members, asking why the church was out helping others. "Because we love them," the youth answered. "And why do we love them?" Hileman asked. The answer: "For Jesus."



Members and friends of A Life in Christ of Cape Coral, Fla., assemble supplies for Church World Service hygiene kits (below) after a successful "sweep" to purchase the items (left).



Northeast Everett (Pa.) Church of the Brethren is hosting a day-long deacon training on congregational peacemaking on June 5, led by Bernie Fuska. . . . The Peter Becker Community (Harleysville, Pa.) retirement community recently gave its local fire company a \$5,000 donation as a thank you. . . . Western Pennsylvania District offered a church leaders prayer event May 11 at Camp Harmony (Hooversville, Pa.). The district also reported that its fourth annual auction raised nearly \$8,000 for various ministries.

Southeast Christian rock band Adonia played a benefit concert for Camp Bethel (Fincastle, Va.) on May 28. . . . Virgina District's annual Mission and Ministry event took place May 1, on the theme "A Life Worthy of the Calling." It began with a hymn sing and worship, followed by a variety of workshops, lunch, and a discussion of congregational ethics and an Annual Conference briefing. . . . Atlantic Southeast churches have raised \$5,000 to be sent to the Emergency Disaster Fund for Haiti relief.

Midwest A benefit buffet for the Pinecrest Retirement Community (Mount Morris, Ill.) Good Samaritan Fund was held May 22 at the Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin, Ill. It included music, poetry, and updates on Pinecrest's work. . . . North Liberty (Ind.) Church of the Brethren held its annual Blankets/Service Sunday this spring, with a special offering, cards for shut-ins made by children, a "soup lunch," and assembling 50 hygiene kits for Haiti.

Ozarks/Plains Missouri/Arkansas held its 12th annual district women's retreat March 26-27 at Peace Valley (Mo.) Church of the Brethren, with 27 attending from seven congregations. . . . Camp Mount Hermon (Tonganoxie, Kan.) held a season-opening workcamp May 2, which included building a new playground area and putting up new equipment.

West Pacific Southwest District is holding a retreat May 10-12 near Los Angeles for pastors and spouses to have a "safe place" to share about ministry and fellowship together. . . . Camp La Verne (Angelus Oaks, Calif.) reported that its 2009 Church of the Brethren camp attendance was up over the previous year and the 2010 season looked "very promising." Camp La Verne Day was held March 14.

YOU SAID IT
 "Most of the inhospitality we show is based in our ignorance of the other, and their ignorance of us."

—noted author and lecturer Martin E. Marty, speaking at the 2010 Presidential Forum at Bethany Theological Seminary

BY THE NUMBERS

10

Number of candidates approved for graduation at Bethany Theological Seminary (Richmond, Ind.) this year. Commencement was held May 8.



Brethren without borders: A Sunday school class at Kokomo (Ind.) Church of the Brethren sponsors Estefany Nevarez in Mexico through the *Compañeros en Ministerio* program, begun by a group of Brethren around the US and now based in Indiana. Recently, class member Dick Fife had the opportunity to travel to Mexico on a mission trip and met with Estefany and her family (pictured). The class' sponsorship pays for tuition, books, uniforms, and shoes.

John Kline project moves closer toward its goal

As of this spring, about \$100,000 remained to be raised by the end of 2010 in order to reach the goal of \$425,000 to purchase the John Kline Homestead and an adjacent acre of land in Broadway, Va.

A committee based in Shenandoah District has been working for several years to preserve the homestead, which had been slated for development. The committee aims to preserve the site so that tours can continue to be provided, teaching about the history of the period

and the life and ministry of Kline.

The Broadway Town Council has requested that the John Kline Homestead be included as part of a Broadway-area tour commemorating 150 years since the Civil War during the period of 2011 to 2015.

A dinner fundraiser event held March 6 at Summerdean Church of the Brethren and attended by 42 people raised \$13,900. Checks can be written to "John Kline Homestead Preservation Fund" and mailed to PO Box 274, Broadway, VA 22815.

Shiloh church continues rebuilding after fire

Shiloh Church of the Brethren near Kasson, W. Va., suffered the loss of its 165-year-old building to a fire on Jan. 3. Pastor Gary Clem provided the following update:

"The rebuilding process continues to move forward at Shiloh. As of this date (in April) the site has been prepared, the blocks have been laid, the power has been placed underground, trees have been removed, the rough plumbing has been put in place, the

PanelCraft building is being manufactured in Columbus, Ohio, and hopefully it will be under roof by the end of May. The pews have been ordered from a firm in Oklahoma and will arrive in mid-July."

"All the flooring has been selected by the committee assigned that task. Furnishings for the kitchen are now being selected. Our contractor is working closely with World Vision, and they are supplying, at no cost, much of the materials and other furnishings that we need. The coils have been installed for the radiant heat, and the floor will be poured April 15.

"We have been so richly blessed by the outpouring of support from churches and individuals both near and far. The church at Shiloh wishes to express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all who have supported us with your prayers and your gifts as we strive to rebuild and continue the work of Jesus in our community and beyond. We are including a list of those generous contributors below."

That list included dozens of Church of the Brethren congregations in West Marva and Virlina districts, a few in other districts, and numerous congregations of other denominations.

Altoona First congregation hand-delivers bags of caring

Altoona (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren is continuing its pursuit of opportunities to engage families in the neighborhood.

Prior to Easter, a bag of sweets was attached to neighbors' doors. Included was a special invitation to join in worship on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services. Posters on all doors extended the invitation to neighbors to worship weekly with their congregation.

Each quarter, gift bags are also assembled and delivered to Altoona First's shut-ins. Bags are filled with a variety of items: dried fruits, individual serving containers of applesauce/fruit/pudding, soup, crackers, juice, snacks—anything to say, "We're thinking of you!"

Congregational volunteers who deliver the bags both share and receive blessings.



John Kline homestead in Broadway, Va.

LANDMARKS & LAURELS

• **Camp Blue Diamond** (Petersburg, Pa.) will host Middle Pennsylvania District's 30th Heritage Fair on Sept. 25.

• **Fahrney-Keedy Home and Village** (Boonsboro, Md.) has earned a best-possible five-star rating from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

• Mid-Atlantic District held its 30th annual **District Disaster Response Auction** May 1 in Westminster, Md., including a general auction and quilt auction.

• **Southern Ohio District** planned to hold its 20th annual senior adult picnic June 5 at Mill Ridge Village, featuring reflections from outgoing district executive Mark Flory Steury.

• The *Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal* marked the **40th anniversary of the Kent State shootings** on May 4 with an interview with Church of the Brethren member **Dean Kahler**, one of the students hit in the shooting and paralyzed from the waist down. The interview is online at www.ohio.com/news/92610749.html.

REMEMBERED

• **Lois I. Shull**, 92, a former Church of the Brethren missionary in India, passed away April 7. She was a resident of Timbercrest, a Church of the Brethren retirement community in North Manchester, Ind. She was born June 15, 1917, and married Ernest M. Shull (deceased) on Aug. 17, 1937. With her husband, she served from 1946 to 1964 as a Brethren missionary among the hill people of the Western Ghats in India. Returning to the United States in 1964, she taught for many years at the Akron and North Manchester high schools. She retired from teaching in 1982. She also wrote numerous articles and a filmstrip called "A Chance to Live." She wrote the scripts for and directed three movies: *Shepherd of India*, *To Meet the Sun*, and *The Turn of the Tide*, as well as a radio play titled "Valley of the Sun" and a book, *Women in India Who Kept the Faith*. Last year she finished another book, *Splendor in the Dust*, with the help of her son James Shull. A celebration of her life was held April 10 at Manchester Church of the Brethren.

• **Henry Barton**, who served Brethren Press as a bindery helper for more than 35 years, died on April 28. He worked for the denominational publishing house in Elgin, Ill., from February 1948 to his retirement in October 1984. Survivors include daughter Brenda Hayward, who is the receptionist at the Church of the Brethren General Offices. The funeral service was held at Wesley United Methodist Church in Elgin on May 2.



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Come, Follow Me Vietnam faith expedition



Photo by Fletcher Farrar

Join Dennis and Van Metzger on a guided excursion through north-central Vietnam and visit the comprehensive health, education and sanitation programs of Church World Service.

March 6-20, 2011

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 Church of the Brethren

Ordinary love, extraordinary God

I received a blanket when I was born. It used to have colorful rainbows, stars, and clouds with blue trim around the sides. Now the only color that is left is the blue trim. The rest of the blanket has been worn out, so you can actually see all the way through the blanket if you hold it up.



AUDREY HOLLENBERG

As I have grown up, I have tried to pack away this blanket because, first of all, a young adult should not still have a "blankey," and second, this fragile blanket could probably completely disintegrate at any moment. Still, I have never been able to successfully rid myself of this blanket. It is sentimental and comforting, especially when all else seems unfamiliar and out of control.

So over the years, my blanket has become very "well-loved." My blanket, you could say, is more than meets the eye!

I know I am not alone in my love for a blanket. A certain Peanuts character named Linus once said "Look Charlie Brown, you have fears and you have frustrations, am I right?"

LOVE SOMETIMES DOES NOT LOOK ALL THAT GREAT ON THE OUTSIDE. BUT GENUINE, JESUS-LIKE LOVE SHINES, AND OTHER PEOPLE CANNOT HELP BUT SEE IT.

Of course I'm right! So what you need is a blanket like this to soak up those fears and frustrations!"

It has been said that Mother Teresa had horribly (or should I say beautifully) distorted feet. The reason her feet were so distorted is because she would look through the donations of shoes received and pick out the worst pair. She would then wear those and give the better ones to the people she served. Doing this continually over the years destroyed the shape of her feet. "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7).

The theme for National Youth Conference this summer is "More than Meets the Eye." This theme comes from 2 Corinthians 4:6-10, 16-18. In *The Message* version, verse 7

reads, "If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us."

If someone had found my blanket without knowing the context, they would probably see it as an insignificant rag instead of a beloved memento from my childhood. If someone did not know all that Mother Teresa had done to show God's love by fiercely loving others, then they might well miss the beauty of her feet.

God works through the ordinary so that we know God is extraordinary.

Verse 6 of the theme scripture says, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

Even though we may not look like much on the outside, there is more to us. There is more than meets the eye when we let the light of Jesus shine. Jesus is no longer in bodily form on earth, but Jesus does have a body. Jesus has beautiful hands and feet all over the world that proclaim God's peace and love. If there is pain and hatred in the world, it is not because God is not listening or does not care; it is

because the hands and feet of Jesus are not doing their job. Look at your hands, look at your feet, and see the light of Jesus and all you can accomplish with the power of God, even for one other person.

The theme scripture concludes, "Though out-

wardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." I wonder about all of the money that goes toward hair treatment, cosmetics, and other products that are intended to keep us looking young and vital on the outside. Maybe wrinkles, crow's feet, and hair-loss are just God's way of saying, "I've loved you all your life!"

Love sometimes does not look all that great on the outside. But genuine, Jesus-like love shines, and other people cannot help but see it.

As the familiar hymn declares, "Christians let your light shine all along the way. You may guide a wanderer to eternal day. You may save from endless night if you let your lamp burn bright." 

Audrey Hollenberg, of Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren, is 2010 National Youth Conference co-coordinator.

QUOTE WORTHY

“As a church we need to bring hope to the people.”

—Hieronymos II, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece and Primate of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece, in a meeting with Greece's Prime Minister George Papandreou. Hieronymos, quoted by the state news agency, was expressing the church's willingness to help during Greece's economic crisis and resulting violence. (WCC)

“It is impressive when a community of faith comes together to raise money for something outside of themselves.”

—2010 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference moderator Shawn Flory Replogle, writing in *Giving* magazine

“Ultimately it doesn't matter how many sermons are written, nor how many bulletins and newsletters are printed, nor how many reports are filled out, nor how many statistics we have churned out if we haven't loved God's people.”

—Virgina District executive David Shumate, writing in the district newsletter

“Think about how many of the debates in America today are about who belongs and who doesn't.”

—noted author and lecturer Martin E. Marty, speaking at the 2010 Presidential Forum at Bethany Theological Seminary

“There is value in talking to each other and not just talking at or around each other.”

—the Rev. John L. McCullough, executive director and CEO of Church World Service. At the time, he was discussing talks over nuclear plants in North Korea.

“There is no true prophecy that does not speak both the critical truth and contribute to the building up of a vision, a dream of the new life in common.”

—the Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), speaking to the 13th General Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia in Malaysia

“In our present age darkness is not the problem; the darkness is a gift, a condition that demands our waiting in a place where we cannot create light in our own power... We give ourselves and one another permission to dare not to know, to wait within the darkness, to listen.”

—Paul Grout, director of the “A Place Apart” project in Putney, Vt.

CULTUREVIEW

• Observances around the country marked the **40th anniversary of Earth Day** on April 22, including many in faith-based contexts. A National Council of Churches (NCC) feature highlighting some of these events included a mention of Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren's worship service that included hymns related to environmental stewardship.

• The second annual **International Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peace** is meeting June 11-13 in Dearborn, Mich.

• A study guide titled “Telling the Truth About Ourselves and Our World” has been published by the World Council of Churches (WCC) in anticipation of next year's International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Jamaica, which will culminate the **Decade to Overcome Violence**. The guide can be found at www.overcomingviolence.org.

• **“A Benchmark Report Card for Sudan,”** issued in early May by six human rights

and Sudan advocacy groups, found “no significant progress” in the peace processes for Darfur and southern Sudan. The report is at www.enoughproject.org/publications.

• June has been billed **“Torture Awareness Month,”** with numerous resources available from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Details are at www.nrcat.org.

• The **National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund** held a lobby day April 23 in Washington, D.C. It focused on supporting the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill (HR 2085).

• The major **Edinburgh 2010 Conference** was scheduled June 2-5 in Edinburgh, Scotland, to mark the 100th anniversary of the World Missionary Conference and to explore new perspectives on mission for the 21st century. It was to conclude with a celebratory service at the General Assembly Hall of the Church of Scotland.



JUST FOR FUN: SCRAMBLE

THE KEYSTONE STATE Annual Conference takes place in Pittsburgh, Pa., July 3-7 this year. Below, unscramble the names of these 12 other Pennsylvania cities—many of which have Church of the Brethren congregations in them or nearby (answers printed below):

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| SCAREANTL | MALLWISPRIOT |
| NOTAOLA | CORNNATS |
| BUSIOD | ROSESTEM |
| HEALPLAIDHIP | BRAGHISURR |
| TASTE LOGCLEE | SHOWTOJNN |
| TYGETSGRUB | GRAINED |

ANSWERS: Lancaster, Altoona, Dubois, Philadelphia, State College, Gettysburg, Williamsport, Scranton, Somerset, Harrisburg, Johnstown, Reading.



Ken Wenger

Embracing God's call

Profile of AC moderator Shawn Flory Replogle

by Karen Doss Bowman

As our society becomes increasingly materialistic, individualistic, and violent, Shawn Flory Replogle believes the witness of the Church of the Brethren is more important than ever. For 300 years, says the 2010 Annual Conference moderator, the Brethren have practiced the "antidote" for these problems, and the Church of the Brethren has been a denomination that strives to align itself closely with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

"We were made for this culture and time in history," says Flory Replogle, 40, the pastor and youth coordinator of the First Church of the Brethren in McPherson, Kan. "The historic way in which we have lived out our understanding of Jesus has included a nonviolent way of interacting with the world and each other; it's included a lifestyle that is simplistic and frugal; and it has emphasized relationships within the community of faith."

Even so, he points out, the Church of the Brethren has moved away from its roots, which called for the passionate and radical pursuit of Jesus' teachings recorded in the New Testament. When he takes the gavel at the July 3-7 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa., this summer, he will call on the Brethren to rediscover the denomination's core value, or guid-

ing principle, which he describes as "Taking Jesus Seriously"—the theme he also chose for the conference.

"I've sensed Shawn's passion for helping the church become what God created us to be and to be serious about living out Jesus' message—rather than just getting caught in the mechanics of keeping a church going," says Annual Conference director Chris Douglas, who worked with Flory Replogle two decades ago when he was coordinator of youth work camps and the 1994 National Youth Conference. "Shawn is really earnest about his own spiritual life, and he wants the church to also be more focused on its spiritual center."

A life centered in the church

Born in North Manchester, Ind., to Jim and Becky Replogle, Flory Replogle's life has been very much centered in the Church of the Brethren. During much of his childhood, the Replogle family, which also included a sister Heather, lived in the Midwest—including Berea, Ky., and Elgin, Ill., where his father was manager of Brethren Press and later, director of the Brethren Foundation. Flory Replogle was baptized at the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin.

*Anointing of the moderator
and moderator-elect at the
2009 Annual Conference in
San Diego, Calif.*



Glenn Riegel

The Replogles moved to Bridgewater, Va., in 1984, where they became members of Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Flory Replogle, who attended Turner Ashby High School at the time, began taking on more prominent leadership roles both in his congregation and at the district level.

The first seeds for Flory Replogle's calling to ministry were planted during these years. Flory Replogle preached his first sermon at Bridgewater when he was 15 years old—"I'm sure it was horrible," he says, laughing at the memory. Flory Replogle also recalls that an older gentleman in the congregation said to him, "You ought to consider what it means to be a part of ministry." Though he never knew who the man was, the memory is still vivid.

Even so, Flory Replogle had no plans to pursue a career in the ministry. The grandson of two Brethren pastors—the late Rev. Jacob Replogle, who died in 1984, and the Rev. Ramon Eller, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday—Flory Replogle never aspired to follow in their footsteps. He thought he would never be able to measure up to their accomplishments.

"As I observed them, I knew I couldn't be as perfect," Flory Replogle recalls. "Now, with age, I know they weren't exactly perfect, but as a kid, I thought there was no way I could do that. I didn't want to do that."

After graduating in 1992 from Bridgewater College with a degree in political science, Flory Replogle joined Brethren Volunteer Service as the coordinator for youth work camps and the 1994 National Youth Conference (NYC). While planning NYC was a challenging, fun, and high-profile post, Flory Replogle says he experienced more spiritual growth during his year coordinating work camps.

"The reality is that work camps were much more relational," he says. "I got to spend time with the youth who came to work sites. You could see the fruit of your labors in terms of the work that got done."

When Flory Replogle enrolled at Bethany Theological Seminary in the fall of 1994, he considered it just "a landing place" after NYC to give him time to think about what he wanted to do next. He insisted to friends and family that he was not going to become a pastor.

"The plan was to go and become a more highly educated church bureaucrat," Flory Replogle says, with a hint of humor and sarcasm. "I thought I'd like to organize things—I could see myself organizing something like Annual Conference in the future. So, I'd go get a theological background so I could be a greater sense of what's going on in the pews."

After completing the one-year certificate of achievement in theological studies program, Flory Replogle wasn't sure what to do next. So he decided, "I might as well get a degree

out of this," and enrolled in the seminary's master of divinity program. Still, he insisted that the only reason he was enrolled in seminary was "to learn about what's going on in the pews and to be in tune so I'm not out of touch."

It wasn't until he was completing his second internship at the Linville Creek congregation in Broadway, Va., that Flory Replogle began to accept God's call. Through a conversation with retired Bridgewater College professor David Metzler—who spoke "glowingly" of his time as a pastor early in his career—Flory Replogle realized that God's call to ministry could take many forms over his lifetime.

"[Before talking to Dr. Metzler], I had this image of pas-

"How do you stay true and celebrate what has been and not give up on it, and at the same time give birth to what's coming next?"

toral ministry as being something like a lifetime sentence—that once you got into it, you could never get out, which is a fairly immature perspective on God and ministry," Flory Replogle says. "That opened me up to say that God's bigger than any sort of profession I might ever get into. It was out of that conversation I thought that maybe God was pushing me in that direction [of ministry] all along, and I needed to explore it."

A partner in ministry

Though Flory Replogle developed many meaningful relationships during his year as coordinator of youth work camps, a special friendship that grew out of that experience changed his life. During a work camp in Denver, Colo., in 1993, Flory Replogle met and became friends with Alison Flory, a youth from McPherson, Kan. The two remained friends for the next four years, but began dating when they met again at the 1997 Annual Conference in Long Beach, Calif. In October 1998—several months after Alison's graduation from Bridgewater College and Flory Replogle's graduation from Bethany

An outdoor love feast at McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren where Shawn Flory Replogle is pastor



Beverly Bo Martin

Theological Seminary—they were married.

The couple moved to Waterloo, Iowa, where Flory Replogle was called to serve as pastor at the South Waterloo Church of the Brethren. At the same time, Alison, who aspired to become an elementary school counselor, began pursuing a master's degree. Her academic program required about two years of work in a school counseling office, but the couple's son, Adin, was born in the midst of that. To allow her to work full time on the certification requirements, Flory Replogle resigned from his position, which he held for five years, to stay home and care for their son.

For Douglas, who has enjoyed the special privilege of watching Flory Replogle mature and grow from a teenager into a loving father and husband, that willingness to put his family's needs ahead of personal achievements is impressive.

"Shawn has been exceptionally unselfish and supportive of Alison's career," Douglas says.

"One of the things I admire about Shawn is how he puts his family first. As I watch that, I have deepest respect for the way he has included his family in some of his moderator travels. It's a new model for the church, and a healthy one."

Shortly after Alison earned her master's degree, Flory Replogle got the call to ministry at McPherson First Church of the Brethren—Alison's home congregation. In addition to Adin, who is now 8, the couple has another son, Caleb, 6, and a daughter, Tessa, 3. Alison works as a part-time elementary school counselor. For several years, Flory Replogle—an avid soccer player—has helped coach Adin's soccer team, though he has taken a hiatus this year to devote time to his moderator responsibilities.

"I love teaching soccer to kids who want to play it as a *game*," says Flory Replogle, who along with his friend, the Rev. Jeff Carter of the Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren, started Bridgewater College's intercollegiate soccer team when both were students there. "It's fun to try to teach at an age-appropriate level. When I do that, sometimes I feel like I'm teaching parents from afar more than I am the kids. I've had to remind parents that this isn't the World Cup."

Facing the church's challenges

As he prepares to fill the moderator role at Annual Conference this summer, Flory Replogle acknowledges that the denomination faces a number of challenges—many of which are common for the church in general. The "vast gap in generational differences" is an important issue facing the

AC 2010 BUSINESS

ON THE AGENDA

The 2010 Annual Conference will address two items of unfinished business and five items of new business when it convenes July 3-7 in Pittsburgh, Pa. The items of unfinished business include: "**A Statement of Confession and Commitment**," and "**Query: Language on Same-sex Covenantal Relationships**."

At last year's conference in San Diego, the delegate body approved a motion that the "**Statement of Confession and Commitment**" from the 2008 Standing Committee be approved as a Special Response Statement, using the procedure for dealing with strongly controversial issues.

The item will be carried on successive Conference agendas as unfinished until the special issues response is completed. Regarding "**Query: Language on Same-sex Covenantal Relationships**," the delegates in San Diego approved a motion that the concern of the query be accepted, and that the intent be combined with the "Statement of Confession and Commitment" in the strongly controversial issues process. Therefore, it too will be carried on successive Conference agendas as unfinished until the special issues response is completed.

Items of new business include: "**Appeals of Program and Arrangements Committee**

Decisions." Regarding this item, the Leadership Team, following up on recommendations from the Implementation Committee on restructuring, 2008, is sending the following polity statement to the 2010 Annual Conference: "Resolved: Standing Committee, which according to polity is the judicatory body of the denomination, shall be the body to which appeals of the policies and decisions of the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee are submitted."

A "**Resolution Against Torture**," adopted by the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board at its October 2009 meeting in Elgin, Ill., is being recommended for adoption by the 2010 Annual

church. With the modern church largely structured by generation, he explains—Sunday school classes, for example, are typically divided by age groups, and older and younger church members often have extremely different musical tastes—that gap is becoming more difficult to bridge.

“How do you stay true and celebrate what has been and not give up on it, and at the same time give birth to what’s coming next?” asks Flory Replogle, a self-described perfectionist who says he’s had to learn to graciously accept kind offers of support from others. “As a leader, you’ve got to help people figure out what the vision for the future is, and then help them go there. At a time when things are changing so fast, and it’s hard to nail down what that vision is, how does a leader call people to come forward—but you don’t know what you’re calling them to?”

But Flory Replogle, whom Carter describes as organized and detail-oriented, is the right kind of leader to help guide church delegates and other conference participants through sensitive issues.

“Shawn is deeply steeped in the Church of the Brethren, so he has a real firm handle on the denomination,” Carter says. “He’s been involved in so many leadership roles from his youth through adulthood, so I think he has a good perspective on denominational life and congregational life—the two aren’t always the same. He’s not stuck on old models, so he brings a certain openness.”

Because Annual Conference is the place where “everybody in the church is welcome to the table,” Flory Replogle hopes he and the planning committee can make it an experience that is

“full of opportunities for as wide a group of people as possible.” He plans to do that in subtle ways, such as making business sessions as spiritual as possible, connecting worship themes from night to night, and planning a Sunday full of intergenerational activities. He also hopes to offer live streaming of worship services over the Internet, allowing Brethren who cannot attend to participate in the experience. And the former National Youth Conference coordinator plans to acknowledge NYC—which takes place just 10 days after Annual Conference—through a blessing and commissioning service during the closing worship service, creating a “symbolic journey from the last worship at Annual Conference to the first worship at NYC.”

These are just small changes, he says, but he hopes other leaders who follow him can build on their success in the future.

“I’m no revolutionary,” Flory Replogle says. “I think, for some folks, my call to the role of moderator, because of my age, assumes a certain amount of ‘revolution’ in the way I do things. But I have tried to work at a few things that I think could have some lasting impact, especially as more people my age fill this role. I’ll have started a few things on a small scale, which will allow others to keep opening those doors wider in the future.... Positive change usually happens with small, barely remarkable choices somewhere.” ❏

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



Shawn Flory Replogle speaking at the 2009 Annual Conference in San Diego, Calif.

Conference. Taking into consideration the struggles the Church of the Brethren has faced throughout its history as it has spoken out against war and violence, the resolution acknowledges our current collective silence and inaction in the face of increasing evidence of state-sanctioned torture, and calls for confession and action against such acts of torture.

The “**Church of the Brethren Bylaws Revisions**” focuses on modifications to the bylaws of the Church of the Brethren, Inc., deemed necessary to clarify and adjust certain phrases and passages in order to more accurately define the functions of the denomination.

“**Query: The Structure of Annual**

Conference,” was submitted to Annual Conference from the Southern Ohio District. Their concern is that Annual Conference has strayed in recent years from its original purpose of being a visionary and motivational gathering of the spiritual community. They are asking the delegate body to consider ways to restructure Annual Conference so that it might more effectively fulfill its mission to unite, strengthen, and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus.

The Western Pennsylvania District, seeking guidance in matters of congregational ethics, has submitted: “**Query: Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper.**” District

leaders cite specific guidelines for dealing with ministerial behavior in the Ethics in Ministry Relations 2008 paper, but say no similar course of action is outlined in the Ethics for Congregations paper, which only suggests that “the district should be prepared to respond at any time it receives an allegation that a congregation has engaged in questionable ethical activity.” The representatives from Western Pennsylvania ask, “Would it not be helpful and contribute toward the unity of the Body if Annual Conference developed a uniform denominational process by which districts might deal with a congregation that engages in questionable ethical activity?”



Shawn Flory Replogle



Marlys Hershberger



Earle Fike, Jr.



Nancy Fitzgerald



Jonathan Shively

Annual Conference 2010

Where: Pittsburgh, Pa., (population, metropolitan area: 2,354,957), David L. Lawrence Convention Center

When: July 3-7, 2010, with some related events beginning June 29

Theme: "Taking Jesus Seriously" (based on John 14:15)

Fees: Delegates, \$275, advanced; \$300 on site; non-delegates, \$95, advanced; \$120 on site. For young adults ages 12-21, \$30, advanced; \$50 on site. Children under age 12 are free. Special rates are available for weekend only, Sunday only, and daily participants, and for current Brethren Volunteer Service workers.

Conference site: The David L. Lawrence Convention Center is the first "green" convention center certified with a Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating by the U.S. Green Building Council. It was designed to conserve energy and natural resources. This new Center was built on the site of the old one. Ninety-five percent of the original Center was recycled by crushing it into useful fill material.

Minimal exterior lighting reduces the use of light pollution, and the use of exterior reflective materials allows for capturing existing light. To reduce energy for lighting, the Center was designed with extensive use of glass, allowing natural daylight to fill interior spaces. A natural ventilation system, enhanced by the sweeping roof, allows fresh air from over the Allegheny River to enter the halls. Internal and meeting room areas of the building are controlled by individual lighting and temperature gauges.

A gray water reclamation system recycles waste water for use in toilets. The Center's landscaping is indigenous to Western Pennsylvania, which eliminates the need for irrigation, and depends completely on natural rainfall. And an aquifer, located 50 feet beneath the complex, provides water for the refrigeration system's cooling towers, reducing the demand on the city's water supply.

"Speak Truth," a drama to be presented by McPherson College students, will be one of the entertainment options at Annual Conference.



*taking
Jesus
seriously*
- John 14:15

Unique facts about Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh has 445 bridges, more than any other city in the world except Venice, Italy. The first commercial radio signal was transmitted on Nov. 2, 1920, from atop the Westinghouse Building in East Pittsburgh, signifying the birth of station KDKA, which continues to transmit a signal today. In 1965, Pittsburgh native Jim DeLegatti sold the first Big Mac in his Uniontown McDonalds store. Visit the birth of the famous sandwich at the Big Mac Museum right outside Pittsburgh. Jonas Salk developed the first

injectable polio vaccine at the University of Pittsburgh in 1952. After tests in Pittsburgh elementary schools and the Francis Field Trial, the vaccine was deemed safe and effective. Polio cases dropped 90 percent in the first two years of its use. The Lewis and Clark expedition launched on Aug. 31, 1803, from near what is now the Mon Wharf and Liberty Bridge in Pittsburgh. And the Ice Capades, founded by John H. Harris, gave its first performance in Pittsburgh in 1940.

Worship: Services will be held Saturday evening, Sunday morning, Monday and Tuesday evenings, and Wednesday morning. Speakers, in order, are: Shawn Flory Replogle, moderator; Marlys Hershberger, pastor of the Hollidaysburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; Earle Fike, Jr., retired pastor, author, and former General Board executive; Nancy Fitzgerald, pastor of the Arlington (Va.) Church of the Brethren; and Jonathan Shively, executive director of Congregational Life Ministries for the Church of the Brethren.

For more information: Visit www.brethren.org/ac.



Dealing with controversy

In 2009, delegates to the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference meeting in San Diego, Calif., approved submitting two items of business to the revised and recently passed "Structural Framework for Dealing with Strongly Controversial Issues." The framework outlines a practice "by which issues judged to be controversial can be processed so as to both address the concern and build the community (Structural Framework paper)." The two business items included "A Statement of Confession and Commitment" produced by the 2008 Standing Committee and affirmed by the 2009 Standing Committee, and a "Query: Language on Same Sex Covenantal Relationships." As part of the "Structural Framework for Dealing with Strongly Controversial Issues,"

Annual Conference delegates selected a resource committee to design biblical and theological study resources and assemble a bibliography of available resources for future study. At present, the Special Response Resource Committee has completed their work: a series of eight lessons and an annotated bibliography. These are available online at www.cobannualconference.org/special_response_resource.html, or by request from the Annual Conference office.

Briefly stated, the process was initiated at the San Diego Annual Conference by sending two issues of business into the special response process and naming a resource committee of five people. The resource committee developed a study guide which was made available April 1. At the 2010 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Standing Committee will host two hearings. The first hearing will demonstrate using one of the Bible study resources and inviting questions and feedback. The second hearing is a facilitated discussion using the *Framework for Conversation*, a discussion guide that will be used in every district by Standing Committee members and available to small groups for use and reflection.

In addition to the two hearings hosted by Standing Committee, the Resource Committee will lead an insight session reviewing the annotated bibliography and outlining additional resources. Standing Committee will report to the Annual

Conference delegates additional updates. Between the 2010 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh and the 2011 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Standing Committee members will host hearings within their own districts and report their findings back to Standing Committee. Standing Committee will then use this information to make recommendations to the 2011 Annual Conference about specific courses of action on each of the business items included in the Special Response. In Grand Rapids, the delegate body will receive the recommendations

five individual Bible studies, and an annotated bibliography including resources from the Church of the Brethren, other denominations, resources focused on process, the LGBT experience, and scripture and theology. In addition, the committee suggests a full reading of the 1983 Annual Conference paper on "Human Sexuality from a Biblical Perspective," the 1979 Annual Conference paper on "Biblical Inspiration and Authority," and the 2008 "Resolution Urging Forbearance."

The committee concluded its work at the

THE FRAMEWORK OUTLINES A PRACTICE "BY WHICH ISSUES JUDGED TO BE CONTROVERSIAL CAN BE PROCESSED SO AS TO BOTH ADDRESS THE CONCERN AND BUILD THE COMMUNITY"

of Standing Committee, share appreciation and concerns for the process, and enter into a time of open-floor dialogue, seeking the mind of Christ and the voice of the church.

In preparation for hearings at Annual Conference, district conferences, and other large Brethren gatherings, the Resource Committee was tasked to develop materials and discussion guides to include the biblical and theological aspects of the *Statement* and *Query* as well as a bibliography of available resources for further study. The committee was chaired by John Wenger and included Carol Wise, Karen Long Garrett, Jim Myer, Marie Rhoades, and Jeff Carter as a liaison from Standing Committee.

Meeting numerous times in person and often via conference calls and e-mail, the committee struggled with the selection of biblical passages, finally selecting passages emphasizing the unity of the church in times of tension, a passage speaking directly of homosexuality, and passages named in the 1983 Annual Conference statement, "Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective." In addition to the five Bible studies, the resource includes an opening lesson outlining the covenant process for the studies and concludes with two lessons specifically focused on "A Statement of Confession and Commitment" and the query "Language on Same Sex Covenantal Relationships."

Included in the resources are additional Bible passages which add greater depth to

end of March and the study materials became available on April 1. The special response resource is intended for use by any small group, including Sunday school classes, cell groups, deacons, church boards, or any other venues seeking to foster dialogue and understanding.

Shawn Flory Replogle and Robert Alley give wise counsel in the foreword to the special response resources when they write, "Participation in this study—along with the hearings at the 2010 Annual Conference and in our districts related to the statement and query—will help Standing Committee and Annual Conference delegates respond to these business items at our 2011 Annual Conference. However, the benefits of using this study guide reach beyond the immediate business of Annual Conference. Our study will help cultivate an atmosphere of respect and understanding for whatever controversial issues we face.... As moderator and moderator-elect, we commend these resources to our congregations and members for the building up of the Church of the Brethren in the coming years. May God the Holy Spirit use them effectively as we desire to take Jesus seriously." ❧

Jeff Carter is senior pastor and head of staff at the Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren. He also serves on the Church of the Brethren Standing Committee of the Annual Conference, and is the Church of the Brethren representative to the World Council of Churches.

Annual Conference 101 years ago

by Robert E. Alley

They came to Harrisonburg, Va., by the thousands. Estimates range from 15,000 to 30,000. Historian John W.

Wayland called it "the largest assembly ever in the county." From May 26 to June 3, 1909, members and friends of the Church of the Brethren gathered in Assembly Park just north of Harrisonburg for their Annual Meeting. It was the first time for the church to assemble under the name Church of the Brethren. That name was adopted one year earlier, replacing German Baptist Brethren and use of the popular title Dunkers. The name change accentuated other changes happening in the church.

Twenty years earlier, in June 1889, the Dunker Annual Meeting assembled on the south side of Harrisonburg along Warsaw Avenue, where James Madison University is constructing new facilities today. John W. Wayland in his book, *Historic Harrisonburg*, describes his experience at this conference when he was a boy: "I came up from Shenandoah County to attend the annual meeting (general conference) of the Tunker (now Church of the Brethren) churches of the United States, in session here for several days.... Tents and temporary buildings were put up on the grounds, and the railway trains stopped alongside. My recollections of the day are mostly rather hazy, but I do recall that we went into the large improvised dining room and got all we could eat for 25 cents."

By 1909, Harrisonburg's population numbered around 5,000. One year before the Brethren assembled, a State Teachers College (now James Madison University) was established; a new front was built

on the city's municipal facility; Nielson Construction Company began; and Valley National Bank on Court Square opened. About this time, the Big Spring on Court Square was covered over; a new Presbyterian church had been constructed on the Square in 1907, and three years after the Annual Meeting, Rockingham Memorial Hospital opened its doors.

The Brethren were not the first to gather in Assembly Park. Constructed under the vision of A. P. Funkhouser, founder of Shenandoah College in Dayton, Va., the tabernacle and grounds hosted numerous temperance rallies, religious conferences, Chautauqua's, agricultural fairs, and more. However, the Brethren meeting exceeded the attendance of all those before it. Headlines in the May 31 issue of *Harrisonburg Daily News* testify: "Great Crowds for Annual Meeting; Visitors by Special Trains from Many States; Attendance Fully 25,000; Assembly Park Thronged as Never Before—Railroads Taxed to Limit—Water Supply Runs Low." The article that follows reads: "There was the largest number of strangers...of Rockingham people and residents of adjacent counties in the Valley that Harrisonburg had ever seen. The number scarcely fell below 25,000. It might easily have reached 30,000.

On Sunday, the dining hall, which served only 900 at a sitting, hosted 3,000 in rotating shifts. Others shared picnics or used the services of special lunch counters. The park cafeteria provided a buffet luncheon. Ten quarters of beef had been prepared for the Sunday noon dinner. By evening, attendees had consumed 13 of the 20 head of prime beef provided for the conference. Then as now, ice cream

Courtesy of Brethren Historical Library and Archives



Courtesy of Brethren Historical Library and Archives

was an important feature. Nearly 200 gallons were prepared on Saturday night and quickly consumed on Sunday. Additional ice cream was provided in 50-gallon intervals on Sunday afternoon.

Water pipes had been laid to the Assembly grounds from the city's mains with nine different locations for distribution. These proved inadequate, and early on Sunday additional water was hauled from the city's fire plugs. Iced lemonade and other cold drinks supplemented the need for drinking water.

Assembly Park had been prepared for the Annual Meeting. The tabernacle was enlarged and provided a platform to hold about 500 people, while the main floor was estimated to accommodate 7,000. Carloads of lumber were used to construct about 12 temporary buildings to provide for lodging, restaurants, lunch counters, a dining hall, Brethren Publishing House, and other conference necessities. Visitors lodged in the Park Hotel, in tents, homes, and barns, as well as in other public facilities in Harrisonburg and at the Park. Local Brethren elder H. C. Early chaired the Committee on Arrangements. In a July *Gospel Messenger* article, he questioned the present plan for holding Annual Meeting and encouraged consideration of holding the Conference in larger cities where boarding could be secured at hotels and restaurants. His comments were visionary for his time but have become routine in the memory of Annual Conference for most Brethren today.

Like today, the 1909 event was filled with meetings, Bible studies, sermons, singing, and church business. Officially, the Annual Meeting opened on Wednesday night, May 26, with a Bible presentation by A. C. Wieand. In the following days, special meetings highlighted ministries important to the Brethren: meetings on temperance, Sunday school, publica-



Souvenir postcards showing the site of Assembly Park and the Church of the Brethren in Harrisonburg.



tions like *Gospel Messenger*, Christian Workers Society, church work with orphanages, and more.

On Friday morning, women in the church were permitted to hold a service using the speaker's platform to promote the work of the Sisters' Aid Society. Mrs. P. S. Thomas, wife of the pastor of

Courtesy of Brethren Historical Library and Archives



High tide during the forenoon had been reached by 11 o'clock, and at that hour the attendance certainly exceeded 20,000. Many figured it as high as 25,000.

First Church of the Brethren in Harrisonburg, presided. Other women also spoke as part of the special session. Elder H. C. Early, a former moderator and highly respected leader of the Brethren, called attention to the novel nature of the women's session. Never before had such a meeting been held using the platform of an Annual Meeting. (The 1885 Conference gave women the privilege of using the platform, but that privilege had later been removed.)

Pentecost Sunday, May 30, marked the pinnacle of the Conference. Sunday school at 8:30 was followed by three preaching services at 11, 2:30, and 7:30. Elders J. W. Lear from Illinois, L. A. Buckwalter from Dayton, Ohio, and W. J. Swigart of Huntingdon, Pa., provided the respective sermons. Professor Roller from Bridgewater College led singing throughout the day. Many Brethren ministers were invited to preach in local churches. A. C. Wieand, from Bethany Bible School in Chicago, spoke at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening.

Harrisonburg Daily News on May 31 described the day: "Yesterday [Sunday] morning, as early as 6 o'clock, vehicles by the score passed through Harrisonburg carrying the first contingent of Rockingham people to the Park. Long before 9 o'clock all the main thoroughfares leading into

town were thronged. Hundreds of vehicles, ranged in line as if on public parade, followed each other so closely that a temporary block in the line would often result in not a wheel turning for the space of a quarter of a mile.

"Soon after 10 o'clock the last of the seven local excursion trains had arrived over the three roads entering the town. These were over the B. & O. from Lexington, the Southern from Strasburg and intermediate points, and from all stations east and west on the Chesapeake Western. These trains landed between 4,500 and 5,000 passengers at the Park. The local train service from Harrisonburg added several thousand to this number. [One verbal report to the writer noted that the train from Bridgewater/Dayton to Harrisonburg stalled on the upgrade into Harrisonburg near the present Wal-Mart because of the added passenger cars. Also, a special platform had been constructed along the railroad at Assembly Park, east of present Route 42, to accommodate Conference attendees.]

"Estimates as to the total number of people on the grounds naturally varied, and in view of the fact that there was no gate fee of any sort, all were necessarily largely guesswork. High tide during

the forenoon had been reached by 11 o'clock, and at that hour the attendance certainly exceeded 20,000. Many figured it as high as 25,000. The number was considerably augmented during the afternoon by the people of Harrisonburg and by country people residing nearby who came on the ground only for the afternoon proceedings. The largest attendance of the day had been reached by 3 o'clock. At that hour Assembly Park was filled as it had never been before. From the railroad to the tabernacle, there were simply acres of people."

The main part of the Annual Meeting commenced on Tuesday, June 1, at 8:30 a.m., with Elder D. M. Garver from Ohio as moderator. Business began with a special welcoming speech by General John E. Roller, a respected community leader who commended the Brethren for their principles and contributions to society.

Some 400 delegates from local congregations and 52 Standing Committee delegates from 44 districts engaged in spirited discussion of important issues. One study committee delivered a report on how to serve communion to women in love feast. Should women be permitted to break communion bread and pass the communion cup from woman to woman as did the men, without handing them back and forth to the elder? Guidelines were adopted

continued on page 17

hearers and
doers
of the **WORD**

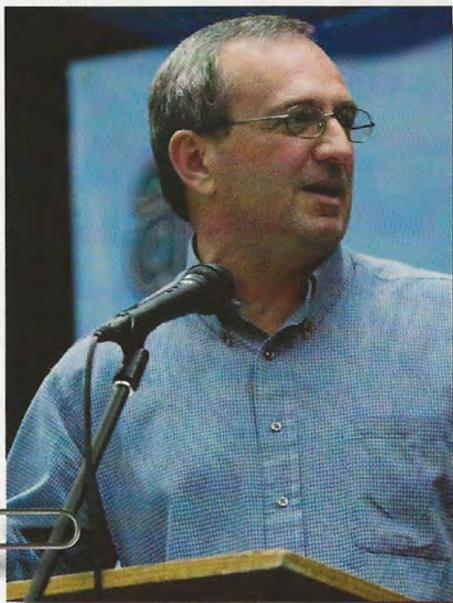
2010 Church of the Brethren Annual Report



Church of the Brethren

hearers and doers

Chris Detrick



- Baptisms in the Dominican Republic and love feast in Nigeria.
- Webinars for church leaders and Sunday school books for children.
- Conferences for junior highs and older adults.
- Harvests in North Korea and Iowa.
- Rebuilding in Haiti and Louisiana.

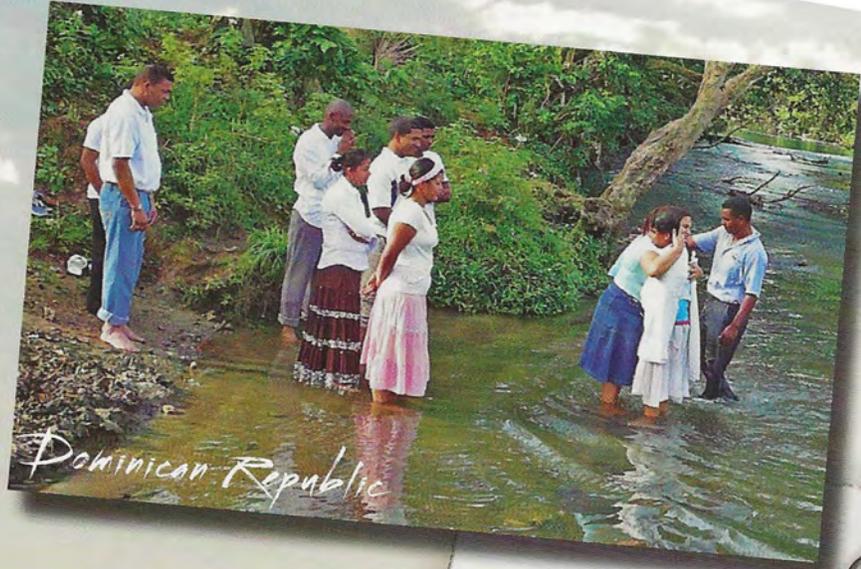
In the pages ahead, look for these and other highlights of the church's journey through 2009. In the midst of a year that was harsh for many people, the Church of the Brethren continued the work of Jesus. Inspired by God, we all have been hearers and doers of the Word.

General Secretary

Background image of Puerto Rico by Meghan Horne

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

Irvin Heistman



Dominican Republic

Core Value:

Servant leadership

Serving the church with both
humility and boldness.

*Follow the Church of the
Brethren on Facebook!*



WWW.BRE...

Kay Guyer



Love your NEIGHBOR

Jeanne Davies



Every year hundreds of youth and young adults learn about Christian service first-hand through a week at a workcamp. In 2009 we offered the first "We Are Able" workcamp for intellectually disabled young people. Yes, we are all able!

Don Knieriem



Brethren Volunteer Service starts an intentional community house in Cincinnati.

Background image of Puerto Rico by Meghan Horne



723

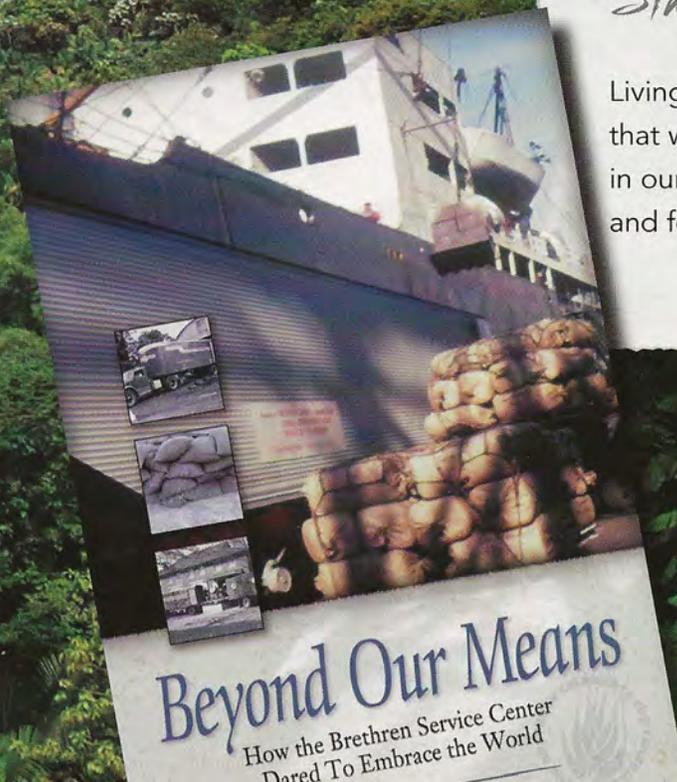
took part in
summer 2009
workcamps.



Core Value:

Simplicity

Living simply so
that we have room
in our lives for God
and for others.

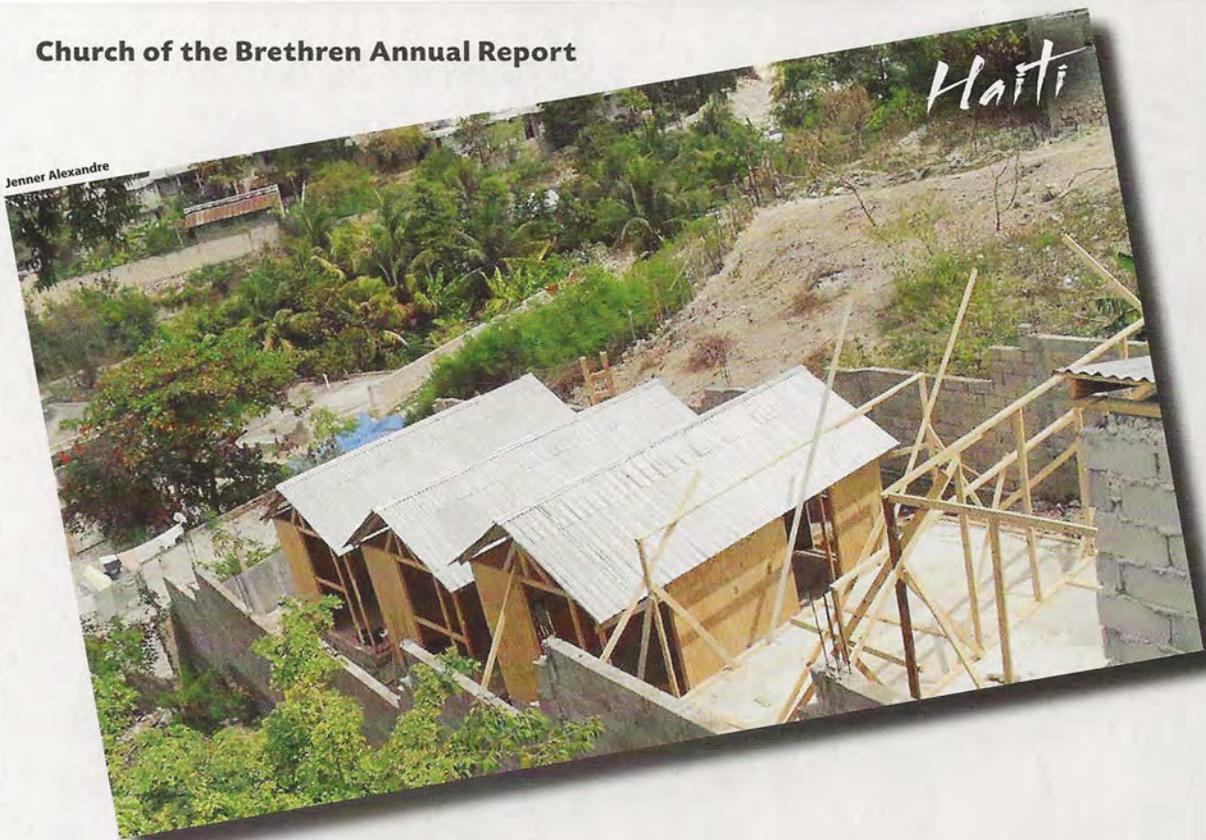


Beyond Our Means

How the Brethren Service Center
Dared To Embrace the World

Haiti

Jenner Alexandre



Go into the WORLD

When a devastating earthquake hit Haiti in January 2010, the Brethren were already there—supporting local church leaders and building homes following the hurricanes of 2008. The homes we built are still standing, and now we're helping also with food and medical care. And continuing to strengthen the church. This is a story still being written.

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



Church leaders in Haiti

Background image of North Korea courtesy of Agglobe



999 tons

tons of clothing, blankets, kits, and medical supplies were sent in 2009 to 42 countries and 32 states.



In North Korea: fighting hunger by boosting agricultural production.

Core Value:
Hospitality

Following Jesus' example of respecting all people and inviting them into his fellowship.



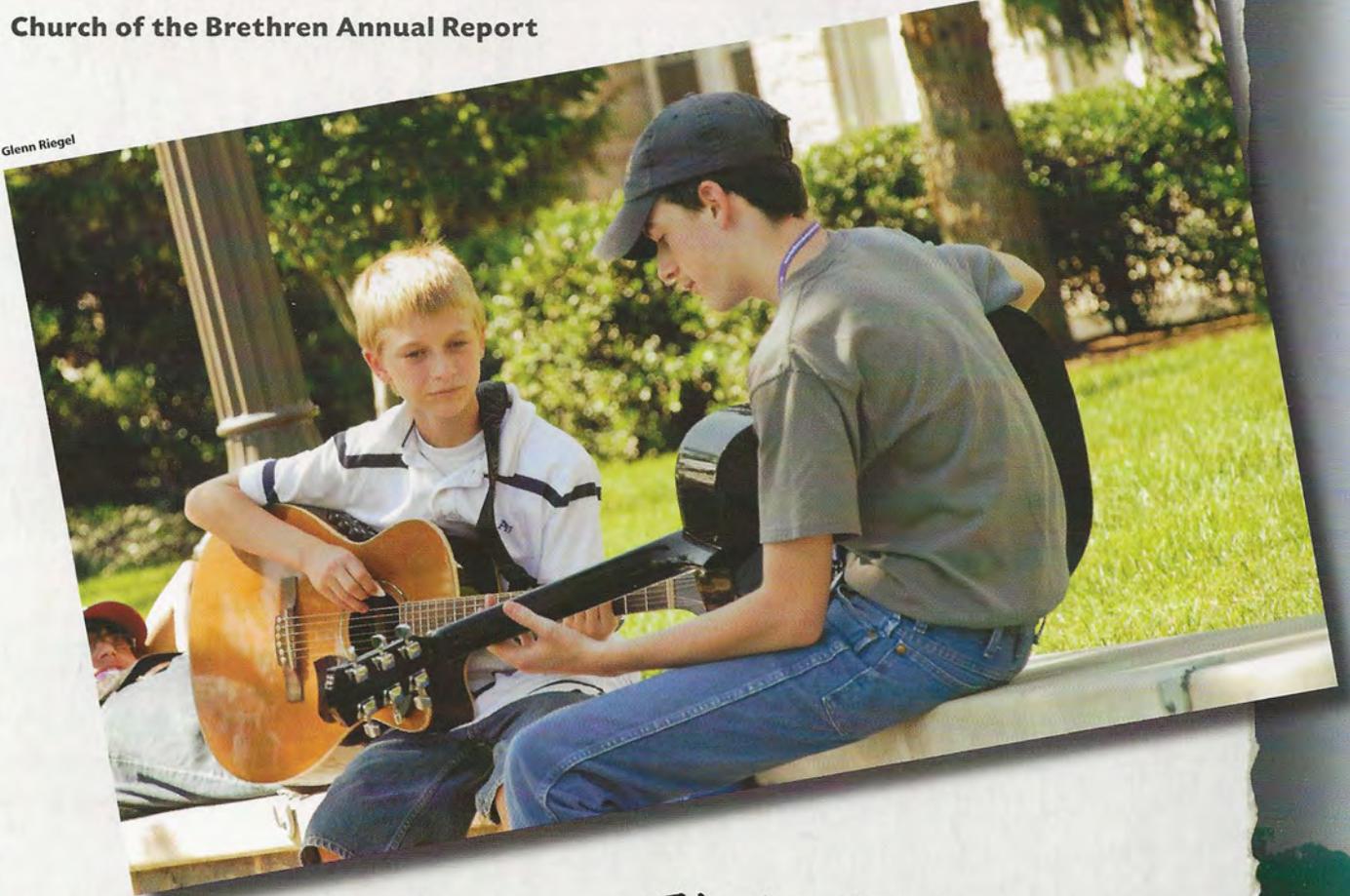
Jay Wittmeyer



The Rural Service Center in Ankleshwar, India.



Glenn Riegel



Grow in FAITH

Junior high kids grew in faith at the National Junior High Conference. They also learned that they could grow money. Rising to a challenge, hundreds took \$10 in seed money and multiplied it for giving away to ministries within the church and beyond.

Glenn Riegel



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



National Older
Adult Conference

Background image of Lake Junaluska, N.C., by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

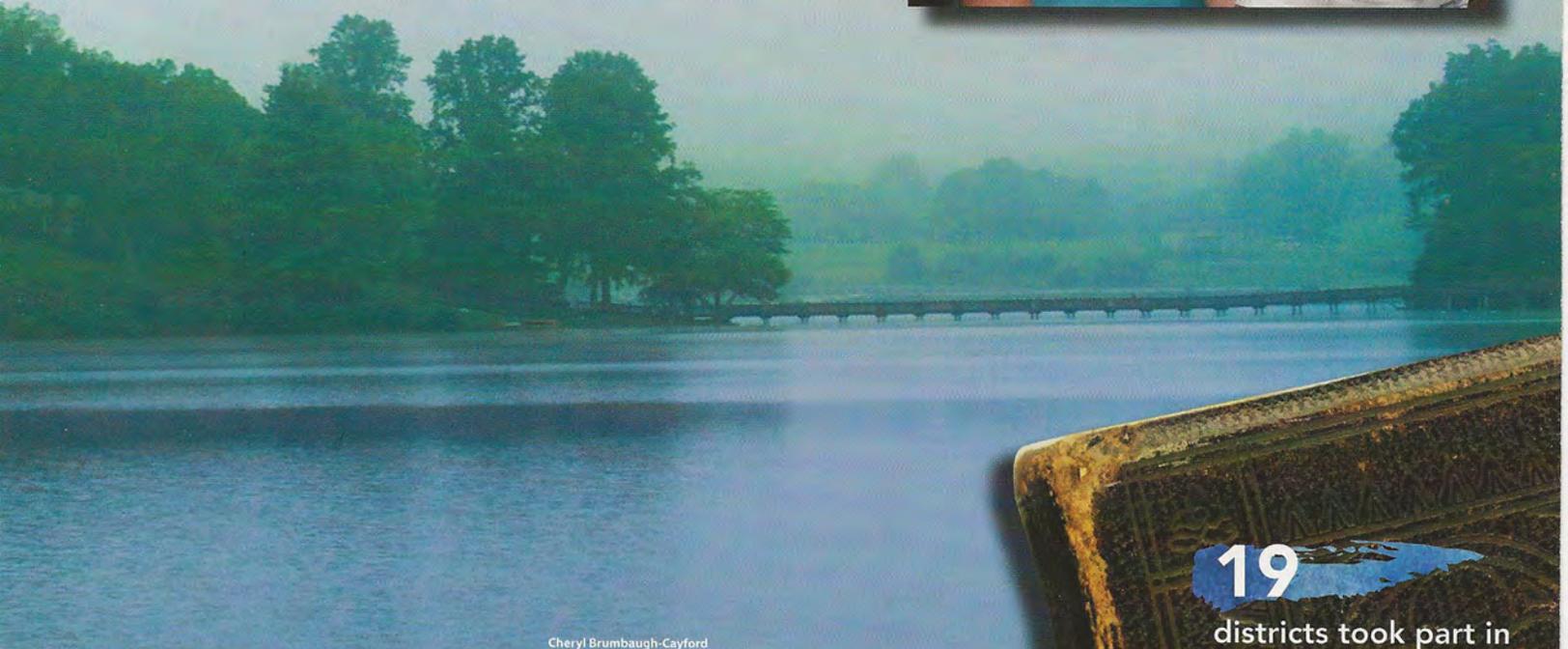
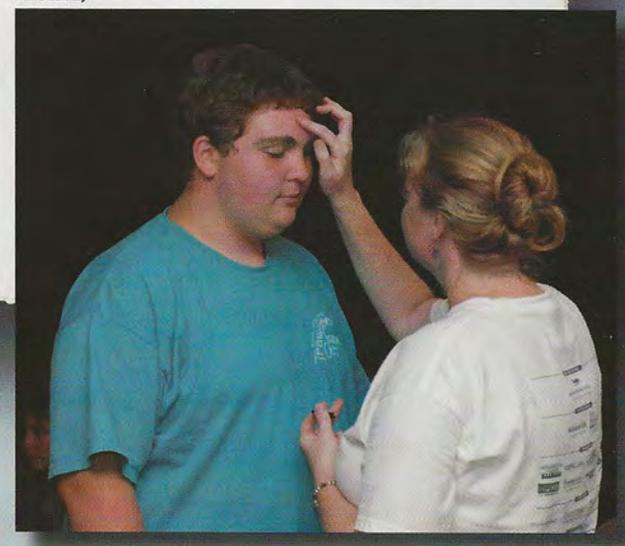


*C*reole and Spanish: New translations for congregations in the Dominican Republic.

Core Value:
Community

Cultivating relationships and building up the body of Christ.

Mike Lantzy



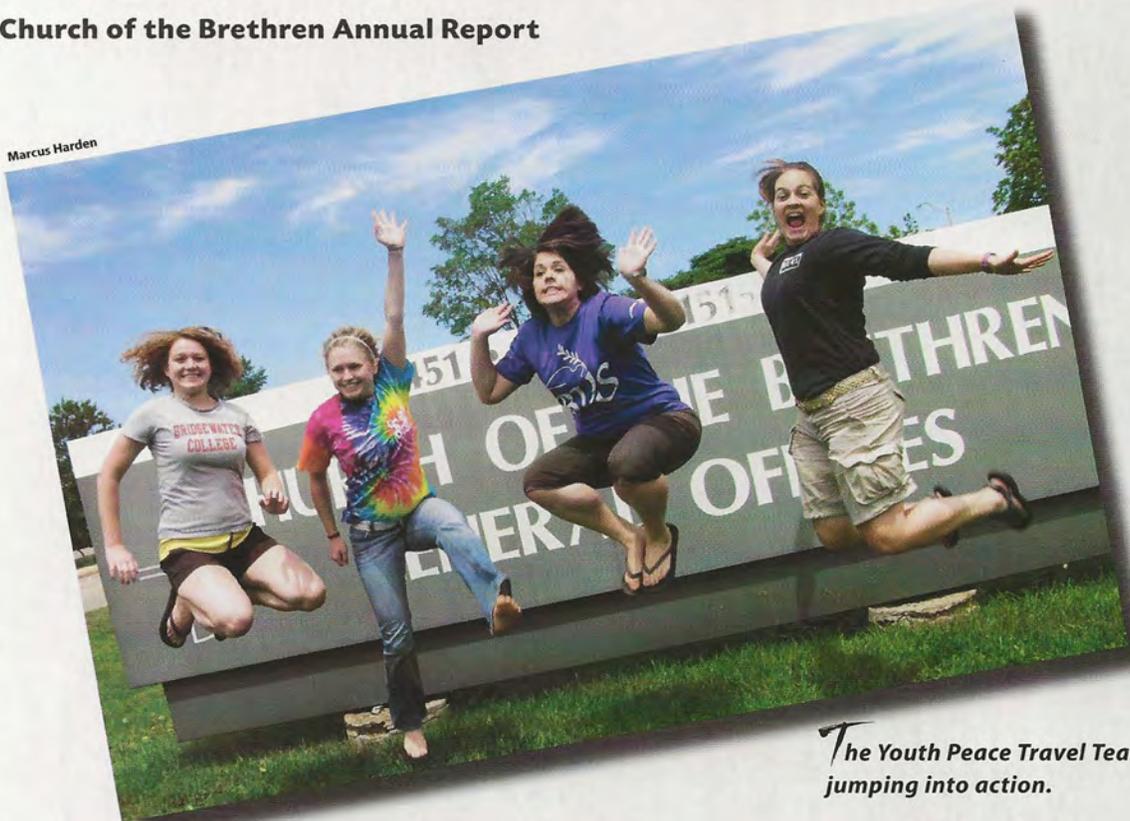
Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



19 districts took part in the Training in Ministry program.

*S*triving toward the vision in Revelation 7:9: "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages."

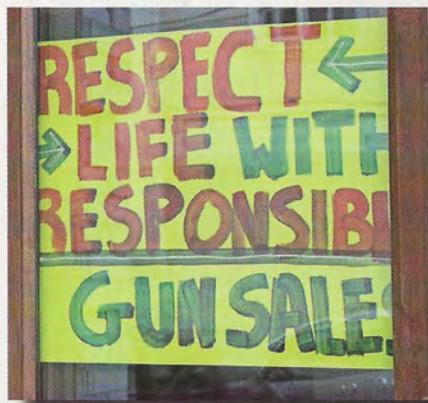
Marcus Harden



The Youth Peace Travel Team jumping into action.

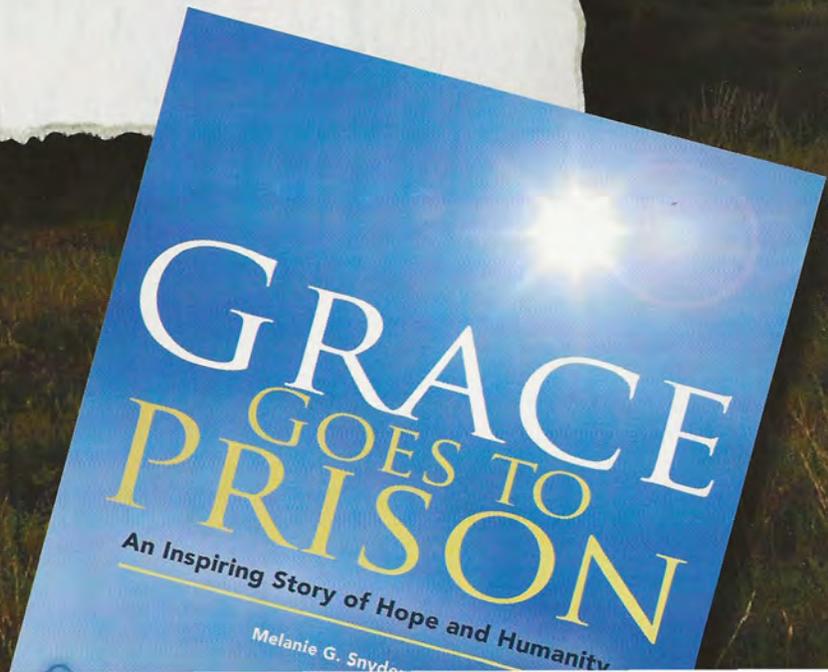
Witness for PEACE

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



When the historic peace churches sponsored a conference, they did plenty of talking about peace. They also took action. Beginning that week and continuing for months, they applied pressure to a notorious gun center that was connected to one-fifth of all the crime guns in the city of Philadelphia. In September, authorities shut down the store.

Background image of Kyle, S.D., by Meghan Horne



Core Value:

Peacemaking

Acting as instruments
of reconciliation and
justice.

Jay Wittmeyer



*Teaching
peacemaking to
seminarians at
Kulp Bible College
in Nigeria.*



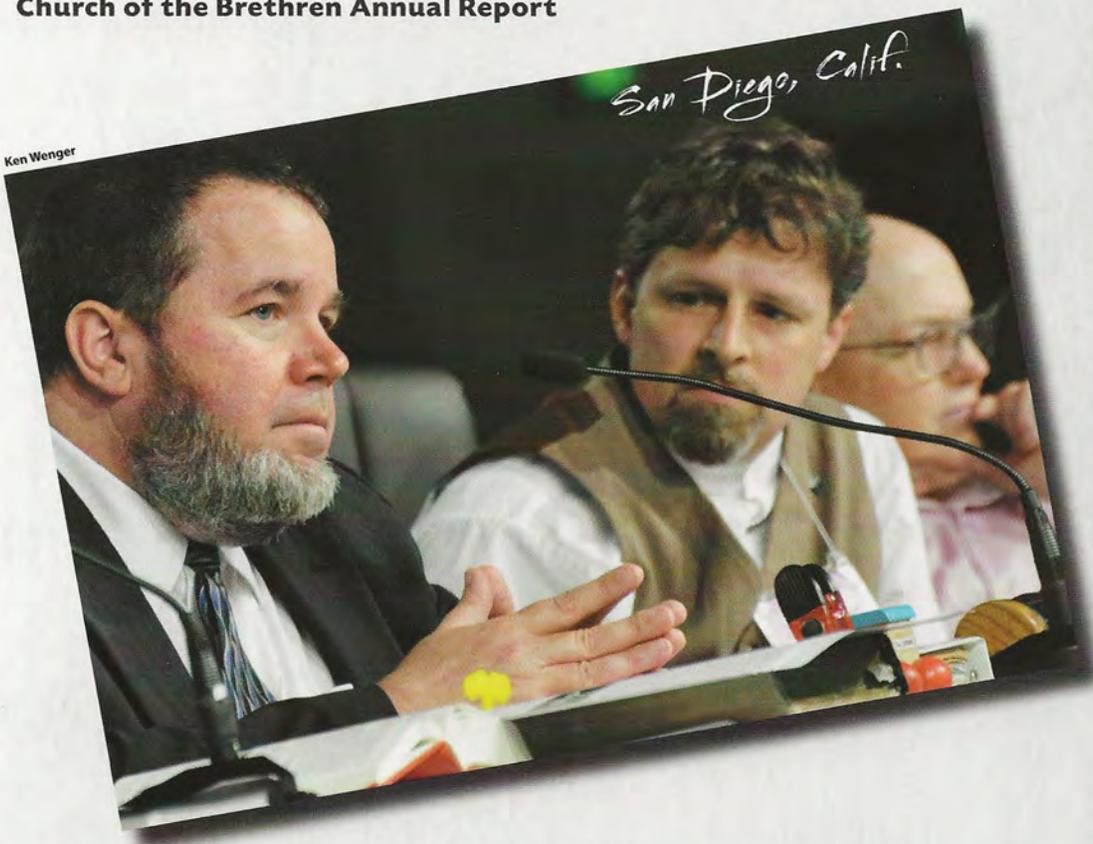
Jay Wittmeyer

78

Number of active volunteers in Brethren Volunteer Service as of mid-January; of those, 62 were serving in the United States, 10 in Europe, four in Latin America, and two in Japan.

Ken Wenger

San Diego, Calif.



Listen to GOD

Those attending Annual Conference in San Diego didn't all agree with each other. But they agreed that it was important for Christians to keep talking to each other—and to listen together for the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Jay Wittmeyer



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



Hosting the National Council of Churches governing board meeting.

Background image of Kyle, S.D., by Meghan Horne

Marcus Harden



*M*inistry Summer Service workers



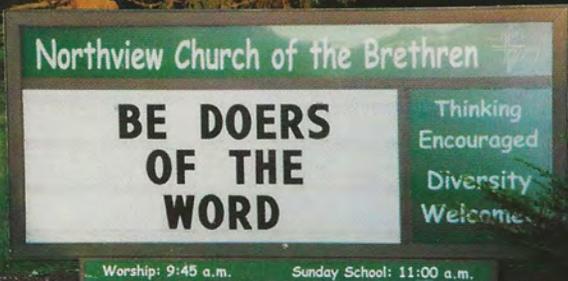
Core Value:

Discernment

Seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture, and the gathered community.



Mike Lantzy



318

US food banks directly benefited from Church of the Brethren congregational donations that were boosted by the denomination's Domestic Hunger Matching Grant program.

Thank you for faithful giving during tough times

Core Ministries. In anticipation of another difficult year financially, the Mission and Ministry Board revised its 2009 budget early in the year—reducing expectations for income from donations and investments, cutting expenses, and laying off employees. Congregations and individuals gave generously, even in a faltering economy, and expenses were held under budget. All told, Core Ministries ended with a loss of \$124,570, which was less than half the anticipated shortfall, and net assets were available to cover the deficit.

Self-funding ministries. Two of the church's self-funding ministries were especially hard hit by the economy. Self-funding ministries are those that receive income through sales of goods and services. Material Resources ended the year with a loss of \$58,950, but had sufficient net assets to undergird the year. The New Windsor Conference Center, which has negative net assets, was seriously affected by reductions in income and ended the year with a loss of \$148,180. Two other ministries had a positive year—Brethren Press with income over expense of \$9,340,

which offsets some of its negative net assets, and Messenger with net income of \$5,140.

The Annual Conference, a fifth self-funding ministry recently brought under the oversight of the Mission and Ministry Board, ended the year with a deficit of \$254,066, largely due to low attendance at the San Diego conference. This shortfall increases the prior year's negative net asset balance, resulting in the largest accumulated deficit ever experienced—a serious challenge for future years.

Special-purpose funds. Gifts to the Emergency Disaster Fund in 2009 totaled \$904,300, down from 2008. The Emerging Global Mission Fund received \$58,422, and gifts to the Global Food Crisis Fund totaled \$298,840, both up from the year before.

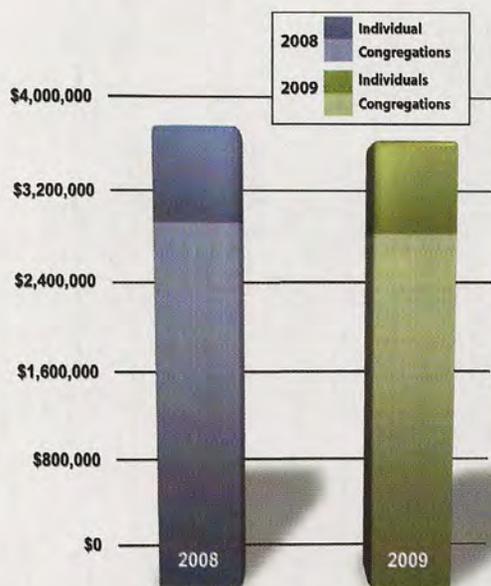
Complete financial information is available in the Church of the Brethren audit report, published in June 2010.



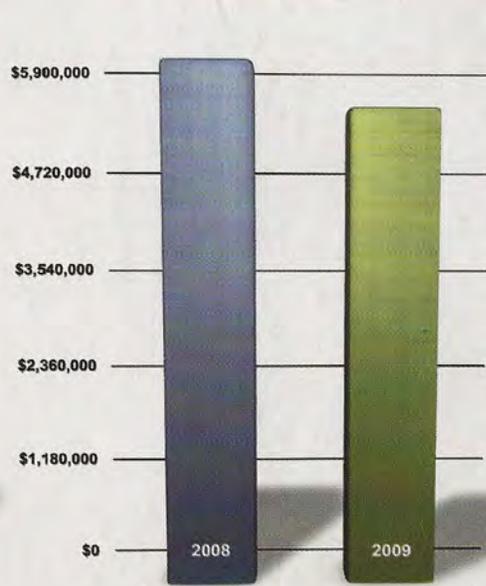
CORE MINISTRIES FUND

The Core Ministries Fund is the primary fund for Church of the Brethren ministries, and makes possible efforts like these: global mission, BVS, peace, youth/young adults, workcamps, caring ministries, church planting, ministry, intercultural ministries, communications, archives, general secretary's office, support services.

INCOME FROM GIFTS



EXPENSES

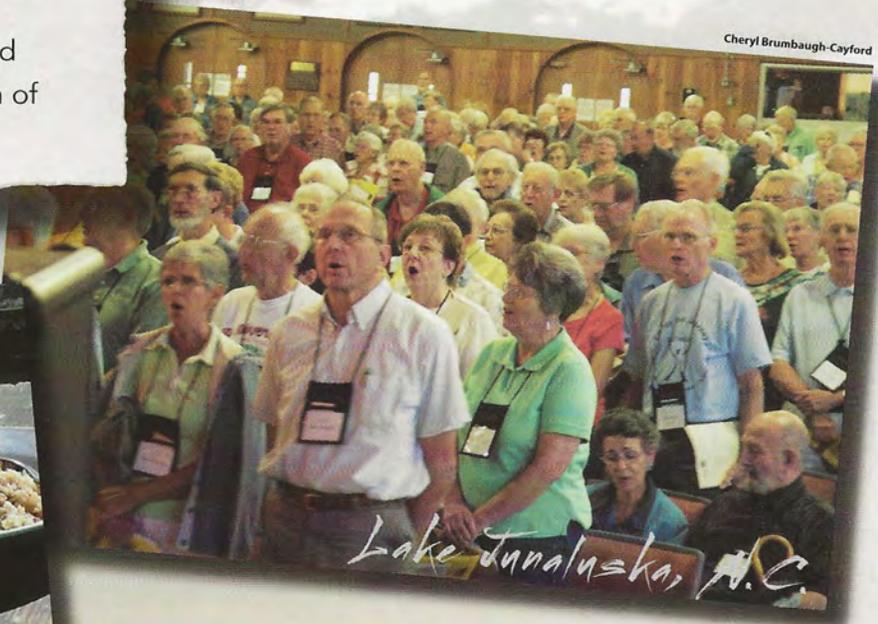


Core Value:
Stewardship

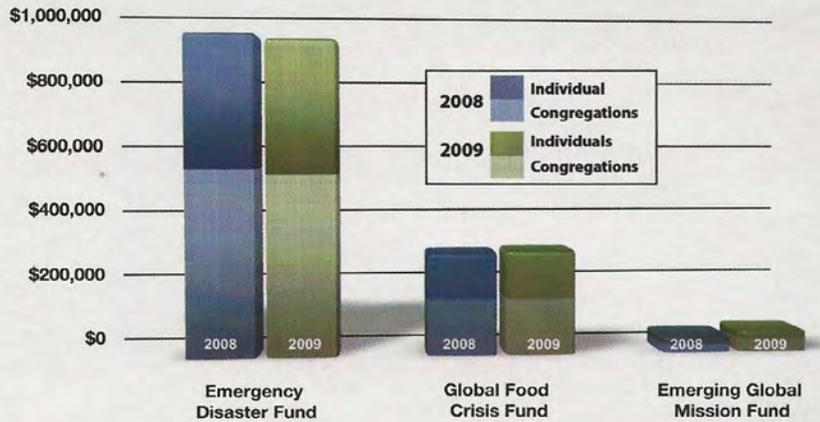
Caring for all God's gifts and the resources of the Church of the Brethren.

Jenner Alexandre

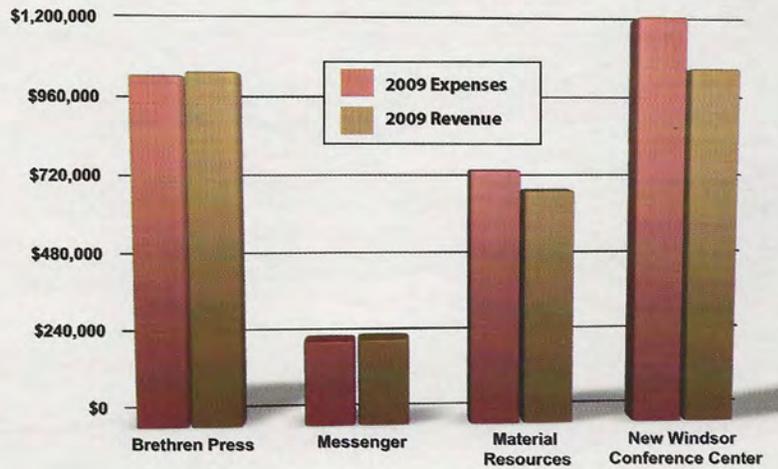
Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



SPECIAL-PURPOSE FUNDS GIVING



SELF-FUNDING MINISTRIES



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

ANNUAL CONFERENCE • BOOK PUBLISHING • BRETHERN ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP • BRETHERN HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES • BRETHERN SERVICE CENTER
BRETHERN VOLUNTEER SERVICE • CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICES • CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR • CHRISTIAN EDUCATION • CURRICULUM • DEACONS • DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ECUMENICAL RELATIONS • EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND • EVANGELISM • FAMILY MINISTRY
FINANCE OFFICE • GENERAL OFFICES • GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS FUND • HAITI • HEALTH AND DISABILITIES • HOME REBUILDING • HUMAN RESOURCES • INDIA • INFORMATION SERVICES
INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES • MATERIAL RESOURCES • MESSENGER MAGAZINE • MINISTERS
MINISTRY SUMMER SERVICE • NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE • NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE • NEW CHURCH PLANTING • NEW WINDSOR CONFERENCE CENTER • NEWSLINE
NIGERIA • NORTH KOREA • OLDER ADULTS • PEACE WITNESS • SOCIAL JUSTICE • SPIRITUAL LIFE AND DISCIPLESHIP • STEWARDSHIP • SUDAN • WEBINARS • WORKCAMPs • WWW.BRETHERN.ORG
WWW.BRETHERNPRESS.COM • YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS • YOUTH PEACE TRAVEL TEAMS

Look inside for photo highlights of 2009. For a full written report, visit www.brethren.org/annualreport.

Background image of Kyle, S.D., by Meghan Horne

Core Value:

Christ-likeness

Reflecting the love and heart of Jesus.



Church of the Brethren

Vision The Mission and Ministry Board envisions the Church of the Brethren wholly engaged in the reconciliation of all people to God and to each other.

Mission The Mission and Ministry Board is called by the Church of the Brethren to extend the church's witness around the world. It leads out in God's mission, serving as a bridge between the local and the global and creating opportunities for service and partnership.

The Mission and Ministry Board supports congregations in their task to create joyful communities of faith that proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, cultivate discipleship, respond to human need, and make peace.

The Mission and Ministry Board cares for the whole fabric of the community, building up the Church of the Brethren as a distinctive part of the body of Christ, cherishing its unique heritage, and strengthening its witness.



continued from page 16

to unify a Christian Workers' movement throughout the Brotherhood. Some committees offered reports and were given additional time to complete their work. Several queries dealt with dress requirements for church members. These queries represented a swelling sentiment in the church that change was needed. A *Gospel Messenger* report on conference business read: "But the dress question leads all others, by far, not only in the number of queries, but in the attention given it. It was discussed over and again, as much as any other subject. It was the first and last thing in the sessions of the Conference." A committee was created to study the concerns. Two years later, in 1911, the Annual Meeting would affirm the plain dress patterns common to the Brethren, but remove them as a test for membership. This decision accentuated an era when the Brethren were becoming a mainline Protestant denomination rather than a Christian sect.

Reports were received from the General Mission Board (called the General Missionary and Tract Committee until 1908), which oversaw the growing foreign missionary movement in the church. In a special offering for mission, attendees contributed \$11,656.24. A Temperance Committee formed in 1908 issued its first report. Letters of Greeting were received from Brethren missions in Cuba, China, India, Sweden, and Denmark. At the close of the Meeting on Thursday, June 3, various resolutions of appreciation to local congregations, public officials, railroads, and postal services were adopted. The conference concluded with a prayer by John Zuck, comments by local elder H. C. Early, and the singing of "God be with you till we meet again."

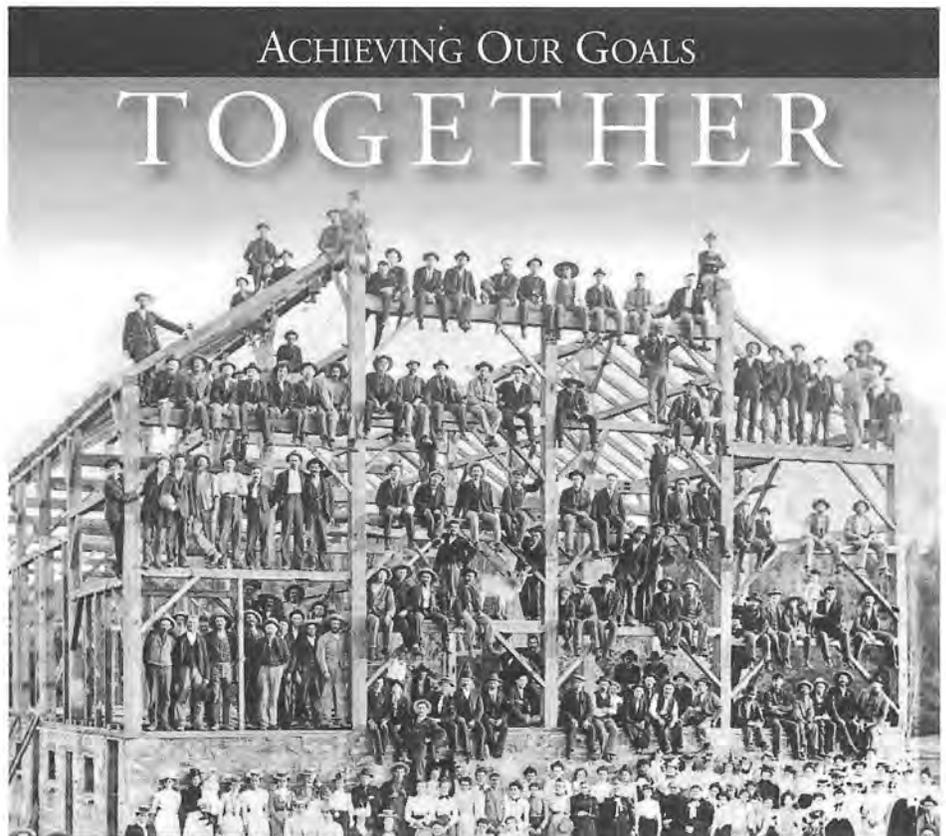
Minutes for the 1909 Annual Meeting are brief and concise. An extended report of the meeting is found in "Full Report of the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Church of the Brethren." This Full Report transcribes the speeches by all those who spoke during the conference business sessions. Writing clerk A. G. Crosswhite did a remarkable job providing this documentation of the event.

In 100 years, Annual Meeting has changed. H. C. Early's vision of holding conference in large cities with adequate food and lodging has become standard. From 20,000 or more attendees in 1909, today's Annual Conferences average 3,800-4,000, with the 2009 attendance in San Diego, Calif., being just under 2,100. Dress requirements no longer dominate the agenda. Instead, matters of organization and human sexuality prevail. Committees studying various issues still request additional time, but most reports are much more

lengthy than they were 100 years ago. Video and audio recordings document the event.

Above all, the Brethren still love coming together, listening to each other's viewpoints, singing beloved and new hymns, eating ice cream, and celebrating the fellowship, the faith, and the future of the people called Brethren. *M*

Robert E. Alley is moderator-elect of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, and recently completed a 20-year pastorate at Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren. He currently serves as president of Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center Board of Directors in Harrisonburg, Va.



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Job 6-7: A protest against God and fair-weather friends

God's way in the context of pain and distress

by Bob Neff

As I was growing up, I was taught to repress my anger and my feelings in worship. I was schooled never to raise my voice before God in my prayers because God would not tolerate such behavior. To do otherwise was a form of sacrilege.

That view began to change many years later when I was in my first year at Yale Divinity School in 1958. In beautiful, sedate Marquand Chapel I was attending a morning worship service. Bob Spivey was the worship leader for that day. He had just come from the hospital where his wife had given birth to a baby girl, only to learn that his daughter would probably die.

In his pastoral prayer that morning Bob spoke with the accusing voice of a distraught father; he berated God for threatening a defenseless child. He begged in his prayer that God heal his daughter. I thought to myself, "How dare he speak to God in this way." Years later, I must confess that it is one of the few prayers I remember from my student days, and not because the others were not authentic or elegant. I remember this one because it was a complaint that arose out of the depth of the soul. His daughter lived, but that experience stuck with me as I studied the book of Job later in my second year at seminary.

In this book I found expressions that would have been outlawed in my home. Nowhere is that more clear than in Job 6-7. Job argues that he has the right to rant and rage; he refuses to be restrained and self-controlled. He acknowledges in the face of counter-advice that he has become a raving maniac because that describes his out-of-control circumstance. He maintains that this is the only speech appropriate to his situation.

"Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul" (7:11).

Beyond the emotional tone of his speech, Job begins finger-pointing, naming enemies who are arrayed against him. First and foremost is God. "For the arrows of the Almighty are in me; my spirit drinks their poison; the terrors of God are arrayed against me" (6:4). In a parody of Psalm 8, where humans are portrayed as the crown of creation, Job turns this observation on its head: "What are human beings that you make so much of them, that you set your mind on them (to visit, to test, to zero in on all their activity?) . . . Will you not look away from me for a while, and let me alone until I swallow my spittle?" (7:17-19). Job cannot even swallow apart from the watchful eye of God.

Have you ever had someone watch you chew your food? If you have, you know how unsettling it is. We detest this kind of close observation because that person is "in our space." God is in Job's space and has given him no room, not even for the most fundamental functions of life. Job wants to be left out of this intrusive supervision. Job's complaint addresses the unrelenting presence of God. If God is caring, God could pardon Job—even though Job has made no confession of guilt. The reader knows from chapters 1 and 2 that Job has done nothing wrong and does not deserve any misfortune. In other words, his complaint is justified.

Job's friends, schooled in the dogmatic wisdom teaching of Psalm 1, assume that Job has done something wrong. Job rails against these friends because they misunderstand his circum-

God's way in wisdom's path is an invitation to share our feelings even when our **complaints are directed against God**. Worship allows the sharing of our deepest thoughts and provides a context for dealing with our grief and loss.

stances. Job compares them to wet-weather streams, called *wadis* in that region of the world. During the time of the spring rains, these torrents etch the landscape and cleave the rock faces of the desert. In the dry seasons, the traces of these freshets can still be seen and give the appearance of providing a source of water for the thirsty traveler. In reality they offer no source of water; instead of life, they bring death (Job 6:18).

Job argues that his friends are just like this. When everything was good (family, health, and wealth), they were there for him. Now that the heat has been turned up, they have



become empty vessels and provide no balm for his distress. "Those who withhold kindness from a friend forsake the fear of the Almighty. My companions are treacherous like a torrent bed; when it is hot, they vanish from their place" (6:14-15a, 17b). They come as accusers and not as friends.

Job wants his friends to be in touch with his circumstances. He is not asking for dishonesty, but fairness in the consideration of his special condition. In the moment of his distress, he wants understanding, not argument. Job wants his friends to see him as he actually is, to turn toward him and look directly at him. "But now be pleased to look at me, for I will not lie to your face" (6:28).

A similar sentiment is expressed by Heracles in Sophocles' play *The Women of Trachis*: "Come close to me, stand by your father and look well at my misfortune, see what I suffer. I shall take off the coverings and show you. Look, all of you, do you behold this poor body? Can you see how miserable, how pitiful I am?" (Marvin Pope, *Job*, p. 54).

A suffering patient wants sympathy for what ails her or him. "Stand by me" is the frequent refrain. We know this feeling from our own experience. We don't need lectures on what we have done wrong. We need support, prayer, and steadfast presence and the capacity to share our agony.

The friends perform the function of one side of traditional wisdom and my childhood belief—don't raise your voice against God. We know that by the end of the Old Testament period, laments such as Job's were excluded from worship life. According to this view, God's way did not permit such protests, and most of these were silenced in the late period (William Morrow, *Protest Against God: The Eclipse of a Biblical Tradition*, pp. 201ff). God's way was beyond human thought, and such outbursts were judged inappropriate—much like my own home training.

However, at the end of the book of Job—as a counter to this kind of thinking—the Lord declares, "My wrath is kindled against you (Job's friend Eliphaz) and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right as my servant Job has" (42:7). This acceptance of Job's defiant speeches affirms the importance of protest in the healing process and the encouragement of lament in the life of faith. God knows that pain cannot be muted, and doubt cannot be silenced.

God's way in wisdom's path is an invitation to share our feelings even when our complaints are directed against God. Worship allows the sharing of our deepest thoughts and provides a context for dealing with our grief and loss. This honest expression of our condition is the way to God and healing. **W**

Bob Neff is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren; he serves on the development staff and as chaplaincy coordinator at The Village at Morrisons Cove in Martinsburg, Pa. He was previously on the faculty of Bethany Theological Seminary, served as general secretary of the Church of the Brethren General Board, and was president of Juniata College. He lives in State College, Pa. This article is the fifth installment in a year-long Bible study series on wisdom literature.

Intercultural consultation diversity in harmony

Drawing inspiration from Romans 12:15-17 ("Live in harmony with one another..."), approximately 100 Church of the Brethren members gathered April 22-25 at Camp Harmony in Pennsylvania to worship and work together. The camp hosted people from congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico, representing many ethnic groups, including African Americans, white Americans, and Spanish speakers.

Previously known as the Cross-Cultural Celebration and Consultation, this 12th Intercultural Consultation and Celebration was both a continuation of work from previous years and a movement in a new direction, guided by the denomination's Intercultural Advisory Committee and Rubén Deoleo, director of Intercultural Ministry. The purpose of the annual event is to enrich and strengthen the Church of the Brethren, emphasizing its unity as a body that includes people of all colors, and modeling for the larger church the blessings of being one as God's people.

Participants took part in a variety of activities. Tim Monn of Midland (Va.) Church of the Brethren led a Bible study workshop on Brethren values and diversity. Barbara Daté, of the Intercultural Advisory Committee and Oregon and Washington District, led a workshop on the Friendly Style Profile, which explored individual and cultural diversity and identified skills to better understand and prevent dysfunctional conflict. Stan Dueck, the denomination's director of Transforming Practices, led a session on mentoring.

Pastor Samuel Sarpiya of Rockford (Ill.) Community Church of the Brethren and On Earth Peace delivered the opening sermon and set the tone for the event. He spoke about how the church's peace heritage has influenced his work in the Rockford community following a police shooting in a black neighborhood. Sarpiya reminded the consultation that working toward peace is an important foundation for a multicultural congregation and an important message to share with our wider communities.

At an evening worship, Ray Hileman, pastor of Miami (Fla.) First Church of the Brethren, challenged churches to work at becoming intercultural. He spoke

The church's 12th Intercultural Consultation and Celebration was held on April 22-25 at Camp Harmony in Pennsylvania. Approximately 100 Church of the Brethren members gathered around the theme, "Live in harmony with one another."



Ruben Deoleo, denominational director of Intercultural Ministry, presents the "Revelations 7:9 Diversity Award" to Carol Yeazell.

of being one race (human), one culture (Christian), and united by one color (red, representing Jesus' blood spilled for us). The third annual "Revelation 7:9 Diversity Award" was presented to Carol Yeazell for her support of racial/ethnic and intercultural ministries.

The closing worship on Saturday allowed attendees to find harmony through such diverse music as a Latin jazz-influenced prelude, Spanish choruses, a Haitian hymn, traditional African-American gospel songs, and the hymn *Move In Our Midst*. Worship services and several other sessions were webcast in partnership with Bethany Theological Seminary, and are available at www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcast/intercultural2010.

—Gimbiya Kettering and Nadine Monn

Gimbiya Kettering is communications coordinator for On Earth Peace, and Nadine Monn is a member of the Intercultural Advisory Committee. Barbara Daté also contributed.



BVS volunteer from Germany is detained for visa lapse

A young German man, Florian Koch, who has been serving in the United States through Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) was detained for more than a week by immigration authorities in April. A request to extend his visa had been denied and BVS was in the process of filing a motion to reconsider the visa denial, when Koch was detained while vacationing in Florida.

Koch was detained on April 19 when immigration officials checked passengers on a bus on which he was traveling. He was held at a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) transitional detention center in Pompano Beach, in the greater Miami area.

He was released April 28 under voluntary departure status, after the Church of the Brethren retained an immigration attorney and posted his bond. He now is legally authorized to stay in the country for 60 days in order to finish his time in the United States.

During his time in detention, authorities threatened to transfer Koch to another detention center in an undisclosed location. He was taken to the Miami airport along with a group of some 150 other detainees to be put on a flight—most probably to Louisiana, BVS learned. In the end, however, the ICE kept him in Florida until his release.

Koch has been volunteering at Samaritan House in Atlanta, Ga., an organization that serves homeless men and women through employment programs and a restaurant called Café 458. He came to BVS through EIRENE, a German volunteer organization that regularly places 12-15 volunteers each year through BVS and has a strong historical connection with the Church of the Brethren, which was one of its three founding organizations in 1957, along with the Mennonites and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

BVS director Dan McFadden flew to Miami on April 23 to work personally for Koch's release. He and Community of Hospitality board members located and retained an immigration

attorney in the Miami area. In addition, advocates in Georgia contacted members of Congress about his case.

McFadden kept in touch with Koch through daily telephone calls, met with him when the detention center allowed, and was present to receive Koch on his release. He then accompanied him to Atlanta.

In Germany, EIRENE director Ralf Ziegler and Koch's parents advocated for his release with the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt and the German Consulate in Miami. Church of the Brethren general secretary Stan Noffsinger alerted National Council of Churches leaders about the case and personally went to the ICE offices in Chicago to post the bond.

BVS and its international volunteers have not experienced such legal repercussions before on issues of immigration, according to McFadden. Although in recent months several other international volunteers with BVS have been denied visa extensions, they have continued to serve in the United States while appeals are in process. BVS will be reviewing its procedures for visas for international volunteers, Noffsinger said.

"While Florian had a host of witnesses and advocates working on his behalf within the system, thousands remain in detention, often without advocates," Noffsinger noted. "What is our role as a church to befriend the stranger in our midst, to visit and accompany the imprisoned, and to seek fair and just actions? This incident puts the onus on us to be informed and involved out of our own concern for our sister and brother human beings."



Brethren Volunteer Service

BVSeer Florian Koch was detained for more than a week by immigration authorities. He has been volunteering at Samaritan House in Atlanta, Ga.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

May 29-31 Young Adult Conference, Camp Blue Diamond, Petersburg, Pa.

June 6 Summer curriculum quarter begins

July 1-3 CODE Summer Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pa.

July 2-3 Minister's Pre-Conference Event, Pittsburgh

July 3-7 Annual Conference, Pittsburgh

July 3 Credit Union Board meeting, Pittsburgh

July 3 Mission and Ministry Board meeting, Pittsburgh

July 7 Brethren Benefit Trust Board meeting, Pittsburgh

July 17-22 National Youth Conference, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.

July 18-Aug. 6 Brethren Volunteer Service, Summer Orientation Unit, Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, Md.

Arizona's immigration law critiqued

The new immigration law in Arizona is being critiqued by Christian leaders including the National Council of Churches (NCC) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bishops denounced the law as "draconian" and called on Congress to stop political "gamesmanship" and pass immigration reform, according to Religion News Service. Michael Kinnamon, NCC general secretary, reiterated the view of member denominations and Arizona religious leaders that "this legislation will not contribute to the reform of our nation's immigration system." Church of the Brethren statements on immigration available online include a 1982 Annual Conference "Statement Addressing the Concern of Undocumented Persons and Refugees in the United States" at www.cobannualconference.org/ac_statements/82Refugees.htm and a 2006 letter from the former General Board at www.brethren.org/site/DocServer/ImmigrationIssuesEnglishEspagnol.pdf?docID=8161.



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Carlford

The 2011 National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) planning committee held its initial meeting May 3-5 at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. Committee members include (from left above) Peggy Redman (California), Elsie and Ken Holderread (Kansas), Deanna Brown (Indiana), Kim Ebersole of the Congregational Life Ministries staff who serves as NOAC coordinator, and Guy Wampler (Pennsylvania). "Passion and Purpose in a Changing World" was chosen as the conference theme.

Helping Haiti through the gift of music

As George Donovan Jr. watched "Hope for Haiti Now," the celebrity-organized telethon to raise relief funds in the aftermath of the island nation's devastating Jan. 12 earthquake, he wanted to "offer something more than my viewership."



Mike Simpson

George Donovan, who came up with the idea of the Haiti benefit concert, performs with the Sunrise Church of the Brethren worship ensemble.

So Donovan, the organist at Sunrise Church of the Brethren in Harrisonburg, Va., began planning a benefit concert to give his and other nearby Brethren congregations the opportunity to support Haiti through the gift of music.

"I wanted to minister to the people

of Haiti," says Donovan. "We're not all able to jump on a plane and give of ourselves hands-on. I wanted to minister through our giving. I knew that this was the perfect opportunity for all participants to offer not just finances, but also to be one in spirit through music."

In April, the Sunrise congregation hosted, "Let Love Live," a concert to raise funds for the Brethren Disaster Ministries' work in Haiti. The event, organized by Donovan and Becky Glick, brought together more than 60 musicians from Sunrise and five other Shenandoah District congregations: Beaver Creek, Bridgewater, Charlottesville, Dayton, and Pleasant Valley. The performances ranged from full choirs and praise ensembles to a hand bell choir and two men's quartets. The concert raised more than \$1,400 for Brethren Disaster Ministries. Several relief kits also were collected for Church World Service.

"We should recognize the importance of our sacrifice of time, energy and talent to become a part of something greater than ourselves," Becky Glick told the Sunrise choir during a rehearsal before the concert. After the event, she added, "I've never been a part of a benefit concert before, and I feel really humbled by it all. The focus was not on performance, but on the joy of giving through song." —Karen Doss Bowman

Karen Doss Bowman, Sunrise Church of the Brethren, Harrisonburg, Va.

Letter of concern for Christians in Iraq

Church of the Brethren general secretary Stan Noffsinger has signed an ecumenical letter supporting Christians and minorities in Iraq. Leaders of the National Council of Churches from a number of Christian denominations have signed the letter of concern sent April 26 to Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense, and Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State.

Christians in Iraq have suffered more than a dozen violent deaths so far this year, the NCC reported, including a 3-year-old child in Mosul who died on March 27 after a bomb exploded next to his home. A release link to the full text of the letter is at <http://www.nccusa.org/news/100427iraqchristians.html>.

New directors appointed at Lybrook Ministries

Randy and Jill Emmelhainz of Ostrander, Ohio, have been appointed resident directors of Lybrook (N.M.) Community Ministries, beginning June 1. They will replace **David and Maria Huber**, whose term of service will end the last of July. Lybrook Community Ministries is related to Western Plains District and Tokahookaadi Church of the Brethren, located in a Navajo community of New Mexico.

Jill Emmelhainz is working on an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) degree and has done course work in intercultural studies. Her experience in community involvement has included organizing community events and participating in a variety of community arts activities, recruiting and supporting community volunteers, producing curriculum for homeschoolers, arranging workshops for a national conference, working as a ski patroller and outdoor emergency care instructor, and writing and editing newsletters.

Randy Emmelhainz is completing a master's degree in intercultural studies at Columbia (S.C.) International University. He is certified in secondary education in mathematics, has taught math and adult education computer classes, has been part-time pastor for an African Methodist Episcopal church, and has formed a small consulting business. The couple will serve through Brethren Volunteer Service.



Kenda Floy

Shaffer retires from Brethren Historical Library and Archives

Ken Shaffer Jr., director of Brethren Historical Library and Archives (BHLA), has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. He has served for more than 20 years in the position.

He began working for the Church of the Brethren in August 1970 as consultant for curriculum development for the former General Board. From 1987-89 he was editor of *A Guide for Biblical Studies*. From 1972-88 he worked at Bethany Theological Seminary in Oak Brook, Ill. His positions at Bethany included bookstore manager, acquisitions librarian, administrative assistant to the doctor of ministry program, and library director.

In January 1989 he began as BHLA director. He has held responsibility for the extensive archival collection housed in the basement of the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. With documents dating back to a 1539 German New Testament, the archive preserves Brethren publications, records, and items of historical importance. Shaffer aids researchers, provides information for church programs and projects, serves as staff liaison for the Brethren Historical Committee, oversees the work of interns, and writes about Brethren history. Most recently he has contributed to a new project to digitize Brethren periodicals, in a cooperative endeavor with several other Brethren bodies.

Shaffer has written numerous articles for *MESSENGER*, and was book review editor for *Brethren Life and Thought* from 1986-99. He has written two Brethren Press books on *Texts in Transit* with co-author Graydon Snyder and compiled the third supplement to the Brethren Bibliography.

Originally from Maryland, he is an ordained minister. He holds a bachelor's degree from Bridgewater (Va.) College, a master of divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary, and a master of arts in Library Science from Northern Illinois University.

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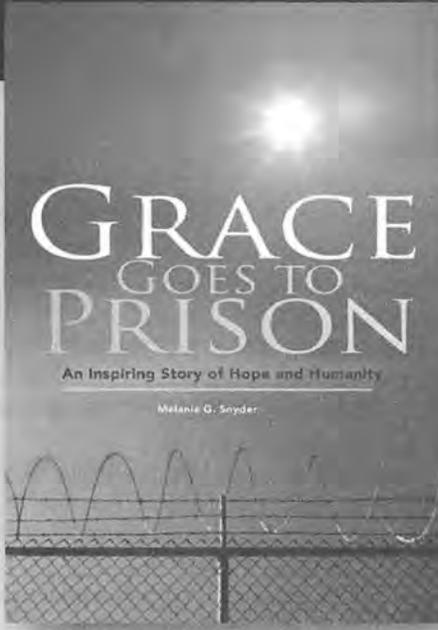


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Karen Armstrong's Case for God

In recent years, a crop of vocal critics of religion has caught national attention. Dubbed the New Atheists, these writers include Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, and others who eagerly decry the inconsistencies in some religious followers' beliefs, and cite their violent and hypocritical actions as proof of the irrelevance or dishonesty of religion itself.



AUDREY DECOURSEY

Many of us have been startled by these characterizations of our faith. Upon reading Dawkins' "The God Delusion," I felt oddly confused. I could agree with Dawkins that the Christianity he portrayed was vile indeed; the problem was that it wasn't the Christianity I knew. His view of Christianity – or other religions – didn't capture the complexity of faith, from the perspective of a practitioner. In fact, the violent, oppressive elements

Dawkins charted were exactly the parts of my tradition I hoped to excise, by strengthening the life-affirming core of Jesus' Gospel. For this 'atheist' to take the fundamentalist aspects as the totality of my religion was to hand fundamen-

KAREN ARMSTRONG STEPS INTO THE FRAY TO OFFER HER OWN CASE FOR GOD – OR AT LEAST, HER CASE ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE GOD.

talists the victory in defining Christianity in their own terms.

Coming to my rescue, Karen Armstrong steps into the fray to offer her own case for God – or at least, her case on behalf of the people who love God. A noted scholar of world religions and one-time Catholic nun, Armstrong offers a bold and needed hypothesis: that the essence of religion is mischaracterized as much by fundamentalists of all religions as by contemporary atheists. Both groups have limited religion to a rationalistic and moralistic endeavor. This interpretation is the product of specific historical factors: an Enlightenment world view, which divides truth into fact or fiction, and is predicated on a dichotomy of belief and practice.

But this is not how religion has always been, or always need be. Instead, she argues, for much of human history, religion "was not primarily something that people thought but something they did. Its truth was acquired by practical action" (xii). Religious adherents are better described as "practitioners" than "believers," for being religious means constant, committed practice that reveals its truth over a lifetime.

Armstrong argues for a new (and old) view of religion, one just as powerful as fundamentalist conceptions of Christianity, Islam, or Judaism offer, yet with perhaps more staying power over the long haul of history. The sort of religion Armstrong articulates – and the God it worships – is much bigger than current public discourse allows for. "We have become used to thinking that religion should provide us with information," she writes, "But this is a modern pre-occupation.... Religion is a practical discipline, and its insights are not derived from abstract speculation but from spiritual exercises and a dedicated lifestyle. Without such practice, it is impossible to understand the truth of its doctrines" (318). Perhaps this is why the New Atheists' portraits of the Christianity they despise make so little sense to me: they are portraits sketched from the outside, by persons who think they can think their way into religion.

On the way toward its central argument, the book offers a brisk survey of world religion across millennia. Armstrong lays out numerous examples of religious practices that have not relied on uniform doctrine – or written text at all: from the ecstatic, artistic urge that drove pre-history's cave paintings, to the cosmic spirituality of medieval mystics. Spanning the globe and weaving in traditions far beyond the Christian or "Western" canons, Armstrong covers a lot of territory, but remains accessible. The first half of the book illustrates the rich, transcendent traditions of pre-modern religious practice. The second half moves into her explanation for the loss of such practice, detailing the histories of philosophy, science, and theology in the modern era, with its unilateral view of truth. In her telling, Christianity's story is inseparable from those of other faiths and also from secular social developments, which enriches the church's history.

Armstrong suggests a picture of a more whole religion in pre-modern times, and I couldn't help but long for that sort of religion to make a resurgence today. Indeed, reforming and restorative movements have often called us back to earlier practices, notably when our Brethren forebears sought to rekindle the spirit of the early church. For Anabaptists and other primitivists, Armstrong's work serves as a valuable resource to reawaken worship that is as much about practice as belief, as much a task of knowing what we needn't know as of seeking information. Her book testifies to an immutable depth and strength in the practice of all persons authentically worshipping God. 

Audrey deCoursey is associate pastor of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Ill.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Title: The Case for God. **Author:** Karen Armstrong. **Publisher:** Knopf, New York, 2009. **Pages:** 406.

List price: \$27.95 (hardcover). **What others are saying:** "Armstrong's argument is prescient, for it reflects the most important shifts occurring in the religious landscape." —Lisa Miller, *Newsweek*...

"Highly recommended for readers willing to grapple with difficult but clearly articulated concepts and challenges to the 'received' ways of perceiving religion." —Carolyn M. Craft, *Library Journal*.



ONCAMPUS

Bridgewater College (*Bridgewater, Va.*)

Outgoing president Phillip C. Stone delivered the address at Bridgewater's commencement ceremony May 16, when about 300 seniors received degrees. Summerdean Church of the Brethren (Roanoke, Va.) pastor Stafford Frederick spoke at the baccalaureate service earlier in the day.

Elizabethtown College (*Elizabethtown, Pa.*)

Internationally recognized hostage negotiator and humanitarian Terry Waite shared a message of reconciliation and personal responsibility during Elizabethtown's 2010 Ware Lecture on Peacemaking on April 13.

Juniata College (*Huntingdon, Pa.*)

Juniata's Concert Choir did a spring break tour of Brazil this year. . . . Faculty members Celia Cook-Huffman, Michael Boyle, Kathleen Biddle, and Philip Dunwoody were honored with distinguished teaching and service awards at a convocation on May 4.

University of La Verne (*La Verne, Calif.*)

La Verne held a grand opening and open house for its new Orange County Regional Campus in Irvine, Calif., on April 15. . . . Three La Verne debate teams made the cut to the final 32 out of more than 120 in the US National Championships in April.

Manchester College (*North Manchester, Ind.*)

Manchester will begin offering a master's degree in education this fall, designed primarily for current teachers and administrators. . . . A non-profit corporation formed by the college's Case Studies in Business class sold T-shirts and held several events this spring to help raise funds for a community pool and fitness complex.

McPherson College (*McPherson, Kan.*)

Harry Stine, president and founder of Stine Seed Company of Adel, Iowa, presented at the fifth annual Harter Business Lecture and Luncheon on April 29. Stine's address was titled "Every Day is a Start Up: My Life in Small Business."

East Chippewa youth hook visitors with fishing derby

East Chippewa Church of the Brethren (Orrville, Ohio) held its 5th annual fishing derby for children on May 15. The event, sponsored by the senior high youth, is held at a pond on the property of youth advisors Larry and Lysa Boothe. The youth provide bait and many of the fishing poles and clean the trout that are caught; other fish are released back into the pond.

Junior high youth also assist by teaching the children fishing techniques. The recreation and family life committee provides hot dogs and chips, and a grill is ready for those who want to eat their catch right away.

"The derby has opened a whole new way for our church to expand its doors," Lysa Boothe said. "The fishing derby is our way of showing that God is everywhere and in everything and is not just for church."

Bits and pieces

• The next **Church of the Brethren National Junior High Conference** has been scheduled for June 17-19, 2011, at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College. Other details will be coming in the months ahead.

• Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.) will resume a **regional conference for Church of the Brethren youth in the Midwest** this fall. The conference, titled "Powerhouse 2010," will be held Nov. 13-14 at the college for youth in grades 9-12 and advisors. Featured presenters will include National Youth Conference (NYC) 2010 speakers Angie Lahman Yoder and Dave Sollenberger on the theme "Hidden Treasure," from Prov. 2:1-5. More details will be available by early September.

• Youth at **Codorus Church of the Brethren** (Loganville, Pa.) held a unique National Youth Conference fundraiser this spring, sponsoring a bus trip to New York for congregation members and friends on May 8. Forty-six people took the trip and spent the day in Manhattan.

• Registration for the **Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference** (July 17-22, Fort Collins, Colo.) stood at 2,823 as of May 1, with representation from 22 of the 23 districts.



Eric Wetzel

Cooking up a trip: The youth group at Lick Creek Church of the Brethren (Bryan, Ohio) offered a freewill pancake and sausage supper on March 31 to raise funds toward covering the cost of going to this summer's Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference. "Turnout was moderate," pastor Eric Wetzel said, "but everyone seemed to enjoy the meal." Pictured are: front row, Kaycee Suffel; second row, Bethany Wetzel, Tori Suffel, Karleigh Ebert, and Brittany Suffel; third row, Sarah Wetzel and youth advisor Debbie Miller; back row, Neil Haughn.

TO THE LAND OF OZ* AND BACK AGAIN

by Sarah Farahat

Sitting down to write, I find myself filled with resistance—resistance to dredging up painful memories, resistance to giving any more fuel to the fire I still find burning in my stomach when I recall the events surrounding the turn of the 2010 New Year. However, this fire, this resistance, is precisely what fuels us as peacemakers, as human rights workers, as educators and observers to continue our work—

social visit, nor was I headed for my home country of Egypt, but rather to the occupied West Bank of Palestine to co-lead an educational delegation with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT).

To enter the West Bank, one must first pass through strict Israeli security screenings. It is particularly strict if you fit one of several “suspicious” profiles. From personal observation in the Tel Aviv airport, this seems to include any-

one of Arab descent, young people traveling alone, or people of color.

The January delegation, co-sponsored by On Earth Peace, was to be led by On Earth Peace executive director Bob Gross and me. It was intended to include 10 days of meetings with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, shepherds, farmers, children, and organizations dedicated to peaceful, nonviolent resistance.

Departing a few days ahead of the other delegates to do last-minute organization on the ground, Bob and I set off, eagerly anticipating reunions with old friends, visits to favorite holy sites, and tradition-

courtesy of On Earth Peace



On Earth Peace executive director Bob Gross helps plant an olive tree at a Palestinian farm in 2004. He and Sarah Farahat were to lead a delegation in January, but were denied entry by Israeli security. On Earth Peace has sent delegation groups to the Middle East on a regular basis, working cooperatively with Christian Peacemaker Teams.

whether that work be in our home countries or abroad, working in solidarity with our sisters and brothers struggling for economic, political, and social equality.

On Dec. 31, I found myself on a plane once again bound for the Middle East—a place that in the past I’ve called home, a place where my relatives still live. This particular trip was not intended as a

al Palestinian cuisine. At the same time, I was breaking out in stress-related hives, practicing newly acquired meditation techniques, and trying feverishly to remind myself that we weren’t guilty of anything other than a strong desire to see a marked and timely improvement in the lives of people living in both Palestine and Israel.

Unfortunately, upon arrival at Tel Aviv Airport in the wee hours of Jan. 2, we were greeted with all of the suspicion, disrespect, and hostility I had been nervously anticipating. As an Arab-American, I knew I would immediately be treated as a suspected enemy of the state of Israel. When I was inevitably taken aside for questioning, Bob stayed with me and subsequently sacrificed his ability to enter the country as well. After many hours, we were informed that we were being denied entry. Why?

Well, the state of Israel does not have to give reason for deportation and exile. However, I suspect being Arab is enough of a crime. Photographs of graffiti proclaiming “Free Gaza” that I took in the West Bank city of al-Khalil (Hebron) were found via internet searching. A blog entry revealed time I spent in a Palestinian home-stay experience with a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation in March 2009. Do I believe that working with CPT is a threat to the state of Israel? Well, that depends on your vision of Israel’s future, of Israeli security. If Israel is really committed to peace with their Palestinian neighbors, wouldn’t it behoove them to be hospitable toward peacemakers, educators, and the media? What is there to hide if Israel has a real commitment to peace?

Bob and I were held for 36 hours, our bodies and bags repeatedly and closely searched. Then we were re-questioned, fingerprinted, photographed, thrown in jail and deported—barred from entering Israel or the Palestinian Territories for a minimum of 10 years. All this, and still we were lucky. Lucky not to be treated as Palestinians, lucky to hold American passports, lucky to be able to escape daily life under occupation, and lucky that we were not physically harmed. In my jail cell sat a desperate young woman who had been there alone for four days, each day promised a flight back to Germany, each day told that her flight plans had fallen through, that she needed to wait again.

*Oz: a special unit of the Israeli Immigration Authority whose recent campaign named “Clean and Tidy” aims to rid the country of non-Jewish foreigners.

Take a sip of life

Tea leaves welcome all,
Sage, mint, a bit of sugar.

In a Palestinian village
The elder talks
And a young boy
carries a tray of sweet tea
To welcome strangers.

Injustice of a home invasion—
The event is told,
And a young boy
carries a tray of sweet tea
To welcome strangers.

We are humbled.
We learn true hospitality.
We hear the pain of daily life.
We hear the passion for Palestine.
Our hearts and minds cry out for justice.

Sweet tea bridges our lives.
We will bring home these stories.
We have much to integrate.
We are eager to tell our experiences.

Tea leaves welcome,
Mint, sage, sweet tea.
Hospitality has a new
meaning for us all.

Joyce Cassel was inspired to write this poem following her participation in the Jan. 5-18, 2010, Middle-East peacemaking delegation to Hebron, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and at-Tuwani, which was co-sponsored by On Earth Peace and Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Handicap International, and the Religious Society of Friends. Most recently, Ma'an News journalist Jared Malsin was deported for reporting on the situation in the Occupied Territories.

This article was originally intended as an update on the ongoing work of CPT in Palestine, as well as experiences and reflections of the On Earth Peace delegation (which thankfully went ahead as planned). My connection to these increasingly Draconian policies regarding human rights work within the Middle East, however, compelled me to share and document what continues to be a growing issue within the region. As readers, we can use these facts as tools, as stepping stones. We can continue to work for change both in our local communities and abroad. We can educate our friends and neighbors about what we learn. And we can continue to practice small, daily acts of forgiveness, empathy, and solidarity. 

Sarah Farahat was raised in a suburb of Chicago, Ill., where her home church was the York Center Church of the Brethren. She currently writes from Portland, Ore., where she continues to work for change in the Middle East and in her local community through an Oregon campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions. Her blog can be found at <http://somecreativeactions.blogspot.com>.

To read about the experiences of the January OEP delegation, visit <http://mideastdelegation.blogspot.com>,

For more information on Christian Peacemaker Teams and On Earth Peace visit <http://www.cpt.org> and <http://www.onearthpeace.org>.

A woman carries a rose at the 2009 International Women's Day Protest in Bethlehem.

Photo by Sarah Farahat



To keep this all in perspective, each year at least 9,000 Palestinians are detained by Israeli Forces, one in four Palestinians has been incarcerated at least once, and 40 percent of all Palestinian males, including children and the elderly, have experienced jail time. Currently, there are more than 300 children held in Israeli prisons. These prisoners are often subject to torture, solitary confinement, physical and verbal abuse.

In 2010, Israel began a new campaign with a clear message to the international community: Continuing to work within the West Bank will earn you jail time and deportation. They implemented Army Order 1650 which states that anyone entering the West Bank without a permit may be labeled an infiltrator, thus subject to deportation or up to seven years in jail. This order, which is intended to target foreign-born solidarity workers, will also negatively affect Palestinians living in the West Bank who may have identification bearing addresses in Gaza or abroad.

This year, Israeli forces arrested and deported Eva Nováková, the media coordinator for the International Solidarity Movement (ISM)—one of the strongest Palestinian nonviolent direct action organizations in the Occupied Territories. They also denied entry to two full-time Christian Peacemaker Team members. It is rumored that the TIPH (Temporary International Presence in Hebron) will not be able to renew their contract—thus denying another international presence in one of the most volatile regions in the West Bank. If this were not enough, Israel began a new campaign—refusing work permits for international NGO (non-governmental organization) workers from Oxfam, Save the Children, Médecins Sans Frontières, Terre Des Hommes,

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Who: Junior high youth (those who have completed grades 6-8) and their advisors

When: June 17-19, 2011

Where: Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa.

Why: Worship, play, make friends from all over the country, sing, laugh, spend time with God!

Want more information? Go to www.brethren.org/nationaljuniorhighconference

Registration opens **January 10, 2011**
7 p.m. central time

Plan on attending!

 Church of the Brethren

NJHC 2008 photo by Glenn Riegel

Remain uniquely Brethren

I believe that I have never written for Messenger before, though the idea has crossed my mind occasionally. But now I feel I must give vent to some feelings which have simmered for some time.

The May 2010 issue of MESSENGER contains some pertinent observations concerning our declining numbers. Ron Keener's contribution is an excellent description of the symptoms, and long-time writer and keen analyst Olden Mitchell, too, gives helpful insights. But neither of these writers expresses what I believe to be the crux of the problem.

The Church of the Brethren is an historic peace denomination. Conference has so affirmed this more than once. Bob Zigler, Harold Rowe, and others worked diligently for years to secure for our young men the legal

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New Members

Ambler, Pa.: Tracey George, Glenn Brown, Judy Schilling
Beacon Heights, Fort Wayne, Ind.: Chris Harden, Elizabeth Lung, Andrew Wysong, Vivienne Faulkner, Michael Calvert, Diana Calvert, Renee Rose, Brenda Galbraith, Don Gollither
Bear Creek, Dayton, Ohio: Kim Holbrook
Bethel, Broadway, Va.: Janell Williams, Donald Williams, Jon Green, Amanda Green, Regina Phillips, Richard Griffith, Dennis Fulk, Connie Fulk
Cedar Lake, Auburn, Ind.: Sue Wilhelm, Hershel Wilhelm, Mary Bigelow, Brian Bigelow, Dorothy Mathias
Chambersburg, Pa.: Caley Eyler, Charles Holobinko, Curtis Murray, Anna Turner, Janet Eshleman, Nathan Eshleman
Dixon, Ill.: David Reisinger, Carole Reisinger, Jennifer Roberts
Dupont, Ohio: Rob Winkle, Melissa Winkle, Gregg Sigler, Robin Sigler, Beth Rau
Ephrata, Pa.: James Carson, Gail Carson, Sierra DeStepano, Greg Goodman, Lorie Goodman, Alysia Goodman, Logan Goodman, Lorie Sensenig, Nelson Sensenig
Fairview, Mount Clinton, Harrisonburg, Va.: Gloria Kennedy, Peggy Kesner
Greenmount, Harrisonburg, Va.: Jordan Spitzer, Jeremy Spitzer, Kayla Rogers, Elizabeth Dean, Damian Nesselrodt
Hanover, Pa.: Robert Stockslager, Betty Stockslager, Barbara Spera
Hempfield, Manheim, Pa.: Ashley Kern, Matt Markey, Dave Schott, Emmy Schott
Henry Fork, Rocky Mount, Va.: Lillian Davis, Chris Fletcher, Danielle Dudley, Matthew Dudley, Brittany Steele, Tony Fulrow
His Way, Mills River, N.C.: Alexis Amoya, Pable Flores, Noe Gonzalez, Yolanda Gonzalez, Rosa Hernandez, Mario Mendez, Srenio Trejo
Keyser, W.Va.: Todd

Keplinger, Kim Keplinger, Kendra Keplinger, Kendall Keplinger, Evelyn Ginevan
Lancaster, Pa.: Matthew Brubaker, Chris Holsinger, Grant Husted
Lebanon, Pa.: Emily Brandt, Molly Gable, Rehgan Hupp, Lynn Rylan, Ashley Wetzel, Lonnie Wetzel
Lick Creek, Bryan, Ohio: Nathanael Wetzel, Blanche Wetzel, Allison Boyer, Taylor Shafer, Kaycee Suffel
Linville Creek, Broadway, Va.: Matt Ambrose, Maria Ambrose, Janeca Tusing
Lititz, Pa.: Steve Beachy, Michelle Beachy, Carolyn Keth, Shee Sho, Bway Hser Ku, Fairy Johnny, Diamond Johnny, Angel Kenneth, Marissa Bertrando, Jarod Lusk, Danielle dePerrot, Nathan Huber, Torey Schotzberger, Evan Havemann, Sydney Velky
Marilla, Copemish, Mich.: Harriett Little
Memorial, Martinsburg, Pa.: Lois Boor, Olivia Bosar, Tim Colbert, Dorothy Gates, Miriam Hoover, Paul Longenecker, Sara Beth Sager, Kadden Smith, Kyler Smith, James Klippinger, Evelyn Klippinger, Tom Greenleaf, Susie Greenleaf, George Matthew, Hope Matthew, Joseph Zimmerman, Janet Zimmerman
Middle Creek, Lititz, Pa.: Beulah Kurtz, Gladys Shenk, John Shenk
Middlebury, Ind.: Prayne Lawrence, Krista Mevis, Pauline Hershberger, Elizabeth Mattocks, Marjorie Miller, Tom Miller, Rebecca Miller, Ray Rhoads, Hanna Rhoads, Brian Templeton, Rachel Templeton, Marvin Short, Haley Schrock, Madison Schrock
Mountain View, McGeheysville, Va.: David Miller, Betty Miller, Allison Michael, Luke Michael
Oakton, Vienna, Va.: Rob Powell, Linda Powell, Stefani Biddle, Allison Mendenhall, Ryan Richardson, Karen Richardson, Keegan Waggener, Claire Waggener, Rob Wuhrman
Palmyra, Pa.: Adam Riggs, Sandy Robbins
Paxton, Harrisburg, Pa.: Beverly Piker, Mary Lou Schaeffer, Christian Johnson
Prairie City, Iowa: Rachel Peter, Josh Cox, Wyatt Clymer
Prairie View, Scott City, Kan.: Corbin Stevens, Randy Leighton, Larry Wright, Gloria Wright

Roaring Spring, Pa.: Hayley Cottle, Devin Dively, Caulen Metzler, Bailey Musselman, Danielle Wagner
Spring Creek, Hershey, Pa.: Doris Batdorf, Patricia Horst, David King, Robert C. Miller
Spring Run, McVeytown, Pa.: Frederick Hesser, Ethan Wilson
West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Madisen Cumberland, Heather Baker, Carter Self, Tyler Self, Jonathan Replogle
Woodbury, Pa.: Tim Frye, Amy Frye, Betsy States, Ryan Yinké, Lacey Yinké
Wyomissing, Pa.: Mary Lou Trexler, Richard Kuhns, Richard Fox, Sr., Tracy Fox, Richard Fox, Jr., Brittany Fox, Elvina Pacific, James Pacific
York Center, Lombard, Ill.: Louise Brodie, David Stowe, Phyllis Stowe

Anniversaries

Albaugh, Ira and Doris, Westminster, Md., 55
Baer, Maurice and Mary Ann, Broadway, Va., 55
Brubaker, George and Grace, Lebanon, Pa., 60
Bryant, Kenneth and Ruby, Goshen, Ind., 75
Crull, Walt and Wilma, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Ecenroad, William and Orpha, Ephrata, Pa., 60
Elias, Dick and Joan, Middlebury, Ind., 50
Engel, Raynard and Donna, Waterloo, Iowa, 60
Fritz, Earle, Sr. and Mary Elizabeth, Union Bridge, Md., 65
Funk, James and Elizabeth, Harrisburg, Pa., 50
Garber, Paul and Mary, Middlebury, Ind., 70
Harman, John and Ruth, Copper Hill, Va., 50
Layman, Eldon and Bettie, Broadway, Va., 55
Leatherman, Charles and Lois, Sharpsburg, Md., 55
Manning, Ercel and Juanita, Copper Hill, Va., 60
Miller, Jim and Janet, Middlebury, Ind., 50
Schrock, John and LeAnna, Goshen, Ind., 50
Shallenberger, Clyde and Helen, Baltimore, Md., 60
Waybright, Randy and Jan, Hershey, Pa., 50
Yoder, John and Margaret, Middlebury, Ind., 50

Deaths

Ake, William D., 91, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 14
Althouse, Charles W., Sr., 83, Myerstown, Pa., March 26
Amand, Fern, 84, Lititz, Pa., March 24
Baker, John Replogle, 80, Martinsburg, Pa., March 29
Ballou, Margaret N., 80, Roanoke, Va., April 7
Barton, Henry Edgar, 90, Elgin, Ill., April 28
Bechtel, Ruth I., 89, Gettysburg, Pa., April 16
Beck, Gene, 64, Audubon, Pa., Oct. 28
Becker, Clair M., 82, Lancaster, Pa., April 14
Bowman, Margie B., 91, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 15
Brumbaugh, Marjorie M., 83, Martinsburg, Pa., Jan. 31
Bucher, Walter M., 96, Harleysville, Pa., Nov. 30
Burket, Kathryn Elizabeth, 100, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 16
Danville, David Gordon, 47, Hickory Corners, Mich., Jan. 17
Edmiston, Bessie P., 107, Berlin, Pa., Dec. 6
Embrey, Wallace M., 90, Monrovia, Md., April 9
Eshleman, Isaac James, 88, North Manchester, Ind., April 12
Fackler, Charles, 90, Palmyra, Pa., April 8
Flood, Kenneth Dale, 85, Boring, Ore., July 3, 2009
Frye, Merle C., 64, Martinsburg, Pa., July 14, 2009
Gerber, Mary L., 84, Dillsburg, Pa., March 28
Gerber, Robert D., 86, Dillsburg, Pa., March 3
Grimley, Mildred M., 90, Ephrata, Pa., March 21
Hackman, Lowell D., 77, Lancaster, Pa., March 18
Hardgrave, Angerie, 91, Farrenburg, Mo., April 6
Harpine, Stanley S., 85, Broadway, Va., Jan. 28
Heddrick, Alice Marie, 73, Elkhart, Ind., Oct. 17
Hollinger, JoAnne R., 76, Wyomissing, Pa., Feb. 15
Howard, Dorothy Mae, 83, Boswell, Pa., March 17
Keagy, Claudine, 99, New Oxford, Pa., Dec. 7
Kimble, Mary Martha, 86, Stuarts Draft, Va., March 31
Knarr, Richard H., 95, North Manchester, Ind., April 6
Kyser, Bob, 92, Bryan, Ohio, Dec. 30
Landis, Anna R., 79, Lancaster, Pa., April 6
Lape, Ray J., Jr., 72, Boswell, Pa., Feb. 22
Lawyer, Louise, 80, Hanover, Pa., Feb. 8
Manges, Arlene V., 88, Windber, Pa., April 3
McClintock, Claude Edwin, 87, Somerset, Pa., April 6
McCormick, George Dewey, Jr., 89, Martinsburg, W.Va., April 15
McDowell, Edward Woodrow, 91, Troy, Ohio, April 8
Messerley, Donald E., 88,

Linville, Va., March 24
Miller, Carroll C., 72, Union Bridge, Md., April 5
Miller, Harold E., 85, Lebanon, Pa., April 29
Miller, Ruth E., 75, Accident, Md., Jan. 9
Morningstar, Elizabeth Dianne, 65, Camp Hill, Pa., March 22
Mulligan, Glenn F., 88, North Manchester, Ind., April 23
Myers, Wilbur G., 83, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 18
Nelson, Darlene, 79, McPherson, Kan., April 2
Nielsen, Lilian M., 84, Carpentersville, Ill., March 22
Norton, Margaret E., 89, Bronson, Mich., April 25
Oberholtzer, Martha B., 76, Lititz, Pa., Jan. 16
Over, K. Alton, 85, Woodbury, Pa., April 25
Puterbaugh, Marie, 94, Trotwood, Ohio, March 20
Rainey, Horace E., 97, Gresham, Ore., March 15
Reber, Hope A., 89, Robeson, Pa., Dec. 18
Reinhold, John David, 88, Elizabethtown, Pa., March 3

Licensings

McFadden, Rosanna Eller, N. Ind. Dist. (Creekside, Elkhart, Ind.), Jan. 31
Sheller, Christine A., N. Plains Dist. (Ivester, Grundy Center, Iowa), Dec. 13
Stutzman, Paul Fike, Virlina Dist. (Germantown Brick, Rocky Mount, Va.), April 18
Weaver, Ann M., Pac. S.W. Dist. (Waterford, Calif.), April 25
Yinke, Christina A., W. Pa. Dist. (Geiger, Friedens, Pa.), April 25

Ordinations

Devor, Randy, S. Ohio Dist. (Beech Grove, Hollansburg, Ohio), March 28
Leahy, Donna M., Mid-Atl. Dist. (Manassas, Va.), March 21
Randall, Richard Taft, Virlina Dist. (New Hope, Stuart, Va.), Aug. 23
Shaver, Janet S., N. Ind. Dist. (Creekside, Elkhart, Ind.), Dec. 13

Placements

Grew, Dottie H., assistant visitation minister, Meyersdale, Pa., March 1
Ruff, Jerry W., from interim to pastor, Mount Olivet, Timberville, Va., April 1
Thomas, Rodney A., pastor, Bellwood, Pa., April 11
Walker, Judy M., associate pastor, Mount Pleasant, Pa., April 27

Trapped in San Francisco?

"I do what everybody else does: I live in San Francisco."

I love those words for their childlike provincialism. They were written by author Richard Brautigan at the beginning of a short story called *The Old Bus* in a collection of his writings called *Revenge of the Lawn*. On the cover there is a smiling woman sitting in front of a chocolate cake. She is dressed, as young women often were in the 1960s, in a "granny" dress, with lace and ruffles.



RANDY MILLER
Interim Messenger Editor

Many young people in that era had a strong desire to "get back to nature," perhaps in an attempt to rebel against the truckloads of plastic doodads, furniture, and television shows that permeated the culture then. (Anyone remember *The Partridge Family*?) So sometimes, in an effort to disassociate themselves with such trappings, they wore clothing that

flew in the face of the polyester, disco-pop attire promoted by cultural marketers. This meant they had to wear bib-overalls, "granny" dresses, and work boots. It was quite a sacrifice for anyone who hoped to look cool to members of the opposite sex, but one they were willing to make for their cause.

trunk (having felt a leg), another as a large fan (having felt an ear), and still another a brush (having felt the tip of the tail). No one is wrong, yet no one is entirely right. Not one of them has the entire picture.

Ramakrishna Paramahansa, a famous mystic of 19th century India, said "...[H]e who has seen the Lord in a particular way limits the Lord to that alone and thinks that He is nothing else." Saxe concludes his poem with these words: "So oft in theologic wars, the disputants, I ween, rail on in utter ignorance of what each other mean, and prate about an elephant not one of them has seen!"

We Brethren can be quite a provincial bunch—cliquish, really, without seeming to even be aware of it. I learned that a former member of the 1960s rock band the Byrds had visited our church with his wife one morning, but after lingering in the courtyard a while without being greeted, they left. (I ran into him later in a neighboring town and apologized on behalf of my flock. I invited them back and promised to greet them warmly if they did. I haven't seen them yet.)

How are we perceived? Are we seen as people who are warm, open, and accepting, or as people who define the world narrowly as only a "leg," an "ear," or a "tail"? Are we able to acknowledge the world beyond our insular little Brethren "San Francisco"?

Residents of Pleasantville (in the movie of the same

ARE WE BRETHERN ENSCONCED IN OUR OWN LITTLE PLEASANTVILLE, REFUSING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR PERCEPTIONS MAY BE LIMITED TO A "LEG"?

Such folks, well-intentioned though they may have been, often seemed to operate out of a rather rigid world view, which was ironic because they put great effort into appearing open-minded and free-spirited. They often could be as narrow-minded as the society they criticized.

To some extent, we're all guilty of this, of course. We have our perspectives, based on our experiences, how much of the world we've seen (or not seen), and the things we were taught as children. Well, okay—that's how we learn, obviously. The trouble starts when we begin thinking that our way of viewing things is the only way.

Maybe you've heard the story of the six blind men (in some versions it's three) who were asked to describe an elephant. The tale is believed to have originated in India, but most in the West know it from a 19th century poem by John Godfrey Saxe.

In this story, one man describes the elephant as a tree

name) are astonished when visitors tell them there is a world beyond their little burg. They refuse to believe it, at first. And then, when they do, their black-and-white world begins to bloom with color and vibrancy, and they awaken to possibilities they had yet to imagine.

Are we Brethren ensconced in our own little Pleasantville, refusing to acknowledge that our perceptions may be limited to a "leg"? And, perhaps, in so doing, unwittingly excluding those who may find us interesting. (Perhaps one reason for our declining membership?)

"The earnest, seeking Brethren or Christian of tomorrow will be able to discover the truth of God everywhere," said former Annual Conference moderator Desmond Bittinger. "It is written in the stones, in the trees, in the minds and hearts of other people, in their unfolding lives and cultures."

Or, as Hamlet put it: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."—Ed.

COMING IN JULY/AUGUST: Mission trips and holistic aid strategies, The 20th Youth Peace Travel Team, reflections from a year as moderator, Bible study, and a celebration of Dan West and Heifer Project.

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2011 TOURS

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CHURCHES and SAFARIS in KENYA and TANZANIA (February 7-18)
PANAMA CANAL CRUISE TOUR (February 23 - March 5)
EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA (March 20 - April 2)
EXPLORE the WORLD of PAUL with TOM YODER NEUFELD (May 4-20)
LEGENDARY RHINE and MOSELLE RIVER CRUISE (May 11-24)
ICELAND COUNTRY TOUR (June 14-23)
EUROPEAN HERITAGE with JOHN RUTH (June 23 - July 6)
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FROM NAZARETH to ROME (November 10-22)

Church Of The Brethren Seeks Director Of Brethren Historical Library And Archives

Job Description: To promote the history and heritage of the Church of the Brethren by:

- Administering the Brethren Historical Library and Archives, and
- Facilitating research and the study of Brethren history.

Includes: Providing reference services, assuring the cataloging of books and processing of archival records, formulating policies, budgeting, developing collection, recruiting and training of intern and volunteers.

Education:

Required: Masters degree in Library Science/Archival Studies plus extensive knowledge of Church of the Brethren history and beliefs

Preferred additional education: Graduate degree in theology and/or certification by the Academy of Certified Archivists.

Attributes:

Exhibit a customer service attitude

Well-grounded in library and archival disciplines

Research and problem solving abilities

Computer skills in use of Microsoft software and experience with OCLC products

3-5 years experience in a library or archives

Able to articulate and operate out of the vision of the Church of the Brethren

Location:

Elgin, Illinois

Application, resume, and three reference letters due no later than July 1, 2010 to:

Karin Krog, Director of Human Resources

Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60123

Email: kkrog@brethren.org 847-742-5100 ext. 258

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right to stand up and be counted on the side of peace.

In recent years, one could sit through worship services, conferences, etc., for long periods and never hear about the Brethren reason for being. This peace position is what distinguishes us from the churches up and down the street. Why should the Church of the Brethren exist if not to proclaim our conviction? If we continue to play down our distinguishing messages, we may as well ride off into the sunset.

Promotion of pacifism may cost us some members. I have seen families bow out, not wishing to be asso-

ciated with us. Could this be the reason we hear nothing about the great work being done by a few Brethren?

I was raised to believe that the Bible means exactly what it says: "Thou shalt not kill!" Both the Old and the New Testaments take this stand, and the New Testament expands the application of the principles.

Perhaps as many persons would be attracted by this practice as would be offended. I suspect our declining numbers result from our failure to practice what we hold basic to our faith.

John C. Bollinger
Goshen, Ind.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Special Sale - Alexander Mack: A Man Who Rippled the Waters written by Myrna Grove and illustrated by Mary Jewell - Order directly from the author. Insightful book about Brethren heritage for ages nine and up. The 60-page biography about the first Brethren minister is \$20 per copy and includes shipping cost and two week delivery. Send your name, address, phone number and any autograph requests with your check to Myrna Grove at P.O. Box 801, Bryan, OH 43506.

Let Gather 'Round help your church come together around the Bible! *Gather 'Round: Hearing and Sharing God's Good News* is the Bible story-based curriculum that connects church and home. Gather 'Round nurtures children, youth, and their families in becoming followers of Jesus- exploring their faith and putting it into action. Find sample sessions, Bible outlines, and more at www.gatherround.org. Order a free preview pack today by calling Brethren Press 800-441-3712.

Camp Eder Grand Reunion We are hosting an exciting, fun weekend to celebrate 50 years of camping at Camp Eder! It will be held August 13-15, 2010. All current, summer and former staff members and their families are invited. Registration forms are available at www.campeder.org, or call the camp office, 717-642-8256. "Come Walk With Us" as we travel down memory lane, meet new friends and reminisce with old friends. Deadline to register: 8/1/10.

Holy Land Tour Have you ever wanted to walk in the footsteps of Jesus? You can do just that by joining Eddie Edmonds, former Mission & Ministry board chair, and Lerry Fogle, former annual conference executive, who are co-hosting a 10-day tour of the Holy Land from March 14-23, 2011. The tour will depart from and return to Dulles International Airport. Cities to be visited include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Tiberius, Cana, Capernaum and others. Sites of interest include Golgotha, the Garden Tomb, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, Masada and many more. This will be Lerry's third tour and Eddie's second to the Holy Land. For more information contact Lerry at 240-405-2796, lvfogle1@comcast.net or Eddie at 304-671-4775, pastoreddie@verizon.net.

Have you always wanted to work in a bookstore? Brethren Press is looking for volunteers to assist in set-up, operation, and tear-down of the Annual Conference Bookstore in Richmond. If you have interest and time to volunteer, contact James Deaton at 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120 or jdeaton@brethren.org.

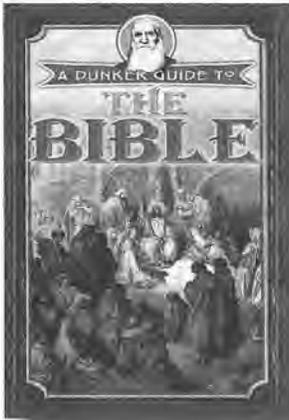
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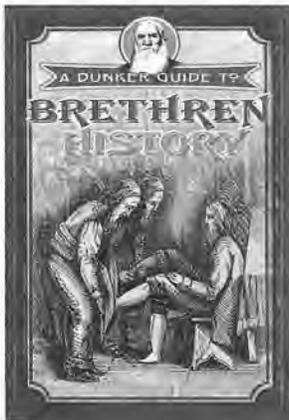
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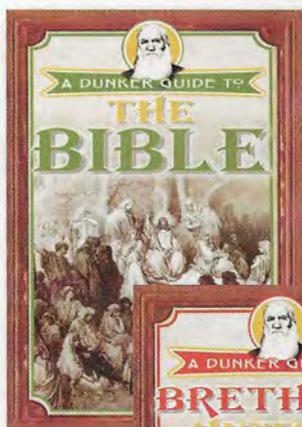
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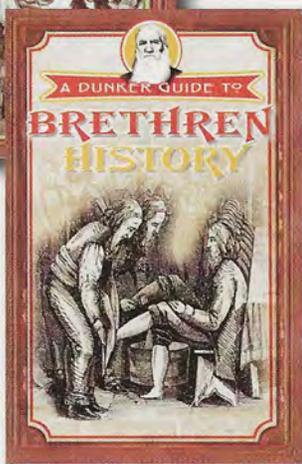


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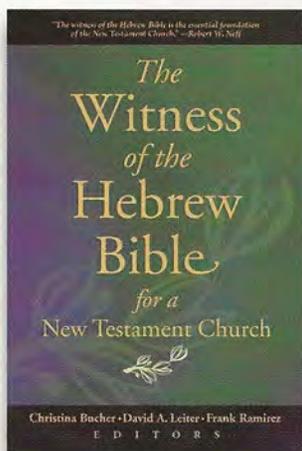
The Witness of the Hebrew Bible for a New Testament Church

Christina Bucher, David A. Leiter, Frank Ramirez – editors

This collection of 13 essays by Brethren scholars argues that the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, is the essential foundation of a New Testament church. Without the witness of the Hebrew Bible – the scriptures Jesus knew and loved – the church loses its sense of belonging and direction. These essays hope to

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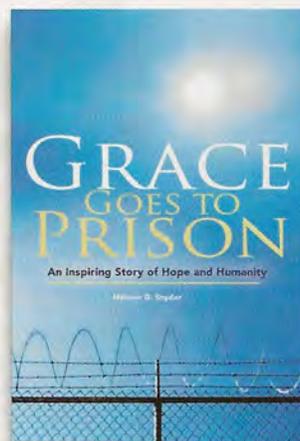


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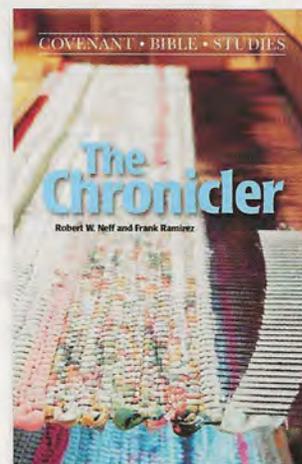
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