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MESSENGER

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6 Wisdom in our daily lives

Wisdom, Bob Neff tells us in this segment focusing on Proverbs 8, "...is an evangelist for justice and righteousness in the busy life of towns and cities." It is not something confined to academia or reserved only for those who have spent years discerning its meaning. "The wisdom figure," Neff says, "calls people to a discerning life in the context of their daily routines. She does not stand outside of where life is lived, but within it."

9 More than meets the eye...in Colorado and beyond

They came in droves, mostly by bus or car. They traveled hundreds—even thousands—of miles to get there. As they lugged their bags to the registration booths, they began to smile and forget about all those hours spent at bake sales, car washes, and spaghetti dinners. Some 3,000 Brethren youth and their advisors gathered July 17 on the campus of Colorado State University for National Youth Conference. When they boarded their buses for home on July 22, many knew they would never be the same. MESSENGER's special 16-page section devoted to the event begins on page 9.

DEPARTMENTS

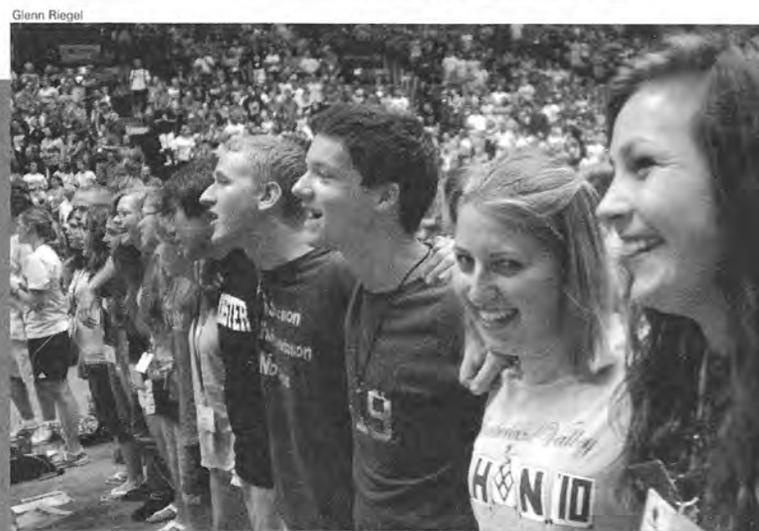
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Glenn Riegel



Glenn Riegel



Glenn Riegel

ONTHECOVER

NYCers are charged to be the light of the world. The very moving glowstick-filled worship service was a highlight of the 2010 National Youth Conference at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. (cover photo by Glenn Riegel)

Former MESSENGER editor Kermon Thomasson once passed along some advice he'd received when a young mission worker. As he deliberated about whether to take a particular trip that he couldn't quite afford, the travel agent said something like this: "Years from now you won't remember how you paid for it, but you'll never forget the trip."



WENDY McFADDEN
Publisher

Once every four years the Church of the Brethren collectively pulls together the money to send several thousand high school youth on a big trip. Sure, the youth do their part by cooking spaghetti or washing cars, but there are always a few adults who drop a fifty instead of a five in the donation basket. There are always congregations that set aside some of their offerings every year for an NYC fund. There are always people who can't travel themselves, but contribute so that a 16-year-old can. For every youth group, there's a congregation that sent them on their way.

Why does traveling far away make a difference?

Certainly a journey to the Rockies is memorable, especially if you've never been west of, say, West Virginia. But simply leaving home—for anywhere—broadens your horizons and shows you that there's more to life than what you know. By the time you have climbed off the bus at the beginning of NYC, you are already prepared to stretch your mind and deepen your faith. By the time you return home, you discover that God has gotten bigger.

Were the bake sales and bug-eating fundraisers worth it? Let's see what youth wrote to each other on Facebook as they left the mountaintop:

"i thought my small group was amazing and the time spend there was so awesome. i definitely left there a different person.♥"

"I had such an amazing time. I wish it would have never had to end. NYC has inspired and changed me. Thanks to all the staff and everyone else who put NYC together. I'm lucky to be able to be some of the people that get to go twice and I can't wait untill the next one."

"NYC was great. I had lots of fun but I guess more importantly I finally realized God's been whacking me upside the head for a long time and I just didn't get some stuff."

"I miss N.Y.C. already. nothing can replace the life-changing experience that N.Y.C. has given me :) Thank you National Youth Conference!"

"Easily the best experience of my life."

When money's tight, it's right to get frugal. But keep spending on children and youth. That's an investment that pays off.

Wendy McFadden

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Florin invests in its community

Challenge raises \$8,500 for area ministry

At worship on June 20, the Outreach Ministry Action Team (OMAT) of Florin (Pa.) Church of the Brethren presented a check for \$8,500 to Nichole (Nikki) Rineer, executive director of Hope Within Ministries.

The funds presented to Hope Within were raised over a seven-week period, based on the parable in Luke 19 where the nobleman has to attend to business and be away from his estate for a period of time and calls 10 of his servants together. He gives them each sums

of money with instructions to invest it while he was away. The moral of the parable is, "Risk your life and get more than you ever dreamed of. . . . Play it safe and end up holding the bag" (Eugene Peterson's *The Message*).

The OMAT team—composed of co-chairs Bonnie Brinkman and Cora Kaylor, Ruth Ann Barr, Earl Dehmey, James Heisey, Bob Price, and Nancy Shonk—passed a "reverse" offering plate at Florin on April 11 with envelopes containing a \$5, \$10, or \$20 bill. Members were invited to take an envelope and "invest" it, with the proceeds to be turned in on May 23, Pentecost Sunday. The congregation was also told, "If you need the money, keep it for yourself." Anyone interested in participating could take an envelope regardless of age or the number in the family.

Members of the congregation immediately began using their talents and creativity by selling soups, baked goods and whoopee pies; detailing cars; offering a mystery dinner, luncheons, custom-made cards, and ice cream socials; and holding a bazaar where baked and canned goods, arts and crafts, cards, and many other items were sold. Some families sold vegetables and strawberries from their gardens.

Members were encouraged to give testimony throughout the seven weeks as to how they had "invested" their funds, and the enthusiasm was contagious. On Pentecost Sunday, a member dressed as a nobleman received the offerings; approximately \$5,800 was turned in by that date, with the rest trickling in over the next two weeks. The vision statement at Florin is "Love God, grow together, and serve passionately." The vision statement was lived out to its fullest during this fundraising campaign.—*Nancy Bullock Shonk*



Members of Florin Church of the Brethren's outreach team present the check from their creative fundraising efforts to Hope Within Ministries. Pictured, from left, are Hope Within Ministries executive director Nichole Rineer, Nancy Bullock Shonk, Ruth Ann Barr, and Bonnie Brinkman.

Northeast Cross Keys Village/The Brethren Home Community (New Oxford, Pa.) will hold an apple butter festival Oct. 9. . . . Everett (Pa.) Church of the Brethren on Oct. 2 planned to host a turkey and ham dinner to benefit disaster response work. . . . Brethren Village (Neffsville, Pa.) held its 20th anniversary golf tournament on Sept. 9.

Southeast Christian Church Uniting and Ivy Farms Church of the Brethren, both in the Hampton Roads region of south-east Virginia, joined to form a "Heifer Herd" of 20-plus people to raise money for Heifer International through a walk on the Virginia Beach oceanfront. The effort raised \$1,250. . . . Brethren Woods (Keezletown, Va.) sponsored a tubing adventure day on the Shenandoah River Aug. 21.

Midwest Roann (Ind.) Church of the Brethren on July 11 held a baptism in the Eel River for 14 people. . . . An open house was held May 16 for Glory to Glory Ministries, a new church plant of Illinois/Wisconsin District in Chicago. . . . The Camp Mack Festival (Milford, Ind.) was scheduled for Oct. 2, with events including announcement of plans for replacing Becker Lodge, which burned this past summer, and a time of blessing.

Ozarks/Plains An auction at this year's Northern Plains District Conference raised \$3,908 for district ministries. . . . Northern Plains delegates approved the request of the Kingsley (Iowa) congregation to disorganize. Remaining assets were divided among six Church of the Brethren-related groups.

West Children's Disaster Services will offer a volunteer training workshop Oct. 29-30 in Los Altos, Calif. . . . Idaho held its district conference Sept. 3-5 at Camp Wilbur Stover, with guest leaders Mary Jo Flory-Steury and Scott Douglas. A workshop titled "Living Well in Ministry" was held just before the conference.

YOU SAID IT

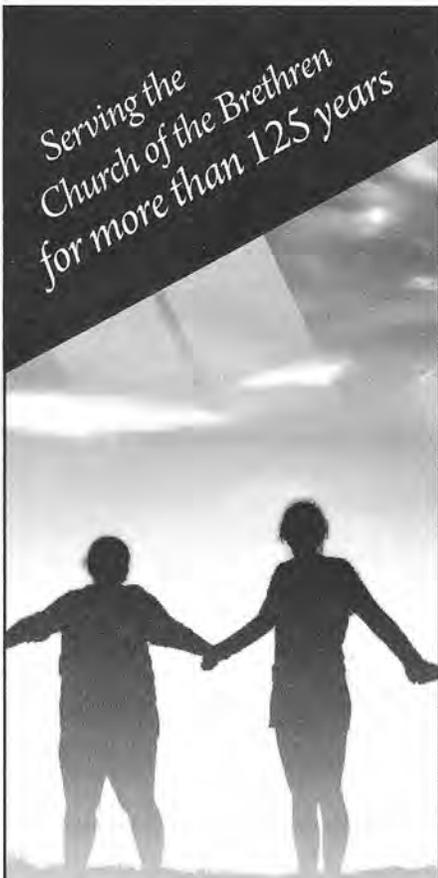
"If one is looking for fuel to have a bonfire, there is no more explosive a mixture than ignorance, bigotry, and ill will."

—Dr. Antonios Kireopoulos, associate general secretary for Faith & Order and Interfaith Relations for the National Council of Churches USA. He was commenting on threats by the pastor of a small church in Florida to burn the Qur'an on Sept. 11.

BY THE NUMBERS

33

Number of volunteers in the Brethren Volunteer Service fall orientation unit at Camp Myrtlewood in Oregon, the highest number in an orientation in three years



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McPherson community shows a passion for service

During the past school year, McPherson (Kan.) College faculty, staff, and students logged 7,873 service hours, and 81.9 percent of students participated in some form of service or service learning activity.

In February, following the disastrous earthquake in Haiti, students in Dr. Marjon Ames' Latin American History class wanted to do something to help victims. They worked with Church World Service and came up with the idea to collect individual hygiene kits for Haiti. Each kit contained a hand towel, washcloth, wide-tooth comb, nail clipper, bar of soap, toothbrush, and six Band-Aids.

Following the conclusion of Ames' class, student Emily James of Westminster, Colo., took over the relief kit effort. She made announcements in local churches, and kits began arriving on the McPherson campus from all over the community. The residence halls held a competition to see which building could collect the most kits. At least seven different organizations within the McPherson community helped support this project, which eventually brought in 903 hygiene kits for Haiti. Nearly \$600 in donations were collected to help in shipping the kits to Haiti.

Tom Hurst, director of campus ministry, shared, "It was personally gratifying to watch students take hold of this project and really get into it. Things like this (Haiti kits) help students to see that there is a bigger, wider world which is part of what college ought to be."

Trinity church offers a break to holiday travelers

An annual Labor Day Coffee Break in Kansas begun in 1961 by pastor Russell Kiester and the Men's Fellowship at the Church of the Brethren in Sabetha, continued this year coordinated by Trinity Church of the Brethren. The ministry offers refreshments to travelers at the "4-Mile Corner" rest stop at the junction of Highways 75 and 36.

Cheryl Mishler, one of the organizers, reports that over the years an estimated 100,000-plus people have been served with more than 4,500 dozen cookies, 500 pounds of coffee, and 300 gallons of orange juice. More than 16,000 volunteers have taken part. Many businesses in Sabetha have provided supplies, and a variety of churches have helped out.

"What began as a ministry of service by the Sabetha Church of the Brethren men, has now become a service of the community of Sabetha," Mishler said.



Nancy Young

McPherson College student Emily James surrounds herself with some of the hygiene kits that members of the college community packed for Haiti.

REMEMBERED

Charles (Chuck) Boyer, 73, a past moderator of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference and a former director of Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) and peace consultant for the denomination, passed away Sept. 2 in La Verne, Calif. He was an ordained minister and a strong peace and justice activist and advocate. He served as BVS director from 1969 to 1976 and as peace consultant from 1976 to 1988. During his own term as a BVS volunteer (1959-1961), he worked in a refugee camp in Berlin, Germany, and planned work-camps and peace seminars for the Brethren Service Commission.



As peace consultant he helped develop the People of the Covenant program, and from 1980 to 1985 chaired the National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors (NISBCO) during a time when compulsory draft registration was reinstated. In 1986 and 1988 he testified before House subcommittees for fair treatment of conscientious objectors. He was arrested several times in actions for peace, once after helping lead a Brethren foot-washing service in the Capitol rotunda as part of a Lenten witness against the Nicaragua Contra war and US policies in Central America. Then, from 1988 until his retirement in 2002, he served La Verne Church of the Brethren as senior pastor.

In 1993 he was moderator of Annual Conference—the first from the West Coast in 30 years. Boyer was born July 20, 1937, in Wabash, Ind., the only child of Ralph and Edith (Frantz) Boyer. In 1962 he married Shirley Campbell, who survives him. He held degrees from Manchester College and Bethany Theological Seminary. At Purdue University he served as campus pastor in the Ecumenical Ministry to International Students from 1964 to 1969. He was an accomplished pianist and loved sports, volunteering as a baseball umpire and officiating at basketball games at different times in his life. A memorial service was held at the La Verne church on Sept. 16.

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Proverbs 8: Let Wisdom embrace you and you will lead a joyful life

Wisdom as co-worker with God

by Bob Neff

I received a scholarship to go to **The Hill School**, an "all-boys private school," in Pottstown, Pa., in 1951 during my late teens. This meant, of course, that there were no girls on campus.

I received an excellent education. I found wisdom through teachers in classrooms, in books in the library, in after-class bull sessions, and through rigorous writing and testing programs. Exams were proctored; silence reigned in the library; students were disciplined; and teachers had high expectations for each of us. College placement was not a dream but a requirement.

At this point in my life, I associated wisdom with the classroom. Many of us of my age associate wisdom and learning with the classroom setting—perhaps not exactly like the one I experienced, but in educational settings nonetheless.

Imagine my surprise when I went to Berea College in Kentucky in 1954 and discovered, in contrast to the all-male setting of the Hill School, that the leading student in my freshman class was a woman. I can still remember her name, Nancy Zook. It took me a while to get used to this fact of life.

And wisdom was now found outside the classroom. Since I was majoring in agriculture, I was expected to work in the dairy barn as a part of my educational

requirements. I lived in an integrated dormitory, one of the first in the South to live up to this ideal. I went to remote churches on weekends with one of my Baptist professors. This experience of education beyond the walls of the classroom stood in stark contrast to my experience at The Hill School. But both kinds of wisdom, within and beyond the classroom, were integral to my education.

When I became president of Juniata College, at the end of every academic year I would interview selected college seniors on the eve of their graduation. One of the questions I would ask them was: What was the most important educational event for you? In most cases they would describe an experience outside the classroom: an exchange situation in a foreign country, a volunteer activity in the community, an internship with a business or law firm, or as a teacher in one of the local schools. The classroom did not lack importance, but for many of these students the most profound learning took place in an experience off campus.

Wisdom within and beyond the classroom are also both to be found in the book of Proverbs. We expect learning to take place in environments like The Hill, and that's what we find in the first part

of the book. Some interpreters believe that many of the chapters of Proverbs are part of a manual for those preparing for civil service in the royal court.

But when we get to the eighth chapter of Proverbs, we experience a complete turnaround. The teacher is not a male, but a female who is larger than life. She appears not in a classroom but in the town square. Her call is to all people, male and female, who are gathered and moving in the crowded streets: "Does not Wisdom raise her voice . . . at the crossroads, beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 'To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live . . . learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it' " (8:1-5).

I will return to this female figure of wisdom at the conclusion of this article. But of first interest is the location where she calls people not to repentance but to the wise life.

She stands in the busiest part of the city—the crossroads at the entrance of the town. In this place people set up

Wisdom is about relationships that are guided by righteousness and justice. To know God's wisdom leads to living in and for the community.



shops, met to discuss business, and convened to resolve legal disputes. Imagine the din and confusion of the crowds. Little wonder that this figure of wisdom must raise her voice. Can the voice of reason, the voice of wisdom, and the voice of discernment be heard in this raw and raucous context?

The answer is a definite yes. This wisdom figure calls people to a discerning life in the context of their daily routines. She does not stand outside of where life is lived, but within it. She doesn't write a how-to manual on how to succeed in business but invites people to a vibrant life of discipleship. Her way leads to a life of justice and righteousness. She declares: "I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice" (v. 20). She is an evangelist for justice and righteousness in the busy life of towns and cities.

In our definition of knowledge we often distinguish between rational and emotional intelligence. In this passage they are united. The search for knowledge is defined by emotion and passion as well as discernment and understanding. To walk in this path is more than the gaining of possessions. This is not to say that there is anything intrinsically wrong with the pursuit of wealth, honor, and prosperity, but the result of following in Wisdom's path brings something much greater: "My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver" (v. 19).

Fear of God leads to honesty in the work place and to just actions. These behaviors bring about a sound business climate and a healthy community. Just think of what these principles would have meant in our recent economic meltdown. Wisdom requires an understanding of people and promotes healthy relationships in a thriving community.

As we have previously discovered in our study of Proverbs 16 (March 2010 MESSENGER), arrogance and pride must be avoided. Right speech in the conduct of business and in the courts is an essential part of community life. These are the characteristics that sustain sound government. Rulers are to live by justice and sound insight (vv. 14ff). Wisdom's call to the community talks about truth, justice, righteousness, and above all the avoid-

ance of evil and perverted speech. What is most striking about this passage is the lofty ideals and the personalized appeal of the inviter. We don't often think of a personal invitation to wisdom unless it is in its earliest form, the teaching of parents.

And so who is Wisdom, and what is the source of Wisdom's authority? She was with God at the beginning of creation. She saw these mighty works and wondrous deeds (vv. 22-29). Moreover, she stood by God as these works were created as by a master artisan (v. 30). What's more, she delights in humans and all that exists. "I was beside him . . . rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race" (vv. 30b-31). In these verses we find an embrace of this world and a deep love for it. This female figure is exalted in all that she does.

In the Gospel of John this figure is identified with Christ who stood in the beginning with God. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God" (John 1:1). This same passage in Proverbs was used in the early Christological controversies in order to define the character and function of Christ. And this same love for the world is expressed in John 3:16, "for God so loved the world."

Our study of God's path in Wisdom's way has brought us to the threshold of the New Testament. Wisdom is about relationships that are guided by righteousness and justice. To know God's wisdom leads to living in and for the community. Wisdom is revealed in this feminine figure in the Hebrew Bible and in the incarnate One in the New Testament. Later Judaism identified this figure of Wisdom with the Law; in Christianity, Wisdom became embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. 

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 seventh installment in a year-long Bible study series on wisdom literature.



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“This is an event dear to my heart.”

—2010 Annual Conference moderator Shawn Flory Replogle, speaking about National Youth Conference (NYC) at an NYC dedication and blessing held during an Annual Conference worship service.

“At seminary you learn about how your background shaped you, how God is shaping you now, where God is calling you in the future.”

—Mennonite pastor Lorie Hershey, in an interview with *The Mennonite* about women in ministry

“It (becoming a Christian) happened not because of indoctrination or a sudden revelation, but because I spent month after month working with church folks who simply wanted to help neighbors who were down on their luck—no matter what they looked like, or where they came from, or who they prayed to.”

—President Barack Obama, speaking to the National Prayer Breakfast about his religious transformation as an adult (CNN)

“If it weren’t for the volunteers and agencies who assisted me, I don’t know where I would be.”

—Gloria Mouton, a retired government employee in New Orleans whose home was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina five years ago and then repaired as part of the 2009 Church World Service Neighborhood New Orleans ecumenical project. She was quoted by the National Council of Churches.

“Domestic violence takes place behind closed doors. When we learn about it, it’s already too late.”

—Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi of Burundi (WCC News Service)

“If we are too attached to the things of this world then we will be unable to travel the journey with God; we will be unable to find our true home.”

—Christy Waltersdorff, pastor of York Center Church of the Brethren (Lombard, Ill.), speaking about Luke 12.

“Pornography is the drug of the millennium and poses a real and present danger to the mental, emotional, and physical health and safety of our children.”

—Donna Rice Hughes, president of activist group “Enough is Enough” and former Child Online Protection Act commissioner

CULTURE REVIEW

• The World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) on June 18 merged with the Reformed Ecumenical Council to form the **World Communion of Reformed Churches**.

• A recent Pew Research Center study found that girls on average send more than **twice as many text messages per day** compared to boys, part of a tendency for women to pay more attention to building friendships from an early age.

• The **2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will focus on the experiences of the churches in Jerusalem. The theme is “One in the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.”

Suggested observance dates are Jan. 18-25; more information is at www.oikoumene.org.

• A National Council of Churches group met in Chicago Aug. 9-11 for a “**Language Matters**” symposium that focused on how people talk about God and faith in a world of increasingly varied traditions and viewpoints.

• The World Council of Churches this summer released

the **Handbook of Theological Education in World Christianity**. It brings together more than 90 expert contribution on recent trends and challenges in theological education and includes a list of resources including a new international directory, available at www.oikoumene.org/theological-schools-directory.

• A developing project in the Galilee region of the Holy Land is the **Jesus Trail** (www.jesus-trail.com), a 38-mile route that runs from Nazareth to Capernaum and retraces some of the route of Jesus’ ministry. An estimated 1,000 people hiked all or part of the trail last year. (*Crossroads*)

• The **US Student Christian Movement (SCM)**, which has been dormant for more than four decades, will be reborn Oct. 8-11 at a gathering at Morehouse College in Atlanta. It will focus on helping students respond to moral and social crises. It will network with the World Student Christian Federation.

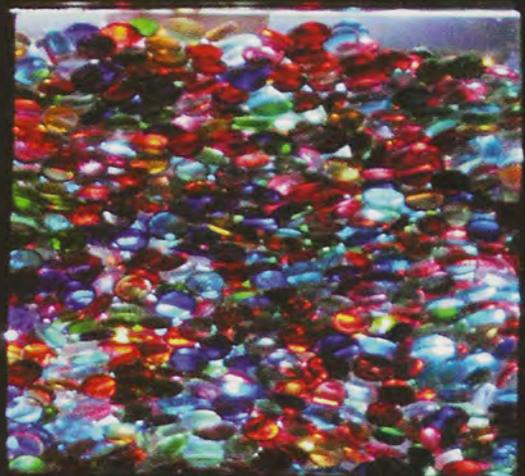


JUST FOR FUN: SCRAMBLE

THE GOOD BOOK In celebration of Brethren Press’ recent book release *A Dunker Guide to the Bible*, unscramble the names of the 12 books of the Bible in this list (answers printed below):

IAMHEHEN	MSONAR
SHANEPIES	SUBMERN
IHADBOA	PINHMOLÉ
EVILNOTARE	SWERBHE
CUTESILVI	ERRVBOPS
KAABUKHK	DEJUGS

ANSWERS: Nehemiah, Ephesians, Obadiah, Revelation, Leviticus, Habakkuk, Romans, Numbers, Philimon, Hebrews, Proverbs, Judges.



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2 CORINTHIANS 4:6-10, 16-18

JULY 17-22, 2010

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY IN FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

A YEARNING TO

Belong



As NYC opened: "You will meet Jesus again and again this week."

As NYC closed: "The space between us is holy ground."

And in between: Eight worship services and a smorgasbord of concerts, Bible studies, workshops, service projects, and activities. Small groups to build Christian community in the midst of the crowd. Deep encounters with God and neighbor.





Numbers:

2,884

total registration, including youth, adult advisors, volunteers, and staff

200

small groups



“No matter where you are in the process of believing, you already belong here.”

—Angie Lahman Yoder



The NYC band. David Meadows and Virginia Meadows were music coordinators and lead vocalists. Others, from left: Andy Duffey on drums, Jacob Crouse on bass, Jonathan Shively on keyboard, and Laban Wenger on guitar.

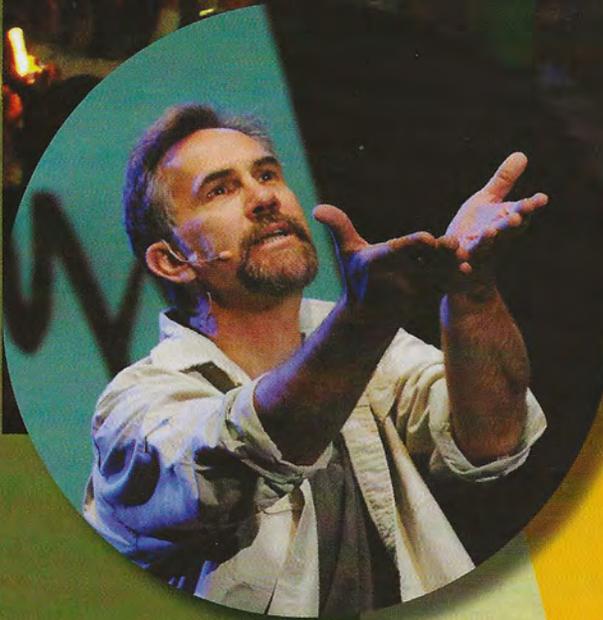
SEARCHING FOR

Identity

Keith Hollenberg



Keith Hollenberg



“We’re with Jesus. No matter where you go, no matter who you see, no matter who you become, be with Jesus.”

—Ted & Co.



“You are the light of the world!”

—Jim Myer



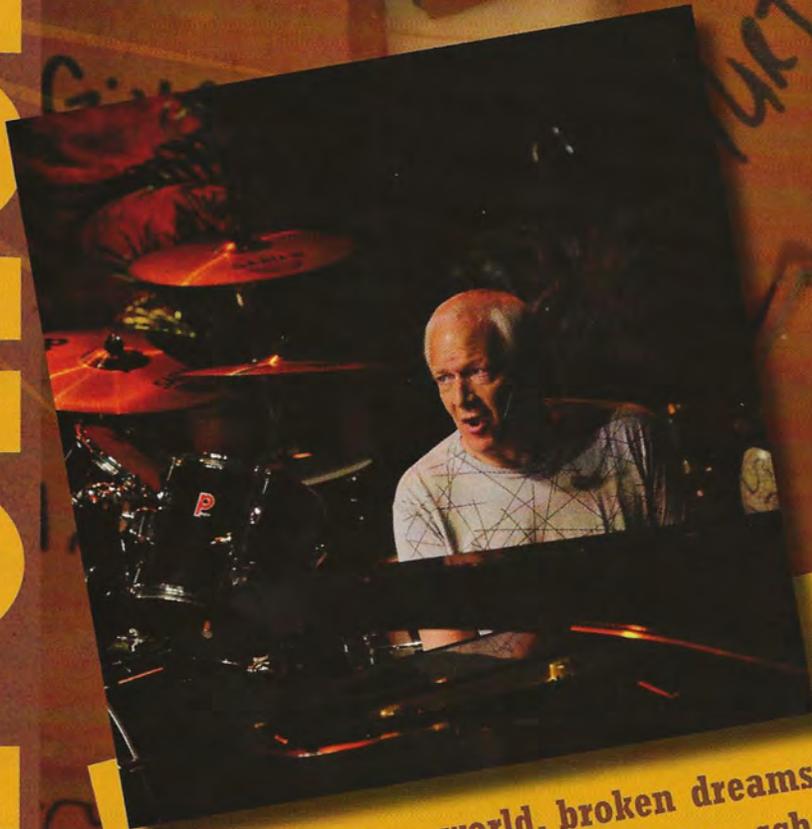
Breath of God. The goal of the Pneuma Challenge scavenger hunt was to experience the breath of God—“pneuma” means breath in Greek, and in scripture it means the breath of God or the Spirit of God. Forty-six teams roamed the campus and searched their Bibles to find items. The instructions were relayed via text message, and the volume of messages caused a glitch when a spam filter was triggered. But low-tech workarounds (old-fashioned print on paper) enabled everyone to take part. The hunt ended in the Lory Theater with a video message from the Holy Spirit.

FACING

Brokenness



It strtd wen God z,
"Light ^ d darkness!"
n r lyfs flID ^ W lyt
as we saw n sussed
God n d face of
Christ, ll brite n btiff. f
u 1ly l%k @ us, u
myt wel ms d
brightness. We carry
dis precious msg amd
n d unadomed clay

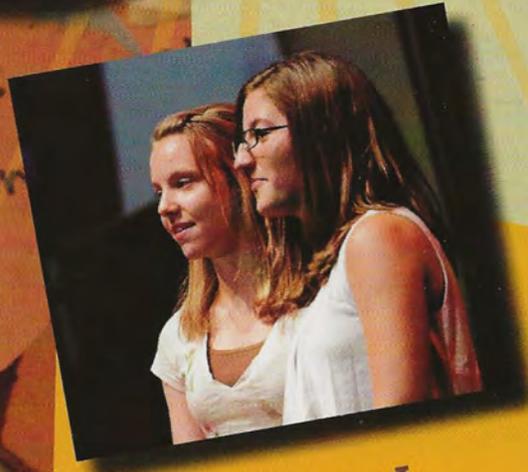


"Broken world, broken dreams,
Broken plans, and broken schemes.
We are broken one and all,
Yet we hear God's awesome call."

—Ken Medema, composing a new song in
response to the morning worship service

"For 300 progressive years the Church of the Brethren has consistently proven that heroes like the Transformers do exist."

— Kelsey Boardman, youth speech contest winner from Modesto, Calif.



"By God's grace, I am more than meets the eye. And we know that you are too."

—Arbie Karasek and Renee Neher, youth speech contest winners from York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Ill.

"The closer we are to God, the less we want to throw stones."

—Shane Claiborne, a founding partner of the Simple Way faith community in inner-city Philadelphia



Numbers:

737

school kits given for disaster relief

1,845

items collected in a food offering for the Larimer County Food Bank in Fort Collins

self
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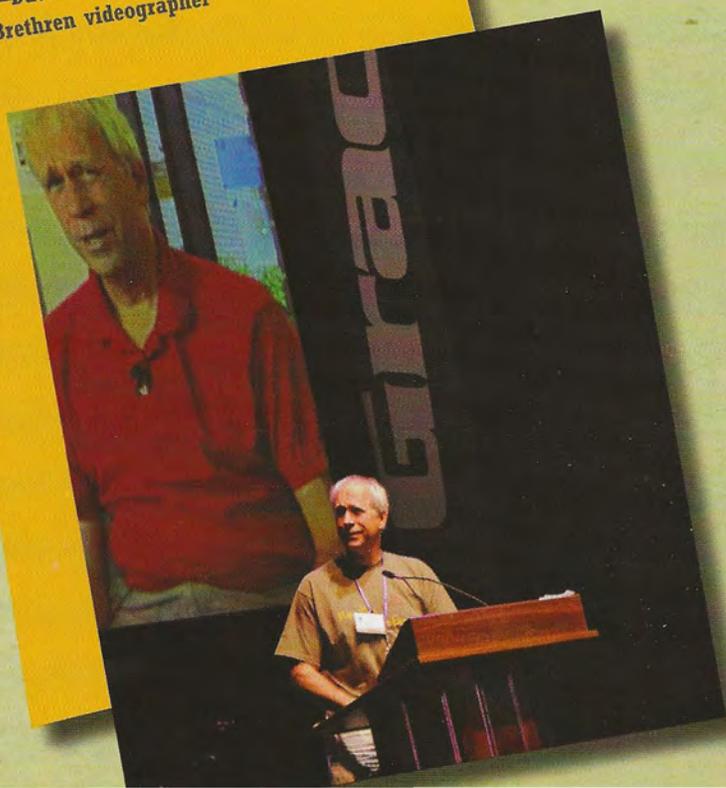
Peac

Grace

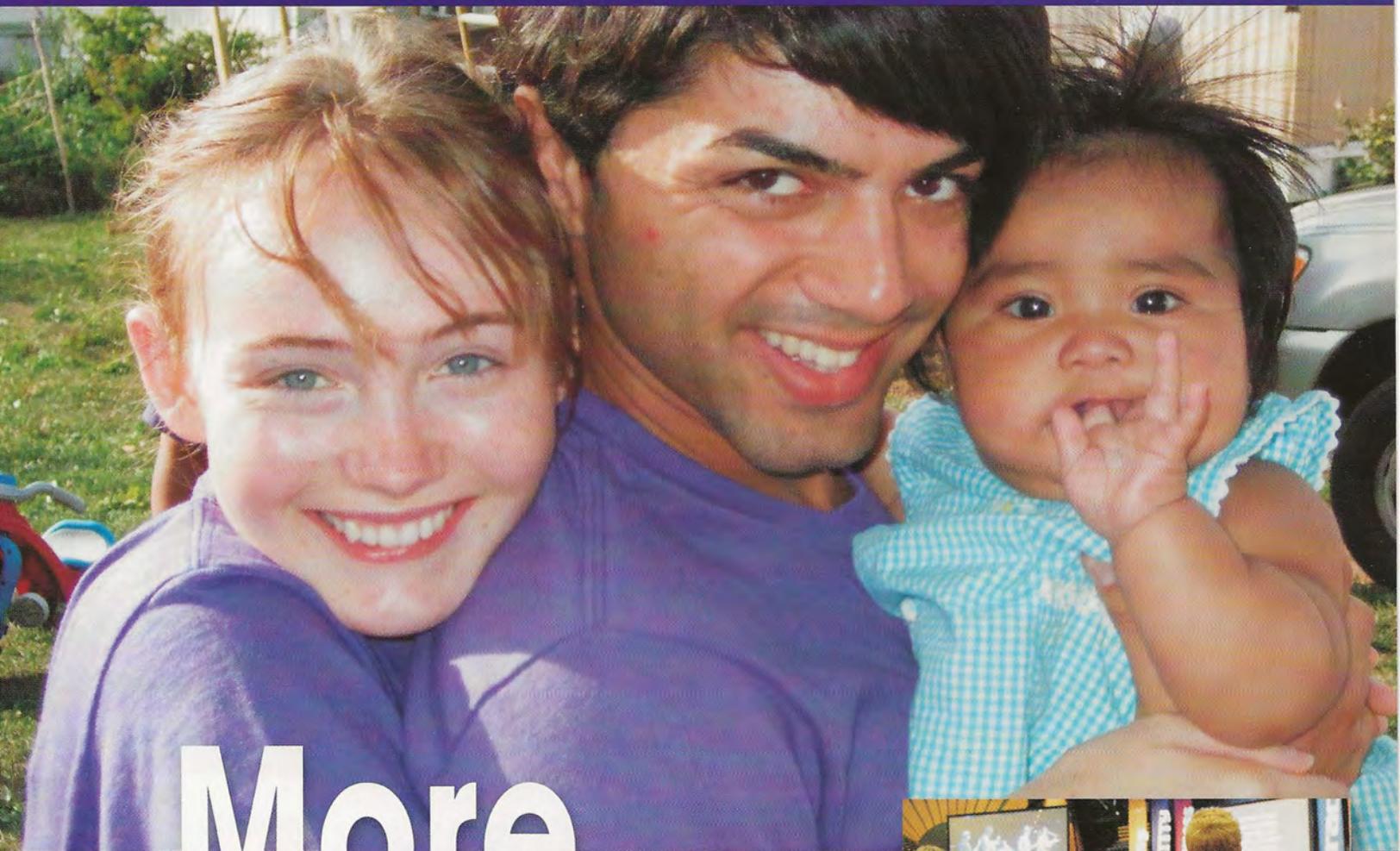


**“God really,
really has faith
in us.”**

—David Sollenberger,
Brethren videographer



Brethren Volunteer Service



More than Meets the Eye

Sharing God's love through acts of service.

BVS offers individuals a chance to advocate for justice, work for peace, serve human need and care for creation.

BVSers meet Jesus in the lives they touch.

Change your life. Change the world.



Youth at National Youth Conference were given a BVS bandana when they made a commitment to serve.

Photo by Glenn Riegel



www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org

800-323-8039

Volunteer benefits: housing, food, medical insurance, and monthly stipend

 AmeriCorps Education Awards available



Church of the Brethren

Love your life

Remarkable Dining & Catering



{ *Executive Chef Christian Laire* }
Ask any resident, staff member or even guests about the dining experience at Hillcrest and you'll hear them rave about the culinary wizardry of Chef Christian Laire. Educated in the French system of culinary education known as Culinary Aptitude, Chef Laire worked in several restaurants, including his own and in many different countries.



Chef Laire welcomed the opportunity to join Hillcrest. He enjoys that his work is mission-driven and has purpose. He has a relationship with the residents; he sees them everyday, they give him feedback and he can see the results of his efforts in the kitchen. That connection and exchange allows him to give back through his cooking and to make Hillcrest residents happy.

Remarkable Wellness Program



{ *Resident Sharon Wright* }
"I'm busier than ever, but having so much fun! Between my clients, the drama club, and swimming, the excitement never ends! I can't think of any place else on Earth like this. The freedom to do as much as or as little as you want is limitless. Hillcrest is like a B&B but more than that – it's an extended family."



{ *Residents Joan & Jack Rosenbrock* }
Joan and Jack Rosenbrock enjoy the quiet life at Hillcrest, especially their relaxing outdoor space, where they often have a glass of wine and chat with neighbors. "It's like having another room" says Joan. Also very active in water aerobics, Joan raves "the Aquatic Center alone is worth moving to Hillcrest for!"

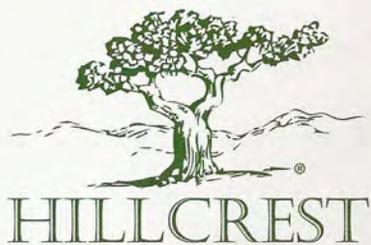
Remarkable Residents



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



{ *Resident Ann Doty* }
Ann's advice on making the move to a retirement community. "Remember that nothing is certain, everything changes and we don't know what the future holds – so look at it as an adventure!"

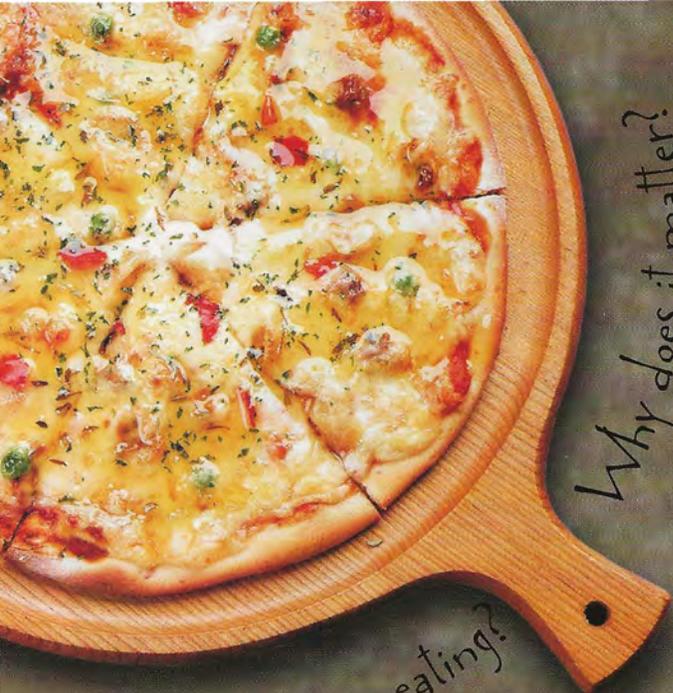


A Remarkable Retirement Community®

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



DSS #191501662
Certificate of Authority #069



Why does it matter?

"Give us today our daily bread"

Matthew 6:11 (NIV)

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS)

March 26 - 31, 2011

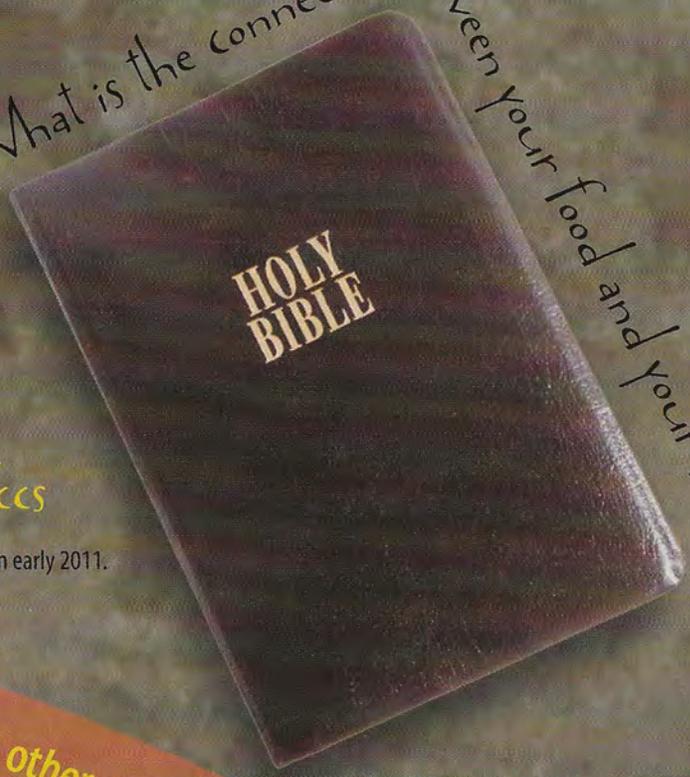
New York City and Washington D.C.

Come and join a **community of high school students** for a week to **explore the connections** between the **food we eat** and the **faith we speak**.

What are you eating?

Since our beginnings, Brethren have been closely related to the agricultural system. While fewer and fewer of us work with the land on a daily basis, we all enjoy the fruits of the labors of those who do because we all eat. As our population (and the US population) continues to increase and shift from rural to urban, it is important to think about where our food comes from, why it comes from that particular place, and how it arrives to us. The number of questions we face about food and faith continue to expand. Ask your questions. Struggle with the complexities. Pray for guidance and wisdom. **Come to the table!**

What is the connection between your food and your faith?



For more information, visit www.brethren.org/ccs

Registration will open in early 2011.

Looking to put your faith into practice? Join other youth at a Workcamp next summer!



 Church of the Brethren

www.brethren.org/workcamps

Online registration will begin in January – start saving now!

"Grace is most definitely not about us. Grace is about Christ."

—Carol Scheppard, an ordained minister and vice president and dean of academic affairs at Bridgewater (Va.) College

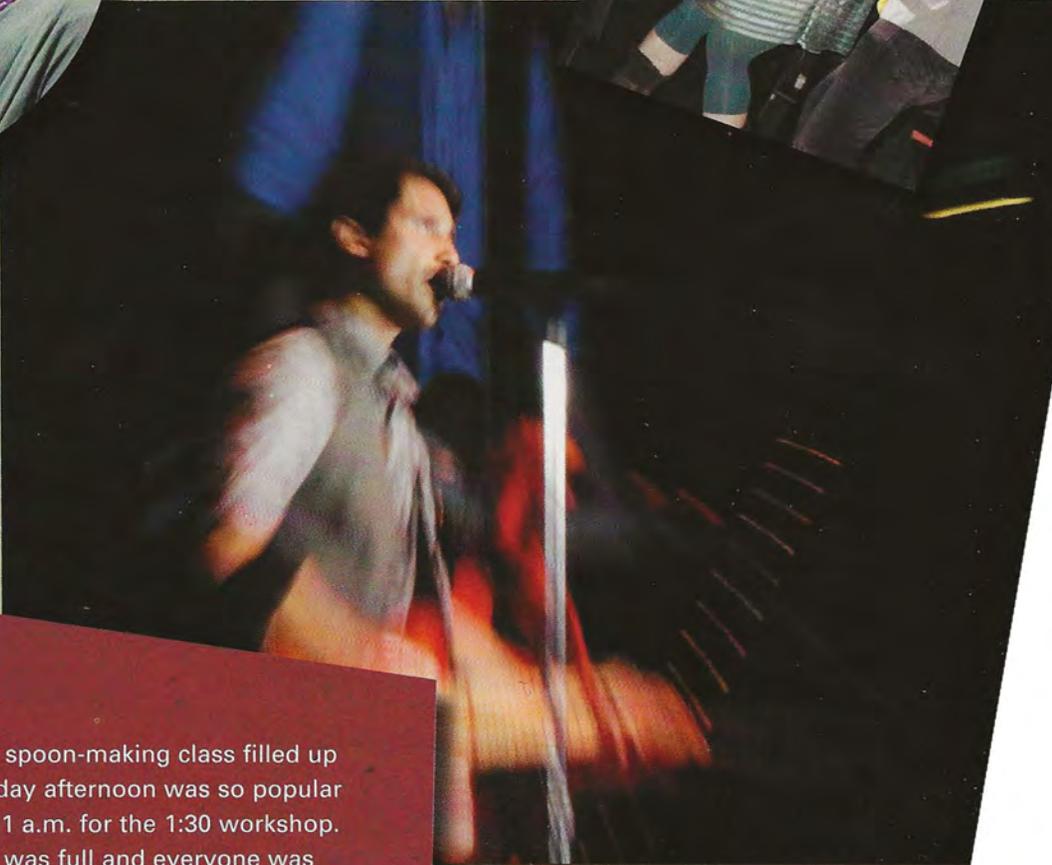


Keith Hollenberg

Numbers:
143 workshops offered for youth and advisors



Frances Townsend



A wealth of workshops. A wooden spoon-making class filled up quickly on Monday afternoon, and by Wednesday afternoon was so popular that two youth skipped lunch to get in line at 11 a.m. for the 1:30 workshop. Well before the official starting time, the room was full and everyone was busy filing and rasping their blocks of wood.

The full list of workshops ran the gamut, covering topics such as peace, the environment, biblical themes in movies, disaster response in Haiti, prayer, finance, knitting, music, Nigeria, crossing cultures, BVS, drama, depression, camp counseling, ministry, worship wars, life as a PK, Bible basics, global mission, church ordinances, grief, youth ministry, and juggling.

EXTENDING AGAPE

LOVE

Numbers: **\$16,502**

given in an offering for Haitian schoolchildren and Brethren-related schools in Haiti

Will you let me be your servant? More than half of the participants (1,737) spent an afternoon spread among 50 service projects in and around the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland. Among the options were yard work, window washing, trash pick-up, sorting clothes at a thrift store, senior care, and playing with young children at the Boys and Girls Club. More unusual work included painting trees for beaver control at two natural areas, transplanting native plants at the High Plains Environmental Center, and working at Hearts and Horses Therapeutic Riding Center.

**"I met
Jesus, and he
mugged me."**

—Jarrod McKenna,
eco-evangelist and peace
activist from Perth, Australia



Please turn your cellphones on?

Most of the time, participants were asked to turn their cellphones completely off at the beginning of worship. But Wednesday evening, everyone was invited to turn their phones on and text their answers to this question: "What does it look like when the mystery of love fills you?" Through a service called Poll Everywhere, the text messages were received from across the arena and began scrolling up on the screen. "It looks like 3,000 Brethren at worship," read one message.



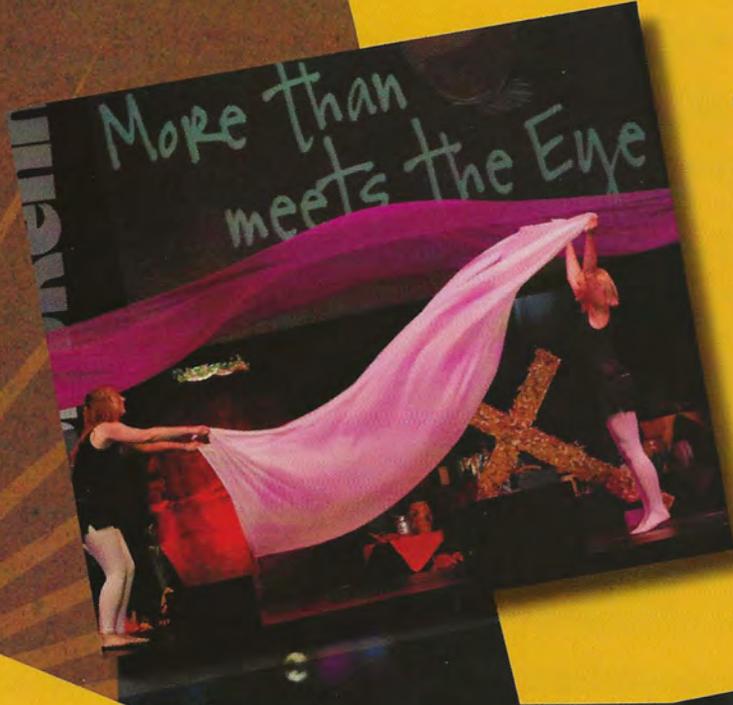
And when I rise. Early morning Bible studies were led by Dana Cassell. "It's through the cracks of brokenness that the light can shine through," she said in a study of the theme text from 2 Corinthians 4.



"Agape love is God's love demonstrated and dramatized in Jesus Christ through every single human being, including those gathered in this hall this morning."

—Dennis Webb, pastor of Naperville (Ill.) Church of the Brethren

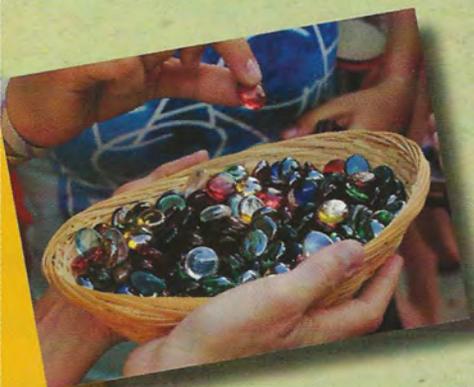
JOY



“And the number one thing: Today is not the day that NYC ends, my friends. Today is the day that NYC starts sweeping out into the other 6.85 billion people around the world. Let that light shine!”

—from Walt Wiltschek's Top Ten Things about NYC 2010





Brethren, we have met to worship.

Guests from Brazil and Nigeria joined other readers to bring words in Portuguese, Hausa, Haitian Creole, and Spanish.



Numbers:

\$12,375

given for the NYC Scholarship Fund, half of it donated from key deposit refunds

“The Church of the Brethren has never been more relevant than it is right now.”

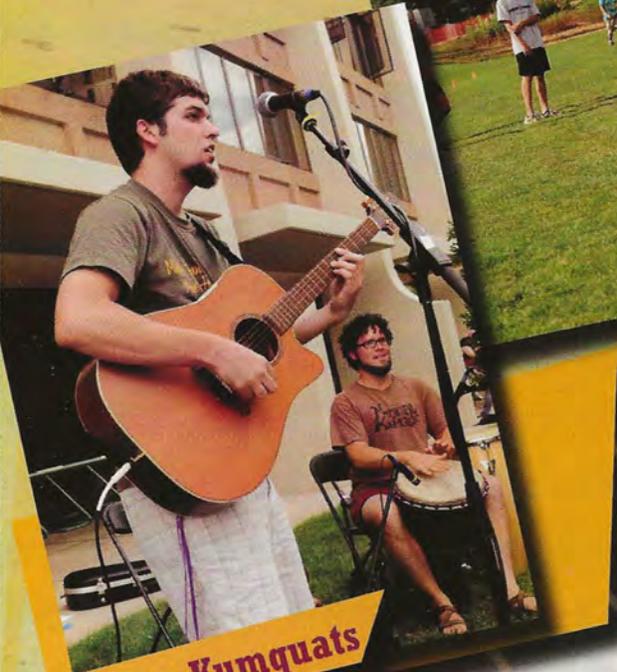
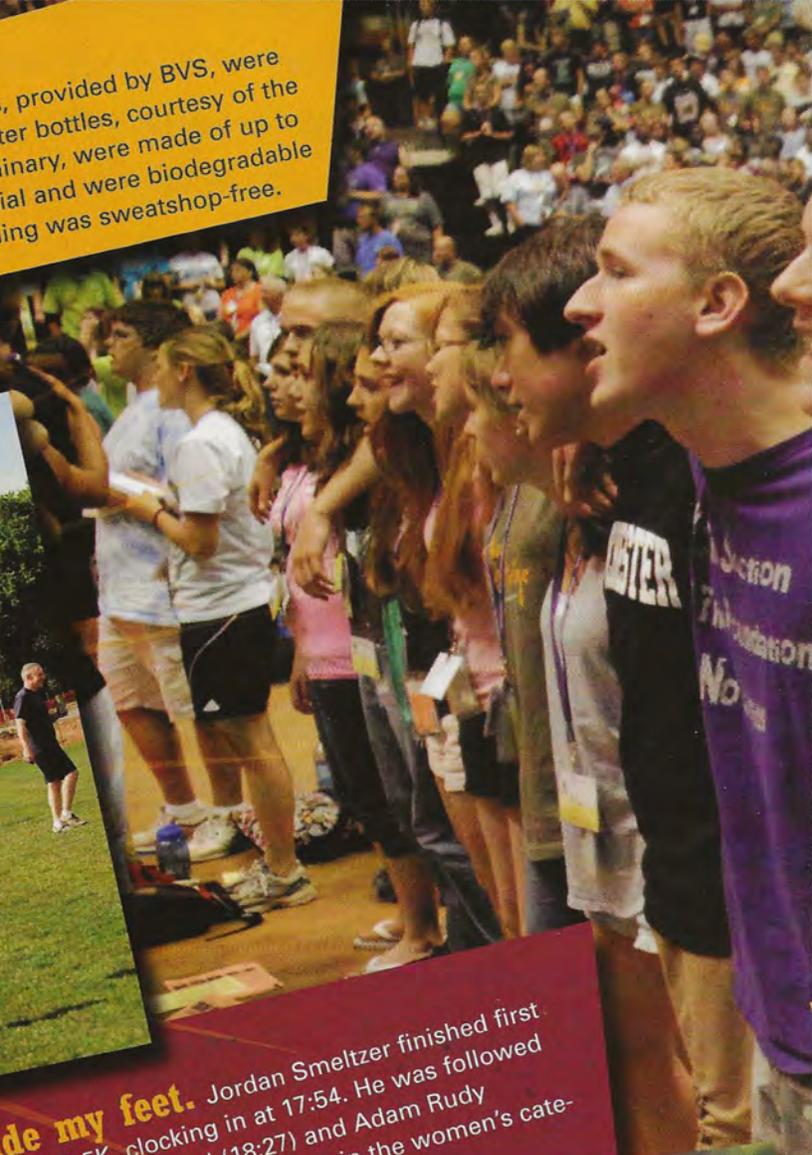
—Shawn Flory Replogle



Brethren Boy



By the way. Lanyards, provided by BVS, were made of bamboo fiber. Water bottles, courtesy of the Brethren colleges and seminary, were made of up to 15 percent recycled material and were biodegradable and recyclable. NYC clothing was sweatshop-free.



Live Kumquats

Guide my feet. Jordan Smeltzer finished first in the NYC 5K, clocking in at 17:54. He was followed shortly by Tyler Riegel (18:27) and Adam Rudy (18:53). Kelsi Beam finished first in the women's category at 21:32, followed by Brittany Fourman (23:04) and Megan Krok (23:17). About 180 runners participated.



More Than Meets The Eye

Shawn Kirchner

VERSE 1

More than meets the eye. "Who was the essential Jesus, the Jesus the first Christians knew, that the early Brethren hoped to rediscover? The guy who got all this going, so that 2,000 years later we're all here at the mountain asking this question? Let's spend our lives finding out. . . ."
 From remarks sent by Shawn Kirchner, who wrote the NYC theme song

Numbers:

42 volunteer youth workers



**Don't be a PC—
a "prototypical
Christian"**

"Some of you use PCs
and some of you use
Macs. I guess I would
prefer... A. Mack!"

—A. Mack (Brethren founder
Alexander Mack is played by
Larry Glick)

The leaders. NYC was made possible by co-coordinators Audrey Hollenberg and Emily LaPrade, youth and young adult director Becky Ullom, and the National Youth Cabinet. Front: Kelsey Murray, Tyler Goss, Kay Guyer, Emily LaPrade, Sam Cupp, Christy Waltersdorff. Back: Jamie Frye, Walt Wiltschek, Audrey Hollenberg, Ryan Roebuck, Becky Ullom.

Generation to generation. Becky Ullom leads the conference in thanking Chris Douglas for almost 25 years as director of youth and young adult ministry. "Chris, you have encouraged us, the daughters and sons of the church, to live in God's grace."





WE CARRY THIS PRECIOUS MESSAGE AROUND IN THE UNADORNED CLAY POTS OF OUR ORDINARY LIVES. THAT IS TO PREVENT ANYONE FROM CONFUSING GOD'S INCOMPARABLE POWER WITH US. AS IT IS, THERE'S NOT MUCH CHANCE OF THAT. YOU KNOW FOR YOURSELVES THAT WE'RE NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT. WE'VE BEEN SURROUNDED AND BATTERED BY TROUBLES, BUT WE'RE NOT DEMORALIZED; WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT TO DO, BUT WE KNOW THAT GOD KNOWS WHAT TO DO; WE'VE BEEN SPIRITUALLY TERRORIZED, BUT GOD HASN'T LEFT OUR SIDE; WE'VE BEEN THROWN DOWN, BUT WE HAVEN'T BROKEN. . . . THERE'S FAR *more here than meets the eye.* THE THINGS WE SEE NOW ARE HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW. BUT THE THINGS WE CAN'T SEE NOW WILL LAST FOREVER. 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, 18 *The Message*

Remembering NYC. The NYC Wrap-up DVD is available from Brethren videographer David Sollenberger at LSVideo@comcast.net. Include name, address, and \$20, which includes shipping and handling. Online coverage can be found at www.brethren.org/nycnews.



Connected. The Monday morning worship service was the first NYC event ever to be webcast. This was also the first Church of the Brethren conference to be "covered" via Twitter. Comprehensive coverage was published on www.brethren.org, and highlights were posted on Facebook.

The news team for NYC included photographers Glenn Riegel and Keith Hollenberg, writers Frank Ramirez and Frances Townsend, NYC Tribune guru Eddie Edmonds, Facebooker and Twitterer Wendy McFadden, website staff Amy Heckert, and news director and editor Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford.

Encounters with the Holy

A Conversational Model for Worship Planning

At the turn of the 21st century, pastor and theologian Tom Long heralded a time *Beyond the Worship Wars* (Alban Institute Publications, 2001). Now, into the second decade of the new millennium, Barbara Day Miller, assistant dean of worship and music, Candler School of Theology, provides worship leaders and pastors with a tool to finally live into a time beyond confrontation and beyond embattled conversations about worship.

In an age when entertainment defines the national economy, Miller shifts the dominant perspectives of worship from marketability to faith formation. Rather than asking how our worship attracts and keeps attendants, Miller begins by asking how the people of a congregation can be involved in planning the liturgy, literally making it the work of the people.

For people rooted in the Believers' Church traditions, Miller's frequent use of sacramental and "high church" language may be off-putting. Yet, her opening thoughts should give us comfort: Worship is the work of all believers, not the product of an elite class of priests.

Throughout our history as Brethren, we have come to rely more and more on the pastor to plan and lead the most central of Christian practices: Sunday worship. The effect has been twofold: the increasing passivity of the congregation in worship, and the increasing specialization of the clergy. Ultimately, the pastor has become the sole practitioner, and the congregation has become an audience. Even those congregations whose structure includes a worship committee often contribute to this trend by limiting the committee members to the specialists: pastor, musicians, and artists. Miller's work is an important reminder that worship is a common act of praise rather than an entertainment production.

With an eye toward including any member of the congregation, Miller presents a model of planning that includes moments of prayer, teaching, and reflection. Although this model was shaped in the context of a seminary community, it has been capably implemented in a number of congregations across the country.

Miller's process is strikingly simple. The worship planners gather around four acts: planning, organizing, worshipping, and reflecting. Such an approach allows for teaching

moments, thus helping the community attend to the themes, structure, prayers, and movements in each Sunday gathering. In essence, the model engages the congregation in a process of discipleship centered on the practice of worship.

Throughout the book, Miller describes the various effects of involving more members of the community in the planning cycle of worship. Along with recounting the effects on the worship services at Candler, she shares anecdotal observations from some of her students as they used the process in their local congregations.

In each chapter, Miller presents the reader with examples of structures, ways to organize meetings, and guidelines for guiding the sharing. At each stage she is clear that all of God's people desire to offer their best in worship. So each insight and suggestion is designed to help draw out the best from each member of the community. For example, as Miller discusses the Ordering phase of the model, she offers a practical insight: "We have learned that preparing the final order for the weekly worship about a week after the initial planning and at least a week before the worship service keeps the ideas sharp and gives time for final detail preparation" (p. 49).

For the more free-spirited among the Brethren, this may sound contrived, or even worse, dismissive of the Holy Spirit. Yet, just a few pages into the book, Miller dismisses this fear: "The planning and preparation are themselves opportunities to experience the Holy, to see God's Spirit at work in us" (p. 11). Or, as a professor of mine once noted: Who is to say that the Spirit isn't active from Monday to Saturday?

Throughout the book, Miller consistently points to this divine activity within the cycle of worship and reflection. Those involved in the process from Monday to Sunday morning are often more attentive to the movements of the Spirit in the reading the scriptures for the week, discussing the songs, and praying with the community.

From cover to cover, this attentiveness to the actions of God fills each page. In so doing, Barbara Day Miller subtly challenges the reigning metaphors for worship: That the time of worship is about being entertained, is a product of an elite class, and is a private and internal practice. What a grand shift, which brings worship back to the people as they seek God. **W**

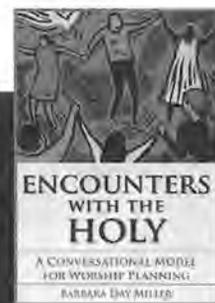
Joshua Brockway is director of Spiritual Life and Discipleship for the Church of the Brethren.



JOSH BROCKWAY

ABOUT THE BOOK

Title: *Encounters with the Holy: A Conversational Model for Worship Planning*. **Author:** Barbara Day Miller. **Publisher:** Alban Institute Publications, 2010. **List price:** \$17. **Note:** Encounters with the Holy offers straightforward wisdom in deepening the conversation of God's people on worship. —*Dr. Lester Ruth, Lily May Jarvis Professor of Christian Worship at Asbury Theological Seminary and Instructor in Worship History, Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies.*





ONCAMPUS

Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.)

Bridgewater added two new "village-style" residences to its campus this summer, earning a LEED Silver designation for "green" building. Twenty percent of the materials used in the new Stone Village were made or harvested within 500 miles of the college, and at least 20 percent of all building materials were made of recycled materials.



Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, Pa.)

A photo exhibit titled "Behind the Walls," by Elizabethtown professor Gene Ann Behrens, showcases experiences from Bethlehem in the West Bank. It was displayed in the college's Zug Memorial Hall this fall. . . . Elizabethtown will host and co-sponsor the 20th annual Building Strong Families Conference on Oct. 19.



Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.)

Juniata welcomed the second-largest freshman class in its history this fall, with 445 new students arriving on campus. The class includes seven National Merit Scholarship finalists. . . . Juniata ranked 77th among all liberal arts colleges in *Washington Monthly's* list this year, up 12 spots from a year ago.



University of La Verne (La Verne, Calif.)

The university is using a \$250,000 Fletcher Jones Foundation grant to fund a new Complex Dynamical Systems Laboratory on campus to study pattern formation in a wide range of phenomena related to math and physics. Major alternative rock band The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus headlined LaVernapalooza 2010.



Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.)

Manchester's enrollment has hit record numbers for a third straight year, with more than 1,270 students to start the fall semester. . . . *Washington Monthly* magazine ranked Manchester 14th among the nation's baccalaureate colleges for its "contribution to the public good" through service and service learning.



McPherson College (McPherson, Kan.)

The board of trustees in June approved construction of a new 32-bed apartment building to meet the needs of a growing campus community. Enrollment was projected to rise at least 10 percent this fall. A motorcycle rally and show on Sept. 25 celebrated McPherson's new motorcycle restoration major. . . . Bruce Spitzer and Bruce Lolling were named the college's 2010 Dayton Rothrock Alumni Fellow Award winners.



Becky Fuchs

Youth from Mountville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren show off their impressive haul of hot dogs to benefit the needy.

Mountville youth relish an opportunity to serve

School's out! Hot dog!

These shouts of joy from children can present a challenge for parents who struggle to make ends meet. When summer comes and children don't receive free school lunches, the cost of the midday meal is added to already strained food budgets. The youth at Mountville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren spent time helping parents provide summer lunches for their children.

June was Hot Dog Challenge Month in the 180-member Mountville congregation. The youth invited members to donate hot dogs for the local food bank. Two anonymous donors each agreed to match every package of hot dogs given to the youth group project. Congregation members provided over 200 packs of hot dogs, which meant that after the matching gifts more than 600 packages of hot dogs were donated to the Columbia Food Bank.

The Mountville youth have been supporters of the work of the food bank for several years and have assembled Easter baskets, Halloween treat bags, and assisted the staff with sorting and storing food donations.—*Becky Fuchs*

Bits and pieces

- The **2011 Church of the Brethren National Junior High Conference** will be held June 17-19 at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College. Fees have been set by the Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office at \$150 for registrations received between Jan. 10 (when registration opens) and April 15. After that date, the fee will go up to \$175. Travel scholarships of up to \$175 per person are available for those coming from west of the Mississippi. More details on the conference are at www.brethren.org/njhc.

- **Atlantic Southeast District youth** in September gathered a group to attend "Rock the Universe," a concert of Christian bands held at Universal Studios in Orlando. Youth planned to spend the night at nearby Camp Ithiel, do a service project, and then attend the concert.

- **Ken Medema**, a nationally known blind musician who performed at the recent National Youth Conference and has done many previous Brethren events, was the featured performer for the "Concert of Hope" held to benefit the Brethren Housing Association of Harrisburg, Pa., on Sept. 9. The concert was held at Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. It included a free-will offering and a dessert reception.

Annual Conference theme and speakers announced for 2011

The theme and main speakers have been announced for the Church of the Brethren's Annual Conference next year, July 2-6, 2011, in Grand Rapids, Mich. Moderator Robert E. Alley announced the theme "Gifted with Promise: Extending Jesus' Table," based on the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Alley also announced a theme song, "Praise, I Will Praise You Lord," and the preachers and worship leaders for the daily worship services:

Saturday evening, July 2: Moderator Robert Alley will preach for the opening worship service with moderator-elect Tim Harvey as worship leader.

Sunday morning, July 3: Craig H. Smith, executive minister for Atlantic Northeast District, will preach, with worship leaders Joel and Linetta Ballew.

Monday evening, July 4: Preacher Samuel Sarpiya, pastor of Rockford (Ill.) Community Church, a new church plant, will be assisted by worship leader Nathan D. Polzin.

Tuesday evening, July 5: The message will be brought by preacher Dava C. Hensley, pastor of First Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Va., with worship leader Peter J. Kontra.

Wednesday morning, July 6: The closing service will hear from the Church of the Brethren's general secretary Stan Noffsinger, with worship leader Rhonda Pittman Gingrich.



Robert Alley

PERSONNEL MOVES

Jan Fischer Bachman is the new website producer for the Church of the Brethren, working on a contract basis from Chantilly, Va. A member of Oakton (Va.) Church of the Brethren, she is a writer for the Gather 'Round curriculum published by Brethren Press and Mennonite Publishing Network.

In other work, she has provided consultation in editing, design, and marketing for a wide range of clients in several countries, most recently in the Gambia, where she used to live. During a stint with the Foreign Service Institute at the US Department of State, she was a writer, editor, and manager of the organization's websites.

Jordan Blevins started July 1 as the church's staff for witness in a joint appointment with the National Council of Churches (NCC), where he also is seconded to serve as an advocacy officer in Washington, D.C. He will lead an ecumenical peacemaking program on behalf of the two organizations. He is a member of Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren.

Previously, he was associate director of the NCC's Eco-Justice Program, and coordinator of Poverty Initiatives and Washington internships since September 2007. Blevin's

responsibilities for the Church of the Brethren will include nurturing the denomination's witness to society and government from a uniquely Anabaptist-Pietist Brethren perspective, with a pacifist emphasis on peace and justice.

Prior to joining the NCC, he was a legislative intern at the Brethren Witness/Washington Office beginning in January 2007. He holds two bachelor's degrees from Bridgewater (Va.) College, a master of arts degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University, and a master of theological studies from Wesley Theological Seminary, where he also is pursuing a doctorate of ministry in Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue.

Jerry Rodeffer resigned from his position as chief financial officer of Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) on Aug. 11 for medical reasons. He had served in this role for nearly two years, having begun on Nov. 19, 2008. He directed BBT's finance department and oversaw management of nine national investment managers and the company's investment system that secures the assets of Brethren Pension Plan members and Brethren Foundation clients. Rodeffer had held the position

previously, when from November 1990-July 1994 he served as BBT's chief financial officer and treasurer.

Michael Wagner has begun work with the Church of the Brethren in southern Sudan, in a position seconded to the Africa Inland Church-Sudan, a member of the Sudan Council of Churches. Before joining the Church of the Brethren, Wagner served a two-year term with the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso. Prior to that, he worked as a life insurance auditor in Indianapolis, Ind.

Wagner's responsibilities in Sudan include developing centralized management systems for planning, financial reporting, and project evaluation; serving as an organizational development advisor to build Africa Inland Church's capacity to effectively implement post-war resettlement and poverty alleviation programs including health services, education, peacebuilding, theological training, agricultural development, women's self-help strategies, and relief efforts. He is a graduate of Manchester College in North Manchester, Ind., and holds a master of arts degree in Finance and Accounting. His home congregation is Mountville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 3 World Communion Sunday

Oct. 4-6 Children's Disaster Services training workshop, Liberty Center, Ohio

Oct. 9 Deacon Training Workshop, Glendora (Calif.) Church of the Brethren

Oct. 10 Global Mission Offering emphasis

Oct. 15-17 National Observance of Children's Sabbath

Oct. 16 World Food Day

Oct. 16-24 Peace and Justice Week

Oct. 16-18 Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board meeting, Church of the Brethren General Offices, Elgin, Ill.

Oct. 23 Deacon Training Workshop, West Charleston Church of the Brethren, Tipp City, Ohio

Oct. 24 Reformation Sunday and World Disarmament Day

Oct. 29-31 Bethany Theological Seminary Board meeting

Oct. 29-30 Children's Disaster Services training workshop, Los Altos, Calif.

Bethany Theological Seminary celebrates 105th commencement

On May 8, Bethany Theological Seminary celebrated its 105th commencement, awarding nine students a master of divinity degree and one student a certificate of achievement in theological studies.

Ted Flory of Bridgewater, Va., chair of the seminary's board of trustees, gave the address at the academic ceremony titled "An Incarnational Education." Flory ended his 10-year term on the board July 1. Scott Holland, professor of theology and culture and director of peace studies and cross-cultural studies, shared a sermon at the afternoon worship service titled "We Live Only What We Imagine."

Those who received a master of divini-

ty degree are Barbara Leininger Dickason of Frederick, Md.; Seth D. Hendricks, Englewood, Ohio; Judith A. Hollandsworth, Parker City, Ind.; Roland D. Johnson, Live Oak, Calif.; Denton Eugene Krietz, Thurmont, Md.; Travis Edward Turner Poling, Richmond, Ind.; Rebecca O. Rhodes, Roanoke, Va.; Tracy Ann Stoddart, Dayton, Ohio, with emphases in peace studies and youth and young adult ministry and distinction in ministry studies; and Joseph Campbell Tolton, Midland, Mich. Laura Kelsey of Fishers, Ind., received a certificate of achievement in theological studies.

In other news from the seminary,

Bethany has received approval from its accrediting body, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), to launch an "MA Connections" track for students working on master of arts degrees in theological reflection and research. The new program is in addition to a master of divinity degree completion track titled "MDiv Connections" that has been available for students unable to relocate to the seminary's campus in Richmond, Ind.

The seminary will officially enroll students in the new track in the Spring 2011 semester. New and continuing students interested in MA Connections can take courses prior to Spring 2011 and transfer them into the track. The MA thesis sequence courses, which are the core classes of the program, will be offered in a variety of formats: as weekend intensives, hybrid classes, or meeting weekly with some students physically present in the classroom and others connected via video. Both the MA and MDiv Connections tracks assume a part-time course load. MA Connections students will have six years to complete their degrees.



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Just another book

I am deeply saddened by the May MESSENGER article, "A look at scriptural authority, by Joshua Brockway." It is an offense to me as a Brethren, but more importantly, to me as a Christian. The author did not use any scriptures in the entire piece. He speaks as though the Holy Bible is just another book on the library shelf. You can choose what you like and ignore what you do not like.

He has degraded the image of pastors. He believes pastors are preaching their own agendas. Maybe he needs to visit another church if this is his experience. If we were to listen to this outrageous opinion, we might as well join any religion or organization. Once you reject God's word as our authority in all things, or believe it needs to change with the times, you are no longer a Christian.

He makes one conclusion from another quote: that in the not too distant future, the understanding of scriptures taught by Protestantism for almost five centuries will be dead. Mr. Brockway, I suggest you read Isaiah 40: 7-8, 2 Timothy 3: 16-17, and Rev. 22: 18-19.

As the world waxes more evil, as our Lord predicted it would, so also he

warned us of those who would deceive. Finding out that Mr. Brockway is the director of Spiritual Life and Discipleship for the Church of the Brethren was shocking. If this is truly how he believes, he needs to resign. Making that request does not come easy. You must understand this is not some minor difference in theology; this is a major difference of theology.

This is no way to disciple our children or anyone who joins the church. We do not need someone to continue to lead a

struggling denomination further down the wrong path. Wake up while we still have a chance. I see more of a political organization than a church winning souls.

It seems that some people want to do things that the word of God says not to do. The authority of scripture is attacked. Why? So people can continue in whatever sin it is that the Bible says is wrong, without feeling the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Pray for Mr. Brockway and the other leaders of our church. We need it.

Rev. Pamie Quintrell
Claysburg Pa.

 **Pontius' Puddle**



CLASSIFIEDADS

A Christian Cruise. Join COB Pastor John and Pastor Linda Stoner as they cruise Canada and New England aboard the stunning liner Poesia. This adventure takes place October 28 to October 8, 2011 and features bus transportation from Western Pennsylvania. Travel arrangements from any gateway city are possible as well. Departure is from New York City and includes Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Rhode Island. Christian messages, worship and fellowship galore!! Contact: 814-444-8800 or jnljaunts@floodcity.net for details.

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PASTORS NEEDED. Congregations in many of the denomination's 23 districts are in need of strong, trained Christian leaders who are dedicated to Church of the Brethren beliefs and practices to serve as pastor. The available placements are both full-time and part-time and include some associate/second staff positions. The congregations vary widely in size and program. A full listing of openings can be found at www.brethren.org/congregationalvacancies. Contact the appropriate district executive or call the Ministry office at 800-323-8039.

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Join us for
Katherine Carté Engel's
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Nominations for the 2011 Outstanding Book Award are due December 10, 2010. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for details.

Missing aspect

In listening to Earle Fike's message at Annual Conference, there was one important aspect that seemed missing in the homosexual issue. Jesus, as he associated with sinners and tax collectors, was redemptive in his associations with them. It was not until Zacchaeus repented that Jesus said, "This day is salvation come to this house . . ." Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, "Go and sin no more." In eating with the sinners and tax collectors, he said, "I came not to call the righteous but the sinner to repentance." I know homosexuals claim to be born this way. But all of us are born with a sinful nature, and as we give in to sinful temptations it easily becomes habitual to our nature as if we are born that way. But repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ gives us power, through the Holy Spirit within, to no longer give in to sinful temptations. Scripture says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Why then do advocates for the homosexuals seemingly leave out this redemptive nature of Christ?

Herman Baliles
Chambersburg, Pa.



2011 Young Adult Conference

Join other young adults for a weekend of fellowship, fun, and worship at YAC 2011!

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Check www.brethren.org/yac for more details. Online registration will open in early 2011.



Church of the Brethren

Please send information to be included in *Turning Points* to Jean Clements, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120; 800-323-8039 ext. 206; jclements@brethren.org. Information must be complete in order to be published. Information older than one year cannot be published.

New Members

Annville, Pa.: Corey Smith, Michelle Smith, Russ Bucher, Brenda Bucher
Beachdale, Berlin, Pa.: Maggie Wheeler, Carter Raupach
Bethany, New Paris, Ind.: Larry Conrad, Rosetta Miller, Norman Miller, Jessica Pennoni
Bethany, Farmington, Del.: J. L. King, David King, Joshua Layton
Brookville, Ohio: Dora Mae Shellabarger, Pat Priser, Eva Leinberger
Brothersvalley, Berlin, Pa.: Roy Sheeler
Brownsville, Md.: Tara Rhinamon, Gary Phillips, Judy Phillips, Russell W. Fisher, Louise Humerick, Tori Galpin, Carly Galpin
Drexel Hill, Pa.: Diana Bish
Easton, Md.: Kevin Kinsey, Kellee Kinsey
Elm Street, Lima, Ohio: Noah Dukehart, Donald Hollar
Ephrata, Pa.: Stacey Coldiron, Lauren Eakin, Emily Harris, Katie Peifer, Mitch Poet, Kurt Sensenig, Jon Wingenroth, Randy Coldiron, Rick Croft, Nate Eakin, Audrey Esbenschade, Mike Fox, Pam Fox, Melissa Croft, Adam Esbenschade
Frederick, Md.: Marc Anderson, Cherrill H. Canocelis, Angel Cregger, Michael Durant, Jane Durant, Arlene Levow, Steve Levow, Brian R. Petrie, Bill Ruble, Nancy Ruble, Ann-Louise Rutherford, Eleanor Rutherford, Mitchell Strakonsky, Jennifer Weeks
Free Spring, Mifflintown, Pa.: Tony Poorman, Rebecca Poorman, Chad Reinford, Dara Reinford, David Wagner, Deb Wagner, James Eichman
Harrisburg, First, Harrisburg, Pa.: Sonia Gomez, Beverly Miller, Lucy Salcedo, Antwon Watson
Haxtun, Colo.: Dan Conn
Henry Fork, Rocky Mount, Va.: Jordan Stennis, Amarrisa Stennis, Caleb Bailey, Dale Harrison, Judy Harrison, Leon Harrison, Patty Harrison, Joey Smith, Bonnie Smith, David Lynch, Kyla Allery, Virginia Allery, Jody Crowe, Mollie Champion, Tyler Jones
Indian Creek, Harleysville, Pa.: Raymond Scherfel, Nancy Scherfel

Ivy Farms, Newport News, Va.: Kyle Austin
Lancaster, Pa.: Lenny Lambert
Maple Spring, Hollsopple, Pa.: Audrey Hoffman, Logan Lichvar, Tighe Williams, Connie M. Zanon, Susanne Henry, Kallie Lysic, Shelli Lysic, Wendy Lysic, Joyce Napotnik, Sherrie Schuck, Darren Spory, Douglas Cober, Brenda Fuska, Guy Myers, Wendy Myers, Kent Bass, David Henry, Paul Hershberger, Lila Hershberger, Hope Miller
Miami, First, Miami, Fla.: Daniel Medina
Mohrsville, Pa.: Brad Swinsinski, Janzen Rohrer, Olyvia Rohrer
Mountain View, McGeheysville, Va.: Elana Custer, John Custer, Samuel Glover, Savanna Kelley, Zachary Seekford, Reid Weber
Nampa, Idaho: Amanda Cummings, Jason Cummings, Andrea Gonzales, Chris Jackson, Pat Koehler, Marilynn Moulton, Gene Monaghan, JoAnn Monaghan, Joan Vanderbeek, Keith Jensen, Maurice Allen, Wilma Allen
North Webster, Ind.: Barry Cannon, Marcy Cannon, Misty Cannon, Toby Cripe, Sharon Huffman, Alyssa Magiera, Eugene Oosley, Roxan Oosley, Harley Stanley
Palmyra, Pa.: Kyle Baiocchi, Derek Groff, Adam Riggs, Sandy Robbins, John Rhine, Tara Garber
Peoria, Ill.: Justin Davis, James Lewis
Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va.: Bryan Burnside, Sharon Burnside, Britney Burnside, Jonathan Riner, Kim Riner, Courtney McGuire
Plymouth, Ind.: Brandon Calhoun, Erin Hillman Calhoun, Brittany Culp, Katelynn Culp, Judy Farver, Debra McCan Hillman, Robyn Carmichael Keller, Galen Mangus, Wanda Mangus, David Sekirka, Nancy Sekirka, Duane Yazel
Prairie City, Iowa: Steve Simmons, Anna Simmons
Welty, Smithsburg, Md.: Craig Gilbert, Maria Trace
Wilmington, Del.: Sylvia Goberman, Jennifer Ann Hackett
Yellow Creek, Hopewell, Pa.: Tom Watkins, Brenda Replogle, Dennis Replogle, Bonnie Strayer, Mary Brumbaugh, Valarie Feight

Anniversaries

Crabb, David and Mamie, Lawrence, Kan., 60
Despeaux, Ed and Joan, Thurmont, Md., 55
Firebaugh, Doug and Audrey,

Freeport, Ill., 50
Hallock, Ted and Mary Edith, Frederick, Md., 50
Harris, Howard and Sally, Ashland, Ohio, 50
Johnson, James and Barbara, Plymouth, Ind., 50
Kaetzel, Robert and Virginia, Harpers Ferry, W.Va., 50
Kagarise, Dean and Janet, Milford, Ind., 55
Mercer, Ed and Belva, Frederick, Md., 50
Rehn, Frank and Ila Jane, Johnstown, Pa., 60
Riley, Fred and Anna, Brunswick, Md., 60
Rohrer, Alpheus and Alice, North Lima, Ohio, 60
Smith, Karlton and Peg, Mont Clare, Pa., 60
Swope, Jay and Fern, Lady Lake, Fla., 55
Towers, Clayton and Jackie, Bridgewater, Va., 60
Tubbs, John and Janet, Temple, Texas, 50
Wiles, Truman and Marie, Eugene, Ore., 60

Deaths

Albritton, Janice L., 68, Largo, Fla., July 22
Auton, Betty R., 79, Monrovia, Md., July 9
Baker, Pauline, 83, Frederick, Md., April 3
Banks, Ruby M., 91, North Liberty, Ind., June 9
Barrows, Ralph L., 87, Waterloo, Iowa, May 11
Beckman, Nyta Deane, 90, Bridgewater, Va., June 30
Bowman, Dale Eldon, 76, Indian Valley, Va., June 27
Bucher, Anna Esther Markley, 98, Lancaster, Pa., July 6
Byer, Howard T., 93, Dixon, Ill., July 6
Carr, Ida Isobel, 94, Nampa, Idaho, Dec. 9
Cox, Marie T., 108, Bridgewater, Va., June 22
Crowl, Anna Virginia, 84, Rohrsersville, Md., May 29
Crummett, Thelma P., 88, Bridgewater, Va., May 16
Davis, Yvonne, 95, Brookville, Ohio, Nov. 16, 2009
Dickison, Charles, 79, Goshen, Ind., July 13
Doramus, Hershel L., 95, Nampa, Idaho, Jan. 4
Eyer, Katharine L., 78, Manheim, Pa., July 3
Feathers, George E., Sr., 84, Hooversville, Pa., Aug. 12
Felix, Glenn Allen, 84, Bridgewater, Va., July 23
Fisher, Kenneth Gilbert, 79, Bonner Springs, Kan., July 6
Flood, Georgie Carolyn, 83, Boring, Ore., July 21
Flora, Marc, 25, Williamsburg, Va., April 22
Gaver, James, 77, Waynesboro, Pa., Feb. 15
Gish, Arthur G., 70, Athens, Ohio, July 28
Gonion, Leon Peyton, 94, Nampa, Idaho, May 17
Ham, Kenneth Michael, 14,

Bolivar, Mo., June 12
Hansen, Mabel Alma, 102, Elgin, Ill., Aug. 21
Harper, Emily, 90, Jefferson, Md., March 3
Harris, Mary Elizabeth Hoover, 92, New Oxford, Pa., July 29
Hartman, Henry J., 79, Myerstown, Pa., June 26
Hawes, Dana Michelle, 42, Brunswick, Md., July 24
Hayes, Larry Ellsworth, 72, McPherson, Kan., June 18
Ho, Esther Mohler, 79, Hayward, Calif., Aug. 20
Hoff, Francis, 87, Frederick, Md., Feb. 13
Hoover, Carol Edna, 72, Plymouth, Ind., March 14
Hutchinson, Dicie L., 83, Bridgewater, Va., March 9
Hutzell, Glenn Elwood, 82, Boonsville, Md., July 9
Johns, Joseph Henry, 81, Garden City, Kan., June 11
Johnson, Allen Kyle, 18, Cabool, Mo., April 25
Jones, Cari, 53, Cabool, Mo., June 17
Kimpston, Howard P., 88, Waterloo, Iowa, June 24
Kline, Doris Jean, 76, Hagerstown, Md., May 31
Krajnik, Mildred A., 85, Nampa, Idaho, Jan. 22
Langbehn, Catherine, 85, Frederick, Md., Jan. 1
Lavallee, Jeanne, 64, Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 8
Leer, LaMar D., 91, Elkhart, Ind., July 23
Lehman, William D., 88, Richland Township, Pa., July 26
Lightner, Byron E., 88, Troy, Ohio, July 30
Lucas, Frances, 88, Brunswick, Md., July 3
Martindale, Raymond L., 84, Bridgewater, Va., March 15
Miller, Josephine M., 91, Bridgewater, Va., July 2
Miller, Nelson J., 83, New Oxford, Pa., June 20
Norwood, Barbara, 77, Frederick, Md., Jan. 15

Licensings

Bowers, Dale, Shen. Dist. (Community Mission, Woodstock, Va.), April 11
Hamilton, Paul B., W. Pa. Dist. (Locust Grove, Johnstown, Pa.), July 11
Haranzo, Angella Faye, Virgina Dist. (Troutville, Va.), May 2
Russell, Chris, N. Ind. Dist. (Community Church of Waterford, Goshen, Ind.), July 25
Seese, Mark, W. Marva Dist. (Shady Grove, Bruce-ton Mills, W.Va.), April 25
Seymour, J. Mark, Shen. Dist. (Luray, Va.), July 11
Shaver, Paul, Shen. Dist. (Emmanuel, Mount Solon, Va.), Aug. 15
Withrow, Samuel A., Jr., W.

Pa. Dist. (County Line, Champion, Pa.), July 18

Ordinations

Bernard, Michael A., W. Marva Dist. (Oak Dale, Scherr, W.Va.), Aug. 1
House, Rebecca J., Mid-Atl. Dist. (Union Bridge, Md.), Aug. 22
Jewell, Terry, Shen. Dist. (Knights Chapel, Barboursville, Va.), May 30
Payne, Gregory Scott, Shen. Dist. (New Dale, Mathias, W.Va.), May 22
Samaan, Milad Sobhy, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Brooklyn, First, Brooklyn, N.Y.), July 11

Placements

Abe, Stephen E., pastor, Mill Creek, Tryon, N.C., May 1
Bohrer, Bradley C., pastor, Crest Manor, South Bend, Ind., Aug. 10
Derr, Amelia J., from Christian education director, Pleasant Hill, Johnstown, Pa., to associate pastor, Conemaugh, Johnstown, Pa., July 1
Elmore, Kendal W., from pastor, Heatherdowns, Toledo, Ohio, to district executive/minister, West Marva District, Oakland, Md., Aug. 1
Foley, William L., pastor, Crab Orchard, W.Va., Aug. 15
Gonzalez, Lidia A., from team pastor, His Way, Mills River, N.C., to team pastor, Una Nueva Vida en Cristo, Floyd, Va., June 1
Gonzalez, Raul, from team pastor, His Way, Mills River, N.C., to team pastor, Una Nueva Vid en Cristo, Floyd, Va., June 1
Liepelt, Brandy Fix, team pastor, Somerset, Pa., Aug. 1
Liepelt, Paul A., from pastor, Dranesville, Herndon, Va., to team pastor, Somerset, Pa., Aug. 1
McCrickard, Glenn A., from pastor, Cloverdale, Va., to pastor, Westminster, Md., Aug. 1
Messler, Amy Faith, from pastor of witness to pastor, Waynesboro, Pa., May 17
Morris, J. Edward, pastor, Madison, Brightwood, Va., Aug. 15
Russell, Chris, pastor, Community Church of Waterford, Goshen, Ind., July 25
Seymour, J. Mark, pastor, Luray, Va., July 15
Steuery, Mark E. Flory, from district executive/minister, Southern Ohio District, Union, Ohio, to pastor, Neighborhood, Montgomery, Ill., July 1
Turner, Ted M., Jr., from pastor, Pulaski, Va., to pastor, Shelton, Mount Airy, N.C., Aug. 1

When we are at our best

Gridley is a small farming community in northern California's Sacramento Valley. Chances are, when you open a can of almonds, slice a peach, or chop a handful of walnuts, you're enjoying the fruits of that fertile land. To get from the tree to the can, however, takes labor, and that labor often comes from the down-and-out, the recent



RANDY MILLER
Interim MESSENGER Editor

immigrant, or the illegal who is sending money home to Chiapas or Guadalajara.

In the middle of the past century, one of those laborers stopped by my grandparents' home on Larkin Road, a two-lane blacktop that runs parallel to Highway 99E and knifes through acres of nut and fruit trees. It was not uncommon for laborers to let fellow workers know where food could be had, and word had spread that my grandparents, Howard and Olga Johnson, could be counted on for a

meal, or at least a sandwich.

One night, a man knocked on my grandparents' door and asked if they had some food. They invited him in and offered

take the teachings of Jesus seriously, and they applied those teachings to their daily life.

This is what we Brethren do when we are at our best, whether we are from the Sacramento Valley or Pennsylvania or Oklahoma. We quietly go about the work that an itinerant preacher named Jesus began some two thousand years ago. His teachings mattered enough for people to talk about them and write about them for years to come. And for archeologists and theologians to devote years of study to what he taught centuries after he lived. People remembered him—and follow him today—for what he said and did, and for who he was.

Soon, we will all just be memories, our images preserved in stories, and in photographs and videotapes made by family and friends. Lately, I've been reminded of this by the untimely deaths of three close friends in just three months. They will be remembered beyond their images on film, tape, and disk. Those things will fade over time. What will last are the memories of what they did while they were alive. Like the story about what my grandparents did for that man who came by their house. They probably didn't figure that what they were doing was anything spectacular or out of the ordinary. But it was. And I remembered it. It tells me something about who they were.

LET'S LEAVE THE SQUABBLES IN THE BACKSEAT AND MOVE ON. THERE IS A DESPERATE AND FRACTURED WORLD OUT THERE THAT NEEDS THE QUIET GUIDANCE AND NURTURING THAT WE, AS BRETHERN, CAN PROVIDE.

him a chair. My grandmother went to prepare him a plate. Meanwhile, my grandfather noticed that this guy's shoes were falling apart and that his feet were sore. He stood and went to another room, filled a basin with warm water, then brought the basin and a towel to where the man was sitting. He knelt before him and removed the man's shoes and washed his feet. Then he went to his closet and found a pair of his own socks and shoes and came out and put them on this man's feet.

My grandmother brought him some food and the man ate, then thanked them and went on his way.

That's how I remember it, anyway. I'm sure there are details I have missed, but that is the essence of the story. My grandfather washed the feet of a stranger who happened by his house. My grandmother fed the man without hesitation. They did this because, since childhood, they had been taught to

It also tells me something about who we are as Brethren, about how we quietly continue the work of Jesus without fanfare or need for attention. We do it because it's who we are. And whether we are from northern California, Elgin, or Virginia, this is what we do. We are Brethren. Okay, from time to time, we bicker like kids in the backseat of a Studebaker on a cross-country summer road trip. But when we reach Ocean Grove—or Santa Monica—we forget our squabbles and stare in awe at the sea lapping at the shore, and realize that there is something bigger than us, and that we are honored to simply be a part of it.

Brethren, we have a marvelous legacy and a promising future. Let's leave the squabbles in the backseat and move on. There is a desperate and fractured world out there that needs the quiet guidance and nurturing that we, as Brethren, can provide. There are lots of feet to be washed. Let's get on with it.—Ed.

COMING IN NOVEMBER: Bible study on wisdom, writing as ministry, media review, reflections, in touch, and more.

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Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands — O prosper the work of our hands! *Psalm 90:17*



Bruce Hood/Foods Resource Bank

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GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS FUND

To contribute, write your check to Global Food Crisis Fund and send to Church of the Brethren General Offices, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin IL 60120. Or give online by visiting www.brethren.org/globalfoodcrisisfund and clicking "give now."