

Church of the Brethren www.brethren.org May 2000

Messenger

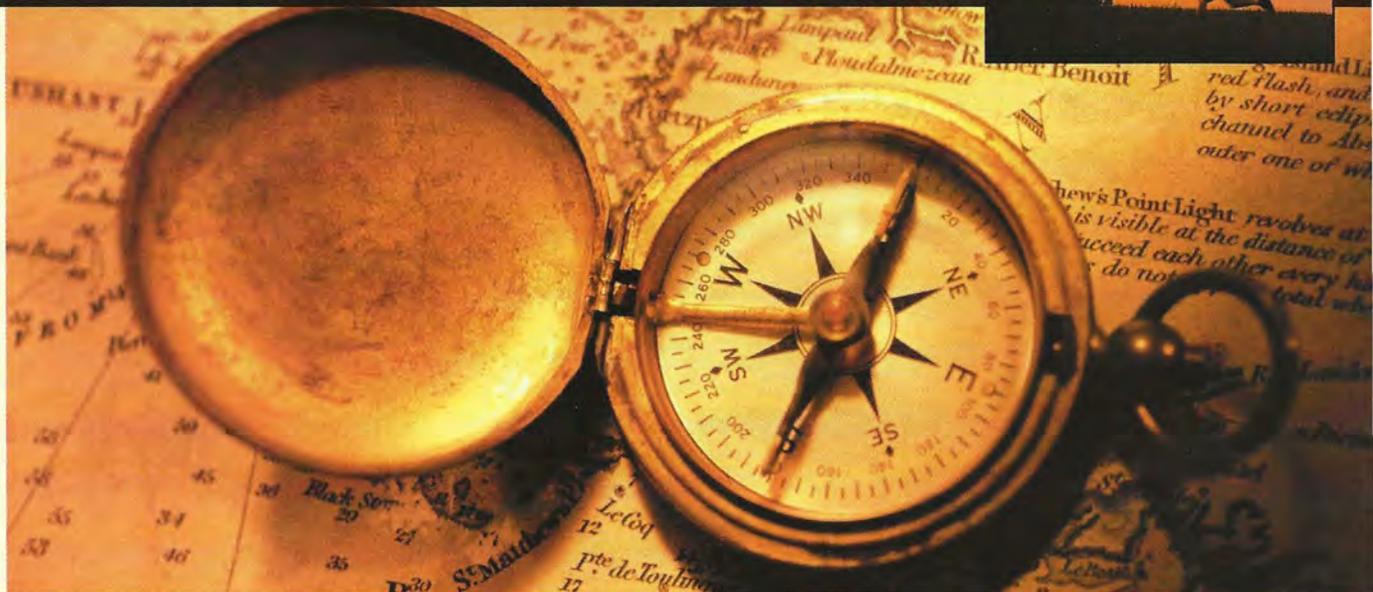


MODERATOR EMILY MUMMA

Showing Us How to Love

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
BENEFIT TRUST
INC.

Messenger

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On the cover: When Emily Mumma was visiting the South/Central Indiana District in her travels as moderator, she dropped by the campus of Manchester College, for a brief visit with her oldest granddaughter, Jessica McInnis, a freshman. The cover photo shows Emily with Jessica and her roommate, Erica Switzer, in their room at Manchester. Emily comments on the photo: "Being there with Jessica brought to mind precious memories of when her mother (our daughter, Sara) was at Manchester and I'd make the drives up from our home in Florida to help her settle in and then pick her up at the end of each year." We thought the photo made a good illustration for the theme Emily chose for this year's Annual Conference: "Love, as I have loved you."



Walt Wiltschek

10 Moderator Mumma's message

Before Annual Conference, get to know this year's moderator with this profile of Emily Mumma. Though she is a sometimes reluctant leader, when God calls she answers, carrying with her a message of what love is all about.

14 The Bible comes to Sudan

An article by Esther Boleyn and a four-page spread of color photographs by David Sollenberger help to tell a miraculous story from Sudan. Last-minute changes to a major ceremony, a harrowing flight, and a land torn apart by war and famine couldn't stop God's Word from coming to the Nuer people.



David Sollenberger



Ken Bomberger

20 Spiritual renewal takes work

There were 800 people at the Renovaré Conference on Spiritual Renewal in Elizabethtown, Pa. Participants heard Richard Foster teach that "balanced" spiritual growth takes training and discipline. Small groups help to sustain it.

24 Good medicine for the world

Interchurch Medical Assistance, a ministry with headquarters at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., celebrates 40 years of delivering healing medicines to hurting people around the globe. With support from the Church of the Brethren, the partner ministry faces new challenges to provide for unrelenting needs.

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From the Publisher

When the Church of the Brethren General Board adopted a vision statement in March, it selected the simplest of phrases. Unlike most ecclesiastical language, this statement has no big words and can be understood and remembered by a child. It has six words. None is longer than four letters. Three words are the same. The other three are mere prepositions.

Of God, for God, with God. The words are deceptively simple. But the longer one lives with them, the more depth one finds. Together they demonstrate how profound language can be.

"Of God" describes whose we are. It evokes the first half of the Christopher Sauer words "For the glory of God and my neighbor's good." It is an affirmation of sitting in the presence of God, of receiving grace. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

"Christ is the divine presence that permeates the church," write Ben Campbell-Johnson and Glenn McDonald in *Imagining a Church in the Spirit* (p. 9). "Too often we have become blind to the presence and have continued running the church on a memory rather than actual communion with the living Lord." Despite the church's humanness, however, we are also a "bearer of the holy." Richard Foster says we are "participants in the work of grace" (*Streams of Living Water*, p. 90).

"For God" has to do with mission and purpose. If we are "for God," we are constantly seeking to discern the will of God. We will be the body of Christ in the world—reaching out, giving ourselves in acts of service, witnessing to peace and justice.

"With God" speaks to the how. It implies a life of daily discipleship, of being immersed in the Spirit. "We are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Cor. 3:9).

Together, these simple prepositional phrases embody the inward and the outward, the pietistic and the Anabaptist, the being and the doing. The three parts also hint at the trinity. We are *of* God, brought into being by God the creator and made whole by grace. We are *for* God, serving as the body of Christ in the world—earthen vessels that we are. And we are *with* God, living in the light and strength of the Spirit.

These six words are not a mission statement, a description of what the General Board does. Rather, they serve as a magnet, drawing the board forward into the future. The words are a touchstone, guiding the board's decisionmaking. They express a yearning for that which has not yet been fully achieved.

This is the vision of the General Board as it seeks to serve and lead the Church of the Brethren. What is *your* vision? As each of us uncovers the vision that God has given us, may we work together to more nearly approach the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.

Wendy McFadden

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A Cook-n-Pack Party helps the homebound

Wrapping it up: *Green Tree Witness Commission members and friends at the church's first Cook-n-Pack party. Pictured left to right, Leeann Randall and her mother, Maggie Randall, Dorothy Funderwhite, Frank Litardo, Harry Groff, Judi Murphy, Joan Groff, and Mary Levengood.*

Last November the witness commission at Green Tree Church of the Brethren, LOaks, Pa., sponsored a Cook-n-Pack Party to support Aid For Friends. The organization supplies frozen meals and toaster ovens to cook them for homebound residents in a five-county Philadelphia area.

Last year the witness commission handed out instructions and meal tins to members of the congregation. Now, every Sunday people come to church bringing with them trays filled with home-cooked food.

But more meals were needed, so the witness commission decided to get together in the church's kitchen and cook and package many meals at once. The group packaged nearly 100 meals of turkey and stuffing, green beans, and apple crisp. Plans are for the church to do this several times a year.—LAURIE PAVONE



Celebrating a life full of Brethren memories

Born Jan. 4, 1899, Miriam Longenecker Wagner celebrated her 101st birthday this year at the Brethren Home in Palmyra, Pa. She remembers growing up active in the Hoverday, Pa., congregation. She can remember the Harvest

Home service of 1905, which was held in their barn. This was a worship service of thanksgiving, followed by a meal.

Her hobbies have included gardening, quilting, letter writing, and good conversation. She has quilted some 100 quilts and sent countless letters.

The lives she has touched include family, including

four generations of descendants, neighbors, friends, an orphan boy, whom she and her husband, Clarence, raised as their own, and a German exchange student, whom they hosted in 1950. She was married to Clarence in 1920 by her grandfather, Elder Jacob H. Longenecker. She says a highlight of her life is her visit to the Holy Land in 1979.

Smith Mountain Lake dedicates building site

The Smith Mountain Lake Community Church, a new church start of the Church of the Brethren near Roanoke, Va., dedicated its newly purchased five-acre site March 19. The property was secured through a partnership of the Community Church and the congregations of Virilina District.

Pastor Jerry Naff and Virilina district executive David K. Shumate spoke at the dedication. The service concluded with a ground-breaking service followed by remarks from John Hamilton, trustee of the Hamilton Trust from which the property was purchased.

Members of the Smith Mountain Lake building committee, chaired by Clinton Wade, said it hopes the congregation will be in its new building by November. Completion of the building will require a \$230,000 indebtedness. The fellowship reports having received pledges totaling \$103,000 for the project.



Sam Geist

Groundbreaking: Jerry Naff (pastor), Cami Jones, and Rick Taylor break ground for a new church building. At right is the site's original log cabin, which will be torn down.

Remembered

Judy Dotterer of Woodbine, Md., died March 20. Judy served as unofficial "host mother" for dozens of On Earth Peace Assembly Peace Academies in the late 1980s and early 1990s. She helped counsel and mentor hundreds of young people who came to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., to learn about the teachings of Jesus and the Church of the Brethren related to peace-making. As a recipient of a

kidney and pancreas transplant, she was an activist for organ transplantation. She was an active member of the Union Bridge (Md.) Church of the Brethren, and is survived by her husband, Kevin.

Roy Blough, 98, a former Manchester College professor and a member of President Harry Truman's Council of Economic Advisers, died Feb. 25 in Mitchellville, Md. He was a graduate of Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind.



Renewal leader and evangelist Russell Bixler leading a session at the 1977 Holy Spirit Conference at Bowling Green, Ohio.

Bixler remembered and honored

Russell Bixler, pastor, renewal leader, and a pioneer in television evangelism, was honored posthumously by the National Religious Broadcasters on Feb. 5 at the group's annual convention in Anaheim, Calif. He died Jan. 30 at age 72.

Co-founder of Cornerstone TeleVision in Pittsburgh with his wife, Norma (Bowman), Bixler was honored with the NRB's William Ayer Distinguished Service Award for 2000. Cornerstone, which is based in Wall, Pa., has become a multi-channel network with four broadcast facilities, a 24-hour satellite channel, and 163 affiliate stations.

For 13 years pastor of the Pittsburgh Church of the Brethren (1959-72), Bixler founded the Greater Pittsburgh Charismatic Conference and, in the 1970s, was a leader in the Holy Spirit renewal movement of the Church of the Brethren. He wrote and edited for eight publishers of Christian books; one of his books, *It Can Happen to Anybody!*, has sold more than 100,000 copies.

Bixler graduated from Bridgewater College in 1947, George Washington University in 1949, and Bethany Theological Seminary in 1959. He graduated cum laude from the seminary. His ministry was profiled in the July 1973 MESSENGER.

Besides his wife of 52 years, Bixler is survived by four children and ten grandchildren. One son, Paul, is a producer/director for Cornerstone TeleVision.—HOWARD ROYER

Highway threatens historic homestead

The homestead of Jacob Ulrich, established in Douglas County, Kan., in 1857 and where the first known Brethren love feast in Kansas was held, is again under threat of destruction.

William C. Quantrill's guerrillas, on Aug. 21, 1863, sacked the anti-slavery town of Lawrence, then set afire the Ulrich homestead, eight miles south of town. This year Dean Carlson, secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation, (KDOT), announced plans to finish the job.

Carlson reaffirmed the state's plan to build a new freeway from Ottawa to Lawrence. The proposed route would cut across the Ulrich farm, now owned by Dr. Nelson McCluggage. McCluggage and his neigh-



Jacob Ulrich

bors have retained attorneys to attempt to stop the project.

He has also brought in instructors from Haskell Native American Indian University, who are investigating signs that their ancestors lived on this land. McCluggage lives in the Ulrich home.

When he purchased the Ulrich farm from Jane Plummer more than 20 years ago, McCluggage promised she



Gary Miller

Leon Kagarise with only a small part of his newsmaking collection of records and tapes.

Music man featured in Washington Post

Leon Kagarise has so much love that his little house can't hold it all," begins the long article in the March 9 *Washington Post*. "Kagarise loves music. American music—blues, jazz, gospel, and especially old-time country music. His house is filled with it. Well, not completely filled. There's still a little bit of space left to live in."

Kagarise, a longtime active member of the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren, Glen Arm, Md., was featured in the *Post* for his collection of hundreds of tapes he recorded at country music shows in the Baltimore area 40 years ago—performances by Johnny Cash, George Jones, Tammy Wynette, and Patsy Cline, among many others. The vintage recordings are now in demand by recording companies, the Library of Congress, and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The rare recordings sit among some 100,000 records and many old photographs as well. According to the article, people tend to rib him about being a pack rat.

"I'm a rather avid Christian," he told the newspaper. "I belong to the Church of the Brethren. One of the things the Brethren believe in is living the simple life. Anything that takes time away from Jesus is not good."

Then, according to the article, he gazed at the thousands of records piled around him and confessed: "I'm a sinner."

could live there as long as she wanted. He took possession only when Plummer, in her nineties, entered a nursing home.

When McCluggage rehabbed the home, he left the house's charred rafters from Quantrill's Raid intact. He also displays the remnants from the original barn. "Not only were members of the Washington

Creek Church of the Brethren often in this home, but John Brown as well as Senator Jim Lane were also frequent guests," McCluggage said.

In 1997, when KDOT began discussing widening

20 miles of US Highway 59 to four lanes, the estimated price was \$70 million. Now the cost is estimated at \$161 million. Construction is estimated to be at least seven years away.—IRENE SHULL REYNOLDS

"In Touch" features news of congregations, districts, and individuals. Send story ideas and photos to "In Touch," MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

General board meetings address vision, structure

The Church of the Brethren General Board met March 11-13 in Elgin, Ill., using the One Great Hour of Sharing theme, "Gifts of Living

director. Sitting on the Leadership Team will be directors of Brethren Press, Brethren Service Center, Centralized Resources/Treasurer, Congregational Life Ministries, and Global Mission Partnerships.

Stated goals of the plan, which involved no job cuts or changes in compensation, included seeking to

Of God, for God, with God.

A vision statement to guide the work of the General Board was adopted.

improve the communication and efficiency of the Leadership Team, working to coordinate the activities of the various offices, and giving a stronger voice to the Brethren Service Center, located in New Windsor, Md.

Other major actions included:

- Approval of a request from the Committee on Interchurch Relations to have the General Board ask Annual Conference to join the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010).

- Adoption of a resolution seeking greater ethnic inclusion in church leadership.

- Approval of continued exploration of renewed mission in Brazil, with a recommendation and budget projections to be brought to the board no later than March 2001.

- Approval of a Mission and Ministries Planning Council request to join Eastern Mennonite Missions in sponsoring the three-year placement of Grace Mishler of the Union Center Church of the Brethren (Nappanee, Ind.) at Ho Chi Minh City University in Vietnam, where she will be establishing a social work program.

Gilbert Romero, General Board member and pastor of the Bella Vista congregation in Los Angeles, helped to lead an energetic Sunday morning worship service during General Board meetings in March.

Water," based on John 7:38b. In business sessions the board again used the Worshipful Work model of discernment through prayer, silence, sharing, and singing.

Among its activities, the board adopted a vision statement to guide its ongoing work: "Of God, for God, with God," developed by a board-appointed committee. (For more on this see "From the Publisher," p. 2).

Another item brought a realignment of the General Board staff structure, reducing the Leadership Team to five members plus the executive director rather than the previous eight plus the executive



Walt Willschek

Board member David Miller emceeds a banquet program celebrating General Board ministries.

Brethren join protests against Vieques policy in Puerto Rico

More than 100,000 Puerto Ricans and other protesters marched down a major expressway in San Juan in late February, calling for the US Navy to leave the island of Vieques. US military maneuvers and bombing tests have been held on Vieques for nearly six decades, and protesters are seeking an immediate stop and withdrawal.

The Evangelical Council of Puerto Rico, which represents 10 Protestant denominations including the Church of the Brethren in Puerto Rico, joined with the Catholic Church to coordinate the response. Church of the Brethren General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer also issued a letter to the Clinton administration stating concern over US actions on Vieques.

A Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation traveled to Puerto Rico in mid-March to work with churches and visit with political and religious leaders and with people on Vieques. CPT worker Cliff Kindy, a member of the Manchester Church of the Brethren (North Manchester, Ind.), and Eric Christiansen of the Franklin Grove (Ill.) Church of the Brethren were among that group. The visit came at the invitation of Brethren pastor Juan Figueroa of the Rio Piedras congregation and other Puerto Rican Brethren.

Disaster and food crisis grants aid needy families

Recent Emergency Disaster Fund grants include:

- \$10,000 to support the drought relief efforts of Family Farm Drought Response. The ecumenical project began this past summer to meet needs caused by severe drought in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

- \$6,000 to support a tornado recovery project in Haysville, Kan. The project had closed before Christmas, but Emergency Response/Service Ministries received an invitation to return to the area and complete some unmet needs. The project reopened on March 1 and was expected to continue for about two months.

- \$25,000 to assist disaster recovery efforts following severe flooding in southern Africa from Cyclone Eline and ongoing torrential rains. The floods have affected Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Mozambique has been the most severely affected, with at least 300,000 people displaced from their homes and thousands left stranded on rooftops without food and water.

The request comes in response to a Church World Service appeal in which funds will be used to provide blankets for 2,000 people, technical assistance, and support to the relief programs of the Christian Council of Mozambique.



David Radcliff

The Global Food Crisis Fund gave \$42,676 in February to provide small livestock to more than 800 women in dozens of communities in southern Honduras, part of a continuing project after a successful pilot program in El Estribo.

Personnel changes

Tom Hurst resigned as executive director of On Earth Peace Assembly effective March 17, following a decade of service with the organization.

- **Ron and Harriet Finney** have resigned effective Sept. 30 as co-coordinators of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. A search for a replacement is underway. The Finneys continue in their positions as co-executives of the South/Central Indiana District.

- **Donald R. Booz**, currently pastor of the McPherson (Kan.) congregation, will become district executive of Mid-Atlantic District effective June 15.

- **Lester Boleyn** began April 1 as a member of the General Board's Area 3 Congregational Life Team. Boleyn will work out of the Cumberland, Md., area in West Marva District.

- **Greg Laszakovits** has been named full-time coordinator of the Church of the Brethren Washington Office. He began on April 1.

- **Martha R. Beach** began as half-time district executive for Atlantic Southeast on March 20.

- **Tim Van Meter**, director of research for the Youth Theological Initiative at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, will become the first director of Bethany Theological Seminary's new Institute for Ministry with Young and Young Adults, effective Aug. 1.

800 Honduran women received livestock through the Global Food Crisis Fund in February.



Walt Wiltschek

Tutu in Elizabethtown: Roger Ingold, a member of the Spring Creek congregation, Hershey, Pa., who traveled with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa, reunited with him during Tutu's visit to Elizabethtown College.

Tutu brings reconciliation message to Elizabethtown

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a major figure in South Africa's struggle against apartheid, delivered a stirring speech of forgiveness and reconciliation to highlight Elizabethtown (Pa.) College's year-long centennial celebration.

Tutu spoke March 17 to a full house of about 3,000 people in Thompson Gymnasium following spiritual numbers from the Elizabethtown College Concert Choir and introductory remarks from president Theodore Long. With a mix of somber history, lively stories, and humor, Tutu quickly captivated the audience.

At one point, Tutu laughingly encouraged the entire group of "shy and reserved Americans" to join in frenzied applause and celebration for

the success achieved by all those who helped topple apartheid. He finished his talk with a final plea to continue that work, outlining his dreams of a world with "more compassion, caring, laughter, and sharing."

"I have no one except you, and you, and you to realize my dream," he said, pointing to spots in the crowd. "Will you help me, please?"

Ethnic-religious violence affects EYN churches

Three members of the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, the Church of the Brethren's large sister congregation in Nigeria, were killed in outbreaks of ethnic-religious violence in Kaduna province in late February.

An EYN report identified the victims as the Rev. Iyasco Taru, pastor of the Badarwa congrega-

tion; Musa Garba, a member of the Badarwa church; and John Danfulani, also a member at Badarwa. Two members of the Narayi church were seriously injured.

More than 300 people were reported killed in the fighting between Christians and Muslims in Kaduna. Retaliatory violence in the southern city of Aba killed at least 200 more, according to news reports. Property damage was also widespread, with the large Badarwa EYN church building and an old church building there among those burned. Numerous individual EYN members also lost homes and/or business properties.

The violence occurred as Christians were protesting Muslim attempts to have Islamic "shari'a" law instituted in Kaduna, a multi-religious state where Muslims are not in the majority, according to EYN leader Bitrus Debki.

A statement by EYN leadership responded to the situation, saying, "We hereby condemn in very strong terms the recent attack meted out on innocent Christians in Kaduna metropolis and its environs while on peaceful demonstration to Government House to express their feeling as regards the imposition of shari'a on them."

Media reports in the weeks following the initial conflict identified additional pockets of violence in the major city of Lagos and in the north-western part of the country.

The General Board took time at its spring meeting to pray for the situation in Nigeria.

ABC and OEPA experience financial growing pains

The Association of Brethren Caregivers reports that 1999 ended about as expected from a financial perspective. ABC had projected a deficit of more than \$100,000 when the 1999 budget was prepared, and pre-audit figures for the year showed an actual deficit of \$117,862. The deficit was paid from organization reserves.

On Earth Peace Assembly, which was also spun off from the General Board and then approved as a separate Annual Conference agency along with ABC in 1998, showed a similar pre-audit deficit for 1999, at \$96,746. OEPA used about \$73,000 of endowment gain to cover the extra program expenditures.

When ABC became an independent organization, the board implemented a transition plan projecting three years of deficit budgets while the denomination adjusted to its new organizational structure and a new way of financially supporting the denominational agencies.

ABC's reserves will cover the deficits, with the expectation that the organization's operations will return to a financial balance by the end of 2001. At the end of 1999, the second of the three years, ABC was within the parameters of its transition plan.

ABC's total revenue for 1999 was \$522,248. Congregational support was \$54,037 from 164 congregations in 1999, an increase from the 1998 total of \$15,236 from 57 congregations. Support from individuals in 1999 was \$59,545 compared to the 1998 total of \$57,870.

"These are challenging times for ABC. Congregations are still learning about ABC and the other organizations within the new denominational structure," said ABC executive director Steve Mason. "As this new understanding

is made in congregations, they will decide whether and how to support the denominational agencies. We believe this support will be in measure to the value placed on the services of these organizations. Once ABC's support base is established, we will adjust our programs accordingly, if necessary."

OEPA showed a total pre-audit income of \$229,362 for the year, including \$59,319 of general gift income from individuals and \$40,735 from congregations.

Churches need to understand population "browning"

Anabaptists wanting to establish new congregations in the 21st century will be successful only if they increase awareness of the multicultural, diversifying, and "browning" population in North America.

That's the message about 40 practitioners and scholars heard at the third annual Anabaptist Evangelism Council, held at a snowbound Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., Feb. 19-20.

"We are a browning nation," said researcher Rocky Kidd, director of Chicago Opportunity for Peace in Action, whose study of 17 multicultural churches showed a rapid shift in urban centers toward a polyglot of brown, yellow, black, white, and mestizo (mixed). "And those who do not live in the urban centers are greatly influenced by an omnipresent urban popular culture, piped into the American consciousness via the entertainment/media world."

The council was sponsored by New Life Ministries, a partnership in outreach of both branches of the merging Mennonite groups, the Church of the Brethren, The Brethren Church (Ashland, Ohio) and two parachurch organizations:

Shalom Foundation of Harrisonburg, Va., and Christian Community of Fort Wayne, Ind.

Next year's council will be held at the Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin, Ill., expanding to a three-day event, Feb. 16-18. The 2001 theme will center on church planting.

Youth team, young adults prepare for summer service

The 2000 Youth Peace Travel Team is made up of Marshall Camden of Virginia Beach, Va.; Daniel Royer of Trotwood, Ohio; Myra Martin-Adkins of Washington, D.C.; Meghan Sheller of Eldora, Iowa; and Pete Dobberstein of Brookville, Ohio.

The team, sponsored by the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Brethren Witness offices, Outdoor Ministries Association, and On Earth Peace Assembly, annually visits and provides leadership for junior and senior high camps in various regions of the country. It will start with an orientation in mid-June before heading out to the camps in the East this year.

Thirteen young adults, meanwhile, have registered to be part of this year's Ministry Summer Service program, a cooperative effort of the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Ministry offices. The program offers opportunities to explore church vocations through 10-week placements under a mentor in congregations or other settings.

This year's orientation will occur June 2-9 at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., with mentors and project sites in six states, from Pennsylvania and Delaware to California. Volunteers receive food, housing, and a \$45-per-month stipend from the congregation, plus an available tuition grant of \$2,000 for college students.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I

FOR THE LOVE OF EMILY

A strong but humble leader, Moderator Emily Mumma has been called a “servant of grace.”

WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR

On evangelism: “For me evangelism is important, but without discipleship it’s empty. Which brings me back to love. I don’t think evangelism is always done in love. It’s sometimes done with shaming or guilt or a superior attitude, rather than a deep love for the person.

“We have to let people have the freedom to say no. That’s what love can do. Love gives people the liberty to turn us down, even to persecute us. But their actions are not going to determine how we relate to them. That’s the kind of discipleship that has meaning for evangelism.”

BY FLETCHER FARRAR

When Emily Mumma starts throwing little balls made of yarn around the august boardroom of the Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin, one wonders if the pressures of the office of moderator have become too much for her. As she empties another shopping bag of the balls she calls “fuzzies,” and throws them one by one to General Board members engaged in the serious business of the church, one sniffs that this is unconventional behavior, to say the least.

Then one gets into it. Even the most dour in the group pick up a yarn ball and hurl it gleefully to, or at, somebody. The room is soon filled with laughter and surprise.

“My vision is to radiate the joy that comes from a giving, loving spirit,” she says in an interview. “When I look out over a congregation I often see such sad faces. I would like to see some happy faces.”

Like Johnny Appleseed sowing gratitude for the Lord’s goodness, Mumma takes her fuzzies with her on her travels across the denomination, disrupting many a district conference and other church meetings with her unconventional seeds of love.

The yarn balls are made by Carol Miller, a member of the Hollidaysburg, Pa., congregation, which Mumma pastors. Baptized recently, Miller wanted to serve others, but she is disabled by a painful neurological disorder. In her home she began to make the

fuzzies and give them away so people would feel loved and appreciated. She began giving them, not only on birthdays and anniversaries, but on no occasion in particular, and not only to friends, but also to strangers. They brought a smile every time.

She caught a vision of spreading God’s love with abandon, and decided to send fuzzies with her pastor everywhere she goes as moderator. With some help, Miller has made more than 5,000 fuzzies already. “I pack each one with God’s love,” she says.

They tie in well with the moderator’s message of love, expressed in the Annual Conference theme, “Love as I have loved you,” from John 15:12. Mumma relates that when she announced the love theme, a prominent church leader told her it was too sentimental and superficial. That only strengthened her resolve to give the theme enough substance to make it profound.

“Love is foundational,” she says. “It is at the center of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Without love, faith is very shallow. Service becomes burdensome instead of being a joy. Complainers and murmurers are people who have not learned to either give or receive love. Unless love is at the core of our programs and plans, they aren’t going to fly.”

There is little about this kind of love that could be called merely sentimental. “Love is hard work,” she says. “It’s this kind of love that took Jesus Christ to the cross. There is nothing harder than practicing Christlike love. It means I won’t allow myself to be so easily hurt. I won’t take offense so easily; I won’t be defensive so quickly. I will look for the good in the other in the midst of disagreement.”

The capacity to love, and to receive love, doesn’t come all at once but has to be cultivated and nurtured. “It is a lifelong journey,” she says.

Mumma’s journey began in Ohio, where she

...HIDE IN MY LOVE. IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YOU
 HER'S COMMANDMENTS AND ABIDE IN HIS LOVE. I HAVE
 YOU, AND THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE COMPLETE. THIS IS MY
HAVE LOVED YOU. NO ONE HAS GREATER LOVE THAN
 ARE MY FRIENDS IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND YOU. YOU
 DO NOT CALL YOU SERVANTS ANY LONGER, BECAUSE THE
 BUT I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS, BECAUSE I HAVE MADE

Walt Wiltschek



was born during the Depression. She grew up helping her parents, Rebert and Edna Metzger, on the family farm, located between New Carlisle and Springfield. The family attended the Donnels Creek Church of the Brethren, Southern Ohio District.

After high school she decided not to go to college, but opted for the "University of Life Experience" instead. That coursework began with Brethren Volunteer Service when she became a member of Unit 11. She was assigned to help young Chinese war brides adapt to life in inner-city Chicago. Never having ridden a city bus before, she traveled all over the urban area helping mothers learn to care for babies and shop for groceries. She helped teach a Sunday school class for Chinese immigrants at Chicago's First Church of the Brethren.

In 1952 she married fellow BVSer Luke Mumma, and they settled in Harrisburg, Pa., his hometown. From 1960 to 1968 they owned and operated together a home appliance repair business. He did the repair work while she ran the office. She was also raising two children, Samuel and Sara. Active in the Harrisburg First congregation, she taught the first Sunday school class organized for black children there.

In 1968 the family moved to Florida for the sake of the children's health, and settled in St. Petersburg, where her parents lived. Luke became a plumber, while she stayed home to be available to her children, then in junior high and high school. "All I wanted was to be a good wife, a good mother, and a good homemaker," she recalls. She went to night classes to learn to sew and cook. And she

made a big garden each year, selling enough to pay the garden's expenses, with the rest of the produce going to family and friends.

Around 1970 she was called to represent her home congregation, First Church, St. Petersburg, on the district board. "From that time on, there was no time I wasn't involved heavily in district and denominational work," she says. She was district moderator in 1978, served on Standing Committee, and was a member of the General Board from 1982 to 1986.

She received training in conflict management and mediation through seminars, including work with Brethren mediator Barbara Daté in 1986. This equipped her for volunteer assignments in conflict resolution, as well as other district responsibilities, at the request of five different Florida district executives, who served part time.

"I didn't have a title then," says Mumma. "I wasn't ordained or even licensed. But titles sometimes create barriers. People trusted me more because I didn't have a title. I was just a friend."

Having taken the Three-year Reading Course, she was finally licensed to the ministry in 1988. In 1990 she served three months as interim pastor for her home congregation, St. Petersburg. In 1993, during Annual Conference in Indianapolis, the executive of Middle Pennsylvania District, Randy Yoder, asked her to consider an interim pastor assignment in Hollidaysburg, Pa. She agreed, and with her husband moved that fall to Pennsylvania, expecting to be there only temporarily. She was ordained that year, and, in August 1994, the Hollidaysburg congregation called her to be its regular pastor. She has been in that position ever since.

Rita Murphy, the church's part-time secretary, says Emily Mumma is the "most

WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR

On simple living: "In my own life it has been amazing how often I don't need what I thought I needed. By no means am I hurting because of what I've given up. But I am aware that some things that most people consider necessities I don't. I'm also aware that there are things I consider necessities that plenty of people in the world don't have."

WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR

On stewardship:

"I sometimes hear people say if we get more people in our church we can get a bigger budget. I think Jesus must weep when he hears that kind of stuff. I feel that if the heart is right the money will be there.

"That doesn't mean we don't have to talk about stewardship. Everything I have is a gift from God. Out of love I owe God and want to give to God. To write out that check to the church becomes a joy, not a burden."

On women in

leadership: "When people ask, 'How does it feel to be a woman moderator?' I've said I look at 'call' first as a person, and I happen to be a woman. I don't feel like, 'Look at me I'm a woman doing this.' It's me doing this. I also happen to be a woman. I don't deny that, but I don't flaunt that.

"I think denominational leaders are more in tune with having women in ministry than congregations are. There is a lot of work to be done at the congregational level to get them to see the place of women in leadership."

Family time in the North Carolina mountains, 1995: At left are grandchildren Ilana and Kialha Mumma, standing in front of their parents, Samuel and Debbie Mumma, of Dade City, Fla. Center is Emily Mumma, with her husband, Luke, in back. At right are grandchildren Joshua and Jessica McInnis, standing in front of their parents, Sara Mumma McInnis and Ron McInnis, of Cape Coral, Fla.

detail-oriented person I have ever met," sending birthday and anniversary greetings to everyone in the congregation, even during her term as moderator. "She recognizes the gifts in each person and calls upon the use of the gifts," Murphy says. "She allows many people to feel successful, not overburdening anyone with a task they would not be good at."

Randy Yoder, Mumma's district executive, calls her a "servant of grace."

"She is a very kind and humble person who cares about people," he says. "She particularly has a heart for the 'little' people—those who are powerless and often deprived of a voice or the sharing of their gifts and abilities. For instance, she as a pastor has stood firm in several instances when justice was called for."

Though often reluctant to be cast into leadership positions, Mumma accepts each call as it comes along, when she is convinced it is God's call. On finally accepting the title of pastor, she reflects: "As painful as it is to be away from my children and grandchildren in Florida, I have an inner joy that I have never known before."

The same reluctance came to her when she was asked to consider allowing her name to be placed on the ballot for moderator, the highest office of the Church of the Brethren. "At first I said I'm not interested at all," she said. "Anything like that just scares the heck out of me. I don't like being out front. I'd rather be behind the scenes working with a team. Speaking before people has never been easy for me."

But she gradually became convinced, first by a representative of the Annual Conference nominating committee and then by the unanimous support of her congregation's executive committee, that this was another true call which she must accept out of obedience to Christ.

Noting that the moderator is asked to visit as many districts and attend as many district and denominational events as possible, "I was concerned that at my age I might not have the physical, emotional, and mental energy to keep up the fast pace."

She asked God for an image to carry her through, and it was manna, the food God provided the children of Israel in the desert, just enough for the day at hand. "It's like God was



saying, 'Emily, I'm going to give you manna in the form of strength and energy. You need to trust me. But there's not going to be any extra. When I'm feeling pushed, I hear God saying, 'Are you going to wait for my manna?' God does supply the need.

"I have gone from being very fearful to finding a delight in being moderator. That's God's gift, not what I could do. I'm enjoying it, though there are still some times I'm uneasy at the prospect of the Conference business session, and all those people. As long as I can keep my eyes on Jesus, then I'm okay. But when I think about all the wonderful things that past moderators have done, sometimes I get caught. I have to remember that God didn't call me to be like anyone else. He called me to be who I am. It's been a wonderful faith walk."

By March this year, Mumma had already traveled more than 53,000 miles visiting districts and churches as moderator, and faced her heaviest travel season as Annual Conference approaches.

"I've been surprised by the care that I find out there," she says. "I find care and support for me, but also a deep caring for the church. Even when people have questions, or disagree with a General Board program, I sense a deep level of caring." She also found a commitment to prayer support for the denomination, for her congregation, and for her work as moderator.

Though she has not taken a leave of absence from her congregation of about 150 members, the church has contracted with a retired pastor to fill the pulpit during her frequent Sunday absences, a temporary measure that has been working well. Mumma often credits the support of her congregation for helping to make her term as moderator successful.

As denominational leader, she said most of

A PREVIEW OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For five days this summer, Kansas City, Mo., will be home to several thousand Brethren coming together for the 2000 Annual Conference at the city's Bartle Hall convention complex. Here's what you can expect:

The format. After many years of running from Tuesday to Sunday, Conference switches to a shorter, Saturday-to-Wednesday format this year. A new feature will be the "Brethren Ministries LIVE" report, building on the General Board Live report of years past, but now including all five Annual Conference agencies.

The worship. A series of speakers will build on the theme by addressing different aspects of Godlike love, according to Mumma, who will deliver the Saturday evening message. Other speakers are Joel Nogle, pastor of the Gettysburg, Pa., church, Belita Mitchell of the Imperial Heights church in Los Angeles, and ecumenical guests Emanuel Cleaver and Thomas Troeger.

The business. This year's agenda has grown large, with 10 items of business requiring action, in addition to the usual series of reports, elections, and other items. Delegates will address three major unfinished business items—papers on congregational structure, on the process for calling denominational leadership, and on caring for the poor—plus hear an update on a study of Brethren and litigation. The congregational structure and denominational leadership papers can be viewed at the Annual Conference section of the www.brethren.org website.

New business includes five queries plus a General Board request for Conference to endorse the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence. The queries focus on guidelines for district employees, the role and relationship of district executives to the Church of the Brethren organizational structure, two on discipleship and reconciliation polity, and one on personal evangelism and church growth.—WALT WILTSCHER

the complaints and questions she receives in letters and on her travels relate to the need for clarification about connections. What's the relationship of Annual Conference to General Board? What's the meaning of all these other agencies?

"I think there are people who care and have not understood," she says. "They have not understood the reason for redesign." As Mumma explains patiently the history and rationale for the organizational changes of recent years, she does not sense a continuing anger or discontent with denominational governance.

"I perceive a higher level of trust in the General Board right now than I have seen in a number of years," she says. "I think the communication is better. I think people's questions are being answered, and answered more promptly."

The moderator who Annual Conference delegates will encounter in Kansas City is not one who comes with a lot of plans and programs for the church. "I basically share out of my heart," she says.

To the business agenda she brings a commitment to discerning God's will. She hopes the church will be guided "less by the ways of the world and more by the leading of God's spirit." She adds, "I'm not denying that we can learn from the world. But I don't think we have to mirror the world. If

we're open to God's leading, we'll be on the leading edge, rather than bringing up the tail."

After Annual Conference, this spirited but reluctant leader will be more than happy to get back to her garden,

her husband, and her congregation in Pennsylvania. But until then she can be expected to plunge faithfully into the work God has called her to do.

"If I'm listening carefully, and trust in God, I think I'll be okay." 



The journey from here
A report on the state of the church

Messenger Dinner
5 pm, Sunday, July 16
Kansas City

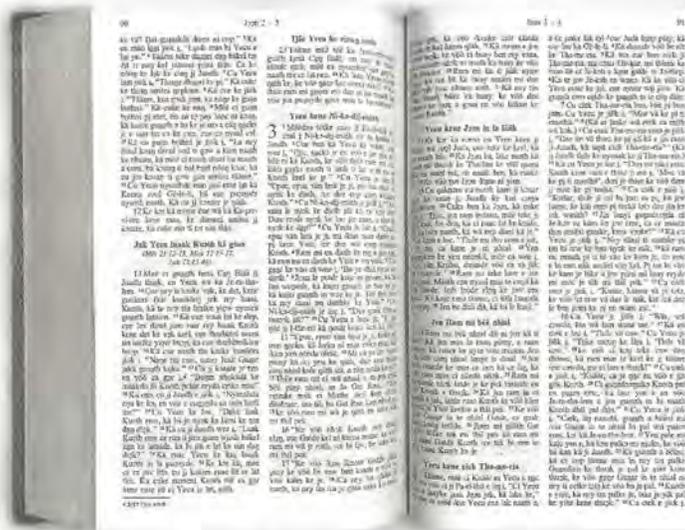
Judy Mills Reimer
Executive Director, General Board

Join Messenger for a relaxing dinner, then hear the executive director of the General Board deliver her "State of the Church" address, a report on where we are and where we're going as a denomination at the beginning of the new millennium. Program concludes in time for the evening business session.

Please order tickets in advance. There may be no on-site ticket sales.
Call the Annual Conference office at 800-323-8039 to order.

WHEN THE BIBLE CRASHED INTO SUDAN

BY ESTHER FRANTZ BOLEYN



When you cook food, put it into a bowl, carry it away, and drop the bowl, which breaks, does the food fall out?"

This question was asked by Rev. Peter Riet Machar at a special Jan. 9 worship service in Mading, southern Sudan. The answers from the women were unanimous. "Yes, of course!"

"Yesterday," Rev. Peter continued, "a bowl dropped out of the sky, broke apart, but the food didn't fall out."

Rev. Peter, vice moderator for the Presbyterian Church in Sudan for south Sudan, was reminding them of the previous day's events, when the airplane bringing the guests for the launching of the Nuer-language Bible crashed upon landing in Mading.

He preached the sermon that preceded the launching ceremony, speaking about the miracles that were happening in that place. The 800-plus people sitting in the hot sun listened attentively, although most of them had seen the first miracle happen right in front of them. They never expected anyone to crawl out of the airplane, let alone to have everyone get out with no injuries.

The trip from Nairobi,

Kenya, began at 5:30 a.m. on Jan. 8. We were flying on Antonov 28, a small Russian-made airplane. From Nairobi to Lokichogio, on the border of Sudan, all went well. We landed, got off to sign out at Kenyan immigration, and boarded the same plane for the two-hour flight to Mading.

Those on the plane included Rev. Peter, the executive secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Sudan, three Presbyterian missionaries, three Church of the Brethren representatives (my husband, Lester, and I, and videographer David Sollenberger), the United Bible Societies consultant, and the whole family of our translator, Tut Wan Yoa, although he

For God so loved every part of the world: The Nuer Bible, turned to John 3:16.

was still in Lokichokio, waiting for the second plane to Mading.

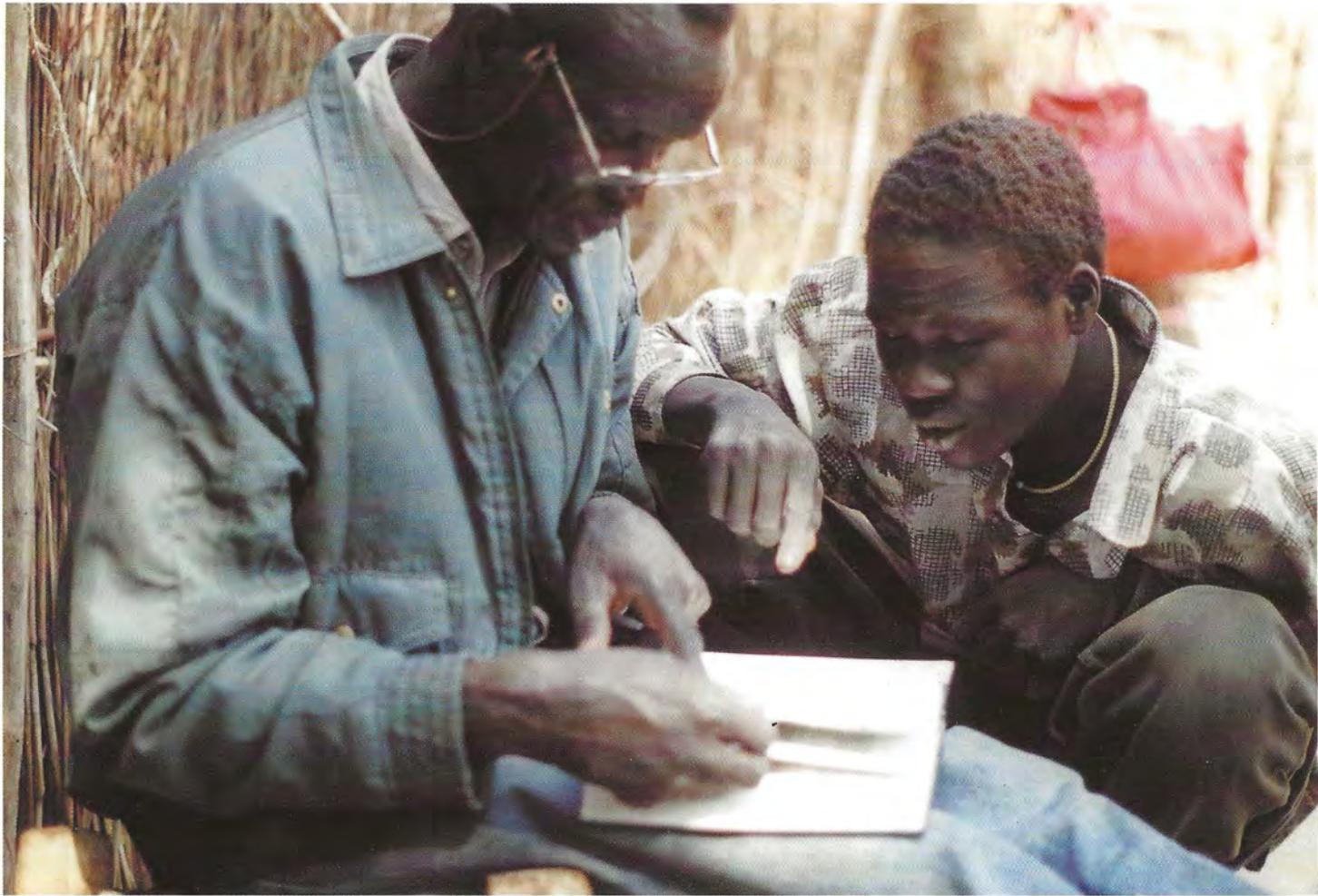
We were now having the launching ceremony at Mading because only three days earlier a rebel commander had threatened that his soldiers would arrest everyone on the plane if he weren't allowed to travel on the plane to Akobo, the original site for the launching service. The Presbyterian Church in Sudan leaders decided that this was a religious event, not a political or war-related one, so they changed the Bible-launching site to Mading instead.

At the airstrip a limp flag indicated no wind. But just seconds before the wheels touched the ground, a strong crosswind hit the plane and caused it to roll from side to side. It hit the ground with a bang on the right wheel, which collapsed, causing the plane to careen out of control and veer off the airstrip to the right.

The pilot skillfully neutralized the engines and slowed the plane down considerably before, skidding sideways, the left wing hit a high grass fence surrounding a compound. The impact broke off that wing at the engine, and then the whole thing turned upside-down. All 22 passengers and the two pilots were hanging from their seatbelts looking down.

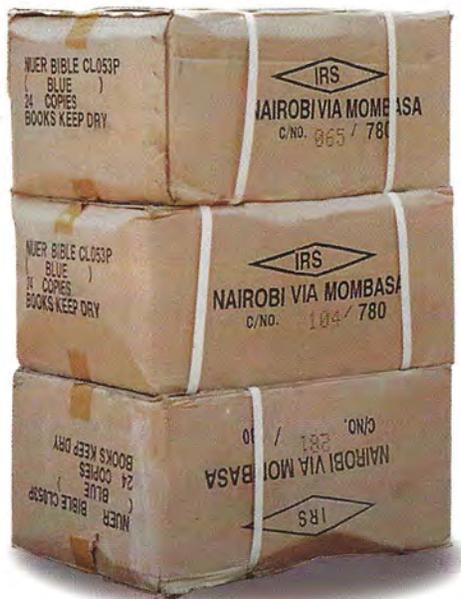
The pilot was able to kick out his door and went around the outside trying doors, but to no avail. He then jumped up on top and, with Nuer men helping, was able to rip open the tail loading door. Half the passengers exited out that opening, and the other half went forward to the pilot's door. In my daze I crawled through the other pilot's window, which had broken out, giving me the worst

(continued on p. 19)



GOD'S WORD IN NUER

Against all odds, a decade-long project bears fruit in Sudan.



It was mid-January, and the Nuer were about to receive a complete Bible in their own language for the first time. The worship service had moved outdoors since the crowd of nearly 900 wouldn't fit in Mading's small sanctuary, near the Ethiopian bor-

Only three boxes of Nuer Bibles made it to Mading, but they were quickly examined by people eager to see and read the Word in their own language.

der. An hour of worship moved into another two and a half hours of ceremony and celebration for the launching of the Bible.

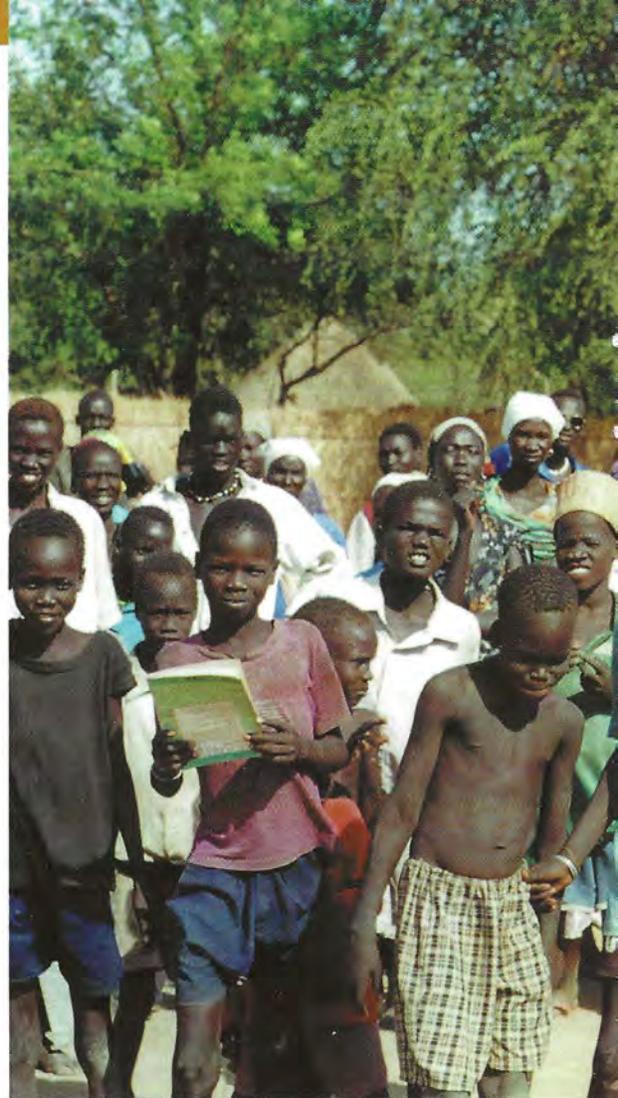
Then the moment came.

"They broke out in spontaneous singing, cheering, and drumming," said Lester Boleyn, who worked on the translation project for a decade along with his wife, Esther. "It was a spontaneous expression of joy."

Photos by David Sollenberger
Text by Walt Wiltschek
Produced by Howard Royer

Not even a
crosswind
could deter the
long-awaited
launch
celebration.

THE MANY MIRACLES OF MADING



Children and others in the village of Mading joined in worship to celebrate the launch of the Bible.



Everything seemed to be going wrong en route to the Bible launching service. Political maneuvering in Sudan forced a change of site from Akobo to the village of Mading, on three days' notice. Then the plane carrying Church of the Brethren representatives Lester and Esther Boleyn and David Sollenberger and 21 others crashed and flipped upon landing in a crosswind.

Then, everything went right.

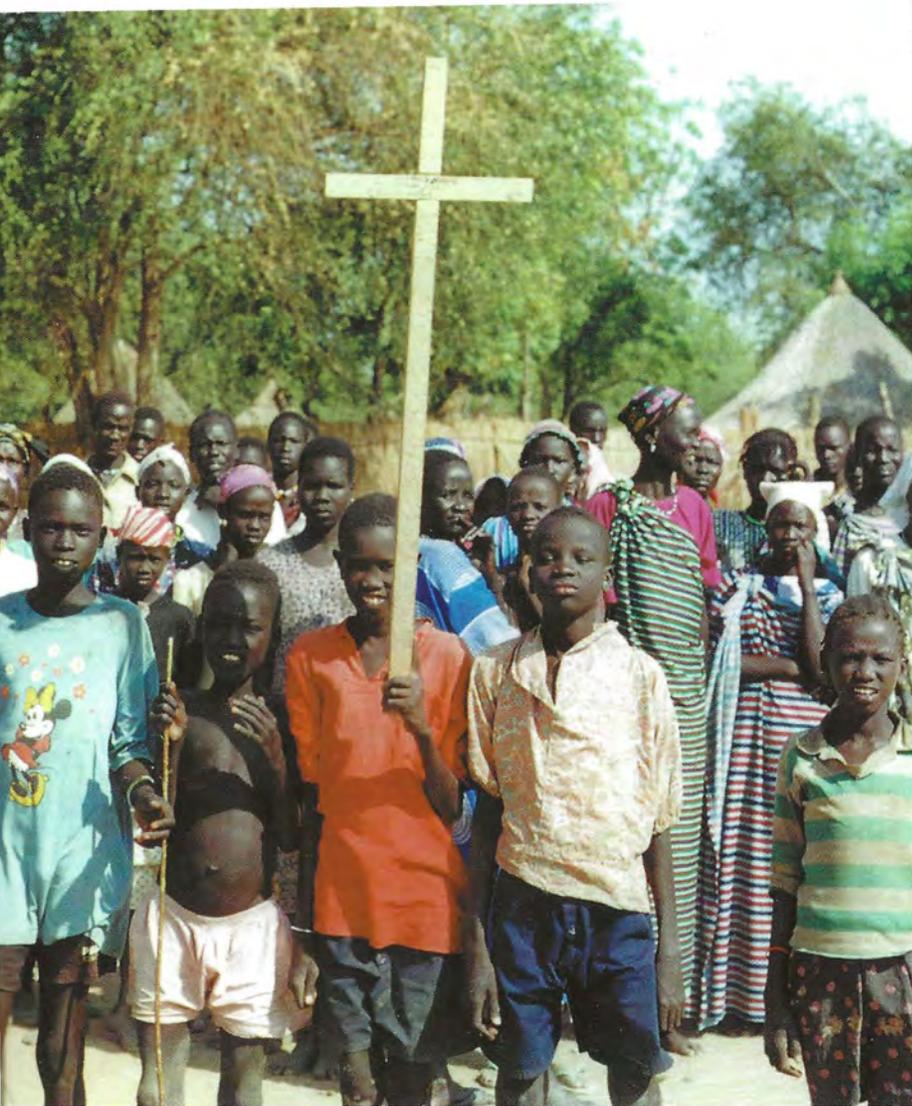
•Everyone on board the plane

Sudanese women expressed the joy of the occasion through dancing.

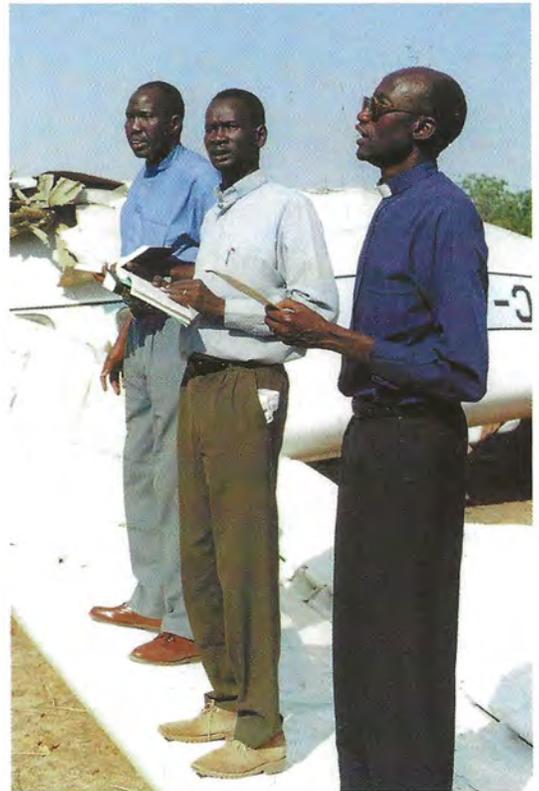
survived with nothing more than a scratch or two.

•Thrust into the spotlight on short notice, Mading proved a welcoming and energetic place for the service. A large turnout embraced the three boxes of Bibles able to be shipped there.

•And perhaps the greatest miracle of all: A new translation of the Bible that itself emerged from a land plagued by war, uprooted populations, and drought. It's believed to be the first complete Bible to be printed in any Sudanese ethnic language.



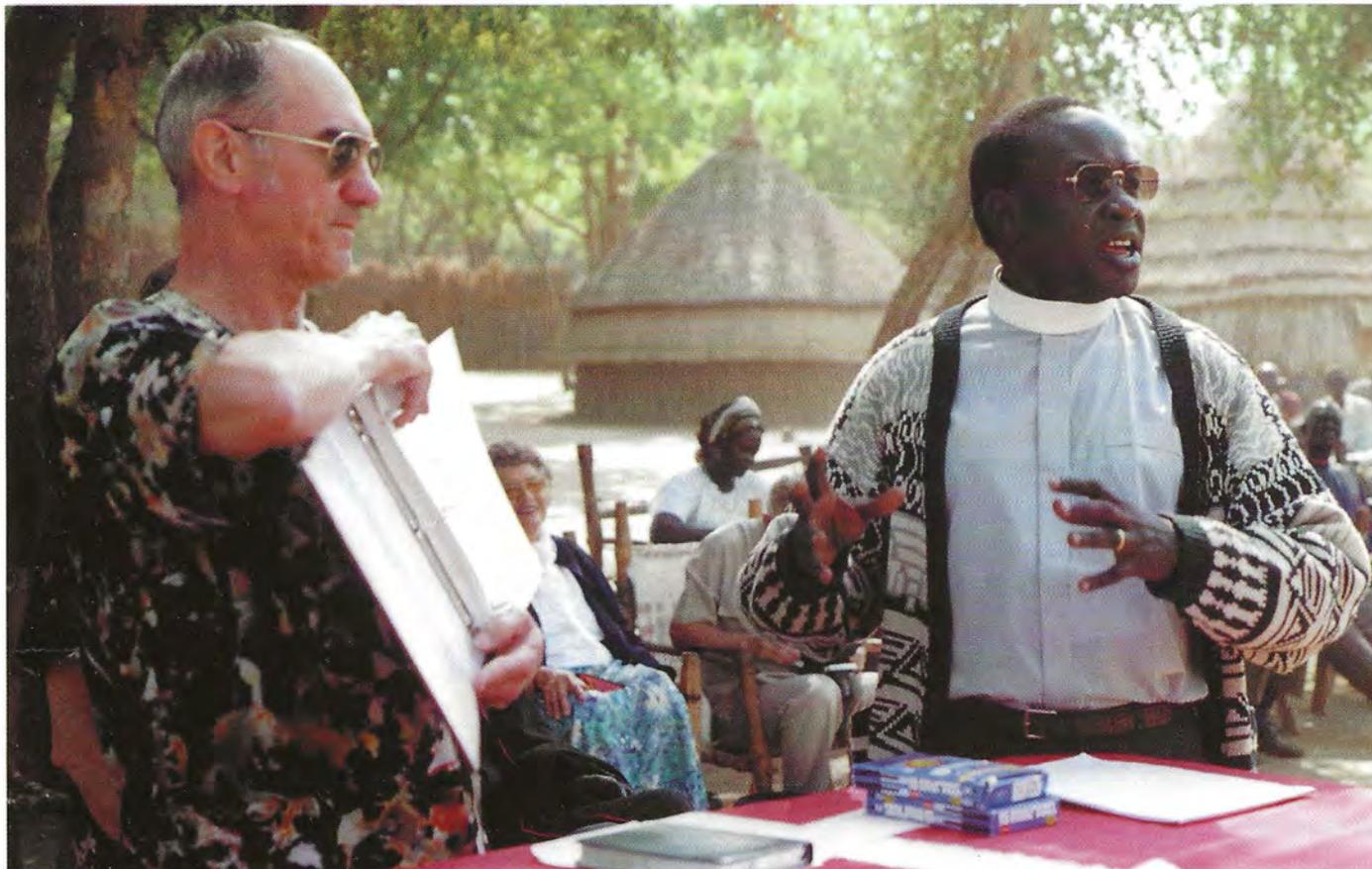
...rate life and the power of God in protecting the travelers and delivering the Bibles.



Atop the flipped wing, church leaders praise God.

An unexpected miracle occurred when all 24 passengers and crew escaped unhurt from a plane that crashed upon landing in Mading.





Lester Boleyn and Tut Wan Yoa, two of the key figures in the Nuer translation project, came together again to officially "launch" the new Bible.

END OR BEGINNING?

A New Testament in the Nuer language, the largest language group in southern Sudan, had existed since the late '60s. The Bible launched in January, however, presented the first full translation of all 66 books. The Bibles were printed in South Korea after years of painstaking work by the Sudan Bible Society, translating the Old Testament and revising the New Testament materials.

The copies transported to Ma-

ding were distributed to evangelists, pastors, and other church leaders. Meanwhile, many more boxes were sent to other locations for simultaneous celebrations.

People immediately immersed themselves in the new text, hungrily reading passages in their own tongue for the first time. Sollenberger shared a comment from translator Tut Wan Yoa, who worked with the Boleyns: "Finally we can read the message in Nuer."

For Nuers growing up, a Bible in their own tongue.



(continued from p. 14)

injury of all the passengers—a cut on the foot.

Even though another plane-load of people was to land three hours later, the Nuers didn't wait to begin worshipping. The pastor took all of us who had been on the plane over to the church compound, where the praying and praising immediately began. This was immediate therapy.

Later in the day, many hundreds of people gathered around the plane, using its wing as a platform for speakers. Several people told stories of how they were each affected by the crash. This type of sharing happened again Sunday evening around the plane, and on Monday in the church.

The Nuer Christians had a simple explanation for the crash. The devil had now tried two times to stop the launching of the Bible. Satan had forced the change in venue, and now sent a crosswind to crash the plane. But they said, "God is mightier than Satan. God took charge. Nothing could prevent the bringing of his Word to the people." Lester's evaluation to the assembled people was, "God intended this to be a time of celebration, not of mourning."

After the celebration of life on Saturday, the doubling of the miracle began on Sunday with the official launching ceremony for the Nuer Bible. The masses of people had all been assembling at the original site, Akobo. The supplies had been sent there earlier,

The Nuer Christians had a simple explanation for the crash. The devil had now tried two times to stop the launching of the Bible. But they said, "God is mightier than Satan. God took charge. Nothing could prevent the bringing of his Word to the people."

the choirs had practiced, and there were plenty of drummers.

When the site was changed, there was no way those people could travel to Mading. The people in attendance at Mading were all locals. Our celebration was quite spontaneous. It had no rehearsed singing or praying. We were all conscious of God's great power and mercy.

The ceremony took two hours, following a one-hour worship service. It included preaching, singing, praying, and the handing of the official Bible to the vice moderator by the United Bible Societies' representative, Dr. Jan Sterk. Tut Wan, who had been the only consistent translator with the project we worked on for 11 years, interpreted the Nuer words into English and English into Nuer.

Because of the change of venue, we had only three 24-Bible cartons to distribute. But those 72 Bibles were sufficient for distribution to pastors, evangelists, and women church leaders.

On the two days preceding the Mading events, chartered flights were taking loads of Bibles into other villages through Upper Nile Province where the Nuers live. Tut Wan

had instructed everyone to keep the cartons unopened until Sunday morning. Every church was to have a celebration and then open the cartons and distribute the Bibles. This also took place in Khartoum and in refugee camps outside Sudan.

The people said that had Satan been successful in stopping the launching, Christianity among the Nuers would have had a terrible setback. Marginal followers might have said, "The Christians teach that they have a loving God. Their God didn't even save that planeload of 24 people! And they were his faithful leaders. Why would we want to follow a God like that?"

But now, with the saving of the people on the plane, the church leaders expect an increase in people turning away from traditional gods and turning toward Christ and the church.

The leaders of the Presbyterian Church in Sudan, which will celebrate 100 years of mission there in 2002, also expect that many of their own evangelists and pastors will now want to attend the Mobile Bible School that has begun at Mading. They will see Mading as a place blessed by God.

For the past 100 years, all

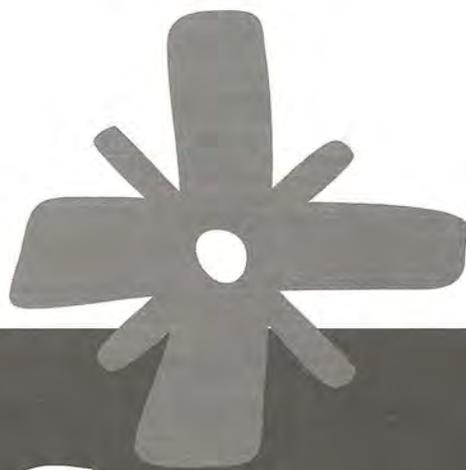
preaching has been done by mostly illiterate evangelists who listened closely to the preaching of the Word by missionaries or a very few educated Nuer church leaders. They, in turn, went out to the villages and repeated the sermons they had heard preached.

Over the years, many of these leaders have been taught to read the Nuer language; now they will have the Bible to read. They will be able to stand before their congregations and read the Word of God, no longer needing to rely on memory to proclaim the story of the Bible.

The masses of Nuer still are illiterate, but now they will be able to hear the Word of God read to them. And many are wanting to learn to read, so now they will be able to have their own Bible and read it for themselves. 

Esther Boleyn is a retired school-teacher recently moved to Cumberland, Md., where she plans to work as "a helpmate to my husband," Lester Boleyn, who begins this month as a full-time Congregational Life Team member. From 1988 to 1998 she lived in Nairobi, Kenya, where she was employed by the General Board's office of Global Mission Partnerships as editor and keyboarder for the Nuer Bible project. She said she is ready to leave her African language skills behind and "learn the new language of the mountains."

HUNDREDS OF
BRETHREN AND
MENNONITES
CAME HUNGRY
FOR DEEPER
SPIRITUAL LIVES.



GROWING THE SPIRIT



Ken Bomberger

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES TRAINING AND A BALANCED DIET

BY FLETCHER FARRAR

Richard Foster's vision that "a great new gathering of the people of God is occurring in our day" seemed to come to life as people streamed into Leffler Chapel at Elizabethtown College March 10. There were 800 attending this conference on spiritual growth—it had sold out in a few days while another 150 who tried to register didn't get in. Organizers said the response reflects a new hunger by serious Christians for

spiritual development opportunities.

Foster, the Quaker evangelist and author, told the gathering it's important for Christians who want to grow in discipleship and Christlikeness to get together to encourage each other, because not all who go to church share that agenda. That began two days of instruction on how to develop a balanced spiritual life, rooted and grounded in scripture, prayer, and the traditions of the church.

Balance also described the lively singing, which included both new "praise" songs and substantial hymn classics. The conference attracted

both conservative and liberal Brethren, charismatics and peace activists. Recognizing that spiritual growth unites diverse interests, Foster quoted John Wesley: "If your heart beats with my heart in love and loyalty to Jesus Christ, take my hand."

This was the Renovaré Regional Conference on Spiritual Renewal, sponsored by Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren. The conference grew out of two years of prayer and planning by the district's Spiritual Renewal Team, led by David Young, interim pastor of the Hatfield (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. About



Ken Bomberger

Richard Foster prayed with persons who came forward at the close of a session. "I am not playing with your emotions," he said. "We wait for the work of the Spirit of God."

half those attending were from 50 area Church of the Brethren congregations, and the other half were Mennonites from the area.

Renovaré, Latin for "to renew," is the organization founded by Foster to invigorate churches by helping their members grow spiritually through personal training and participation in small groups known as Spiritual Formation Groups. The twin strategy, centered in church life, avoids the problems of unbridled freedom and isolated effort at spiritual growth. Several Church of the Brethren pastors at the event said they appreciated Foster's orthodox approach to spiritual growth, with its emphasis on both study and community as keys to development.

"Our faith needs a structure,

a shape and an outline to it," Foster said. The structure can be built around the 12 disciplines outlined in his popular 1988 book, *Celebration of Discipline*, among them prayer, solitude, study, simplicity, fasting, service. He urges Christians to become, like Paul, "athletes for God" by training for the spiritual life.

Like a trainer urging a novice to exercise, he offered two suggestions. The first: *Begin small*. "There is a progression in the spiritual life," Foster said, and we can't all start with healing miracles. The second suggestion: *Begin*. Start in humility where you are, he said. "The Lord is never hard to find."

Foster alternated lectures with Emilie Griffin, a Roman Catholic and a Latin buff whose scholarly reserve provided a nice counterpoint to Foster's more boisterous style. She gave a moving description of her own "experience of grace" while living the fast

life of a young advertising executive in New York City, which she thought at first was "the New Jerusalem." She began to study the Bible, and she found truth through theater and films. "The Lord speaks to us through things we love." She read C. S. Lewis' *Surprised by Joy*, and there found, as Lewis did, that many admirable people live the virtuous life "with honor, courtesy, and gentleness."

Eventually she began to surrender her cool pride. "I did not want to be one who would not give in to the Lord because it was not a contemporary thing to do." After her surrender, she learned that with some effort on her part, the Holy Spirit would do much of the work of spiritual growth. "We will be carried along by the wings of grace."

Both Foster and Griffin emphasized that God becomes a partner in our growth in godliness. While growth requires effort, making that



effort isn't the same as striving to earn God's favor. The effort at spiritual growth merely puts Christians in a place to joyfully surrender to the Holy Spirit, in which "the soul, light as a feather, fluid as water, innocent as a child, responds to every movement of grace like a floating balloon." The quotation, from Jean-Pierre de Caussade in *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*, was used several times during the conference.

The core of the Renovaré approach to spiritual development is in the six traditions, or streams, of Christian faith and witness, which Foster describes in detail in his recent book, *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith* (HarperSanFrancisco). By learning about and training in each of the traditions, Christians will have a balanced approach toward spiritual development. And, though he didn't emphasize it, they will learn to respect traditions which their church does not emphasize.

For example, he urged those who emphasize the "social justice" tradition to seek balance by learning more about the "charismatic" tradition. "There is no such thing as a non-charismatic Christian," Foster said. All Christians are given spiritual gifts, or powers, to do the work of God. "If you are in Christ it is a life in the spirit," he told the conference.

In his book, Foster elaborates on the gains to be had from embracing the charismatic tradition—the "Spirit-empowered life." They include providing a corrective to "our impulse to domesticate God," as well as "a rebuke to our anemic practice" of business-as-usual religion.

Among the potential perils of the charismatic tradition, he adds, is that signs and wonders will be trivialized into "magic religion." He writes,

RICHARD FOSTER: "OUR FAITH NEEDS A STRUCTURE, A SHAPE AND AN OUTLINE TO IT."



Ken Bomberger

"We often focus on the gift rather than the Giver." Another peril is rejecting the rational and the intellectual. "We love God with both mind and heart." And he warns against the danger of falling for "highly speculative end-time scenarios that lack theological foundation."

Each of six spiritual traditions was explained briefly at the conference,

and explained more fully in Renovaré literature. They are:

- ❖ **Contemplative.** The "prayer-filled life" focuses on intimacy with God and depth of spirituality. This spiritual dimension addresses the longing for a deeper, more vital Christian experience.
- ❖ **Holiness.** The "virtuous life" focuses upon personal moral transformation and the power to develop "holy habits." This spiritual dimension addresses the erosion of moral fiber in personal and social life.
- ❖ **Charismatic.** The "spirit-empowered life" focuses on the charisms of the Spirit and worship. This spiritual dimension addresses the yearning for the immediacy of God's presence among his people.
- ❖ **Social justice.** The "compassionate life" focuses on justice and shalom in all human relationships and social structures. This spiritual dimension addresses the gospel imperative for equity and compassion among all peoples.
- ❖ **Evangelical.** The "word-centered life" focuses on the proclamation of the good news of the gospel. This spiritual dimension addresses the need for people to see the good news lived and hear the good news proclaimed.
- ❖ **Incarnational.** The "sacramental life" focuses on making present and visible the realm of the invisible spirit. This spiritual dimension addresses the crying need to experience God as truly manifest and active in daily life.



After Foster introduced and described all these traditions, he asked participants to each think of one they would like to learn more about and develop more in their spiritual experience. They were asked to stand as he named the tradition they wanted to strengthen in themselves. As more of the group got to its feet with the naming of each aspect, it became a visible demonstration that the desire for a more balanced spirituality was growing among them.

The practical strategy for implementing spiritual development under the Renovaré model is through Spiritual Formation Groups that gather for mutual nurture and encouragement. Though many who attended were already familiar with small groups, several said the groups that formerly met in their churches had lapsed and now needed to be re-energized.

Foster made his case for small groups by quoting John Wesley, who wrote in 1763: "I was more convinced than ever that the preaching like an apostle, without the joining together those that are awakened and training them up in the ways of God, is only begetting children for the murderer. How much preaching has there been for these twenty years all over Pembroke-shire! But no regular societies, no discipline, no order, or connection. And the consequence is that nine in ten of those once awakened are now faster asleep than ever."

Renovaré recommends a simple meeting structure detailed in its *Spiritual Formation Workbook*. It centers on sharing how God has been at work in each person's life during the week past, sharing needs and praying together, and encouraging each other for the week ahead.

Though the recommended structure is common and uncomplicated, Foster insists that some structure and rules of confidentiality are important to succeed. "A steady diet of superficial conversation can literally strangle the soul," says Renovaré literature. "We long to know and be known at deep personal levels, though we fear that involvement. Simply sitting with a small group of people does not guarantee building personal relationships at a level which allows us to affirm each other. Groups need a structure that will facilitate personal sharing."

Participants left the conference Saturday evening enthusiastic, and eager to begin the work of developing their spiritual lives. They had learned that growth needs effort, to get bodies and minds ready to accept God's grace. It needs balance; too much emphasis on one area of the spiritual life and too little on another leads to imbalance. And it needs structure, because people without strategy tend to flounder. Clearly, after the Renovaré weekend in Elizabethtown, renewal had begun.



Spiritual Formation Group:
Volunteers from the audience modeled the small groups that undergird spiritual growth.



RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Listed below are some of the books Renovaré recommends. They may be ordered from Brethren Press at the prices listed by calling 800-441-3712, or by fax 800-667-8188. Include order number.

Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith, by Richard Foster. HarperSanFrancisco, 1998. Order #0242, \$21.

A Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small-Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Growth, by James Bryan Smith with Lynda Graybeal. HarperSanFrancisco, revised 1999. Order #0253, \$10.

Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth, by Richard Foster. HarperSanFrancisco, revised 1998. Order #7316, \$22.

The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives, by Dallas Willard. HarperSanFrancisco, 1988. Order #0258, \$15.

The address of Renovaré is 8 Inverness Drive East, Suite 102, Englewood, CO 80112-5624.

MINISTRY

FOR 40 YEARS, INTERCHURCH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HAS

of MEDICINE

Don Padgett



BY WALT WILTSCHKEK

Paul Derstine was working in Haiti in 1991, serving as program director for a medical operation in the impoverished Caribbean nation. Recently elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was being forced out in a military coup, and chaos was spreading across the country.

Derstine found himself out in a remote section of the western part of the nation when the government finally fell. Roads everywhere were cut and transportation disrupted. It left Derstine alone as the only American in a small village for 10 days.

As he walked around during those uncertain days, he would pass a small clinic at the edge of the town. Though he wasn't a doctor himself, he could tell that needs weren't being met.

"People would go in, and there was nothing in this clinic to help them," Derstine said. "For the first time, I asked myself, 'What if I get sick or break a leg?' It really struck me what life was like for so many people in the world."

He was eventually able to reach the capital of Port-au-Prince and be evacuated, once again reaching the safety and comfort of the United States. The memories of that experience didn't fade, though, staying fresh as a pressing issue in his mind.

As so often happens, God soon provided a route for his passion. Just as Derstine found himself at a crossroads, a nonprofit agency called Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc. had a need for a director. Each party liked what the other had

to offer, and so in January 1992 Derstine traveled to IMA's offices at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

"I really felt that God had led me here," Derstine said.

And he has led IMA, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, through a decade of change and expansion. Derstine said the current work of IMA—now with 12 member organizations, including the Church of the Brethren General Board—falls into five major categories:

- Placing donations at sites around the world as medicines become available from corporations or other sources.
- Purchasing other necessary drugs with cash donations received to "fill the gaps."
- Providing a "medicine box" program that will supply a medical office to serve 1,000 people for three months, plus a variety of special box supply programs. Pharmaceutical services director Don Padgett and other staff members work to coordinate and fulfill these lists.
- Responding to emergencies in appropriate ways, usually as the second, long-term phase of recovery after the immediate disaster relief. IMA works in "places forgotten a long time ago by CNN," as Derstine puts it.
- Organizing disease control initiatives in developing countries. These efforts currently focus on choceriasis, or river blindness, and on lymphatic filariasis, or elephantiasis.



Two members of an IMA river blindness healthcare team give medicine to a Tanzanian girl. The medicine stops progression of the disease that causes itching, disfigurement, and eventual blindness.

Measuring up. A teacher measures a student's height to determine the correct medicine dosage for a Tanzanian boy with river blindness.

APPLIED PHARMACEUTICALS TO THE WORLD'S NEEDY



Elephantiasis victims in Recife, Brazil, meet regularly for education and support, often helping one another in washing the affected leg and foot. Paul Derstine, standing second from right, observes the activities of the "Hope Club," accompanied by Dr. Gerusa Dreyer (third from right), coordinator of the International Training Center for Elephantiasis Treatment Services and a pioneer and internationally renowned expert in this work. IMA's elephantiasis program in Haiti models the hygiene and treatment practices of Dr. Dreyer.

According to IMA, more than \$13 million worth of medicines and other supplies are shipped annually. More than 2,000 medical boxes were sent out in the 1990s.

Those numbers and the organization's growth were likely beyond the dreams of the group that came together to form IMA in response to needs in 1960.

The organization grew out of the vision of a woman named Bert Marker, who wanted to support women's clinical work in India through Methodist medical mission work. She went to the various pharmaceutical companies and asked for help with her project, and some of them responded. Soon drums of vitamins were being dropped off in her backyard.

Others soon joined her quest, and six denominations (not including the Church of the Brethren at the time) banded together to formalize the effort and create IMA. They located the offices in the New York City neighborhood bustling with the ecumenical activity of the National

Council of Churches, and handled warehousing needs out of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor.

The Church of the Brethren General Board did join as a partner soon afterwards, and in April 1981 the IMA offices relocated to New Windsor, too. Today eight staff members work at the Brethren Service Center, on the second floor of the venerable Blue Ridge building, and two others work elsewhere: medical adviser Dr. Glen Brubaker in Lancaster, Pa., and IMA resident representative Charles Franzen in Tanzania.

Derstine is himself a member and moderator of the Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren, and he said he values having the denomination as a partner in IMA's work.

A special program called the Church of the Brethren clinic box, which began in 1998, gathers specific supplies plus a cash donation to aid the work of rural clinics. The boxes have particularly been used in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Honduras so far. Mission workers Jerry and

Becky Crouse hosted Padgett for a tour of several denominations' medical projects in the Dominican last year.

And, of course, the Brethren Service Center itself has provided a continuing context for IMA's work. Derstine said the value of that partnership can't be put into dollars, and the cooperation and sharing available there really make IMA's operations possible.



Walt Wiltschek

The agency fits well with the service center's focus on other relief efforts, such as disaster response and refugee resettlement. IMA's only formal international programs operate in Haiti and

Tanzania, but, through outreach and other partnerships, IMA services reach about 45 to 50 countries each year.

"Their presence on our campus is further demonstration to our guests of the international concern and ministry focus of the Center and its resident agencies," says Stan Noffsinger, director of the Brethren Service Center and the Church of the Brethren General Board's representative to the IMA board.

The work of IMA, while remaining true to the original mission, has changed considerably in the 40 years since its founding. Back then, and through the next three decades, IMA functioned mainly as a clearinghouse and information coordinator. It would gather surplus products and overruns as companies called and offered them, and it would gather information on the needs of people overseas who could use the drugs in mission work.

The donations flowed in easily, people in the field knew how to use the supplies, and IMA could simply connect the two without needing to worry about fundraising or soliciting supplies. In the 1990s, however, the situation changed. Pharmaceutical companies became more exact in their production schedules, and surplus went down. The needs for medications and other services overseas became more spe-

"THE NEEDS ARE GREATER THAN EVER, AND WE REALLY HAVE TO WORK MUCH HARDER AT BRINGING RESOURCES TO THE NEED."

—Paul Derstine, president of Interchurch Medical Assistance

cific. IMA's task moved well beyond simple logistics.

Derstine said he finds himself needing to work much harder at fundraising and promotion now as many agencies and programs compete for dollars, and corporate donations don't simply flow in automatically. The scope of the organization's activities has widened considerably, requiring IMA staff to be proactive and define specific needs for congregations, individuals, and pharmaceutical corporations to support.

Through all the growth and changes in the eight and a half years since his arrival in New Windsor, Derstine continues to feel the calling he felt in rural Haiti. The task has grown more difficult in many ways, but it has grown ever more exciting, too, as new programs have begun and others are being explored.

"The needs are greater than ever, and we really have to work much harder at bringing resources to the need," Derstine said. "We feel the challenge, and we feel good about it."



Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the General Board.



HOW TO MAKE A BROTHERS CLINIC BOX

1. Assemble one or more complete kits containing all required products, in quantities shown below.
2. Over-the-counter products must be new products, with unbroken seals.
3. No substitution of products is acceptable.
4. With each kit of medical supplies, please provide an additional gift of \$150. This money will be used by Interchurch Medical Assistance to purchase, at special wholesale pricing, specially selected over-the-counter medications and supplies applicable to the clinics, and to cover packing, shipping, and program administration costs.
5. Pack products carefully in a carton for shipment by UPS or USPS. Ship the clinic box items only to Brethren Service Center Annex, 601 Main Street, New Windsor, MD 21776-0188. Clearly mark the box(es) Brethren Clinic Box Program.
6. Send a check for \$150 per clinic box to Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc., Attn: Brethren Clinic Box Program, P.O. Box 429, New Windsor, MD 21776. Include in this mailing a note indicating from whom, when, and by what means, the box(es) of medical supplies were shipped to the BSC Annex. When IMA has received both the check and notification that the box has arrived at the Annex, a receipt acknowledgment will be issued to the congregation.

Items to be collected for the box:

- 6 bars of antibacterial soap (Dial)
- 50 gauze pads (4x4)
- 300 assorted size Band-Aids
- 6 rolls adhesive tape (1/2")
- 1 bag of 500 cotton balls
- 1 box of 500 Q-tips

What does it take to be a Caregiver?



Resources

Being Prepared to Care for a Congregation

ABC offers a wide range of training and recognition resources to congregations wishing to establish or support a deacon ministry program. Deacon resources include:

Deacon Manual for Caring Ministries (in handbook and large print versions)

Annual Conference Statement on Deacon Ministries (in English and Spanish)

Training Video on Deacon Ministries (in English and Spanish)

Deacon and Deacon Emeritus Certificates

Deacon Identification and Visitation Cards

Study Materials About Deacon Ministry from Biblical and Historical Perspectives



Prayer

Being Sensitive to and Insightful with Others

Chalmer Faw, a well-known and loved Brethren, shares from his heart and spirit in this newly revised edition of *Now that I Am Getting Old: Devotions and Reflections on Old Age and the Nursing Home*. Drawing from his years of service to the denomination as a missionary and seminary professor, Chalmer makes relevant and practical the biblical faith in a retirement community setting. His words and prayers bring hope and inspiration to those who feel that they have nothing more to give.



Traditions

Being Ready to Talk About Difficult Issues

Three study guides are part of a series of materials ABC is creating on end-of-life decisions. Written by Graydon F. Snyder, these study guides use biblical texts, case studies and questions to help study groups and families explore their ideas and beliefs about end-of-life issues from a Brethren perspective.

Choosing Death with Dignity: A Study Guide on Death, Bereavement and Burial

Choosing Death: A Study Guide on Euthanasia

Annual Conference Statement on End-of-Life Decision-Making Organ and Tissue Donation



Renewal

Being Healthy Enough to Care for Others

Audio and video tapes of keynote presentations from ABC's biennial conference for caregivers can serve to inspire and renew caregivers.

Barbara Lundblad — Bible Study Set

Robert Raines — "Gaining A Wise Heart"

Staccato Powell — "Resident Aliens"

John Shea — "The Spirit Blows Where it Will?"

Phillip Stone — "Transformed to What? The Vision and Pursuit of Transformation"

Virginia Thornburgh — "That All May Worship, A Ramp is Not Enough"

Melva Wilson Costen — "The Healing Freshness of God's Grace: African American Spirituals and God's Divine Medicine"

Philip Yancey — "What's So Amazing About Grace"



Association of
Brethren Caregivers

The Association of Brethren Caregivers provides denominational resources to caregivers.

To order these resources, call ABC at (800) 323-8039.

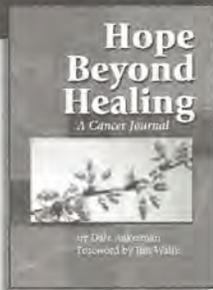
CAREGIVING IS CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

Letters

One year ago in July, I was baptized into the Brethren faith—hopeful and prayerfully set on “living my faith all week long!”

“If we suddenly find ourselves face to face with dying, we come up against ultimate questions... After I received the diagnosis of advanced lung cancer, I needed to deal with those questions more intensely than I ever had before.”

—Dale Aukerman



Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal by Dale Aukerman available now from Brethren Press for \$14.95 plus shipping and handling charges.



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For news about Nigerians

Every time I hear about or read of the turmoil in Africa, I wonder how the Brethren are faring. Work in Sudan is mentioned quite often, but I'm referring to the indigenous Brethren in Nigeria. As it has a large membership in our denomination, I care for their safety whenever there is a presidential coup or, as in the case in one area, where they are trying to make Muslim law the law of the land. Can you clue us in once in a while to how our Brethren in Africa are faring?

Mary Mummert
Orland Park, Ill.

Editor's note: Please see a news article on page 8, of this issue, for information on recent violence in Nigeria.

Also, we suggest that readers subscribe to Newline, the free online Church of the Brethren news report, which carries regular updates on Nigeria. To subscribe write to cobnews@aol.com.

And here are two websites with current general news from Nigeria:

•<http://odili.net/nigeria.html>

A Nigerian living in the US maintains this site, which includes news and cultural information about Nigeria.

•<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/inatl/longterm/worldref/country/nigeria.htm>

This is the Washington Post's page listing news about Nigeria.

Faithful living all week long

I read Wendy McFadden's column "From the Publisher" in my March, 2000 MESSENGER and wanted you to know I shouted, "That's me!" when I got to the fifth paragraph.

She writes: "Back when I first became acquainted with the Brethren, what impressed me most was the sense I had that these people live out on Monday what they say they believe on Sunday."

That is almost word for word the feeling I expressed after attending the Palmyra (Pa.) Church of the Brethren for awhile—becoming acquainted with the people and dis-

Ecumenical Luncheon

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covering that they truly lived their religion all week long. I found that to be a wonderful thing—a rarity based on my past affiliation with other “brands” of Christians.

The Brethren are so service-minded, eager, and ready to give help when and where it’s needed. She crystallized my experience perfectly. One year ago in July, I was baptized into the Brethren faith—hopeful and prayerfully set on “living my faith all week long!”

As the mother of six- and four-year-old sons, I also loved the reference to the tooth fairy. She’s only had to make an appearance three times in our house so far, and has been timely each time—we’ll see if the track record continues! I enjoy reading MESSENGER and appreciate the good work that goes into it.

*Judi-Lynn Hummel
Hershey, Pa.*

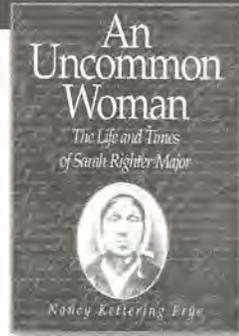
Keep authenticity at core

Wendy McFadden’s call to retain authenticity as a core Brethren value [See “From the Publisher,” March], underlined by her commitment to such discipleship, was a final stimulus to this letter.

I turn first in each month’s issue to “From the Publisher” and find it the best addition to the “new” MESSENGER. It offers me a personal, articulate message of inspiration and hope in a changing Church of the Brethren, which I experience as retreating from ecumenical leadership for peace.

Hopefully, this year’s Annual Conference theme, “Love as I have loved you,” will be a good compass point for our denomination.

*Keith K. Hoover
Lombard, Ill.*



Man, that woman can preach.

**An Uncommon Woman:
The Life and Times of Sarah Righter Major**

Nancy Kettering Frye, *Brethren Press*. Infamous in the mid 1800s as a woman preacher in a man’s world, Sister Sarah bravely preached the gospel wherever people invited her to speak. Nancy Kettering Frye provides details, facts, and stories about the life of the first female Brethren preacher. Step into the 19th century and meet the men and women who influenced Sarah Righter Major’s life and supported her preaching ministry. #8224. \$6.95



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Bible and the death penalty

It has been my understanding since I was a child, as my godly mother taught her children, that the Church of the Brethren believed the Bible was the true word of God and was to be believed as it was written.

When theology and theologians blot out what the Bible says about human sinful behavior, then the Bible loses its value and relevance.

Jesus Christ made his position on the death penalty clear in Matthew 26:51-54, and there are nine other scriptures that support the death penalty. Here is one 89-year-old preacher and retired pastor who has stayed with what the Bible says and will continue with the Bible, for there is nothing any better to believe.

I sincerely believe the Bible does support the death penalty.

*Fenton Platter
Roanoke, Va.*

Classified Ads

AUTHOR'S QUERY

Seeking name and stories of Brethren who moved into Missouri prior to Civil War years. The experiences of the Civil War years are significant in studying the settlement patters of the Brethren in Missouri and adjoining states. Persons willing to share information may contact Jane Davis, 800 E. Hale Lake Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093-3042; phone 660-429-6215; e-mail jneherda@iland.net.

FOR SALE

Centennial History of the Nampa Church of the Brethren, Idaho, 1899-1999, was released last November. It contains 80 pages of narrative and 220 photographs on another 50 pages. This paperbound book is priced at \$15.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Checks should be written to the order of the Nampa Church of the Brethren. Address: 11030 W. Orchard, Nampa, ID 83651.

INVITATION

The New Beginnings Church of the Brethren invites Brethren traveling to Annual Conference to stay overnight at Warrensburg and arrive refreshed to begin Conference. We are located 50 miles east of Kansas City, MO on Highway 50 or 16 miles south of I-70. We have a gravel parking lot and grassed area for tents. We

are easily accessible at the southeast edge of Warrensburg 1 mile east of Highway 13 on East Hale Lake (DD) Rd. Contact the church, 660-747-6216, or pastor at 660-429-6215, address 802 E. Hale Lake Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093-3042; e-mail jneherda@iland.net.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in. Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540. Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

Spread the Word! Use MESSENGER classifieds to let people know what's going on. \$55 purchases a single issue insertion of up to 80 words. Frequency discounts are available. Submit ads via fax (847-742-1407), e-mail (kstocking_gb@brethren.org) or letter (MESSENGER Classifieds, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120). Deadline is first of month prior to month of publication. Advertise today!

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Turning Points

New members

Barren Ridge, Staunton, Va.: Jordan Coffman, Daniel Graham, Summer Brooks, Kylene Phillips
Bridgewater, Va.: Ray and Miriam Martindale, Paul and Janet Foster, Allen Pugh, Carl and Madaline Zigler, Jim and Teresa Crawford, Ches Crawford, Chris and Monica Garber
Chiques, Manheim, Pa.: Lloyd Ebersole, Adrian Shelly, Stephanie Shelly, Steve Stouffler
Cincinnati, Ohio: Christine Barrett, Suzanne Black, Merle Black, Roger Crusier, Mary Crusier, Bobbie Oh, Dale Swallen, Lydia Swallen
Dupont, Ohio: Armondo Barraza, Ruth Martin, Norma Spears, Amalee Webb, Dawn Workman, Bryant Adkins, Lindsay Adkins, Richie Adams, Ashley Adams, Chad Adams
Freeburg, Paris, Ohio: Ruth Cessna, John English, Sara Isgro, Angela Broache, Ethan Byrne
Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: Jane-Adair Seleski
Good Shepherd, Silver Spring, Md.: Sharon Spurrer
Guernsey, Monticello, Ind.: Dana and Deb Hood
Hanover, Pa.: Eric Longwell, Kristine Longwell
McPherson, Kan.: Claron Brown, Alvera Brown, Peter DeWitt, Ted Hammarlund, Darren Heitschmidt, Julie Heitschmidt, Dennis Houghton, Betty Houghton, Dallas Blacklock, Adelina Cripe, Paul Liepelt, Bryan Lucore, Laina McKellip, Marie Rhoades
Maple Spring, Hollsopple, Pa.: Brianne Fockler, Mitchell Ott
Marsh Creek, Gettysburg, Pa.: Delmar and Adena Crum
Memorial, Martinsburg, Pa.: Paula McCready
Mill Creek, Tryon, N.C.: Kaila Tarbuton, Pat Tarbuton, Ray McArthur, Charlie Byrd, Melissa Callahan, Courtney Johnston, Nancy Mace, Keelia McCormack, Chris McEntire, Jacob Pate, Joseph Pate, Boyce Skipper, Donna Skipper, Joseph Greenway, Rebecca Greenway, Lee Hines, Mike Lovelace, Patti Lovelace, Lindsey Newsom
Mountain View, Boise, Idaho: Brandon Durst, Eddie Landes, Anitta Landes, Jaunetta Robinson, Hoagy Robinson, Jack Quinn, Mary Quinn, Charles Hernandez
New Paris, Ind.: Loyal and Dorothy Rogers, Joan Hein
Palmyra, Pa.: Kristina Conkle, Russ and Kris Nagy, Lucille Reber
Philadelphia, Pa.: Patricia Derr
Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va.: Ruth Riner, Victoria Vandall, Linda Vandall
Pleasant View, Lima, Ohio: Kim Koogler, Kayla Koogler, Jessica Bame, Jessica Gullette, Nicholas Gullette, Steven Gullette, Rick Gullette, Jill Gullette, John Freed, Josh Bassett, Eric Vore, Kristy Vore, James Marsteller
Prince of Peace, Littleton, Colo.: Bob Bechtel
Sugar Valley, Loganton, Pa.: Melanie Duck, Adam Breon
Troutville, Va.: David Vassar, Leigh Odenwelder
Union Center, Nappanee, Ind.: Sara

Kauffman, Jesse Steffen
University Park, Hyattsville, Md.: Miriam A. Morataya, Santiago A. Morataya
West Green Tree, Elizabethtown, Pa.: Myron Weber, Helen Weber, Helen Keener
Westminster, Md.: Lisa Groff
York Center, Lombard, Ill.: Jill de Coursey, Paul Asta, Gary Keenan, Amy Knickrehm, Barry Weber, Marty Bonine, Rachel Ilahi, Jim and Kim Yaussey Albright

Wedding anniversaries

Click, Victor and Duane, Harrisonburg, Va., 50
Detwiler, Willis and Rosa, Beford, Pa., 65
Fike, Norman and Nora, Denver, Colo., 60
Flickinger, Glenn and Evelyn, Wakarusa, Ind., 55
Frantz, Byron and Eula, Windsor, Colo., 50
Garl, Harley and Betty, Nappanee, Ind., 50
Gilbert, John and Martha, Staunton, Va., 65
Hatcher, Gerland and Margaret, Troutville, Va., 50
Hoffer, Victor and Mabel, Palmyra, Pa., 71
Hosler, Galen and Alta, Manheim, Pa., 55
Kissling, Charles and Marian, Lima, Ohio, 50
Krehmeyer, August and Earlene, Haxtun, Colo., 60
Kurtz, Kenneth and Eileen, New Paris, Ind., 60
Moneyheffer, Harvey and Annamae, Nappanee, Ind., 55
Price, Dean and Elizabeth, Nappanee, Ind., 65
Shaffer, Floyd and Doris, Hooversville, Pa., 50
Shaw, Robert and Pearl, Uniontown, Pa., 65
Sheffer, Wilson and Treva, Bridgewater, Va., 70
Shiffler, Carroll and Anna, Elizabethtown, Pa., 55
Weaver, Harold and Grace, Annville, Pa., 55
Whitmer, John and Donna, North Liberty, Ind., 55
Woodie, Bobbie and Phyllis, Troutville, Va., 50

Deaths

Alt, Albert K., 85, Petersburg, W.Va., Jan. 6
Armey, Chester, 89, Arrowwood, Alberta, Canada, Nov. 15
Armey, Thurza, 85, Arrowwood, Alberta, Canada, June 20
Ballard, Orville, 89, Mt. Morris, Ill., Jan. 6
Barton, Nelson L., 45, Woodstock, Va., Jan. 28
Baughman, Wilma, 94, Glenford, Ohio, Dec. 30
Beedle, Pauline R., 65, Bayse, Va., Jan. 27
Bellows, Alpha, 85, Dixon, Ill., Jan. 25
Berkey, Harold D., 84, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 18
Biegel, William P., 77, Havelock, N.C., Jan. 9
Boyd, Grace, 74, Campbelltown, Pa., Dec. 29
Brandt, Fred, 80, Palmyra, Pa., Sept. 6
Brightbill, Mary, 82, New Freedom, Pa., Aug. 18
Brown, Scott R., 86, Singers Glen, Va., Jan. 6
Boyers, Mabel W., 88, Hanover, Pa., Jan. 2
Campbell, Massie D., 91, Frederick, Md., Jan. 10
Cook, Eloise, 70, Springfield, Ohio, Dec. 6
Cool, Raymond, 89, Mt. Morris, Ill., Dec. 20
Cooper, Dean R., 81, Harman, W.Va., Nov. 29
Corbett, Olive, 87, Mt. Morris, Ill., Jan. 24
Colter, Carl, 88, Oct. 28
Dick, Florence, 97, Clymer, Pa., Jan. 6
Diehl, Harry W., 89, Luray, Va., Dec. 22
Dodson, Nola, 86, Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 4
Dove, Hattie E., 94, Mathias, W.Va., Jan. 24
Dutrow, Sara, 92, Union Bridge, Md., Dec. 8
Ensign, C. David, 82, La Verne, Calif., Jan. 25
Eshleman, Mae, 97, Lebanon, Pa., Sept. 18
Esterline, E. Loretta, 84, Brookville, Ohio, Jan. 27
Fike, Thelma, 95, Peace Valley, Mo., Jan. 17
Fitzwater, Virgie S., 94, Moorefield, W.Va., Jan. 6
Flory, Basil, 88, Sandusky, Ohio, Dec. 22
Foster, Bruce D., 59, Bridgewater, Va., Jan. 15
Frantz, Barbara Gray, 68, Naperville, Ill., Dec. 15
Gearhart, Gerald, 81, Akron, Ind., July 3
Gillin, M. Gertrude, 85, Salem, Ohio, Nov. 20
Gohl, Charles W., 79, Parker Ford, Pa.
Gottshall, Ruth, 75, Palmyra, Pa., Oct. 10
Griffin, Fern, 84, Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 30
Halterman, Lois M., 88, Bridgewater, Va., Dec. 26
Halterman, Melvin W., 79, Mathias, W.Va., Jan. 15
Harman, Evelyn J., 91, Petersburg, W.Va., Dec. 26
Heisey, Jenny Sue, 55, Fenton, Mich., Oct. 25
Holcombe, Stanley, 72, Union Bridge, Md., Jan. 27
Holman, Rhonda Wise, 59, Grand Junction, Colo., Feb. 2
Hoover, Dwight P., 79, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 17
Hubert, Robert, 49, Continental, Ohio, Jan. 27
Humphreys, Virginia G., 84, Front Royal, Va., Jan. 16
Hury, Prudence S., 89, Claremont, Calif., Jan. 12
Kuntz, Naomi, 94, Palmyra, Pa., Nov. 11
Lantz, W. Earl, 94, Syracuse, Ind., Feb. 8
Longenecker, Beatrice, 95, Palmyra, Pa., Aug. 22
Marion, Mary E., 77, Farmersville, Ohio, Jan. 10
McDaniel, Arthur, 80, Carleton, Neb., Feb. 28
McDaniel, Trella, 95, Jerome, Pa., Jan. 13
Miller, Franklin Jr., 60, Luray, Va., Dec. 28
Miller, F. Marie, 95, Martinsburg, Pa., Sept. 26
Miller, Nina Y., 92, Bridgewater, Va., Jan. 8
Mundy, Leona F., 86, Rockville, Md., Dec. 25
Neff, Eva V. R., 95, Harrisonburg, Va., Jan. 1
Pence, Jacob C., Jr., 78, Pineville, Va., Dec. 21

Potterfield, Alma, 100, Stoughton, Wis., Jan. 17
Radford, Annabel L., Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 15
Raish, Richard J., 72, Dayton, Va., Dec. 21
Rittle, Minnetta, 87, Palmyra, Pa., Nov. 30
Rodeffer, Laura, 90, Palmyra, Pa., Jan. 8
Rothrock, Jean, 85, La Verne, Calif., Sept. 5
Royer, Gladys, 97, North Manchester, Ind., Aug. 27
Runion, Anna M., 79, New Market, Va., Dec. 29
Saylor, Mellicent B., 89, La Verne, Calif., Sept. 19
Scott, Charles F., 87, Brandywine, W.Va., Jan. 12
Settle, Madeline L., 85, Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 21
Shewman, Ralph E., 82, Akron, Ind., Jan. 11
Shock, Helen E., 82, Defiance, Ohio, Jan. 7
Smith, Darlene W., 56, Wardensville, W.Va., Jan. 17
Smith, Edna L., 86, Bergton, Va., Jan. 29
Smith, Helen, 87, Bridgewater, Va., Jan. 10
Stoffer, Wilma, 87, Louisville, Ohio, Nov. 20
Symensma, Charles, 81, New Paris, Ind., Nov. 29
Walborn, Raymond, 87, Palmyra, Pa., Dec. 31
Walker, Estelle, St. Clair Shores, Mich.
Walter, Virgie L., 97, Gettysburg, Pa., Feb. 5
Wiggins, Murphy, 97, Springfield, Ohio, Jan. 20
Wine, Guy C. Jr., 78, New Market, Va., Jan. 25
Wolff, Ionella, 84, La Verne, Calif., Dec. 27

Licensings

Gibson, Robert, Aug. 1, 1997, Bethel, Carleton, Neb.
Mickle, Chad Wayne, Dec. 5, New Enterprise, Pa.
Reffner, Earla, Nov. 28, New Enterprise, Pa.
Snair, Freeman Allen Jr., Dec. 26, Rockhill Furnace, Pa.
Turner, Ruby, Jan. 9, Cedar Run, Broadway, Va.

Ordinations

Crumrine, Duane E., Dec. 5, Martinsburg, Pa.
Groth, Harold, Independence, Kan., Jan. 9
Hubble, James W., Bethel, Carleton, Neb., Feb. 15, 1998
Mendez, Milciades, Puerta del Cielo, Reading, Pa.
Ramirez, Tomas, Alpha and Omega, Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 9
Smith, Thomas, Parsons, Kan., April 30, 1999

Pastoral placement

Ditmars, Larry, from interim to permanent, Topeka, Kan., Jan. 17
Gandy, Craig, to Cedar Grove, New Paris, Ohio, youth pastor, part time, Feb. 1
Hood, Dana, to Guernsey, Monticello, Ind., part time, Nov. 1
Jacobson, Michael, to Big Sky Baptist/Brethren, Froid, Mont., Feb. 1
Roudebush, Norbert "Pete," to Trinity, Blountville, Tenn., part time, March 1



Editorial

Springtime in the neighborhood

It was one of the first warm days of genuine spring and I had just shown an apartment to an attractive and employed young single mother who said how nice it was. Outside, children were walking home from school and a little girl told her friend proudly, "That's my landlord." A little boy said, "Hey, landlord," and I asked him to tell me his name again. "Tierre." I promised him I wouldn't forget it this time. Sometimes it just feels good to be involved with low-income housing in my own neighborhood, helping people, saving houses, serving the Lord.

Sometimes it doesn't. Later, a neighbor called, saying he thought my new tenant in another building was running a daycare operation out of her apartment. I went over and there were at least 10 children, not only in her yard, but in the yard next door, and in the alley. Adults were there but my tenant wasn't. I talked to her that evening and told her this can't happen again. "It can't?" she said, genuinely surprised. It wasn't a daycare, she said, just her and some friends taking care of the children of working moms whose preschool was closed that afternoon. She wasn't sure what was wrong with it and I wasn't either. It was just too many children, and the neighbors complain.

Next day another neighbor called to say he had lost sleep because kids were in the yard of one of my houses, acting crazy and playing loud music until all hours of the night. On the street I saw the high school senior who lives there, a good kid I've known for years, and asked him about the party last night. The disturbance couldn't have been coming from his house, he told me, because his mom had been home. Two days later I got a similar call from the same neighbor about the same house, so I'll turn up the heat.

The winter had been a difficult time for screen doors at my duplex up the street, where women in both the upstairs unit and the downstairs unit had gotten orders of protection against abusive boyfriends. The women both at different times asked me to have their locks changed, then when the guys couldn't get in they took out their anger on my doors. By spring the problems had changed. My upstairs tenant, now pregnant, wants to move out because her kids can't get along with the kids of the downstairs woman, whose boyfriend has moved in with her. I allowed her to break her lease provided she would forfeit her security deposit. Then her mother reported me to city authorities for keeping her deposit.

Sometimes the poor are no fun. I get discouraged when springtime calls to mind drunks more than daffodils. When tenants act like jerks, I have to remember the third verse of the hymn "Brothers and sisters of mine

are the hungry," which says: "People are they, persons made in God's image." People, not animals.

The old rule applies: I have at least 80 percent wonderful tenants and no more than 20 percent sometimes problematic tenants, and I try not to complain. Nobody forced me into this kind of work; the problems go with the territory. Besides, complaining just confirms the image most people have of the poor as immoral, lazy, and worthless, when in reality most are struggling valiantly against terrific odds to give their children good homes. Also, I keep quiet about the problems because they reflect on me. "Don't you screen your tenants?" people ask, as though it were as simple as having them fill out a form.

But there are reasons to say not all is well in our neighborhoods. Now that the economy is thriving, unemployment is low, and welfare reform has put moms in jobs, many in this country think we have poverty licked. Yet the working poor still are plagued by drugs and alcohol, domestic violence, racism, and crime. Meanwhile, even the concerned non-poor, who contribute to charities and urge their politicians to fund social service agencies, move to all-white or all-rich suburbs, distancing themselves from urban problems.

What poor neighborhoods need more than anything is for more non-poor to move in and start loving their new neighbors. Among the first rules of evangelism is to "be among people with needs." When the Bible tells us there will always be poor among us, we sometimes forget the rest: "I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land'" (Deut. 15:11).

I had told the old man who lives in my one-bedroom that he and his friends are welcome to sit on the porch to enjoy the warm weather, but there is no alcohol allowed. So his group gathers for beer on the porch across the street. I see the mentally confused beggar lady is back. After she was arrested for panhandling last fall we didn't see her for awhile, so we hoped she'd gotten help. Now she's sitting with the old drunks, who are kind to her. I'm outside my house talking to a young man who's grown up in one of my houses, telling me proudly about his new job as a guard in a new prison. Both sides of the street are being entertained by watching the police down the block arrest a couple guys and have their car towed. I get a peaceful feeling that I'm part of this street scene. Old men, beggar lady, prison guard, landlord—we are neighbors all.

Ah, it's springtime in my neighborhood.

—FLETCHER FARRAR

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emotionally. We're different from other insurance companies. We genuinely believe in the ideal of Brethren joining together for mutual aid, and we do everything possible to find creative ways to meet your needs – even if we have to go beyond policy limitations. Here's one story out of many that illustrates the difference our faith-centered approach to insurance can make.



Fire at Faith Batavia Church

Faith Batavia Church is located in Batavia, Illinois, a town of about 20,000 residents some 40 miles west of Chicago. In the middle of the night on March 2, 1998, long after the Sunday service had ended, a small fire broke out near the altar. Sometime later, when an exploding stained-glass window shattered the early morning stillness, a neighbor looked out to see smoke billowing from the church and called for help. The fire destroyed the whole front of the church, melted the Baptistery, blew out windows, burned the sanctuary ceiling, melted lighting fixtures, and damaged the pastor's office.

By the time the fire had been put out, there was soot and the acrid smell of wet, burned wood everywhere. And before the day was

over, people from Mutual Aid were on the scene. They scrubbed floors and prayed and helped church members sort through the debris – and through the details of what had to be done to bring their damaged church back to life. Within days they had contacted a specialist in fire restorations who was willing to let church volunteers work with his crew. During the summer, MAA staff from headquarters in Abilene, Kansas, drove up to Batavia to spend two days painting the church interior, side-by-side with church volunteers.

As it turned out, the church was underinsured. Even though the loss was not total, the policy limits were below restoration costs. But through it all, MAA supplied funds to keep the work going – exceeding policy limits. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, MAA's generosity, and help from the local community, the Batavia congregation held the first service in its freshly restored church Christmas Eve 1998.

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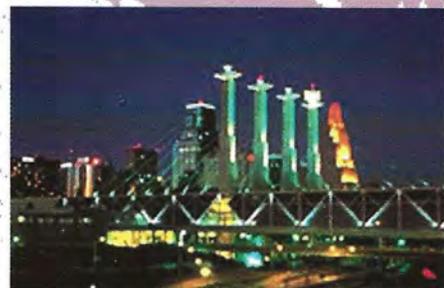
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