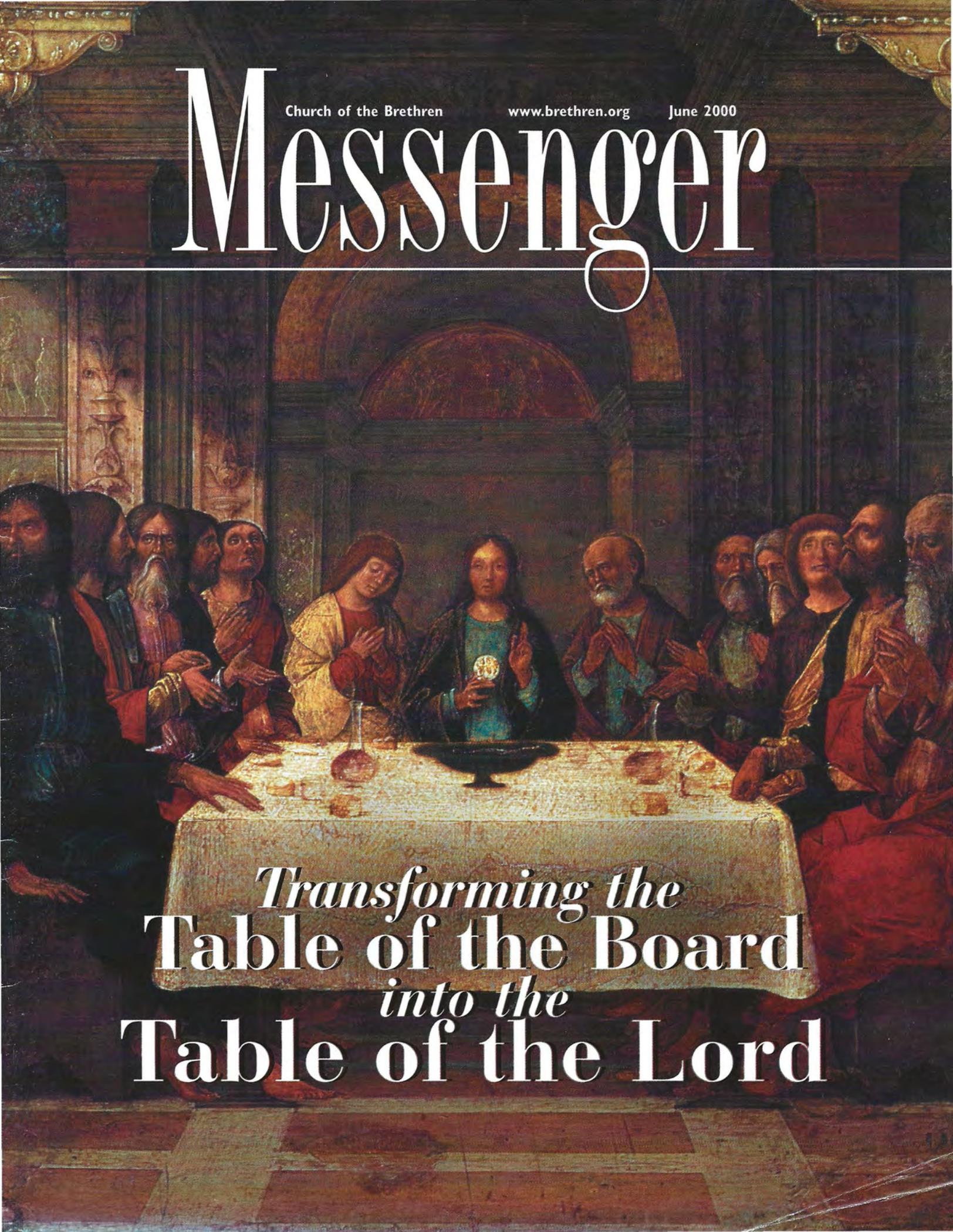


Church of the Brethren

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June 2000

Messenger



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Table of the Board
into the
Table of the Lord

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(215) 256-9501



Messenger

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On the cover: We live in a time when people are seeking to reconnect with something and Someone greater than themselves. The catalyst for this spiritual reformation has various sources. It may be prompted by a crisis of faith or the loss of meaning or purpose. It can be the urge to discover, perhaps recover, a balance between the outer and the inner journey.

A rapidly changing culture calls for the continued grounding of life in scripture and spiritual practices. Listening to God's call, being captured by the vision God has for the church, being formed and shaped by the biblical images of mission and ministry found in scripture, seeking the mind of Christ and careful discernment, are a few key elements that provide an anchor for us when responding to an ever-changing world.

Worshipful-Work is an opportunity to deepen our spirituality even in church board and council meetings. It takes some faith to leave behind the rules and politics we associate with traditional agendas. It takes adventurous, trusting people to see practices traditionally associated with worship as steps to discernment that will lead both to a deeper faith and to a decision. These practices include stories of where we have been and faith statements about the future, as well as scripture, music, silence, and prayer.

Worshipful-Work can close the gap between our worship and our work. When our spirituality and our service come together, God is glorified and our neighbor's good is honored. When our spirituality and our service come together we find our anchor in a deepened faith; our worship and our work become one.—GLENN TIMMONS

Glenn Timmons, of Elgin, Ill., is director of Congregational Life Ministries for the General Board. The cover painting is titled The Institution of the Eucharist, by Ercole de Roberti, c.1490 (tempera on panel). Used by permission.

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10 What is Worshipful-Work?

During the past year, many Church of the Brethren leaders have been trained in W-W principles, and the General Board uses it. Now Annual Conference is bringing spirituality to business meetings, with a goal of better discerning the mind of Christ.

14 Houses of hope in the DR

Thirty-two families left homeless by Hurricane Georges received new houses through a combination of their own sweat equity, Church of the Brethren money and volunteers, and government help. Sally Jo Caracheo, who as a BVSer was project manager, describes in words and pictures the personalities and progress.

18 Germantown project

The first Brethren meetinghouse in America is not only a historic site but an active congregation in Philadelphia's Germantown. Some needed improvements are planned for the place where it all began.

20 Being Alexander Mack

Casey Drudge got started playing Alexander Mack innocently enough in his own church in Fort Wayne, Ind. But now he has taken his Living Heritage show on the road, not only acting, but preaching and teaching through Mack's persona.



Sally Jo Caracheo

23 Youth "Hunger for Justice"

The 100 Church of the Brethren youth and advisors who attended this year's Christian Citizenship Seminar in Washington, D.C., and New York City learned some stark lessons about poverty—and they came home vowing to do something about it.



From the Publisher

My four-year-old had been running around outside in her bare feet. Before she put her sandals back on as we prepared to go out in the evening, I told her we needed to wash her feet. I got the washcloth ready and she sat down on a stool. "This is just like at church, Mommy!" she exclaimed.

It took a second for me to realize that she was remembering the footwashing experience at love feast, some weeks before. While there is childcare during love feast, this year she had insisted on spending the entire evening with the family. During footwashing, she and several other girls sat on the floor watching. Her eyes grew big as she observed this unusual activity for the first time.

To present each part of the full communion service that evening, two girls asked their grandfather a series of questions about the Brethren love feast, in much the same way Jewish children ask ritual questions during the Passover Seder meal. This framework enhanced the service for both the children and the adults. Also adding meaning was the fact that the Middler Sunday school class—children too young to partake in the bread and cup—had made the communion bread. It was a service to remember.

For Brethren, love feast is one of the defining experiences of our faith community. It is cherished by born-and-bred Brethren, who can describe their childhood memories of this unique ordinance. It is also embraced by "convinced" Brethren, who discover in it the heart and soul of the people they have come to love.

Some years ago, before I was connected with Brethren Press, I dreamed about the publishing house producing a "coffee table book" that would present the Brethren ordinances lovingly and artistically. I had grown to appreciate these experiences, and thought they deserved this sort of attention. The closest we came to that wish then was a photo spread in MESSENGER (April 1992). But recently writer Frank Ramirez, one of those "convinced" Brethren, suggested a book on the love feast. The Brethren Press book team eagerly accepted the idea, quickly envisioning a "treasury" that would bring together photos, graphics, scripture, worship resources, anecdotes—even recipes. In addition to Frank's writing skills, the book (to be released next month) has been shaped by the editorial skills of Julie Garber and the graphic design of Gwen Stamm, who designed *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.

Simply called *The Love Feast*, the book celebrates this distinctly Brethren ordinance in a way that will warm the hearts of church members and catch the interest of those who observe us from outside the Church of the Brethren. It is a gift to ourselves, and it also is a gift to the rest of the world.

Wendy McFadden

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BRF holds Brethren Alive 2000 July 28-30

The Brethren Revival Fellowship has scheduled a conference called Brethren Alive 2000, to be held July 28-30 on the campus of Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pa.

The weekend conference,

with sessions continuing from Friday evening through Sunday morning, will include biblical instruction and inspiration, as well as fellowship and recreation. All ages are welcome. Cost for adults staying in dormitories is \$50.

Workshop topics include "Renewal through prayer

and spiritual life," "How seniors can help revitalize the church," and "What are the big roadblocks to revival and hot issues in the Church of the Brethren?"

For information write to Brethren Alive 2000, 155 Denver Road, Denver, PA 17517, or call Ken Leininger at 717-336-1287.



The Elizabethtown College centennial was commemorated in a quilt which, now completed, hangs in the lobby of Leffler Chapel and Performance Center. The volunteer effort to make the quilt involved many members of the Church of the Brethren, including, from left, Ruth Bushong, Anna Ruth Enders, Eva Myers, Betty Bowers, Julia Gladfelter, and Debrah Giambalvo. Ruth Bushong is a member of the Mountville, Pa., congregation, and the others are members of the Hempfield congregation, East Petersburg, Pa.

Schwarzenau Heritage Society visits Brethren

Twenty-four members of the Schwarzenau Heritage Society visited Brethren families, congregations, and historical sites April 15-29.

The society worked closely with Brethren in establishing the Alexander Mack Museum at Schwarzenau, Germany. Members of the all-volunteer group regularly host Brethren visitors from the US and arrange overnight stays in the area. The US tour was arranged in gratitude for the

and historical objects at the Muddy Creek Farm Library, Denver, Pa..

The busload of German visitors traveled through the Shenandoah Valley to reach Bridgewater, Va. They saw the objects in the Reuel Pritchett Museum at Bridgewater College and the Brethren Collection at the Alexander Mack Library.

In Broadway, Va., the hosts were members of the Linville Creek Church of the Brethren. After learning about the lives of Civil War martyr John Kline and

Oregon spreads the word on nonviolence

The pastor and executive board of Peace Church of the Brethren, Portland, Ore., has written a letter to George Ryan, the governor of Illinois, commending him for his declaration of a moratorium on carrying out the death penalty in Illinois.

The letter says in part: "As members of one of the historic peace churches in the United States, and with our own denominational history of opposition to violence, we applaud your decision to halt, even temporarily, executions in the State of Illinois.

"Ending violence in our society may be an unreachable goal, but we are determined to try. Your moratorium on executions is a step in the right direction, and we hope that our own governor, Dr. John Kitzhaber, will follow your courageous lead."

Brethren Heritage

selfless work of the society for Brethren over the years.

The German visitors participated in the worship service at Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, where the group sang the German hymn "Nun Danket Alle Gott" (Now Thank We All Our God).

The guests were shown through the Ephrata Cloister, the Lancaster County countryside with emphasis upon the church houses of Brethren and Mennonites, the Peoples' Place Information Center, and the Hans Herr House, an early Mennonite residence and meeting-place.

A highlight of these days was a meeting with members of two groups of Old Order Mennonites, in the church house at Springville, Pa. Leaders of the Weaverland Conference (the so-called "Black Bumper Mennonites") and the Groffdale Conference ("Team Mennonites") took part in the session, which featured singing of hymns in German.

The guests saw rare books

churchman M. R. Zigler, the group toured the Tunker House, birthplace of M.R. Zigler and home of 19th-century theologian Peter Nead. The historical part of their trip was coordinated by Don Durnbaugh of Juniata College, who has led many study tours through Europe.

Earl Ziegler marks 50 years

Some 175 persons gathered March 18 at the Lititz (Pa.) Church of the Brethren to honor Earl K. Ziegler for 50 years of ministry. Highlight of the evening was the surprise presentation to Earl of a \$4,000 check for ministries in the Dominican Republic.

Those who attended had been invited to contribute in honor of Earl's ministry to a scholarship fund for university students and others in the Dominican Republic. As Earl received the check, he expressed gratitude for the response.

Earl has served the Church of the Brethren as moderator, district executive for Atlantic Northeast, and as pastor in several congregations. Ziegler, of Lancaster, Pa., retired last year as pastor of Lampeter (Pa.) Church of the Brethren and is currently serving as interim pastor of the Florin congregation, Mount Joy, Pa.—S. JOAN HERSHEY





Judy Mills Reimer, executive director of the General Board, takes a turn with the shovel. She is flanked by Southern Pennsylvania District executive Joe Detrick, Elizabethtown College president Theodore Long, and Children's Aid Society executive director Lori Hoffmaster.

New Fairview breaks ground

A large crowd came together at the New Fairview Church of the Brethren, York, Pa., March 19 for the dedication and groundbreaking service for a planned new fellowship hall and classrooms.

Guest speakers at the dedication service that morning included General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer, Southern Pennsylvania District executive Joe Detrick, and Elizabethtown College president Theodore Long. That service ended, appropriately, with the hymn "The Church's One Foundation."

The congregation then moved outdoors for the groundbreaking, where a stream of people took turns turning over shovelfuls of dirt in an area that had been marked off in the shape of a cross.

New Fairview moderator Donald Myers started the groundbreaking by saying, "Today we break ground and turn over the sod. May the ministry that comes from the breaking of this ground for the construction to follow be a testimony of our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the honor of God."

New Fairview is one of the largest congregations in Southern Pennsylvania District, located just off a major interstate. The total cost of the project is expected to be about \$1.5 million. More than half of that has already been received in contributions coming from a capital campaign.

Remembered

Brethren mourned the loss of another longtime leader recently with the passing on April 9 of Eldon "Gene" Fahs, vice president emeritus of Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.) and

a member of the Manchester Church of the Brethren.

Fahs retired from Manchester in December 1995 after holding a variety of positions, from registrar to assistant professor to treasurer, in a 31-year career with the school.

Among many service

roles, Fahs served as chair of the board of Timbercrest Church of the Brethren Home and was a member of the Bethany Theological Seminary board and chair of its Institutional Advancement Committee. He was also a volunteer for Heifer Project International.

Mary Elizabeth Pratt, 83, died March 3 in Fresno, Calif. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, pastor Ward E. Pratt, four daughters, twelve grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. She worked as a devoted pastor's wife, teacher, music director, and homemaker for many years.

Melvin W. Halterman, 79, of Mathias, W.Va., died Jan. 15 in Harrisonburg, Va. He was the pastor at New Dale Church of the Brethren, Lost River, W.Va., for 30 years. He was also pastor at Mountain View Church of the Brethren and served as interim pastor for the Mathias, Crab Run, Damascus, and Mount Grove congregations.

Partners oppose domestic violence

A year ago the Live Oak, (Calif.) Church of the Brethren became partners with Casa de Esperanza, an agency that provides shelter and services to women and children who have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. The idea was to provide education and awareness of domestic violence and to assist those in need.

The program was kicked off by a special worship ser-

vice in which pastor Barbara Ober and the executive director of Casa de Esperanza, Marsha Krouse-Taylor, spoke about domestic vio-



lence in the community.

Over the last year a number of educational meetings have been facilitated by the Live Oak congregation, including presentations to the Chamber of Commerce, a childcare center, high school students, and the community at large. During Vacation Bible School children went through the Child Assault Prevention Program to learn how to deal with bullies and protect themselves from sexual assault.

A children's fair was hosted in the church parking lot with games, food, and face painting. Casa employees videotaped and fingerprinted area children. Funds raised went to buy clothing and craft items for children residing at the shelter.—ANNE E. PALMER

Sharpsburg honors 75 years of service

The Sharpsburg (Md.) Church of the Brethren honored Martha L. Miller in February for 75 years of service to the church. She served as Sunday school teacher and treasurer, bake sales helper, volunteer at the Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home, and volunteer at the local food bank.

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

Brethren take part in rally for international debt relief

More than 50 members of the Church of the Brethren, including groups from Brethren Volunteer Service and Bridgewater College and

before the afternoon events. The rally/public witness event, held in cold, windy conditions, featured an assortment of speakers and musicians and was followed by the creation of a human chain around the US Capitol.



Mike Lawrence

Carrying the banner for the Church of the Brethren at the April Jubilee 2000 demonstration in Washington, D.C., is a group from Bridgewater College.

people from as far away as Illinois, joined a large Jubilee 2000 rally on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on April 9.

The event called for the US to cancel debts owed by many of the world's poorest nations.

The Washington City Church of the Brethren featured guest speaker Sue Wagner Fields, working on globalization issues with the Brethren Witness office of the Church of the Brethren General Board, in a special morning service

Some participants stayed the following day to lobby their representatives, urging debt relief. Other members who couldn't join in the events, meanwhile, sent in paper chains and hundreds of petitions.

The rally, which drew more than 6,000 people, was sponsored by a national coalition including the National Council of Churches and Church World Service. For more on the event, see photos at www.brethren.org/pjournal/index.htm or visit the www.j2000usa.org website.

General Board giving tops \$1M but still behind 1999

Gifts to the General Ministries Fund of the General Board for 2000 topped the \$1 million mark during the second week of April. The milestone came more than a week later than in 1999, however, and drew attention to somewhat lower overall giving levels for the General Ministries Fund, Emergency Disaster Fund, and Global Food Crisis Fund.

The one notable exception to the trend was in the "Special Gifts" category, which was up nearly 60 percent to \$115,585 on April 18, but not up enough to offset the lag in total gifts for 2000—amounting to \$73,000 at the time.

Ken Neher of the General Board's Funding office expressed gratitude for the gifts that congregations and individuals are sending to support the various ministries, while encouraging others to help with the many programs supported by the funds. Neher said he expects gifts to eventually outpace those of 1999.

"When presented with the needs and opportunities of the world," Neher said, "we Brethren consistently rise to the occasion."

US Navy presence on Vieques continues to garner attention

Hundreds gathered in front of the White House April 19 to demand that President Clinton and Congress drop "not one more bomb in Vieques, Puerto Rico," and bring a permanent halt to US Navy practice bombing of the island of 9,000 residents. The gathering marked the one-year anniversary of the death of David Sanes Rodriguez, who was killed when a Navy F-18 aircraft dropped an incorrectly targeted 500-pound bomb on the island.

Bombing has ceased at least temporarily due to the encampment of



Julie Hostetter

At the Roundtable Regional Youth Conference at Bridgewater, Va., Edith Burger, Jodi Eller, Katie Kirk, Jonathan Emmons, and Jan Walker work at getting acquainted.

Two regional conferences bring youth to campuses

More than 500 youth took part in a pair of regional youth conferences held the first two weekends of April. Youth and adults from Atlantic Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, Shenandoah, Southeastern, Virginia, and West Marva districts participated in Roundtable at Bridgewater (Va.) College April 8-9, while their counterparts in Pennsylvania gathered at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College April 1-2 for Eastern Regional Youth Conference.

Shawn Replogle, a Bridgewater and Bethany Theological Seminary graduate, now pastor of the South Waterloo (Iowa) Church of the

hundreds of civil disobedience activists on the military range, including members of Christian Peacemaker Teams. Brethren members Cliff Kindy, David Jehnsen, Phil Borkholder, Ambrosia Brown, Eric Christiansen, and Kurt Ritchie were among members of a CPT delegation that visited the island in mid-March, and many Puerto Rican Brethren have been active in protests there.

Brethren, led Roundtable participants in four sessions based on the theme "Looking Back to Look Ahead." Gilbert Romero, pastor of the Bella Vista Church of the Brethren in Los Angeles, Calif., served as keynote speaker for ERYC, on the theme "No Fear – Know God!" and also performed in a Bittersweet Gospel Band concert during the weekend.

Both events included worship, Bible study, recreation, entertainment, and fellowship. Midwestern youth met at Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.) later in April, and western youth will come together at the University of La Verne (Calif.) in July.

Jehnsen, from Galena, Ohio, described the resistance encampments as a source of hope for those who believe in nonviolence as God's way for people to struggle and change the course of history.

Church of the Brethren Washington Office coordinator Greg Laszakovits traveled to Puerto Rico in late April to meet with religious leaders seeking a halt to the bombing.



Duane Grady

The Cross-Cultural Ministries Team gathering in Dayton, Ohio, included Brethren from Haitian, Korean, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, African-American, and Anglo congregations.

Consultation addresses needs of ethnic church leadership

The third Consultation of Ethnic and Urban Churches was held March 23-26 at Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren in Dayton, Ohio. The gathering this time focused on developing leadership training models to better serve the needs of ethnic churches and their leaders. Participants in the gathering included Brethren from Haitian, Korean, Puerto Rican,

Hispanic, African-American, and Anglo congregations.

Representatives from numerous Brethren and other agencies led the discussions around leadership development.

A report on the recent General Board resolution on ethnic representation for leadership positions within the church was also heard. The resolution was planned by the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team, who also planned the consultation. A similar gathering is being planned for 2001.

Youth leaders and pastors explore "God-Centered Life"

The first event of a new youth spirituality program emphasis, "The God-Centered Life," took place March 24-26 at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center in Sharpsburg, Md. The project is being sponsored by Shepherd's Spring and the General Board's Youth/Young

Adult Ministry Office.

The initial weekend was designed to help youth leaders and pastors find ways to fill and maintain their "spiritual cups" in order to be more effective in assisting the youth with whom they work. The long-term goal for all participants is to develop a life that is centered on God and follows Jesus' example. The opening worship ended symbolically, with a cup of

strained and purified "living water" from the center's spring served to each participant.

Paul Grout, pastor of the Genesis Church of the Brethren (Putney, Vt.) joined Chris Douglas of the Youth/Young Adult office and Shepherd's Spring administrator Rex Miller to provide leadership for the event. Worship services, workshops on spiritual disciplines, discussion, sharing of resources, a special prayer room, and communion filled the weekend.

"Every aspect of the event was carefully planned to enable each participant to experience God, encounter Jesus, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit in a complete way of living," wrote participant Joy Zepp. "We were challenged to help to prepare ground for a new paradigm, that of living life totally in the way of Jesus."

The second event in the project, a week-long camp for senior high youth, will be held at Shepherd's Spring July 2-8. Grout will again provide the main leadership. For more details, call the Youth/Young Adult Office at 800-323-8039 (e-mail cdouglas_gb@brethren.org) or Shepherd's Spring at 301-223-8193 (e-mail shepherds.spring@juno.com).

Bethany and ABC boards fill positions and plan for future

The Bethany Theological Seminary and Association of Brethren Caregivers boards each held meetings this spring, with the Bethany board meeting in Richmond, Ind., and the ABC board in Elgin, Ill.

Bethany board highlights included:

- Approving the appointment of Tim Van Meter as director of the Seminary's Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults, beginning Aug. 1.
- Receiving and discussing the first draft of the next five-year Strategic Plan (2001-2006), with the final draft to be approved at the October meeting.
- Naming Earle and Jean Fike of Bridgewater, Va., as chairs of the seminary's Centennial Celebration Committee. Bethany will celebrate its centennial in 2004-05.
- The election of Guy Wampler, Jr., Lancaster, Pa., as chair; John Gingrich, Claremont, Calif., as vice chair; and Anne Reid, Roanoke, Va., as secretary.

ABC board highlights included:

- Becoming a co-owner of the High Performance Board Series, a board development tool, with Mennonite Health Services of Goshen, Ind., which initially developed the program. Members of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes may be able to schedule training modules for their boards soon.
- Approval of a process for the steering committees of its nine ministry areas to collectively elect two members to the board. The ABC bylaws, which were approved by Annual Conference, empower ministry groups to elect members to the board.
- Approval of giving caregiving awards to four individuals at ABC's recognition dinner at Annual Conference. They will go to Laura Abernathy of Lacey, Wash.; Ernest Barr of Carmel, Ind.; Shawn Decker of Waynesboro, Va.; and Tana Durnbaugh of Elgin, Ill.

- Beginning discussion of a process of long-range planning for the organization. Sessions of long-range planning will be incorporated into the next several board meetings.

Hurst honored, Lipton speaks at peace fellowship dinner

More than 100 people met at Brethren Village in Neffsville, Pa., in April for the annual spring banquet of the Brethren Peace Fellowship in Atlantic Northeast District.

In addition to the meal, two major events were on the evening program. Tom Hurst, who resigned last month after 10 years as executive director of On Earth Peace Assembly, received the group's 2000 Brethren Peacemaker of the Year award. OEPA board member Walt Moyer presented the award, with a citation for Hurst's "vision, creativity, passion, and perseverance in the cause of peace," highlighting the many programs Hurst began at OEPA.

Dr. Dennis Lipton then delivered the evening's keynote address, about his pilgrimage as a doctor in the US Air Force and his decision to become a conscientious objector, resulting in a court-martial and jail time last fall.

Grants from two funds send relief around the world

Grants were recently sent from two of the General Board's special funds to support global needs:

- The Emergency Disaster Fund sent \$10,000 to support an Inter-church Medical Assistance shipment of 50 medicine boxes to Venezuela. The boxes will provide essential medicines and medical products for 50,000 people who continue to suffer from last December's devas-

tating floods in Venezuela. This grant will cover handling, packing, and shipping of the boxes.

- The Global Food Crisis Fund sent \$21,000 toward food relief efforts in famine-plagued North Korea. The funds will be used to purchase 35 metric tons of seed corn to grow grain for livestock as well as for human consumption. Work is also under way for a shipment of dairy goats to that nation this summer, using a \$50,000 grant approved last year plus additional donations being sought.

Another \$50,000 from the fund has been approved for the unfolding drought crisis in the Horn of Africa, especially Ethiopia. The funds will be a part of a \$1 million Church World Service appeal; the Brethren grant will provide 310 metric tons of grain, providing more than 25,000 daily rations.

In addition, a \$15,000 grant will go to the Western Service Workers Association of Orange County, Calif. The association provides emergency food relief, legal advice, dental care, and a variety of other services to its mostly Hispanic constituency.

Personnel announcement

Lowell Flory, who served as moderator of the 1999 Annual Conference, will begin as director of planned giving for Bethany Theological Seminary July 1. Flory will be part of the institutional advancement staff, designing and carrying out an expanded strategy for planned gift development. He will also be available for teaching roles in the fields of stewardship, organizational leadership, and business and finance.

Flory is currently professor and chair of the Department of Business and Economics at McPherson College, McPherson, Kan., where he has served on the faculty since 1983.



A better way to do church business

Worshipful-Work invites God's spirit to preside



History giving/storytelling.

Biblical/theological reflection.

Prayerful discernment.

Visioning the future.

What is this new language being heard around the church? A new fad... or a fresh wind from the Spirit?

As a pastor of 30 years working to build up congregations as the body of Christ, I find Worshipful-Work a valuable way of recognizing God's presence in our midst. Worshipful-Work, with its spiritual practices, is a way of doing ordinary church business as a sacred trust and an opportunity for worship, forming congregations through their decision-making processes into vibrant Spirit-led faith communities much as we see in the New Testament.

Worshipful-Work as a spiritual practice assumes that

- the risen Christ is present and active in the local congregation (Matt. 18:20; Rev. 1:9-22).
- the voice of God is still speaking and can be heard in the church.
- it is possible to discern and know the mind of Christ (Rom. 12:1-2; I Cor. 2:14-16).

Worshipful-Work, through these basic practices, creates an environment for boards and committees to 1) listen for God's voice, 2) discern the mind of Christ, and 3) celebrate Christ's presence.

These ideas and practices grow out of a five-year-old ecumenical ministry, headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., called Worshipful-Work: Center for Transforming Religious Leadership. The group conducts retreats and seminars, circulates a newsletter, and publishes books on ways to integrate spirituality and church leadership. Its website is at

www.worshipfulwork.org.

A primary text for Worshipful-Work is Romans 12:1-2, which reads as paraphrased:

"I urge you my brothers and sisters who serve on church boards, because of the mercies of God, to offer the stuff of your life—the agendas of your meetings—as a living sacrifice, for this is your 'worshipful work.' Do not allow your meetings to be conformed to the board cultures of the latest management theory, but allow your meetings to be shaped and transformed by God's Spirit. Then you will be able to discern the good and complete will of God."

Four Worshipful-Work practices help create space for the Spirit to move and transform decision-making meetings into life-affirming experiences.

1. History giving/storytelling.

Storytelling creates identity and a sense of community as persons share experiences from both their personal

Worshipful-Work provides hope that the table of the Board can be transformed into the table of the Lord, and everyone around it might sense again God's presence and God's call.

and congregational lives since the last meeting. This creates a meaningful environment for listening to the "minutes" of the last meeting.

2. Biblical/theological reflection.

This practice invites a group to clarify their values, beliefs, and purpose by a careful meditative listening to relevant scripture passages, punctuated by periods of silence in which people can wonder and meditate on the messages they are hearing. This practice creates a common foundation for discerning the mind of Christ.

3. Prayerful discernment.

As a spiritual practice, this style of

decision-making invites members of the group to share information and listen to each other until they reach agreement about the best option for action at the present time. Prayerful discernment combines discussion and periods of prayer (silent, individual, and corporate), forming a process that allows a group to move beyond often divisive voting to an open, respectful listening for God's voice.

4. Visioning the future.

This practice recognizes that envisioning is an ongoing process of lifting up the church's future before God in prayer. Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the

people get out of hand" (NJB). This text invites us to see vision as God's gift that comes as we create prayerful space within our decision-making to listen for and to see what God is working through us.

The current interest within the Church of the Brethren to incorporate the spiritual practices of Worshipful-Work reflects a deepening desire for a prayerful integration of spirituality in decision-making. Worshipful-Work promises to bring new vitality to our work and our worship.—LARRY FOURMAN

Larry D. Fourman is pastor of Crest Manor Church of the Brethren, South Bend, Ind.

Worshipful-Work at the Seminary

The Ministry Formation area of study at Bethany Theological Seminary is an ideal setting to explore the implementation of Worshipful-Work in the training of persons for ministry. We work with the practical aspects of the work of ministry through field education, spiritual formation, and theological reflection.

In 1996, I was introduced to Chuck Olsen and began to implement some of the concepts of Worshipful-Work in meetings with the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren in Pleasant Hill, Ohio.

After accepting an appointment to the seminary, I began to envision Worshipful-Work as a way to help our students live into an understanding that our work and our worship are one. Each year, second-year master of divinity students visit the spring General Board meeting. In

preparation for last year's visit, the students read an introductory text for discernment in community and discussed the implementation of Worshipful-Work they observed during the meeting.

These same students and several from this year's class received training in Worshipful-Work in Elgin and again later at Bethany. Several students are now pursuing additional training through an independent study focused on Worshipful-Work and planning events in the area.

Students are using the Worshipful-Work methods with their teaching committees, in their ministry settings, in the construction and reflection on case studies, and in other areas of ministry formation.

Linda Lewis, a senior at Bethany, has used Worshipful-Work with the church board at Beaver Creek (Ohio)

Church of the Brethren, where she serves as a student pastor. She remembers her first church board meeting to discuss the budget as being a rather difficult meeting. People spoke in loud voices and across each other and it was a tense and unproductive time. By the final budget session, the board was meeting in the sanctuary, sitting in a circle, with hymnals and Bibles available. They spoke to each other. There were periods of silence, scriptures read and hymns sung. People were attentive to God's presence in their midst.

"It was a moving experience," Lewis said. "That simple change in location is one I hope to try again during my ministry."—TARA HORNBACHER

Tara Hornbacher is professor at Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind.





A solution for the church bored

At the first Worshipful-Work workshop I attended I was a part of a conversation about board meetings and their ability to be “life depleting” or “life giving.” There were plenty of people present who had come out of meetings with a yawn, or frustrated by the lack of depth in the discussion. Sometimes we think things like: Why are we here? What is the point? What a boring way to pass 2 or 3 hours! And we feel at a loss to change.

Worshipful-Work calls leaders to recognize that the church should do things differently when coming together to do business. Through the use of worship centers, prayer, music, silence, scripture, storytelling, litany, and more, Worshipful-Work provides a process of discernment, rather than “parliamentary procedure.”

Worshipful-Work encourages relationship-building around the table as individuals share pieces of their own life stories, as well as share about the life story of the congregation. Board members respect and listen to one another as together they seek to explore who we are as God’s people, and what God is calling us to do.

The Church of the Brethren has always valued building relationships among its people and has valued discerning work to be done within a firm sense of spiritual grounding. Worshipful-Work uses elements of worship and storytelling to continually remind us who we serve, and to listen for God’s yearnings for us.

As we practice Worshipful-Work in our congregation, we are making a huge shift. Before, we were enduring a meeting. Now, we are gathering in God’s presence to share about the ministry of our congregation.

We often have a worship center in the middle of our table, sometimes with candles, sometimes with things that depict a theme we are discussing or working on. We have hymnals and

might take a walk around the church or eat ice cream together as we think about an issue before us.

Worshipful-Work is not a program; it is a way of being about the work of the church. It is not a prescribed way of doing things; rather it is a bag of tools. The tools can be used to build relationships, to worship, study scripture, tell stories, and more.

Worshipful-Work provides hope



Walt Wiltschek

Using Worshipful-Work practices at General Board meetings often calls for hymns at key points during business. Here Stafford Frederick, veteran board member and pastor of the Olathe, Kan., congregation, leads the singing.

Bibles present, should we choose to share a story that depicts what we are dealing with, or sing a hymn that will help us to celebrate something or bring us into some reflection time. We don’t always just talk about our business. We sing, pray, tell stories or experience silence together. We

that the table of the Board can be transformed into the table of the Lord, and everyone around it might sense again God’s presence and God’s call.—ERIN MATTESON

Erin Matteson is pastor of Faith Church of the Brethren, Batavia, IL

Introducing a spiritual presence to Annual Conference



When the Church of the Brethren General Board met in October 1998, Mary Jo Flory-Steury, chairperson, introduced a new model for doing the business. Rather than continue meeting as corporate managers of the larger church, she envisioned engaging the faith experiences of the General Board members to inform the way they conduct the work of the denomination. She proposed doing Worshipful-Work, based on Charles M. Olsen's *Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leaders* (The Alban Institute, 1995).

Moderator Emily Mumma attended that board meeting. She left yearning for Annual Conference to experience a similar worshipful atmosphere when we gather in July at Kansas City, Mo., (which happens to be the home base for the Worshipful-Work organization). She remembered too well the many stories of people who felt marginalized by denominational programming and the win/lose atmosphere of Annual Conference debate. Could we find a better way to conduct business?

At the August 1999 Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee, Sister Mumma suggested that we try the Worshipful-Work model. When the committee met again in November, her proposal for Worshipful-Work was met with several questions: How will the business meeting be shaped? Won't this model take up too much time? What do we do when controversy arises? Will people be given enough time to speak so that all views will be heard? Who controls the flow of the business session, the moderator or the guest spiritual consultant? Do we dismiss Roberts' Rules of Order?

At Moderator Mumma's request, Sister Ellen Morseth, staff mentor with the Worshipful-Work organization, met with Program and Arrangements. Moderator Mumma recommended Sister Ellen serve as spiritual director

for the business sessions during the Kansas City 2000 Annual Conference. Sister Ellen explained her purpose would be to work alongside the Annual Conference moderator, suggesting interjections of spiritual practices as they are deemed important and suitable to the gathering. She would serve at the invitation of the moderator and bring spiritually vital, relevant, engaging, and enriching additions from our faith heritage to the ordinary business.

Sister Ellen also explained that her role would be that of a spiritual director who tends to the heart of the business meeting. She would respond to the dynamics of the meeting, inviting the naming of God's presence at various times. These invitations to God's active presence could come in a variety of ways:

- scripture passages or stories that are related to the current conversation;
- denominational stories relevant to the matter at hand;
- liturgical and theological responses to poignant moments, suggested from the chair or from the floor;
- spoken prayers—intercessions, thanksgivings, blessings, etc.;
- silence and prayers that surface out of silent reflection;
- singing of hymns, i.e., a refrain, particular verses in response to reports, etc.;
- focused conversation: a word/phrase/sentence that comes to mind during particular segments of the meeting;
- prayerful or reflective activities during break times;
- creating and tending a simple environment, e.g., a candle, the Scriptures, a growing plant, a banner, a projected image on a screen;
- encouraging the group to rejoice, lament, etc., using simple and prayerful rituals;
- connecting the opening and closing worship services (its themes, segments, rituals) with aspects of the meeting.

With this explanation, the Program and Arrangements Committee agreed to introduce Worshipful-Work at Annual Conference this year. The Annual Conference officers will work with Sister Ellen to shape the business sessions in a worshipful manner. Plans are being made to inform Standing Committee members and first-time Annual Conference delegates prior to Conference, so they may have a sense how the business sessions will flow.

Annual Conference in Kansas City this summer already offers a new format, which leads nicely into Worshipful-Work. Saturday evening opens conference with worship. Sunday morning follows with another worship service. The worshipful setting extends into Sunday afternoon, when guest worship resource leader David Haas will lead a musical celebration to open the first business session.

With the addition of a spiritual director for the business sessions of Sunday evening, Monday, and Tuesday, and Wednesday morning, perhaps we can experience Annual Conference as a revitalized gathering in faith. And, we anticipate a common ground in which we discover God speaking to and moving among us as Brethren.

The visionary of Worshipful-Work, Charles Olsen, says in the introduction of his book, *Transforming Church Boards*, that "this enterprise is . . . an intention to recover a broad-based biblical familiarity and seriousness, an effort to imprint in our minds, hearts, and lips the metaphors of Scripture" so that our church structures can "function out of the heritage of a rich faith tradition." This gathering of church members and leaders is "the most opportune place to exert influence for transformation [which] is at the heart of the life of the church."

—PAUL ROTH

Paul Roth is pastor of Linville Creek Church of the Brethren, Broadway, Va.

Letters from the Dominican

While she was a BVS volunteer working on the Azua housing construction project, Sally Jo Caracheo wrote detailed letters home to family and friends. Here are some excerpts:

July 26, 1999
(my 62nd birthday)

My day starts around 5:30 or 6 when I get up, dress, have some time for devotions, and go across the street to the restaurant for breakfast. As driving in the DR is taking your life and everyone else's in your hands, I decided not to drive. Luis Cespedes, the pastor of a local Church of the Brethren congregation who also is the construction boss, picks me up around 7:30 to go to work. It takes about 15 minutes to get to the site, which is on a hill about 10 miles out of Azua. During this time we discuss the progress of the work, any problems which have arisen, anything we need to deal with, etc.

At the site Luis gathers all the workers, describes the work to be completed that day, and assigns the paid workers and the volunteers their various jobs. There is always some lighter work assigned to the women. Several days we have carried the boards used in framing the houses from one location to another. One day we carried buckets of water for mixing cement. Often I spend periods of time picking up used nails from the ground. These are later

Houses

FOR HURRICANE REFUGEES



The Church of the Brethren helps 32 Dominican families find hope and a home

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS
BY SALLY JO CARACHEO

Nov. 16, 1999, was a memorable day for 32 families in the Dominican Republic. This was the day they learned which of the 32 houses they had been helping to build since the middle of May would belong to them. Finally they could say, "This is my new home and I helped to build it."

The Church of the Brethren also helped to build these new houses for "refugees" whose houses had been destroyed by Hurricane Georges in 1998. The General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries office provided construction materials and sent project managers to supervise the project. Also, ER/SM paid skilled workers to build concrete floors, do carpentry work, and build roofs on the houses.

The project was done in cooperation with the Catholic church, which provided the prop-



Workers mix and pour concrete in the forms to make the six-inch-thick walls.



400 houses the government plans for hurricane victims on the hillside outside Azua.

During the initial planning stage, the refugees agreed that their contribution to the project would be the labor of digging two-foot footers for the foundations, mixing concrete and pouring the walls, plus any other manual labor that needed to be done. The agreement was that someone from each family would work four of the six working days in each week.

At first, progress was slow and the refugees didn't believe that the project would ever be completed or that they would ever receive a home. Consequently, few workers showed up each day to work. As the work progressed, however, more and more persons came to help. During the last few months there was someone from nearly every household who worked four or five days a week. Two of the husbands who had jobs in Santo Domingo stopped working there and came to Azua to work at the project in order to ensure that their families would receive a house.

Each of the refugees has a story. **Magali** was clearly the acknowledged leader of the refugees. She went to meetings with the planning groups and acted as advocate during the entire project, in spite of the fact that in July she suffered a coronary thrombosis, which caused paralysis of an arm and a leg. Through sheer will and constant exercise, she worked her way back to health. By November she was once again at the work site, carrying buckets of water and big boards on her head.

Pilito worked on the houses nearly every day there was work to be done. He said that if he was to receive a house, then he had the responsibility to help build. More than 60 years old, he worked all day in the hot sun with pick and shovel helping to dig founda-

erty for the houses, and the Dominican government, which provided construction supplies and facilitated the delivery of water, sand, and gravel to the construction site. Oxfam International and the International Red Cross also contributed.

From Aug. 1 until the completion of the project, I was a BVS volunteer, serving as the project manager. I worked closely with Luis Cespedes, who is the Dominican Church of the Brethren pastor of the Azua congregation and a construction contractor. Cespedes was in charge of the construction. Other Brethren who worked on the project include Ken and LouElla Imhoff, Donald Snavely, Becky Crouse, Jim and Wilma Baile, and Charles Stevens.

These 32 houses are part of a project of

straightened and reused.

I am very happy to be here and feel that this is where God has called me to be to do His work.

*In His service,
Sally Jo*

Aug. 13, 1999

I'm writing from the home of the Crouse family in Santo Domingo to share a few details of my life living in a hotel in Azua. . . .

To bed by 9 o'clock with a fan blowing on me all night, partly because of the heat and partly to discourage mosquitos which have free access, as the cantilevered windows have no screens.

. . . Two of the things I miss most, besides family and friends, are classical music and beautiful flowers. However, the mountains all around are beautiful and up on the third floor of the hotel I've seen some gorgeous sunsets. There is a big tree across the street which is covered with orange flowers. The tree is called "flamboyan" or flamboyant. . . .

The pace of my life here is very different than in the States. Much of my time is filled with no physical activity whatsoever. For the first time in my life I can BE instead of DO. . . .

Luis (Cespedes), the pastor and the one in charge of this project, is the hardest working, most conscientious person I've ever seen. He has a wife and three young sons. His wife is expecting another child in October. He has a small congregation in Azua made up of a few families and some young boys. He is the treasurer for the Church of the

Brethren here in the Dominican Republic. He is also the builder for churches. He appears to be able to do anything connected with construction. His ability to find the most economical solutions to problems of material seems unlimited. He has many connections which help to get much material donated for free or for the cost of transporting it....

I feel that I am exactly where I should be and that this project will come to successful completion before the middle of November when my BVS term is completed. I feel my prayer that God would send me for my BVS project where I was most needed and where all that I am and have experienced could be used has truly been answered.

*In His service,
Sally Jo*

Sept. 7, 1999

Personally I am experiencing a peace and joy which has been absent from my life for a long time. The companionship of the paid workers and the refugee community are a constant source of learning and discovery. I now know the names of all the refugees who come regularly to work.

It's very hard to describe the kind of poverty that they live in. They are sustained by rice and beans provided by the Red Cross. Some families of five or six have only one or two plates and one or two spoons. I've seen workers on the site eating their food with their fingers because there are no spoons. In spite of this they come to work nearly every day to help build their houses....

There is a tremendous



Building a future for their four children. Miguel, his wife, and children in the doorway of their newly built home.

tions. Toward the end of the project he was not well, but he continued to come every day, even though he had only enough strength to carry buckets of water. One day when he was asked about his family, he said he married his wife when they were 13 years old, and they had raised 18 sons and daughters. He said his wife was the love of his life.

Ingrid cooked the noon meal for the refugees. The meal consisted of rice and beans every day. For some of the workers, this was the only substantial meal they received all day. Ingrid was "allowed" to do the "easy" work of cooking because she was expecting a child.

The work included using a machete to cut branches of a tree for firewood.

Miguel or his wife worked nearly every day building the houses so that their four children would have a home. His children have never been to school. The oldest daughter spends most of her time helping her mother or taking care of the younger children.

Felix is fortunate enough to have a motorcycle, which he uses to take his oldest daughter to school. She is one of only five children among the refugees who actually attends school. One day when Felix was using his motorcycle to earn a little money for the family he was involved in an accident which bruised his ribs and resulted in a big scar across his chest. Nevertheless he was back at the work site the next day.





Ingrid, the cook, provided the noon meal for the workers.



November 16 was the lottery when the workers pulled numbers out of a hat to determine which of the houses would belong to them.

Before Christmas all of the 32 homes were finished with concrete floors and wooden doors and windows. The refugees who received the homes in Azua are grateful to the Church of the Brethren and all who helped to make it possible for them to have good, sturdy homes to live in with their families. The street that is located between the houses will be named "Calle de los Hermanos," or Street of the Brethren.

Sally Jo Caracheo, of Elgin, Ill., is a retired school-teacher and a bilingual educator, fluent in Spanish. She is a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin.

amount of manual labor to be done on the houses in the space of less than two months or so, especially when you realize that many of these persons are malnourished and subject to a lot of medical problems.

I still feel that I am in the right place at the right time. God is good. I am even happier now having received from my sister the welcome gift of a tape recorder and tapes of classical music.

*In Christ's name,
Sally Jo*

Oct. 10, 1999

Things are going very well for me here in Azua. We are making great progress on the homes. There are just a few houses to finish pouring the walls. The government officials have said they would send the wood and zinc for the roofs, doors, and windows this week. If that happens, we will be able to finish all the houses by the time I leave in the middle of November. . . .

I started teaching an English class at the Church of the Brethren here in Azua three nights a week. We have had a steady attendance of around 10 students for the English class almost every night. They are very interested in learning English. . . .

My relationships with the refugees who come to work every day has deepened and we have become like a large extended family. Each of the refugees has a story of their own, as does each of us. I feel that I have been privileged that they share so openly with me.

*In His love,
Sally Jo*

What is your church learning?

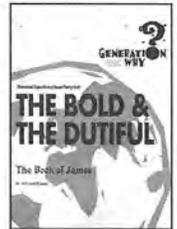
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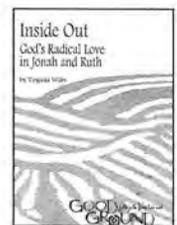
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Caring for our “mother” church



Germantown Trust plans a new project for 230-year-old historic site

inghouse a series of panels depicting events in Brethren history plus some artifacts.

The cemetery was established in 1793. There are over 1,000 people buried in the cemetery, including Brethren leaders such as Alexander Mack, Sr.; Alexander Mack, Jr.; Elizabeth Mack; and Peter Keyser. Hannah Langstroth Drexel, the Brethren mother of Katharine Drexel, was originally buried in the cemetery, but Hannah's body was moved in 1946. Katharine Drexel was a Catholic nun noted for work with minorities. Procedures are currently underway in the Catholic church to raise her to sainthood.

Germantown played a major role during the early years of Brethren life in America. The congregation was organized on Christmas Day in 1723 and is therefore the first Brethren congregation in the New World. On that day the first baptism was performed and the first love feast was held. When the meetinghouse was built in 1770, it was the first Brethren meetinghouse in America.

The congregation flourished in the 1700s but declined during much of the 1800s. With the leadership of Wilbur Stover, who later became a pioneer missionary in India, and the leadership of Milton C. Swigart, the congregation experienced renewal in the 1890s and early decades of the 1900s. The size of the congregation peaked in 1934 with over 450 members. Membership declined in the 1940s and 1950s, and the congregation was disorganized in 1964. Because of an intentional effort in the 1980s to reestablish a worshipping community, a fully functioning congregation now exists at Germantown.

In 1982 the Church of the Brethren General Board established the Germantown Trust to care for the site. The congregation and the trust are separate entities. The trust maintains the building and grounds and provides for historical interpretation of the site, while the congregation has its own budget used to support its programs and services. Funds for the trust come from a yearly grant provided by the General Board, a

**Richard Kyerematen,
pastor of the
Germantown (Pa.)
congregation,**

*stands in front of the
historic building
with a group of his
young parishioners.
Photo was taken in
the early 1990s.*

BY KEN SHAFFER

Today the Germantown Church of the Brethren, in Philadelphia, Pa., is both an active inner-city congregation and a Brethren historic site. The congregation has a program that includes worship services, Sunday school, a food pantry, daycare for preschool children, family counseling and education, extensive youth outreach, and transitional housing for recovering substance abusers. Leading the predominantly black congregation of over 80 members is pastor Richard Kyerematen.

As a Brethren historic site, the Germantown church is visited each year by tour groups from across the country. These groups come to see the stone meetinghouse and the cemetery. The meetinghouse, built in 1770, had both a loft and a basement. The loft was used for sleeping by people who traveled a distance to attend love feast, which lasted for two days. The basement was used to prepare food during love feast. Today the loft is gone, but there is in the meet-

cemetery legacy, and occasional donations given by Brethren groups and individuals.

In addition to the day-to-day maintenance, the trust is responsible for special maintenance projects. Over the years these have included a new heating system, a new kitchen, and new concrete paving. Soon to begin is a project to install a new toilet facility for people with disabilities, a new exterior wheelchair-accessible entrance, a new water service, and a new 200-amp electric service. Bids indicate that this project will cost \$90,000 to \$95,000. While the trust has \$55,000 on hand for the project, additional funding is needed. Information about the project is available from the trust by contacting Joseph H. Hackman, chair of the trust, at 1613 Brent Road, Oreland, PA 19075.

Contributions may be sent to Church of the Brethren General Board, Restricted for Germantown Trust Project, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.



Ken Shaffer is librarian/archivist for the General Board at the Brethren Historical Library and Archives. He is an ex-officio member of the Germantown Trust.

Germantown played a major role during the early years of Brethren life in America. Organized on Christmas Day in 1723, it was the first Brethren congregation in the New World.



Position Available

On Earth Peace Assembly, Inc., a 25-year-old Church of the Brethren peace education movement, seeks Executive Director applicants.

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For more information contact us: OEPA, PO Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776; oeпа@oeпа.org; 410-635-8704; or www.brethren.org/oeпа.

New Tools to Talk about End of Life

Choosing Death with Dignity

Church school classes, small groups and families will find many discussion points within *Choosing Death with Dignity:*

A Study Guide on Death, Bereavement and Burial.

Written by Graydon Snyder, this 12-page booklet provides a biblical and Brethren context for considering end-of-life issues. The case studies and questions following each section are useful tools for classes and families to begin talking about and planning for the future.

Available through ABC — \$2.50 plus shipping and handling.



Living With Dying

This 24-page book is the *Carroll County Times'* account of Dale Aukerman's life with and death from cancer. The stories and photos from this daily newspaper provide an in-depth view of the way this loved and respected advocate for peace and simple living approached his death.

Living With Dying: The Carroll County Times' Account of Dale Aukerman's Journey will be available at Annual Conference and through ABC — \$9 plus shipping and handling.



Association of
Brethren Caregivers

To order these Lafiya resources, call the Association of Brethren Caregivers at (800) 323-8039.

Alexander

MACKS

*Casey
Drudge
makes
history
and faith
come
alive*

BY JEANNE JACOBY SMITH

Four years ago Casey Drudge of Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Ind., never expected to metamorphose as Alexander Mack, the elder churchman known as first minister and leader of the German Baptist Brethren in 1708.

Yet circumstance and Casey's willingness to serve have resulted in 60 performances of the elder Mack. The electronic technician-turned-actor in his spare time has traversed 11,000 miles to share Mack's story with more than 4,500 people in churches throughout the denomination.

What drew Casey to the Mack role? Was it the message? Or his love of drama? Neither, he admits. Even writing the centennial history of the Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne,

Ind., did not heighten his desire to know more about Alexander Mack. He claims little theatrical experience except for playing the role of Professor Willard in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* in his teens. (Later, he was devastated to learn that Professor Willard was probably added to the script to increase the number of actors in the high school version of the play.)

Casey's involvement with Brother Mack happened quite by accident, he says. In the fall of 1996, Phyllis Carter, former moderator of Annual Conference, served as interim pastor of the Lincolnshire church. Near Halloween that year Pastor Carter decided to stage an "All Saint's Day Special." Because the Brethren are a bit short on saints, Casey relates, the pastor highlighted various heritage heavyweights such as Dan West, Anna Mow, and Alexander Mack. Casey agreed to dress the part of Mack and stand in the front of the sanctuary while Carter read a description of his character to the congregation.

After that brief enactment, an invitation came to share Mack's biography with a church school class, followed by an appearance at a church board retreat. Months later, when asked to repeat the performance, Casey researched his intriguing subject more thoroughly. Reflecting on the role, he says, "I had been a member of the Church of the Brethren for nearly 50 years and barely knew who Alexander Mack was, let alone how or why he did whatever he did. I viewed it as a historical challenge."

Rather than writing and memorizing a script, however, Casey immersed himself in *The Brethren Encyclopedia* with intentions of becoming so fluent with the facts that he could speak spontaneously, as though he were the church elder coming back to the future.

To his surprise, among the guests on the scheduled performance day were Blair and Pat Helman, former Manchester College president and Brethren author. Though concerned that he could not live up to his esteemed audience's expectations, he recomposed himself and proceeded as planned, moving comfortably into the persona of



BACK

Alexander Mack. In the hour that followed, he poured out his innermost thoughts about Mack's life as a prosperous community leader who, because of his faith, relinquished his wealth to help others. Because Mack and his

followers rejected the ties between established churches and the German state, they were pursued in earnest by the authorities.

No one was more surprised than Casey at his fluency that morning. He admits to hear-

Arts group finds a home for Mack Haus painting

A highlight of Casey Drudge's portrayal of Alexander Mack occurred last summer when he served as a delegate at Annual Conference in Milwaukee.

Enamored with Mack, Casey was delighted to discover at the Association for the Arts silent auction an acrylic on wood painting of Mack's home, today known as the Alexander Mack Museum in Schwarzenau, Germany. The wood, he discovered, was retrieved from the home where historians believe Mack lived in the early 1700s in Wittgenstein.

In 1993 a group from McPherson College in Kansas traveled to Schwarzenau, Germany, to explore the Brethren heritage. One of the faculty sponsors, Jeanne Smith, asked their German host whether it was possible to retrieve a small piece of wood from the museum. Depending on the size of the wood, she hoped to create a family memento, possibly a painting of the Mack home.

Explaining her quest, Smith says, "Alexander Mack was my great grandfather, eight greats to be exact. When visiting Schwarzenau, I experienced a transcendence of history and time. My great-grandfather had walked those streets; he affirmed his faith boldly in that special place. Against the powers of his day, he took the vows of baptism in the Eder River. The ambiance about the town had such a powerful effect on me that before we left, I requested our host to escort us to the museum one last time."

The next morning the host drove his

guests to the top of the hill towering over the hamlet of Schwarzenau and the Eder River meandering through the valley below. Approaching the museum, they discovered a farmer tending animals in the barn attached to the house. In German, the host translated the unusual request.

The farmer disappeared into the barn, then emerged with a board discarded, he said, when the home was remodeled as a museum in 1992. Discovering that it was too long for Smith's luggage, he again withdrew into the barn and returned with the slab cut in half.

In the summer of 1998, with half a dozen photos of the house in hand, Smith shared her idea with her artist sister, Mary Shank of Gettysburg, Pa. Shank agreed to create a composite drawing of the home, then to paint it onto both slabs of wood. Together, they decided to donate one painting to the Association for the Arts at Annual Conference and to keep the second as a family memento.

When Casey Drudge, Alexander Mack impersonator, discovered the painting available at the silent auction at Annual Conference in Milwaukee last year, he resolved to purchase it. Keeping tabs on the bids, he planned to return just before the auction closed Saturday to bid one-up on the previous aspirant. When Casey entered the exhibit hall that morning, he was dismayed to learn bids had closed Friday night. Greatly disappointed, he told his wife that someone else purchased his Alexander Mack memorabilia.



Sisters Mary Jacoby Shank and Jeanne Jacoby Smith pose with their family's picture of the Alexander Mack Haus. The sisters are great granddaughters of the elder Mack.

Several weeks later, Casey presented the conference report to the Lincolnshire congregation, at his pastor's request, in costume. Just before he began, another conference attendee interrupted the service to present him with the painting. In his words, "I was totally speechless—an uncommon situation for me."

Unknown to him, his wife had conspired with church members to purchase the work of art using an alias name, then plotted a way to surprise him. Had he actually made an offer, he would have bid against his own wife.

The Alexander Mack Haus finally found its home.

The author wishes to thank Dr. David Eller of the Young Center at Elizabethtown College, Pa., for editing. Eller reports that he also placed a bid on the piece — but lost.

I try to capture my understanding of Alexander Mack in my meager, humble way. That's enough for me.

ing himself speak thoughts he had never entertained before. The elder Mack's testimony, when shared in its totality, expanded his understanding.

"I didn't know where the words were coming from. . . . Then I realized," he says, "that God was in control." Casey began, in the midst of the presentation, to plan for a future with Brother Mack. He was further encouraged when the Helmans reported that he had done "just fine."

Demand for performances since then have exposed him to larger numbers of Brethren so that in some circles his name has become synonymous with the church leader. Casey takes special pleasure when people call him "Alexander" at church, at Annual Conference, and at his favorite locale—Camp Alexander Mack in Indiana. More recently, requests have come to play the role from other Brethren groups that also claim Mack as forebear.

Today Casey inspires audiences throughout the denomination with his Alexander

Mack Living Heritage Program. He does not attribute success to his acting abilities, but rather to the power of Mack's story and to his audiences' interest in learning about Brethren roots. In the meantime, he is committed to immersing himself in Brethren history between Mack and the present time, to further enrich presentations.

Yet it is not so much Mack whom he represents, Casey says, "but the elegant, useful message in the New Testament Church so sought after by Mack and his followers back in 1713. I don't pretend to be a preacher, but I do greatly enjoy telling people how our denomination began and . . . explaining our faith to them. Do I think that I am a close copy of Alexander Mack? Perhaps, but only in appearance, and even then I can't be sure. Do I believe that I think like Mack? No, I'm not that presumptuous, but I try to capture my understanding of him in my meager, humble way. That's enough for me." And judging from the response of the audiences, it must be enough for other Brethren, as well. 

Persons interested in the Alexander Mack Living Heritage Program may inquire about fees and availability by contacting Casey Drudge at 6405 Londonderry Lane, Fort Wayne, IN 46835. Phone: 219-485-4906. E-mail: cdrudge@concentric.net OR casey.drudge@carrier.utc.com.

Jeanne Jacoby Smith is associate professor of Curriculum & Instruction/English at McPherson College, Kan., and a member of the McPherson First Church of the Brethren.

Brethrening

How a bike averted disaster

This was my first assignment with the Cooperative Disaster Childcare program, which provides therapeutic play for children who have gone through disasters, while their parents do what they need to do to start recovery. I spent two weeks in New Bern, N.C., up to my elbows in playdough, taking care of the children of Hurricane Floyd flood victims while their parents talked to the Red Cross about future needs.

Playdough, painting, stuffed Elmo and Big Bird, and cars were all played with, but our biggest draw was the simplest: a dishpan filled with five pounds of rice and two sets of measuring cups for pouring the rice back and forth. I'm sure psychologists could have found significance in the children being able to create order out of chaos—the truth was, the rice just felt good. Some sat there for over an hour, happily pouring and wiggling their fingers in the rice. (Me too!)

Many of the children's conversations were touching, and it was sobering for me to consider what life is like when you have lost absolutely everything and don't have many

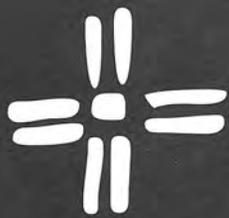
resources to start over. One mother said, "We just got our trailer and lot paid off and added a front room, and it was under water to the roof." When another woman was told she would have to discard her grandmother's quilt and her kids' baby clothes because of the water damage, she wept.

The child who made me weep was the little boy who talked about losing all his clothes and his stuffed toy; then he said, "But at least I can be glad my bike didn't get ruined." "Was it inside?" I asked. "No," he said, "it was in the pawnshop."—PATTI SPRINKLE

This is taken from an article that appeared in the newsletter of First Church of the Brethren, St. Petersburg, Fla. Phil Lersch, pastor of the St. Petersburg congregation, and his wife, Jean, are longtime friends of Patti Sprinkle, a Presbyterian, an author, and an anti-hunger advocate, who lives in Miami, Fla.

MESSINGER would like to publish other short, colorful, humorous or poignant stories of real-life incidents involving Brethren. Please send your submission to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120-1694 or e-mail to the editor at ffarrar_gh@brethren.org.





HUNGER FOR JUSTICE

Christian Citizenship
Seminar takes
youth to power



BY WALT WILTSCHKEK

A large group of people sat clustered in a small area of floor space, a scoop of rice balanced on the flimsy plates before them. Kneeling or sitting, they could gaze out at their rich neighbors enjoying a sumptuous dinner at a cloth-covered table set with flowers. Some looked longingly at the plentiful food denied them, while others took more active measures to get some themselves.

In this case, the inequity was planned—a simulated “hunger banquet” near the end of a Church of the Brethren Christian Citizenship

Youth of Today: *These Brethren youth rose early to get in position outside the “Today Show” in New York. Their enterprise paid off when they got a brief chance to tell the nation that they were learning ways to fight hunger at the Christian Citizenship Seminar. Pictured from left are Nick Siegrist, Corinne Lipscomb, Martha Fuchs, Nicole Oetma, Heather Nace, and Phil Mackey.*

Seminar week. For millions of people around the world, however, the inequities are real, and that's why the 100 Brethren youth and advisors from across the country came—not just to sightsee, but to learn and to respond.

The six-day event, which begins in New York City and ends in Washington, D.C., is sponsored by the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Washington offices and is held annually except for National Youth Conference years. It seeks to relate current events and issues with one's faith, particularly from a Brethren perspective. This year's theme was "Hungering for Justice," looking at local and global hunger issues.

"The hungry people of the world aren't just victims," said David Radcliff of the Brethren Witness office, who spoke at two sessions during the seminar. "They're people like you and me with hopes and dreams. They often just need a tiny step up, and that's often beyond their reach."

Radcliff showed slides from trips to Central America, Sudan, and North Korea as he sought to help the group "look hunger in the face," as Brethren have done throughout the years. A new drama written by Radcliff and based on the story of the rich man and Lazarus helped to illustrate the issue from a biblical perspective.

Other speakers took up the topic during the six-day seminar, too. David Wildman of the United Methodist Church spoke about the work of the United Nations, its headquarters visible through a window behind him as he addressed the group in New York.

He asked participants to look at the clothes they were wearing to see what countries produced them, then did a visual representation of the world's unequal resources. Two youth in the demonstration had ample room to spread out—representing the 20 percent of

the world's people who hold 85 percent of the resources—while eight others sat stacked in an uncomfortable pile.

"We don't choose our parents or the communities we're born into," Wildman said, "but we do have choices about how we live our lives and use our resources."

Another powerful session came on the

Ron Shriver and advisor Ed Palsgrove, of the Union Bridge (Md.) Church of the Brethren, peel potatoes at the Food & Friends service project in Washington, D.C., which delivers meals to AIDS patients in a wide radius around the city.



Walt Wiltschek

final evening of the seminar, following the hunger banquet. Church of the Brethren member Steve Brady, who works with the National Coalition for the Homeless, showed a touching audiovisual presentation and then facilitated a panel of three people who talked about life on the streets of Washington, D.C.

One of them, Larry, managed to interperse humor and lively stories while describing the loneliness, low self-esteem, and depression he'd endured. He signed a lease for an apartment for the first time in January but said, "Some of the best people in the world are on the streets right now."

Another of the panel members, named Don, urged participants not to become callous

JoAnne Foreman of Pittsburg, Ohio, along with more than half of the Christian Citizenship Seminar participants, found themselves in the low-income group during a hunger banquet designed to illustrate the world's unequal distribution of resources. The group received only rice on a paper plate and no table or seat.



Walt Wiltschek



and to respond to the homeless they see, quoting the Bible passage of “entertaining angels unawares.” Often even better than giving money, he said, is to respond as if that person were a fellow human being, talking to them and saying, “God loves you.”

Youth worked at responding during the seminar, too, taking what they had learned and seeing it put into practice. One morning in Washington was dedicated to service projects, with youth and advisors traveling to six sites around the city. Five of those were soup kitchens or food delivery agencies, and the sixth, called Community Harvest/Urban Oasis, grew food for a farmers’ market in a low-income neighborhood that has no supermarket.

In the afternoon of that same day, youth and advisors split into groups from their respective states and districts to visit senators and representatives on Capitol Hill, sharing the information they had learned during the week and urging support for hunger causes in Congress—particularly for a current bill called the Hunger Relief Act.

Some of the groups met with aides, but several of the representatives and senators met with the CCS visitors personally, despite a busy week in Washington.

Youth were also urged to act within the Church of the Brethren, especially through the General Board’s Global Food Crisis Fund. Radcliff, who manages the fund through Brethren Witness, unveiled plans to fly 200 dairy goats to famine-wracked North Korea this summer, and challenged all the youth present to each raise \$100 toward that effort.

“The problem is a lot bigger than I ever thought it was,” said Corinne Lipscomb of Springfield, Ill., who planned to speak on the issue at church and raise the \$100 when she returned home. “It seemed absolutely huge. Hopefully I can do something about it.”

An initial \$200 also came from CCS advisors after youth demonstrated their knowledge of hunger issues in a game called “Who Wants to Feed the Hungry?,” earning \$20 per correctly answered question.

“You’ve come because you want to learn something about this, and to me that’s very hopeful,” Radcliff said to the group. “It takes bravery—call it Christian commitment—to step into that other world not so far away and let it trouble you, and then trust God to show you what to do next.”

By the way, the youth and advisors all received a plentiful spread of pizza and soda a few hours following that hunger banquet, filling up all those who had subsisted on meager meals earlier. For the world’s truly hungry people, however, the feasts don’t come so easily, and youth were forced to wrestle with their place in the issue.

“You’re not sure what you can do about the problem because you’re part of the majority that’s causing the problem,” said Chris Palsgrove, a youth participant from the Union Bridge (Md.) church. “You have to step away from things and look at how you can change.”



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

Joe Fennel and Justine Martinez, of the Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren, wash used trays at the Washington City Church of the Brethren soup kitchen, one of six service projects where Christian Citizenship Seminar participants worked this year.



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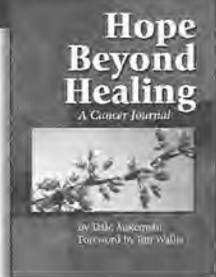
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Messenger

"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



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Letters

I have learned from such personal experiences and I try to teach others that there is hope for depression, before it becomes so bad you cannot control it, it controls you.

A family and mental illness

I am writing in response to "What churches can do for the depressed" (April). That was one of the best articles I have ever read, and I was so pleased to see mental illness looked at for the disease that it really is.

I have suffered from mental illness now for 30 some years, since I was in my 20s. I have been hospitalized many times. In the 1970s when I went into depression, I first thought I was a freak of nature, and was very embarrassed when I returned from my very first hospital stay in a mental health facility. Now, I am a spokesperson on the illness of depression and its sometimes deadly effects.

On Nov. 15, 1989, my life and that of my husband and our daughter changed forever. Our very precious son took his own life after a bout with depression from a couple months

before graduation from high school up until the fall, when life became too much to deal with. No one told me years earlier, when I had my first bout with depression, that it could show up in my children also. Well, it sure did, because our precious daughter, now 31 years old, also was diagnosed in her 20s with bipolar depression.

I have never been ashamed of my mental illness, my daughter's, or the way our son died. Instead I take what I have learned from such personal experiences and try to teach others that there is hope for depression, before it becomes so bad you cannot control it, it controls you. I don't want to have to see another parent lose their child to this awful disease.

I speak up to all young folks everywhere to get to someone you can talk to and let them know you are getting depressed.

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Letters

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medications that can help. My daughter and I are both functioning much better with today's newer medications for bipolar illness. One can fight the battle of depression with the help of good counseling also.

In the article where depression is referred to as "lethal," I can tell you for a fact it can be. If you are reading this today, though young or old, don't let the stigma from depression stop you from seeking help. It is well worth the effort, for life and God are both beautiful things in this world.

If I reach just one person out there, I thank God for that. This is written in loving memory of our son, Donald R. Trimmer, and for our precious daughter, Lisa.

*Linda M. Trimmer
West York Church of the Brethren
York, Pa.*



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Clearing up Shepherd's Spring

Like Walt Wiltschek comments in his article in the Jan./Feb. MESSENGER article "A different kind of church camp," of the quiet water of the small spring trickling through the camp surrounding it, there trickle through the article some errors which need to be clarified.

The article states that the camp bears the name of the spring. After the land was purchased for the new camp there was a competition for naming the camp. The one who submitted Shepherd's Spring apparently was inspired with the idea of the Good Shepherd and the refreshment of the spring. After that entry was selected and given to the new camp it was natural for the spring to get the name as well. We did not know of the spring having a name before.

The article says the Potomac River marks the camp property's boundary. Actually the camp land is bounded by National Park Service land over which the tow path of the old C&O Canal runs.

The article states, "The camp's owner, Mid-Atlantic District, closed beloved facilities at Camp Woodbrook, slated to be a reservoir in Maryland, and Camp Shiloh in northern Virginia." It should have said "...closed beloved camps Woodbrook, then slated to become a reservoir in Maryland, and Shiloh in Virginia, which was located outside the boundaries of the district as it had been realigned."

The article should have included mention of the long hours contributed by the development committee in planning for the camp, then the construction committee, which worked with Rex Miller until the original facilities were completed, and a tribute to the large number of volunteers who gave time and skills in carrying out various aspects of building and program. There are also better pictures of the spring.

Wayne F. Buckle
Falls Church, Va.

INVITATION

The New Beginnings Church of the Brethren, located 50 miles east of Kansas City, Missouri, invites Brethren traveling to Annual Conference to stay overnight. Facilities available for camping, 16 miles south of I-70 on Highway 13(S) at southeast edge of Warrensburg. Contact pastor, Jane Davis, 800 E. Hale Lake Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093-3042, phone 660-429-6215, e-mail <jeneherda@iland.net.>

Visiting Washington, D.C.? Come worship with us at the Arlington Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St, Arlington, Virginia. Phone 703-524-4100. Services: Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Summer Hours: June 4 thru September 3. Worship 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School. Nursery Services Provided. Roseann B. Cook, Pastor.

The York Center congregation in Lombard, IL will celebrate 50 years of ministry in 2001. To kick-off our anniversary we will have a celebration weekend August 12 and 13, 2000. If you have been a part of the York Center family we hope you will join us for this celebration. For more information call the church office at 630-627-7411 or e-mail Pastor Christy Waltersdorff (cwaltersdorff@mindspring.com).

POSITION AVAILABLE

Executive Director for a new alliance of five Brethren and Mennonite-related retirement communities in southeast Pennsylvania. Must have a

Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred) and at least five years of executive leadership, preferable in health-care. Must be able to take initiative and work collaboratively with five other CEO's. Must have ability to bring diverse resources and systems together and think "outside the box." Good administrative and financial skills also important. Brethren or Mennonite church affiliation preferred, but not essential. Must possess good moral character. Send resume to Mennonite Health Services, 234 South Main St., Suite 1, Goshen IN 46526, or fax to (219) 534-3254, or e-mail: timstair@compuserve.com by June 15, 2000.

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.

Director of Food Services. Camp Bethel is looking for a Director of Food Services, FT with benefits. Contact Camp Manager, 328 Bethel Rd, Fincastle, VA 24090 or e-mail: camp.bethel@juno.com or visit us at www.campbethelvirginia.org.



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.

Turning Points

This month's Turning Points includes all listings received prior to 4/4/00 not previously published.

New members

Ambler, Pa.: Amber Shaw, Lea Kononchuk

Brandts, St. Thomas, Pa.: Dennis and Marian Mills, Karl Frey, Robin and Megan Unger, Lindsey Hollenshead, Tracy Clevenger, John Hunt, James Snider, Kayla Snyder, Mandy Ferree, Pauline Harmon, Linda Heckman

Brook Park, Ohio: Samantha Bova, Patrick Cronan, Linda Cronan, Robert Ryan Cronan, Brittany Hornyak, Christopher Schmid

Champaign, Ill.: Shirley Webber, Dawn Blackman

Dixon, Ill.: Alan Mackey, Kathy Mackey, John Munson, Joel Wiseman, Amy Wiseman, Steven Magnafici, Laurie Blackburn, Gary Lee, Cody Winters, Shayla Brooks, Aaron Brooks, Tiffany Mekeel, Jacob Mekeel

Dupont, Ohio: Cher Stoker, Paul Garrison, Loyce Garrison, Kelly Sarka, Sis Hacker, Dalton Hacker, Jeff Messer

Elizabethtown, Pa.: Becky Tann Eversole, New Lebanon, Ohio: Erin Curliss, Megan Howard, Rhonda and Don Fugate

First, Ligonier, Pa.: Noel McLeary

First Central, Kansas City, Kan.: Benson Mwhiki, Judy Burr, Jane Smith

Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: Jane-Adair Seleski

Geiger, Friedens, Pa.: Wayne and Marie Erbe

Greensburg, Pa.: Michael Hamley, Steven Perry, Amanda Waugh

Independence, Kan.: Arthur D. Arnwine, Darryl L. Deering, Winona K. Deering

Lansing, Mich.: Marybeth Braddock, Carol Baker, CarolAnn BrunDelRe

Linville Creek, Broadway, Va.: Mark Rothnathon, Velda Keller, Maxine Strawderman, Gina Ritchie

Logansport, Ind.: Bill Fickle, Tiffany Close, Bill Kite, Heather Close, Chris Good, Eddie Hannah

Lower Deer Creek, Camden, Ind.: High McKinley, Joe Slate, Alan and Brenda McLearn-Montz, Barberie Edging

Maitland, Lewistown, Pa.: Linda Wallick

Maple Grove, Ashland, Ohio: Randy Keener, Kay Keener, Krissy Keener

Markle, Ind.: Jacob Chambers, Mossy Crispin, Candy Marshall, Loyal and Betty Pursifull, Justin O'Reilly

Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Earl Goodwin, Jacob Kumler, Audrea Rof-fensperger, Matthew Rider, John Seigle, Scott and Cheryl Spicer, Lavinia Stough, Barbara Cisney, Jeffrey and Rebecca Bailey, Heidi Graci, Reta Mundwiler, Traci Rabenstein, William Replogle

Middlebury, Ind.: Betsy Garber, Don Mockler, Don and Tanya Paulus, Robin Paulus, Ann Troyer

Mohican, West Salem, Ohio: David, Lisa, Jordan, and Michaela Hohider, Richard and Susie Gortner

New Paris, Ind.: Rex Eisenhour, Burton Clemens, Joan Hein, Mark Miller

Nokesville, Va.: Franklin D. Sanford, Nelson D. Sager, James R.

Funkhouser, Cynthia L. Yohn, Andrew T. Yohn, Kelsey N. Nelson, Pamela J. Evans, Lindsey E. Haywood, Michelle L. Iverson, Kristie A. Hall, Melanie Pittman

North Liberty, Ind.: Alan Holderread, Ashley Houser

Peters Creek, Roanoke, Va.: Mabel Naff, Geraldine Plunkett, Anna Mae Plunkett, John Showalter, Ted and Ruby Spradling, Kathleen Crum, Willard Flora, Cory Lowe, Jack Lowe, John Lowe, Carl Stump

Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va.: Ruth Riner, Victoria Vandall, Linda Vandall, Jeff and Patricia Ashwell

Pymont, Rossville, Ind.: Doris Lane Patrick

Sebring, Fla.: Harold Banwart, Lois Banwart, Paul Kemble, Miriam Kemble, Don Kepler, Ruth Kepler, Donna Redifer, John Slotter, Mary Slotter, Jillian Snoke

South Waterloo, Waterloo, Iowa: Ron and Denise Flory, Paul and Mildred Holliday, Paula Sturtz

Springfield, Coopersburg, Pa.: Brian and Donna Grube, Amanda Grube, Kent Holschwander, Gary Kramer, Meredith Kramer, Samantha Kramer, Harold Romig, Marilyn Rufe, Keith Wolf, Jr.

Tucson, Ariz.: Clifford Eicher, Dorcus Eicher, Gordon Adkins, Linda Adkins, Veronica Velazquez, Robin Palmisano, Virginia Fisher, Gary Fisher

Waynesboro, Pa.: Lisa Hall, Larry and Jean Mellott

Wetly, Smithsburg, Md.: Nicole Shockey

Wenatchee (Wash.) Brethren-Baptist: Jorge Vargas, Dayle Rushing, Robin Rushing

Waterford, Calif.: Esther Davis, Frank Kumar

West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Karmen Frey

West Richmond, Richmond, Va.: William Jenkins

Wedding anniversaries

Anderson, Harry and LaVonne, Mt. Morris, Ill., 55

Bergy, Keith and Barbara Jean, Caledonia, Mich., 55

Budd, Lois and Raymond, Ashland, Ohio, 50

Chase, Ted and Dorothy, Defiance, Ohio, 60

Deaven, Thomas and Ruth, Harrisburg, Pa., 55

Dixon, Fred and Martha, Akron, Ohio, 50

Engel, Raynard and Donna, Waterloo, Iowa, 50

Funk, Charles and Ruth, New Oxford, Pa., 55

Garrison, Howard and Mary Elizabeth, Mt. Morris, Ill., 55

Geesaman, Paul and Blanche, Grantville, Pa., 55

Gilbert, John and Martha, Staunton, Va., 65

Heckman, Galen and Laura, Mercersburg, Pa., 50

Haworth, Paul and Virginia, Pemberville, Ohio, 60

Heister, Allen and Daisy, Annville, Pa., 50

Heusinkveld, Leland and Patricia Ann, Preston, Minn., 50

Hinson, Carl and Verla, Erie, Pa., 55

Hoffman, Robert and Ann, Waynesboro, Pa., 50

Hoover, Charles and Reges, Martinsburg, Pa., 60

Hurst, Earl and Martha, Palmyra, Pa., 55

Keyser, Gerald and Margaret, Lowell, Mich., 60

Kintner, George and Virginia, Adrian, Mich., 55

Kulp, Robert and Anna Mae, Manheim, Pa., 50

McCaman, Sam and Donna, Lorida, Fla., 55

Malone, Max and Betty, Goshen, Ind., 50

Metcalf, Wallace and Mary, Brunswick, Md., 50

Mock, Clair and Ruth, Alum Bank, Pa., 70

Montel, Enid and Ernie, Tipp City, Ohio, 55

Nicodemus, Allen and Kate, Boonsboro, Md., 50

Pritts, Russell and Thelma, Fort Hill, Pa., 55

Reynolds, Fred and Dee, Madrid, Iowa, 50

Rigney, Doyle and Mildred, Bridgewater, Va., 50

Rowe, Ray and Ruth, Frostproof, Fla., 55

Russell, Albert and Viola, Jacksonville, Fla., 60

Sexton, Cliff and Eileen, Lorida Fla., 50

Shelly, Harlan and Betty, Manheim, Pa., 50

Stauffer, Guy and Ruth, Bradenton, Fla., 55

Switzer, Walter and Marilyn, Waterford, Calif., 50

Talbot, Richard and Kathleen, Sebring, Fla., 50

Thomas, Bernard and Jeane, Sebring, Fla., 50

Trinks, Ervin and Alice, Abbottstown, Pa., 55

Weaver, Frank and Enid, Lorida, Fla., 50

Wine, Gerald and Arlene, Enders, Neb., 50

Wine, Ralph and Margaret, Mt. Sidney, Va., 55

Deaths

Aldinger, Herman, 81, Lancaster, Pa., Sept. 10

Alley, Helen, Bridgewater, Va., April 1

Alwine, Ivy, 99, Annville, Pa., April 2

Andes, J. Gilbert, 87, Remington, Va., March 18

Barrett, Steve, 104, Miami, Fla., Sept. 3

Baumgartner, Pauline, 86, Decatur, Ind., April 2

Beard, Clifford, 85, Enders, Neb., Feb. 1

Bixler, Russell, 72, Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 50

Bonney, Willard Donald, Ollie, Iowa, Feb. 18

Boone, Robert, 76, Greenville, Ohio, March 2

Brandeberry, Floyd, 85, Goshen, Ind., April 15

Brooks, Beulah, 86, Dexter, Mo., Dec. 17

Brown, Sandra L., 54, Loysburg, Pa., Dec. 24

Brumbaugh, William R., 66, Duncansville, Pa., Oct. 7

Callahan, Mary E., 84, Linville, Va., Feb. 9

Caplinger, Fred A., Sr., 59, Martin, W.Va., Feb. 1

Caricofe, Allen H., 73, Stuarts Draft, Va., March 27

Carr, Bernice Marie, 97, Bloomfield, Iowa, Jan. 11

Carr, Jane, Sebring, Fla., Nov. 7

Cave, Wilmer, 82, Grantville, Pa., Feb. 20

Church, Doctor Grant, Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 27

Clark, Robert R., 83, Easton, Md., March 16

Click, Rilla, 86, New Lebanon, Ohio, April 17

Cline, Nellie E., 86, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 15

Conn, Mae, 89, Somerset, Pa., Oct. 26

Cox, Mary c., 84, Mount Solon, Va., Feb. 10

Crumley, William C., Knoxville, Tenn., March 28

Crumrine, Mabel, 85, Greenville, Ohio, March 14

Cupp, Russell T., 92, Dayton, Va., March 9

Dearth, Janet, 85, Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 17

Deuel, Clarence "Art," 42, Latrobe, Pa., April 13

Dibert, Thomas S., 74, Bedford, Pa., Feb. 28

Diehl, Robert, 86, West Alexandria, Ohio, March 31

Dodson, Nola, 86, Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 4

Dove, Clifford, 88, Nokesville, Va., Feb. 22

Dupras, Edmund, 59, Live Oak, Calif., Feb. 10

Eberly, Goldie, Toledo, Ohio

Ebersole, I. Lynn, 88, La Verne, Calif., Dec. 22

Eisenbise, Bernetta, 80, Elizabethtown, Pa., Oct. 24

Ensign, C. David, La Verne, Calif., Jan. 25

Fishburn, Aubrey F., 97, Lawrence, Kan., Feb. 12

Foltz, Helen, 79, Annville, Pa., March 27

Fruth, Glenn, 84, Quinter, Kan., Jan. 20

Funkhouser, Margaret, 74, Moorefield, W.Va., March 19

Gingrich, Ada, 85, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 5

Glick, Anna V. H., 91, Timberville, Va., Feb. 22

Gochenour, Bessie, 89, Woodstock, Va., Feb. 19

Godfrey, Marvin R., 69, Glen Rock, Pa., Feb. 28

Graham, James, 65, San Dimas, Calif., Feb. 4

Green, John D., Sr., 86, Johnsville, Md., March 8

Gregg, Odessa, 98, Tecumseh, Mich., March 8

Grimm, William E., 100, Altoona, Pa., Feb. 25

Grossnickle, Maurice, 81, Burkittsville, Md., March 5

Hanson, Mary Katherine, 79, Boone, Iowa, Feb. 10

Harman, David M., 76, Kansas City, Kan., March 18

Harmon, Garland B., 86, Petersburg, W.Va., March 24

Heatwole, Betty J., 67, Mt. Crawford, Va., Feb. 5

Heatwole, Merle Eugene, 92, Prescott, Ariz., March 1

Hedge, Kathleen Fink, 85, Roanoke, Va., Jan. 14

Henderson, Lovita, Mt. Morris, Ill., March 19

Herbold, Vera M., 85, Kingsley, Iowa, March 7

Hess, Ethel, 91, Hanover, Pa., Feb. 17

Hockman, Joan, 56, Charles Town, W.Va., Feb. 17

Hoffer, Paul, 80, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 17

Holdiman, Floyd, 82, Hudson, Iowa, Jan. 2

Hoover, William, Sebring, Fla., October

Horton, Truman Lee, 92, Sebring, Fla., Aug. 14

Hostetter, Chub, 74, Palmyra, Pa., Feb. 4

Houston, David, 44, Ashland, Ohio, Feb. 1

Howes, Geraldine, 82, Kaleva, Mich., Feb. 25

Huffman, Mary L., 75, New Carlisle, Ohio, Jan. 26

Hurst, Florrie, Sebring, Fla., Sept. 11

Jarrett, Edgar M., Sr., 79, New Enterprise, Pa., Nov. 20

Jessen, Otto, 94, Cedar Falls, Iowa, April 5

Keener, Steven M., 39, New London, Ohio, Jan. 12

Keeney, George C., 38, New Freedom, Pa., March 22

Keppen, Harold, Spring City, Pa., Dec. 26

Kibler, Scott A., 21, Altoona, Pa., Sept. 25

Kiger, Edward Clark, Lynchburg, Va., Feb. 6

Kimmel, Homer, Olympia, Va., April 10, 1999

King, Ruth, 77, Lorida, Fla., Jan. 24

King, William A., 48, New Enterprise, Pa., Sept. 26

Kinsey, Judy K., 60, Ligonier, Pa., Jan. 21

Kiser, J. Lloyd, 95, Dayton, Va., Feb. 28

Klucher, Robert H., 75, York, Pa., March 16

Knapp, Lenna, 96, Greensburg, Pa., Aug. 31

Knighting, Calvin N., 76, Harrisonburg, Va., March 4

Konkey, Virginia, 73, La Porte, Ind., April 1

Kreider, Warren, 89, Palmyra, Pa., Dec. 9

Kurtz, Eleanor M., 90, San Diego, Calif., Feb. 24

Landes, Charles H., 64, Cicero, Ind., Feb. 18

Layser, Patricia, 56, Lebanon, Pa., Jan. 10

Lecklider, Ralph, 85, Greenville, Ohio, March 23

Leiter, Lewis, 66, Wooster, Ohio, Feb. 24

Lenker, Dorothy, 94, Greenville, Ohio, March 4

Lewis, Violet H., Glen Burnie, Md., Nov. 29

Liggett, Juanita, 76, North Liberty, Ind., March 9

Lininger, Geraldine, 74, La Verne, Calif., March 19

Lockett, Larry L., Lewistown, Pa., March 21

Ludholtz, Allene, 79, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 10

McCurdy, Frances, 87, Greensburg, Pa., Oct. 8

McNert, Robert E., 82, Lima, Ohio, Feb. 8

Manley, Alfred A., 84, Iowa City, Iowa, Feb. 10

March, Dottie, 56, Willards, Md., Jan. 5

Martin, Eugene, 59, Waynesboro, Pa., Feb. 13

Martin, Joseph R., 79, Goshen, Ind., Feb. 8

Metzger, La Rue, 84, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Feb. 27

Metzger, Lester Clifford, Boise, Idaho, April 4

Miller, Betty L., 74, New Carlisle, Ohio, Dec. 14

Miller, Paul, 76, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 13

Miller, Rosa L., 78, Baker, W.Va., March 6

Miller, Sally, 76, Hollidaysburg, Pa., Dec. 1

Miller, Sarah Jane, 78, Bridgewater, Va., Feb. 8

Mitchell, Dorothy B., 72, Independence, Kan., Dec. 12

Morrison, Shirley, 66, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Feb. 7

Mull, Clarence B., 79, Lebanon Route, Pa., March 11

Myers, Ernest Daniel, 82, Warrenton, Va., Feb. 16

Murrey, Chester, McPherson, Kan., Dec. 29

Ober, Galen, 82, Lorida, Fla., Aug. 21

Overman, Dennis, 56, Morgantown, W.Va., Jan. 3

O'Baugh, Lydia B., 87, Crimora, Va., March 13

Painter, Lucille, 94, Palmyra, Pa., Jan. 31

Pendley, Lorene, 78, Beaverton, Mich., March 24

Perdue, John, 97, Lorida, Fla.

Pfoutz, Leah, 88, Bridgewater, Va., Feb. 10

Pratt, Mary Elizabeth, 83, Fresno, Calif., March 3

Putman, Erma, 88, Somerset, Pa., Feb. 19

Radford, Annabel L., Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 15

Reierson, Naomi, Sebring, Fla., Nov. 15

Reinecker, Betty, 72, McPherson, Kan., Feb. 11

Repine, Gertrude, 58, Barnesboro, Pa., March 30

Rinehart, Margaret, 78, Waterford, Calif., Feb. 28

Rogers, Grace, 77, New Paris, Ind., Feb. 14

Rowland, Ferne P., 76, Bridgewater, Va., Feb. 26

Royer, Gladys Hawbaker, 97, N. Manchester, Ind., Aug. 27

Rush, Elwood L., 86, Mauertown, Va., March 12

Rush, William M., 77, Fort Valley, Va., Feb. 12

Sager, Otis D., 83, Lost River, W.Va., March 17

Sample, Duane, 66, Ashland, Ohio, Feb. 25

Sawyer, Grace, 82, Dripping Springs, Tex., March 24

Senseman, John, 75, Tipp City, Ohio, Jan. 18

Settle, Madeline L., 85, Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 21

Shaffer, Dorothy, 82, Pomona, Calif., March 19

Shaffer, Rose N., 75, Johnstown, Pa.

Shepherd, Ted, 81, Nokesville, Va., Sept. 30

Shober, Emil E., 77, Frederick, Md., Jan. 25

Shutter, Carl, 62, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 4

Simmons, Treva, 82, Moyers, W.Va., Feb. 9

Slagle, George W., Limestone, Tenn., Feb. 5

Small, Kermit, 79, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 13

Smalley, June, 57, New Stanton, Pa., Oct. 12

Smith, Elizabeth, 70, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 2

Stern, Georgetta, 72, Elizabethtown, Pa., Jan. 26

Strawderman, Austen, 81, Bergton, Va., Feb. 11

Studebaker, Emmert, 94, Tipp City,

Ohio, March 8

Stultz, Martha A., 91, Hollidaysburg, Pa., Nov. 13

Swab, Beulah, 92, Glendale, Calif., Feb. 24

Swinger, Mildred Lillian, 85, Essex, Mo., March 18

Thundu, Daniel, 27, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Jan. 14

Ulrich, Robert H., 70, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 29

VanDyke, John, 93, Lorida, Fla.

Vaughn, Leonard E., 85, Alexandria, Va., Nov. 29

Vettori, Carol, 61, Friedens, Pa., Nov. 24

Vinard, Jim, Rossville, Ind., Feb. 19

Wagner, Murray, Lancaster, Pa., March 21

Walker, Arlie, Toledo, Ohio

Walker, Hilda M., 78, New Oxford, Pa., March 5

Waybright, Ludholtz Allene, 79, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 10

Weaver, Paul, Sebring, Fla., July 2

Wheeler, Howard, 81, Camp Hill, Pa., Feb. 2

Whisler, Mabel, 85, Lebanon, Pa., Jan. 18

Whitesel, Goldie M., 78, Timberville, Va., March 24

Wilkie, Luella G., 82, Somerset, Pa.

Williams, Hazel, 91, Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 10

Williams, Jeffrey L., 28, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 13

Wilson, Beth, 22, Acme, Pa., Jan. 29

Wise, Emma, 85, Tucson, Ariz., March 6

Wittler, Albert, Sebring, Fla., May 2

Woolf, Rey, Sr., 73, Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 31

Yingling, Ruth R., 68, Union Bridge, Md., March 14

Yoder, Robert, Sebring, Fla., March 16

Young, Nancy, 80, Elizabethtown, Pa., Feb. 1

Licensings

Allen, Donna R., March 12, Bethel, DuBois, Pa.

Baker, Mildred F., March 5, Tyrone, Pa.

Carlson, Melinda, Jan. 29, York, Pa.

Coulter, Nina, Nov. 6, Waka, Tex.

Cornelius, George Edward, Nov. 21, West Chester, Pa.

Keller, Jon, Jan. 2, Oakland, Bradford, Ohio

Kiehner, Kermit, Avon Park, Fla., March 15

Kurozovich, William, March 26, Lower Claar, Claysburg, Pa.

Manthos, Michael C., Jan. 30, Oak Park, Oakland, Md.

Martin, Michael D., Feb. 6, Phoenix, Ariz.

Mauck, William Vancliff, March 26, Sugar Valley, Loganton, Pa.

Murlin, Allen Kurtis, March 19, Sunnyside, New Creek, W.Va.

Rice, James Edward, Feb. 20, Light-house, Boones Mill, Va.

Schreyer, Manfred, Feb. 6, West Alexandria, Ohio

Shaulis, M. Eric, Feb. 6, Meyersdale, Pa.

Stewart, Kenneth Allen, March 19, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Walker, Larry E., East McKeesport, Pa.

Webb, Timothy J., Feb. 6, Locust Grove, New Castle, Ind.

Wheeler, Myrna L., March 19, Pomona Fellowship, Pomona, Calif.

Yoder, Lisa, March 26, New Philadelphia, Ohio

Young, Cynthia, Jan. 16, Brook Park, Ohio

Zepp, Joy Elaine, March 5, Hagerstown, Md.

Ordinations

Barley, Shirley, March 26, Reisterstown, Md.

Beam, Nicholas, March 5, Pleasant Hill, Ohio

Berkey, Corey, Feb. 13, Dry Run, Pa.

Berkley, Richard Wayne, Feb. 6, Danville, Va.

Coulter, Carol, Nov. 6, Waka, Tex.

Elsa, Henry Dearthmont, Jr., Feb. 5, Tearcoat, Augusta, W.Va.

Golden, Wilburt, Jan. 29, First, Baltimore, Md.

Hartman, Charles Leroy, March 26, New Fairview, York, Pa.

Johnson, Daniel, March 26, Schuylkill, Pine Grove, Pa.

Kaufman-Frey, Cameron, Feb. 13, Morgantown, W.Va.

Longenecker, Thomas William, March 5, Glendale, Calif.

Miller, David Lloyd, March 19, Lick Creek, Bryan, Ohio

Oren, Kenneth, Jan. 30, Happy Corner, Clayton, Ohio

Osborne, Helen Louise, April 2, Black Rock, Glenville, Pa.

Rhodes, Rebecca Oliver, March 26, Roanoke Central, Roanoke, Va.

Sheppard, Daniel James, March 19, North Fort Myers, Fla.

Sherlock, Douglas D., Jr., April 9, Lewistown, Pa.

Shook, Gregory Paul, March 5, Hagerstown, Md.

Wiser, Tracy Lee, Feb. 6, Harmony, Myersville, Md.

Woodard, Emma Jean, Feb. 6, Oak Grove, Roanoke, Va.

Pastoral placement

Bieber, Fred, from interim to permanent, Hanoverdale Big Swatara, Hummelstown, Pa.

Boleyn, Lester E., from Cedar Creek, Citronelle, Ala., to Congregational Life Team Area 3

Edwards, John F., interim to permanent, West Milton, Ohio

Fisher, Chester, from Buena Vista, Va., to Middle River, New Hope, Va.

Grady, Duane, from Northview, Indianapolis, Ind., to co-pastor, Anderson, Ind.

Hall, Mary Lou, to Lower Claar, Claysburg, Pa., part time

Meyerhofer, Kelly, youth ministries, Pleasant Valley, Weyers Cave, Va.

Miller, Alan, interim to permanent, Conestoga, Leola, Pa.

Schwarze, Robert, from interim to permanent, Rossville, Ind.

Sgro, John, from Sebring, Fla., to associate pastor, Pleasant Dale, Decatur, Ind.

Smith, Robert, from interim to permanent, Peoria, Ill.

Snair, Freeman, to Amaranth, Pa.

Thomas, Jeffrey A., part-time, Robinson, Pa.

Voorhis, Valarie Van, to Upper Fall Creek, Middletown, Ind.

Weaver, Beverly, from Northview, Indianapolis, Ind., to co-pastor, Anderson, Ind.

Weaver, Herbert, from interim to permanent, Jacksonville, Fla.

Yoder, Ruth, from interim to senior pastor, Union Center, Nappanee, Ind.



Editorial

Forgiveness isn't fair

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. —Eph. 4:31-32

My heart aches for the aching hearts of the families of the Lockerbie, Scotland, airline disaster. Many have gone to Europe to watch the trial of those accused of blowing up the plane in which their loved ones died. They are rekindling the anger and resentment that after a decade hasn't died. They are like victims and families of victims everywhere who go to trials and sentencing hearings, even executions, hoping for the closure that never comes. I yearn for them to have the peace that comes from forgiveness.

Large forgiveness always inspires me. Brethren have heard the story of SueZann Bosler, who has forgiven the man who in 1986 murdered her father, Bill Bosler, pastor of Miami (Fla.) First Church of the Brethren. She has also worked tirelessly against the death penalty, and for healing for others through Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation.

I have read recently of Gregory Gibson, a father in Massachusetts, who has been exchanging letters with the man who went on a rampage and killed his son and others. Their correspondence is a mutual attempt to understand what happened. Steven McDonald of Malverne, N.Y., a former police officer who has lived as a quadriplegic since he was shot 14 years ago, now travels the country telling audiences he has forgiven his assailant "unconditionally." Sam Reese Sheppard, whose mother was murdered and whose father, Dr. Sam Sheppard, was convicted and then acquitted of the murder, prays for those who have wronged him and his family.

Of course I can understand the anger of someone who posted this in an internet chat room: "Forgiveness is a premise of Christianity and many other religions, yet religion has often been used to manipulate us. I have experienced family brawls in which I had to fight for my life at the age of nine. I have been required to kiss the man and woman who had abused me the night before. Then, I was required to attend church and act like none of this ever happened so the benefits of forgiveness could be crammed down my throat. Maybe others can find peace in forgiving, but I am quite happy being angry right now. Anger empowers me."

Victims have the "right" to reject forgiveness, and those who haven't been wronged or hurt have no "right" to push it on them. But sometimes forgiveness is rejected

as an option before it is understood. In recent years scholars and healers have devoted considerable effort to explaining what forgiveness is and what it is not.

In a seminar on "Learning to forgive," Robert D. Enright, psychology professor at the University of Wisconsin, explains that interpersonal forgiveness is a moral choice, an act of mercy, that one who has been wronged is free to give or to withhold. It is a gift, not a duty or an obligation. It isn't earned or deserved, nor is it necessarily acknowledged or reciprocated. As such it isn't what's fair, but rather it is an exchange of good for evil. Forgiveness is "the foregoing of resentment or revenge when the wrongdoer's actions deserve it, and giving the gifts of mercy, generosity, and love when the wrongdoer does not deserve them." Nobody deserves to be forgiven.

Just as important is what forgiveness is not. It is not forgetting, or "moral amnesia," says Enright, who heads the International Forgiveness Institute (www.forgivenessinstitute.org). On the contrary, the person who forgives becomes more acutely aware of the wrong. And forgiveness does not forego redress; one can forgive and seek justice at the same time.

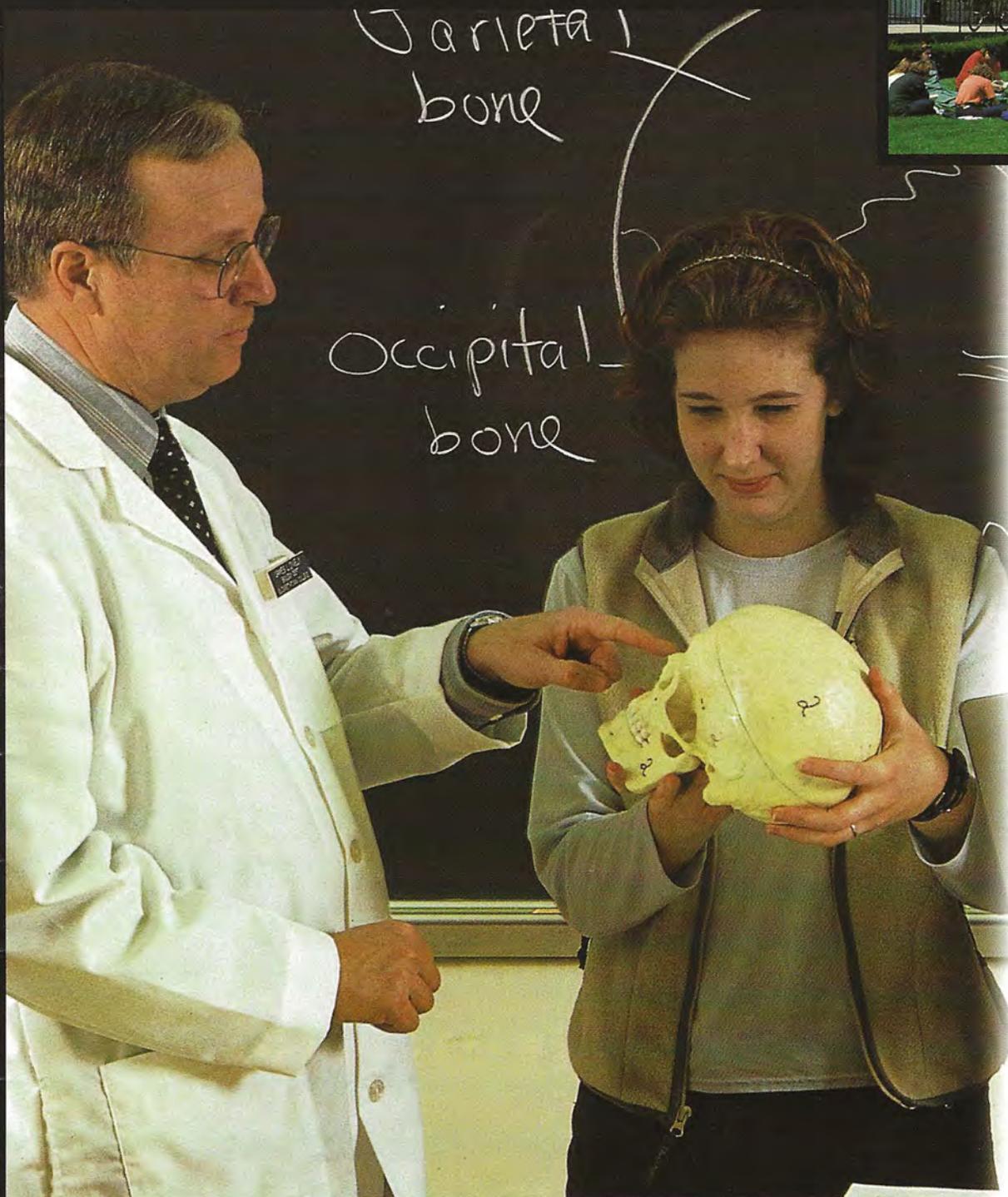
Another thing forgiveness is not is this: It is not easy. It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. It often doesn't happen all at once; forgivers say they have to work at it every day. Jesus testified to the difficulty when, after forgiving the paralytic, he asked the scribes who were critical of him, "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk?'" (Matt. 9:5). Spiritual healing is just bigger than physical healing.

The rewards equal the difficulty and the work. Freedom from the pain of resentment and anger is a great reward. Forgiveness offers the possibility of less anxiety and more self-esteem, renewed hope, restored relationships, community harmony. It offers the peace of Christ.

Even after learning the theories of forgiveness, the definitions and the pros and cons, I still don't know if I could bring myself to do it, were I ever wronged or hurt badly. I can practice on small slights. As a Christian I can remember the example of Christ, who forgave us all. Yet there would come a time, after all the intellectual resources are gathered, when I would have to ask God for help. I would call upon the promise of the Song of Zechariah: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1: 78, 79).—FLETCHER FARRAR

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