

Church
of the
Brethren

MESSENGER

AUGUST 2000 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG



A NEW VISION FOR
BRETHREN
HOMES

RAVES FOR THE JUBILEE TOUR • BACK TO WORK IN INDIA

Share the Experiences of a Lifetime!

The Brethren Homes of the Atlantic Northeast District invite you to explore the care and refreshing lifestyles at your doorstep...



"Life as good as it can get! – in a relaxed, care-free, attractive environment, among congenial contemporaries, supported by Christian love and service. Praise God!"

- FRANK & DOROTHY HORST

"We enjoy living at Brethren Village because it provides choices for us to live in an upbeat, well-managed, caring, Christ-centered community of persons from diverse backgrounds."

- CURTIS & ANNA MARY DUBBLE

"Living at Peter Becker Community offers us the opportunity to meet new Christian friends with similar interests. We have peace of mind knowing all our needs will be met."

- WILMER & RUTH HARTLEY

Lebanon Valley Brethren Home

1200 Grubb Street
Palmyra, PA 17078
(717) 838-5406



Brethren Village RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

3001 Lititz Pike
PO Box 5093
Lancaster, PA 17606
(717) 569-2657

Peter Becker Community

800 Maple Avenue
Harleysville, PA 19438
(215) 256-9501



Church of the Brethren

MESSENGER

Editor: Fletcher Farrar Publisher: Wendy McFadden News: Walt Wiltschek Advertising: Russ Matteson Subscriptions: Peggy Reinacher Designer: Paul Stocksdale

ONTHECOVER

Rita Moyer, therapeutic services coordinator at Peter Becker Community, Harleysville, Pa., gives Lucy Calvanese a hug at the facility's Health Care picnic. Rita is one of hundreds of dedicated workers who give care in the name of the Church of the Brethren at Brethren Homes, featured in this issue. The Homes often minister to the workers as well, primarily by providing a spiritual atmosphere for work, where loving care comes before profit.



10 Jubilee tour

When Rosella Wiens Regier went on the road to promote Jubilee curriculum in Church of the Brethren congregations, she found an enthusiastic reception in all 14 districts she visited. She also found concern for the future of Christian education.

12 Special section: Brethren Homes

Across the nation, the 24 Church of the Brethren Homes provide loving care in spiritual settings. For more than a century, Homes have been an important ministry of the church, both as healthcare facilities and retirement communities. Now, in an era of increased competition and regulatory challenges, they are clinging to their roots as faith-based ministries, nurturing relationships with congregations, and sharing services under the banner of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes. These articles were prepared by the Association of Brethren Caregivers.



Julie Hostetter

21 A sister church in India?

A group called the Church of the Brethren in India has applied to the US church for official recognition, and the situation seems ready-made for an emerging global church structure. But it is complicated by 30 years of history, promises, and property. Editor Fletcher Farrar provides an in-depth background report to help readers decide a complex issue facing the church.

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----|----------------|
| 2 | From the Publisher | 27 | Letters |
| 3 | In Touch | 30 | Turning Points |
| 6 | News | 32 | Editorial |



FROM THE PUBLISHER

My 486 computer at home is a hopeless relic. On the information highway, it travels like a bicycle. I use it mainly to exchange e-mail, though even that downloads slowly. Our household pays for the bare minimum in monthly hours of Internet usage, and we never exceed that because pedaling from page to page is too boring to do it for long. It's so slow that I can actually do laundry at the same time I'm surfing the Web. Fortunately, the high-speed access I get at the office with a T1 line feels more like driving a sports car.

Sometimes exploring the Internet is just plain fun. Though following an endless number of tangents can still feel disorienting for someone steeped in linear thinking, it's fascinating to see the array of information available through a few clicks.

But for most organizations nowadays, having a website isn't just for fun. It's an important part of the way they communicate with their constituents. It might even be the way they get their constituents.

That is becoming true even for the Church of the Brethren, which has not usually been known for being on the cutting edge of technology. An increasing number of pastors are online and would like to use their computers to enhance their ministries. Congregations are designing web pages in addition to printed brochures. Church leaders are ready to receive study materials and worship resources by downloading them from the Web. Future volunteers are finding Brethren Volunteer Service via the Internet.

The folks that oversee www.brethren.org (it's sponsored by seven agencies and is an example of successful collaboration) have recognized that it's time to take the Church of the Brethren website to the next level. A new and improved website made its debut last month with sharper graphics, a search function, and better links. Coming soon is the capability to find congregations by state. By fall an e-commerce site will feature Brethren Press and ABC stores. And before long people will be able to register for conferences and workcamps online.

Also new to the site is additional information about who the Brethren are. We intend to continually grow this section of the site, since we believe one of its most important purposes is to be welcoming and helpful to those who know nothing about the Brethren.

Our goal is to use the tools available to us to do the best communication we can, to widen the circle, and to make sure our message can be heard in a new era. Like the main page of the website says, we're continuing the work of Jesus.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER

1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:

preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:

rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:

ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:

\$16.50 individual rate
\$15.50 church group plan
\$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to MESSENGER Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:

For a free subscription to *Newsline*, the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to <http://www.brethren.org>.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, August 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

From devastation to hope in Kansas

Southeast Kansas will long remember April 19, 2000 for tornados.

Vernon and Barbara Egbert, members of Osage Church of the Brethren, McCune, Kan., had spent forty years on their farm. All the hopes and dreams of a young couple were put into building a farm business and raising two boys. The tornado struck about 9 p.m. and every building on their place was destroyed, including their house and barn. It wasn't long before family, friends, and neighbors started pouring in to help salvage what could be saved.

Morning saw at least 100 people bringing cleaning tools, boxes, tractors, and grain-handling equipment. The women brought food. A lot of people helped to make the first days bearable after the tornado.

As some of the neighbors visited during the cleanup, they laughingly talked about needing a "barn



Symbolically ending their family's infamous feud, *Church of the Brethren pastor Terry Hatfield, left, and Bo McCoy anoint each other.*

raising." Some of the younger farmers thought that was a good idea and the moderator of the Osage Church of the Brethren, who is a retired building contractor, felt that was something he could do. Within three weeks, supplies had been delivered and a day was set for this "barn raising." Thirty men showed up that day and studding and rafters were put up before dark. That building looked great going up amidst so much destruction. It gave everyone hope that life would be better.

—Barbara Egbert



Tug of peace between Hatfields and McCoy's

The Brethren ordinance of anointing was the focal point of healing in an historic June worship service on the Tug River at the border of West Virginia and Kentucky.

Pastor Terry Hatfield of the Panora, Iowa Church of the Brethren and the Rev. Bo McCoy, a Pentecostal minister from Georgia, anointed each other on the Matewan-Buskirk bridge in a symbolic act of forgiveness and healing.

The Hatfield and McCoy Unity Worship Service was the next to the last event of a week-long celebration of the "Reunion of the Millennium: Hatfield and McCoy 2000," and brought a new dimension to the ending of this famous family feud of the 1880s.

Terry Hatfield was asked to be the representative preacher for the Hatfield family at the worship service. He brought the Brethren ordinance of anointing into the service to provide a spiritual moment, which he said, "will hopefully bring the light of the Holy Spirit into what was a time of darkness for the families involved and this region of Appalachia."

While the Hatfield and McCoy feud was not the biggest of the various family feuds in the 19th century, it was the most publicized. As a result, Terry says, "The image of the violent and ignorant hillbilly has been associated with the region and with those family names ever since."

While a tug-of-war with a rope across the river ended the festivities (the Hatfields lost!), the "tug-of peace" over the bridge brought glory to God and made everyone a winner.

Connecting Families event draws 90

Connecting Families, an annual gathering of Anabaptist fami-

lies and friends of gay and lesbian persons enjoyed fellowship, singing, sharing, and learning April 7-9 at Antiochian Village near

Ligonier, Pa. This annual event, begun in 1989 with seven Brethren and Mennonite parents attending, drew 90 persons this year. The

gatherings are intended to provide a safe and relaxing setting in which to share concerns about how homosexuality affects families, friends, and churches.

The guest speaker was Ralph Blair, founder of Evangelicals Concerned, and a psychotherapist working primarily with gay men

in New York City. He spoke on "Lawless Gay-bashing Churches," based on the Ten Commandments, and "Law-Free, Gay-Friendly Churches," based on Galatians. Interested persons may learn more about Connecting Families by contacting Dick and June Blouch at junedick@paonline.com.

Songs help children to "chatter with angels"

A disappointing search for an illustrated children's hymnbook that she truly enjoys has finally ended for Linda Richer, of Skyridge Church of the Brethren in Kalamazoo, Mich.

"I grew up in a family where we were taught not to complain, but to do something," said Linda. And so she did something. Working with her friend Anita Stoltzfus Breckbill, Linda spent much of the last five years reviewing hundreds of hymnals, selecting hymns from them, winnowing the selections, and adapting them for children. Their own backgrounds in music and education helped them in this process.



Then Linda and Anita worked with an illustrator, a children's music teacher, an arranger, and additional musicians to produce *Chatter With the Angels: An Illustrated Songbook for Children*, which has just been published by GIA Publications.

This collection of 90 hymns adapted for children accomplishes several goals Linda finds important. The book was planned primarily as a book for parents and children to use together, but it includes a strong core of songs and aids that make it appropriate for children's choirs and education programs.

Careful consideration was given to ensuring that the texts of songs for the book in order to portray God as gentle and loving. The tunes have been adapted to suit children's voices, and represent a variety of cultural traditions.

"And," says Linda, "children remember things better if they have an image to go along with the words." So *Chatter with the Angels* incorporates artwork with each song.

But the book's main goal, as the introduction says, is "to introduce our children to Christian songs that they would find enjoyable, meaningful, and enduring." The book is available for \$29.95 from Brethren Press.—Ruth Moerdyk



Karen Calderon, center, pastor of Koinonia Church of the Brethren, Grand Junction, Colo., recently received the White Ribbon Award from the Human Services Council of Mesa County, Colo. Karen was cited for her role in developing a mission statement for Hand-in-Hand Ministries, a new ecumenical agency that assists families making the transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency. Karen, who serves as president of the board, is joined by co-directors Patty Kester and Jill Lacey. Hand-in-Hand Ministries has been a recipient of Global Food Crisis Fund grants the past two years.

Jeters Chapel dedicates fellowship hall

On Sunday, May 7, more than 175 attended the dedication of the new Jeters Chapel Church of the Brethren fellowship hall in Bedford County, Va.

The new addition includes a baptistry, kitchen, large multi-purpose room and additional Sunday school space. Valued at approximately \$250,000, only \$94,000 in debt remains. Paris E. "Pete" Bain is pastor.



District staff members meet in California

On March 30 nine District Administrative Assistants and Secretaries (DAAS) and their Council of District Executives (CODE) liaison met at Brethren Hillcrest Homes in La Verne, Calif., for their biennial professional growth event. Representing 10 of the Church of the Brethren's 23 district offices, participants were able to share with others who work in district offices.

Dr. Gene Carper of the La Verne congregation taught the group principles of classic design for publications, information

useful for production of newsletters, flyers, and brochures.

Margie Paris of the Ministry Office in Elgin, Ill., shared in detail the "how" and "why" for all of the information that districts keep track of for licensed and ordained ministers.

Neil Fancher, retirement counselor for marketing services, gave the group an afternoon tour of the Hillcrest campus and the new Southwoods Lodge, followed by refreshments with the Hillcrest staff. The Hillcrest staff took care of the group's needs, ranging from a cane to help a sore knee, to a Brethren ice cream social. —Joe Vecchio and Sandy Adams



Joe Vecchio

Meeting in La Verne, Calif., the DAAS group included, front row: Jeannette Patterson, Georgia Markey, Suzie Moss. Second row: Pat Hopkins, Linda Williams, Sandy Adams. Third row: Mary Ellen Theriault, June Peters, Dee Grindle, Margie Paris (Ministry Office). Back: Joe Vecchio, Rick Grindle



Chanda Edwards

BVS Unit 238—This older adult unit of Brethren Volunteer Service participated in orientation at New Windsor, Md. Work projects to which the volunteers are assigned are listed by their names. Front row: Sue Grubb (staff); Dorothy Haner (Gould Farm, Monterey, Mass.); Winifred Toledo (Community Mediation Center, Harrisonburg, Va.); Emily Larson (New Windsor Conference Center); Cleo Treadway (Church of the Brethren Washington Office). Back row: Alice Petry (guest leader); Larry Petry (guest leader); Lavonne Grubb (placement to be announced); Joan Campbell (Gould Farm); Jim Campbell (Gould Farm).

MILESTONES

Three couples celebrate 60 years

Sixty years of marriage and a lifetime of friendship were celebrated recently by three couples in Iowa—all members of the Panther Creek Church of the Brethren in Adel. Friends since their childhood at Panther Creek, Leonard and Mable Snyder, Dale and Ruth Wicks, and Verle and Eva York stayed in the area to farm after their marriages in 1940 and have continually supported each other and their families.

Wed within eight days of each other (May 29, 31, and June 5, respectively), the three couples celebrated their 60th anniversaries with a triple open house at the church on June 11.

Not knowing a reception announcement in the newspaper would create a stir, Eva gave information

about the open house to *The Des Moines Register*. After she relayed the details, a reporter called to set up an interview.

On May 29 the *Register* printed the story, entitled "180 years of marriage: 3 couples celebrate loyalty," and posted it on the newspaper's website. The next day the couples received a call from CBS television requesting interviews.

They were scheduled to air live on "The Early Show" Friday, June 2, but the story was postponed then eventually canceled due to scheduling conflicts. Later in the week, by invitation and expense of CBS, the friends gathered to spend dinner together at a restaurant in Des Moines.

After farming and raising children together for more than 45 years within a mile of each other, the Sny-

ders, Wicks, and Yorks continue to live in the Adel area and attend church every Sunday. "The church and community have been the center of our lives," Eva said.—Kendra Flory

Couple marks 82 years of marriage

Harley and Sylvia Utz marked their 82nd wedding anniversary June 15. Residents of The Brethren's Home, Greenville, Ohio, both are 101 years old. They are longtime members of the Pittsburg Church of the Brethren, Arcanum, Ohio.

Son Emerson Utz of Arcanum said his mother is in good health and his father has suffered the aftereffects of a recent fall. Both say they cherish their wedding covenant, though Mrs. Utz sometimes complains jokingly that she lives with an "old man."

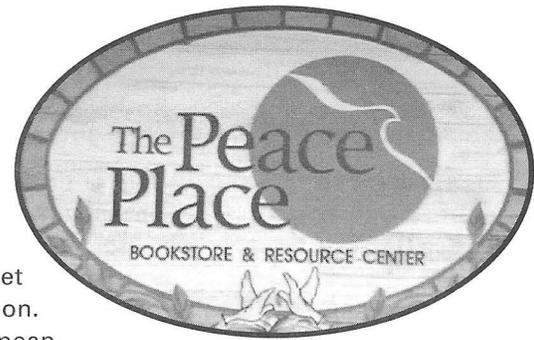
New Windsor stores planning changes

Changes are coming at the Brethren Service Center in rural New Windsor, Md., where the two stores on campus have recently announced new plans.

On Earth Peace Assembly said its Peace Place Bookstore and Resource Center, located in the lower level of Windsor Hall, would be closing as of

Sept. 30. A release cited overall low sales volume and the highly competitive religious book and resource market as reasons for the decision.

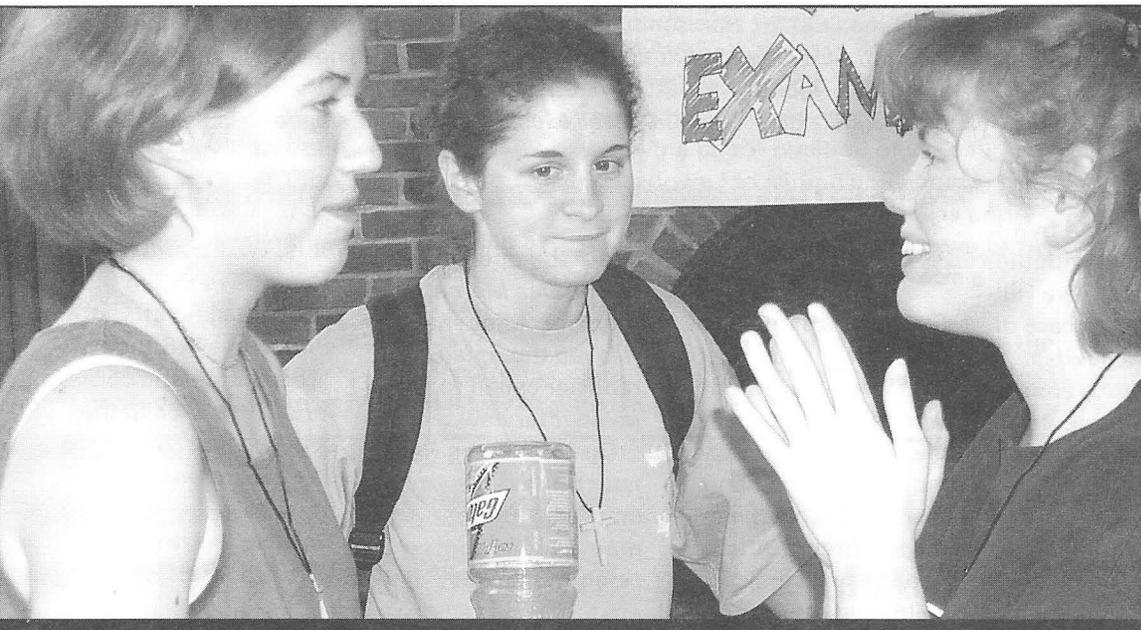
SERRV International, meanwhile, has decided to move its gift shop in the lower level of the Old Main building to a smaller space in its administration building—still on the New Windsor campus—



sometime next year. Overall sales for SERRV are up 31 percent this year, but sales at the center's 3,500-square-foot gift shop were declining for a 10th straight year, according to SERRV president Bob Chase.

"New Windsor does not fare well for retail space," said Stan Noffsinger, director of the Brethren Service Center. "It's not where people from the metropolitan areas are going to shop."

OEPA said the core mission of the Peace Place will be preserved through a new initiative called the "Peace Basket," offering peace resources to congregations and other groups on a lending basis. OEPA board chair Dale Brown said the decision is part of a continuing, major strategic planning process by the staff



Matt Wittschick

At the Ministry Summer Service orientation are

Beth Rhodes, left, of Roanoke, Va., interning this summer at York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, Ill.; Rochelle Hershey, center, of Ephrata, Pa., interning at Wilmington (Del.) Church of the Brethren; and Kendra Flory of McPherson, Kan., interning in the Brethren Press Communications Office, Elgin, Ill.

Ministry Summer Service begins with a call

One by one, mentors and leaders in this year's Ministry Summer Service program shared how they had received their call to the ministry. Most of them never expected their path would lead there. A few even tried to head as far away from it as possible.

Now each one is helping a young adult explore that same call. The 12 college students in this year's program committed to spending nine weeks in a ministry setting—11 of them in congregations and one in the communications area of Brethren Press—following a week-long orientation in Richmond, Ind.

The program, now in its fifth summer, is a joint effort of the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Ministry offices and Bethany Theological Seminary. Orientation included lessons on leadership, church polity, discerning a call, and other topics, hearing from a variety of guest speakers.

Interns also took and examined personality

tests, had Bible study, toured the Bethany campus, and took turns leading worship. Mentors joined the interns for the final two and a half days, which culminated in a powerful worship service of blessing, anointing, and commissioning.

Bob Faus, former ministry consultant for the General Board, served as volunteer coordinator for the week. Chris Douglas of the Youth/Young Adult Office, Allen Hansell of the Ministry Office, and numerous Bethany staff members providing additional leadership.

"You had choices this summer," Hansell said to the interns. "You could have done any number of things, but you chose to be here, and the church thanks you for that. It gives me tremendous hope for the future. The church is blessed by having you."

Earle Fike, a former pastor and Bethany teacher, urged the interns to be open to the process of exploration, just as the mentors once were. "God does not expect persons to be fully prepared at the time of a call," he said. "God does expect people to use the creative gifts God has given them."

WORLDWATCH



and board members, seeking to clarify OEPA's role in the denomination. He also said that the OEPA offices will remain in New Windsor, at least for now.

SERRV also plans to stay on the campus. Chase said SERRV has "an extremely strong commitment" to the center and is already talking about renewal of its lease, which is up next year.

"We are very pleased about being here," Chase said. "We just need to make sure we use our resources in the best way to carry out our mission. The mission doesn't change, but the way you carry it out over time does."

Noffsinger said he will be working to bring in new partners to fill the vacant spaces. He expects those to be offices rather than retail outlets. He said he hopes for a Church of the Brethren agency or another partner that shares similar values to join the New Windsor community.

"This is a vibrant place with a lot to offer," Noffsinger said. "This is an opportunity for new ministry."

Peace Travel Team makes tour of camps

The 2000 Youth Peace Travel Team is crisscrossing the eastern half of the country this summer, serving for eight weeks at six Church of the Brethren camps and Annual Conference. Camps in Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania were on this year's schedule. The group held orientation at Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa., before heading out.

Myra Martin-Adkins, Daniel Royer, Meghan Sheller, Peter Dobberstein, and Marshall Camden compose the team, which leads activities related to peace education, service, and other topics. Several agencies cosponsor the annual effort.

1. Nigeria. An Emergency Disaster Fund grant of \$20,500 will be used to help rebuild the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria's Badarwa church in Kaduna, burned during riots between Muslims and Christians, and for medical expenses and other costs for those affected by the riots.

2. Korea. North and South Korea, enemies for half a century, took steps toward peace after a historic summit in June. The two nations, split by the 38th parallel, promised to work toward reunification. Brethren Witness director David Radcliff called it "a remarkable turn of events."

3. Guatemala. Two new grants from the Global Food Crisis Fund will send aid to the Central American nation, with \$10,000 going toward the building of wood-conserving stoves and water-storing cisterns and \$5,000 toward a private school for poor children that is creating a "food forest."

4. Afghanistan/Pakistan. Another Emergency Disaster Fund grant, for \$25,000, will help address the severe drought in central Asia, the worst since 1971. The money will go toward a larger appeal by Church World Service to provide food packages, water, and livestock fodder.

5. New Windsor, Md. Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 239 gathered at the Brethren Service Center June 11-

July 1 for orientation. The 12 volunteers joined in numerous educational and service events before heading out to their projects.

6. Tijuana, Mexico. A committee reported that it is developing a working agreement between the Church of the Brethren General Board and the *Compañeros en Ministerio* program for mission in the border city following *Campañeros* severing of its relationship with Shalom Ministries.

7. Washington, D.C. Religious leaders and military officials joined for an interfaith worship service June 21 at the National Cathedral, calling for steps toward nuclear disarmament. They also issued a joint statement, with General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer among those signing.

8. Honduras. In mid-June a Church of the Brethren Faith Expedition, with 15 people from eight districts, took part in reconstruction efforts following 1998's Hurricane Mitch. The group worked in the area of Las Lajas.

9. Dominican Republic. Two Church of the Brethren Youth/Young Adult Workcamps traveled to the Caribbean nation in June. These were a young adult workcamp June 2-10 and a senior high workcamp cosponsored by Brethren Revival Fellowship June 25-July 5.

BRETHRENSPEAK

Seeing what helping a person can do is really awesome....if you show the love of God through faith and actions, you can really see the difference in the people you help, and there will be a change in you, too.

Laura Trausch of Walbridge, Ohio, on her youth workcamp experience

At the Young Adult Conference, Jenny Palmer (Audubon, Pa.), Jill Deyarmin (Windber, Pa.), and Jonathan Dunmyer (Hooversville, Pa.) look for Gummi Bears in a bowl of chocolate pudding during a "Wacky Olympics" free-time event.

Pennsylvania home hosts Forum 2000

More than 50 people from 13 Brethren retirement communities, Southern Pennsylvania District, Mennonite Health Services, and the Association of Brethren Caregivers gathered for the Fellowship of Brethren Homes' Forum 2000, held in mid-June. It was the fourth straight year for the event, held at The Brethren Home Community in New Oxford, Pa., this year.

ABC sponsored the event, which included networking sessions for home executives and other leaders, training for board members, and tours of three area retirement facilities. The location of the 2001 Forum is expected to be named soon.

Personnel changes

Jonathan A. Shively has been named the new coordinator of the



Walt Wiltchek

Young adults meet, seek common ground

About 70 young adults and leaders gathered at Camp Harmony in Hooversville, Pa., Memorial Day weekend to learn, fellowship, and address the Young Adult Conference theme "Finding Common Ground."

A team of three Brethren "elders" joined keynote leader Matt Guynn to help the group explore feelings and have open dialogue on issues in the church. Worship also formed a central part of the conference, and numerous workshops were offered.

The Bittersweet Gospel Band provided an evening concert, and a variety show, "Wacky Olympics," recreation options, and informal conversation rounded out the weekend.

"We all came here seeking common ground," Guynn said at the closing. "Yet we can be diverse among that. That excites me and gives me hope."

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, effective Sept. 1. He succeeds current coordinators Harriet and Ron Finney, who will continue to serve until Sept. 30.

Shively has been serving as pastor of the Pomona (Calif.) Fellowship Church of the Brethren since

1993. He is coordinator of Pacific Southwest District's Training in Ministry program and served as music coordinator for the 1997 Annual Conference.

Nancy Klemm, who has been serving as copy editor for Brethren Press, became associate

editor, a salaried position, effective June 5.

Klemm began her employment with the Church of the Brethren General Board in 1985. She began as secretary for the People of the Covenant program and later worked with the hymnal project and as an editorial assistant.

You will love your new lifestyle at Hillcrest



options. These spacious homes are so well nestled into the surrounding community that it gives the appearance and feeling of living in a neighborhood setting.

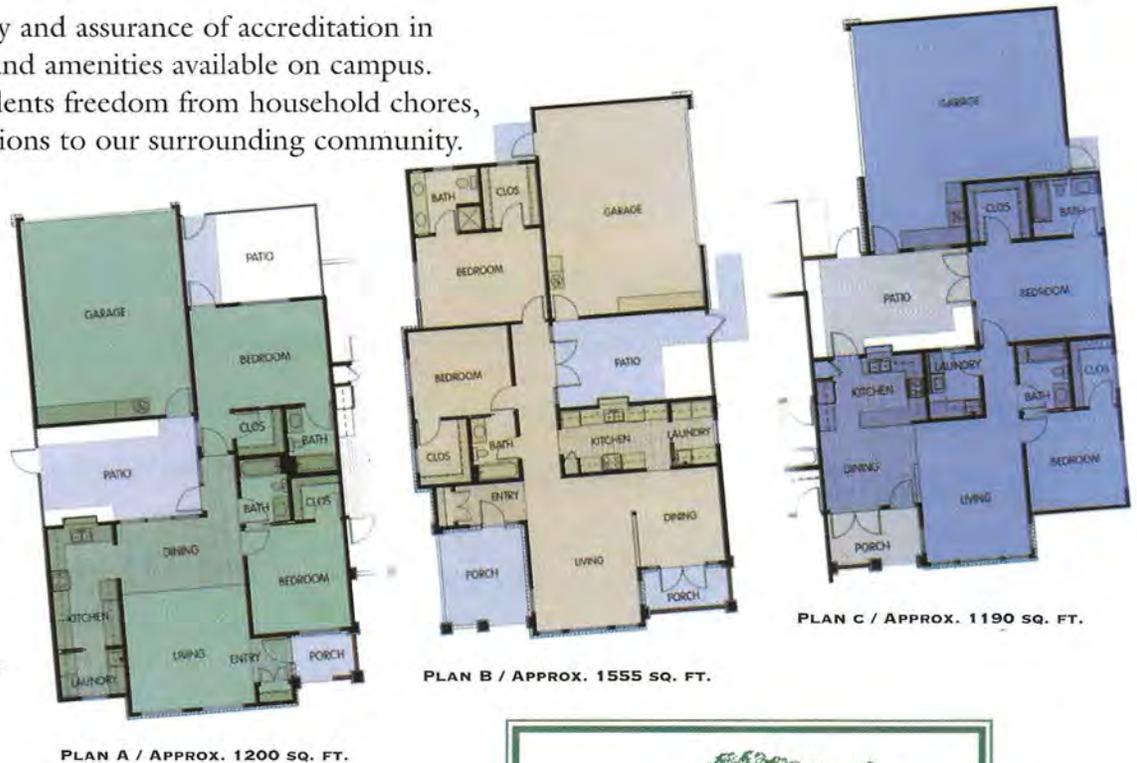
Phase II of the Courtyard Homes is scheduled for development in the summer of 2000, pending approval from the Department of Social Services. The next 13 homes will be built in a series of phases.

*F*inding the right continuing care retirement community for you depends on the choices you seek. Among the many choices, you want a retirement community that is accredited by the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission to enhance your decision.

Make time to visit Hillcrest for one of our monthly events, or an individual tour, and see the possibilities for your future retirement lifestyle. Hillcrest is a successful, stable, Continuing Care Retirement Community that offers you many choices.

Hillcrest offers you the security and assurance of accreditation in addition to all of the services and amenities available on campus. Our active lifestyle allows residents freedom from household chores, and provides ongoing connections to our surrounding community. Hillcrest provides distinct peace of mind for the future.

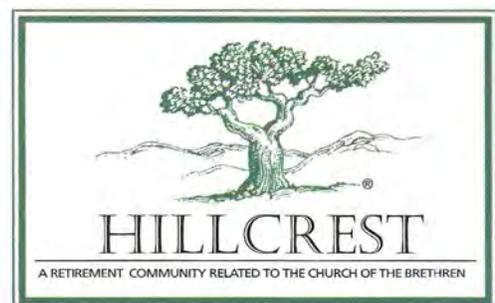
Our newest development, the Courtyard Homes, offers you homes with two bedrooms, two baths, a two-car garage, an appliance package and an enclosed courtyard within a range of 1200 to 1500 square feet. There are three large floor plans to select from, and three monthly fee service package



DSS Continuing Care
Certificate #069
DSS #191501662

For further information, call
1-800-566-4636 (in CA)
or **(909) 392-4360**

Visit our website:
www.seniorhousing.net/ad/hillcrestca

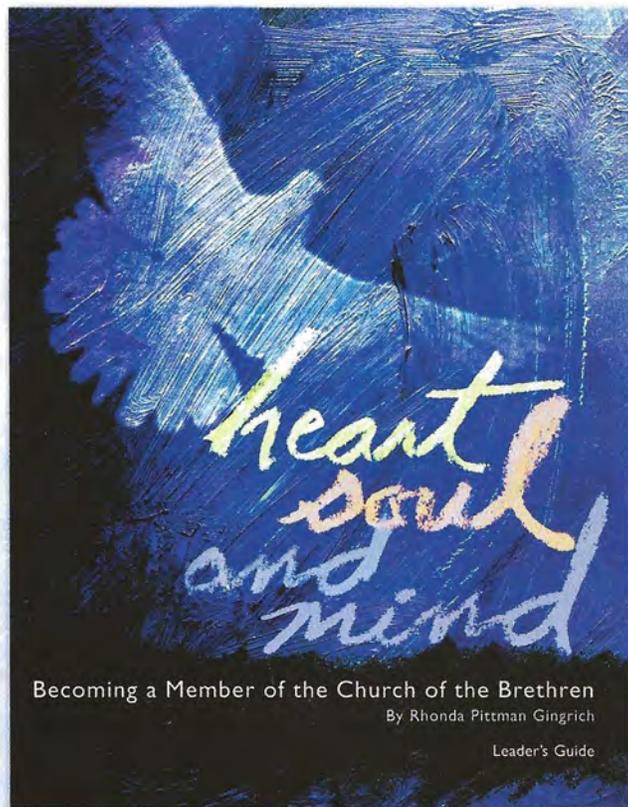


2705 Mt. View Drive • La Verne, CA 91750

“Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.”

Matthew 22:36-38

Giving God your heart, soul, and mind is central to the decision to be baptized as a Christian and become a member of the Church of the Brethren. *Heart, Soul, and Mind* is an adaptable membership curriculum for congregations to use with youth and adults who are exploring a deeper commitment to Christian discipleship.



Four units of study explore what Brethren should know about the Bible, church history, living the faith, and church membership. The Leader's Guide (#9922, \$24.95) includes reproducible handouts for students, ideas for a mentor program, and an apprenticeship program. The Membership Handbook for students (#9923, \$9.95) contains readings, exercises, and journal starters, and is valuable as a keepsake and benchmark of faith development. A video (#9924, \$19.95) featuring Brethren youth talking about faith is also available to supplement the curriculum.

Candidates for membership will be engaged —heart, soul, and mind—to love God, love their neighbor, and join in the community of faith.


Brethren Press
This day.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188 e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Class of 2000 Bethany graduates include, first row: Elizabeth Bidgood Enders, Karen Cox, Janice Fairchild. Second row: Gregory Bidgood Enders, Dean Johnson, John A. Barr, Ken Miller-Rieman, Norman Wilson, Brent Driver, Patrick Starkey. Not pictured: J. Michael Schaadt-Patterson, Karla Hignite, Alan Tripp, Karin Davidson, Horace Derr



Jim Chagares

Fifteen receive degrees in Bethany Class of 2000

Fifteen students graduated at a May 9 ceremony at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind. Nine received Master of Divinity degrees, four received Master of Arts in

Theology degrees, and two received Certificates in Theological Studies.

Kenneth B. Smith, former president of Chicago Theological Seminary, spoke at the conferring of degrees ceremony, and General Board executive

director Judy Mills Reimer spoke at an afternoon worship service held the same day at the Richmond, Ind., campus. Graduates' future plans include careers in pastoral ministry, children's and youth ministry, website marketing and development, and further graduate study.

Colorado wildfires affect Brethren

The wildfires burning in Colorado brought a scare to a junior high camp group at Camp Colorado in Sedalia. One of the largest fires in the state came just 10-12 miles west of the camp in mid-June before favorable weather conditions finally eliminated the danger.

The Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren in Littleton, Colo., stood ready to provide shelter for the group if evacuation became necessary, as some ash fell at the camp early in the week, and some activities had to be altered due to the smoke and uncertainty of the fire's direction.

Camp Colorado head

Forest prayer. Junior high campers at Camp Colorado gathered in a circle to hear updates on nearby forest fires and to pray.



Lynn Clannin

trustee Lynn Clannin said that the cost of fighting the fire rose to \$7 million, and 58 structures were burned along with 11,000 acres of trees. A Disaster Child Care team from Church of the Brethren Emergency Response/Service Ministries was summoned to an evacuation shelter at an area high school to assist with needs of uprooted families for several days.

For more information, please see http://www.cob-net.org/camp/colorado_news.htm.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Aug. 10-12 Southern Plains District Conference, Nocona (Tex.) Church of the Brethren.

Aug. 13-18 On Earth Peace Assembly Peace Camp, Camp Mardela, Denton, Md.

Aug. 13-23 Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 240, Roxbury, Pa.

Aug. 18-20 Michigan District Conference, Wesleyan Campgrounds, Hastings

Aug. 26 Area 1 (Northeast) Urban Ministry Celebration and Conference, Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren

Sept. 8-9 South/Central Indiana District Conference, Camp Alexander Mack, Milford

Sept. 8-10 Missouri and Arkansas District Conference, Windemere Conference Center, Roach, Mo.

Sept. 10 Bethany Emphasis Sunday

Sept. 11-15 National Older Adult Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Raves for the Jubilee tour

On the road again with Sunday school materials

by Walt Wiltschek

"Captivating."
"Bubbly."
"I just can't say enough."

It sounds like the critics' reviews often seen in movie ads. These reviews, however, were directed toward Rosella Wiens Regier, who is wrapping up a year-long tour to promote the Jubilee Sunday school curriculum and Christian education in general.

Regier likely won't win an Oscar for her efforts, but she has won the hearts of Christian educators and others across the denomination.

"She was very articulate, energetic, and had a true love for the Lord and for children," said Roy McVey, pastor of the Collinsville (Va.) congregation where Regier did a workshop in May. "She knew the importance of instilling good, sound Christian nurture in the hearts of young children."

McVey said he wished more than the 15 who came could have attended, and he would love to have Regier back for another presentation. He especially praised her way of drawing people out and involving them.

Regier did manage to reach many people during her tour, provided as a free resource to the church by Brethren Press, with about 1,200 participants in 14 districts and approximately 115 hours of events. Nearly 100 people attended individual workshops in Ohio and North Carolina, and she spoke to even larger crowds when events were combined with worship and Sunday school.

Destinations ranged from California to Pennsylvania to Florida, with many stops in between. Even obstacles like flat tires and laryngitis proved unable to stop her.

"She came here very ill, and we had terrible rains and flooding," said Linda Gerber, Christian education coordinator for Southern Pennsylvania District. "It was like the mail ser-

"Rosella was very articulate, energetic, and had a true love for the Lord and for children. She knew the importance of instilling good, sound Christian nurture in the hearts of young children."



Julie Hostetter

Cathy Fulcher, Betty Franklin, and Donna Luther from the Jones Chapel congregation (Martinsville, Va.) look at *Generation Why* resources during a session in Collinsville, Va.

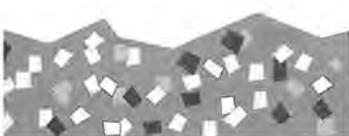
vice, neither illness nor rain nor anything could deter her workshop... And there was just a genuine love and joy we felt all the way through."

Regier, a Mennonite from Newton, Kan., said she never likes to miss an opportunity to talk about her favorite subject. She called the invitation by Brethren Press director Wendy McFadden to do the tour "a God-send." Regier retired from working with the Jubilee curriculum project in January 1999 and was itching for something to do.

It didn't take long for her to get her wish. A letter to congregations and districts quickly generated a full itinerary for her.

"It was amazing, just amazing. It's been a great thing," said Regier, the enthusiasm that others praised quite evident in her voice. "I wouldn't trade it for anything. I thought, 'What if I'd retired into nothing?' The issues I love and have a passion for was a perfect match, an absolute gift when Wendy asked me to do this. To be 65 and have this opportunity was a taste of heaven."

She threw herself into it and did it cre-





Julie Hostetter

Rosella Wiens Regier and Joan Barker from Collinsville (Va.) Church of the Brethren discuss

Joan's participation in the event as part of a continuing education requirement.

“The way my life has gone, it’s like God has a surprise around every corner. There’s always something new and good that emerges, and that’s true for the church as well.”

actively. Those who heard her praised the drama and creative devotions she arranged, her storytelling ability, and her ability to readily connect with people—both adults and children.

They also said that she obviously knew her material and expressed that knowledge clearly and well, making her a good ambassador for the product.

“We got so much out of it,” said McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren Christian education director Jan Diaz, who became hooked on Jubilee while working on a new church start in Louisiana. “What was nice was her way of showing us things and using stories . . . I could go on and on.”

That said, it doesn’t mean that everything is rosy when it comes to Christian education in the Church of the Brethren. Several people said that education in the church seems to be getting less and less emphasis and attention overall, with smaller amounts of resources going toward it. There often is no easy place to turn to for advice or ideas.

Even the Church of the Brethren Association of Christian Educators has struggled to retain its mission since being separated from the General Board during redesign in the 1990s, losing funding and organizational support.

“When we lose Christian education, we’re losing a major piece of growing churches,” Gerber said. “It’s not just Sunday morning; it’s everything in the teaching ministry of the church. If we don’t give the right support to that, we won’t keep people.”

Regier acknowledged that Christian educators often work out of the spotlight but urged them to look for the small blessings that come through their ministry each week. She also encouraged others to give them a “pat on the back” and let them know they’re appreciated.

As for herself, Regier isn’t sure what lies ahead. She joked that she’s always wanted to be a florist, but for now speeches, three grandchildren, and work that she’s doing with a support group—plus a few lingering assignments on the Jubilee tour—are keeping her busy. Whatever comes next, she knows it will be something enjoyable.

“The way my life has gone, it’s like God has a surprise around every corner,” she said. “There’s always something new and good that emerges, and that’s true for the church as well.”



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



This special section of articles on Church of the Brethren homes was prepared by the Association of Brethren Caregivers in cooperation with Messenger. Primary editors for the project were ABC staff members Roger Golden, coordinator of shared services, and Mary Dulabaum, director of communication.

Napoleon Lemieux puts some finishing touches on his project at Palms of Sebring's wood craft workshop.



Daisy McCleer talks to middle school students during an intergenerational event at Peter Becker Community.

THE LOVE CONNECTION

Why there are Brethren homes

by Tavia Ervin

I am the chaplain at Pleasant Hill Village, the Church of the Brethren nursing home at Girard, Ill. The people I serve are old and weak and need assistance with life's basic activities. They possess rich personal histories, many talents, wisdom, and a sense of humor. They are women and men with shortcomings, regrets, and fears. Some have great faith and compassion, while others are fearful and self-absorbed. In short, in most ways, they are just like you and me. I invite you to read about them in the words that follow, not with sadness or dread, but in gratitude for the long lives they have led and in awe at God's call to all of us to serve them in our Brethren Homes.

She never misses Friday devotions, so when her usual front row seat was empty one week I went to find her as soon as we were finished. "I missed you," I said simply as I stood in her doorway and she smiled. I count on seeing that smile as part of my day. It's a silent "amen" to my ministry here, even when I doubt the worth of my presence in the building. She does the same for others, both residents and staff, by gifting them with a word of encouragement at every turn. Her faith literally shines from her face.

"I'm sorry I couldn't be with you this morning. This foot of mine is giving me such trouble and they told me to sit with it propped up. I'm afraid I fell asleep here in my chair," she explained. We talked for a long time and she told me about her days as a missionary in the Philippines. "You know," she said, "I'm not sure why God keeps me here in this world anymore. I feel like I've done everything I can do here. I really am ready to die." Who can say why God chooses to keep us in this world when we ourselves find it difficult to see what purpose we may have here? I did not know what to say to her. It was not until later that evening as I was thinking of our conversation and about our friendship that I knew at least part of the answer. I couldn't wait to see her on Monday.

"I've been thinking about what you said yesterday and I think I understand why you are here!" I blurted out after we had greeted each other on Monday morning. She laughed. I went on, "It's your ministry. With your gift of encouragement

you help me to minister here. You help so many people to see that each day holds something good in it because your faith tells you it is so."

She smiled that smile and patted my hand. "Thank you, dear." We spent our time together talking and we prayed. In that time together we helped one another find the courage of faith that comes when God's people are simply there for one another.

We all minister here in unique, individual ways. Many days through my office door I can hear one of our residents calling out, "Help." I go to sit with him. "What can I do for you?" I ask him, but very seldom is he able to name anything specific that is troubling him. He curses at me and at anyone else walking by and each time he apologizes to me.

He suffers from damage to his brain from a series of strokes, and the normal inhibitions that keep our behavior in check do not function for him. One of his former neighbors works here at the home and tells stories of his kindness and friendly spirit when she knew him as a child. Here he is restless and uncomfortable as he sits in his wheelchair and he is frustrated because he cannot articulate any of those feelings to me; his language abilities are diminished. "Stay with me," he says, and pats my hand. I do and he curses at me again, and then pats my hand and apologizes. Then he looks into my face and says, "I love you."

"I love you too," I say, and tears come to my eyes. His words humble me and lift me up at the same time. There is healing here in the way that love can connect us, in spite of the boundaries that disability and sickness would put in our way. We sit together quietly after that, and when he is feeling better I leave him to visit with other residents.

At Pleasant Hill Village I care for the spiritual needs of the residents, but something else happens along the way. The residents care for my spirit as well. We become part of one another and in turn we are a part of the Body of Jesus Christ. And that is as it should be because our ministry in the homes is the same as that of our denomination: Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

That's why the homes are among nine ministries that come under the aegis of the Association of Brethren Caregivers. It is not a ministry of the 24 separate Brethren homes alone, but of the Church of the Brethren as a whole. Ministering in these homes is to walk with women and men through a stage in their development as human beings that can be frightening, lonely, painful, and frustrating. Our ministry can make it one of fellowship, security, and spiritual growth instead.

Ministering in long-term care means embodying God's love for people by providing the basics of daily living, including nutritious food, secure housing, good health care, dignified surroundings, and spiritual comfort.

These needs are essentially no different than those of any of us, but our elders' ability to see to those needs by themselves is diminished. The ministry we have undertaken as the Church of the Brethren honors Jesus by caring for those members of God's family who are in need of our special attention.

Over the past few decades, the ministry of the homes has grown as the homes' physical facilities have expanded to include upscale retirement communities and modernized long-term care facilities. The scope of our ministry in the decades to come depends on how deeply we are willing to challenge ourselves as the church. Continued ministry to the elderly who cannot afford basic housing and health care, and to those elders with mental and emotional illness whose care is difficult and specialized will be challenging and will require serious commitment from all of us in our districts and as a denomination.

How will we respond to the call?

"I love you," He said.

"I love you too."



Tavia Ervin, of Sherman, Ill., is a licensed Church of the Brethren minister and is chaplain at Pleasant Hill Village.

BRETHREN HOMES DIRECTORY

- Brethren Village, 3001 Lititz Pike, Lancaster PA 17606
- Lebanon Valley Brethren Home, 1200 Grubb St., Palmyra PA 17078
- Peter Becker Community, 800 Maple Ave., Harleysville PA 19438
- The Palms Estates, P.O. Box 364, Lorida FL 33857
- The Palms of Sebring, 725 S. Pine St., Sebring FL 33870
- Pinecrest Community, 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris IL 61054
- Pleasant Hill Village, 1010 W. North St., Girard IL 62640
- Timbercrest Retirement Community, 2201 East St., North Manchester IN 46962
- Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home, 8507 Mapleville Rd., Boonsboro MD 21713
- Spurgeon Manor, 1204 Linden St., Dallas Center IA 50063
- Good Shepherd Home, 725 Columbus Ave., Fostoria OH 44830
- West View Manor, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd., Wooster OH 44691
- Brethren Retirement Community, 750 Chestnut St., Greenville OH 45331
- Garden Terrace, 500 N. Emerson Ave., Wenatchee WA 98801
- Northaven Retirement Residence, 11045 8th Ave., Seattle WA 98125
- Brethren Hillcrest Homes, 2705 Mountain View Dr., La Verne CA 91750
- Casa De Modesto, 1745 Eldena Way, Modesto CA 95350
- Long Beach Brethren Manor, 3333 Pacific Pl., Long Beach CA 90806
- Morrisons Cove Home, 429 S. Market St., Martinsburg PA 16662
- The Brethren Home Community, 2990 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford PA 17350
- Church of the Brethren Home, 1005 Hoffman Ave., Windber PA 15963
- Bridgewater Retirement Community, 302 N. 2nd St., Bridgewater VA 22812
- John M. Reed Home, 124 John Reed Home Rd., Limestone TN 37681
- The Cedars, 1021 Cedars Dr., McPherson KS 67460

NURTURING THE MINISTRY OF BRETHREN HOMES

Is your church "homeless"? Get involved.

by Edie Kirk

On a rainy Saturday this spring, my husband and I visited a local nursery looking for a bush to plant beside the garage. As we walked among the potted bushes, I spotted the rhododendrons. I remembered the beautiful "rhodies" my father raised at our home in Connecticut, and wondered how well they would grow in Ohio. I asked one of the nursery staff if rhododendrons grow well in Ohio, and she answered, "It depends."

She went on to say they would need proper moisture, rich soil, protection from harsh weather, the right amount of sun, and loving attention. Some of the needs I could provide, and others were beyond my control.

There is a corollary between the bloom or doom of growing rhododendrons in Ohio and the "love 'em or leave 'em" relationship of Church of the Brethren congregations with Brethren homes

and retirement communities. In both situations, success depends on nurturing from many sources, with an understanding that some of the nurturing and connectedness is within our control, and some is beyond our control.

Historically, the birth of a Brethren home was often the decision of one district, as was the case with the opening of Honey Creek Home in the early 1880s. Founded by Southern Indiana District as a home for orphans and the elderly, Honey Creek Home was built near Sulphur Springs, Ind.

Brethren homes also came to life as the result of one determined individual, as was the case with Levi Miller and the founding of the home in Mexico, Ind., recognized today as Timbercrest in North Manchester, Ind. In the years since the opening of Honey Creek home, 31 Brethren homes were established to meet the needs of children and aging adults.

Over the past 50 years, needs have changed and services for both children and the elderly are now available through a growing number of private and local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. Today, 24 Brethren homes continue to serve more than 7,000 residents throughout the United States.

Asking if Brethren homes have been forgotten by Church of the Brethren congregations brings a variety of responses. Pastor Fred Bernhard of the Oakland Church of the Brethren in Gettysburg, Ohio, answers the question passionately. "Seventeen members of the Oakland congregation are residents at the Brethren's Home in Greenville (Ohio), and we give a significant amount from our budget to the home. In addition, members of the Oakland congregation give countless hours every week in service to this home. When that kind of human investment is realized, how can it be a forgotten ministry?"

For many congregations with no existing connection to the homes no residents in the Brethren home, no volunteers giving time and service, no nurturing from Brethren the question may be different. For these congregations, the question may be, What benefit is there for our congregation to be connected to a Brethren home?

"Leaders within Brethren homes, such as the president, board members, auxiliary leadership,

Delbert and Louise Blickenstaff are residents of The Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.



and key staff, should take a lead in educating and reminding members of congregations that the mission, vision, and ministry of Brethren homes is and always has been an important ministry of the church," comments Robert Cain, president and CEO of Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.

Leaders who develop and nurture relationships with congregations and help church members understand the challenges facing retired adults, today and in the future, provide important information, regardless of the age of the member.

"Aging" is "ageless" in terms of who it affects. Every child, teenager, adult, and older adult has an older adult he or she loves. Being a part of assuring a safe and secure future for our loved ones is a mission and ministry every person can relate to and take part in.

Kay Jones, director of public relations at The Brethren Home Community in New Oxford, Pa., believes the ministry of Church of the Brethren congregations and The Brethren Home Community is alive and well.

"The Brethren Home Community is a ministry of the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren, and certainly not forgotten by our district," Jones comments. As proof of the relationship, She lists the district's financial donations, the willingness of congregation members to volunteer, the placement of key persons in all district churches to support the home's auxiliary, and invitations she receives to speak about the home to Sunday school classes, church boards, and from the pulpit.

"The Brethren Home Community's Foundation is our parent organization and annually presents a report to the district at its conference. In addition, Joe Detrick, district executive, is an active member of our advancement committee and attends our board meetings," Jones adds. "We are currently exploring our 92-year heritage with the help of several members of the Huntsdale Church of the Brethren. The original Old Folks Home was established by the district in 1908 in Huntsdale, Pa."

Auxiliary leaders, key workers, and other volunteers nurture and strengthen relationships between churches and Brethren homes. Key workers seem to easily bridge the transition from ministering to the elderly in the church family to ministering to the elderly residing in a Brethren home. These volunteers recognize that ministering with older adults is a mission of the Church of the Brethren and needs to be nurtured in both the church family and in the Brethren home in their district or area.



District executives, some of whom serve Brethren homes in volunteer leadership roles, can strengthen the relationship between congregations and the area Brethren home. Reinforcing the commitment of the church to minister with the elderly, district executives can help pastors and congregations recognize opportunities to work with homes to enhance the mission of service to the elderly.

Chaplains who are staff members in Brethren homes and members of Brethren congregations also nurture the relationship between the congregation and the Brethren home. Chaplains have the opportunity to share news from members of the church back to residents of the home, and also

Jerry Walker of Peter Becker Community shows his "voice box" to a middle school student during an intergenerational event.



Clowning around at Casa de Modesto. Alma Satterlee gets dressed up for the 1999 Halloween Party.



Virginia Crim paints watercolor landscapes at Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.

share news of the home with the congregation.

Occasionally, relationships weaken because people misunderstand or have incorrect information. If we understood that rhododendrons never needed to be watered, they would not survive. The relationship between a congregation and a home can be damaged or destroyed if people believe that Brethren homes have become "big business" and no longer need the nurturing relationship of Church of the Brethren congregations.

Broken relationships can occur when financial issues are not viewed within a larger context. Some Brethren homes have budgets of \$10 million or more, numbers that may seem overwhelming to an individual or congregation. Yet the schools our children attend and the hospitals we depend upon have budgets this high and higher. In the context of providing quality education and adequate health care, these figures are not so overwhelming that we turn our backs on them. Brethren homes are no different, regardless of the size of the budgets. They still need nurturing to continue the mission of service to older adults.

The need for strengthened relationships between congregations and Brethren homes is

Claude Moyer, plant operations employee at Peter Becker Community, drives the tractor for an October hayride.



more important today than it has been for many years. Today Brethren homes, like other providers of health services, face dramatic increases in the cost of providing care to residents. There are three reasons for this increase in costs: First, reimbursement paid to nursing homes for Medicaid and Medicare services continues to lag behind the cost of providing the services; second, liability insurance costs have increased drastically; and third, qualified and caring staff continue to be difficult to recruit and retain as growth in industry jobs continues.

Perhaps just as compelling a reason for connections between congregations and Brethren homes is cited in the 1972 report of the Annual Conference Study Committee on Health and Welfare Concerns (commissioned by the 1970 Annual Conference):

"The institutionalization of persons, even in adequate facilities, means isolation from family and friends and fosters feelings in the residents of dehumanization and loneliness. Congregations need to maintain interest in and fellowship with members who are separated from their local church and restricted to a . . . geriatric center. The congregation which breaks fellowship with a member who is removed from the community because of physical or emotional crisis, aging.. is not fulfilling its Christian commitment to those in need."

The report recommends that a home representative be designated in each congregation to coordinate programs designed to "meet the spiritual, educational, recreational, emotional, and social needs of older persons on the local and district levels. Even when older people are cared for in institutional homes, they should remain related to their local congregations, and their 'home' congregations should keep actively related to them."

Pastors, district executives, CEOs and administrators, deacons, auxiliary workers, and residents who also are members of Church of the Brethren congregations can all help provide proper moisture, rich and fertile soil, warmth and caring. However, each congregation will make the decision whether or not to nurture a relationship with the Brethren home in their area. Whatever that decision, it is important to realize that the relationship does need to be nurtured from many sources. And when asked what it takes to nurture and grow this relationship, the best answer is "it depends on us."



Edie Kirk is vice president of marketing and development, Brethren Retirement Community, and vice president of Mill Ridge Village, Union, Ohio.

A NEW VISION FOR SENIOR SERVICES

by Roger Golden

As with many industries, the service of providing long-term care is seeing an evolutionary shift in the way it conducts business. The only constant element is summed up in one word "change."

Change is so constant, in fact, that Brethren-affiliated retirement homes and communities have pooled their resources to create a new program to seek out common solutions and faith-based responses to events and trends.

In recent years, long-term care providers have experienced new trends, such as expanded regulatory mandates, healthcare reform issues, aggressive growth in the for-profit sector, changing consumer patterns, reimbursement method changes, and greater need for subacute/chronic care services. To cope with these changes, retirement facilities are experiencing a call for strong leadership and affiliations.

Alongside these industry changes are the day-to-day internal demands of providing the highest quality of care for residents. This is a crucial time for Brethren homes to come together. For many homes, the move to collaborate more fully may enable them to survive in an increasingly complex and competitive environment.

The Fellowship of Brethren Homes, a ministry of the Association of Brethren Caregivers, has a long history of affiliation and collaboration, which supports Brethren facilities as they carry out their ministries with older adults. By becoming members of the Fellowship, the retirement facilities establish an important link to the larger church and are eligible to partake of member services such as the development of the new shared services program. This multi-level program was created to provide a faith-based approach to services, a facet of caregiving that no other association or alliance provides.

The mission statement of the Shared Services proposal summarizes the direction of the new Fellowship of Brethren Homes program: "By joining together in shared services, the Brethren homes will:

- strengthen their common mission and values,
- provide proactive programs and services that

meet the needs of their rapidly changing industry, and

- reaffirm their faith-based ministries.

Developing the shared services program

In 1998, the steering committee of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes created a Collaboration Core Group of representatives from member facilities to begin formulating a proposal for new programs and services. The Collaboration Core Group and ABC staff conducted on-site visits, participated in Forums on Collaboration, and held phone interviews and meetings as a process for envisioning a new era of working together through a shared services program. Their vision was to provide resources for a group of geographically diverse facilities with a common mission of serving the senior population of the Church of the Brethren and their local communities.

After testing the new program and services, the shared services proposal was presented to Fel-



lowship members at a forum of retirement home administrators, staff, and board members in August 1999. During the fall, facilities contemplated joining the shared services program at different levels—partners, associates, or members—which

John T. Fike enjoys a variety of volunteer duties on his computer at The Palms of Sebring.

Forest Jobe and Morton Brann
enjoy a friendly game of pool at The Palms of Sebring Activities Center.

would allow facilities to select the level of services they receive according to the level of financial commitment they made to the program. Of the 24 Brethren-affiliated homes, nine joined the plan as partners, seven as associates, and eight as members.

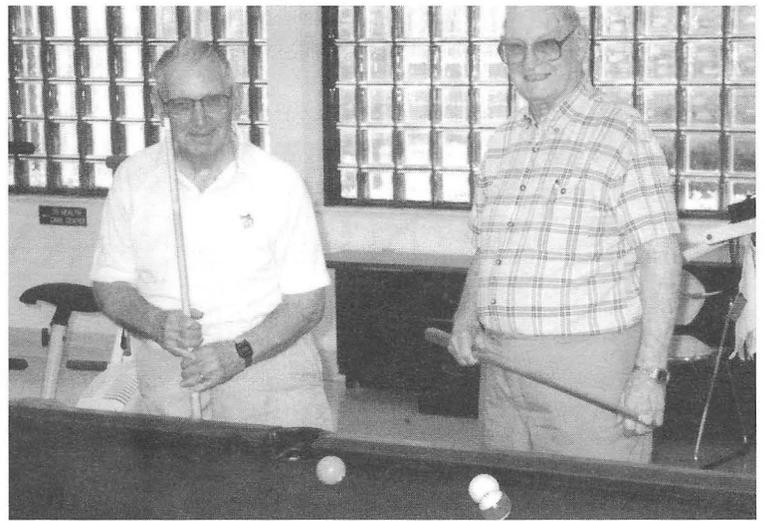
During the developmental and testing process, priorities for needed services surfaced and resurfaced. The top priorities are leadership development, board training and development, corporate compliance, technology services, and Brethren values. Through staff work and newly created volunteer committees, these areas are being considered and programs are being developed to meet the needs of the membership.

Another stepping stone in providing services came in April this year, when the Association of Brethren Caregivers announced becoming co-owners of a High Performance Board Series with Mennonite Health Services of Goshen, Ind. This board training resource is available to the members of both agencies, other agencies within the Church of the Brethren and Mennonite churches, and other not-for-profit organizations.

Norman and Margaret Drew
are residents of The Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.

Bent on interconnections

Over the years, the Fellowship of Brethren Homes has provided many opportunities for Brethren-affiliated homes to interact and connect. In 1997,



the Fellowship hosted a forum on Collaboration to bring church leaders and homes administrators and staff together to discuss common concerns and envision a new way of working together.

Since that time, the Fellowship has hosted a forum each year. This year's forum was held June 16-18 at New Oxford, Pa. The High Performance Board Series was highlighted at the Forum with board members being trained in "The Basics-Roles and Responsibilities," one of the modules of the series.

The Fellowship also relates to other ecumenical groups to work on issues of leadership development, board training, and alliance building. Results from these affiliations often take place behind the scenes. These interdependent and ecumenical relationships represent the value and necessity of connecting with one another.

Fellowship of Brethren Homes members, and their districts, have served older adults and their communities for more than 100 years with autonomy and independence. Each of these facilities felt a strong calling and provided effective caring ministries. These services were recognized several years ago when a review of reports prepared by the Health Care Financing Administration rated Church of the Brethren homes third among 43 for-profit and not-for-profit long-term care providers.

The next 100 years will call for continued excellence in Brethren-affiliated retirement homes, along with an interdependence that will reflect vision, renew the call, and strengthen the common mission. The 7,000-plus residents of Brethren-affiliated facilities live daily in the rich legacy of the call, the future vision of current leadership, and the common mission of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes.



Roger Golden of Elgin, Ill., is coordinator for shared services on the staff of the Association of Brethren Caregivers.



STILL GROWING AT BRETHREN VILLAGE

by Franklin K. Cassel

My wife and I moved to Brethren Village of Lancaster, Pa., well before retirement age, knowing that when and if something happened to either of us, we would get the care we needed and avoid the risk of not being able to enter the facility when retirement time came. Fortunately, we were here when Peggy developed Alzheimer's disease. She needed home health care and later moved into the Health Care Center.

Many things come to my mind as I reflect on how my needs are being met at Brethren Village. Peggy is gone, since July 1997, after almost six years in the nursing center. During that time I resided in a cottage at Brethren Village and was able to help the nurses and aides give her the good care and love she needed.

Living alone in our cottage has not been bad, as I have felt that life has real meaning and Brethren Village has provided all I need to achieve my goals.

My spiritual life and needs are anchored still in the Lititz Church of the Brethren, but nicely supplemented by the fine spiritual life program provided by the retirement facility. Each day morning devotions, transmitted through the television, provide inspiration and opportunity for residents to pray for one another. Many opportunities for Bible study are available for those who have the time and interest. The weekly chapel service is an uplift for those who attend or watch it through the television.

Small group associations are available for residents to foster greater community spirit and provide opportunities to get better acquainted. All sorts of activities are available for exercise, fun, fellowship, and life enrichment. Many people volunteer and help to make Brethren Village be a compassionate, caring community.

For myself, I have used the land at my cottage and a large garden space provided by the Village to grow flowers to share with others and vegetables, berries, and fruit for my kitchen. My daily food bill for 1997 was only \$2.17. Busy in my garden, I do not need to participate in the exercise activities.

Since Peggy died, I have no trouble keeping busy helping other caregivers deal with Alzheimer's. I have written a little book and had two videos produced about what I have learned about Alzheimer's. I am sharing this information far and wide on the Internet. Also, I am supporting



the Caregivers Army in its campaign to petition Congress to appropriate \$500 million each year to Alzheimer's research until a cure is found.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to live in a church-related retirement community where all of my needs will be met and where I can continue to be in mission helping others. I can relax here knowing that no matter what happens to me, I am in good hands and will be cared for with compassion.

M.

Franklin Cassel's Internet ministry to Alzheimer caregivers was featured in the September 1999 MESSENGER. He may be reached at fkassell@mciworld.com.

The interior of Fieldcrest Cottage at Brethren Village. The cottages feature two bedrooms, two baths, living and dining areas, eat-in kitchen, laundry room, sunroom, and attached garage.



The indoor pool at The Brethren Village is the place for aquacize, exercise, therapy, and water volleyball.

FLOWER POWER

Peter Becker Community draws thousands to its annual bloomfest

by M. Therese Page

Every spring, residents of Peter Becker Community host an annual Flower Show, which typically draws 8,000 visitors to the Harleysville, Pa., facility. This weekend event offers many things to everyone involved—opportunities to contribute time and talents, to create something beautiful, and to interact and connect

A 1930 John Deere tractor owned by resident Ed Schmell was driven into the building to sit in a field display surrounded by residents' plants.



with people normally absent from the halls and walkways of the home.

“Charlotte’s Web” was the theme of this year’s show, held March 17 and 18. The show evoked memories of the book by E.B. White by including details and little touches from the book in the display. Visitors saw the farm where Wilbur lives and where Charlotte spins her magic web. The barn and tractor, toolshed and farmhouse, with its ever-present laundry drying on the line, were

just a few of the show’s splendors. A kaleidoscope of flowers surrounded Wilbur in his pigsty, the sheep built by the activity department, and the country fair. Young and old alike enjoyed a scavenger hunt to find the details of the book hidden throughout the 3,000-square foot display located in the home’s multipurpose room.

To reach out to the community, part of the flower show includes hosting several competitions and inviting entries from older adults living in the surrounding area. Senior Activity Center artists entered paintings of farm scenes for the art competition.

Community members who are over 60 years of age were invited to participate in an essay contest entitled “Perspective on Farm Life.” In it they describe what they remember about the farm, such as where they grew up, bought produce, worked, or visited. Residents of area retirement homes were encouraged to enter a special competition for container gardens. To round out the display area, several area businesses provided services and plants.

Guests attending an evening fund-raiser for the Peter Becker Community were able to preview the gardens and stroll through the farmyard viewing the animals and flowers.

The flower show also raises funds for the Peter Becker Community Auxiliary. Throughout the weekend, \$12,340 was raised from donations and the sales of items donated by local merchants, artists, Peter Becker Community crafters, woodworkers, and a stamp club. Quality bedding plants and house plants also were available for purchase. From proceeds of this event, the auxiliary is able to donate to the home’s benevolent fund and to purchase large gifts for the facility.

The residents of Peter Becker Community are the backbone of the show’s success, spending countless hours painting backdrops, constructing displays, and caring for the plants that they entered into a competition. There is a project available for everyone at every skill level if they choose to participate. Many residents help construct and paint the three-dimensional displays.

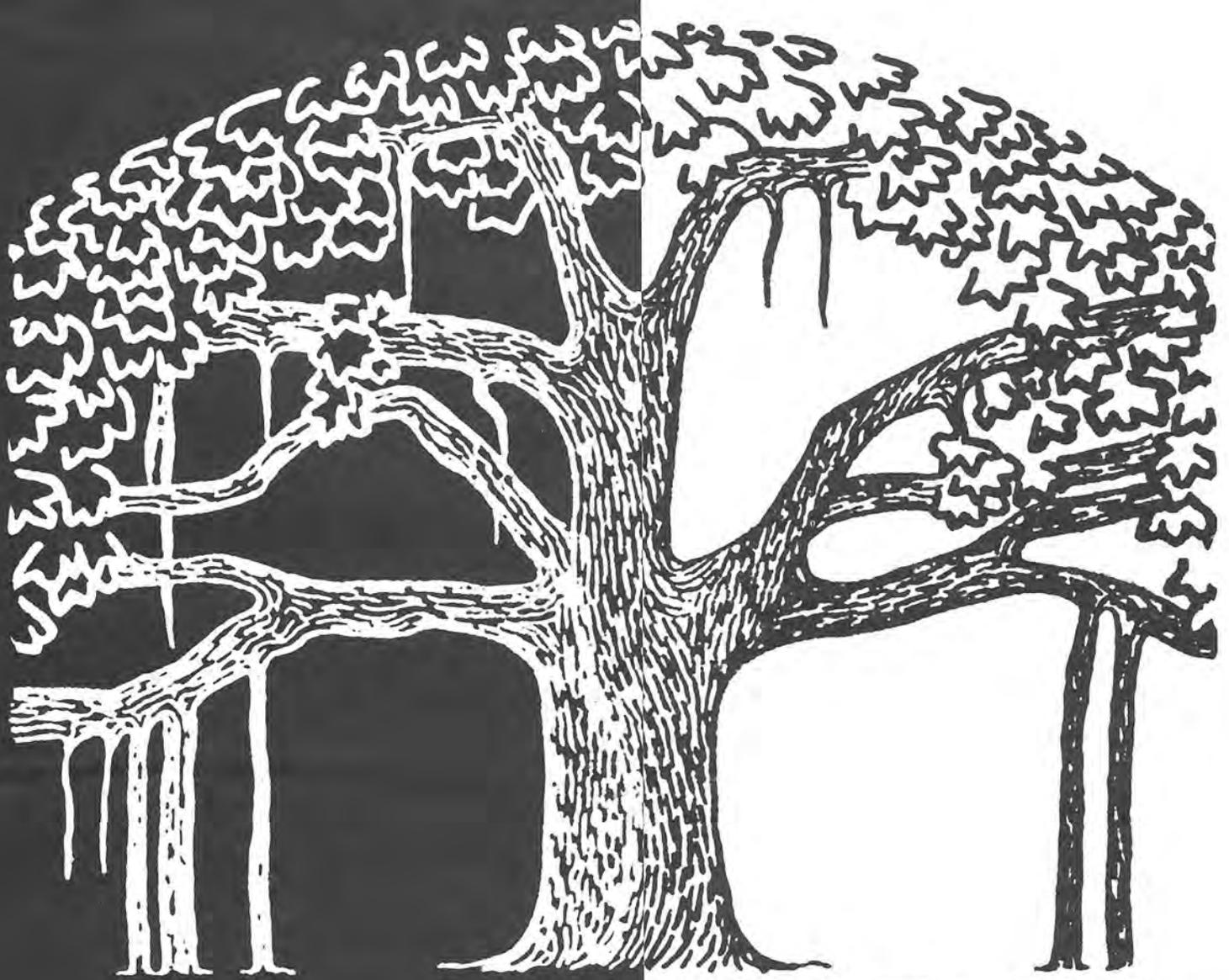
The whole community is involved, knowing that this is a time for fellowship with people of all ages and all areas.



M. Therese Page is community relations coordinator for the Peter Becker Community.

Linda Landis shows 104-year-old Nancy Mason a plant at the Flower Show. Linda Landis works in the activity department at Peter Becker Community.





BACK TO WORK IN INDIA

A united church was supposed to be the legacy of Brethren missions. But now there is division and distrust. **Can the mother church help once again?**

by Fletcher Farrar

The ink was barely dry on the minutes of Annual Conference in July 1998 when a letter arrived in Elgin, Ill., from Gujarat, India. Church leaders here weren't yet sure how they would implement the "World Mission Philosophy and Global Church Mission Structure" paper that had just been approved. But the letter from India was sure and eager: "This letter is our formal request to the Mission and Ministries Planning Council for recognition of the Church of the Brethren in India as a sister Church in the globalization program of the Church of the Brethren."

The letter explained that Emmanuel P. Bhagat, a member of the executive committee of the church in India, had been present at the Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla., and had brought back the news that approval of the global church paper "opens the way for us to become a partner with the global Church of the Brethren."

The way had begun to open a year before, when Merv Keeney took over as the new director of the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships office following General Board staff redesign. He decided to take a new stab at achieving reconciliation between the two quarreling churches that had descended from Church of the Brethren missions in India. In June 1998 he assembled an India Advisory Group, which included



Brethren Historical Library and Archives

The inauguration of the Church of North India was welcomed by the Church of the Brethren in the US. Some of the bishops of the church pose for a picture in 1970.

“If we give official recognition to the breakaway group, we break the covenant with the Church of North India.”

—H. Lamar Gible

former India missionaries Glen Campbell and Wendell Flory, General Board member Wayne Judd, LaVon Rupel, former chair of the World Ministries Commission, and Judy Keyser, treasurer. That group recommended going ahead with new efforts to make peace.

“We seek to release the energies and resources that have been heretofore unavailable for building God’s church in India,” he later explained to the General Board. Political conditions in India, with Christians facing persecution from a fervent Hindu nationalist movement, might motivate Indian Christians to put away their differences. New leaders, who might be open to fresh approaches, were emerging in both churches. Another factor motivating a new India effort, Keeney explained, was “the availability of a staff person of Indian ethnicity, Shantilal P. Bhagat, who could work at these issues in a different way. . . .”

Bhagat, longtime General Board staff member who now works as a volunteer consultant, had been assigned to India matters as the General Board’s Asia representative from 1974 to 1977. But he had not been involved officially in India again until 20 years later, when Keeney asked Bhagat to become his adviser. “I asked him to bring me recommendations,” Keeney said.

One of Bhagat’s first recommendations, adopted by the General Board during a closed session June 29 last year, was to authorize the General Board staff to appoint new trustees to

the trusts that oversee millions of dollars worth of former mission property. The board was told the action was urgent because the two remaining active trustees on the principle trust were old, and if one of them died the property would be taken over by the government. Following the board action, the staff appointed property trustees recommended by the group that calls itself the Church of the Brethren in India.

This was sure to please Emmanuel Bhagat, the trust’s unpaid but influential administrator, who is known as Emu. For years he has been the unofficial leader of the group that is sometimes called the “separated Brethren,” seeking recognition by the US church and control of the disputed property. He is also the brother of Shantilal Bhagat.

The General Board’s action also rescinded a 1991 board action that had been intended to transfer to the Church of North India the authority to name the property trustees. Putting the property trust clearly in the hands of its rival infuriated leaders of the Church of North India when they found out about it weeks later. “We are now convinced,” a CNI official wrote to Keeney last September, “that the Church of the Brethren not only believes in dividing the church but also supports activities that are contrary to the interests of the Church of North India.”

It was with great hope and fanfare that the former Church of the Brethren mission churches in India united with five other denominations to form the Church of North India in 1970. Togetherness offered the best chance for survival and growth in a nation where Christians comprise only two percent of the population.

S. Loren Bowman, then general secretary of the Church of the Brethren General Board in the US, was at the opening ceremonies in Nagpur 30 years ago, along with General Board staff members Shantilal Bhagat, Howard Royer, and the late Joel Thompson. “The Church of North India should offer an increased sense of security and a stronger voice of courage as Indians speak of their faith to their neighbors and to their nation,” Bowman said at the time.

But by the mid-1970s, cracks appeared in the hope for unity. After a dispute over CNI’s new constitution, the former Brethren congregation at Bulsar (now Valsad) seceded from the union in 1978, and several other congregations followed it out the door. Though most former Brethren remained loyal to the united church, the new group called itself—illegally in the eyes of its CNI brothers and sisters—the Church of the Brethren.

In the intervening years this group has grown to include 15 churches and 21 preaching points,

claiming an estimated membership of 3,700. Though tiny by comparison with the Church of North India, which has about one million members, the rebel group is self-supporting and growing. In the past 20 years it has built eight church buildings with more underway, and operates three high schools with 900 students total.

Now, after 22 years of backing the Church of North India in this dispute, the Church of the Brethren in the US has made a dramatic shift in its position. A proposed timetable calls for Annual Conference in 2001 to officially recognize what was earlier described as the “breakaway group.” If recognized, the group calling itself Church of the Brethren in India would no longer be regarded as a schismatic movement whose leaders have questionable motives. Instead it would be a full sister —alongside Brethren churches in Nigeria and the Dominican Republic—to the Church of the Brethren in the US. Already there is a committee working on how to include such partner churches in Annual Conference deliberations.

The prospect of adopting a sister from India has considerable appeal. In an Internet age that is learning the meaning of globalization in communication and commerce, US churches are exploring ways to span the globe without the paternalism that marred noble mission efforts of the past. Annual Conference polity changes of recent years have opened the way for “close partnership” with Brethren groups outside the US. The vision of the 1998 global church structure paper is for “two-way mission” between the Church of the Brethren in the US and churches in other countries. The cross-fertilization that can occur when Christians of different cultures share their faith with each other can enhance ministry on both sides of the dialog.

The presence of a self-supporting church in India that already carries our name, our history and traditions, even our logo, seems ready-made for recognition. There has been little opposition on the General Board, and the move would please a strong interest group of US Brethren, many with relatives in India. Church members in the US and in India may wonder why it has taken so long for the denomination to come around to this position. The reasons involve promises and property.

“If we give official recognition to the breakaway group,” said Lamar Gibble, who strongly opposes the current direction, “we break the covenant with the Church of North India. I think that’s the bottom line.” Gibble, of St. Charles, Ill., was for 10 years the General Board’s World Ministries staff member assigned to Asia, until

he retired in 1997.

The “covenant” to which he refers is the Covenant of Church Union, signed by officers of the Church of the Brethren in India Nov. 29, 1970. It says in part that the “rights, title, claims, estates, and interests of this Church [Church of the Brethren in India] together with the privileges and obligations shall as from the date of inauguration, vest in the Church of North India as its legal heir.”

In the US, the Church of the Brethren General Board recommended to the 1969 Annual Conference that “the Annual Conference respond to the emergence of the Church of North India with gratitude and rejoicing and that it pledge the Brotherhood’s continuing prayers, support, and love.” Thus, the year before church union, Annual Conference adopted the resolution of support for the emerging Church of North India. But apparently that is the only official action taken by the US church on the matter. Research has so far uncovered no official ratification of the merger by either the General Board or Annual Conference.

Despite this lack of official action by Brethren in the US, Gibble and others say the US church was understood to be a part of the covenant at the time, and still is morally bound to support it,

“It was their decision to go in to church union, and we said, ‘Blessings on you.’ It was their decision to come out, and we can say, ‘Welcome back.’”

—Shantilal Bhagat

Footwashing remains an integral part of the Brethren tradition in India. *Several hundred attended this love feast at Pervad.*



“Recognition will be used for different purposes and reasons than anybody in the Annual Conference thinks.”

—Roger Schrock

rather than recognizing those Indian churches that broke from the agreement in 1978.

“In the whole process leading toward church union, the mission agencies were the ones who indeed were very much a part of that commitment process,” Gibble recalls. “Everyone knew that if the mission agencies were not committed to the covenant, it wouldn’t last. Even though no state-side Brethren signatures were on the covenant, the assumption was always clearly that we were partners to the covenant.”

Roger Schrock, who was the General Board’s World Ministries Commission executive from 1985 to 1990, agrees that the US church is morally bound to uphold the church union agreement. “The union happened with our blessing,” he said. “It wasn’t an action of Annual Conference, but about 90 percent of the things that happen in world ministries do not go before Annual Conference. In my understanding, we entered into a covenant. And we Brethren say that our word is as good as our bond.”

Backers of recognition say their research shows that even though the US church supported the

covenant made between churches in India because it wanted to be a good partner to CNI, there never was a covenant binding the US church. “It was their decision to go in [to church union], and we said ‘Blessings on you.’” says Shantilal Bhagat about the Church of the Brethren in India. “It was their decision to come out, and we can say, ‘Welcome back.’”

Related to the covenant discussion is the issue of the use of the name, Church of the Brethren in India. As early as 1983, World Ministries Commission executive Ruby Rhoades explained in a letter, “I have no problem in recognizing the separated CNI members as a legitimate church. I do have a problem in their taking the name of the Church of the Brethren when that church was dissolved in order to become a part of the CNI.”

A 1988 Annual Conference study committee reaffirmed that view: “In respect to the use of the ‘Church of the Brethren in India’ name, we believe it is clearly indicated in the signed Covenant of Union that the Church of North India was to become the full legal successor to all the respective

continued on page 25

TRAVELING TOWARD RECONCILIATION



Indian congregations welcomed a US delegation in March. Christy Waltersdorff (center) and Ernest Thakor meet a church leader, Shantilal Bhagat (behind) facilitated communications and travel for the group.

Merv Keeney

Nearly a decade after the last Annual Conference action on India with seemingly no movement toward resolving the conflict, in 1997 the Global Mission Partnerships office began a series of contacts by staff consultant Shantilal Bhagat in an attempt to bring both parties to the table. An ad hoc India advisory committee pulled together in June 1998 supported renewed initiatives toward reconciliation.

By mid-1998 there was agreement for a joint meeting, but two planned meetings that fall collapsed as one or

both parties backed out as the dates neared. Both sides suggested separate meetings with US Brethren in early 1999 to build toward a joint meeting.

Global Mission Partnerships director Merv Keeney went to India in March 1999, taking along Bob Gross, an experienced mediator and leader of the Ministry of Reconciliation. In separate meetings the two sides agreed to a joint meeting in August 1999. But when Keeney and Gross went back in August as planned, CNI had just learned about the General Board’s

appointment of property trustees from the separated group, so they did not show up. Keeney and Gross met with the trustees and urged that the properties be used for the benefit of both churches, then met privately with CNI leaders.

On Jan. 31 this year, a delegation including General Board chair Mary Jo Flory-Steury, executive director Judy Mills Reimer, former India missionary Wendell Flory, and Keeney met with CNI leaders in Toronto, Canada, where they primarily listened to CNI concerns. Then in March a committee appointed by the General Board to “continue the conversation about recognition with the Indian Brethren” went to India and visited 11 of the 15 congregations in the separated group. In spite of prior requests to meet with CNI pastors in the areas visited, no CNI pastors met with the committee.

A conversation with CNI leaders is scheduled to take place in Elgin, Ill., this month.



Recent expansion at The Brethren Home Community has made possible more residential options, a Meeting House and a wonderful Community Center. Through it all, the same unified commitment we've had for our resident's personal dignity since 1908 has prevailed. It is our purpose to encourage independent living and provide choices that ensure quality of life in the retirement years. These purposes are nurtured by a strong 92 year history of Christian compassion. Of all the things we're doing at The Brethren Home Community, perhaps what we do best is care!

JOINING HANDS
TOUCHING LIVES



- SCHEDULED TRANSPORTATION
- ON-CAMPUS BANKING
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- MEDICAL CENTER NEARBY
- ASSISTED LIVING CENTER

**CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
 COTTAGES • HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS**

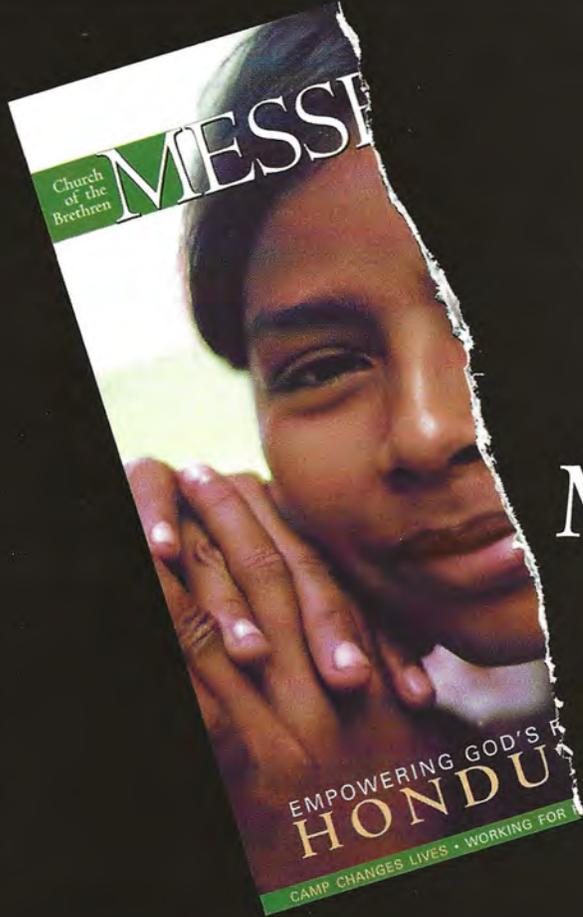
2990 Carlisle Pike - P.O. Box 128, New Oxford, PA 17350-0128
 1-888-624-TBHC or 717-624-2161
www.brethrenhome.org

- THERAPEUTIC RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- HEALTH CARE FACILITY STAFFED BY HIGHLY-QUALIFIED AND CARING NURSES
- ADULT DAY SERVICES

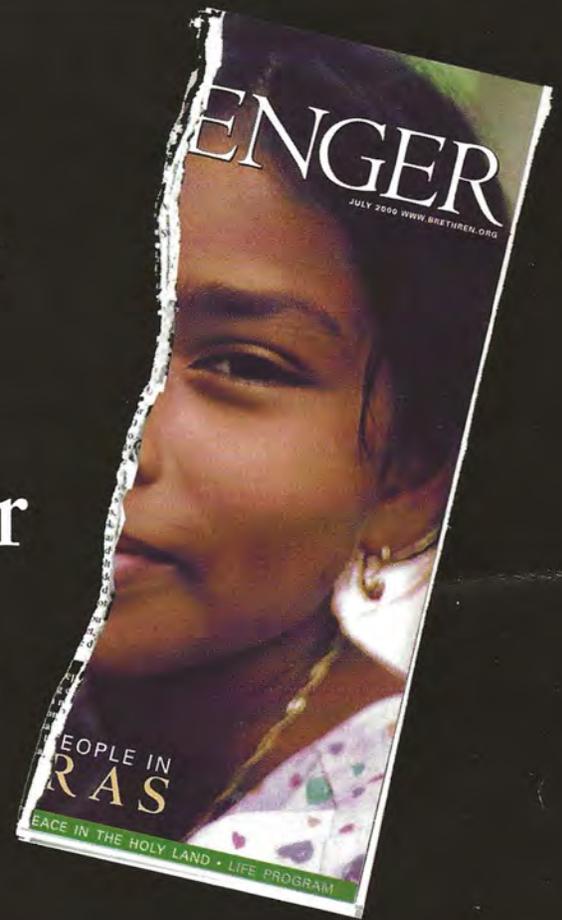


Medicare
 Medicaid
 Approved





There's
an easier
way to
share
MESSENGER
with
a friend



First-time subscribers can get a full year of MESSENGER for just \$6.75, less than 62 cents an issue.*

Introducing Messenger... ...at half the price!

Introductions are sometimes awkward.

But those who get to know MESSENGER find it is a great way for Christians to expand their local Christian witness by becoming acquainted with the global mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren.

More congregations are learning that providing new or prospective members with a subscription to MESSENGER introduces them quickly to the exciting work of the Brethren.

This introduction just got easier. Because it is half-price. Please help introduce MESSENGER to those in your congregation who don't receive MESSENGER.

For details call 800-323-8039, ext. 247.

* The only requirement for the introductory rate is to subscribe through a local congregation.

MESSENGER

joining churches. In light of the covenant given to the Church of North India, we do not believe we have the right to reinstate the name of the 'Church of the Brethren' to any group in India."

Merv Keeney, the Global Mission Partnerships director, said he has urged the group seeking recognition to find a new name, because doing so would be a "tension reliever" in negotiations with the Church of North India. In some of his official correspondence with CNI leaders Keeney refers to the group as "Bhaioni Mandali," which is Gujarati for Church of the Brethren. But it may be unlikely the group will give up Church of the Brethren in India, because that is the name still on the valuable properties Brethren missionaries left behind.

The property is the thorn in the flesh," says Roger Schrock, in a statement that might win more agreement than most generalizations about the dispute.

Merv Keeney says the issue of church property in India has been overrated, and he's fond of quoting an India advisory committee member who said that property is seldom the cause of divorce, but when a couple decides to separate, fights about property are common.

Even so, if it weren't for the existence of substantial real estate accumulated over 75 years of Church of the Brethren mission in India, the dispute in India might have been settled years ago. The most important properties are in two public trusts, one in the state of Gujarat where most of the former Brethren are, and one in neighboring Maharashtra state (see "Mission properties" p. 26). Official estimates place the value of the Gujarat State properties at \$4.5 million and the Maharashtra properties at \$1.2 million, though some who are familiar with the properties rate their value much higher. The fact that the Church of the Brethren General Board in the US still has some legal authority over the property complicates the issue all the more.

Lamar Gible asserts that the desire to control former mission properties is the driving force behind the separated group's use of the name Church of the Brethren in India, and its desire for recognition by the US church. "It hasn't been tested," he said, "but if we recognize officially, that gives them the status in the courts that they've been fighting for all these years."

Roger Schrock agrees: "If the breakaway group is recognized, that just gives them one more leg up in the courts. Recognition will be used for different purposes and reasons than anybody in the Annual Conference thinks."

Keeney affirms that official recognition would give the separated group a better chance in the court system to win property disputes. But that



Bread and cup in India—chapatis and juice from cooked raisins, shown here with a pastor's stole imprinted with the Church of the Brethren denominational logo.

may not be all bad if the properties end up being put to better use in the work of the church. He points out that following the General Board's appointment of Indian Brethren as property trustees a year ago, a government overseer of the Vocational Training College in Ankleshvar departed voluntarily, saying that his services were no longer needed because the trust, which had been in a stalemate, was functioning properly once again. Keeney is willing to try to arrange a compromise on property issues, but so far neither side has shown much interest in compromise.

Church of the Brethren mission properties were placed in trusts prior to birth of the Church of North India in 1970, with the idea that they would be amalgamated into the Church of North India once it was ready to receive them. But for various reasons the transfer didn't take place before the group broke away from CNI in 1978, and then it was too late. In July 1979, CNI filed suit against the separatist group, asking the court to stop it from using the Church of the Brethren name and claiming property under that name. That suit has never been fully resolved. Over the years more suits and countersuits have been filed between the two churches, and now more than 30 cases are pending. India's notoriously slow court system hasn't resolved the issues, and the legal tangle has preoccupied both sides, keeping them from the real mission of the church.

Legal challenges have also thwarted past attempts by the Church of the Brethren in the US to appoint property trustees from CNI, or to turn over the appointing power to CNI. It turns out that sitting trustees also have to approve new appointees before they can be officially seated by the charity commissioner. So in the past the sitting trustees from the separated group would refuse to forward the names of CNI trustees to the charity commissioner for approval. As the stalemate continued, properties deteriorated.

Backers of recognition say that even though the US church supported the covenant between the churches of India, there never was a covenant binding the US church.

“Can we as the mother church now help these two daughter churches to reconcile a hateful past and receive grace from God, and each other?”

—Merv Keeney

Seeking a way around this legal Catch-22, in the mid-1990s Lamar Gible went to India where he testified for three days before the charity commissioner to clarify the General Board’s wishes that CNI trustees be seated. When he returned to the US he thought he had been successful, only to find out later that the CNI trustees hadn’t been seated after all.

Gible says that at the center of each court initiative that has frustrated attempts by the church in the US to transfer property to CNI is the name of Emu Bhagat. Supporters of recognition for the separated group acknowledge that Bhagat is a controversial figure, but point out that even George Washington was considered a rascal by the British. According to one source, he is highly respected by members of his church for his ability to use the court system in the separated group’s quest for property control, and to stand up to the leaders of CNI.

Lamar Gible, who struggled with the India problem for nine years as a General Board staff member, has sent strongly worded letters to Keeney, insisting that the current move toward recognition is the wrong course. It will “serve to fuel the hope of the breakaway group in its primary effort, which is to secure the valuable former mission properties of the General Board for their narrow

and to some extent personal gain,” he wrote.

Keeney responds that there have been instances of individual corruption and less-than-Christian behavior on both sides of the India dispute. And, though property often takes center stage, there are other issues between the two sides in India. The separated group has told US church officials that they are being mistreated by a heavy-handed CNI, which prevents their church from being recognized by other Indian churches and keeps their members out of the ecumenical seminary. They say CNI has an Anglican-style hierarchy, while they prefer a more egalitarian Brethren-style structure, and that CNI has refused some requests to use church buildings which are supposed to be shared.

“Some persons find parallels between the CNI-Brethren relationship and the state church oppression of the early Brethren in Europe,” Keeney said in a report to the General Board.

Evidence of the deteriorating relationship between US Brethren and their former ally CNI came during a March visit by a General Board delegation when a rock was thrown and narrowly missed the Americans. After learning of the incident, a CNI official wrote in a letter to Keeney: “The anger it seems had been directed to Mr. E. P. Bhagat and Mr. Shantilal Bhagat and not to the

THE MISSION PROPERTIES BEHIND THE FUSS

The Church of the Brethren General Board is related to two public trusts in India. One is the Church of the Brethren General Board (CBGB) Trust, which is registered in the State of Gujarat. The second is the General Brotherhood Board Church of the Brethren (GBB) Trust, which is registered in the State

of Maharashtra.

The estimated value of properties in the first trust, which is within the geographical boundaries of what had been the First District of the Church of the Brethren in India, is \$4.5 million (US). Officials cautioned that professional appraisals would be

needed to get an accurate market value. According to Shantilal Bhagat, most of these properties are in direct possession of the Church of North India, and have been since CNI was formed in 1970.

The only properties in direct possession and management of the trustees of the CBGB trust are the ones located in Ankleshvar and Valsad (Bulsar). Properties in these two places together represent a major share of the overall value of all CBGB Trust properties in Gujarat State. The trust currently operates the Vocational Training College in Ankleshvar, a high school in Valsad (Bulsar), and owns three properties that are presently used as hostels by other groups. It also manages properties at a number of locations in the southern part of Gujarat State. Most



Brethren Historical Library and Archives

The verandah of the Dahanu hospital in 1927. *The property, still being operated as a hospital, is valuable today.*

visiting team. I have been assured that these feelings were not expressed against the visitors from USA, and you must believe us on this.”

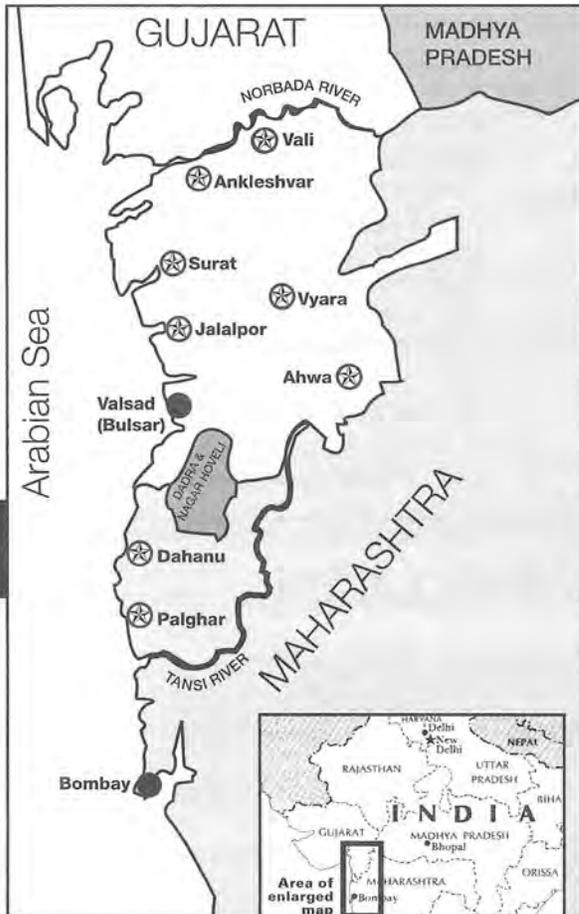
Keeney shot back a reply: “We were surprised that your letter included so little in the way of apologies about the violent behavior of CNI members during this visit. The stone flew within centimeters of several heads of committee members and damaged the car we rode in, so we are puzzled at your assertion that the anger was not directed at the delegation. By pointing out that the anger was not directed against the visitors

from USA, but only at the Bhagats, I hope that you are not implying that it was acceptable for CNI members to use violence against E. P. and S. P. Bhagat. This attitude, and the behavior we experienced, do not reflect the mind of Christ.”

Despite physical and verbal rock-throwing, Keeney insists that the goal is for the US church to serve as a reconciler of differences, and to end up with both churches in India as partners of the Church of the Brethren in the US. “Can we as the mother church now help these two daughter churches to reconcile a hateful past and receive grace from God, and each other?” he writes.

“Can the American church find our way through the deep feelings on both sides of these issues and regain footing on the values that we believe are central to the church? Christ calls us to love the enemy and to recognize God in the enemy. God calls us to be about God’s work in the world. Christians should work together as one, even if the church cannot yet be structurally integrated into one body. Just as spokes on a wheel, as we move toward Christ as the center, we move closer to each other.”

The Vocational Training College in Ankleshvar, founded by Brethren mission efforts in 1924, trains elementary school teachers. A visiting US delegation is pictured with the college’s staff.



Areas of Brethren churches and properties are designated on the above map by a star.



Mary Keeney

of them are in Ankleshvar, Vyara, and Valsad (Bulsar), including a former hospital at Valsad. Over the years, some of the properties were acquired by the Gujarat government for public purposes and some were sold to individuals.

The second trust, in what was the old Second District of the Church of the Brethren, has properties worth an estimated \$1.2 million (US). This trust has

properties in two locations—one in Dahanu Road, about 7.5 acres and a number of buildings used by the Brethren Mission Hospital, and the other is about seven acres of land in Palghar.

There are two other trusts, one in the old First District and one in the old Second District of the Church of the Brethren. The Church of the Brethren General Board has no responsibility for

appointing trustees to these trusts, but they have not been amalgamated into the Church of North India. These trusts own and manage church buildings, parsonages, and in some cases land given to the church. The properties of the First District Church of the Brethren Trust registered in the State of Gujarat have been in the possession of CNI congregations since 1970.

Pass along forgiveness

Your editorial in June on forgiveness strikes me as extremely important right now as I relate personally, and as others share with me in their relating to one another. Thank you.

I hope other publications pick up on it and "recycle" your (and I believe God's) message. I made photocopies to use in Sunday school class and to share with friends.

Clyde Carter
Daleville, Va.

What to do Memorial Day?

I am writing this letter on Memorial Day, the holiday when our country remembers its war dead and in general celebrates its manliness in the making of war. It is a difficult time for the historic peace churches to know how to handle. What do we do with Memorial Day?

I know of one Church of the Brethren congregation that uses Memorial Day to

remember all the people who have died in the past year. But this is more properly done on All Saints Day.

At another Brethren congregation, the pastor took vacation on Memorial Day Sunday, so he would not have to be present when the congregation did the Memorial Day thing. It is hard for a pastor to know what to do. Too many members feel their church owes them the worldly approach to Memorial Day, and to take it away from them feels like an insult to their dearly departed loved ones.

All we need to do is designate the Memorial Day weekend as "Brethren Peace Witness Sunday."

My father, a retired Brethren pastor, remembers the period after World War I, when the peace position of the church was allowed to slide. Then another war came along, and the church was unprepared. Since Vietnam it seems we have done the same. We need to have a Peace Witness Sunday.

Dad actually did this on his own in the late 1950s. A local veterans organization had asked whether they could come as a

group and worship on Memorial Day Sunday. Dad said, "Sure." Close to two dozen showed up for worship and took up several pews. And then Dad preached a sermon about peace: "There is nobody who wants peace more than those who have gone through the horrors of war." Each and every veteran thanked him for his message.

Bill Bowser
Martinsburg, Pa.

Jesus and the death penalty

I do not see how the person who wrote the letter in your May issue came to the conclusion that Jesus recommended capital punishment. Jesus did not believe in taking anyone's life for any reason or in any circumstance. "You shall not kill."

We don't kill someone we love and God says we must love our enemies and do good to them. Jesus, in speaking to Peter, was expressing how foolish it is to take up arms against anyone.



OUR DOORS ARE OPEN, PLEASE DROP IN...

Mill Ridge Village, Dayton's newest retirement community, is bursting with excitement as we showcase our four spacious cottage home designs! We'll do the cottage maintenance and yard care, while you enjoy the retirement lifestyle of your dreams. And our beautiful Community Center is like frosting on the cake - it's yours to use for family reunions and other special occasions when you need lots of space! And enjoy

the events and activities planned by the staff - for fun, for education, and for good health.

Tours are available today!
Stop in Monday - Friday
from 10:00 - 4:00;
or call 937-832-6303. We also
invite you to visit our web site at
www.millridgevillage.org 

owned and operated by

Brethren
Retirement
Community



1000 Mill Ridge Circle
Union, OH 45322

“ Jesus, in speaking to Peter, was expressing how foolish it is to take up arms against anyone. Please, brother, take another look at Jesus! God is the only judge who can pronounce death. ”

Please, brother, take another look at Jesus! God is the only judge who can pronounce death.

G. Richard Radcliff
Blue Ridge, Va.

Violence begets violence

I disagree with the May letter which suggests that Jesus advocated the death penalty. The statement in Matthew 26:52, “All who take up the sword will perish by the sword,” was Jesus’s way of saying, “Never use violence against one person to protect another person, for violence begets

violence.”

Jesus set aside the “eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” requirement of the Mosaic legal code and said to turn the other cheek instead. He said, “Love your enemies” (Matt. 5:44). He rebuked James and John when they wanted to emulate Elijah by calling down fire on their enemies (Luke 9:52-55). He stopped the stoning of a woman caught in adultery by saying, “Let anyone who is without sin cast the first stone” (John 8:3-11).

It seems very clear that Jesus opposed the death penalty.

Jerry C. Stanaway
Lombard, Ill.

From the
Office of Human Resources

Coordinator, Disaster Child Care

A full-time position based in New Windsor, Md. Oversight and administration of all activities and funds related to the operation of Disaster Child Care program. Interviews will continue until the position is filled.

For more information and application form contact:

Elsie Holderread at
800-742-5100 or e-mail
eholderread_gb@brethren.org



Providing Superior Care for Your Peace of Mind

EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IN A SERENE YET CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING IN CROSS KEYS VILLAGE

- HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS OR COTTAGES

DINING - PLANNED ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION ON-CAMPUS BANKING & MEDICAL FACILITIES

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER

- SHELTERED NEIGHBORHOOD
- PRIVATE ROOMS WITH BATH
- HEALTH CARE CENTER
- HOUSEKEEPING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED

- SUPPORT SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE (ALZHEIMER'S) UNIT
- CROSS KEYS SUBACUTE CENTER
- ADULT DAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- NURSING CARE
- RESPITE CARE

MEDICARE/MEDICAID APPROVED

Christian care since 1908

2990 CARLISLE PIKE - P.O. Box 128

NEW OXFORD, PA 17350-0128

1-888-624-8242

WWW.BRETHRENHOME.ORG



From the
Brethren Benefit Trust

Director of Information Systems

Elgin, IL
(available immediately)

Managing and Directing the Information Systems operations including the WWW and the design, maintenance and administration of all information systems platforms; Novell, Windows NT, Linux, and Windows 95, with specific knowledge of Microsoft's SQL, Oracle Access and Pick's 03 Databases. Application deployment methods across LAN, WAN, VPN are also essential to this position. Manage staff and departmental capital and operational budgets. Oversee arrangements with other agencies for systems, services and support.

Requirements:

- BS in Computer science, MS preferred
- Proficient in Novell and Linux with strong database design and management background
- 7-10 years information systems management responsibilities/ 5 years managerial background
- Strong background in the implementation of software solutions and a proven level of accomplishments related to systems design, upgrade and maintenance
- Strong verbal and written communication skills

Interested and qualified persons may apply by sending letter, resumé, and salary history to Claudia Sheets, 1505 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120 or FAX to 847/742-0135

CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

Good Shepherd Home is seeking a full-time chaplain for this rural 100-bed nursing home and licensed 50-bed rest home located in Fostoria, Ohio. This position will provide spiritual care to the residents, families and employees. If willing, the chaplain may assist the executive director and Board of Trustees with fund raising and development projects. Good Shepherd Home prefers candidates who are licensed or ordained ministers with strong written and verbal skills. Send or fax resumes to Chris Widman, executive director, phone (419) 435-1801; fax (419) 435-1594.

Travel with a purpose. Visit the "Cradle of Civilization," March 16-29, 2001. Featuring: crossing the Red Sea, visiting Mt. Sinai, cruising on the Sea of Galilee, cable car ride to Massada. Visit Petra, the rose city, Jerusalem, The Holy Land, St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai. Full breakfast and dinner throughout. For information write Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 8520 Royal Meadow Drive, Indianapolis, IN. 46217. Tel/fax 317-882-5067. E-mail rdwb0h@aol.com.

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 Association of Brethren Caregivers is seeking a full-time Coordinator of Shared Services to assist the Executive Director with programming and services to the association and the Fellowship of Brethren Homes, a ministry with Brethren retirement communities. Ideal candidates will demonstrate the following qualifications: working knowledge of the mechanisms and processes which impact services to the aging; experience in retirement community management; understanding of Church of the Brethren heritage; bachelor's degree in a related field; proficiency in interpretation and consensus building; comfort providing leadership in an environment with diverse interests; excellent communication, organization and computer skills. The position, located in Elgin, Illinois, is available on January 1, 2001. Direct inquiries or send letters of application with resumé and three references to Steve Mason, Executive Director, ABC, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

Come, experience the warm hospitality, caring witness, and Spirit-filled worship of the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic. Participate in a travel seminar offered by Bethany Theological Seminary and led by Dan Ulrich, Jerry Crouse, and Becky Baile Crouse on January 2-16, 2001. Cost is \$785 plus air fare. Tuition is extra for those seeking academic credit. Spanish is helpful but not required. For more information, call 765-983-1800.

Walk where Jesus walked with Pastor Roger Forry November 13 thru 20, 2000. This is a pilgrimage of a lifetime! Breakfast and dinner are included daily. Bus transportation is provided from the Somerset, Pennsylvania area or passengers can meet the group at J F K airport for their journey to Israel. Visit this historical area from a Christian perspective with an emphasis on Protestantism. Professional bilingual guide service. A bargain price for an excellent trip! Call 800-462-1592 for details.

Goshen College invites applications for a tenure track appointment in Bible and religion beginning July 2001. Qualifications: Ph.D. in biblical studies with a concentration in Hebrew Bible (ABD considered); secondary competence in religious studies or theology required. Responsibilities; teach eight undergraduate courses, including Biblical Literature (multiple sections), upper division course in area of specialization, and other courses within interdisciplinary general education program of liberal arts college. The successful candidate must be willing to accept Goshen College's mission statement and standards and affirm Anabaptist perspectives. Women and people from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. Goshen College is an affirmative action employer. Send letter addressing qualification, curriculum vitae, undergraduate/graduate transcripts, and three current letters of reference to Provost John Yordy, Goshen College, 1700 Main Street S., Goshen, IN 46526. Deadline for application is August 31, 2000. E-mail: provost@goshen.edu. Telephone: (219) 535-7501 Fax: (219) 535-7060.

The Olive Tree Community has been a source of food, fuel, furnishings and oil for anointing for over 6,000 years. Because it matures very slowly—one tree can live for over a thousand years—parents and grandparents plant olive trees for their children, leaving a valuable legacy for the next generation. Bethany's Olive Tree Community joins together a special group of friends who have a similar commitment to the Seminary. Through deferred and estate gifts, they are leaving a legacy for future generations to nurture the leadership needed for our children, grandchildren and new children in the Church of the Brethren. We invite you to become a member of the Olive Tree Community. When you make your will, purchase life insurance, start a retirement plan or review your current estate plan, why not consider including Bethany as a beneficiary for part or all of the proceeds. Contact Lowell Flory at 800-287-8822 for more information.

This month's *Turning Points* includes all listings received prior to 6/11/00 not previously published. Forms for submitting *Turning Points* information are available by calling Peggy Reinacher at 800-323-8039.

New members

Altoona 28th Street, Altoona, Pa.: Eric Flumerfelt, Kris Hoovler, Megan Hoovler, Wesley McConnell, Katie Muccitelli, Jason Wilson

Bethany, New Paris, Ind.: Stan and Nancy Gurka, Scott and Cami Wakley, Desmond Schoonover, Stephanie Dowty, Brad Dowty, Amanda Burger, Nathan Abshire, Holly Abshire, Amanda Boyer, Mike Reuter, Whitney Gall, John Gall, Justin Conrad

Big Creek, Cushing, Okla.: Nancy Chipukites, Chip Chipukites, Rita Hendrix, Jessie Hendrix, Allen Harmon, Dale Wolff, Cindy Wolff, Roxanne Lease, Jennifer Mattingly

Bridgewater, Va.: Wilmer and Thelma Crummett, Charles and Mary Miller, Gerri Rigney, Mary C. Detrick, Malory Custer, Maria Partlow, Lori Racca, Mary Beahm, James and Anita Beckman

Cedar Creek, Garrett, Ind.: Skip Smeltzer, Shelley Smeltzer

Dixon, Ill.: Suzanne Crossland, Carol Jackley

Ephrata, Pa.: Mary Cable, Paul Hosler, David and Michele Mummau, Christel Foltz, Charles and Mary Garrett

Harper Woods, Mich.: Paul Fitzpatrick, Erica Fitzpatrick

Heidelberg, Reistville, Pa.: Sarah Bucher, Carl Hoffman, Donna Hoffman, Tiffany Hoffman

Independence, Kan.: Revenna Eikenberry, Wayne Eikenberry, Dana J. Hart, Jayson McMaster, Meagan McMaster, Ernest H. Newton, Scott Reimer, Betty May Twilley

Lansing, Mich.: Jesse Baker-Ferenchick, Philip BrunDelRe, Matthew Curtis-Watkins, Justin Ernst, Chelsea Marr, Tara Herrold

Lewiston, Minn.: Brent Risser, Shawn Sanders, Jeffrey Peckover, Angela Pospichal-Heublein, Lisa Mundt, Lynda Mundt, Ulrike Schorn-Hoffert

Lower Claar, Claysburg, Pa.: Dorothy Helsel, Chelsea Oakes

Marsh Creek, Gettysburg, Pa.: Breanna MacDonald, Olivia Orndorff, Raquel Woerner, Storm Woerner, Catherine L. Dick

Moxham, Johnstown, Pa.: Joyce

Mahon, Gregory Jacoby, Steven Wilson

Painter Creek, Arcanum, Ohio: Helen Morris, Mildred Rouzong

Peace, Council Bluffs, Iowa: Abby Barritt, Jillian Brooks, Lynsi Brooks, Cathy Cunningham, Jan Forbes, Amanda Frazier, Zach Frazier, Wayne Lewis, Ashley Watson, Josh Watson

Petersburg Memorial, Petersburg, W.Va.: Bill Alt, Bill Alt, Jr., Mary Lou Alt

Philadelphia, Pa.: Lisa and John Dutterer

Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va.: Susan Osborne

Uniontown, Pa.: Brad Balsley, Eric Gottheld, Lauren Knox, Seth McElroy, Jane McShane, Penny McShane, Chelsea Smitley, Oscar Verbus

Wenatchee, Wash.: Linda Davis, Eugene Jordan, Deda Preston, Lois Russell, Jim and Evelyn Weimer

West Green Tree, Elizabethtown, Pa.: Joann and David Hoppman, Mindy and Steve Smith, Kirsten Flowers, Kelsey Hollinger, Ellen and Richard Bowers

Westernport, Md.: Charles Barnard, Lurene Barnard, Matthew Shimer

York, Pa.: S. Alexander Ginder, Daniel Vuono

Wedding anniversaries

Bender, Kermit and Dorothy, Elizabethtown, Pa., 50

Goodenberger, Melvin and Thelma, Canton, Ohio, 60

Groth, John and Esther, Independence, Kan., 60

Hinds, William and Mildred, Hartville, Ohio, 60

Kaylor, Dalton and Helen, Danville, Ohio, 50

Ledgerwood, Olin and Helen, Hartville, Ohio, 50

Miller, Herman and Frances, Bridgewater, Va., 65

Quay, Clarence and Mary, Bridgewater, Va., 50

Rogers, David and Shirley, N. Manchester, Ind., 50

Ross, Wayne and Mary, Elizabeth, N. Manchester, Ind., 50

Shankster, Owen and Celia, Roann, Ind., 50

Showalter, Luther and Alverta, Edgewood, Md., 50

Statler, Harold and Ruth, Keyser, W.Va., 50

Stern, Irvn and Pattie, McPherson, Kan., 50

Veno, Francis and Lorraine, Uniontown, Pa., 50

Wolfe, Hugh and June, Glen Burnie, Md., 60

Deaths

Allison, Grace, 85, Claysburg, Pa., Dec. 30

Anderson, Roman, 74, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 7

Andrews, Harold L., 80, Dixon, Ill., May 30

Anglemyer, Gladys, Sebring, Fla., Jan. 4

Anstine, Florence H., 94, Hartville, Ohio, Jan. 4

Applegate, E. Wayne, 82, Norton, Kan., Sept. 22

Armey, Irene, 94, Fresno, Calif., April 8

Artman, Dorothy, 85, Red Lion, Pa., Feb. 6

Ballaron, Florence, 96, St. Petersburg, Fla., June 6

Banwart, Harold, Avon Park, Fla., March 22

Barber, Robert E. Lee, 66, Keyser, W.Va., Jan. 3

Beery, Irene, N. Manchester, Ind., June 20

Boland, S. Katharyne, 90, Altoona, Pa., April 25

Brandenstein, Kenneth, Miamisburg, Ohio, April 15

Brumbaugh, Florence, 97, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 14

Byrd, Doris, 96, Bridgewater, Va., May 18

Campbell, Violet, 86, Westernport, Md., Feb. 7

Cannon, Harry L., 85, Keyser, W.Va., Nov. 13

Carey, Bernetta, N. Manchester, Ind., April 13

Chadwell, Arthur, Sebring, Fla., April 15

Claar, John E., 77, Claysburg, Pa., Dec. 27

Clay, Josephine, 79, Hartville, Ohio, Jan. 18

Cobauger, Florence M., 89, Linwood, N.J., May 20

Coffey, Max O., 84, Lookout, W.Va., May 29

Costlow, Mary, 88, Johnstown, Pa., June 6

Curran, Audrey, 77, Norton, Kan., Nov. 2

Dilling, Sophia V., 85, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 23

Eller, Henry C., 100, Bridgewater, Va., May 28

Esbensen, Edwin R., San Jose, Calif., March 21

Eshenour, Lloyd, 87, Olney, Md., May 3

Fahs, Eldon Eugene, Milford, Ind., Feb. 8

Fairbanks, Clarence S., 84, Greenville, Ohio, April 19

Fazenbaker, Harry, 72, Westernport, Md., March 25

Fuhrman, Earl S., 77, Spring Grove, Pa., May 21

Garber, Leland F., 62, Emmitsburg, Md., May 18

Gleim, William A., 71, Williamsburg, Pa., March 1

Goodwin, Arthur, 86, Uniontown, Pa., Feb. 2

Gosnell, Joe, 79, Greenville,

Ohio, April 1

Gross, Philip H., Sr., 96, Dover, Pa., May 12

Hagerty, James, Sr., 66, Altoona, Pa., April 10

Hangey, Kathryn, 90, Sellersville, Pa., May 13

Hartman, Daniel M., 74, York, Pa., May 19

Heidlebaugh, Raymond E., 75, Hellam, Pa., May 6

Hunter, Nettie, 98, Atlanta, Ind., May 25

Isenberg, Frank W., Johnson City, Tenn., April 11

Johnson, Frank E., Colorado, May 5

Klucher, Robert, 75, York, Pa., March 9

Leckrone, Ida B., 91, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 27

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

Mishler, Naomi, N. Manchester, Ind., Feb. 8

Moyer, Mabel, 98, Greenville, Ohio, June 3

Moyer, Melvin, Linthicum, Md., May 6

Myers, Virgil E., 78, North Canton, Ohio, April 18

Nenninger, William A., 65, Fayetteville, Pa., May 6

Papke, Angela, Winchester, Va., June 5

Petry, Elden M., Bowmansville, Pa., April 17

Ringgold, Paul E., 80, Harrisonburg, Va., May 8

Rinier, Roberta, 79, Akron, Pa., Dec. 6

Robinson, Mary, Sebring, Fla., April 16

Royer, J. Herman, 85, Lancaster, Pa., April 30

Sell, James Matthew, Jr., 73, Duncansville, Pa., May 8

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

Shelton, Susan J., Tipp City, Ohio, May 20

Shonk, John W., 81, Lafayette, Ind., April 14

Smith, Jack, 71, La Verne, Calif., April 23

Snider, Eileen N., Manchester, Ind., April 7

Spangle, Blanche M., 97, N. Manchester, Ind., May 14

Stark, William R., 85, Shippensburg, Pa., Feb. 9

Steele, Florence, 87, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 21

Waechter, Max, 81, St. Petersburg, Fla., May 16

Washingier, William, Sr., 90, Shippensburg, Pa., Nov. 8

Weekly, Lucile A., 78, Hartville, Ohio, March 8

Werner, Raymond, 84, Hanover, Pa., June 6

Werstler, Dawn M., 78, Greentown, Ohio, March 27

Weyant, Mary E., 88, Orbisonia, Pa., April 22

Will, Harper S., N. Manchester, Ind., May 23

Wineland, Mary, Martinsburg, Pa., April 23

Zook, Edward, Verona, Va., May 27

Licensings

Beasley, Sterling Ray, April 30, Fostoria, Ohio

Brunk, James, May 21, Union City, Ohio

Carroll, James U., June 4, East Nimishillen, North Canton, Ohio

Cassidy, Michael J., May 28, White Branch, Hagerstown, Ind.

Cox, Jimmie B. Jr., May 14, Stonelick, Pleasant Plain, Ohio

Guisewite, Kathy Fuller, May 28, West Richmond, Richmond, Va.

Junkins, Carroll Glen, April 30, Knobley, Martin, W.Va.

Sell, Janet, June 11, Woodbury, Pa.

Smith, Alan Marshal, May 21, Longmeadow, Hagerstown, Md.

Ordinations

Donohoo, B. Douglas, May 28, West Milton, Ohio

Grimes, David, April 30, Pocahontas, Green Bank, W.Va.

Princell, Pamela S., May 7, Mexico, Ind.

Pastoral placement

Bidgood Enders, Elizabeth and Greg, from Richmond, Ind., to co-pastors, Mack Memorial, Dayton, Ohio

Bolen, Kevin D., to Harris Creek, Bradford, Ohio

Deardorff, Tim, to Pymont, Delphi, Ind.

Frederick, Stafford, C., from Olathe, Kan., to Summerdean, Roanoke, Va.

Heck, Dewayne, to co-pastor, White Cottage, Ohio

Hyre, Greg Allen, from Eaton, Ohio, to Arcanum, Ohio

Maclay, Connie, from interim to permanent, Beech Run, Mapleton Depot, Pa.

Merritt, Russell, to co-pastor, White Cottage, Ohio

Norris, Victor, from Center Hill, Kittanning, Pa., to Shippensburg, Pa.

Satvedi, Valentina, from North County, San Marcos, Calif., to South Bay Community, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Schrock, J. Roger, from mission administrator, to Cabool, Mo.

Whitten, David, to Moscow, Mount Solon, Va.



Let's talk about race

How do you react to this: "A white man who wants to be on the police force is not hired, while several minority applicants with equal scores on the qualifying test are hired."

How do you react to this: "An Asian American woman has cosmetic surgery on her eyes so that they'll have a more 'Anglo' look, feeling that she'll be more attractive this way."

Or this: "My company would like to hire more minorities, but we don't get qualified applicants."

These are all included in the case studies our study circle was asked to consider, as we began one small step toward healing the problem of racism. The town I live in has begun a community conversation on race, part of a national program coordinated by the Study Circles Resource Center of Pomfret, Conn. (www.study-circles.org). As Americans by the thousands are doing all over the country, we Study Circles participants gathered in mixed-race groups of 10-14 two hours weekly for six weeks to talk about race. Much like a Sunday school class, we discussed a workbook that some of us had read and some of us had not, and we were encouraged to share our feelings, or questions, and our fears. When so many of us have been taught not to talk about race, the opportunity for honest and open exchange was refreshing.

In the first session we discussed our own family backgrounds and how they've contributed to our attitudes about race. In another we discussed the roots of racial inequities. Is the history of slavery at the root of the problem? Or is it that people of color lack economic opportunity? What role is played by institutional racism, in which power in our government, schools, and churches continues to be used in a way that favors whites and works against people of color?

We never got these issues resolved, of course. But in the course of grappling with them week after week we got plenty of opportunity to listen to each other, and to appreciate each other more.

A young black woman who lives in a nearly all-white wealthy bedroom community complained that her parents were being racist because they wouldn't let her go out running at night. Several of us the age of her parents told her no, they were being smart. She is smart too, heading for medical school. She explained minorities can't expect to succeed in academia if they are naive about how racial attitudes can

work for them or against them.

A middle-aged white man in our group kept saying that the instruction of scripture is the *only* solution to racism. He had "proved" to friends that the Bible says racism is wrong, and they had changed their views. When some of us told him Bible proof doesn't convince everyone, he seemed to consider other forms of persuasion for the first time.

When some of us expressed cynicism about government efforts, a participant who works for the city personnel office convinced us that her office is doing everything it can to recruit qualified minority applicants for police and fire department openings.

An older black man, retired, enjoyed telling us about the white man who moved in next door and saw him cutting his grass. The new neighbor, assuming he was talking to the hired help, asked our friend what he gets for mowing a yard. He answered that he gets to have dinner with the lady who lives in the house.

These sessions didn't accomplish much. But they introduced us to others who care. They made us all more aware of race problems and progress in the news. And they reminded us that bridging racial and cultural boundaries is a joy, not a chore. Some of our churches are sponsoring similar dialog and explorations of racial issues, and experiencing blessings from doing so.

Racism is such a daunting problem it is easy to not do anything about it, or remember that we did something once and think we've done our part. We can take comfort knowing that somebody else is doing something and decide to let them handle it for now. We can pretend that racial problems were solved in the sixties, or that youth are the only ones who need to be educated about racism.

Or we can begin by talking about race more, and listening more. Now is the time to move ahead on race relations in our communities and in our churches. As far back as 1963, Annual Conference approved a statement titled, "The Time is Now to Heal our Racial Brokenness." That was true then, and it is true today. Now is always the time. Yes, we should have done it long ago, and we should have done more. But it isn't as helpful to ask "What have we done?" as it is to ask "What can we do?"

We can begin. —FLETCHER FARRAR

We never got these issues resolved, of course. But in the course of grappling with them week after week we got plenty of opportunity to listen to each other, and to appreciate each other more.

The Love Feast



Compiled by **FRANK RAMIREZ**

The love feast is based on a simple premise: disciples do as Jesus commands. We examine our lives, wash feet, eat a simple meal, and take communion. Through stories, memories, scriptures, and photographs, the love feast is remembered and renewed, extending the invitation to all to come to the Lord's table.

Here is a glimpse into the corporate memory of this central ritual of our faith. A perfect gift for new members, deacons, church leaders, and all who find their Christian home with the Brethren.

\$19.95 paperback #8208
\$49.95 limited edition hardcover #8240



Brethren Press

1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712
fax 800-667-8188

e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

National Youth Conference, 1998



Workcamp, Tijuana, Mexico



Ministry Summer Service Training



Preparing leaders today for tomorrow's church

EFSM Training, Puerto Rico



Ordination, Dominican Republic



Youth Workcamp, Mexico



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAMS
MINISTRY OFFICE
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT OFFICE



1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120
(847) 742-5100