

Church of the Brethren

MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2000 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

Time, by Young June Lew



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Church of the Brethren

MESSENGER

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ON THE COVER

It takes but little stretch of the imagination to see the cover painting as a symbol of the community of Christ. Candlelighting, no less, in honor of the One who said to his followers, "You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14).

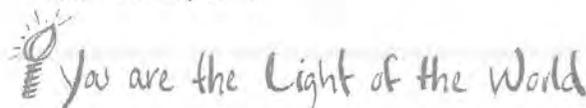
Artist Young June Lew, a Korean Christian residing in San Francisco, titles her mixed media painting "Time." The title serves to remind us who bear the Christlight today that we are not alone; we stand with a vast company of believers, including the faithful who have gone before.

To look at what it means to be light in the proverbial sea of darkness and to nurture the bearers of light, MESSENGER provides a cluster of articles on spiritual formation. The stories and testimonies provide grist to congregations for lifting up the theme of light for Advent and for inviting support for the Christmas Offering for General Board Ministries.

Rich and wondrous as light is as a symbol, we who are committed to following Jesus do well to remember our own little light is not the source of light, but only a reflection of the Light. And given that our light is forever diminishing, forever in need of tending, how crucial it is that we turn again and again to the Source from whom all light springs.—Howard Royer

10 John Kline rides again

Each year the Elder John Kline Memorial Riders retrace some of the hoofmarks of the famous 19th-century minister who logged 100,000 miles on horseback visiting Brethren. This year's travel through time was in western Pennsylvania.



14 The inward journey

The first of this month's cluster of articles on spiritual formation describes the programs, publications, and events that have grown out of the General Board's emphasis on the spiritual life. An accompanying article recommends books for spiritual growth.

16 Seven symptoms of wellness

Presented as a color insert, this artistic meditation uses text by Paul Grout and photography by Glenn Mitchell to evoke the joy of life with God. Design is by Cedar House.

18 Spirituality for the young

Preparing youth for a private devotional life leads adults to model prayer, meditation on scripture, and quiet reflection.

20 Finding God in the everyday

Our prayers often happen in the midst of daily routine. Four Brethren share glimpses of how they seek and know God's blessing.

Glenn Mitchell



Walt Wiltschek

24 National Older Adult Conference

There were 1,050 Brethren over 50 at Lake Junaluska, N.C., in September for the fifth National Older Adult Conference, sponsored by the Association of Brethren Caregivers. "We're branches on a vine," Marva Dawn told participants. "If you don't stay stuck, you don't bear much fruit."

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FROM THE PUBLISHER



In many quarters it's now more popular to talk about spirituality than about religion. For these people, religion carries all the connotations of shoulds and oughts, of rules and rigidity, of institutions marred by hypocrisy and other human imperfections. Spirituality, on the other hand, is more like those websites that customize themselves to you once you've registered. It's a make-your-own-Sunday bar, where you pick and choose whatever elements are cool for you. At least that appears to be the case for a growing number of people in the US.

"Spirituality is religion with all the things you don't like about religion taken out," was Martin Marty's wry observation at a conference I attended last spring.

Because "spirituality" is so vague (as evidenced by the eclectic, even wacky, set of titles in this section of your local bookstore), the term doesn't appeal to everybody. Some assume it's just a synonym for New Age. (Actually, the rise of "spirituality lite" in the 1980s and 1990s has given way to books with considerably more depth and breadth, notes *Publishers Weekly*.)

But spirituality belonged to the church before it belonged to the booksellers, and we would do well to explore what the interest in spirituality means. Pollster George Gallup has researched this individualistic spiritual questing, and says, "Americans are seeking something more meaningful, deeper, and healthier. I think it stems in part from what they perceive to be a failure of materialism in (the 20th century and the fact that there are so many problems that surround us without apparent solutions. . . . The surge in this desire for spiritual growth is perhaps one of the most dramatic movements of the 20th century."

Among Gallup's findings, reported in *Surveying the Religious Landscape* (Morehouse Publishing): 1) More than 80 percent of Americans desire to grow spiritually. 2) There is a glaring lack of knowledge about the Bible, basic doctrines, and the traditions of one's own religion. 3) Too often the faith professed is superficial, with people not knowing what they believe or why.

Sociologist Wade Clark Roof has also studied religion in America. His book *Spiritual Marketplace: Baby Boomers and the Remaking of American Religion* (Princeton) concludes that "while religion may be losing some of its influence in public life, spirituality is becoming a more important component of people's personal lives."

When Oprah Winfrey debuted her new magazine *O*, one media critic who noted that the magazine makes spirituality its centerpiece concluded: "*O* will likely end up being more for people who like the idea of spirituality and change, who want to be associated with these things, without necessarily treating it as scripture."

It's hard to compete with the glitzy spirituality so prevalent in our culture, but perhaps the best response is to strengthen our own spirituality, forming it daily through closer communion with God and a faith that is lived out by modeling our lives after Jesus. The spiritual questing around us is a search for something authentic. I trust that our congregations can speak the simple language of authenticity better than any magazine (even this one).

Wendy McFadden

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Bookmark benefactors: Ansley Crull, left, and Kelly Remnant.

How bookmarks help people in need

Summer is a wonderful time for the entrepreneurial spirit of children to kick in. Many children opt to set up lemonade stands, but Kelly Remnant and Ansley Crull were looking for something different. They chose to make bookmarks instead. While designing, cutting, coloring, and decorating their bookmarks, they discussed what to do with their proceeds and decided to donate the money to people in need. They made a sign and set up a table along East College Street, just down the street from Bridgewater College, and began to sell. People stopped to purchase the bookmarks at a price of 25 cents each. When they were done, the girls had collected a total of \$16.

Ansley, who attends the Spring Creek Church of the Nazarene in Bridgewater, donated her share to church missions. Kelly, of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, decided to put her share of the money into the 2-Cent Club Offering, collected every second Sunday of the month. At 2 cents a meal, her contribution of \$8 is equivalent to 400 meals!—Robert Alley

Dirty cars meet God's love

"Who's taking the donations?"

"No one. We're not accepting donations."

"What! You've got to accept donations."

"We just want to show that God loves you, and that God's love is free."

This was the conversation repeated in some form many times on Sept. 2 as members of the Living Stone Church of the Brethren, Cumberland, Md., washed cars—for FREE.

Seventeen adults and children washed 45-plus cars in three hours between 9 a.m. and noon—that's one car every four minutes.

Many drivers had a hard time believing that the group actually didn't want anything for their services, not even a donation. As cars were being wiped dry, some drivers got out and wanted to talk. Some asked about the church, and each driver

was given a small card with the church's name, address, and phone number.

Everyone was sent off with "Have a good day" and a big smile, and they left with a smile of their own.

—Lester Boleyn

Kelsey Yost brings home the gold

Twelve-year-old Kelsey Yost, a member of the Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren, Harrisburg, Pa., returned home from California as a national record-breaking athlete. She won five gold medals in swimming and archery events at the Junior National Wheelchair Championships, held in San Jose. The event drew 200 young athletes from 32 states and several countries.

Kelsey is affected by spina bifida, one of the most common disabling birth defects. Kelsey, whose photograph was on the October 1995 cover of MESSENGER, was the subject of a recent feature article in the Harrisburg *Patriot-News*. Her father, Don Yost, told the newspaper his daughter's determination is an inspiration. He said, "If you are born without something, it seems like God gives you something else to make up for it."





Ralph Detrick

Elizabethtown takes get-acquainted trip to Dominican Republic

Fourteen members of the Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren have returned from a 10-day intergenerational workcamp in the Dominican Republic. They went to work, but also to get to know the members of the emerging Church of the Brethren there.

The congregation's special ties to the people of the DR began a year ago when the congregation took on the financial support of a Dominican physician, Dr. Hilcias Ricardo, who offered to work among the poorest of the poor in her land—illegal Haitian refugees who came as sugar cane workers. (See "A medical doctor with a mission," April.)

To prepare for the workcamp, participants studied Spanish one day a week for several months, taught by Sheila Rodriguez, a member of the church and a Spanish teacher at Elizabethtown College.

Dr. Ricardo took the group by burro and horseback to one of the distant Haitian villages where she has a weekly clinic.

Ralph Detrick, co-pastor of the Elizabethtown church, preached in Spanish on Sunday in Dr. Ricardo's home church, Peniel, in Santo Domingo.—Wayne Zunkel

Elizabethtown co-pastor Joyce Stoltzfus learns to know one of the young patients of Dr. Hilcias Ricardo.

Champaign marks centennial

The Champaign (Ill.) Church of the Brethren will celebrate its 100th anniversary Nov. 19. A century ago several Church of the Brethren families began to meet informally in homes for fellowship and Bible study. Later, space was rented in adjoining Urbana, and then there were tent meetings as the interest and ministries grew. The Brethren bought property on Market Street in Champaign, the fastest growing area of the city. The present building was constructed in 1950.

The anniversary celebration theme is "Keeping on in the Spirit of the Lord." The church is served by a pastoral team of James and Mary Houff, Paul Kohler, and Rex Richardson.

Remembered

Russ Flora, chair of the board of Brethren Retirement Community,

Greenville, Ohio, died unexpectedly Sept. 4. He was a member of West Charleston Church of the Brethren, Tipp City, Ohio.

Russ was significantly involved in the creation of the Resident Aid Fund to assist residents of The Brethren's Home during its financial reorganization from 1976 to 1982. He also served 11 years on its board of trustees, the last seven years as chair.

Owen Shankster, of Roann, Ind., died Sept. 5. Known as a builder and manager of the wells program in Nigeria, Owen had retired from General Board mission service in 1991 after serving 41 years.

Dorothy G. Murray, 84, died Aug. 24 at her home in Roanoke, Va. Her book *This is Stevie's Story* was for many years the guide given by the National Association for Retarded Citizens to parents of retarded children. She also wrote *Sister Anna*, a biography of Anna Mow, published by Brethren Press. A member of the Cloverdale (Va.) Church of the Brethren, she served on the General Board and on Standing Committee.



Elmer Frantz, a member of the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, Littleton, Colo., pictured here with his granddaughter, Caitlin Frantz, receiving an Outstanding Volunteer Award from Jan West Schrock, director of church-community relations for Heifer Project International.

'Hymns for Heifers' gathers a unique men's chorus to benefit Heifer Project

A men's chorus sang "Hymns for Heifers" at a benefit concert for Heifer Project International in Greeley, Colo., Aug. 27. An enthusiastic audience responded with generous applause and the choir's rendition of "Angels Rolled the Stone Away" earned a standing ovation.

What has been dubbed the Rocky Mountain Men's Chorus—made up of men from across Colorado and neighboring states—is already considering another benefit concert next year.

Organizers Elmer and Dan Frantz—Elmer a long-term volunteer for HPI and his son Dan, also a music director in Greeley—were encouraged by the response and want to widen the welcome of the chorus next year. A variety of faith backgrounds were represented, including Church of the Brethren congregations in Littleton and Windsor, Colo., as well as Lutherans, Mennonites, United Church of Christ, and Latter-Day Saints.

During the concert, HPI recognized Elmer Frantz for years of volunteer work spreading the word about Heifer Project. Jan Schrock, daughter of HPI founder Dan West and a former director of Brethren Volunteer Service, was present to give the award.

—Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

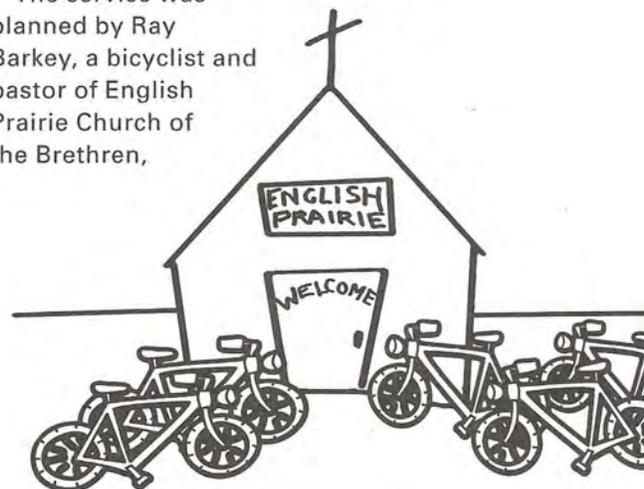
The Ridin' Rev' preaches to bicyclists

More than 1,100 bicyclists took part in the Amish Land and Lakes Michiana bicycle tour in September, and 60 of them attended the first Sunday morning worship service offered in the annual event.

The service was planned by Ray Barkey, a bicyclist and pastor of English Prairie Church of the Brethren,

Brighton, Ind. Nick-named "The Ridin' Rev,'" Barkey challenged the youth to be "Dan Henrys," markers along the road, for others. He based his message on Hebrews 12, in which Paul admonishes the Christians to run the race set before them.

—Wanda Yoder



Wait Wlitschek



Jerry Naff of Boones Mill, Va., and Earl Traugher, Idaho district executive, discuss visions for church planting during a mid-September seminar on the topic in Ashland, Ohio. The seminar was sponsored by the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries office and New Church Development Advisory Committee.

Seminar teaches tools for church planting

Nearly five dozen Church of the Brethren pastors, district executives, and others interested in new church development gathered Sept. 17-21 at Ashland (Ohio) Theological Seminary for an intense training program in church planting.

The event was sponsored by the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries Office and New Church Development Advisory Committee. They offered full scholarships to two members of each district (most of which were represented), and several districts sent additional people at their own expense.

Members of the Ashland faculty who specialize in church planting and leadership issues led the event, which packed a large amount of mate-

rial into four full days. A look at the various dimensions of one's spiritual journey, postmodernism, and ministry philosophy was followed by 13 principles of church planting.

"I think we've had some excellent presentations here," said Marianne Pittman of Blacksburg, Va., a member of the advisory committee. "They've done an excellent job, I think, of covering a variety of very important issues in a short time."

Several people said they thought the event was a good use of the General Board's resources and wished there would be more such opportunities and emphasis; some said they wished such training could be offered within a Church of the Brethren theology. Pittman said the committee will be exploring the possibilities for ongoing training.

Volunteer teachers to begin work at Brethren Mission House

Five members of Brethren Volunteer Service unit 240 are forming the first group of volunteers at the Brethren Mission House in Azua, Dominican Republic.

The new project is a joint

effort of the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships Office, BVS, the Dominican Brethren, and Brethren Revival Fellowship, with a main focus of teaching English as a second language. Earl and Barbara Eby arrived there from Pennsylvania earlier this summer to serve a three-year term as "house parents," reporting to mission coordina-

tors Jerry and Becky Crouse.

Sally Jo Caracheo of Elgin, Ill., who has worked in the Dominican Republic previously, will serve as teacher trainer/coordinator. Daniel Greenawalt of Harrisonburg, Va.; Denise Negley of Greencastle, Pa.; Kenda Negley of Mercersburg, Pa.; and Jewel Sheeler of Newville, Va., will be English teachers.



More than 150 Dominican Brethren gathered on Sept. 16 for the dedication of the new San Jose Christ, the True One church, built with the help of the Indian Creek Church of the Brethren (Harleysville, Pa.). It is part of a growing ministry in the Caribbean nation through the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships.

Brethren Witness office announces 2001 trips

The General Board's Brethren Witness office has announced dates for Faith Expeditions to Central America and the Caribbean for the coming year. The trips invite Brethren to grow in their faith while learning about peace, justice, and environmental realities around the world. Trips are as follows:

- **Jan. 8-18:** Up to 15 Brethren will travel to Belize and Guatemala for an environment-oriented trip. Leadership will be provided by former Brethren Volunteer Service workers Samantha Morris and Robert Stiles.

- **May 7-17:** Jerry and Becky Crouse of the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships staff will host a learning tour to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Focus will be on social justice issues facing Christians and others in these Caribbean nations.

- **June 13-22:** A Guatemala delegation will be led by Tom Benevento of the Global Mission Partnerships office. This experience will have an environmental education focus, but will also deal with social justice concerns and visit Brethren-supported development projects.

- **June 18-27:** Brethren will return to the southern coast of Honduras for the third year in a row to live and work in a poor rural community. Participants will visit villages where Global Food Crisis Fund grants have supported small livestock projects for women's groups. Brethren Witness director David Radcliff will lead the trip.

Requirements for all Faith

Expeditions include a willingness to grow in faith, a respect for other cultures, openness for adventure, and willingness to endure very basic living conditions. Approximate cost is \$200-\$400 plus airfare. Special scholarships are available for youth and young adults. Contact the Brethren Witness office for more details, 800-323-8039, ext. 228.

NCC delegation makes visit to Cuba

The Cuban and US national ecumenical councils met in Cuba Sept. 2-7 to consider "what's next?" in their relationship that has held fast for more than 40 years.

Invited and hosted by the

Cuban Council of Churches, an eight-member National Council of Churches delegation packed 12- to 15-hour days with visits to four overflowing Havana churches and the dynamic, ecumenical Matanzas Theological Seminary. They also toured a polyclinic, a center for children and adults with Downs Syndrome, and the Latin American School of Medicine.

They held a cordial, first-ever NCC delegation meeting with Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime Ortega, had two working sessions with Cuban church leaders, met with representatives of both the Cuban and US governments, and delivered 1,500 Church World Service "Gifts of the Heart" School Kits for primary school pupils.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Oct. 26-Nov. 3
Brethren Witness Faith Expedition to Honduras, women's delegation

Nov. 3-4 **Shenandoah District Conference**, Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren

Nov. 3-5 **Illinois and Wisconsin District Conference**, Virden (Ill.) Church of the Brethren

Nov. 5 **National Junior High Sunday**

Nov. 10-11 **Virgina District Conference**, Franklin Heights Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, Va.

Nov. 12-15 **Outdoor Ministries Association National Conference**, Camp Mack, Milford, Ind.

Nov. 17-18 **Brethren Benefit Trust board meetings**

Nov. 18 **National Youth Ministry Workshop**, Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren

Nov. 29-Dec. 1
Ecumenical event on "Stewardship: A Celebration of Grace," Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Call 800-835-5671

Dec. 10 **Christmas offering emphasis**

Red Cross office plans move to New Windsor

A new tenant is expected soon at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

The Carroll County (Md.) District of the American Red Cross announced in late September that it would be opening a full-service office there in November, pending final agreement on the terms of the lease. The space will be used for health and safety classes, board and disaster team meetings, for volunteers to meet and work, and for general

administration.

"Emergency Response/Service Ministries has had a working relationship with the national office of the American Red Cross for many years in disaster response and disaster child care," said Stan Noffsinger, director of the Brethren Service Center. "The Carroll County Red Cross office is a wonderful and welcomed addition to our community."

The Red Cross will be utilizing space in the lower level of Windsor Hall, formerly occupied by On Earth Peace Assembly and its bookstore,

The Peace Place. OEPA closed the bookstore as of Sept. 30, and the agency's offices will move into the campus' Blue Ridge Building as of Nov. 1.

The Red Cross office is moving from an existing office in nearby Westminster. Its blood donation program will continue to operate there.

BRETHRENSPEAK

Know that the Sudanese churches hold the Church of the Brethren in high regard and are extremely thankful for our long and warm relationship.

Mark Sloan, working with the New Sudan Council of Churches through the General Board.

YOUTHBEAT

The General Board's Youth/Young Adult Office has announced several new resources and events for the coming year:

- The junior high ministry theme for 2000-01 is "Find your place in this world," based on Ephesians 1:11 in *The Message*. A packet of materials on the theme is available to use on Junior High Sunday, Nov. 5, as well as a poster to display the theme.

- The senior high ministry theme for 2001 is "Be an example," based on I Timothy 4:12. Resource materials will be sent out early in 2001.

- An application form is available for the 2001 Youth Peace Travel Team, which will be composed of four youth/young adults age 16-22. Applications are due Jan. 1.

- Flyers are out for the 2001 National Youth Christian Citizenship Seminar, March 31-April 5 in New York and Washington, D.C., with the theme "No Fear: Overcoming Violence in Our Communities, Our Nation, and Our World"; and for the 2001 Young Adult Conference, May 26-28 at Brethren Woods in Keezletown, Va., led by Paul Grout.

- Additional programs are also being planned as part of the "God-Centered Life" youth spirituality project. A retreat for youth advisors will be held March 9-11 at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministries Center in Sharpsburg, Md., and a week-long spirituality camp for youth will be July 29-Aug. 4 at Camp Mack in Milford, Ind.

- A new membership curriculum called *Heart, Soul, and Mind: Becoming a Member of the Church of the Brethren*, usable by any age group but particularly geared toward youth in grades 6-12, is also now available through Brethren Press.

McCullough becomes new director of CWS

The Rev. John L. McCullough of Montclair, N.J., was named the new executive director for Church World Service Inc., following a unanimous vote by the CWS board of directors Sept. 13.

McCullough had served since June 1 as interim director and previously was associate general secretary of the United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Rodney I. Page, who retired May 31.

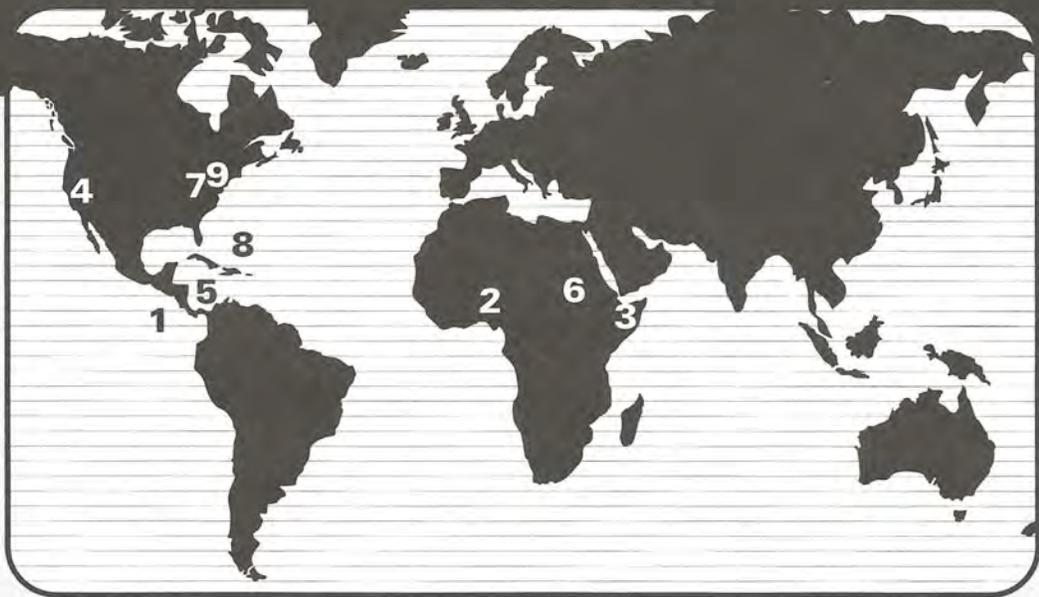
Personnel changes

Allen Hansell, director of ministry for the Church of the Brethren General Board, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31.

He will continue serving in the position through Dec. 31, 2001, however, donating most of his salary to special General Board projects for ministerial leadership. Hansell said he wanted to encourage other retirees to stay active in the church and to find ways to continue to serve.

Hansell began as director of ministry in October 1997 after three decades as a pastor and district executive minister. He will continue to maintain an office in Elizabethtown, Pa.

WORLDWATCH



1. Guatemala. The General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund sent \$15,000 to the Central American nation in September, earmarked to help families build wood-conserving stoves and water-storing cisterns in the Huehuetenango region. It's the third grant for the project in two years.

2. Nigeria. President Bill Clinton visited in late summer to encourage the country's new democratic government. John Tubbs, who serves as Global Mission Partnerships' mission co-coordinator in Nigeria, said, "Everybody in Nigeria, except for a few critics perhaps, is very happy with Clinton's visit. They are saying that he has made the world aware of Nigeria."

3. Eritrea. The horn of Africa received an allocation of \$5,000 from the General Board's Emergency Disaster Fund, designated to help the Eritrean Development Association ship medicines and medical supplies to Eritrea. Many people have been displaced by an ongoing war with Ethiopia.

4. Angelus Oaks, Calif. Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 241 held orientation at Camp La Verne Sept. 17-Oct. 7. Twenty people participated in the unit, preparing to head out to a variety of projects.

5. Belize. The Brethren Witness office of the General Board sent \$4,000 to the Eden Conservancy, an initiative to purchase and preserve threatened rainforest in the Central American na-

tion. The funds were raised through the "If a Tree Falls" campaign and should purchase more than 30 acres.

6. Sudan. A recent report from the US Committee for Refugees indicates that more than 10 percent of the world's estimated 35 million uprooted people are in the African nation, engaged in a lengthy civil war.

7. Bridgewater, Va. Bridgewater College dedicated its new Carter Center for Worship and Music on Sept. 24, housed in the former Bridgewater Church of the Brethren building after renovations. The building will house the music department and church relations and chaplain's offices.

8. Dominican Republic. A new allocation of \$13,785 from the General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund will aid COTEDO, a Church of the Brethren partner agency, in a project to obtain birth certificates for children born of Haitian parentage in the Dominican—necessary to receive public education and health care.

9. Franklin, Va. A special ceremony in mid-September honored the many volunteers who helped with Hurricane Floyd cleanup in the area during the past year. A new statue was unveiled on a corner that had been under 22 feet of water a year earlier. Church of the Brethren disaster relief had an ongoing project in the Franklin area.

Brethren Volunteer Service orientation coordinator Sue Grubb and orientation assistant Tracy Stoddart traveled to Hiroshima, Japan, in August to meet with Allan and Vercey Smyth, BVS workers who are serving as co-directors of the World Friendship Center there. Grubb and Stoddart also attended ceremonies for remembering the 55th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb.



A DAY WITH THE

John Kline riders

Paying homage to a horseback preacher, this year's ride visits two churches that hosted seven Annual Meetings

by Emmert F. Bittinger

Each spring, the Elder John Kline Memorial Riders take a few days to retrace one of the famous minister's historic trips. Between 1835 and 1864 he covered 100,000 miles on horseback visiting scattered Brethren families in several eastern states. He made 66 trips to West Virginia and 19 visits to Pennsylvania, keeping a daily record of miles traveled, families visited, and services held.

This year, our ride began on June 9, 2000. We visited the Maple Grove, Salisbury, Beachdale, and Brothersvalley churches, as well as the building that housed the former Summit Mills congregation, all in Pennsylvania. Services honoring Kline were held by the riders each evening and on Sunday morning.

This ride went through historic Brethren lands located in the southeastern part of Somerset County, Pa. The Pennsylvania towns of Salisbury, Meyersdale, and Berlin are at the heart of two early Brethren settlements, one on the Casselman River and the other on the Glades. Both date into the 1700s.

The ride would take us through the river settlement in the Salisbury and Summit Mills sections. The Brethren arrived here by 1783 and John Keagy was elected minister. This pioneer congregation was called Elk Lick. Bound by a strong tradition of worship in Brethren homes, they did not build their first meetinghouse until 1846 at Summit Mills, three miles west of Meyersdale. This was the mother church of Elk Lick. It was a marvel of wood construction and could serve 680

communicants. An Amish businessman now uses it as a pallet factory.

The fame and importance of these two congregations is revealed in the fact that they hosted a total of seven Annual Meetings during the 19th Century—1811, 1821, 1841, 1849, 1859, 1873, and 1894.

Elder John Kline attended the conference in 1849 at the Grove church near Berlin and one in 1859 at Summit Mills. In 1869, Elder Holsinger presided over a love feast in Summit Mills with 3,000 people present.

After a hearty breakfast on June 10 provided by the friendly people at the Salisbury church, our 17 riders set out northward along the Casselman River to Boynton and then Summit Mills. To our left and west of Salisbury lay the lands of Brethren minister Peter Liven-



good (1730-1826) and his neighbor, minister John Hendrick. On the right lay the Lichty farm. The homes of these early ministers served as meeting places for the Brethren.

At the top of Tipton Hill on Pleasant View Road, we came to the farm of Elder John Keagy (1746-1806), Elk Lick's first elected minister. Later, the farm was in the possession of Bishop John Buechly/Beechly, an elder of Summit Mills. The Annual Meeting of 1811 was held on this farm, hosted by Elder Buechly. Elder John Kline visited this farm on several occasions, spending nights there during the conference of 1859 with David Buechly/Beeghly, then owner.

At the northern edge of Summit Mills, we came to the Grace Brethren church on the left. Looking northward from the parking lot, we could see the large old Summit Mills church. Just beyond were the farm buildings of minister William Miller, now owned by the Amish Breneman family. These buildings accommodated the Annual Meeting of 1841. The Annual Meeting of 1859 also used these farm buildings along with the meetinghouse. The sermon John Kline preached at this conference is preserved in his diary.

The next day was Sunday, and our riders provided a John Kline service at the Brothersvalley church. Before the service, the people waited on the church lawn for the arrival of two riders, Elder John Kline and traveling companion Elder Daniel Thomas, impersonated by Emmert Bittinger and Fred Garber.

Our riders have developed deep respect for Elder John Kline. After following several of his mountain routes, we agree that he and his faithful horse Nell seem totally impervious to fatigue, weather, and all trials. Exhausted after only 20 miles in 90-degree heat, we found it difficult to imagine his travels from Virginia into Maryland and Pennsylvania, covering 30 or 40 miles each

day. At the end of each day he still had energy left to hold services in some mountain home where neighbors had gathered. He appears universally loved and admired.

In his final years, he served as moderator of Annual Meeting four times. His life was prematurely cut

short by an assassin's bullet in 1864, one of the tragic consequences of the violent emotions stirred up by the Civil War.



Emmert Bittinger of Bridgewater, Va., retired from teaching at Bridgewater College, has authored many articles on church and family history.

...in our midst



... ON PRAYER

Prayer time, prayer discipline, prayer life, prayer rug. Prayer space, prayers for the journey, praying the Bible, learning to pray.

Prayers for worship, prayer at home, prayers for children, prayers for those who are dying. "Pray without ceasing," pray in solitude, pray aloud, pray in silence. Just pray! Always pray! Pray today!

This newest congregational resource from the General Board's ...in our midst series, provides ample opportunity for congregations to explore the world of prayer. The resource provides; lectionary prayer resources for the season of Epiphany, prayers for congregational life, suggestions for individual prayer practices, prayers for and about children and youth, a lighter-hearted look at prayer, and a sample study session on prayer.

Other resources in the ...in our midst series include:

- Spiritual Growth
- Mission Education
- Children & Violence
- Lent & Easter Resources
- Ministerial Leadership

To order additional copies of these resources, contact Brethren Press at 800-441-3712. Resources are \$2.50 plus shipping and handling.

The John Kline Riders take a noon break in the forest.



You are
the Light
of the World

On the Inward

New efforts to foster spiritual formation

by Wendy McFadden

Ultimately,
spiritual
formation
means being
shaped by
scripture and by
spiritual
practices, and
trying to form
our lives after
the likeness of
Christ.

It feels like a long time ago, but just last year everyone was caught up in the frenzy about Y2K. People were focused on survival, the threat of chaos, fear of technology run amok, and the end times.

In the shadow of the impending disaster, the Church of the Brethren General Board decided to reclaim the moment as the birthday of Jesus and to use the occasion to deepen our spiritual roots. It seemed more faithful to turn toward God as our never-failing source of strength than to become obsessed about the limitations of computers.

As the year 2000 draws to a close, it's clear that the Church of the Brethren has embraced this counter-cultural way of looking at the calendar: Under the banner of "J2K," a number of congregations and districts have adopted "New Hope, New Day" as their own theme. Many individuals are using the daily scriptures and prayer reminders, and congregations are taking special offerings. The year culminates with a conference on "Speaking of Jesus" (see sidebar p. 16).

But the observance doesn't end with the year 2000. Congregations have been encouraged to create time capsules that will be opened in 2033, after a span of time that represents the

earthly life of Jesus.

The J2K emphasis is but one way the General Board is working at spiritual formation. In the Christmas Offering Emphasis, the board is encouraging congregations to lift up and support the work in this important but sometimes-overlooked area.

What is spiritual formation? It's going beyond the initial decision to follow Jesus. It's discipleship. It's growing in faith. It's about depth, not just breadth. It's about being as well as doing, and vice versa.

It has more to do with the inward journey than the outward, says Glenn Timmons, director of the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries unit. "Hopefully, the inward journey shapes the outward.

"We as Brethren know how to address the question of what or how," Timmons adds, "but we don't always know how to address the why. Spiritual formation will help people ground their lives in traditional spiritual practices."

For Timmons this search for more groundedness is as close to home as himself, for whom spiritual formation is a "personal corrective," and as far-flung as the world around us. "I think the last 50 years of uprootedness of the culture has increased the need for rooting and



Journey

grounding. When spirituality makes the cover of major secular magazines, something's going on in the culture—even if it's not a particularly Christian form of spirituality.”

Ultimately, spiritual formation means being shaped by scripture and by spiritual practices, and trying to form our lives after the likeness of Christ. “Spiritual formation begins more with God than with ‘my need,’” says Timmons. “It involves listening to God more than speaking to God.”

Spiritual formation is one of the emphases of Congregational Life Ministries, and is borne out in a number of ways. Congregational Life Team members who are working with congregations on a long-term basis are building into the revitalization process some form of spiritual development “almost as a prerequisite,” on the basis that revitalization is more than rearranging the church or doing a new program.

“Revitalization begins with transformation of a people, assuming that the change is of God rather than some human effort,” says Timmons.

Another quiet effort of Congregational Life Ministries is development of a spiritual directors network, a group of about 35 people who have either completed or are involved in a certification program in spiritual direction. The group has gathered at the past two Annual

Conferences and also communicates via a listserv (a forum for communicating through electronic mail). The networking provides useful interaction among people with a common calling, highlights for the denomination “what is often a rather invisible group,” and provides a sounding board for staff.

A higher-profile endeavor is Worshipful-Work, a CLM effort inspired by Chuck Olsen’s book *Transforming Church Boards into Spiritual Leaders*. Worshipful-Work uses the four components of storytelling, biblical reflection and study, prayerful discernment, and “visioning the future” to bring more discernment into decisionmaking.

CLM has trained about 65 people across the denomination who are on call to help congregations begin to incorporate these elements into their decisionmaking processes. CLM not only funded the training, but has made available additional funds to cover mileage and other expenses of trainers.

This style of decisionmaking begins with different assumptions, says Timmons. “Do you begin with the question of what God would yearn for the church, or what we would like for the church? What is the mind of Christ?”

Use of this new resource has varied from district to district, but Timmons sees from congregational and district newsletters that a number of groups are adopting elements of Worshipful-Work. “Some of those are very creative,” says Timmons. He adds that these spiritual practices “are best done when they don’t call attention to themselves.”

A host of printed materials from Brethren Press and other offices of the General Board also nurture spiritual formation. The first in the *In Our Midst* series of congregational resources was on spiritual growth; the sixth in the series, soon to be released, is on prayer. The Lenten bulletins in the 2001 Church of the Brethren bulletin series feature seven paintings from Paul Grout’s “Stations of the Resurrection,” providing a unique focus for meditation during the weeks leading up to Easter. A new book titled *The Love Feast*, a treasury of images and words just published in July, provides a way for Brethren to reflect on the way this profound

“Spiritual formation begins more with God than with ‘my need.’ It involves listening to God more than speaking to God. Revitalization begins with transformation of a people, assuming that the change is of God rather than some human effort,” says Glenn Timmons.

Underlining the General Board's varied contributions to spiritual formation within the Church of the Brethren is its own vision statement, "Of God, for God, with God."

ordinance shapes our identity.

And a key resource for shaping the next generation of Brethren is *Heart, Soul, and Mind* a comprehensive membership curriculum from Brethren Press. While the materials are designed to convey basic information about the Bible, church history, Brethren belief, and church membership, more importantly they guide learners through a careful and deliberate process that involves wrestling with questions about faith, being mentored, and serving in an apprenticeship program.

"The Brethren commitment to discipleship is, at its heart, a commitment to growth with God," says the leader's guide for *Heart, Soul, and Mind*. "Therefore, the outward disciplines of mutual aid, service, relief work, and the peace testimony serve to balance the inward disciplines of study, worship, and prayer. All the disciplines, inward and outward, are the outgrowth of a relationship with God and not the worthless effort to earn God's grace" (p. 110).

The board's leadership in spiritual formation is no accident, but rather was identified three years ago as one of its goals. The board has sought to establish its own balance between the inward and the outward, and invites congregations and individuals to seek that balance as well.

Underlining the General Board's varied contributions to spiritual formation within the Church of the Brethren is its own vision statement, "Of God, for God, with God." The words emerged to a small planning group made up of board members and staff, who held a spiritual retreat marked by Bible study, prayer, and discernment.

Rich in their simplicity, the words serve as a touchstone for all the General Board's ministries—those that visibly serve the world around us and those that nurture our own souls so that we are ever more faithful followers of Jesus Christ. 

Wendy McFadden is director and publisher of Brethren Press.

JOYCE RUPP



The Cup of Our Life

A Guide for Spiritual Growth

Recommended Reading for Spiritual Growth

Below are listed five excellent books on spiritual growth that help us to nurture our relationship with God in practical, everyday ways. The books are available through Brethren Press by calling 800-441-3712.

The Cup of Our Life: A Guide for Spiritual Growth, by Joyce Rupp, Ave Maria Press, 1997. \$12.95.

This book of devotions contains six weeks of daily meditations for spiritual growth. The author is a Catholic sister, a member of the Servite (Servants of Mary) community. She is a popular author and retreat leader who describes how the ordinary cups that we use each day can become symbols of our spiritual life. For each day she uses different images like the broken cup, the open cup, the chipped cup, the blessing cup. Each day's

devotion includes a short essay, a scripture, suggestions for meditation/prayer, and questions for journaling.

Rupp reminds us that our spiritual life is not limited to the set time and place of our prayer. Rather, it involves all of our life. Therefore, the common, ordinary things of life, like cups, are good reminders to us that God is always present in our lives. Through our regular, daily times of prayer and scripture study we are re-alerted to discover God throughout our entire day.

Awake My Soul: Practical Spirituality for Busy People, by Timothy Jones, Doubleday Books, 2000. \$10.95.

This former Church of the Brethren minister, now Episcopalian, has written a number of excellent books on spirituality: *The Art of Prayer*, *A Place for God*, and now this latest

"This book's message is significant, timely, and needed!"

AWAKE MY SOUL



PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY FOR BUSY PEOPLE

TIMOTHY JONES

You are
the Light
of the World

offering. Jones does a masterful job of combining spiritual insights with anecdotes from his own daily life and the lives of others. He rightly understands that there is a deep spiritual hunger in America, and he seeks to draw from both ancient wisdom and contemporary experience. His book is filled with practical ways to “awake” our souls to God in the midst of our daily lives.

He writes, “Somehow waking up must bring calm and simple graces and occasional spaces. I have no interest in an approach to the spiritual life that only tightens my time bind. . . . What I need is fundamentally to change my relationship to time, to the God of time.” So he suggests concrete ways of turning our thoughts to God that transform daily pressures of life into moments of spiritual enrichment (e.g., cultivating a spirit of more gratitude, seeing our work as a calling—no matter what our job is).

Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith, by Henri Nouwen, HarperCollins Publishers, 1997. \$20.

This well-known author wrote these 366 devotional thoughts shortly before his death. Each day contains a brief but insightful paragraph of Nouwen’s reflections on God, love, prayer, suffering, the church as God’s people, etc. What we find here are key thoughts about what it means to seek God and to be faithful to God.

For instance, for Dec. 25 Nouwen writes: “What is our task in this world as children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus? Our task is reconciliation. . . . Because God sent Jesus to reconcile us with God and to give us the task of reconciling people with one another (see 2 Cor. 5:18). So whatever we do, the main question is, ‘Does it lead to reconciliation among people?’”

For a whole year of daily spiritual nourishment, this is indeed bread for our journey.

Spiritual Rx: Prescriptions for Living a Meaningful Life, by Fredric and Mary Ann Brussat, Hyperion, 2000. \$23.95.

Thirty-seven spiritual practices (gratitude, compassion, joy, listening, wonder, forgiveness, being present, etc.) are the subject of this guide for enriching one’s spiritual life. The authors remind us that whatever we

practice, that’s what we become good at. So if we practice being angry, that is how we become. If, on the other hand, we practice grace, we become good at that. Each chapter begins with daily cues related to that practice, then a few paragraphs that discuss the practice, some quotes, a section on teachers of that practice, a section on videos, books, art, and music on that topic, spiritual exercises, questions for journaling, and group or community projects. Each of the 37 spiritual practices is thus dealt with comprehensively.

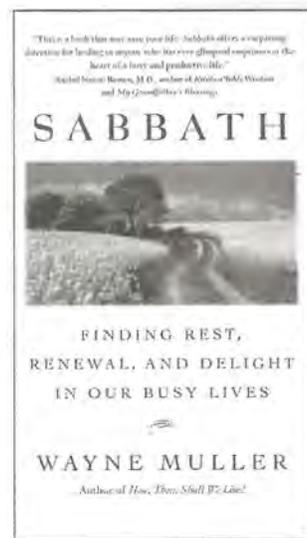
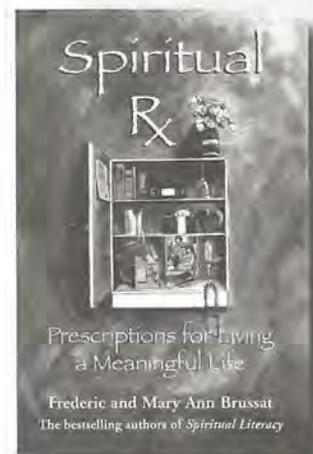
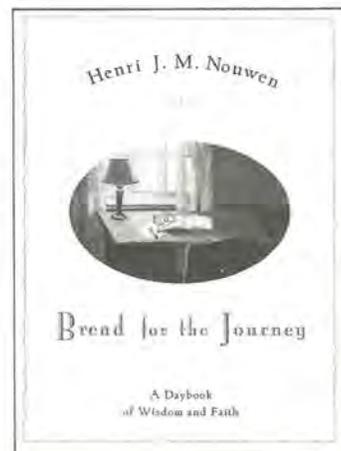
The Brussats have spent the last 30 years as reviewers of resources on spirituality. They draw on the depth of that expertise in recommending the best books to read and other mediums to explore regarding each practice.

Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives, by Wayne Muller, Bantam Books, 1999. \$14.95.

Muller emphasizes the importance of a rhythm in our lives that includes not only productivity and working, but also sabbath rest. In the same way that plants and animals follow natural circadian rhythms, human beings need the rhythm of work and rest. Muller reminds us that if we do not allow for this rhythm of rest in our overly busy lives, illness becomes our Sabbath. The commandment to “Remember the Sabbath” is not simply a lifestyle suggestion. It is a spiritual precept to restore our souls.

Each of the short chapters (such as “Rest for the Weary,” “The Rhythm of Creation,” or “Be Still and Know”) ends with a “practice,” a specific way to implement that concept into one’s spiritual life. For example, on “Blessing,” Muller suggests, “There are many ways to offer your blessing. You may bless your children . . . your friend, by placing your hand on their head, and offering a prayer for their healing, their well-being, their happiness. . . . Another practice invites us to bless strangers quietly, secretly. Offer it to people you notice on the street, in the market, on the bus. . . . Gently, almost without effort, each and every blessing becomes a Sabbath.”—Chris Douglas

Chris Douglas is coordinator of youth and young adult ministry for the General Board.



Worshipful - Work

The new symbol for the Worshipful-Work organization in Kansas City was created by Don Parker of the Church of the Brethren.

The process began last January at a Worshipful-Work training event sponsored by the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries unit. During this three-day event at Bethany Theological Seminary, participants were invited to think about a new symbol for Worshipful-Work. One of those asked to put pencil to paper was Don Parker.

After several months of back-and-forth between Parker and the staff of Worshipful-Work, he finalized this image depicting "the table of the Board as a table of the Lord." Reports Ellen Morseth, of Worship-



ful-Work: "Our symbol is grounded in story, reflection, vision, and discernment, as well as our charism of integrating spirituality and administration in church governance."

Parker is a retired physician currently serving as vice chair of the General Board. He also chairs the Northern Ohio Brethren Conciliation Service and is active in the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren. He enjoys the challenge of developing symbols and logos, but says, "Art for art's sake is not enough for me. I am happiest when my art serves the work of Christ through the church."

This article was adapted from Worshipful-Work's newsletter, "Gracious Space," September 2000.

J2K: New Hope, New Day

A status report on spirituality in action

Along with providing an opportunity for Brethren to celebrate Jesus' birth and to reflect on the turning of the millennium, "J2K: New Hope, New Day" has purposefully brought together many elements Brethren would include under the heading "spirituality."

Brethren have not been content to limit their spiritual life to traditional spiritual disciplines such as prayer and fasting. Many of our heritage see service, peace, and care for the creation as also deeply spiritual and to be fully integrated into our life with God.

During 2000, J2K has provided a springboard for individuals, congregations, districts, and the denomination to deepen its spiritual rootage in this broader sense, offering handles for those who see this as an important moment to assess our life of faith in

light of the rapidly changing world around us. Many congregations have faithfully printed each month's prayer calendar and publicized the daily scripture readings. Tree planting and the creation of time capsules has taken

place in local, district, and national settings. Offerings toward the "We're Building a House, the Lord's House" campaign have helped fund wood-conserving stove projects in Central America and community renewal in one of the poorest areas of the eastern shore of the US.

Capping the year will be a theological conference being jointly sponsored by the General Board and Bethany Theological Seminary. This event, to be held in Cincinnati Dec. 29-Jan. 1, will bring together Brethren from all points on the theological continuum to "Speak of Jesus" (the conference title) at this important moment in human history. Plenary sessions, worship services, Bible studies, and workshops will offer a high degree of participation, while also providing stimulating input from a wide array of presenters.

A year with this many zeros attached only comes along, well, about once every thousand years. The goal of "J2K: New Hope, New Day" has been to enable Brethren to seize this moment as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to Christ in the manner we do it best—by employing the full range of our life experiences in the service of the gospel, our neighbors, and our God.—David Radcliff

David Radcliff is director of the Office of Witness for the Church of the Brethren General Board.

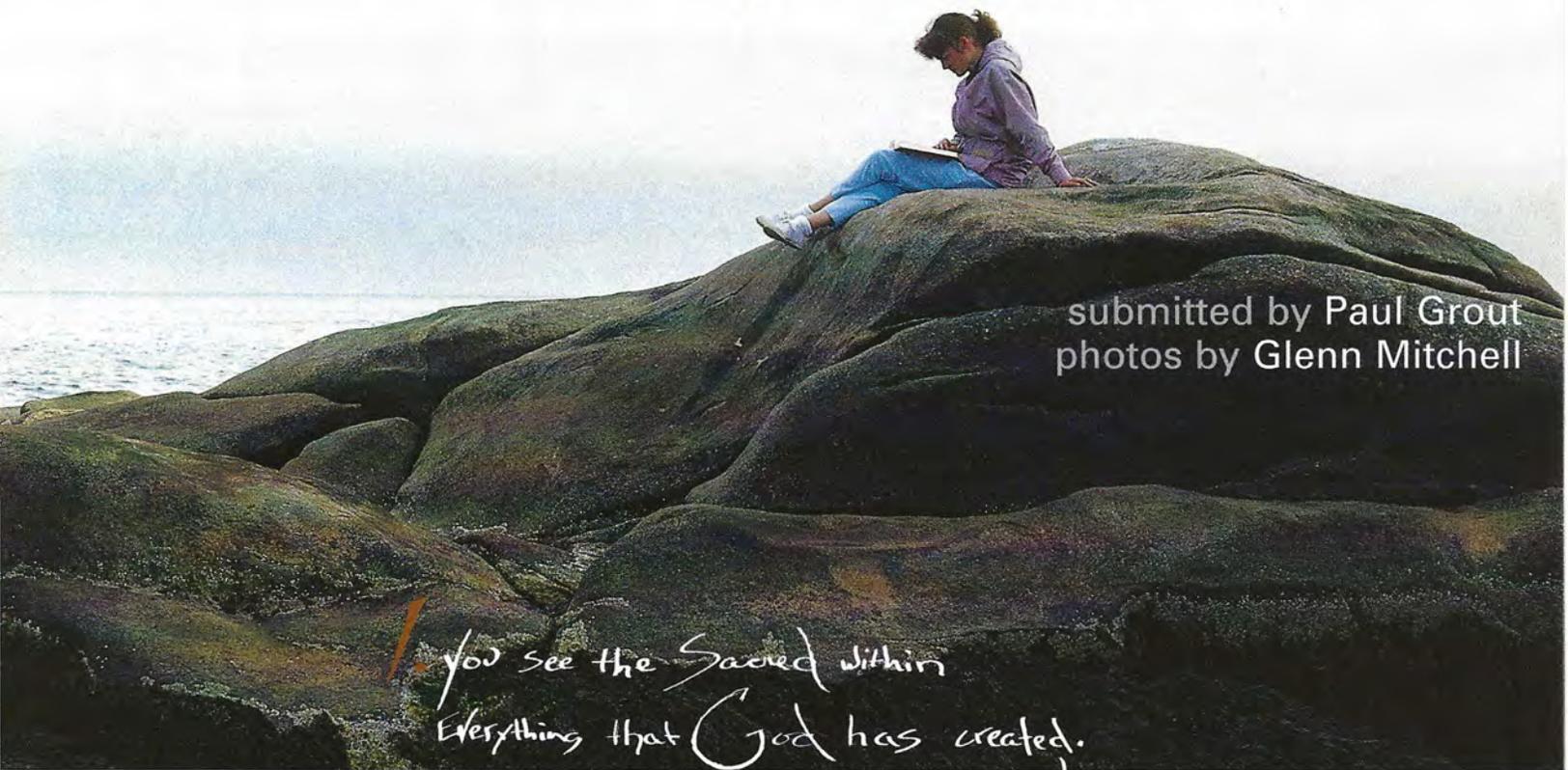


J2K
NEW HOPE.
NEW DAY.

ing and the creation of time capsules has taken

You are
the Light
of the World

Seven Symptoms of Wellness



submitted by Paul Grout
photos by Glenn Mitchell

You see the Sacred within
Everything that God has created.

There is within you a Christ-Like Love
for Everything & Everyone you Encounter
you begin to identify the Creator's Love
in All of Creation



Paul Grout, of Putney, Vt., is moderator-elect of the Church of the Brethren. The "Seven Symptoms of Wellness" is from an artistic book of spiritual messages titled *The God Centered Life*. The book is available for \$4 plus mailing cost from Georgia Markey, Southern Pennsylvania District Office, 6035 York Road, New Oxford, PA, 17350. Telephone 717-624-8636 or e-mail gmarkey_ds@brethren.org.

Glenn Mitchell, a photographer and trained spiritual director, is pastor of University Baptist and Brethren Church, State College, Pa.



2 You are learning to live in Quietness. You have broken with the Exhausting Pace of the World.

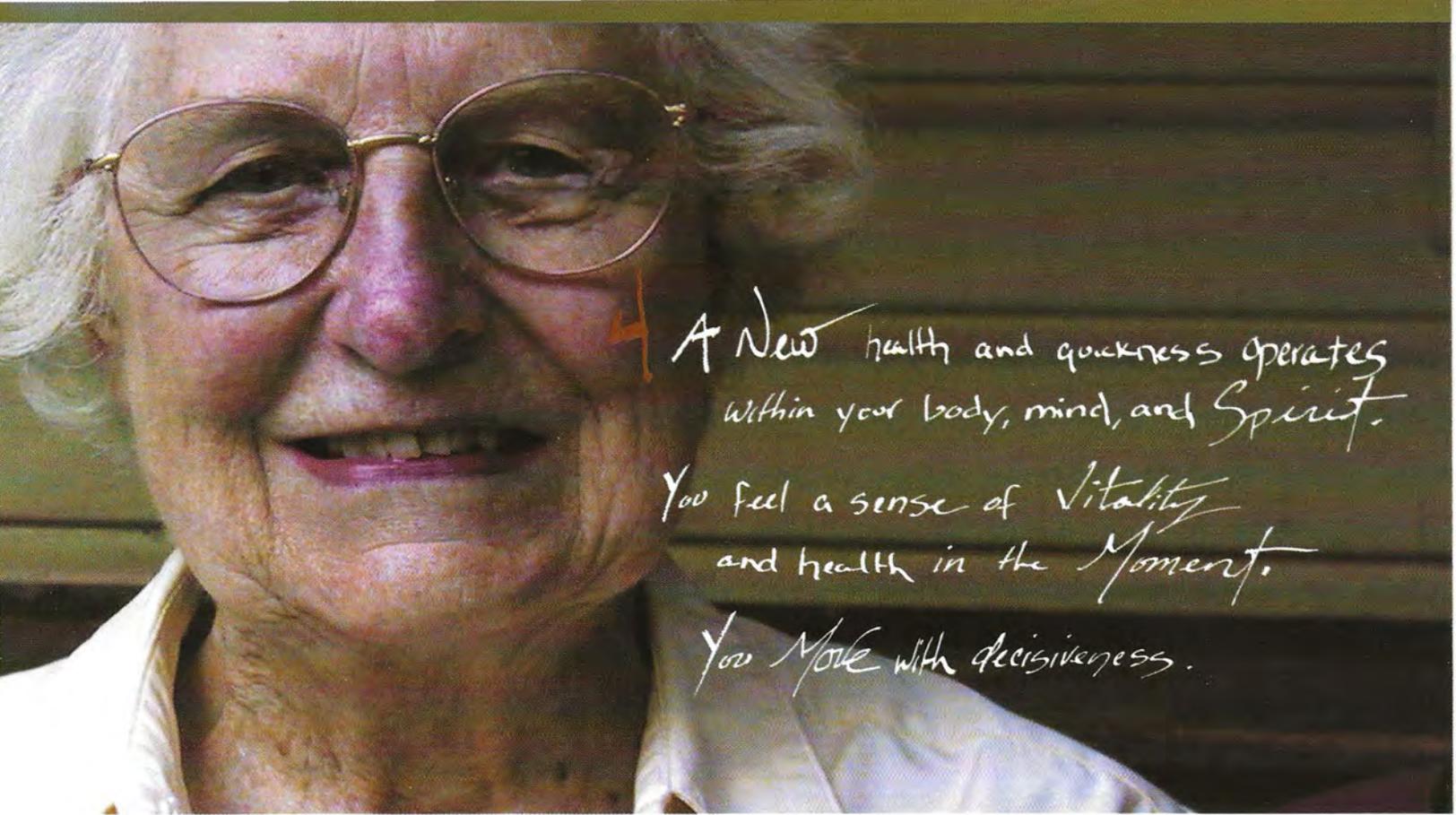
You have found a place of silence that is Refreshing your Soul.

You have experienced a sacredness in Silence.



3 You are becoming Child-like.
You are beginning to realize
the happiness of a Child.

You approach All relationships with
A Joyful child-like Anticipation.



4 A New health and quickness operates within your body, mind, and Spirit.

You feel a sense of Vitality and health in the Moment.

You Move with decisiveness.

5 Your Gifts and passions are beginning to manifest themselves in ways that Bless you and others.

You have a clear Sense of God's calling.
Everything that has ever happened to you.
Everything that you have Ever experienced
gives Meaning to the present.

You have a desire to use your gifts
to Help others. You trust God to
Provide your Ministry.



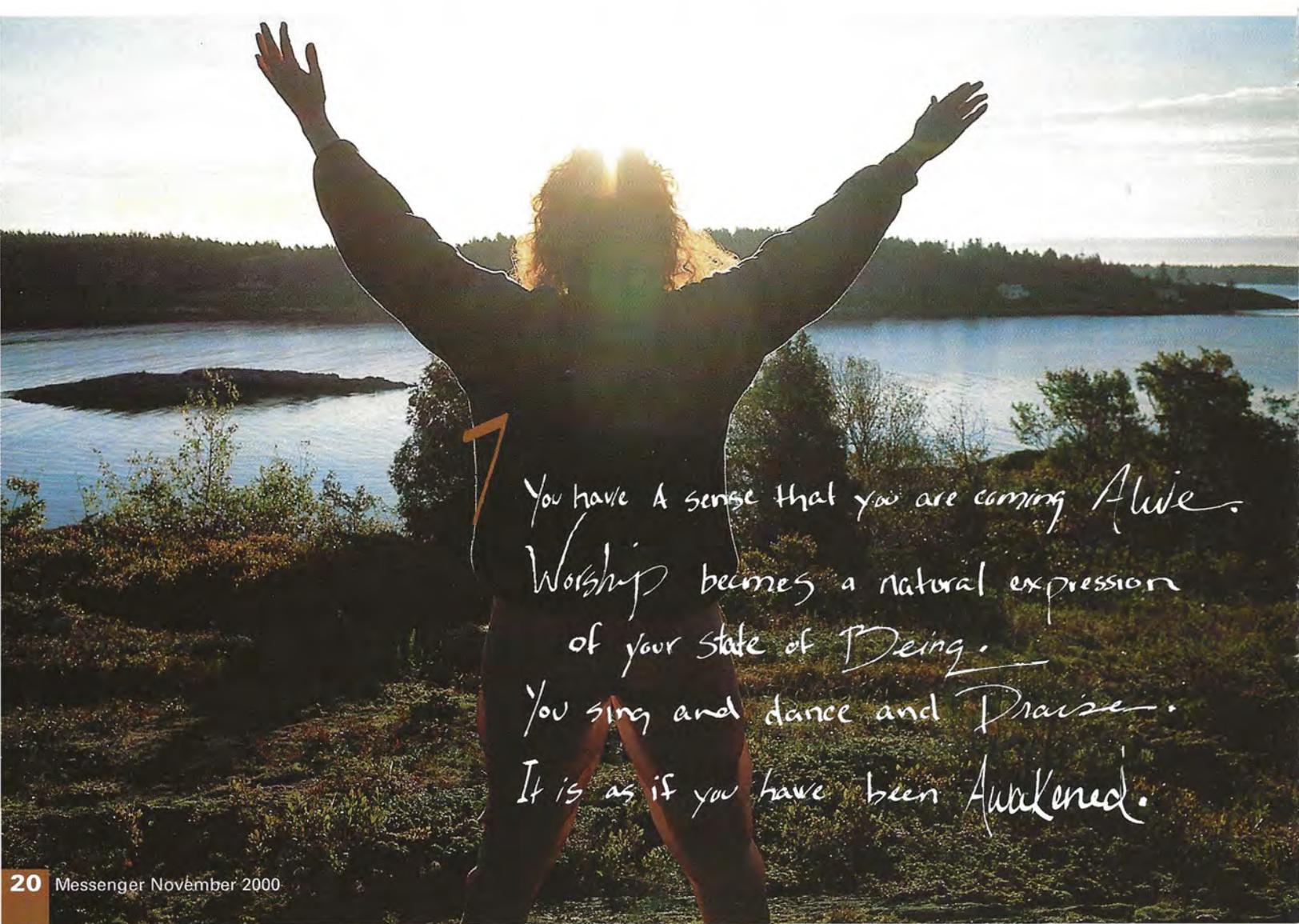
6 You carry in your Person A love of Family, A love of All people around you.
You carry in your person A Love for All creation.

You can become Almost overwhelmed by a sunset,
the moon over the Ocean, A bird's Song in the morning,
Wind blowing through the trees.

You Live in a spirit of thankfulness for Everything.

You see the damaging Effect of hatred, Hatred and Injustice
on All of Creation.

7 You have A sense that you are coming Awake.
Worship becomes a natural expression
of your state of Being.
You sing and dance and Praise.
It is as if you have been Awakened.



You are
the Light
of the World



Abby Miller

Writing in her journal is Ellen Shartner from Frederick, Md., at the "God-Centered Life" Youth Spiritual Life Camp at Shepherd's Spring camp.

Catching the Spirit for Youth

A new emphasis on giving youth a "tool kit" for their experience with God

by Walt Wiltschek

Chris Douglas, coordinator of Youth/Young Adult Ministries for the Church of the Brethren General Board, had an epiphany of sorts a few years ago. "Like the lights came on," she calls it.

She was at a workshop led by Mark Yaconelli, who directs the Youth Spirituality Project at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Yaconelli talked about the way congregations lament the fact that youth are so active during

high school, then leave the church when they become young adults.

Yaconelli said when he asked youth about the times they had felt closest to God, it was typically at camps, retreats, district and national conferences, workcamps and mission trips, and other major events. He pointed out that they all involved large peer groups and going away somewhere—opportunities that became far less frequent after the youth years.

Without realizing it, he said, churches had "taught an inaccessibil-

ity to God" once youth leave high school. The familiar channels all disappeared.

It led Yaconelli to take another look at how churches can do a better job of preparing youth in personal faith, like worship and a private devotional life. That, in turn, led him to venerable Christian practices like prayer, meditation on scripture, and quiet reflection. He became convinced that churches need to provide youth this "tool kit" of ways to experience God.

His observations struck a deep



Luke Croushorn

Washing feet during a worship time at the Youth Spiritual Life Camp is Ben Keeney of Leola, Pa.

Coming youth spirituality events

- **Nov. 18** National Youth Ministry Workshop, "The God-Centered Life: What It Means to Be Alive," led by Paul Grout
- **Feb. 16-18, 2001** Young adult spirituality retreat at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center, Sharpsburg, Md.
- **March 9-11, 2001** "The God-Centered Life" youth advisor training session/retreat at Shepherd's Spring
- **May 26-28, 2001** National Young Adult Conference; theme: "The God-Bearing Life," led by Paul Grout at Brethren Woods, Keezletown, Va.
- **June 2001** Young adult work-camp/trip to Taizé community, France
- **July 29-Aug. 4, 2001** "The God-Centered Life" national youth spirituality camp at Camp Mack, Milford, Ind.

chord with Douglas, and she hasn't looked at youth ministry the same way since. Somehow, congregations needed to help youth find deeper relationships with Jesus Christ and, through that, with the church family.

"Over the past 40-50 years, the church hasn't fostered that sense of connectedness," Douglas says. "We just cannot keep doing youth groups the way we've been doing them."

Many youth programs still work out of the traditional model of simply bringing youth together for "good, clean fun," she says, "holding them" in church until they become adults. The fun and fellowship are still important parts of those programs and shouldn't simply be discarded, but churches need to go beyond that.

"I think we're at a time culturally and spiritually where that model isn't enough anymore," Douglas says. "There's more awareness of a spiritual hunger in our culture. I'm amazed at all the places where that shows up. The question becomes, 'How do we in youth ministry help young people connect to God in a deeper kind of way and gain more intimacy with Jesus Christ?'"

She acknowledges that this is a major

"There's more awareness of a spiritual hunger in our culture. I'm amazed at all the places where that shows up. The question becomes, 'How do we in youth ministry help young people connect to God in a deeper kind of way and gain more intimacy with Jesus Christ?'"

shift of approach for most churches, from a program-based model to one based on relationships—and most specifically on one's relationship with God.

At the same time, it calls churches to infuse youth ministry throughout the life of a congregation. Youth need to be involved in all phases of the church's ministry and surrounded with caring adults who will be encouragers, advocates, and role models through avenues such as mentoring and sharing significant responsibility.

A key book for Douglas in understanding this change of paradigms has been *The Godbearing Life*, by Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster. Several copies sit on the counter in her Elgin, Ill., office.

In it lies a key line that pulls the pieces of this approach together. Dean and Foster write: "The question, then, is how do we invite youth more deeply into the practices of faith? The answer is deceptively simple: We become more deeply involved in the practices of faith."

"It's so easy to yearn for kids to be more spiritual," says Douglas, who has a 15-year-old daughter in her own home. "But how are kids ever going to learn if it's not in my own life to model and teach and pray for them? Adults must immerse themselves deeply in their own growth and relationship with God."

The renewed emphasis and intentionality on spirituality for both youth and advisors has already shown itself in a fresh vision in denominational programming.

A new project called "The God-Centered Life," done in partnership between the General Board and Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministries Center in Sharpsburg, Md., held a retreat/training for youth advisors and a camp for youth this past year, and similar events are planned for 2001, all drawing on leadership by Annual Conference moderator-elect Paul Grout.

Youth advisors are also being invited to a workshop focusing on the topic for a second straight year, this one with keynote leadership by Grout Nov. 18 in Chambersburg, Pa. And young adults are offered a retreat at Shepherd's Spring in February.

Beyond that, however, the emphasis also filters its way into other programming, like workcamps, resources, and the upcoming 2002 National Youth Conference.

"It needs to be something that pervades everything we do in youth ministry," Douglas says.

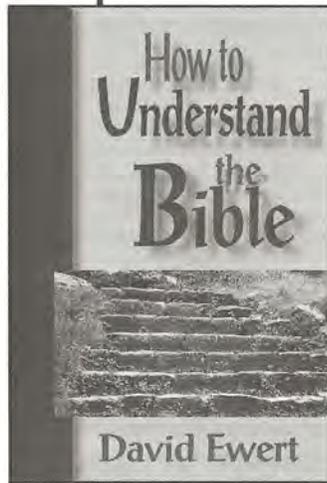
She says the process of implementing and sharing this renewed vision is fun and energizing, and her enthusiasm is evident in the way she describes it. She hopes that others in the denomination who work with youth and who care about youth will continue to catch that excitement as well.

"It's time for the church to be more proactive in saying to kids, 'Your life is about more than your mind and body,'" according to Douglas. "You have a soul that gets hungry, too, and needs to be attended to. And it's a relationship with God that feeds your soul."



Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board. He also serves on the denominational Junior High Ministry Task Force and has served in youth ministry in several congregations.

The Godbearing Life can be ordered through Brethren Press. Call 800-441-3712 (order #0225, \$14.95).



Herald
Press



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Finding God

compiled by Beth Sollenberger Morpew
illustrations by Jessica Grommes

Recently on a whim I bought a meditation garden. While some in the family laughed at my spending so much on a tray of sand and stones packaged with a small plastic rake, I noticed they all took a turn at rearranging the sand and stones.

My meditation garden is the perfect illustration for a workshop on styles of prayer, but it looks a little strange sitting on our kitchen counter. However, as one who grew up in a gardening family, there is something quite satisfying about digging in the dirt, moving rocks, and nurturing plants, and sometimes offering a prayer in the midst of it all.

Traditionally Brethren have sought God in

Traditionally Brethren have sought God in the midst of everyday work and events. Hymns can be sung in church just as well as while plowing or putting the baby to bed. Prayers can be prayed just as effectively over the phone or at the kitchen table as they can on our knees by the bedside or sitting in a church pew.

the midst of everyday work and events. Hymns can be sung in church just as well as while plowing or putting the baby to bed. Prayers can be prayed just as effectively over the phone or at the kitchen table as they can on our knees by the bedside or sitting in a church pew. Brethren are attuned to God and our calls to prayer, our reminders of God's presence, often happen in the midst of the daily routine. Four people have graciously shared a glimpse of how they seek and know God's blessing:



Many cookies, many prayers

Leaving the people from one congregation behind when moving to a new pastorate is hard. One of the ways I have stayed connected is to pray for people when I use one of their recipes. I don't know exactly when I started to do this. I do know that when I would find a recipe in a church cookbook or receive a recipe after a potluck I would type them on a card and include the name of the person sharing the recipe at the top of the card. Then when I pull that recipe out to make it, I pray for the person named. It is usually a general prayer because I don't really know what is going on in their life right now. But I ask God to protect them and offer them a blessing. And I thank God for that person.

I have one recipe that I received about 40 years ago. It is probably my most used one—chocolate chip cookies with oatmeal and brown sugar—and the one my family always asks for. I got it from Martha Long. The Longs kept our children several times when we went to Annual Conference and we returned the favor some-

You are
the Light
of the World

in the Everyday

times on weekends. I've given thanks for the friendship many times over and we have eaten lots of those cookies.—*Pearl Hostetter, Goshen, Ind.*

God and the Great Blue

The morning was sunlit and already humid. As I drove from home toward the church my mind was whirling with a multitude of concerns. The road ahead curved down toward the little marsh that I pass every day. As the pond came into view I felt a familiar rush of joy and peace. A Great Blue Heron stood motionless in the shallow water.

For over 15 years the sight of one of these beautiful gray-blue birds has been a source of special grace in my life, for the presence of this magnificent bird has become a symbol of God's Presence. Why this is so is a mystery I may never understand. But there have been countless times when the Great Blue has brought a deep sense of benediction, affirmation, reassurance, and blessing.

One evening at the end of a bittersweet vacation on Cape Cod, I was feeling deeply depressed as I thought about returning home the next day. Walking along a narrow path by Nauset Marsh I chanced upon a Great Blue. Only a few yards from where I stood, it stood, unmoving and unafraid. We shared the vast silence of that marsh as the sun sent golden-pink streaks across an azure sky. Somewhere deep within me a sense of peace welled up to embrace my sorrow. When the Great Blue finally flew away into the gathering twilight, its flight formed an unspoken benediction. When it had disappeared, I turned away, ready to return home.

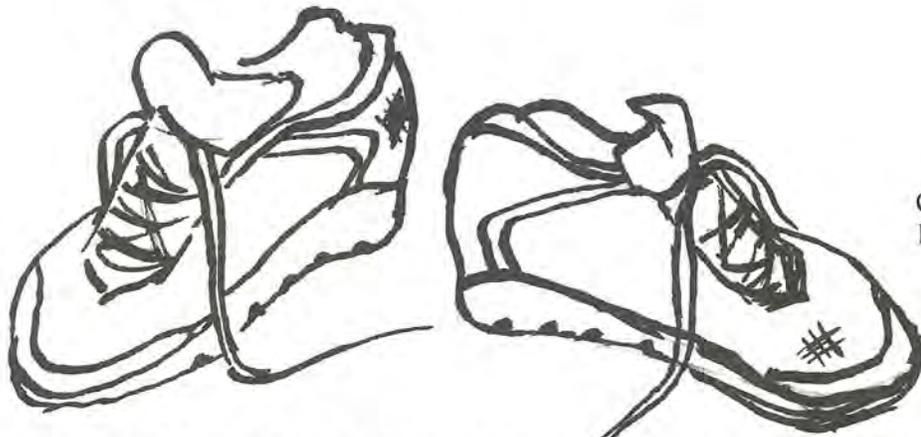
Another time when my family was vacationing in Belize, my daughters and I had gone by boat and jeep to tour some Mayan ruins located

about two hours away from the lodge where we were staying. Before we left, we had been warned that we would need to be sure to start the journey back in plenty of time. We had to return well before sunset because our guide could not navigate the river in darkness.

Reveling in the grand adventure of touring the vast Mayan ruins, I lost all sense of time.

Only a few yards from where I stood, it stood, unmoving and unafraid. We shared the vast silence of that marsh as the sun sent golden-pink streaks across an azure sky. Somewhere deep within me a sense of peace welled up to embrace my sorrow.





When I finally looked at my watch I realized with a start that it was already mid-afternoon. We hurried back to the landing, explaining that we must leave at once. A quick gathering of belongings got us launched with little delay, but I kept looking at my watch, making mental calculations. As we glided down the river toward our rendezvous with the jeep driver who would take us to another boat, my inner alarm kept sounding. Had we tarried too long?

Then, as we rounded a bend in the river I saw a Great Blue Heron. Its presence immediately calmed my fear. As we passed near it, the heron never moved. I felt a deep inner sense of assurance: we would make it on time. Just over two hours later we stepped out of the other boat, casting shadows onto the grassy landing in front of our jungle lodge. The sun was just beginning to set.

Over and over, in times of turmoil, doubt, stress, or exhaustion, a Great Blue Heron has flown across the sky above me, flown beside my car, or appeared in the most unexpected places. Always it brings me a sense of God's presence and caring. In the midst of some very difficult times, this special creature of our Creator reminds me that "All shall be well." —Prue Yelinek, Waynesboro, Pa.

Pumped up with prayer

Apart from prayer, I would not exercise. Movement and prayer have become habit for me, after years of disciplined application. Sometime in January 1996, at a silent retreat, a 36-hour period of silence at Bon Secours, I found myself running, literally, up a flight of stairs. Having been in silence for only 8 hours, I had 28 more to ponder why I was hurrying.

One result of that experience has been the disciplined and intentional combination of prayer and movement . . . slowing myself down.

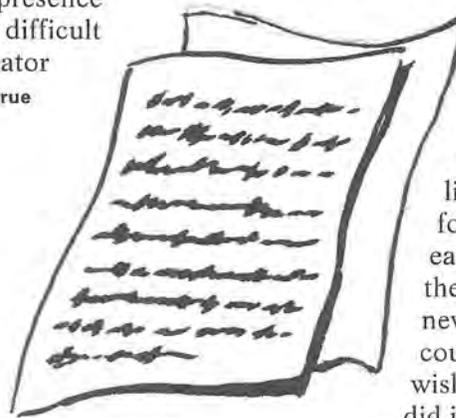
Each day I exercise for about 50 minutes, and those 50 minutes are all

about prayer. I pray for my family, their health, their wellbeing, their friends, their concerns, their day. I pray for the congregations of our district, the pastors, the districts, the agencies, the denomination, I pray for my mentors, my spiritual guides, my supervisors, and colleagues. I pray for my friends. I pray for my enemies. I pray for my critics. I pray for the day, the moment, for grace, for mercy, for the presence of God.

I pray for 50 minutes. I exercise while I pray. It works for me. I am blessed by and through it.—Rich Hanley, McPherson, Kan.

Praying down the list

This all started when I was serving as the pastor of a local congregation. I kept a prayer list that covered the entire congregation over the course of a year. I would organize the list around birthdays and anniversaries and often felt led by the spirit to send cards or make phone calls.



When I became a district minister I continued to maintain a prayer list and regularly prayed for 5 or 6 congregations each week. I published the list in the district newsletter so that others could join me if they wished. One of the things I did in conjunction with

praying was to send every pastor's child something at Christmas. It was often a fold-out Christmas card or a bookmark—something to let them know someone else was thinking of them. Once it was a bookmark that said "I was

Each day I exercise for about 50 minutes, and those 50 minutes are all about prayer. I pray for the day, the moment, for grace, for mercy, for the presence of God.

caught being good.”

When I retired from the district minister position I kept the prayer list. I just add names sometimes. Pastors, people from district-related leadership positions, the denominational staff, and leaders of the other institutions of the church. I'm a deacon these days and that means we have 10 family units that I've added to my prayer list.

Sometimes when a person's name comes up I just have a little feeling that I need to check in and so I make a phone call. I have often found it to be timely when I learned what was going on in their lives. I was glad I called.

—Carroll M. Petry, North Manchester, Ind.



A crazy Christmas cactus

We have a “Christmas Cactus” at our house. I am sure it has bloomed for Christmas at least once in its existence, just never for me to see. It has bloomed at a few very important times. Times when stress or transition or despair were the overwhelming emotions of my moment. Those times when I most need a sign, that crazy cactus has come through and provided a bloom of hope, and a signal of God's abiding care. I am grateful!—Beth Sollenberger Morphew

It has bloomed at a few very important times. Those times when I most need a sign, that crazy cactus has come through.

Beth Sollenberger Morphew, of Goshen, Ind., is Congregational Life Team Coordinator for Area 2.



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Still fresh & green

The fifth National Older Adult Conference celebrates how seniors live and give

by Walt Wiltschek

The theme for this year's National Older Adult Conference was "Still Bearing Fruit, Still Fresh and Green," based on Psalm 92:14. The phrase, taken from the Phillips translation of the Scriptures, appeared on all conference materials and on a large banner at the event.

Of course, in the New Revised Standard

that the theme did not relate to Fruit of the Loom products, or to eating green grapes, or to green currency.

A jug of maple syrup to illustrate being "full of sap" also failed to fill the bill. Scott Douglas of the Association of Brethren Caregivers, which sponsored the conference, assured her that the sap referred to being life-giving nourishment in the church.

Myers eventually came to the realization that the theme spoke to continuing vitality and growth in God in the later stages of life, of people "building a green and growing life." With that settled, she turned to the audience and said, "We're grateful for you coming to 'be fresh' with us."

The joke sparked another round of laughter, but it also served as a fitting introduction for a week in mid-September when Brethren of ages 50 and over demonstrated and shared their freshness in faith. Set among the mountains of western North Carolina at the waters of Lake Junaluska, the fifth edition of the biennial conference was as full of life as the robust vines on the theme materials.

Attendance was 1,050, up slightly from the 1,041 of two years ago and near the maximum for the lodging available. Participants came from 30 states, including Hawaii. They came from 21 of the 23 Church of the Brethren districts and from 236 congregations—including four who sent more than 25 people each. They came by plane, car, bus, and even motorcycle. Many were attending for the first time, although a group of more than 100 gathered for a photo of people who had been to all five NOAC events.

"I've been to all of them," said 95-year-old Ruby Witter of North Manchester, Ind., the conference's oldest attendee. "It's exciting. I like the people."

The program offered a week full of worship and Bible study, rest and recreation, food (especially ice cream) and fellowship, classes



Walt Wiltschek

Swing your partner.

William Pletcher of Elkhart, Ind., and Mary Sheesley of Oneonta, N.Y., enjoy square dance lessons led by Doris Coppock.

Version it reads, "In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap." That chuckle-producing lead-in opened the door for conference personnel to have some fun explaining it.

Doreen Myers—who served as NOAC coordinator along with her husband, Carl—pulled one item after another out of a bag in an opening night skit. She determined



Nevin Dalabaum

and crafts. A series of keynote speakers provided challenges, encouragement, and insights during general sessions each day.

Retired pastor Jimmy Ross said that “leaves and shade are no substitute for fruit,” emphasizing that retirement isn’t an excuse for sitting back. Former McPherson College president Paul Hoffman urged Brethren to have a distinctive identity, no longer by their clothes but by the way they give and live.

Former Kirkridge Retreat Center director Robert Raines wove humor through a list of tasks for creative aging, from waking up to one’s own mortality to taking on the mysteries of grace and “practicing resurrection.” Retired pastor Dean Miller based his message on the story of Jesus changing the water into wine at Cana, saying “God’s surprises are like the rabbi’s wine. There’s more, and the best is yet to be.”

Author and teacher Marva Dawn spoke twice despite a series of medical woes. She won over the crowd with warmth, depth, and passion. “We’re branches on a vine,” she said. “If

you don’t stay stuck, you don’t bear much fruit. ... All of us have the hunger to be the kind of vines God wants us to be.”

Two major evening sessions featured entertainment, with members of the North Manchester, Ind., Shepherd Center presenting an original drama called “Heavenly Days” one night and Mennonite comedy duo Ted & Lee performing their “Creation Chronicles” trip through the Old Testament on another.

A large group came together when everyone who had attended all five National Older Adult Conferences to date was asked to gather for a group picture.

A dynamic folk duo of Don Pedi, on dulcimer, and Bruce Greene, on fiddle, performed Thursday afternoon.



Wait Wiltschek



NOAC's nonagenarians: Six people answered the call for those attending NOAC who were 90 or over this year. Pictured from left are Eula Fyock, Pauline Thompson, Emmert Gibble, Annie Heisey, Ralph Heisey, and Ruby Witter. Witter, at 95, is the oldest; Annie Heisey just turned 90. Four of the six live in Pennsylvania.

Ninety-plus, and doing a lot more than counting

Most of the people attending this year's National Older Adult Conference brought a fair amount of life experience with them. A handful, however, brought a bit more experience than others: at least nine decades' worth.

Half a dozen Brethren responded to the call for all nonagenarians attending NOAC and assembled for a group picture one morning. Ruby Witter, 95, from North Manchester, Ind., was NOAC's oldest participant. Annie Heisey of Lancaster, Pa.—who attended with her 93-year-old husband, Ralph—just turned 90 the month before the conference.

All six of them agreed that they were glad they had made the trip to North Carolina.

"The religious services are excellent, and the scenery and air here are fantastic," said 91-year-old Pauline Thompson of St. Petersburg, Fla., attending her fourth NOAC. "You find the finest people that ever lived here. I intend to come back in two more years if I'm still on this earth."

Common to all of them were full and active lives, with activity continuing into their 90s. Emmert Gibble, 93, said he had farmed and spent nearly three decades working at Camp Swatara in Pennsylvania. Several had long teaching careers. Ralph Heisey said his travels had included trips to China, Israel, and many parts of Europe.

Eula Fyock, 91, of Lancaster, Pa., said she continues to volunteer regularly, sometimes escorting other Brethren Village residents to doctor or dentist appointments. And Witter said she frequently attends Elderhostel programs at an area university.

"It keeps me in contact with people," Witter said. "I like people."

And Annie Heisey proved that once a Brethren, always a Brethren. While praising many aspects of NOAC and all the Brethren interaction, she said one of her favorite things there is the food. "Especially the ice cream," she added.—Walt Wiltschek

Former General Board general secretary and Juniata College president Bob Neff delivered another highlight, sharing a series of three Bible studies from the Psalms. He addressed a different aspect of "Psalms for Older Adults" each day, speaking from Psalms 90, 92, and 96. Using his years of study and a variety of books, Neff traced through the journey of faith, including anger, prayer, relinquishing, nourishment, living in God's love, and—like the palm tree—bearing fruit even in the middle of the desert.

"We were really thrilled with the guest leadership," Carl Myers said. "People received them so well. I have very positive feelings about the experience."

Video segments by David Sollenberger and Larry Glick gave a glimpse, often humorous, of other conference activities such as ice cream socials, tournaments in various sports, hand-craft sessions, concerts, and night-life activities like singing and folk dancing. Other segments highlighted Brethren who were exemplifying "fresh and green" lives, and one spotlighted Charles and Barb Simmons of Virginia, who were spending their honeymoon at NOAC.

More than 60 participants helped to put together school and health kits for Church of the Brethren disaster relief in a week-long service project. More than 300 kits were assembled and packed for volunteers to take to New Windsor, Md.

"We tried to think what a lot of people could become involved with on an informal basis," said Gerry Graybill, who coordinated the service project along with her husband, Harry. "Harry and I have worked on disaster projects and know how important these things are." The Graybills are from Glen Rock, Pa., members of the Black Rock Church of the Brethren.

Also at NOAC were executives and board chairs of the five Annual Conference agencies, Annual Conference officers, and representatives of Standing Committee and the Council of District Executives, holding their InterAgency Forum meetings in conjunction with NOAC. Members of the group sat on a "State of the Church" panel one evening and fielded questions from a large audience.

Other events included "interest group" sessions on a host of topics, vesper services, a resource fair with displays and presentations from a variety of organizations, bookstores, and boat tours on the lake.

And in between it all were many conversations, walks among rose gardens, visiting and catching up, sharing ideas, learning new things, and demonstrating the gifts and wisdom that this segment of the church has to offer.



An afternoon "antiphonal vespers" had three groups singing and reading scripture to each other around the lake. Two groups stood at lake's edge, and one went out on the water in a pontoon boat.

Going head-to-head for a round of shuffleboard are Verna Calloway of Queen Anne, Md., and Jean Judy of Greenwood, Del.

A gray-haired woman sitting in the second row of one session summed it up. She looked up at the NOAC banner and turned to a friend beside her:

"Still fresh and green," she said, reading the words of the theme. "I like that."



Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board and still a couple decades away from qualifying to attend NOAC as a participant.



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Man of sorrows, what a name
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Now the green blade rises
Spirit, spirit of gentleness

Praising/Adoring
Shine, Jesus, Shine
Si tu puedes, cantalo
Bring many names
Great day
Jubilate, everybody

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany
Light one candle to watch for Messiah
While we are waiting, come
In the bleak midwinter
We three kings of Orient are
He is born

For more information, or to order the supplements, see the November Source packet or call Brethren Press.



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“ Thank you for reminding us of our task as Christians in this election—to hold our elected officials accountable for the welfare of those who are oppressed. ”

Politics and prayer for Sudan

In the flurry of banalities and trivialities surrounding the November election, it is refreshing to read “Steady until the sun sets” in the September MESSENGER. Thank you for reminding us of our task as Christians in this election—to hold our elected officials accountable for the welfare of those who are oppressed.

You reminded us that the Sudan civil war has killed nearly 2 million people, more than were killed in Kosovo. Even though the number of war victims in Sudan is higher than those in Chechnya, Kosovo, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Somalia combined, we hear nothing about it.

You reminded us to pray even as Christians prayed for the seeming impossible task of ridding South Africa of apartheid.

As Christians, we need to turn the attention of national election candidates to the tragedy in Sudan and to pray for its end.

Jean Lersch
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Evangelism needs leadership

Thank you for the good coverage of Annual Conference in the September issue.

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Regarding Gerald Crouse's comments at the dinner sponsored by the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships office, I agree with his statement, "If we don't practice verbal evangelism, we're living in sin." Therefore, I was disappointed in the vote to return the Virlina District query on evangelism. The vigorous debate and the close vote indicates that many of us delegates thought there should be a greater emphasis on evangelism at the national level. It is very true

LETTERS

that each of us has the responsibility to practice verbal evangelism, but the Lord has given the gift of evangelism to some.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of leadership to make those evangelists available to the churches. We don't need more literature, we need the existing literature and the church leaders to enthusiastically call church members to obey Jesus' call to be verbally proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. We also need to identify, fund, and make available gifted evangelists to come into our churches to reap a harvest among those we have personally ministered to and befriended.

Marion "Bud" Sechler
Pastor, Cando Church of the Brethren, Cando, N.D.

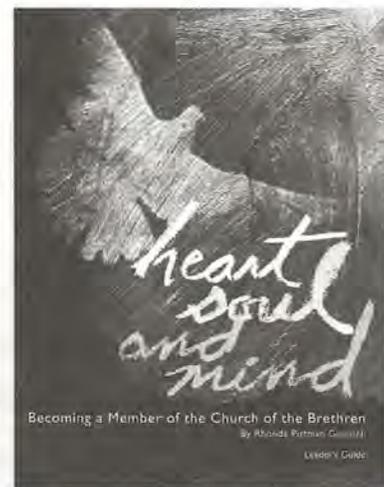
"Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment."

Matthew 22:36-38

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More light on evangelism

It pained me to miss Annual Conference this year. In the September MESSENGER I gave careful attention to the excellent report you gave of this year's Conference. But I couldn't find any satisfactory answer as to why Standing Committee and the Conference "returned" the Virginia query. I write to invite further light on this question of Brethren evangelism and disciple-making.

After about 250 years of continued growth, including some decades of significant growth when membership more than doubled, the Church of the Brethren now has been in a steady and serious decline for about 40 years. We now have

only two-thirds as many members as in 1960. A former moderator of Annual Conference has stated, "The denomination... has not yet come to grips with the problem of membership decline that continues each year unabated." If our method or form or style of evangelism has not worked in 40 years, it seems time for a change. If not the change that was proposed by the Virginia District, why didn't Standing Committee propose for Conference action a revised procedure that could be effective?

The Gospels clearly report that the calling/making of disciples was a top priority of Jesus, and his final commission to his followers was to "Go make disciples." The book of Acts dramati-

cally reports how the early disciples "continued the work of Jesus." Is there any valid reason why we Brethren are not doing the same?

In the September MESSENGER you quoted a brief statement of Gerald Crouse of our Dominican mission. He stated: "We are a non-evangelistic church. Jesus' call is a call to be about verbally proclaiming the Good News... If we don't we're living in sin." If he's correct, then most of us Brethren are living in sin!

Olden D. Mitchell
North Manchester, Ind.

Many Brethren homes

This letter is to say how I enjoyed reading the issue of MESSENGER devoted to Brethren homes [August]. Since I live near Peter Becker Community (Harleysville, Pa.), I visit there now and then. It is a wonderful home with good care.

I had no idea we, the Brethren, had that many nursing homes!

Mary E. Hixson
Quakertown, Pa.

Put "companion" in the name

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“ Considering the importance of the love feast and foot washing as symbols of what we try to live, either “companion” or “servant” better express who we are than “brethren” ”

descriptor may give that impression to some who know us only by name.

Many who have grown up in the Church of the Brethren cherish the name “Brethren” because of its link to history and tradition. Changing the name might seem like dishonoring or doing away with all the things that we hold dear and unique about our heritage. On the other hand, many who might be drawn to the

Church of the Brethren because of similar beliefs are repulsed by a name which implies that it is a closed, male-dominated society, interested only in people born or bred as Brethren. A new name which keeps “Brethren” but adds an inclusive word might be a solution addressing both concerns.

The word “companion” means com (with) panion (bread), or those we break

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bread with. We might consider adopting this word as part of our name—perhaps along with the name “Brethren”—to reflect both history and inclusivity. Some suggestions are: Brethren/ Companions in Christ, Companions/ Brethren in Christ, The Church of Companions/ Brethren in Christ, or The Church of Christ’s Companions/Brethren. Considering the importance of the love feast and foot washing as symbols of what we try to live, either “companion” or “servant” better express who we are than “brethren.”

Lois T. Dickason
South Haven, Mich.

TURNING POINTS

This month's Turning Points includes all listings received prior to 9/21/00 not previously published. Forms for submitting Turning Points information are available by calling Peggy Reinacher at 800-323-8039.

New members

Arcadia, Ind.: Anna Chase
Beaverton, Mich.: Karen Phillips Kalahar
Blue Ridge, Va.: Mike Hogan, Sandra Hogan, Polly Creasy
Cabool, Mo.: Allison Clary, Maurice Bosserman, Sandy Bosserman
Denton, Md.: Allison Holsinger
East Cocalico, Reamstown, Pa.: Jena Hagy, Judy Lewis, John Stolsfus, Dudley Michael, Priscilla Michael
Ephrata, Pa.: Patrick Land, Stacey Land, Robert Wanner, Darla Wanner, Keith Petters, Elizabeth Horning, Lindsey Heck, Jessica Snyder, Nathan Kapp, Eric Miller, Kaitlyn Ream, Quintin Eismann
Geiger, Friedens, Pa.: Ruth Hahn, Levi Hahn, Lindsay Hahn, Christine Lindsey
Grossnickle, Myersville, Md.: Cathie Clemson, Thomas Westwood, James Blank, Hansel Pate, Shawn Delauter, Jordan Grossnickle, Elwood Stottlemeyer, Ryan Wiles, Danny Rumpf, Hazel Grossnickle, Lori Cline
Hanover, Pa.: Kathy Accardi, John Burkentine, Ted Schmitt, Brock Swartz, Lance Rusinko
Lewiston, Maine: Nicholas True
Lewiston, Minn.: Tim Borkowski, Brenda Kirby, Jennifer Pospichal
Liberty Mills, Ind.: Elizabeth Griffin, Sierra Rose, Harry Barrett, Debby Barrett
Maple Spring, Hollsopple, Pa.: Kelly Hay, Scott Hay, Lauren Seganos, Alex Shroyer
Maple Spring, Eglon, W.Va.: Hancell Teets, Mildred Teets, Richard Norwish, John Allman, Erna Gnegy, Paul Gnegy, Devin Hauser, Brian Kight, Craig Rembold, Lonnie

Bentley, Linda Bentley, Kenneth Biser, Edith Biser
Nampa, Idaho: Leon Gonion, Irene Gonion, JoAnne Holtz, Al Brown, Marian Brown, Gary Sloughly, JuliAnne Bowser Sloughly
New Hope, Stuart, Va.: Tim Harvey, Lynette Harvey, Jasen Pfuntner, Jackie Pfuntner, Fern Wimmer, Andrew Wimmer, Mark Jones, Laura Jones, Julie Crotts, Amanda Seay
New Paris, Ind.: Dorothy Watkins, Joe Godfrey, Phil Kuhn, Susie Martin
Prairie City, Iowa: Kim Clark, Christina Nolin, Amy Patterson, Holly Maggard
Shiloh, Moatsville, W.Va.: Mackey Laulis, Mary Stuckey
Union Center, Nappanee, Ind.: Mark Person, Heila Martin-Person, Don Housour, Phyllis Housour, Ruth Yoder, Bronson Weaver, Andrea Holdeman

Wedding anniversaries

Bell, Harold and Ruth, Eaton, Ohio, 60
Bloss, William and Lois, Uniontown, Ohio, 50
Chamberlin, Eugene and Margaret, San Diego, Calif., 60
Chestnut, Walter and Betty, Newville, Pa., 55
Cocklin, Robert and Doris, Carlisle, Pa., 55
Fickes, Leroy and Doris, Newville, Pa., 50
Gomis, Paul and Helen, Des Moines, Iowa, 50
Jacoby, Robert and Esther, Newville, Pa., 55
Jane, Frank and Ila, Johnstown, Pa., 50
Koons, Carroll and Vera, Des Moines, Iowa, 50
Knox, Glenn and Doris, Uniontown, Pa., 50
Mikel, John and Dora, Wakarusa, Ind., 50
Miller, Gene and Eloise, New Lebanon, Ohio 50
Moore, Maurice and Doris, Waterloo, Iowa, 50
Myers, Donald and Mary, Alliance, Ohio, 50

Parrish, Dick and Helen, Continental, Ohio, 55
Reid, Gerald and Fredith, Newville, Pa., 60
Reid, Markwood and Judy, Newville, Pa., 50
Ritter, John and Freda, Uniontown, Pa., 65
Sayre, John and Gaynell, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Shively, Ralph and Catherine, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Smith, Gerald and Eleanor, Newville, Pa., 50
Stump, Richard and Martha, Wakarusa, Ind., 50
Wolfe, Lavern and Donna, Uniontown, Pa., 50
Young, Alvin and Dorothy, Hartville, Ohio, 60

Deaths

Atkins, Nina, 71, Nampa, Idaho, Dec. 15
Barnhouse, Darwin, 82, Arlington, Va., March 20
Barnhouse, Pauleen, 81, Arlington, Va., March 20
Barrett, Devere, 78, Johnstown, Pa., Aug. 15
Biser, Effie O., 88, Springfield, Va., Feb. 21
Blickenstaff, Margaret, 96, Boise, Idaho, June 10
Bohlander, Lois, 67, Pleasant Hill, Ohio, Aug. 27
Bowman, Mamie Virginia Carrier, 91, Bridgewater, Va., Aug. 18
Boyd, Ralph L., 91, Myerstown, Pa., Aug. 14
Burket, Freda M., 91, Martinsburg, Pa., July 29
Burkholder, Harlan, 89, Nampa, Idaho, June 8
Byerly, Robert A., 85, Lancaster, Pa., June 19
Chapman, Bobby Dean, 57, Petersburg, W.Va., Aug. 16
Chavanne, Harriet, 89, Saint Petersburg, Fla., Aug. 25
Cline, Mary Agnes, 99, Bridgewater, Va., Aug. 50
Combs, Elwanda May, 76, Moorefield, W.Va., Aug. 26
Crider, Clyde Vernon, 75, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 8
Cunningham, Dorothy B., 91, Uniontown, Pa., July 21
Curry, Beulah, 78, Oxon Hill, Md., March 18
Dellinger, Forrest Owen, 78,

Mount Jackson, Va., Aug. 25
Dick, Carlyle, 87, Clymer, Pa., Sept. 11
Driver, Donna Lillian Miller, 75, Dayton, Va., Aug. 30
Eisemann, Quintin, 79, Ephrata, Pa., July 25
Eshelman, Doris, 95, Nampa, Idaho, Jan. 21
Fike, Homer Leland, 99, Eglon, W.Va., Aug. 12
Flory, Dorothy, 96, Nampa, Idaho, Nov. 25
Good, Samuel C., 75, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 23
Goings, Paul, 86, New Lebanon, Ohio, Aug. 5
Gray, Thelma, 86, Vinton, Va., Jan. 22
Gustason, Virginia, 89, Des Moines, Iowa, May 13
Halterman, Arthur Casper, 70, Baker, W.Va., Aug. 29
Halterman, Wayne Alfred, 71, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 2
Hamilton, Edward, 83, Santa Clarita, Calif., Aug. 9
Hammer, Nellie Icadora, 87, Franklin, W.Va., Aug. 5
Hancock, Roland M., 57, Harwood, Md., Sept. 7
Harman, James Gordon, 89, McGaheysville, Va., Aug. 17
Harper, Betty J., 72, Thurmont, Md., Aug. 20
Harsh, Abbie A., 81, Fort Ashby, W.Va., Aug. 10
Heckman, Lulu, 90, Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 9
Hinkle, Richard Samuel, 76, Riverton, W.Va., Aug. 26
Holsinger, Paul G., 101, Martinsburg, Pa., July 25
Hoover, Ruby B., 99, Timberville, Va., Aug. 14
Hoover, Velma Marie, 68, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 4
Howe, Robert, Ephrata, Pa., July 16
Huber, Helen, 95, Mount Morris, Ill., May 31
Jennings, John R., 73, Kansas City, Kan., Aug. 12
Kelly, Mary C., 86, Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 16
Lupton, Maxine, 79, Nampa, Idaho, July 1
Meller, Vernon R., 60, Seven Valleys, Pa., Aug. 17
Miller, Miriam R., 78, Hartville, Ohio, June 30
Moyers, Daisie Anna Fifer, 84,

Elkton, Va., Aug. 11
Murray, Dorothy Garst, 84, Roanoke, Va., Aug. 24
Myers, Donald, 83, Greensburg, Pa., June 5
Nesemeier, Berniece, 85, Mount Morris, Ill., June 8
Ott, Clarence, 77, Hollsopple, Pa., Feb. 17
Owens, Liza V., 89, Moatsville, W.Va., April 23
Pippenger, Harold, 88, Wakarusa, Ind., July 21
Prugh, Virgil, 90, Vandalia, Ohio, Aug. 28
Rembold, Bruce Edwin, 48, Eglon, W.Va., Aug. 12
Reynold, Thomas R., 70, York, Pa., Aug. 12
Riddle, Vera, 102, Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 5
Ryman, Norman Elwood, 83, Woodstock, Va., Aug. 4
Sanner, Richard, 85, Greensburg, Pa., July 30
Shaw, Pearl, 84, Uniontown, Pa., July 22
Smeltzer, Mary, 84, Nappanee, Ind., June 15
Smith, Marie, 92, Nappanee, Ind., Feb. 11
Spencer, William Lester, 88, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 27
Spessert, Cloyd, 92, Saint George, W.Va., April 17
Stewart, Martha, 73, Sidney, Ohio, April 15
Stoneberger, Marie H., 74, Stanley, Va., Aug. 10
Stoner, Warren, 86, Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 5
Stouder, Dale, 85, Nappanee, Ind., June 15
Strigent, Karen, 45, Johnstown, Pa., May 31
Swank, Clarence Dean, 71, Somerset, Pa., Aug. 16
Taylor, Florence, Boise Idaho, June 11
Thomas, K. Annette, 79, Mount Morris, Ill., Aug. 31
Warn, Dean, 82, Nampa, Idaho, Nov. 28
Werstler, Robert E., 75, Canton, Ohio, May 28
Young, Dorothy G., 80, Hartville, Ohio, July 9
Zappone, Roberta, 53, Latrobe, Pa., Sept. 1



Treasure hunt in Tijuana

While others in their college graduating classes are looking for the best money deal they can get, these young adults are seeking another form of treasure. Their minds still busy from 50-page papers and heavy intellectual activity, they seem eager to take on the world and drink in all its culture. But, like generations of rare youth before them, they have postponed paying back their college loans and a chance to get started up the corporate ladder, and have entered the upside-down world of Brethren Volunteer Service, where the pay is \$50 a month and an opportunity to pass out sandwiches on Skid Row in East Los Angeles. That is where in early October I met up with the most recent BVS orientation unit, #241. After only four days with this group of 19 happy explorers, I could see why some go from here to a lifetime of service. It's because some find treasure. Some fall in love.

"My child," the author of Proverbs addresses BVSers, "if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God (Prov. 2:1-5)."

It is not a simple path from BVS to treasure, yet enough volunteers must find it to keep others coming back to look. This orientation unit had already found the treasure of openness and warmth. I was first impressed by this group's friendliness to me as a stranger in their midst, something that doesn't always come naturally from youngsters toward people the age of their parents. And then I took note of their support for each other. The group had bonded through intentional community-building exercises and simple time together during the previous two weeks of orientation at Camp La Verne. One of the three older volunteers, a retired teacher, said she felt totally accepted by the kids, who called her "Grandma." There were no cliques and no put-downs, not even in jest. To describe this luminous camaraderie, I kept going back to the hymn we sang that Sunday when we visited the Imperial Heights Church of the Brethren in Los Angeles: "There's a sweet, sweet, spirit in this place, And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord."

Just because these were good people in a good

endeavor doesn't mean there were no difficulties or tedious moments, but the Holy Spirit gave the group enough energy to overcome the obstacles. In Tijuana, Mexico, we had assembled bags of food for the needy, even though part of our group felt after the Skid Row experience that such handouts were demeaning to both the needy and us. "Don't be frustrated that you're only providing a drop in the bucket," said one of our group. "At least it's better than no drop in the bucket." Some of us weren't so sure.

When we arrived to deliver the food, we learned that the homeless had already gone home for the day. Another part of our group went, without enough tools or supplies and with no drinking water, to try to put a roof on a purple building with joists so uneven that each plywood sheet had to be custom-fit. The day included plenty of waiting around for something to happen, which was good training for volunteer service where you're not always in control. After awhile the crooked purple shack had a fine new roof, finished off with a fascia trim just to make it look nice. When we went back to deliver food the next day, even the reluctant among us were gratified by the warm smiles and voices of "muchas gracias" from our recipients.

Mission work probably always involves a good bit of holy fumbling around. So does falling in love. When a man and a woman fall in love they do not start out with a very complete plan for doing so. No, first they fall in love, and then they look back to find reasons why and how they did. Abbott Andrew Marr writes about this: "Although falling in love is something that happens *to* us, we are not likely to be overpowered by another person without going on a treasure hunt. It is possible to stumble over a treasure without looking for it, but looking for it greatly increases the chances we will find it. If we search, we will find; if we knock, the door will be opened for us. We must, then, cultivate within ourselves an openness to finding God's treasure, a willingness to fall in love. If all we are looking for is the best deal, we will find it, but the best deal is not a treasure and it has nothing to do with love."

On our last day in Tijuana, we gathered in a circle to pray and sing with a woman whose toddler grandson is responding poorly to cancer treatment. As I joined hands with these young people, who had crossed borders and cultures to meet poverty and work with God to relieve it, I could feel the presence of the Spirit of the Lord. And it felt like falling in love.—FLETCHER FARRAR

Just because these were good people in a good endeavor doesn't mean there were no difficulties or tedious moments, but the Holy Spirit gave the group enough energy to overcome the obstacles.

CHRISTIANS CALL FOR

A SHARED JERUSALEM

Heritage, Hope & Home of Two Peoples and Three Religions

*Jerusalem at peace
cannot belong exclusively
to one people, one country or one religion*

*Jerusalem should be open to all,
shared by all—
two peoples and three religions*



Jerusalem is a sacred city to
Jews, Christians and Muslims, the children of Abraham.
All long for Jerusalem to be the City of Peace.
For most of its history the fate of Jerusalem was determined
by war. Now the ancient hope for peace can become
reality through negotiations.

Churches for Middle East Peace asks you to join in urging the United States government to call upon negotiators to move beyond exclusivist claims and create a Jerusalem that is a sign of peace and a symbol of reconciliation for all humankind.

The Call for a Shared Jerusalem has been endorsed by the top leaders of the Church of the Brethren and American Friends Service Committee, Catholic Conference of Major Superiors of Men's Institutes, Christian Church (Disciples), Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Mennonite Central Committee, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church.

Sign up online at cmepdc@aol.com or return this form to: **CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE**
110 Maryland Ave. NE • Suite 108 • Washington, DC 20002 www.cmep.org

Please Join the Shared Jerusalem Advocacy Network

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- Postal Network
- E-mail Network
- E-mail and Postal
- Send the "Jerusalem: City of Peace" Educational Packet
- My tax deductible donation of \$ _____ to CMEP is enclosed.

SHINE YOUR LIFE LIKE A LIGHT

To believe in Christ is to accept the call of being light in and for the world. To act as Christ is to face the darkness and bring into the open what is hidden. To live as Christ is to let the spirit of the gospel shine through you.

This Advent, heed the words of the apostle Peter: "Proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Yield to the injunction of Paul: "Live as children of light." Take counsel from a contemporary song: "Shine your life like a light."

Mark the birth of Jesus with a Christmas gift for General Board Ministries, ministries that help believers rekindle and sustain the light within. Reflect the light that leads others more fully to Jesus, the Light of the world. Lift high the Light of life.



Christmas Offering

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN GENERAL BOARD