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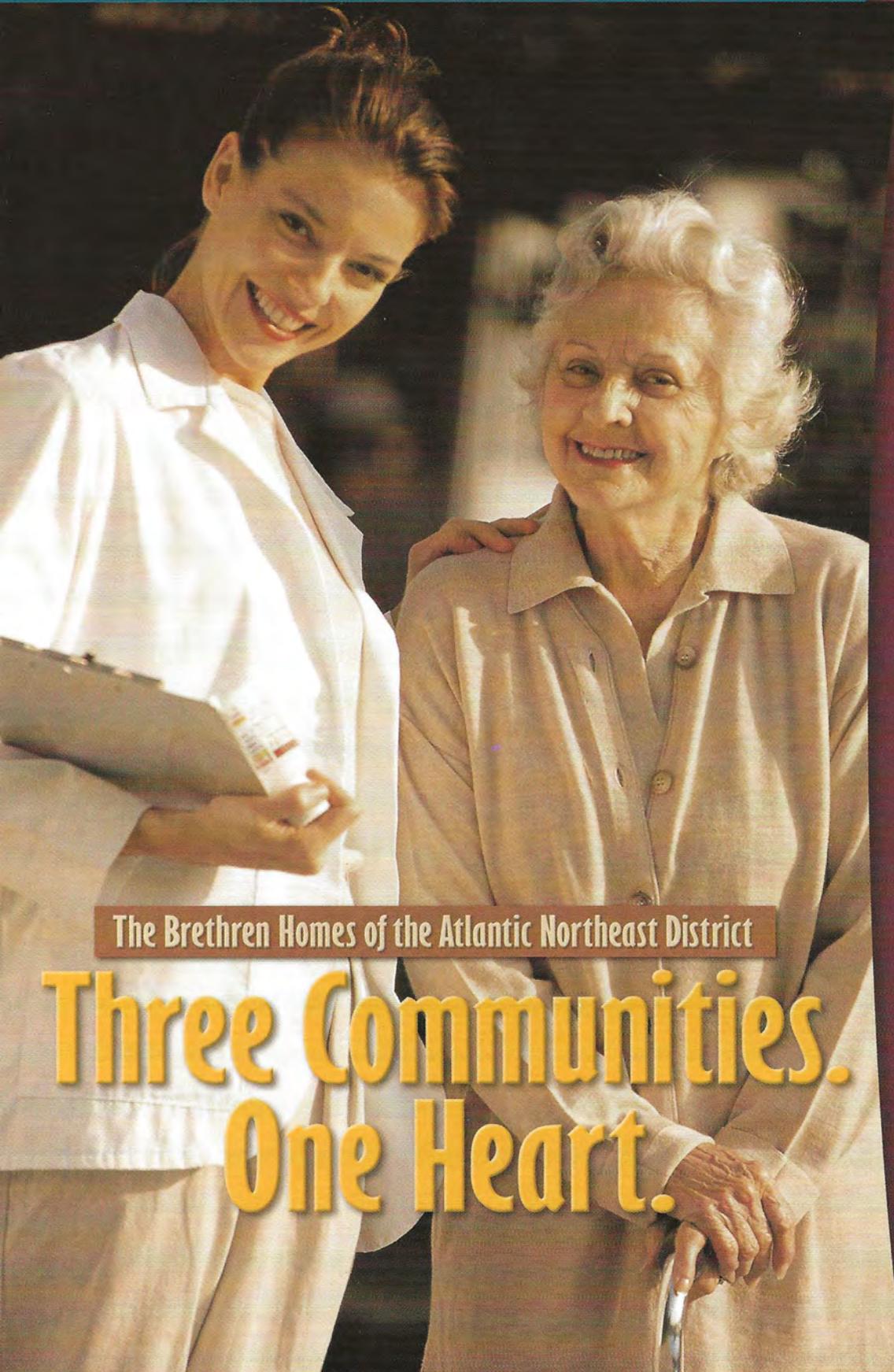
JUNE 2001 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG



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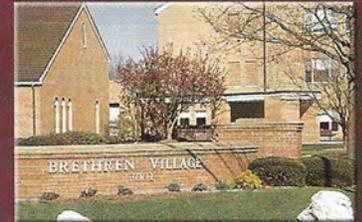
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ONTHECOVER

Moderator Phill Carlos Archbold with "Phill Earl Casquete," a child who lives next door to the church and was named for Phill Carlos, associate pastor, and Earl Foster, senior pastor, of Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren. Photo is by Walt Wiltschek, manager of news services, who traveled to Brooklyn, N.Y., to photograph and interview this year's moderator in his home environment.

David Radcliff



10 Phill Carlos does "city work"

Ministry to the needy in the heart of New York City is what Phill Carlos Archbold is all about. Read this profile to get to know the heart and soul of the Annual Conference moderator.

15 Brethren go to Baltimore

A preview of Annual Conference, for those who are going and those who are staying home.

18 Solidarity with Sudan

An update on the suffering in Sudan, where war continues but gets little heed from the rest of the world. Brethren continue their commitment to support the Sudanese in their quest for peace. Reported by David Radcliff and Greg Laszakovits, who traveled there on a Faith Expedition.

25 Cross-Cultural Ministries

"When all of us are together, that is what God looks like," writes Duane Grady, who reports on the cross-cultural get-together in California, and why it's so important to the church.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

The youth Sunday school class I help teach has been discussing how our culture affects us. This is a little like discussing air. We absorb it with every breath we take, but rarely give it a thought. We can't stop breathing it to examine it. While just about everybody has had enough science to understand the basics of respiration and oxygen, almost nobody has had to take a class in the study of culture. We just live in it, for better or for worse.

It used to be that Brethren set themselves off from the dominant culture by wearing plain clothing and declining to participate in certain activities. Nowadays it's a lot harder to distinguish us from everyone else. Nevertheless, we still harbor a bit of suspicion about what our culture calls the good life. For Brethren, it's always been important to critique the culture.

It's more important now than ever before. People in this country have unprecedented wealth, yet the gap between the poorest and the richest is reportedly the largest it's ever been. Beginning a lifetime of consumerism, children recognize corporate logos before they can talk. Americans consume a third of all materials consumed by people on earth.

We complain about the high price of gas, while driving behemoths that get increasingly lower mileage. Few of us are reducing our consumption. In fact, the way of life that we as a society have developed would make it difficult to drive less. Shockingly, our country is willing to wage war—on both people and on the environment—in order to preserve our interests in oil-rich areas of the world. Is it time for a change in our lifestyle?

"That's a big no," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer a few weeks ago. "The President believes that it's an American way of life, and that it should be the goal of policy-makers to protect the American way of life. The American way of life is a blessed one."

It is greedy and arrogant for us to refuse to share our planet with the rest of its inhabitants; it is blasphemous for us to claim that God blesses this selfishness. Do Brethren truly believe in "another way of living"? Today we have an opportunity to show that we do.

Wendy McFadden

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Subscription rates:

\$16.50 individual rate
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MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, June 2001. Copyright 2001, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0555.

Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

IN TOUCH

Landis family has a working reunion

Last fall, the Landis family filled the Linville Creek cabin at Camp Brethren Woods in the Shenandoah district near Harrisonburg, Va., and tackled jobs that were left on the to-do list at the end of the camp season.

At the same time that they cleared a patch of undergrowth for mulching and landscaping, they renewed acquaintances with siblings; catching up on their nieces and nephews took place while cleaning got done.

During their work, plans evolved for yet another project that took place in January, at Camp Ithiel, in

northern Florida. Camp Ithiel is celebrating its 50th year in this location, and Harvey M. Landis and his wife were instrumental in starting the camp program in Florida 70 years ago. Returning there to work brings back many memories and is a concrete way of honoring the family's parents.

The Landis family members include Dale Landis and his wife, Barb, West Bend, Wis.; Kenneth Landis and his wife, Hazel, Albion, N.Y.; Esther Landis Bittinger and her husband, Emmert, Bridgewater, Va.; Dot Landis Albert, Virginia Beach, Va.; Glen Landis and his wife, Vivia, Arlington, Va.; and Bertha Landis Drew and her husband, Bob, Zeeland, Mich.—Lori Bittinger Lineweaver

Her novels are labors of love

She has two novels to her credit, but it wasn't easy. The persistence of Dody Myers, a member of the Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren paid off. She struggled through more than 50 rejection letters from publishers until her novel *The Greatest of These is Love* made it into print in 1998. In February 2001, *Echoes of the Falling Spring* was published.

Both novels draw on Dody's intense historical research. *The Greatest of These is Love* traces the relationship of a Pennsylvania German man who marries a Mennonite girl on the eve of the Civil War. She based the story on the life experience of her great-great-great grandparents. *Echoes of the Falling Spring* tells the story of a Confederate officer and his relationship with one of his slaves.

Dody's work may be described as a labor of love. She finds inspiration for her writing from her own experience. "I had an excellent marriage that was full of love," she says of her partnership with her husband, Jim, who died in October 2000. "Love requires compromise. My characters had to make compromises to stay together." She is now at work on a third novel.

Echoes of the Falling Spring may be ordered from White Main Publishers, P. O. Box 152, Shippensburg, PA 17257 for \$28.95.—Ken Gibble

Inspired by history and love, Dody Myers has recently published her second novel.



Taking a stand for children

Youth and adults from the Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren, along with several hundred community members, attended the 7th Annual "Hands Across the Bridge" march and rally that is held in April to commemorate "Child Abuse Prevention Awareness" month.

Casa de Esperanza, the local battered women and children's shelter, sponsors the event each year to raise awareness of child abuse prevention. Marchers met in Marysville to hear several speakers, then walked across the bridge to Yuba City. Children were a large part of the program, reading poetry and performing Punjabi, Hmong, and Native American dances. The event closed with participants holding hands and dancing to the beat of drums around the city fountain.

—Anne E. Palmer

ABC takes third workcamp to Puerto Rico

Sixteen people representing nine Church of the Brethren congregations in six districts participated in the third Association of Brethren Caregivers older adult workcamp to Puerto Rico Feb. 1-12.

The group divided into several teams for work projects, doing painting and

repairs at several Brethren churches and the building that houses the offices of the Theological Institute of the Church of the Brethren of Puerto Rico.

Participants also worshiped with two congregations on Sunday mornings and had fellowship times with members of two additional congregations during their time on the island, including visits in members'



Participants in the 2001 ABC workcamp to Puerto Rico included, front row left to right: Virginia Crim, Bruce Rosenberger, Mary Sue Rosenberger, Bonnie Sadd, Hudson Sadd, Sara Unruh, and Ron McAdams. Back row: Norman Cory, Martha Cory, Jeanette Lahman, Robin Lahman, Frances Thomas, Edith Hinkle, Elvin Fillmore, Roy Unruh, and Alberta McAdams.

homes. Side trips took the group to old San Juan, a rainforest, and the beach.

Plans are being

made for a similar workcamp in Puerto Rico from Jan. 28-Feb. 7, 2002. Interested persons may contact Bruce and Mary Sue Rosenberger at 937-547-0384 or e-mail bruceandmarysue@yahoo.com for more information.

—Mary Dulabaum



Sara Marsau and Jesh Harbaugh-Williams

with the health kits they assembled.

Good way to start a new life

During their "discipleship" (membership) classes with their pastor, Shawn Flory Replogle, Jesh Harbaugh-Williams and Sara Marsau decided they wanted to begin their new life in Christ after their baptisms with a meaningful act of service. They asked their South Waterloo (Iowa) church family to help them gather materials for 177 health kits—one for each family in the church directory. More than 1,000 items were collected, 177 packets were assembled, and their goal was met! The Women's Fellowship group paid costs to ship the kits to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., where they will be sent on to help those in need.

Trinity to celebrate golden anniversary

On Oct. 27 and 28 Trinity Church of the Brethren, Detroit, Mich., will celebrate a "Faith Odyssey," marking 50 years of ministry in the Detroit area. The weekend will include a reunion banquet on Saturday evening with a program celebrating the church's history through music. The Sunday worship service will be followed by a meal. An invitation is extended to former pastors, members, and friends. For banquet reservations or more information e-mail to Trinity@coast.net.

—Nancy L. Stoner

Honoring untiring years of service

The Gratis (Ohio) Church of the Brethren recently honored Albert Kiracofe for 46 years of service to the church as deacon, Sunday school superintendent, and Sunday school teacher.

He became a member of the Gratis congregation 72 years ago, when he was baptized in Aukerman Creek. He spent 37 years as public school teacher and school district superintendent. Robert L. Caplinger, pastor of the Gratis congregation, led the church in



Albert Kiracofe when he was school superintendent.

honoring Kiracofe. "May this church always remember you for your untiring years of dedication, service, and leadership," he said.

Bear Creek honors senior citizens

On March 17 and 18 deacons of Bear Creek congregation, Dayton, Ohio, sponsored a weekend to honor all those in the church who will be 65 years or older during 2001. There was a catered Seniors Recognition Dinner on Saturday, with skits by the youth and junior high students, a puppet show, as well as harp and harmonica musical presentations. A total of 100 people attended, 37 of whom were senior citizens. The seniors were also honored during Sunday's worship service.

Remembered

Robert E. "Bob" Faus died on April 28 in Richmond, Ind., following a lengthy battle with cancer. He would have been 67 in May.

Faus had served as consultant for ministry with the Church of the Brethren General Board from 1979-1994, as pastor

in several congregations, as campus minister at Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.), and as a chaplain. In retirement he continued to support ministry efforts of the denomination, serving as a guest speaker at Ministry Summer Service training for young adults last summer.

His wife, Nancy, a longtime Bethany Theological Seminary faculty member and later adjunct instructor, was with him at the time of his death, along with other family members.

Glen Moyer, an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, died on April 16, at the age of 105 years. He had served as pastor of the Cincinnati Church of the Brethren from 1922 until 1925. He taught and was public school administrator from 1925 until 1964. During those years he often preached in the absence of other ministers and was active in the church as he anointed, baptized, performed some weddings, and sang in the church choir.

Glen is survived by his twin brother, Dale, who lives in Alvordton, Ohio. Glen and Dale Moyer were recognized in the year 2000 in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the oldest living twins in the world.



Kendra Flory

Verneda Cole, subscription specialist for **MESSENGER**, shows off the plaque made by Earl E. Forney to commemorate **MESSENGER**'s anniversary.

Fan mail in maple and walnut

After he read the April anniversary issue, Earl E. Forney of Ono, Pa., wrote in to tell us he liked it. "I especially enjoyed reading the history of **MESSENGER** and the biographies of the people who made it happen over the years. I have been a reader of **MESSENGER** for close to one third of its existence."

He also used his considerable woodworking skills to make a plaque in recognition of the publication's 150th anniversary. The plaque is hard maple inlaid with lettering in walnut.

Forney took up woodworking in 1992 after retiring from a career as first a dairy farmer and then a truck driver. In addition to plaques, he uses the scroll saw to make baskets. Recently he made five lecterns for a nearby United Methodist church, and he has made several intricate "apostle" clocks, one of which fetched \$2,100 at the Atlantic Northeast disaster relief auction.

Forney, 71, is a member of the Midway Church of the Brethren, Lebanon, Pa., where he has been one of the congregation's free ministers for the past 43 years. To the staff of **MESSENGER** he wrote, "May God bless you all as you continue to produce an informative, attractive, and God-honoring publication."

UPCOMINGEVENTS

June 8-10 Annual Fellowship of Brethren Homes Forum, Bridgewater (Va.) Retirement Community

June 13-22 Brethren Witness Faith Expedition to Guatemala for youth and young adults

June 14-16 Study conference on "The Amish, Old Orders, and the Media," Young Center, Elizabethtown (Pa.) College

June 18-27 Brethren Witness Faith Expedition to Honduras

June 24-29 Theological consultation of historic peace churches for Decade to Overcome Violence, Bienenberg, Switzerland

June 24-30 Song & Story Fest, "A Gathering at the River" at Shepherd's Spring, Sharpsburg, Md.

June 29-30, July 1 General Board meetings, Baltimore, Md.

June 30-July 4 Annual Conference, Baltimore, Md.

July 4-5 Church of the Brethren Ministers' Association meeting, Baltimore, Md.

July 4-7 "Weaving Peace" peace gathering, Union Bridge, Md.

Seminary board meets, prepares for campaign

Under the theme of "appreciation," the Bethany Theological Seminary board met March 23-25 for its semi-annual gathering in Richmond, Ind.

Chair Guy Wampler encouraged the Board to model Philippians 4:8, "... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any

excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Business items included approving a budget of approximately \$1.8 million for 2001/2002 and sending recommendations to the Brethren Journal Association for clarifying their relationship to the seminary.

The board also received updates on development of the seminary's distributed education program for the graduate

school and on new initiatives in the academy programs, as well as on Bethany's capital campaign, "Inspired by the Spirit—Educating for Ministry." The campaign's public launching will take place at Annual Conference on July 1.

Elected as officers were John Gingrich, Claremont, Calif., chair; Anne Reid, Roanoke, Va., vice chair; Ed Poling, Hagerstown, Md., secretary; Carl Bowman, Bridgewater, Va., chair of Academic and Student



Walt Witschek

A group of youth put on a skit about living out their faith during the opening worship service at the Manchester Regional Youth Conference.

Midwest youth meet for regional conference

Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.) was a mecca for Midwest youth and advisors April 20-22, when about 175 people gathered there for the school's annual Church of the Brethren Regional Youth Conference.

Jeff Carter, a pastor at the Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren, served as keynote speaker on the theme "Be an Example." Carter addressed the issues of choices, purity, faith, and love as areas in which youth can exemplify Christian conduct. He used Powerpoint presentations, movie clips, stories, and wrestling with current issues to make his points.

"The true test of a person's character is what you do . . . when you're alone, when no one's looking," Carter said.

Another highlight of the weekend was a concert and other special music by noted musician Ken Medema. Medema focused his Saturday night concert on the theme of dancing, comparing learning to dance with learning to grow as a Christian.

The conference also featured games, small group sharing, workshops, college Peace Week activities, worship and singing, Bible study, service projects, and a performance by Manchester's "Controlled Catastrophe" improv drama troupe.

Affairs Committee; Mark Baeverstad, Fort Wayne, Ind., chair of Finance and Business Affairs Committee; and Janice Ruhl, Manheim, Pa., chair of Institutional Advancement Committee.

Juniata College marks its 125th anniversary

Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.), the oldest existing educational institution founded by the Church of the Brethren, officially kicked off its 125th anniversary year with a dinner April 21. Held in conjunction with the Celebration of Juniata Women conference, it launched a year filled with anniversary activities.

In a festive atmosphere of cake and balloons, the event featured the introduction of Dr. Earl Kaylor's updated history of the college, titled *Juniata College, Uncommon Vision, Uncommon Loyalty: The History of an Independent College in Pennsylvania Founded by the Brethren 1876-2001*. Kaylor, a retired professor of history, was scheduled to receive an honorary doctorate at Juniata's commencement on May 13.

Juniata traces its history to the founding of the Huntingdon Normal School on April 17, 1876, when it began with three students on the second floor of the publishing offices of *The Pilgrim*, a Brethren newspaper run by brothers Henry B. and John B. Brumbaugh. The Brumbaughs were among those who had led the push for a Brethren school, and they hired public school teacher Jacob Zuck to be Huntingdon's principal.

The school—which was coeducational from its start—became Brethren's Normal College in 1878 and first took the name Juniata College in 1894. Brethren leader James Quinter



ran the school from 1879-1888, followed by H.B. Brumbaugh from 1888-1893.

Other events tied to the 125th anniversary are scheduled for alumni weekend, June 7-10, and the anniversary will be the theme of homecoming 2001, Oct. 20-21. Walk-through tours of the top floor of Founders Hall, built in 1879, are tentatively scheduled for the homecoming weekend.

Disaster directors bring skills to camp

The Emergency Response/Service Ministries office decided to try something different for its annual disaster project directors' training this year. They wanted a hands-on project, and they found a perfect place for it—Camp Ithiel, near Orlando, Fla., which had put out a plea for construction help.

About 50 participants worked on the camp's new dining hall, a project long stalled by a lack of finances, as well as other projects around the camp and a Habitat for Humanity house in downtown Orlando Feb 26-March 3. Educational sessions on disaster-related topics were

held each evening, while mealtimes featured menus that would be served at disaster sites.

Permits still awaiting approval prevented work on some parts of the dining hall, but significant progress occurred during the week under the guidance of former industrial arts teacher Bob Pittman. When members from Atlantic Southeast District gathered at the camp for a celebration day that weekend, Camp Ithiel board chair John Polson said the excitement was tangible.

"They came at the right time with the right people, and they gave us a major push," Polson says of the ER/SM group. "People from all over the district saw the results of their work, and it gave a real impetus to our fund-raising. It was another of God's miracles at work."

ER/SM staff member Glenn Kinsel called the event a "triple blessing" for the ER/SM workers, the camp, and the district. ER/SM manager Stan Noffsinger reported strong positive feedback from the disaster volunteers and says the group is likely to try such a format again if the opportunity presents itself.

Flooding affected numerous communities along the Mississippi River in April and May, with hundreds of homes swamped by the rising waters. Church of the Brethren Emergency Response/Service Ministries closely monitored the situation, but it was not called upon for immediate assistance. Here, two American Red Cross volunteers survey flooding in Guttenberg, Iowa.



On Earth Peace

On Earth Peace debuts new logo on all materials

On Earth Peace has unveiled a new logo to exemplify the theme of "building upon the last 25 years and renewing itself for the next 25 years of service and witness." It is being used in all new promotional materials.

Staff and board members worked together to develop the logo, which includes a circle and stylized dove, along with the words "On Earth Peace." It was designed by Debbie Noffsinger of Union

Bridge, Md., a member of the Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren who also designed the 2000 and 2001 Annual Conference logos. The original idea for the new look was derived from the former Peace Place bookstore logo

by Kathy Kline Miller.

The new logo can be obtained from the downloadable logo page of www.brethren.org.

Membership falls nearly two percent in 2000

Membership in the Church of the Brethren continued a downward trend in 2000, according to the *Church of the Brethren Yearbook* published by Brethren Press, with the denomination's 23 districts reporting a combined net loss of

WORLDWATCH



1. Sudan. Concern grew for people in the African nation in April, when bombing increased in and around the town of Narus, where the Church of the Brethren sponsors a school and other programs. Sixteen bombs were reported to have been dropped by the Muslim government of Sudan in its ongoing war with the mainly tribal and Christian south [See feature story page 18.]. A \$60,909 Global Food Crisis Fund grant was recently sent for development projects, education support, and to purchase soap.

2. Guinea. A \$15,000 grant from the Emergency Disaster Fund will support Church World Service as it aids refugees and internally displaced people in west Africa. Funds will meet basic needs including food, shelter, water and sanitation improvements, and trauma counseling.

3. Mozambique. In southern Africa, another Emergency Disaster Fund allocation will provide \$20,000 to help victims of Zambezi River flooding. It will help with food distribution, blankets, tools, water, sanitation, seeds, and shelter.

4. New York/Washington, D.C. More than 100 youth and advisors gathered for the denomination's Christian Citizenship Seminar in early April, examining the topic of violence. The week included keynote speakers, tours, small groups, congressional visits, and other events.

5. Ephrata, Pa. The Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania districts held their annual meat canning project in late April, with a goal of canning 70,000 pounds of chicken. They hoped to send a portion of the canned meat to Cuba, while some will be used for local needs.

6. India. A \$50,000 Emergency Disaster Fund grant will help Church World Service implement a two-year rehabilitation effort in the wake of the Jan. 29, 2001, earthquake in Gujarat State. Funds will go toward a housing project for 1,249 homes and reconstruction of schools and public buildings in seven villages.

7. Hoisington, Kan. Emergency Response/Service Ministries activated a Disaster Child Care team to work in the area after it was struck by a tornado April 21. The town, which has a high percentage of children, suffered significant damage in the storm.

2,425 members during the year. It is a decline of 1.75 percent, bringing the denomination's total to 135,879. Overall giving, however, was up slightly from 1999.

It marks the 27th straight year with a membership decline and continues a downward trend—shared by most mainline Christian denominations—since about the early 1960s. In 1974, the Church of the Brethren grew by 54 members, but years before and after showed net declines. This year's total is the largest single-year numerical drop since 1994, when a net loss of 2,431 was reported; it's the largest single-year percentage decline since 1988.

The Illinois/Wisconsin District showed the largest decrease, down 681 members from 1999. The district closed three congregations at its conference last fall and accepted a request from the Reba Place congregation to withdraw from the denomination. Five other districts had net losses of more than 200 members. Losses result from transfers, deaths, church closures, and purging inactive members from church rolls.

Five districts reported net gains in membership, led by Southern Ohio District with a gain of 80 and Northern Indiana, up 36. Missouri/Arkansas District had no change from the year before. Atlantic Northeast remains the denomination's largest district, reporting 15,559 members as of December 2000; Idaho is the smallest district, with 694 members.

All figures are based on information provided by churches returning statistical reports. About three-quarters of congregations returned new forms in 2000; 70 percent responded in 1999. Totals do not include about 500 Brethren in the Dominican Republic and the membership of the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), which now has a larger membership than the US church.

Dozens of volunteers train for Disaster Child Care

Four Disaster Child Care workshops were sponsored by four Church of the Brethren congregations in late March and early April: Northern Colorado (Windsor, Colo.), Dallas Center (Iowa), Maple Grove (Ashland, Ohio), and Wenatchee (Wash.) Brethren-Baptist Church. A total of 83 people were trained or

recertified as Disaster Child Care caregivers during the events.

Though the majority of the participants were members of the Church of the Brethren, the groups also included members of at least a half-dozen other denominations. A team of trainers provided the instruction in each Level I workshop, helping to prepare volunteers for service as caregivers for children in disaster situations.

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AT THE CORE OF THE

**MODERATOR PHILL CARLOS
ARCHBOLD, STREET
MINISTER IN BROOKLYN**

Big

by Walt Wiltschek

Forget the Empire State Building, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Statue of Liberty. A better emblem of the sprawling metropolis of New York—for some, at least—is Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren associate pastor Phill Carlos Archbold, this year's Annual Conference moderator.

"He's part of New York. He is," says León Luciano, a Bronx resident who has known Archbold for three decades. "Of course, if New York were like Archie, this would be paradise. This can be a 'cold' city, everyone looking to see what they can get for themselves, but he is not like that. He has this love for humanity that amazes me."

"Archie" is just one of the affectionate names that people in the community and elsewhere call Archbold. Others know him as Pastor Carlos, Arch, Phill, and even "Dad."

He once did adopt an AIDS patient, David, whom he met through his active hospice work. David had no family caring for him, so Archbold provided that care, on through David's death from the disease. Archbold never married and otherwise has had no children of his own, but his spiritual family is plentiful.

In fact, anywhere one travels in Brooklyn it seems that Archbold has left his mark with his love of people. At an Italian restaurant in one corner of Brooklyn, one of five boroughs that make up the city of New York, the owner greets him enthusiastically as he enters: "Long time no see! How have you been?" She even brings an extra tray of



Archbold with Louie Benitez, a member of Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren.



“He’s part of New York. He is. Of course, if New York were like Archie, this would be paradise. This can be a ‘cold’ city, everyone looking to see what they can get for themselves, but he is not like that. He has this love for humanity that amazes me.”

León Luciano, a Bronx resident who has known Phill Carlos Archbold for three decades.

Apple

goodies on the house especially for him.

The same sort of reaction emanates elsewhere. At a men’s rehab center, the local hospital, community outreach programs, and the Brooklyn First congregation; from taxi drivers, doctors, factory owners, HIV sufferers, co-workers, and church members—each appears to brighten in Archbold’s contagiously energetic presence.

And Archbold, in turn, finds energy in ministering to them and being with them. Perhaps appropriate in the “city that never sleeps,” he is typically awake at 5 a.m. each day, sometimes after only a few hours in his bed. He willingly takes calls in the middle of the night if a church member or friend or anyone else has an emergency or needs to talk.

Some of the people close to him worry about his health, especially as he turned 65 this spring, but Archbold takes it

all in stride as part of his greatest passion—sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“That’s city work,” Archbold says. “We know what pain is. We cry with our people, loving them for Jesus’ sake. I always say my membership in the streets is bigger than the membership in the pews. It’s typical of the Brethren way. We reach out to help others.”

Archbold, the denomination’s first Hispanic moderator, hasn’t always known the Brethren. He was born in Panama to Colombian parents and grew up in the city of Colón with his aunt and uncle. He attended the American high school in the Canal Zone, where his family worked.

Missionaries in the area led Archbold to Christ at the age of 9, and he quickly decided that he wanted to minister as they did. He became heavily involved in the local mission



Earl Foster, senior pastor of Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren, with Archbold, associate pastor. The two have worked in ministry together for 30 years.

church, was licensed as a youth preacher at age 17, and became a deacon at 18.

A pastor arranged for him to attend a theological college in Jamaica, where he spent three years before becoming ill and returning to Panama. He found a job leading the choir on a military base there, where a chaplain asked if he would like to go to the United States to study.

Archbold said yes and was soon on his way to Florida with a residency permit. From there he made his way to Tennessee, where he attended the Clarksville School of Theology. He finished his bachelor's degree, then went on for his master's, doing cleaning and maintenance work to help pay his way.

His residency permit made him eligible to be drafted in the turbulent 1960s, and at age 24, soon after graduating, he was summoned by the US Army. He entered willingly, since doing so allowed him to obtain permanent US citizenship. He was sworn in as a citizen in Norfolk, Va., after basic training.

He was then assigned to a base in Denver, Colo., where he became a medic and continued his studies to earn certification as a licensed practical nurse. Shortly thereafter he received orders to go to Vietnam in 1965.

Once there, his good typing skills earned him a spot on the staff of Gen. William Westmoreland, commander of US troops in Vietnam. Archbold spent more than two years handling much of the general's business, and during that time he met a Salvation Army officer-turned-radiology technician named Earl Foster, who helped Archbold set up chapel each week.

When Archbold finally returned to the US in 1967, he and Foster both found themselves working at the same place in New York. As their friendship continued, Foster received a request in 1968 to interview for a pastoral position at "a little church in Brooklyn"—the Church of the Brethren. Foster was invited to do a 90-day interim at the then all-Italian church, and Archbold came along with him.

"The very first Sunday we came here was their love feast service," Archbold recalls. "I said, 'Earl, even if they don't call you, I'm going to join this church.' ... The simplicity of the love feast, the joy the members reflected ... I said, 'I want to be a part of this!'"

Foster's interim quickly turned into a permanent position. Archbold, meanwhile, found successful work in hospital administration, first in the Bronx and later in Harlem, while remaining active in the Brooklyn First congregation.

Life at the church wasn't always easy, as he had to work through some challenges of being the first Hispanic in the church. He enjoyed the denominational leaders he met, though, and the warm welcome he received in the larger Church of the Brethren.

But as the Brooklyn neighborhood around the church became more Hispanic, the need for a ministry to Hispanics in the area became apparent, too. One Sunday an elderly woman in the congregation stood up and challenged him to consider a call to be a pastor there.

After some initial resistance, he, too, felt God calling him in that direction. So in 1970, Archbold joined Foster on the Brooklyn First staff part-time while continuing his hospital work. He was ordained by Atlantic Northeast District with district executive Harold Bomberger presiding.

In 1972, he left his well-paying position at the hospital and made church work his main focus. The congregation couldn't yet afford full-time pay or benefits, so for a time he supplemented his income by serving as a government courier, making a one-day trip overseas each week.

Almost 30 years later, Foster and Archbold remain as senior pastor and associate pastor. The church is multicultural, with parts of services often conducted in English, Spanish, and Arabic. The church averages 75 people at worship, sometimes drawing up to 200 for special occasions.

Its southwest Brooklyn neighborhood has areas of poverty and crime, providing abundant opportunities for ministry. Those community residents and congregation

members are glad for their pastors' continued presence and ministry.

"We've been a good team," says Foster, speaking in his office as Archbold plays on the organ in the neighboring sanctuary. "Many of the things he enjoys are different from what I do. I'm happy to be in the background. It's been a good balance."

While ministering to a variety of needs, Archbold has been particularly active in AIDS ministry—even founding a center for people with HIV/AIDS called "The Positive Place." Foster says Archbold has also worked with scores of young people, teaching them the basics of the faith and staying in close touch with each of them. *Group* magazine named Archbold "Youth Leader of the Year" in 1990.

"I know not one of them has been in jail," Foster says of the youth Archbold took under his wing. "He taught them how to pray, how to read the scriptures, checked on their private devotions, checked on their schoolwork, did special things, and he still does that to this day."

One of those Brooklyn youth was Miguel Rodriguez. He's in his 30s now and living on Long Island, far from the church, but he still keeps in close touch with Archbold. "He was a leader not by word but by actions, and that's what I wanted to be," Rodriguez says, recalling his teenage years. "He literally became my spiritual father. He was there when I needed to talk to someone, get guidance, have a shoulder to cry on—he was always there."

Archbold takes every relationship seriously—whether youth, child, or adult—displaying an uncanny ability to remember names and faces. He gives his full attention and eye contact during any conversation, and seems able to record every detail.

Walking into downtown Brooklyn's Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, he immediately greets the desk clerk by name and talks with everyone else in the lobby, flashing his broad smile.

"He's a very spiritual person, very easy to talk to," says Major Linda Childs, who oversees the rehab center with her husband, George. "Your first impression is a good impression. He takes time to shake hands. Most people when they come in here don't feel comfortable, but he seems to. He feels at home."

"You just feel at peace with him for some reason. He's a man you want to sit and talk to."

The rehab center is one of many places in Brooklyn where Archbold regularly engages in community work. He's led worship services there and helped the center obtain pillows and blankets. He's obtained turkeys and other food for holiday dinners at several agencies and sent clothes and toys and other supplies through the year, often with the help of other Brethren in the Atlantic Northeast District.

It makes an impact. When Jimmy Mileo, a senior counselor with the Brooklyn AIDS Task Force, leaves the church office, he turns to Archbold and says, "Thank you for being in my life."

"If this were the Catholic Church, he'd be up for canonization for all he's done," León Luciano jokes.

"Whatever someone needs, he goes out of his way to help them. When he puts his mind to something, he sets the ball rolling."

At Brooklyn First, meanwhile, Archbold brings that same personal touch to the needs of the church. And he gives vigorous enthusiasm to his turns in the pulpit.

"He is like—you put one red rose among 2,000 roses of a different color. When he's there, you notice," Brooklyn First deacon chair Ikram Said says. "He's a child of the Lord. When you look at him, right away you know. He's a wonderful pastor. We're blessed with him."

Church members say it's been hard to have Archbold away from the church so much this past year due to the heavy travel schedule of the Annual Conference moderator. An inner-ear problem prevents Archbold from flying, so his trips require even more time than they would otherwise. He's traveled as far as Iowa in his journeys this



Above: Archbold at his 1970 ordination, with General Board staff member Shantilal Bhagat.



Left: Phill Carlos at four years old growing up in Panama.



Above: With his predecessor as moderator, Emily Mumma

Right: Phill Carlos Archbold in his Brooklyn office.



past year, mainly by bus or train.

Brooklyn First has been glad to share him with the larger church, but they'll be glad to have him back more regularly, too.

"It seems like the church is empty without him," says church member Isabél Vélez, who credits Archbold with leading her son to the Lord before her son died of AIDS. "We miss him [Archbold] so much when he's gone. It's just not the same."

Of course, even before his moderatorship, Archbold had traveled widely in the Church of the Brethren. As one of the loudest voices for evangelism in a denomination often not known for that trait, he joyfully shares the gospel whenever the opportunity arises, one-on-one ("Brethren don't do enough of that," he says) or from a pulpit. Even over dinner or in a taxi, he sees doors for witnessing open and readily steps through them.

While not all Brethren resonate with his fervor and tent-revival preaching style, he has become a popular and much sought-after guest preacher in some quarters of the church. His energy and passionate storytelling, including stories of his own work with teenagers in Brooklyn, have also brought him many invitations to speak at youth events.

"He's so dynamic when he does the service," says Brooklyn First moderator Eddie Quilano. "He has a way of bringing his message through and making it so up to date. He really made the Bible come alive for me. . . . His best ministry is by his example, the way he lives."

It's hardly surprising, then, that he chose revival as the theme for this year's Annual Conference.

In a statement interpreting the Conference theme "Revive Us Again" Archbold wrote, "There is an urgent need for revival in this new millennium. . . . In the name of our Lord and Savior, every member of the Church of the Brethren—young, middle-aged, and senior—is called to commit to a life of radical Christian discipleship. Let us be challenged to place Christ first and foremost in our lives and to make him truly the sovereign of our hearts."

"Wherever he goes, he brings both a passionate and compassionate approach to evangelism and ministry," says Atlantic Northeast District executive Craig Smith. "His strength and humility are deeply rooted in an authentic New Testament style. This is a style that we in the Church of the Brethren would do well to recapture and model as we seek to be the church in the 21st century."

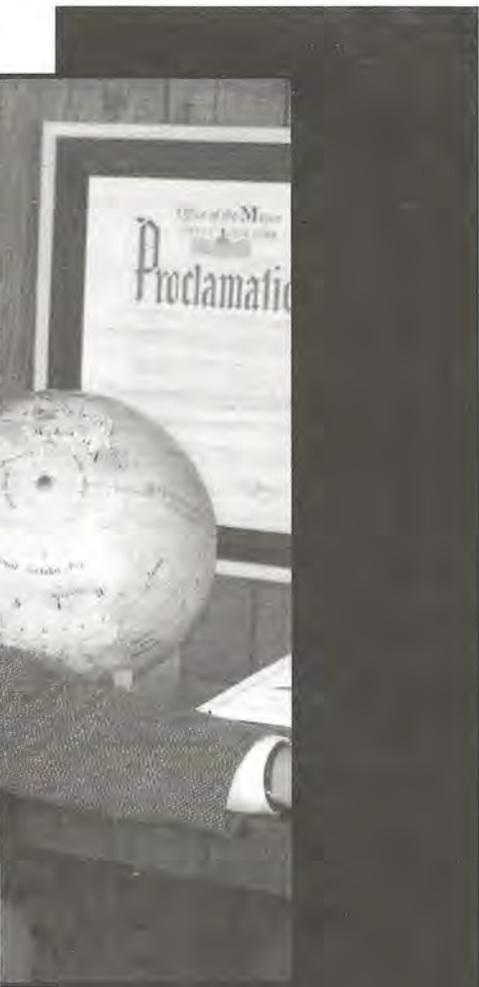
Archbold enjoys civic work and learning the inner workings of organizations, so being moderator has been an enjoyable assignment for him, if tiring at times. "Just when you're really getting into this job, it's over," he says. He hopes for an Annual Conference without undue conflict or controversy, where Christ can remain at the center and business can be conducted in a spirit of harmony and respect.

Then, once Conference is over, Archbold is contemplating retirement down the road. He has rented a home near York, Pa., but has been able to spend only a few days there in the past year due to his hectic schedule. Many in his home community pray that he won't leave anytime soon; many don't think he'll ever be able to fully pull himself away from this borough of Brooklyn that has become so much a part of him—and he a part of it.

"This is his home," Foster says. "He thrives on the people. And they love him. They really do."



Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board and was in 10th grade when he first met Phill Carlos Archbold. He has traveled to the Brooklyn First church several times, including a trip in late March for this story.



THE MODERATOR AT A GLANCE

Name: Phill Carlos Archbold

Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Position: Associate pastor, Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren

Birthplace: Colón, Panama

Age: 65

Notable:

- Denomination's first Hispanic moderator of Annual Conference.
- Prominent voice for evangelism and AIDS ministry.
- Plays piano and organ, after learning to play by ear.
- Enjoys visiting presidential libraries.

Walt Wiltschek



BRETHREN GO TO Baltimore

A preview of Annual Conference 2001

by Walt Wiltschek

Annual Conference returns this year to what some call the "Brethren heartland." The big meeting June 30-July 4 in Baltimore will mark the first time since 1983 that the event has been held in the region, within an easy drive of the denomination's highest concentration of members.

That 1983 meeting also took place at the Baltimore Convention Center. Since then, the closest Conference has come to the densely Brethrenized Philadelphia-to-Shenandoah Valley corridor was Richmond, Va., in 1992.

Not coincidentally, Richmond marked the highest attendance at an Annual Conference in the past decade. Program and Arrangements Committee is hoping for a repeat this summer—especially since the Baltimore facilities come with a high price tag, and Conference relies mainly on delegate and non-delegate registrations to cover its costs.

Special arrangements have even been made for the large number of bus groups expected for the weekend portion of the meeting. Those coming for worship only can do so at no charge, but those staying for a full day will need to obtain a weekend registration. At least a few bus organizers are plan-

ning daily day trips to the event.

So, what will all those hoped-for crowds find when they arrive in the seaport city? Here's a glance:

The theme: Moderator Phill Carlos Archbold of Brooklyn, N.Y., the denomination's first Hispanic moderator, feels strongly that the church is in need of revival. He has made it a priority in his preaching for years, and he is making it a priority at this Conference with the theme "Revive Us Again."

With words borrowed from a well-known hymn in the Brethren hymnal,



BALTIMORE AT A GLANCE

Population: About 645,000; largest city in Maryland, 16th largest in US

History: Established in 1729 as a seaport; named for Lord Baltimore, founder of the colony of Maryland

Geography: Located at the north end of the Chesapeake Bay; one of the largest ports on the East Coast

Primary airport: Baltimore-Washington International (BWI), southeast of downtown. The city also has an Amtrak and commuter rail train station north of downtown and a bus terminal a few blocks from the convention center.

Average high temperature in July: 87 degrees. It is often quite humid in summer.

Major industries: Port facilities/shipping, steel production, manufacturing, seafood processing

Main attractions: Inner Harbor area (including National Aquarium, Maryland Science Center, World Trade Center observation deck, Power Plant entertainment complex); Port Discovery; Camden Yards baseball park; Babe Ruth Museum; Lexington Market; Fort McHenry; Edgar Allan Poe home and grave

Major sports teams: Baltimore Orioles (baseball), Baltimore Ravens (football)

Closest Church of the Brethren congregations: Baltimore First and Woodberry in Baltimore, Dundalk to the east; Friendship in Linthicum Heights near the airport.

the theme calls on God to bring a spirit of renewal and energy to the church.

“When God’s fire is burning in our hearts, healing and restoration take place,” Archbold said in a theme statement.

A logo designed by Debra Noffsinger of Union Bridge, Md., helps to interpret the theme. Featuring a figure with outstretched arms standing in rippling water as a dove soars upward, it will appear on a large banner in the convention center, on the Conference booklet, and on other Conference materials.

The schedule: A new Saturday-to-Wednesday format debuted last year in Kansas City, and it returns this year. It begins with worship services both Saturday evening and Sunday morning before a single delegate visits a microphone on the business floor.

Business kicks off with the “Brethren Ministries Live” report of the five Annual Conference agencies Sunday afternoon, and the main business sessions follow.

To make the shortened schedule feel a bit less hectic, Program and Arrangements Committee decided to eliminate Sunday night insight sessions this year. It means fewer such sessions will be offered at Conference.

Empty schedules are unlikely to be a problem, however, and many meal events, age-group activities, and other special offerings dot the days of Conference.

For those seeking more, the annual Song & Story Fest immediately precedes Annual Conference at Shepherd’s Spring Outdoor Ministries Center in Sharpsburg, Md. (just over an hour away). After Conference, the Ministers’ Association annual meeting will be held in Baltimore, and a “Weaving Peace” event will take place in nearby Union Bridge, Md.

The business: Amid all the fun and festivities, Brethren (the delegates, at least) will need to work in Baltimore. This summer’s agenda comes with fewer items than last year’s in Kansas City, but it contains several significant items. Two that may draw the most attention are the Annual Conference Review and Evaluation Committee

report and a “Query Concerning Evangelism and Church Planting.”

The Review and Evaluation report comes as one of three unfinished business items, following up on an assignment given last year to assess the General Board’s mid-1990s redesign and its effect on the church. The completed report proposes a number of changes, most notably a new Annual Conference Council.

The evangelism query comes under new business after delegates in Kansas City “affirmed the intent” of a related query last year but returned the query. It generated extensive conversation and some disagreement. Virgina District followed by producing a new, refined query for consideration.

Also likely to stir interest is a General Board resolution on relations with the Brethren Church of Ashland, Ohio. Presented only as a study paper this year, it asks delegates to accept a plea for forgiveness from Brethren Church executive director Emmanuel “Buzz” Sandberg. Sandberg initially made his plea at the 2000 Annual Conference and repeated it during the year in a Church of the Brethren publication.

The resolution goes a step further, saying that the Church of the Brethren should offer its own repentance for its “stubbornness that has caused brokenness” between the two denominations, which came from common roots but split in the late 1800s. If accepted, it would be circulated among churches and brought back in 2002.

A third new business item comes from Atlantic Southeast District—a query on ethnic representation in denominational leadership. Other unfinished business items are a paper on Brethren and litigation, and a “Review of the Process for Calling Denominational Leadership.” Elections and numerous reports are also slated.

The worship: Five speakers, one each day, will examine different facets of the revival theme.

Archbold will preach the opening message on Saturday evening. Other scheduled speakers are Tom Zuercher, Northern Ohio District executive; Frank Ramirez, pastor of the Elkhart

(Ind.) Valley Church of the Brethren; Christy Waltersdorff, pastor of the York Center Church of the Brethren (Lombard, Ill.); and the Rev. Harold Carter, pastor of the New Shiloh Baptist Church in Baltimore.

Paul Roth, in his final year on the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee, serves as worship coordinator.

The city. If Brethren get crabby during the week, it will hopefully be due to the abundant seafood and not controversial business.

The convention center is located just blocks from the city's famous, ship-filled Inner Harbor on one side, with all its shops and attractions, and just a stone's throw from the Camden Yards baseball park on the other. Abundant restaurants, including seafood establishments, are available within a five-block radius.

Attractions include the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, Lexington Market, and the Babe Ruth Museum.



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- **Majestic Canadian Rockies** (July 16-29 with Ruth and Ken Jantzi)
- **European Heritage Tour** (July 16-August 1 with John and Roma Ruth) **SOLD OUT!**
- **Alaska** (August 1-13 with Hubert and Mary Schwartzentruber)
- **Russia & Ukraine** (August 3-17 with Menno Epp and Wilmer Martin)
- **Germany** (September 27-October 10 with Lorne Smith and Wilmer Martin)
- **Service Tour to Israel (Nazareth Village)** (October 26-November 8 with Dale and Laura Schumm)

2002

- **Service Tour in Sunny Jamaica** (January 25-February 3 with Dave Worth)
- **Australia & New Zealand** (February 8-28 with Wilmer and Janet Martin)
- **Hawaii** (February 14-24 with Jane Landes and Carolyn Bontrager)
- **Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru** (April 6-22 with Edgar Stoesz and Wilmer Martin)
- **Spectacular Scandinavia & its Fjords** (June 17-July 1 with Wilmer and Janet Martin)
- **European Heritage Tour** (July 12-29 with John Ruth and Henry Landes)
- **Swiss Glacier Express** (August 12-26 with John Ruth and Glen Landes)

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IN SUDAN, THE KILLING



"Since that day I have not stepped here." Clementina Lubaya surveys the damage at the health clinic where until last October's bombing raid, she was head nurse. Now (inset) the clinic has moved to a nearby grove of trees—a less obvious target for government bombers.



CONTINUES

Brethren stand in solidarity with victims of a forgotten war

article and photos by David Radcliff

"It was a Monday. There were many people here at the clinic. Then we heard the plane coming. It circled low several times to locate targets. Then after it went up very high, it aimed its nose up sharply to release the bombs. There was the terrible noise of bombs dropping—even dogs know the sound. One of the bombs destroyed the clinic; you can see that they really did target the place. I was already in the bomb shelter—this shallow hole—when I noticed a woman with her child still standing as the bombs were falling. 'Mother, please lie down,' I called to her. But it was too late—her child was killed. Since that day last October, I have not stepped here."

A day in the life of Clementina Lubaya, nurse at the now-destroyed health clinic in the southeastern Sudanese town of Narus. A day similar to those experienced by countless other people in communities across this war-ravaged land. Churches arranging meetings around anticipated bombing raids, buildings covered in branches and vines in hopes of concealment, bomb shelters under construction everywhere you turn, students at Blessed Bakhita School for Girls composing a song naming the bombers and calling on the Lord's protection.

The war in Sudan goes on. Raging since 1983, with two million dead and twice that many displaced, it goes on. As the world has turned its attention during that span to Central America, South Africa, the Philippines, Somalia, Kuwait, Chechnya, Bosnia, Rwanda, and other conflict points, this war has gone on. It went on this spring, as the government carried out 12 separate bombing raids in April alone, including an Easter Sunday attack and a 16-bomb assault the following week on Narus.

Narus is the small village that is home to both Bishop Paride Taban—a well-known church leader—and Blessed Bakhita Girls School.

The price cannot simply be measured by people killed or families fled. Social services are nearly nonexistent. Economic activity is stagnant. Domestic violence flares as frustrations mount. Young men, taken into the various armies at an early age, have their youth stolen and their nightmares haunted by what they experience in battle. "They turn to drinking or just hang themselves because of what they have seen," said one adult at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northern Kenya.

And then there's soap. It's a simple commodity we take for granted. Yet for schoolchildren in Sudan, soap for laundry and bathing is a luxury—its cost in the village market so high as to put it out of reach. Hygiene suffers, and so does morale among children denied a basic yet essential part of daily life.

Some in the outside world have begun to pay attention to the war because of concern over the persecution of Christians. In both the north and the south of Sudan, the Christian religion does indeed face harassment at the hands of zealots in the Muslim-dominated government of Sudan. Organizers of a public Holy Week celebration in Khartoum, the capital, were detained and flogged—like unto our Lord—for their efforts. But religious persecution is often closely linked to other conflicts in a society.

Why has the world not responded to Sudan? Hear the memorable and pointed words of Rebekah Lueth, women's leader in a refugee camp: "Why have you not come to our





Regina Namoi and baby Nacalone traveled six miles to visit a women's literacy and crafts center being organized with assistance from the NSCC and the Church of the Brethren. Why did this Toposa woman come? "God has given me these gifts to do something of my own to survive."

aid—is it because of the color of our skin?" Sudanese Christians and tribal leaders, tired of the war, have begun to take matters into their own hands. Building on a foundation laid in part by former Brethren mission workers Phil and Louie Rieman, a grassroots peacemaking initiative has taken root. Its goal is to begin to resolve one of the causes of the people's suffering—conflict between rival tribes in the south. The Riemans returned briefly in 1999 to help organize the first of what has become a series of peace conferences. The Dinka and Nuer, the two largest tribal groups in the south, met in Wunlit in the Bahr el Ghazal province to develop a peace covenant [see "The white bull of peace," *MESSENGER*, June 1999]. The New Sudan Council of Churches, the key Brethren partner in Sudan and a genuine voice for the

people, has played an important role in this hope-giving process.

Mrs. Awut Deng Acuil is a peace mobilizer for the NSCC. She has been an avid promoter of involving Sudanese women in the peacemaking efforts. "Women are the ones bearing all the pain," she told our Faith Expedition group this past February. "They lose their husbands, their children, their sisters; the ones abducted are women. For these reasons, it is the right of women to participate in the peace process."

Women have not only been involved in resolving inter-tribal conflict, but have also bridged the much more precipitous gulf between north and south. In these meetings, the focus has been on what unites the women of north and south: the loss of their children to the war, the lack of full and equal participation in civil society. "We have been bearing all this in silence, but because of our suffering, we should be included," said Mrs. Awut, who will address the Monday evening Outreach

Dinner at this summer's Annual Conference.

The NSCC has also led the way in helping communities tend to the "ordinary" tasks of daily life—routines that are often made extraordinary by the war. Through its network of Ecumenical Centers, the council coordinates economic development projects, assists schools in finding resources, facilitates literacy training, provides training for church leaders—in short, it helps bind together and equip communities rent asunder by the conflict.

The Church of the Brethren has a 20-year involvement with the people of Sudan. Through our partner, the New Sudan Council of Churches, we have sent teachers and trainers, health workers, Bible translators, and staff who have played key roles in the NSCC. Funding from the General Board through the Global



Mission Partnerships office has been instrumental in enabling the ministry of the NSCC. Also, the Global Food Crisis Fund is in the midst of a \$238,000 “Sudan: Partnership for Peace” commitment for education, development aid, peace training, and food relief.

The denomination has stood by the NSCC and has continued to send delegations to visit, including a group of 10 persons this past winter. “Despite our struggles,” said Elizabeth Otiendo of the NSCC’s education desk, “the Church of the Brethren has stayed by us. And you haven’t just been interested in flashy fundraising appeals like some groups who come, but in putting a face on our relationship.”

At no time in our 20 years of ministry in Sudan has our presence been more important than today. We currently support key staff for the NSCC—executive director Haruun Ruun, resource mobilization liaison Mark Sloan, and organization consultant Merlyn Kettering.

We have a role here at home as well. Because of our history in Sudan, we can be instrumental in turning first our own government’s attention and then the world’s attention toward the oft-forgotten people of Sudan.

And there is another essential part for us to play: to let the people of Sudan know that we stand by them today as we have in the past. “Without your assistance, we are nothing,” said one young scholar at Blessed Bakhita. “The war has separated us from our parents; we are without many things that we need for our school. Yet with your continued support, we will continue our education, preparing ourselves to promote the future of the southern Sudan.”

The people of Sudan—like this young woman—haven’t given up on the future. Nor have they given up on us. Neither let us give up on them.



David Radcliff is director of Brethren Witness for the Church of the Brethren General Board. He has made three trips to Sudan, most recently in February.

Blessed Bakhita Day and Boarding School for Girls is a magnet for young women from all across southern Sudan. As they come from 24 different tribes, they not only prepare educationally for the future, but learn the lessons of living peacefully across tribal lines. (Inset) Two of the students—Zeinab Semira Rose Charles and Jokomine Itwari.

THE “MOST DEVASTATING CONFLICT” WE’VE

by Greg Laszakovits

The civil war that rages in Sudan is the “longest, most devastating conflict in the world” according to the United States Institute for Peace.

What is the cause for the suffering of these millions of people? Why does no one seem to care?

There are no easy answers to these questions. However, it is fair to say that the war is especially driven by race and ethnicity, access to natural and human resources, and religious differences. The primary combatants are the government of Sudan, based in the capital city of Khartoum in the north, and the rebel forces, including the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army and other militaries in the south. The south complains of second-class citizen status, and holds as a goal either secession or equal status in government and society. The north claims it is merely keeping its territory under control. Both sides are documented as human rights abusers.

How did this happen? At the conclusion of British and Egyptian colonial rule in 1956, Sudan, Africa’s largest geographical state, was divided culturally, economically, and religiously between north and south. The people of northern Sudan are primarily Arab in ethnicity and practice

Islam, while the people of southern Sudan are predominantly black African in ethnicity and practice traditional animist religion or Christianity.

Under colonial rule, the north was governed by Egypt, from which it received aid for development and was provided opportunity for economic growth. The south, ruled by Britain, was ignored for the most part, other than being visited by a handful of Christian evangelists from various denominations.

The nation has seen little peace since its independence from the grip of colonialism. War broke out even before the British and Egyptians had departed. That war lasted until 1972, when Sudan entered its longest stretch of peace as a country—10 years. In 1983, President Jaafar Nimeiri ended this peace and touched off the current round of fighting by imposing Islamic law, known as Sharia, in the south, basically declaring “holy war” against all non-Muslims. According to Human Rights Watch, “International human rights norms which require protection and respect for religious, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and other minorities, and forbid discrimination on such grounds, are routinely violated in the course of government efforts to impose conformity on the population.”

Economically and materially there is

much at stake. Though famine ravages much of southern Sudan, the land is more than capable of feeding its people. Due to the war, fertile soil, water, oil, and gold all remain far from reaching their potential use and production in the south.

Southern Sudan, nearer to the equator with a more temperate climate, is rich in natural resources. The north, conversely, is positioned between the Sahara and Nubian Deserts and is hot and dry. It requires irrigation for agricultural production. The Nile, flowing from south to north, provides much-needed water for irrigation to all of Sudan, as well as Egypt. Egypt fears that a liberated south might not honor current water rights agreements that were negotiated by Khartoum.

In addition to having the potential to be the breadbasket for all of Sudan, the southern region also holds millions of barrels of oil. Recently, the government completed the first pipeline from the oil fields in the south-central regions of the country. Sudan is now pumping up to one million dollars worth per day—most of the revenue appears to be channeled to support the war effort.

Many have lost their lives and homes for this oil production, because a scorched-earth policy is often used

What can I do?

- **Support the General Board as it undergirds the ministries of the New Sudan Council of Churches.** Invite General Board staff, returned mission staff, or Faith Expedition participants to share about Sudan with your congregation.
- **Contribute to the “Sudan: Partnership for Peace” effort of the Global Food Crisis Fund.** The new “Support This School” project invites Vacation Bible Schools, youth groups, and others to raise money to help schools in southern Sudan to pay tuition and to purchase supplies, including soap.

- **Contact your government** representatives to encourage support of the Sudan Peace Act.
- **Remember the people of Sudan** and staff of the New Sudan Council of Churches in your personal and congregational prayer.
- **Participate in a Faith Expedition to Sudan.** A trip is tentatively scheduled for next February. For details call the Office of Brethren Witness at 800-323-8039.
- **Attend the Outreach Dinner at this summer’s Annual Conference** to hear Awut Deng Acuil share her story of peacemaking in Sudan

ATING EVER HEAR ABOUT

to clear people from the area in order to pump and pipe the oil. As evidence mounts of human rights violations in direct correlation with oil drilling, marginal economic and political pressure is beginning to be applied to North American and European oil companies like Talisman Oil (Canada) and Lundin Oil (Sweden), which provide financial capital, supplies, and expertise for the drilling.

Both the north and the south struggle against themselves as well as against one another. In the north, there are bitter political tensions between President and militarist Omar al Bashir and scholar-ideologue Hassan al Turabi, his political and ideological rival. Turabi was recently arrested when members of his political party officials signed a memorandum of understanding with the separatist Sudan People's Liberation Army.

In the south, political tensions and rifts also water down efforts to mount a unified front militarily, politically or ideologically. Devastating tribal wars continue to divide the southerners, while the government employs a divide-and-conquer strategy, fueling inter- and intra-tribal warfare by providing guns and ammunition to warring tribes and factions in the south.

Why isn't more done to stop the fighting? Where are the diplomats from the UN and the US?

Sudan remains low on the international agenda. For many in our own government, the country is not of "strategic interest" and thus simply doesn't matter. The one exception has been an effort to monitor and keep in check Islamic fundamentalism and the potential threat of terrorism against



David Radcliff

The Church of the Brethren has provided a steady stream of personnel

to fill key staff positions with the New Sudan Council of Churches. The most recent is Mark Sloan, resource mobilization liaison, here working with Elizabeth Otiendo, education facilitator.

US installations and citizens. Many believe US involvement in Sudan would complicate US diplomatic relations in the Middle East and damage relations with Egypt (which relies on the Nile as its lifeblood). The UN often has a difficult time getting involved.

"Media fatigue" may also be a factor. Eighteen years of civil war has simply become old news. News of slavery and slave-redemption sometimes gets attention when those enslaved are bought back by outsiders—a practice some say only creates a more lucrative market for the slavers.

Meanwhile, government bombers continue their air-to-ground assault against the rebels and rebel-held cities in the south. Perhaps one of the most alarming facets of this war is the disregard for civilians. Hospitals, schools, and other public buildings—even refugee camps in neighboring Uganda—are bombed indiscriminately. Dilapidated buildings that could offer shelter go largely unused for fear that they will be bombing targets.

Though the US has taken a hands-off approach to Sudan, there is bipartisan support for changing this position. The "Sudan Peace Act of 2001" has been intro-

duced in both the House of Representatives (H.R. 931) and the Senate (S. 180). Among other provisions, this bill seeks to bring peace to Sudan by acknowledging the practice of slavery and condemning it; urging an international peace process; putting multilateral pressure on the government; increasing relief; and requiring reporting of oil field exploration, of how relief shipments are routed, and of government bombing attacks. 

Greg Laszakovits is coordinator of the Washington Office for the Church of the Brethren General Board. He traveled to Sudan in February as part of the Faith Expedition.

BREAKING DOWN WALLS

by Duane Grady

There was love and acceptance offered to one another. We glimpsed what the kingdom of heaven will be like, where all persons are welcomed, included, and accepted fully.

Imagine a Sunday school classroom in any church in any community. The lesson for the day is the Genesis account of creation. A young hand attached to an innocent face asks the question, "What does God look like?" The teacher fumbles for an honest and simple reply. How would you respond to the question?

Genesis tells us this: "And God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness. . . .' So God created humankind in his image, in

the image of God he created them. . ." (Gen. 1: 26-27).

Biblical scholars have stumbled around this passage for hundreds of years. When God says "us" in verse 26, what is really being said? Return to the Sunday school classroom because the kids know. Young people know what Genesis says. "All of us look like God and when all of us are together, that is what God looks like," they will say. Frankly, I'm with the kids.

Within the Church of the Brethren, a group called the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team is working toward the vision of Genesis. Doesn't God yearn for us to be a church where the "us" of God is visibly present?

"So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles. . . remember that you were at that time without Christ. . . . But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Eph. 2: 11-14).

Now picture your typical congregation on Sunday. How does this gathering compare with the biblical vision? Are there dividing walls of hostility? Is everyone there? Is the "us" of God undeniably present? The Ephesians passage above ends with the word "us." In this passage the word us represents the divisions between people which arose in our fallenness from God's original plan for unity.

Seeking to restore God's original designs for human life, the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team holds an annual "consultation." The most recent one



Getting to know each other.

Weurthner James, a retired pastor who is now a member of the Trotwood congregation, Dayton, Ohio, embraces Verel Montauban, pastor of First Haitian Church of the Brethren, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jeff Glass



was held March 29-April 1 hosted by the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren in California.

These gatherings provide healing and community to Brethren who feel isolated and alienated from the church because of the lack of ethnic diversity in the denomination. Much time is spent in worship, prayer, and building up one another in Christ. Lasting relationships are renewed, despite the diversity of locations where Brethren live and worship. Participants came from Puerto Rico, California, Texas, Brooklyn, Kansas, Florida, Indiana, Ohio, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington, and other locations.

While the language of love was primary, worship services reflected the different languages in which the Brethren now worship in the United States—English, Spanish, French, Creole, Korean, and Gujarati. Preachers included In Du Chae and Valentina Satvedi of California and Jaime Diaz of Puerto Rico.

The theme for gathering was “Mining Hidden Treasures—Tapping into God’s Abundance.” The purpose was to help Brethren leaders identify creative opportunities for funding, develop networks to support one another, and to highlight the relationship between leadership development and funding.

Resource leaders included Jeff Wright of the Center for Anabaptist Leadership; Tim Wallace of the Germantown congregation, Philadelphia; Belita Mitchell of the Imperial Heights congregation, Los Angeles; Beth Sollenberger Morphey of Congregational Life Team Area 3; and Bob Beldon of the Bella Vista

congregation, Los Angeles.

Harriet Finney, co-district executive for South/Central Indiana, shared these comments on the consultation: “There were many of God’s treasures revealed to us this weekend. These include the gift of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide our discernment, the power of prayer, and the joy of worshiping together. There was love and acceptance offered to one another. We glimpsed what the kingdom of heaven will be like, where all persons are welcomed, included, and accepted fully.”

The Cross-Cultural Ministries Team has been led by Jaime Diaz (Puerto Rico), Belita Mitchell (Los Angeles), Terry Shumaker (Decatur, Ind.), Sonja Griffith (Kansas City), Orlando Redekopp (Chicago), Barbara Daté (Canada), Irvin Heishman (Harrisburg, Pa.), and Gilbert Romero (Los Angeles). Duane Grady provides staff assistance on behalf of the Congregational Life Team for the General Board.

Its mission statement reads: “We are called to enrich and strengthen the Church of the Brethren by our unity as people of color, modeling for the larger church the blessings of being One as God’s people.”

This mission goes forward because of a spiritual hunger for renewal that is as old as the first Brethren baptisms. Where does this hunger come from? It is God’s vision and God’s yearning for us—all of us.



Duane Grady, co-pastor of the Anderson, Ind., congregation, is a General Board Congregational Life Team staff member. He serves as staff liaison with the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team.

Overcoming Violence: A SUDANESE WOMAN'S STORY



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Speaker

Mrs. Awut Deng Acuil,
Grassroots Peace Mobilizer,
New Sudan Council of Churches

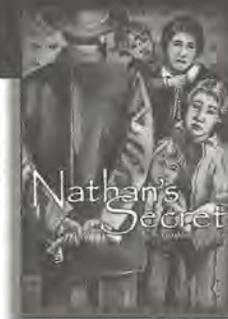
Mrs. Awut will help launch the church-wide “Decade to Overcome Violence” by focusing on peace efforts in Sudan, where race, religion, politics and economics fuel a decades-long war.

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A plea to renew the peace position

by Nadine Monn



One of my brothers has stated that he will go to jail before serving in the military; the other is now serving in the armed forces. I was heartbroken that there was any issue which could emotionally divide our family, but together we have made a conscious effort to reconcile the hurt feelings.

As a young adult in this denomination, I have felt the need to reassure older members of the church that there are still young people who like to learn the history and core values of the Brethren. Lately, however, I have been disappointed in the apparent loss of conviction for what I regard as the most defining and treasured Brethren value: our peace position.

It's common knowledge that the Church of the Brethren is a peace church. Throughout the history of our denomination, the Brethren avoided participation in wars and conflicts, maintaining their commitment to pacifism in the face of long jail sentences, torture, and even death. I recall the examples of such historical figures as Alexander Mack, John Naas, John Kline, and Ted Studebaker. Their commitment to being true peacemakers was unwavering.

Today, unfortunately, our world finds itself in more conflict than ever. In the past, Brethren have worked to uplift peace in postwar Europe, Vietnam, and civil war-torn Central America and Sudan. I applaud the work of the Brethren to make peace in a peaceful way. But I am now dismayed by the growing acceptance of the military I find among some young members of the church.

We now have a president who is more willing to use military force in general—he has said as much in numerous interviews. This deeply concerns me, and I believe all Brethren should be concerned about his views on the subject. The people who find themselves involved in conflict today are benefiting more from the peaceful work of our sisters and brothers than from weapons and military force. These cause illness, injury, and death long after the soldiers have returned home.

The military and pacifism are personal issues for me as a member of the Church of the Brethren, on several different levels. It concerns me that I find more young Brethren who see military service, if not war, as acceptable in certain circumstances. As a Christian, I feel heartsick at the notion that other young Christians, whether or not

they are Brethren, would see the military as a viable option, whether as a career, as a means of gaining an education, or as a way to solve conflict.

My family has recently dealt with the topic of the military. One of my brothers has stated that he will go to jail or leave the country before serving in the military; the other is now serving in the armed forces. I was heartbroken that there was any issue which could emotionally divide our family, but together we have made a conscious effort to peacefully reconcile the hurt feelings that were created last year when my brother made his decision to join the military. While there are many people in our country, and, yes, in our denomination, who look on this as an act of patriotism, and thereby imply that military service is something positive, I ask you not to forget that we as Brethren believe in following Jesus' example. Jesus did not fight, did not serve in any army, and commands us to care for all creation, which implicitly includes even the integrity of life for the peoples of the world.

I'm not proposing that we begin penalizing church members for military participation. God tells us that we are not to judge the actions of another person. Likewise, I'm not saying that there are no young members of the Church of the Brethren who aren't just as committed to peace as our denominational forebears were centuries ago. But, I would hope that we could start anew with our commitment to peaceful peacemaking, as idealistic and inconceivable as the notion may seem to those outside Anabaptist circles. I also hope that we as a denomination can begin to actually walk our walk as a unified body when we address the topic of peace in relation to current world conflicts. We, as the Church of the Brethren, must serve as an alternative path in a country and world society that seem to see soldiers as solutions.



Nadine Monn, of Cumberland, Md., serves as an associate for Latin America and the Caribbean in the General Board's Office of Global Mission Partnerships.

From silence to discussion

May the "Power that is" thank the MESSENGER "powers that be" for the news item in the March issue. I am referring to "Denominations debate the role of gays and lesbians" on pages 10 and 11.

I feel that this approach was appropriate in many ways. You drew attention to the fact that the Church of the Brethren

"The church has chosen not to confront, discuss, open up the dialog, or be involved. It has remained silent in recent years."

has been basically silent—and that other denominations and church agencies have seen fit to confront and discuss the role of gays and lesbians.

And, as demonstrated by the debates in the denominations, such discussions have not been without anger, hurt, and some division. In some cases, as we view the debates, we can hope for some reconciliation, mediation, and even compromise. But the Church of the Brethren has chosen not to confront, discuss, open up the dialog, or be involved. It has remained silent in recent years. I believe that the church's silence and avoidance is abusive.

I am reminded that the writer of Revelation, in the letter to the seven churches, wrote: "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth."

I think dialog is more healthy than silence.

Chuck Boyer, in speaking to the BMC luncheon last summer, said, "As we have become more inclusive of persons of color, divorced persons and women in leadership, we are also becoming more inclusive of glbt (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered) people. The process is slow. We do not need to wait on the Annual Conference, the district conferences, or the local congregations to act.

"The Brethren majority was wrong in

categorically excluding African-Americans and other persons of color from membership and leadership. The Brethren majority was wrong in categorically excluding qualified divorced persons from leadership positions. The Brethren majority was wrong in categorically excluding women from leadership positions. The Brethren

majority is wrong again in categorically excluding glbt persons from leadership positions. This is not debatable!"

I think that by presenting the news article as you did in MESSENGER, you have encouraged the church to move from silence to discussion.

Ralph McFadden
Elgin, Ill.

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LETTERS

Loving advice

Jim Lehman did an extremely interesting article on MESSENGER's 150 years—exciting writing about a subject that could have been drab [see April]. I also appreciated very much Fletcher Farrar's thoughts in the editorial. He said building trust helps justice to be heard.

Perhaps a year into my first pastorate, and quite radical on race and peace issues (1962), I talked with Edward K. Ziegler on the matter. His wisdom was in the same line. “Clyde, if your parishioners know you love them, you can preach anything.”

Clyde Carter
Daleville, Va.

Birthday best wishes

I found your April issue celebrating MESSENGER's 150 years at the center of Brethren life most interesting indeed. A noted Methodist layman remarked some years ago that “a people who have forgotten their own history are already in the process of decay.”

I think that James Lehman's article does a superb job of portraying a part of our history as recorded in the MESSENGER and its forerunners. I found the article enlightening, informative, and candid. And it was without overtones of wanting to return to “the good old days.”

May MESSENGER continue to enlighten, comfort, and afflict us as the spirit prompts.

Joe Dell
The Dalles, Ore.

Tell the old old story

This week, as it often happens, MESSENGER arrived in our mailbox with several other periodicals. Congratulations on 150 years of publication! We often anticipate cover art and inspirational articles that are usually found in the issues that come for the month in which Easter falls each spring.

Going through the mail, we began poring over the various articles, were

very impressed with some wonderful reporting on the global spread of Christianity. Nigeria was one of the countries in focus in the article. For a few moments of forgetfulness, we thought we were reading MESSENGER.

Then, in a sudden burst of reality, we remembered it was *Newsweek* instead. MESSENGER in April of 2001, reported on nothing like that. It was all about how wonderful 150 years of publishing a periodical has been. In fact, there were not even any resurrection-related graphics or text in the whole issue. That is sad.

Our point is not to detract from the celebration of 150 years of MESSENGER, but to bemoan yet another lost opportunity to reinforce to our readers the most powerful event in human history according to our teachings from the New Testament, which we hold to be our “only rule of faith and practice.” Perhaps many of our readers have already settled their faith position, but I believe few would object to a review or even a fresh expression of the “old old story that we love so well.”

But perhaps of even greater importance, some of our readers, like college students who are being given gift subscriptions by their home congregations, or recent attenders who

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are getting acquainted with us through these pages, may still be focusing on their own personal faith positions. Who knows but what a well-articulated article proclaiming the power of the resurrection, complemented with significant art work, would help sharpen the focus of faith for some who are still seeking.

In light of the focus of MESSENGER's heritage, an article of former editor J. H. Moore's on the subject could have even been dusted off. We have treasured our copy of his 1915 publication of New Testament doctrines for nearly 30 years!

Kendal and Carolyn Elmore
Midland, Va.



MESSENGER DINNER

at Annual Conference,
5 p.m. Sunday July 1

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TURNING POINTS

This month's Turning Points includes all listings received prior to 4/30/2001 not previously published.

New members

Ashland. Dickey, Ashland, Ohio: Richard, Martin, Deborah Martin, Amanda Martin, Morgan Martin, Kelsy Miller, Katie Molterman, Ashley Murray, William Jeffries, Emma Jeffries, Dean Calhoun, John Kohler, Anna Mac Kohler, Angie Bollingent, Glenna Smith

Blue Ridge, Va.: Helen Stanley, Mary Persinger

Bridgewater, Va.: Kent May, Cincy Stroop May, Michelle Milbank, Lucile Vaughan, Tony Brazeau, Kim May Capasso, Rod Capasso, Bill Johnson, Lois Johnson, Fred Ikenberry, Marcia Ikenberry, Trent McDorman, Joseph Metzler, Matthew Miller, Kyle Remnant, William Stovall, Andrew Arey

Charlottesville, Va.: Laura Starling, William Morris, Phillip Morris, Kim Schwaner

Community of Joy, Salisbury, Md.: John Clauser, Sabrina Clauser, Tracy Gilbert, Caroline Hutehison, Brian Mathias, Jody Mathias, Jose Silva, Eileen Silva, Christian Jones

Dixon, Ill.: Gage M. Munnich, Kaitlyn J. Winters, Rachael J. Long, Bryce R. Goldie, Colton A. Brooks, Jared D. Yater, Kristine E. Yater, Zachary R. Francque, Caleb J. Rhodenbaugh, Kristi L. Crochet

Dundalk, Baltimore, Md.: Vanessa Oldewurtel

Dupont, Ohio: Austin Bair, Travis Dawson, Ryan Keck, Nikki Graham, Greg Jeffery, Carol Jeffery, Jennifer Recker

East Chippewa, Orrville, Ohio: Carl Hochstetler, Pat Hochstetler

Everett, Pa.: Don Foor, Doris Foor, Jay Mosholder, Carol Mosholder, Charles Leidy, Anna Mae Leidy, Gerald Mearkle, Barb Mearkle, Cindi Mearkle, Jamie Mearkle, Elizabeth Crabtree

Eversole, New Lebanon, Ohio: Shoba Berkuchel, Allyson Curliss, Jeremiah Johnson, Mitchell Howard

First Central, Kansas City, Kan.: Viola Goodrich, Leo Feighny, John Hulce, II, Dawn Hulce

Good Shepherd, Tipp City, Ohio: Daniel James Cunningham, Amy Elizabeth Gabbard, Paul Allen Stout

Keyser, W.Va.: Brent Dantzie, Mary House, Bruce Ludwig, Jr., Charles Ludwig,

II, Brent Riggleman, Rick Riggleman, Samantha Slaughter, Chelsea Wassell, Jennifer Westfall

Lebanon, Pa.: Peggy Boshart, Ethan Bradley, Stephen Hurst, Brian Kreider

Lansing, Mich.: Barbara Curtis, Marie Reamer

Lebanon, Mount Sidney, Va.: John Cox, Leda Cox, Jana Napier Cline, Donna Michael, Richard Kiser, Cindy Kiser, Scott Rott, Connie Rott, Bobbi Smith, Linda Stout, Carol Schepard

Lima, Ohio: Alicia Crider, Vard Camp, Chris Hunt, Nathan Hunt, Douglas Bryan, Jack Myers, Carol Myers

McPherson, Kan.: Catherine Groover, Derek Curry

Markle, Ind.: Dave Marlow, Carolyn Marlow, Sara Marlow, Michael Marlow

Marsh Creek, Gettysburg, Pa.: Brooke Wagner, Skylar MacDonald, Danielle Hartle, Evelina Levotskaja, Jeffrey Proulx, Andrea Proulx

Middlebury, Ind.: Dave Ohanesson, Bob Smoker, Kathy Smoker, Joe Ryan, Mark Bickel, Sherry Bickel, Kevin Buchanan, Nancy Buchanan, Debbie Couturier, Bill Eickholt, Ronda Eickholt, Becky Heign, Sarah Houser, Ron Jones, Barb Jones, Jeff Miller

Middle Creek, Lititz, Pa.: Kelli Garman, Robert McCloud, Evelyn McCloud

Mount Pleasant, North Canton, Ohio: Mary Christopher, Charlotte Wenzel, Sherry Kell

Mountville, Pa.: Robert Keller, Heidi Keller

Moxham, Johnstown, Pa.: Nicole E. Marisa, Matthew R. Snyder

New Carlisle, Ohio: Tim Snapp, Cindy Snapp, Joe Taylor, Sharon Smart, Wendy St. Peter

Oak Grove, Roanoke, Va.: Bill Baker, Judy Baker, Donna Dilley, Neal Musselman, Susan Sine

Panther Creek, Roanoke, Ill.: Stacy Baize Yordy

Philadelphia, First, Wyndmoor, Pa.: Sharon Hanawalt, Kathleen Bisset, Joshua McFarland, Sarah McFarland, Emily Quinn, John Quinn

Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va.: Bob Smithson, Denise Smithson

Prairie City, Iowa: John Kain, Lora Kain, Don Nolin, Amy Nolin, Mike Scharper, Lori Scharper

Reading, First, Reading, Pa.: Kenneth Barrell, Martha Barrell, Alyssa DeFazio, Ann Miller, Bob Miller

Rockwood, Pa.: Deanna Davis, Jeffrey William Davis, Tyler Lee Baker, Vincent Charles

Baker, Ted Tinley, Margaret Tinley, James Burnworth, Estelle Burnworth

Saint Petersburg, Fla.: Douglas Erickson, Tonia Erickson, Steven Riley, Eric Riley, Nicholas Mitchell, Penny Hambrick, Ruth Dunn, Harley Rabig

Smith Mountain Lake, Moneta, Va.: Eddie Craighead, Margie Craighead, Robert Hopple, Linda Hopple, Ron Jamison, Freda Horn, Ann Losh, Kathy Vaughn

South Waterloo, Waterloo, Iowa: Elizabeth Unruh Carey, Sally Hollis, Jason Schneider, Heather Schneider, Freddy Rishell

Topeka, Kan.: Archie Moffet, Heather Moffet, Amy O. Puderbaugh, Jasmine O. Puderbaugh, Jared Roberts, Christina Davis

Troy, Ohio: Justin Athey, Dolly Schauer

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Wedding anniversaries

Arnold, Robert and Mildred, Blue Ridge, Va., 55

Bateman, Willis and Eunice, Roanoke, Va., 55

Bauman, Ray and Evalyn, Lorida, Fla., 50

Brown, Howard and Mary, Oakwood, Ohio, 50

Browning, Paul and Cordelia, Lorida, Fla., 50

Brunner, Lloyd and Mae, Sebring, Fla., 55

Burger, Eugene and Betty, Lorida, Fla., 50

Crabill, William E. and Merilyn, Arlington, Ohio, 55

DeWitt, William and Betty, Lorida, Fla., 50

Fawley, Gerald and Ethel, Churchville, Va., 60

Finifroek, Roger and Jean, Decatur, Ind., 50

Gingrich, Samuel and Mildred, Palmyra, Pa., 50

Gudykunst, William and Elinor, Reading, Pa., 60

Hajek, Roger and Virginia, Lorida, Fla., 50

Hand, Lester and Leah, Lake Odessa, Mich., 65

Harsh, Norman and Lois, Lorida, Fla., 55

Henderson, J. C. and Virginia, Greenville, Ohio, 60

Hodgson, Walter and Gayle, Waterloo, Iowa, 50

Hoover, Leroy and Ruth, Roaring Spring, Pa., 55

Hopkins, Dale and Lois, Lorida, Fla., 55

Johnson, Jim and Margaret, Three Rivers, Mich., 55

Joseph, David and Mary, Lorida, Fla., 65

Kalp, Lester and Mary, Williamsville, N.Y., 60

Lingenfelter, Walter and Evelyn, Williamsburg, Pa., 50

Marker, Wayne and Genevieve, Greenville, Ohio, 60

Moubray, Russ and Betty, Medway, Ohio, 55

Radcliff, Richard and Margaret, Blue Ridge, Va., 55

Reish, William E. and Mary V., Harrisonburg, Va., 50

Remy, Billy and Joan, Mansfield, Ohio, 50

Ritchie, Clyne and Velma Lam, Lorida, Fla., 60

Rohrer, Alpheus and Alice, North Lima, Ohio, 50

Ruggles, Myrl and Dorothy, Lorida, Fla., 55

Smith, Wendell and Elaine, Lorida, Fla., 55

Snyder, Floyd and Pauline, Orrville, Ohio, 60

Sonickson, Lawrence and Dora, Battle Creek, Mich., 50

Stansburg, Leighton and Dorothy, Lorida, Fla., 50

Tipton, Henry and Lois, Girard, Ill., 55

Truex, Lester and Edna, New Carlisle, Ind., 60

Weldy, Edgar and Shirley, Middlebury, Ind., 50

Wyrick, Clarence and Ellen, Lorida, Fla., 55

Zachman, Bill and Lois, Lorida, Fla., 50

Deaths

Acus, Sadie, 86, Bryan, Ohio, Nov. 29

Aker, Bill, 67, Roanoke, Va., Oct. 30

Anderson, Ruth, 81, Scott City, Kan., Jan. 15

Angle, Amos, 83, Mercersburg, Pa., Oct. 31, 1997

Angle, Kenneth, 55, Mercersburg, Pa., Sept. 15, 1997

Angle, Nollie, 92, Mercersburg, Pa., April 13, 1997

Ankerbrand, Joseph, 54, Greencastle, Pa., March 27, 1997

Baker, Ada M., 85, New Enterprise, Pa., April 10

Baker, James Franklin, 69, Mount Jackson, Va., Feb. 12

Barnhart, Anna Pauline, 81, Waynesboro, Pa., Feb. 18

Barnhart, Gladys, 92, Springfield, Ohio, Jan. 29

Bassler, Dervin W., 97, Salemville, Pa., April 14

Baumgardner, Quinter, 71, Waynesboro, Pa., March 20

Beaver, Jessie, 91, Chambersburg, Pa., Nov. 3, 1997

Beeghly, Milford, 102, Pierson, Iowa, Jan. 14

Biller, Berneice Katherine Mathias, 84, Timberville, Va., March 18

Billings, Nathan, 83, Scott City, Kan., Feb. 20

Biss, Theodore, 84, Waynesboro, Pa., Feb. 19

Blumenstock, Kent, Greenville, Ohio, Dec. 22

Bobly, Martha, 78, El Paso, Ill., Nov. 27

Bolinger, Willard, 84, Springfield, Ohio, March 15

Botkin, Cora Varner, 93, McDowell, Va., Feb. 5

Bouch, Gertrude, 85, Shelocota, Pa., April 3

Bowers, Billy Benton Beverly, 63, Middletown, Va., March 6

Bowman, Helen, 88, Rocky Mount, Va., Feb. 5

Bowman, Jesse Jacob, 79, Bridgewater, Va., March 26

Bowman, Joel, Sr., 84, Pittsburgh, Pa., March 1

Bright, Carol, 50, Manheim, Pa., June 23, 2000

Brubaker, Cliff, 85, La Verne, Calif., March 15

Brubaker, Martha, 57, Ephrata, Pa., Oct. 31

Brunton, Max, Portland, Ore., Nov. 7

Bryant, Spencer Edward, 13, Richmond, Va., March 16

Buckwalter, Richard, 54, Lansing, Mich., Nov. 19

Burt, Dale, 65, Columbiana, Ohio, March 8

Bushy, Dora Mae, 72, Danville, Va., April 14

Bussard, Roy Curtis, 74, Bacova, Va., March 11

Charles, Katharyne, 70, Altoona, Pa., Nov. 19

Charles, Robert, 46, Altoona, Pa., July 11

Chamberlain, Geneva Burros, 100, North Manchester, Ind., April 11

Check, Mary, Sebring, Fla., Feb. 12

Clark, Paul, 96, Salem, Ohio, Jan. 3

Cook, Eugene Elwood, 83, Edinburg, Va., March 31

Cox, Madalyn, 83, Everett, Pa., Dec. 19

Crider, Everett William, 67, Criders, Va., March 15

Cullen, Martha Urey, 105, La Verne, Calif., Feb. 28

Danison, Robert, 94, Thornville, Ohio, Feb. 28

Davis, Ina M., 94, Meriden, Kan., March 20
Denlinger, Helen G., 97, La Verne, Calif., April 8
Dennison, Mary Ethel Wright, 87, Harrisonburg, Va., March 23
Detwiler, C. Galen, 86, Martinsburg, Pa., March 6
Develbiss, Betty R., 73, Keyser, W.Va., Dec. 3
Dickinson, Dottie, 79, Everett, Pa., Jan. 11
Diehl, Tessie Stroop, 88, Mount Crawford, Va., Feb. 26
Dwinal, Ruth Louise, 91, Moorefield, W.Va., April 5
Eikenberry, Gladys Mae, 84, Scottville, Mich., March 10
Fauth, Donald, 82, Altoona, Pa., Dec. 28
Feather, Geneva Evans, 91, Thomas, W.Va., Feb. 9
Fisher, Horace, 87, Boones Mill, Va., Feb. 13
Flory, David Cline, 84, Mount Sidney, Va., March 29
Flynn, Elva Catherine Turner, 90, Harrisonburg, Va., March 26
Fox, Florence J., 94, Shady Grove, Pa., Jan. 14
Frazier, Susan Rejean, 44, Crimora, Va., April 11
Fuhrman, Margaret M., 73, Dallastown, Pa., March 25
Furhman, Rufus C., 75, Brodbeck, Pa., March 7
Fultz, Beatrice Leona Miller, 75, Baker, W.Va., Feb. 11
Funkhouser, Cecil Milton, 85, Midland, Va., April 15
Garber, Merlin E., 88, Salem, Va., Feb. 20
Gearhart, C. Lowell, 89, Greencastle, Pa., Aug. 30, 2000
Geiman, Thomas Wilson, 62, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 11
Gentry, Ruth Arlene Shifflett, 75, Waynesboro, Va., April 9
Gilbert, Martha Katurah, 91, Staunton, Va., March 1
Gilbert, Velma Snyder, 85, Troy, Ohio, Feb. 1
Glover, Daniel, 65, Utica, Minn., Feb. 27
Good, Reva Mae, 87, Luray, Va., March 19
Greenho, Fraley, 86, North Canton, Ohio, Jan. 4
Haenitsch, Ruth, 89, Dixon, Ill., March 26
Halterman, Eula Beatrice, 79, Mathias, W.Va., March 28
Hanson, Olive Baugher, 80, New Oxford, Pa., March 22
Harget, Jacob W., 78, New Oxford, Pa., March 21
Harpine, Mabel Virginia Summers, 100, Broadway, Va., March 2
Hartman, Arnold, 86, Orlando, Fla., Jan. 30
Hartman, Mildred, 85, Orlando, Fla., Dec. 21
Hartman, Ruth C., 76, Keyser, W.Va., Feb. 24
Hawkey, Debbie, Sebring, Fla., March 2
Heilman, Raymond K., 85, New Carlisle, Ohio, Jan. 13
Heisey, Dorothy, 82, Lan-

caster, Pa., Nov. 3
Heisey, Grace, 93, Lancaster, Pa., Feb. 27
Hepner, Mildred, 90, Dayton, Ohio, March 15
Herr, Lowell, 82, Wakarusa, Ind., Oct. 13
Hitchcock, Hubert C., 96, Fayetteville, W.Va., March 15
Hodgden, Ralph M., 86, Erie, Kan., Feb. 13
Hoffman, Fred, Chambersburg, Pa., March 17
Hollenshead, John, 91, Mercersburg, Pa., March 22, 1997
Houser, Anna Lou, 81, North Liberty, Ind., March 9
Houser, George, 84, North Liberty, Ind., March 22
Howdyshe, Paul, Sr., 80, Keyser, W.Va., Aug. 31
Hubble, York, 77, Boones Mill, Va., Feb. 8
Huffman, Flossie Simmons, 66, Meyers Cave, Va., March 17
Huffman, Vergie Carolyn, 81, Luray, Va., March 24
Johnson, Rosemary Rebecca, 39, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 21
Jordan, Fred Alexander, 91, Salem, Va., Feb. 11
King, Mattie, 81, Charlottesvill, Va., March 4
Kintzer, Harry "Bud", 75, Wernersville, Pa., April 10
Knepp, Clair, Pinellas Park, Fla., April 1
Lambert, Helen Ruth Thompson, 97, Timberville, Va., March 15
Landis, Marie, 87, Dayton, Ohio, April 3
Lapp, Pauline, 85, San Dimas, Calif., Feb. 10
Lattimer, Doug, 54, Mount Perry, Ohio, Feb. 26
Lawhead, Bea, Sebring, Fla., Feb. 10
Leavenworth, Marie, 80, Lansdale, Pa., Feb. 24
Leis, Mary, 98, Greenville, Ohio, Oct. 3
Leon, Jo, 66, Lawrence, Kan., Feb. 7
Likin, Harry T., 93, Keyser, W.Va., June 20, 2000
Liller, Bessie, 88, Keyser, W.Va., June 13, 2000
Liller, William R., 72, Keyser, W.Va., Dec. 17
Lloyd, Myrtle Emmanuel, 98, Harrisonburg, Va., March 7
Logan, Robert, 71, Williamsburg, Pa., Jan. 6
Lolling, Melvin, 64, McPherson, Kan., Feb. 20
Loomis, Boyd E., 88, Roanoke, Va., Feb. 2
Loy, Marie, 78, Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 4
Ludwick, Carl R., 82, Keyser, W.Va., Feb. 26
Lyme, Velma, 87, Greenville, Ohio, Oct. 24
Mackey, Richard, Mercersburg, Pa., Oct. 1, 1999
Marker, Mary E., 86, Waynesboro, Pa., March 9
Martin, Garnette, 81, Maudsenville, Md., Oct. 10, 1996

Martin, Pearl, 88, Greencastle, Pa., March 28, 1997
Martin, Russel, 88, Greencastle, Pa., Jan. 12
Martz, Weldon Theis, 77, Timberville, Va., Feb. 23
Mason, Carroll Howard, 75, Broadway, Va., Jan. 31
Mauck, Cleve Franklin, Jr., 51, Mount Jackson, Va., Feb. 24
May, Gracie Marie, 80, Mathias, W.Va., March 9
McAdams, Verlyne Irvin, 89, Tipp City, Ohio, Feb. 10
Meyerhoeffer, Margaret Rodef-fer, 93, Bridgewater, Va., July 12, 2000
Mikel, Dora Marie, 70, Wakarusa, Ind., April 3
Miller, A. Carolyn, 70, Bridgewater, Va., Feb. 7
Miller, Allen Delevine, 77, Baker, W.Va., April 6
Miller, Eunice Virginia, 59, Mount Jackson, Va., March 6
Miller, Miriam, 89, Greenville, Ohio, Oct. 11
Moyer, Glen A., 105, Greenville, Ohio, April 16
Moyer, Leota Barbara Dove, 70, New Market, Va., Feb. 24
Mock, Robert George, 74, Dillon, Mont., Feb. 23
Mumbert, Fred Reuben, 79, Port Republic, Va., Jan. 26
Myers, Hazel Virginia, 85, Bridgewater, Va., March 19
Myers, Mildred, 88, Chambersburg, Pa., Nov. 8, 1997
Myers, Ralph Miller, 94, Bridgewater, Va., Feb. 28
Naff, Joel Bowman, 94, Boones Mill, Va., March 6
Naylor, Kurtis, 84, McPherson, Kan., Feb. 17
Netzley, David, 89, Troy, Ohio, March 28
Nicholas, Reba M., 82, Harrisonburg, Va., April 2
Orebaugh, Mary Opal, 98, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 11
Oren, Irene Morehead, 89, Tipp City, Ohio, Jan. 24
Ours, Anna Lee, 60, Rough Run, W.Va., March 3
Overholt, George, Freeport, Mich., Nov. 26
Patch, Elwin, 88, Franklin Grove, Ill., March 11
Pence, Leona Smith Knighting, 82, Lacey Spring, Va., Feb. 18
Perrine, Dorcas Ann Rhodes, 60, Woodstock, Va., Feb. 27
Pugh, Chester, 84, Dundalk, Md., March 18
Raines, Tracie, 91, Grottoes, Va., Dec. 7
Redinger, Frederick C., 66, Everett, Pa., Aug. 9
Rhodes, Ellen Theresa Bowman, 44, Broadway, Va., Jan. 27
Rhynard, Naomi, 85, Troy, Ohio, March 21
Ritchey, Lois Ann, 66, Everett, Pa., June 3
Ritchey, Carl Edward, 85, Bridgewater, Va., March 17
Ritchey, Charles Evert, 73, Broadway, Va., Jan. 25
Rudolph, William Carlos, 59,

Verona, Va., March 1
Runk, Lillian M., 83, McVeytown, Pa., Feb. 26
Rush, Donald Ray, 60, Maurertown, Va., Feb. 15
Ryman, Harry Otis, Sr., 78, Woodstock, Va., Feb. 26
Sears, Mabel, 89, Keyser, W.Va., March 6
Shahan, Dora, Saint Petersburg, Fla., Feb. 8
Shipley, Margaret, 75, Johnstown, Pa., April 1
Skinner, Olca, 86, Chambersburg, Pa., Jan. 16, 1998
Smith, Laurean, 78, Moorefield, W.Va., March 1
Smith, Mary, 82, Lebanon, Pa., March 22
Snyder, Eileen, 82, Lima, Ohio, April 10
Spitler, Pauline Beydler, 83, Winchester, Va., Feb. 15
Stevens, Harry, 93, Chambersburg, Pa., March 30
Strawderman, Joyce Dispanet, 67, Mathias, W.Va., March 20
Strome, Vina, 90, Greenville, Ohio, Sept. 24
Studebaker, Jay H., 76, New Carlisle, Ohio, March 1
Summers, William Merle, 80, North Liberty, Ind., April 3
Swisher, Clea, 80, Akron, Ohio, Dec. 30
Talkington, James, 79, Virden, Ill., Dec. 24
Teets, Ruth Lantz, 75, Thomas, W.Va., Feb. 18
Thomas, Mahlon, 93, Johnstown, Pa., April 2
Thorne, Glenn Richard, 83, Dorcas, W.Va., March 4
Troxell, Louise H., 79, New Oxford, Pa., March 13
Tryon, Dorothy Dupler, 91, La Verne, Calif., Feb. 22
Turner, Beverly, 58, Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 25
Urice, M. Hazel, 87, Keyser, W.Va., Feb. 21
Voelker, Verna, 84, Wyomissing, Pa., Jan. 21
Walker, Doris, 59, Brodbeck, Pa., Feb. 24
Walker, Wilkis Dean, 76, Rockwood, Pa., Jan. 13
Walter, Jennie Catherine "Kate", 92, Claysburg, Pa., Dec. 31
Webber, Martha, 97, Lancaster, Pa., Feb. 18
Weikert, Harry, 86, Greenville, Ohio, Jan. 4
Wilt, Norman E., Jr., 82, Everett, Pa., May 19, 2000
Winegard, 69, Mamie R. Lee, Grottoes, Va., Feb. 13
Wisman, Audrey Craun, 76, Harrisonburg, Va., March 10
Wolfe, Carrie, 97, Greenville, Ohio, Feb. 6
Woy, Lucy, 102, Everett, Pa., Dec. 13
Wray, Vera A., 82, McVeytown, Pa., March 3
Wright, Donald Harold, 79, Waynesboro, Va., Feb. 25
Yoder, Vickie, 51, Silver Lake, Ind., Jan. 13
Yohe, Emory C., 91, New Oxford, Pa., March 13

Licensings

Bear, Rodney O., Castine, Arcanum, Ohio, March 25
Eller, Mark Eugene, Castine, Arcanum, Ohio, March 25
Forry, Chad David, West York; York, Pa., Feb. 4
Gonzalez, Ivette, Winter Park, Fla., Jan. 28
Gonzalez, Leonardo, Winter Park, Fla., Jan. 28
Miller, Richard D., Drexel Hill, Pa., Feb. 18
Olvera, Ester Navarro, Falfurrias, Texas, Jan. 21
Ronk, Patricia Ann, Oak Grove, Roanoke, Va., March 25
Snyder, John, Holmesville, Neb., Jan. 7
Stiver, Richard L., III, Loon Creek; Huntington, Ind., Feb. 18
Taylor, Jeremy W., Cloverdale, Va., March 5
Wenger, Todd Allen, Living Faith, Florida, Ind., Nov. 5
Westfall, Randall, Pittsburg, Arcanum, Ohio, Dec. 17
Westrom, Timothy, Beaver Run, Burlington, W.Va., March 18
Wilson, Hannah D., University Baptist and Brethren, State College, Pa., March 18

Pastoral Placements

Hartwell, Jerry Lee, to pastor, River Valley, Moorefield, W.Va., April 1
Keegan, Gerald P., from pastor, North Bend, Danville, Ohio to pastor, Beech Grove, Pendleton, Ind., March 1
Knotts, Donald R., from pastor, Brookside, Aurora, W.Va., to pastor, Walnut Grove, Moorefield, W.Va., Jan. 1
Leatherman, Charles, from pastor, Greenmount, Harrisonburg, Va., to pastor, Wakeman's Grove, Edinburg, Va., March 5
Light, Horace D., Jr., from interim pastor to pastor, Hollins Road, Roanoke, Va., March 1
May, Sharon Nearhoff to pastor, Phoenix, First, Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 25
Westfall, Randall, to pastor, Bethel Center, Hartford City, Ind., Feb. 4
Wilson, Ralph H., from interim pastor to pastor, Holsinger, New Enterprise, Pa., April 1



Preaching points

During some of the Annual Conference floor fights of a number of years ago I would worry that the church was about to break under the weight of rancor. Then a tall, handsome gentleman would step up to the microphone. Eagerly the moderator would recognize the man, who identified himself as Earle Fike Jr., Atlantic Northeast District. With a strong but soothing, authoritative voice like God's, he would sort out the thorniest issues and outline the wisest course. The delegates would agree with him. The day would be saved. I often wondered what it would be like to hear this wise pastor preach.

Now I know. Earle Fike has given us a fine collection of his sermons in a new book, *A Month of Sundays: Making Sense of Things* (Herald Press, 2001). There are 32 sermons here, a month and a day of wisdom and craftsmanship gleaned from Fike's rich experience as a Church of the Brethren pastor. He served the Meyersdale, Pa., congregation, Chicago First, Elizabethtown, and Stone church, Huntingdon, Pa., before he retired to the place of his roots, Bridgewater, Va. He also served on the General Board staff and on the faculty of Bethany Theological Seminary, where he taught preaching. As the product of such a prominent career, this collection serves not only as a source for Bible-based devotional readings, but also as a reminder of the importance of sermons.

Too many of us take our preachers' sermons for granted, with little appreciation for the preparation, not to mention the education, that goes into those 20 minutes (that better not be any longer). As the spouse of a pastor, I see firsthand some of the work and worry that goes into the effort to faithfully present God's message week in and week out. And I know too that if even one parishioner lingers at the door to make a cogent comment about the sermon, it can make for a happier Sunday afternoon at our house.

We pew-sitters don't have to say much, Fike told me. "Your message was especially meaningful" will get the job done, or "Thank you for the work you did on our behalf today." When we're feeling more puzzled than positive we can tell the preacher, "This one was more difficult for me to understand." Sometimes it's appropriate, says Fike, to speak the truth in love: "You're my pastor and I love you, but this was not one of your better days."

Preachers can spare us the pain of such honesty by studying the sermons of others. Fike did so even as a teenager at the Massanetta Springs Bible Conference outside of Harrisonburg, Va., where he went to hear big-name speakers of the day like Harry Emerson Fosdick, Carlyle Marney, Clovis Chapel, Peter Marshall, and Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes. He was reared on the best of the Brethren preachers,

like Harry Zeller, Dewitt Miller, William Beahm, Nevin Zook, Paul Robinson, and Desmond Bittinger. Bittinger, Fike said, "spoke with his heart right out there." And during his formation as a preacher, Fike read sermon collections and anthologies. For those who wish to improve their preaching, *A Month of Sundays* is a good place to start.

If today's sermons have become more casual and less literary, by contrast Fike displays a lean, well-crafted style. He takes on tough subjects. In "Understanding the Son's death" he answers the question of a parishioner, "If God is love, then why is God so angry that Jesus has to die to make things right between us and God?" He rejects the "forensic" view that humanity has committed a crime for which a "ransom" has to be paid. Instead he highlights Romans 5:1,2, "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace..." Carefully he guides listeners to this conclusion: "The Son's death made permanent our access to the God who loves us."

And if you don't agree, that's okay. "Unity in diversity" has been a theme running throughout Fike's ministry. In his sermon "Togetherness without conformity," he cites the 1979 Annual Conference paper on biblical authority, which includes eight affirmations about the Bible, and after each affirmation is a paragraph that begins, "but we are not agreed on..." He recalls that economists answered Harry Truman's questions with "On the one hand, thus and so, but on the other hand, it could be thus and so." An exasperated Truman replied, "Will someone please find me a one-armed economist?" Fike concludes, "Let none of us be tempted to call out for a one-armed theology. The two arms of individual and community will best do the Lord's work with strength and integrity."

Willingness to preach pacifism at a difficult time is evident in "A conversation with God," the sermon Fike delivered on Jan. 20, 1991, the Sunday after the start of the Persian Gulf War. The "conversation" included honest questions that were on everyone's mind, like whether it is right to pray for a quick victory, and compassionate answers, like our prayers are to be for friend and enemy. I would be more comfortable had he styled this as a conversation with Elder John Kline, because too many preachers already think they have a direct line to God. But I give an "amen" to this otherwise humble voice for taking on a tough subject in a creative way.

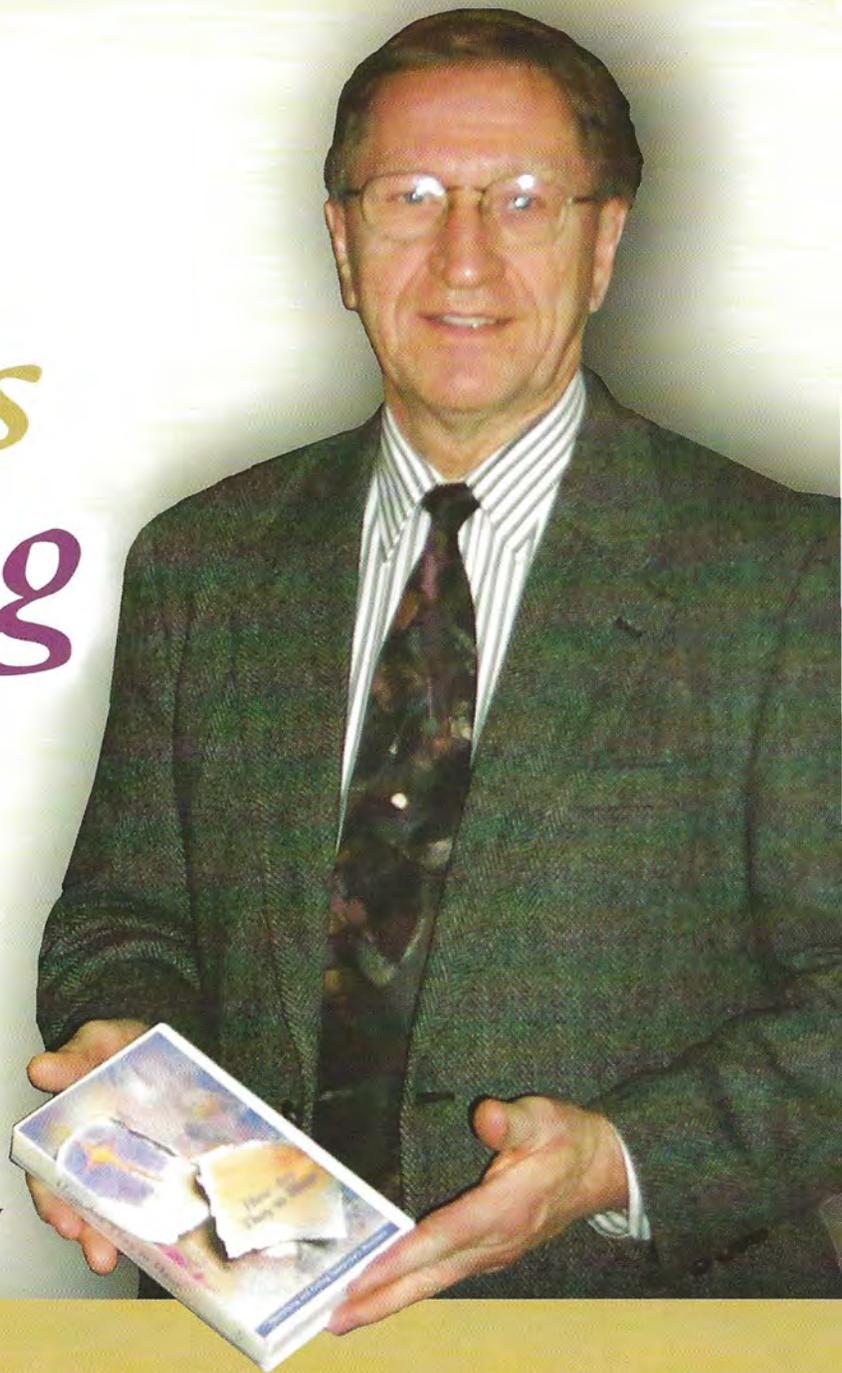
Overall, Preacher Fike, I'd say your message was especially meaningful to me today. And it will be to anyone who reads your new book.—FLETCHER FARRAR

A Month of Sundays is available from Brethren Press.

Too many of us take our preachers' sermons for granted, with little appreciation for the preparation, not to mention the education, that goes into those 20 minutes.

Is yours a calling church?

Ministry director Allen Hansell
announces five new resources designed
to help your congregation identify
and call out leaders for pastoral ministry



How Are They to Hear. A video in five segments, this study resource is a guide for churchwide reflection on openings, climate, and joys in pastoral ministry. The emphasis is on the key role that the congregation plays in calling and encouraging pastors.

Ministerial Leadership: In Our Midst. Four sessions with articles and a study guide are designed for use by the entire congregation or by small groups. Includes the 1999 Annual Conference paper on Ministerial Leadership and suggests resources.

Considering Leadership. This view book of action steps for calling and educating church leaders defines ministry, outlines the role of the congregation and district in calling, and explains seminary, academy, EFSM, and TRIM options for training.

Ministry Summer Service. As an innovative venture for 18- to 24-year-olds, MSS enlists interns, mentors, and host congregations or agencies in a summer program that enables young adults to explore work in the church as a vocational choice.

Ministerial Leadership Manual. This comprehensive binder brings together all recent Annual Conference statements and Office of Ministry papers on ministry in the Church of the Brethren. The format is designed for ease of updating.

*All the above resources, except for the Ministerial Leadership Manual, have been sent to your church.
For further information on materials, contact the Office of Ministry, 800 323-8039, ext. 207.*

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