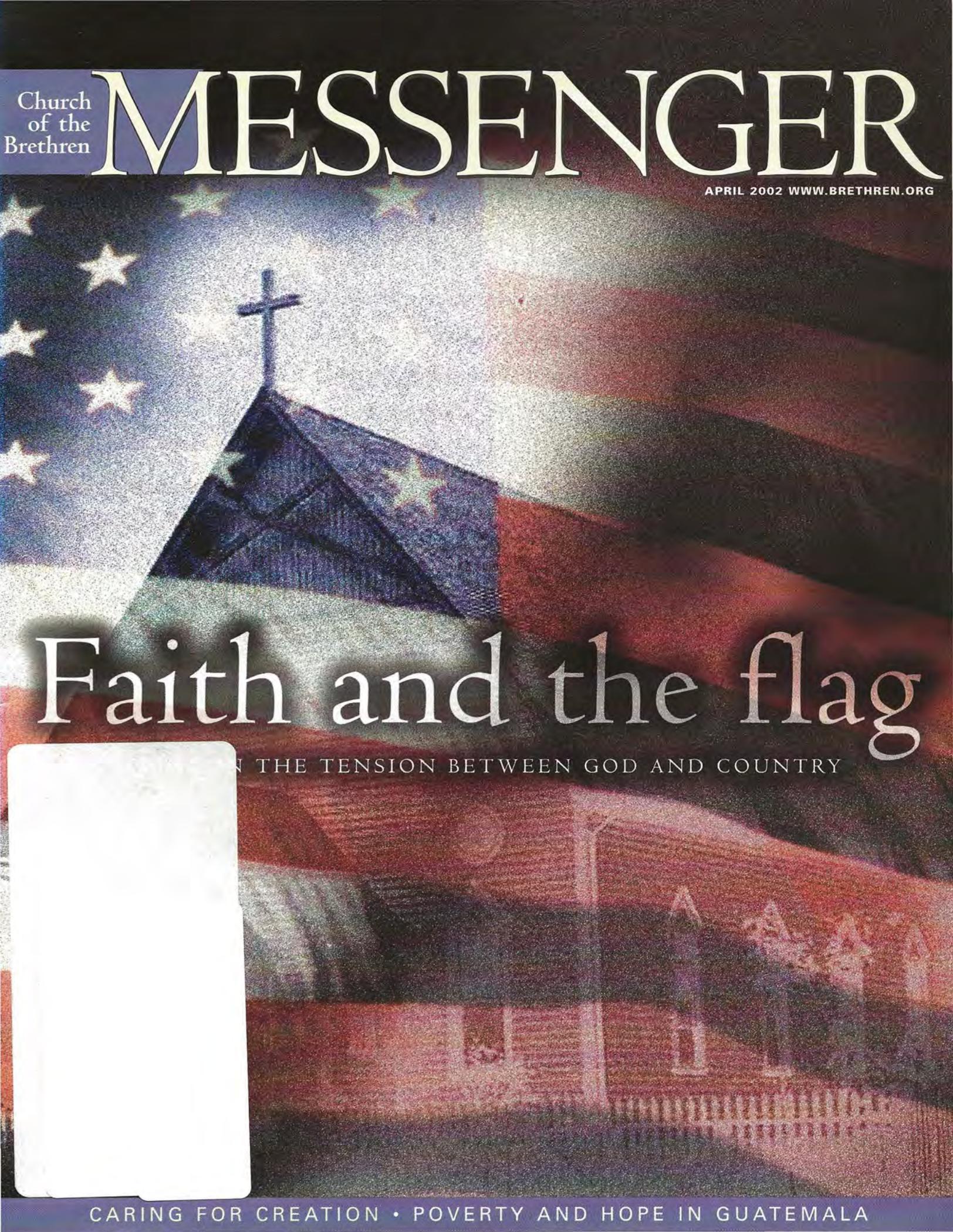


Church
of the
Brethren

MESSENGER

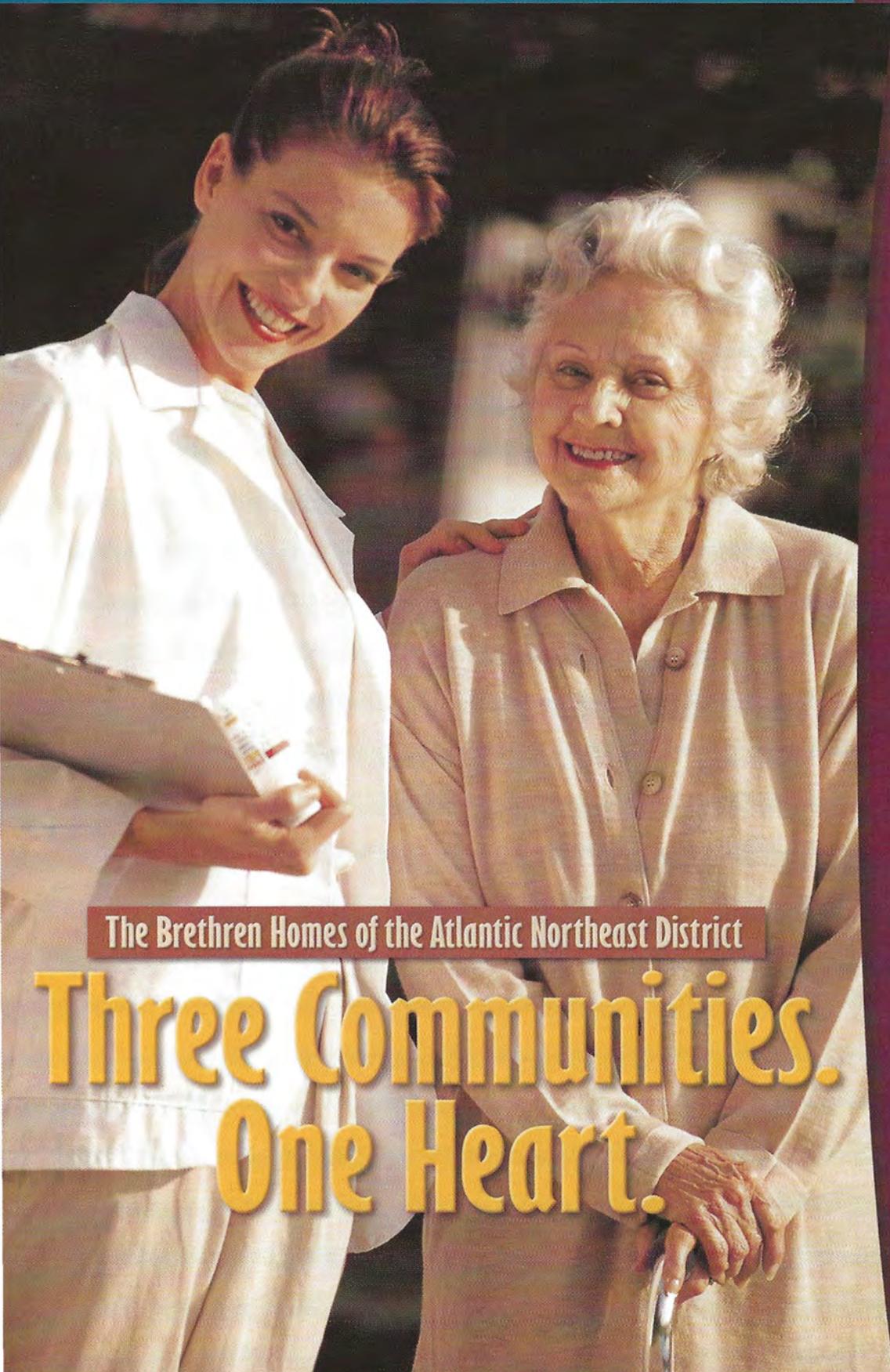
APRIL 2002 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG



Faith and the flag

ON THE TENSION BETWEEN GOD AND COUNTRY

CARING FOR CREATION • POVERTY AND HOPE IN GUATEMALA



The Brethren Homes of the Atlantic Northeast District

Three Communities. One Heart.

Providing Quality Lifestyles and
Compassionate Care in Retirement Living.



Peter
Becker
Community

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



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



Lebanon Valley
Brethren Home

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



Church of the Brethren **MESSENGER**

Editor: Fletcher Farrar Publisher: Wendy McFadden News: Walt Wiltschek Advertising: Russ Matteson Subscriptions: Verneda Cole Design: Cedar House Group



Illustration by Philippe Lardy

ON THE COVER

“Brethren visionary Dan West . . . observed: ‘Brethren always live under tension. The more we try to live our doctrines in the modern world, the more the tensions increase and the heavier they become.’ West had something specific in mind as he spoke. He elaborated: ‘One of the greatest tensions for Christians everywhere comes out of the relation between church and state. And one of the heaviest for the Church of the Brethren comes in relation to the American nation-state. We Brethren always love our country, respect many of its customs, and obey its laws. But we have some doubts about the actual state.’”

—from *Patriotism and Faith*, by David R. Miller, reviewed on page 15.

10 Struggling over the flag
 The Mack Memorial congregation, Dayton, Ohio, is one of numerous churches where opinion is divided over display of the flag. Here, however, the congregation’s work to resolve issues in a spirit of unity has attracted national attention.

16 Caring for creation
 David Radcliff, director of Brethren Witness, issues an urgent call to give the earth’s environment the attention it deserves. The warning signs are all around, so it shouldn’t require a Sept. 11-style calamity to awaken us to the needs.

18 Hope in Guatemala
 During a Faith Expedition to Guatemala in January, Carol Lena Miller discovered in the midst of poverty much joy and reason for hope. Several Church of the Brethren projects are helping to sustain that hope.

23 Raymond Peters remembered
 The denomination’s first general secretary, who served in that role from 1947 to 1952, died in November at the age of 95. He was Raymond R. Peters, whose full life of service to the Church of the Brethren is recounted here by S. Loren Bowman, a former general secretary.

DEPARTMENTS

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



FROM THE PUBLISHER

The trophy has been displayed on the shelf in the basement for a year. This ceremonial basketball with "2001 Champ" and my name carefully lettered in permanent marker proves how astute I was when it came to picking the winners in last year's NCAA men's basketball championship. In fact, I trounced the competition in two different groups of basketball aficionados. (Not to worry: There was no betting involved—just prizes handed out by the enthusiastic organizers.)

This was an amusing situation, since I know virtually nothing about college basketball. Apparently it was beneficial to be unencumbered by knowledge or sentiment. But if I were to delude myself into thinking I actually knew what I was doing, I have only to examine the first round of this year's picks to see that last year was a fluke.

Picking the winners in a basketball tourney is an entertaining way to pass the final month of winter, but doesn't fool anybody: Nobody thinks I've suddenly become an expert in basketball. They know I'm just lucky.

In the world beyond March Madness, however, we seem to confuse success with knowledge, or moral superiority, or rightness. We reward companies that gamble their futures on get-rich-quick growth. We go along with the conventional wisdom that military action buys us peace and stability. We're fooled into thinking that perfect-attendance pins are symbols of spiritual maturity.

When "madness" goes beyond being a game, it's time to think again about the meaning of winning and losing. God's definition is exactly the opposite of everything we see around us: "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it" (Matt. 16:25). That kind of thinking might cheer me up when I relinquish the basketball trophy. More important, it will set me straight in the other areas of my life, where I seek to be a responsible citizen of the world and a faithful follower of Christ. That's about grace, not luck.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER

1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:

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

Display advertising:

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

Editorial:

ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9085
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:

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

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

Connect electronically:

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

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

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, April 2002. Copyright 2002, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.

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



Printed on recycled paper
(20% post consumer)

Collecting memories to honor longtime pastor

For 32 years Frank S. Carper was a profound presence in the pulpit of the Palmyra, Pa., Church of the Brethren, and in leadership roles of the eastern Pennsylvania Brethren. A freewill minister, F. S. Carper had a "day job" as a banker and strode the few blocks to the church to put in a "second day." His abilities in commerce served him well in the administration of a growing congre-

gation that moved cautiously, if surely, with the times.

Ron Keener, who grew up in the congregation, profiled Carper in a MESSENGER article (Oct. 15, 1972) and has initiated a project to honor Carper, with the support of the church's present pastor, Wally Landes Jr., and Carper's daughter Miriam Frey.

"While Frank wrote the history of the church in 1967, he understandably said less about himself, his beliefs, and his convictions," Keener says.

"It occurred to me that many

people have stories about Frank and the difference he made in their lives, but no one has ever recorded them. Many persons can tell wonderful stories about his impact in the congregation, community, district camping program, Elizabethtown College, his banking career, and his Brotherhood work and leadership."

Keener is asking persons who knew Carper to contribute a personal reflection, if just a few paragraphs, about a specific story, event, or encounter that reveals some aspect of Carper's style, life, and leadership. The goal is to assemble a collection of the reflections to share with others.

"Many will have several stories about how Frank touched their lives, the qualities he brought to ministry, and the acceptance of change that he fostered at Palmyra. The key question for those sharing a story is: What have we learned from the example and life of Frank Carper that gives us meaning and focus in our lives and for the Christian church today?"

Send your stories on Carper to Ron Keener at 975 E. Tyson Ct., Gilbert, AZ 85296-5457 or e-mail GreatWriting@hotmail.com.

Ohio Brethren named champion race car driver

Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr., active member of the Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren, Defiance, Ohio, was named national champion of the Indy Racing League Northern Light Cup at the annual awards banquet in Fort Worth, Texas. On Oct. 6 Sam had completed the season with a thrilling three-car photo finish at the Chevy 500 Race that showed Sam the winner by just .0188 seconds. That victory was Sam's third of the season.

Sam, the son of Sam and JoEllen Hornish, is 22 and is part of the Hornish family that goes back more than five generations in the Church of the Brethren. He was raised in the Poplar Ridge congregation and baptized in 1988. Throughout his teen years, Sam was active in the youth fellowship and still enjoys being in worship at Poplar Ridge whenever his schedule allows.

"It is a joy to see this young man, who grew up as part of our church family, excel in his field of skill," said Glen Whisler, Poplar Ridge pastor. "Even though he has gained worldwide fame, Sam has not lost any of the beliefs and values that he embraced growing up. We are very proud of him."



Brethren champion racer

Sam Hornish Jr. with David Whisler on race day at Chicagoland Raceway.

Sue Grubb



Detroit's Trinity marks 50

Trinity Church of the Brethren, Detroit, Mich., celebrated its 50th anniversary Oct. 27-28 with the theme, "2001—A Faith Odyssey."

Following a catered meal on Saturday evening, Gary Copenhaver presented the church's history in a multimedia presentation interspersed with personal remembrances and musical selections. Jerry Stoner, a music minister in Iowa, produced a video for the occasion featuring his original musical composition, "Trinity," based on a poem by Hubert Danner.

The guest speaker for the Sunday morning service was Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm, a former member of Trinity who now teaches at Bethany Theological Seminary. Other clergy participating in the service were Theodore Taylor, current pastor; Wayne Boyd, former interim pastor; Tim Binkley, a pastor sponsored in theological training by Trinity; Horace Huse, current moderator; Paul Hoffman, pastor during the formative years; and Lowell Witkovsky, pastor during the 1980s.—Nancy Stoner

Brethren Volunteer Service Unit #247 had its orientation Jan. 20 to Feb. 8 at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, Fla.

Volunteers are listed below with the work projects to which they have been assigned.
 Front row (l to r): Amy Moses from Washington, D.C. to Proyecto Libertad in Harlingen, Texas; Udo Sommerhoff from Fohren, Germany, to Habitat for Humanity in Lancaster, Pa.; Shalon Atwood from Waterloo, Iowa, to Bridgeway in Lakewood, Colo.; Beth Shively from North Manchester, Ind., to Trees for Life in Wichita, Kan.; Sonja Partikel from Berlin, Germany, to Samaritan House/Cafe 458 in Atlanta, Ga.; Cat Carpenter from Woodstock, Ill., to Bread and Roses Catholic Worker House in Olympia, Wash.; Kendra Flory from McPherson, Kan., to Hopewell Inn in Mesopotamia, Ohio; Travis Poling from Hagerstown, Md., to Center on Conscience and War in Washington, D.C.

Back row: Pete Dobberstein of Brookville, Ohio, to Gould Farm in Monterey, Mass., and Kilcranny House in Coleraine, Northern Ireland; Hannes Birkhofer from Bielefeld, Germany, to Tri-City Homeless Coalition in Fremont, Calif.; Daniel Bucker (staff).

Three 100-year-old daughters celebrated

The Chiques Church of the Brethren, Manheim, Pa., in January hosted a centennial service commemorating the 100th anniversary of its three daughter congregations in northwestern Lancaster County: East Fairview, Eliza-

bethtown, and West Green Tree. All three separated amicably from Chiques in 1902 to form independent congregations.

The service included a hymn sing using songs from the 1901 Brethren Hymnal, a drama written by Donald Fitzkee and directed by Walt and Jean Moyer, and a com-

bined men's chorus from the four congregations, directed by Carolyn Fitzkee and David Willoughby.

Today the four churches and congregations they later began total more than 2,200 members. A second special event will be held at Elizabethtown College's Leffler Chapel in June.

Remembered

Newton L. Poling, 87, a retired pastor and a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) Church of the Brethren, died Feb. 16. After his graduation from Bethany Theological Seminary in 1941, he served a small rural church in the mountains of Green County, Va., near Charlottesville. There he and his wife, Virginia, lived simply without plumbing or electricity and he learned to butcher and rely on a large vegetable garden. Later he served the Summitt and Lebanon congregations in Virginia, then moved to Maryland in 1948 to serve the Brownsville congregation. He became pastor of the Woodbridge, Va., congregation in 1961, moved to the Scalp Level church, Windber, Pa., in 1966, and to the Carlisle, Pa., church in

1968. In 1974 he became chaplain at the Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home, Boonsboro, Md. He had four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Norman W. Patrick, 93, a member of the Hanoverdale (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, died Feb. 25 in Landisville, Pa. He was ordained in 1939 as a Church of the Brethren minister. He preached in the Big Swatara congregation and was later elder-in-charge of the Hanoverdale and Conewago congregations in Pennsylvania. He was known for his evangelistic preaching at revival services. He was married 73 years to Ester Firestone Patrick. He had 3 children, 15 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and a great-great grandson.



Don Vermilyea's "Walk Across America" brought him to a visit with some members of the Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren near Phoenix, Ariz., in mid-February. By the end of February, Vermilyea was preparing to head into California and on toward San Diego. Don, in center of photo, is on a journey to all Brethren congregations and institutions. He is being sponsored by the General Board's Brethren Witness and Brethren Volunteer Service offices.

Bridgewater builds Habitat house

Some 200 people gathered at the Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren for a banquet honoring the completion and dedication of a home the congregation built in cooperation with Central Valley Habitat for Humanity. Celebrating with them was the Florenzia Paz Rojas family, happy owners of the new home.

Under the direction of Bob Reeves, church member and building contractor,

Habitat for Humanity house built by Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren.

volunteers had become carpenters, painters, sanders, and "go-fers."

Ground was broken for the house on Palm Sunday 2001 and it was finished by September. All the needed funds had been collected, including a \$3,500 tithe (10 percent extra), which was donated toward an international Habitat house.

Jim and Joyce Benedict, co-chairs of the steering committee, celebrated the fellowship the congregation had experienced while working together to provide decent, affordable housing for a needy and deserving family.—Ann Daggett



Sweet calls upon churches to understand changing culture

If churches are to thrive in the 21st century, they need to be relevant and open to a changing culture—one driven by images, experiences, and participation. That message came through repeatedly from theologian/author Leonard Sweet, keynote speaker for six sessions at this year's Anabaptist Evangelism Council.

The event, held Feb. 15-17 near Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, drew a record 175 participants. Nearly half of those came from the Church of the Brethren, according to New Life Ministries—the inter-Anabaptist resourcing organization that sponsored the fifth annual meeting. More than a half dozen other denominations were also represented.

Sweet described today's population in terms of "immigrants," those born before 1962, and "natives," those born after that date, as the key distinction in today's culture. "Words are an immigrant's basic cultural currency," Sweet said. "For natives, it's the image. . . . The screen is their stain-glassed window."

The message of Jesus doesn't change, Sweet emphasized, just the container it is poured in. The Bible needs to continually become fresh and new. At the same time, churches need to learn about and become more active in shaping

the popular culture around them. "The issue is to be in touch with the culture," according to Sweet, "but in tune with the Spirit."

He says the culture is hungry for authenticity and relationship, something the church can offer if it doesn't "sell out to normalcy." The Anabaptist tradition has a certain "tribal identity" that can foster such connectedness and belonging if it doesn't become too insular, he added.

The event also included a pair of worship services: a Taizé-style service led by General Board Youth/Young Adult Ministry coordinator Chris Douglas and this year's National Youth Conference coordinators, and a rhythm-filled Sunday morning service led by Manchester College campus ministry director Jim Chinworth and Manchester College students and staff.

The group spent Saturday evening at the Willow Creek Community Church in nearby Barrington, Ill., attending an "AXIS" service geared toward young adults and later discussing the ministry and its dynamics with Willow Creek leaders.

The 2003 Anabaptist Evangelism Council has been set for Feb. 14-16, again at the Sheraton Gateway Suites near O'Hare. Northern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Robert Webber will be the speaker, focusing on worship.

BRETHRENSPEAK

"The issue is to be in touch with the culture but in tune with the Spirit."

— Leonard Sweet at this year's Anabaptist Evangelism Council

Keynote speaker Leonard Sweet provides an illustration on the differences between "immigrants" and "natives" in today's culture by comparing the shoe preferences of himself and National Youth Conference assistant coordinator David Young. Young is a member of the Pocahontas Church of the Brethren in West Virginia. Sweet spoke during six sessions at this year's Anabaptist Evangelism Council, held near O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. The annual event is sponsored by New Life Ministries.



Bowman and Miller top 2002 Conference ballot

Annual Conference delegates will choose from a pair of ordained Eastern US Brethren when they vote for a moderator-elect this summer in Louisville.

Christopher Bowman of Curryville, Pa., pastor of the Martinsburg Memorial congregation, and retired pastor **Howard Miller** of Westminster, Md., are the two candidates on this year's ballot, prepared by Standing Committee. Both have served in local, district, and denominational leadership. Bowman is a former chair of the General Board and the redesign steering committee. Miller served as interim associate district executive in Mid-Atlantic District.

Candidates for other positions are as follows:

•**Conference secretary:** Peggy Reiff Miller of Milford, Ind., and Fred Swartz of Manassas, Va.

•**Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee:** Judy Epps of Runnells, Iowa, and Sherry Reese Vaught of Mansfield, Ohio.

•**General Board, at-large representative:** Frank Ramirez of Elkhart, Ind., and Vickie Whitacre Samland of Edgewater, Colo.

•**General Board, representing Northern Plains District:** Jeff Neuman-Lee of Adel, Iowa, and Frances R. Townsend of Preston, Minn.

•**General Board, representing Oregon/Washington District:** Barbara Daté of Eugene, Ore., and Janet Stutzman of Wenatchee, Wash.

•**General Board, representing Pacific Southwest District:** Janet L. Ober of Upland, Calif., and Angela Lahman Yoder of Peoria, Ariz.

•**On Earth Peace Assembly Inc. board:** Connie R. Burkholder of Ankeny, Iowa, and Phillip L. Jones of Durham, N.C.

•**Brethren Benefit Trust board:** Dale Minnich of Moundridge, Kan., and Harry S. Rhodes of Roanoke, Va.

•**Bethany Theological Seminary board, representing the ministry:** Marla Bieber Abe of Akron, Ohio, and Alice Martin-Adkins of Washington, D.C.

•**Bethany Theological Seminary board, representing the colleges:** David Eller of Elizabeth-

town, Pa., and Carol A. Scheppard of Mt. Crawford, Va.

•**Association of Brethren Caregivers board (2 positions):** Brian S. Black of Ephrata, Pa.; Heather L. Neff of Roaring Spring, Pa.; Katherine J. Ramsey Melhorn of Wichita, Kan.; and Gene Yeazell of Orlando, Fla.

•**Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, representing pastors:** Manuel (Manny) Diaz of McPherson, Kan., and John Huffaker of North Liberty, Iowa.

•**Committee on Interchurch Relations:** Doug Archer of New Paris, Ind., and Michael L. Hostetter of Roanoke, Va.

The ballot process this year represents a partial implementation of the Process for Calling Denominational Leadership statement adopted at the 2001 Annual Conference. The Nominating Committee of Standing Committee creates a list of four names for each open position. In past years, Standing Committee didn't narrow down the final ballot to two names per position until just before Conference. This year, Standing Committee members received the initial ballots by mail and returned their voted ballots in February to create the final list.

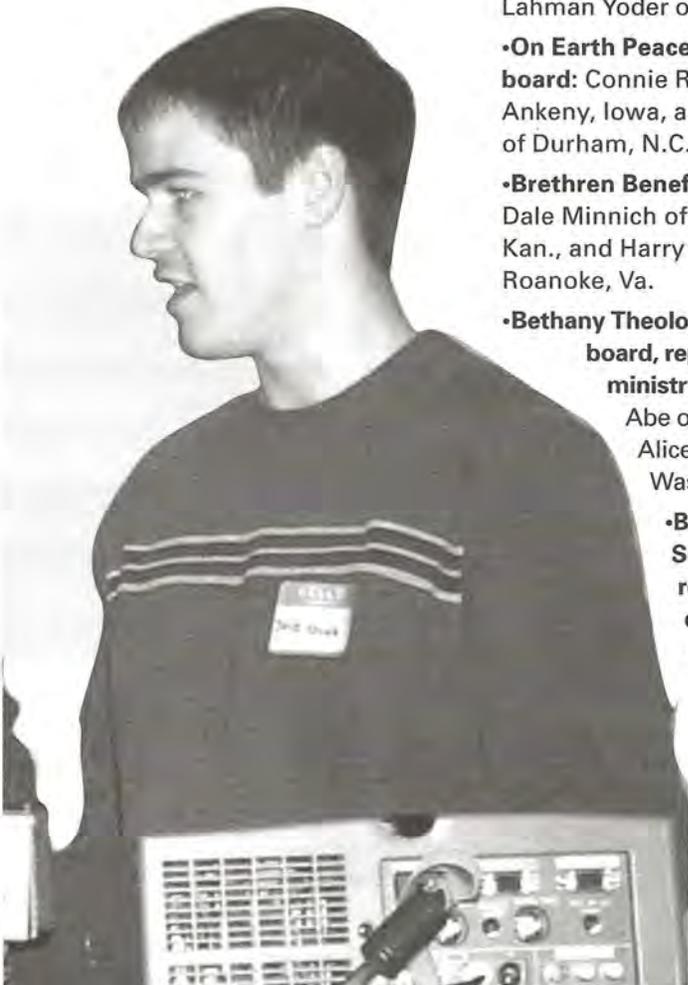
Annual Conference will be held June 29-July 3 in Louisville, Ky. Full implementation of the provisions in the Process for Calling Denominational Leadership statement, including district election of most General Board representatives, will take effect in the 2003 balloting process.



Christopher Bowman



Howard Miller



UPCOMINGEVENTS

April 5-7 Bethany Theological Seminary board meetings, Richmond, Ind.

April 6-11 Adult Christian Citizenship Seminar, "Peace-making for Such a Time as This," New York and Washington, D.C.

April 12-13 On Earth Peace board meetings, New Windsor, Md.; Evangelism Connections training conference, Louisville, Ky.

April 12-14 Regional Youth Conference, Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind.

April 14-16 Council of District Executives executive committee meeting, Ashland, Ohio

April 18-21 Cross-Cultural Ministries Consultation, Germantown Church of the Brethren, Philadelphia

April 20-21 Brethren Benefit Trust board meetings, Elgin, Ill.; Roundtable regional youth conference, Bridgewater (Va.) College

April 21-May 2 Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 248, New Windsor, Md.

April 26-27 Disaster Child Care Level I volunteer training, Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren.

Youth Peace Travel Team an all-male group this year

This year's Youth Peace Travel Team will be an all-male group for the first time in the program's 12-year history. Ben Kreider of Lawn, Pa.; Chris Palsgrove of New Windsor, Md.; Carle Gaier of North Manchester, Ind., and Daniel Radcliff of Elgin, Ill., will form the 2002 team.

They will travel to camps in the western United States this year, plus a week at National Youth Conference in Colorado. The tour is sponsored by Brethren Witness, the Church of the Brethren Washington Office, Brethren Volunteer Service, On Earth Peace, and Outdoor Ministries Association.

Several previous teams have been all female, including the 2001 team of Katie Best, Rachel Long, and Susan Chapman.

General Board workcamp builds Nigeria relationships

Six members of the Church of the Brethren returned in mid-February after spending a month in Nigeria for the General Board's annual workcamp in the African nation. They were joined there by four members of Mission-21 (formerly Basel Mission)—a mission partner based in Switzerland—and by 13 members of the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).

During the workcamp, participants continued construction of a girls dormitory at the EYN Comprehensive Secondary School located near Mubi. Jeff Mummau of Elizabethtown, Pa., the Church of the Brethren coordinator for the workcamp, said tasks included mixing cement; making, carrying, and laying block; breaking rocks; and pouring concrete.

Participants also visited traditional mis-

sion sites such as Garkida, saw EYN programs firsthand, hiked up two mountains, joined in Nigerian cultural events, spent a few nights in Nigerian homes, and visited with Church of the Brethren and Mission-21 fraternal workers.

The workcamp also sought to build relationships between Christians from the Church of the Brethren, Mission-21, and EYN by visiting and interacting in EYN churches, homes, markets, and schools.

District executives examine calling, role, partnerships

Thirty members of the denomination's Council of District Executives gathered in Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 2-6, for their annual winter meeting. They spent one full day focusing on Bible study and prayerful discernment on the question "Where is God Leading Us in the Calling System?"

Additional time was given to exploring what it means to be "an organization within the denomination" as determined by action of the 2001 Annual Conference. Council members affirmed that district staff work in "the arena where Annual Conference agencies and congregations interface," and that district staff carry an important role of "spiritual influencers."

The Council also heard numerous reports and met with several denominational leaders, looking at topics including medical insurance for pastors and cooperative ministries with the General Board. The group reaffirmed participation in the "District Executive In Residence" program with Bethany Theological Seminary.

The Council's next regular meeting is scheduled for June 27-29 in Louisville, Ky.; the executive committee of the Council will meet April 14-16 in Ashland, Ohio.



Dan McFadden, left, director of Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), met with Ralf Ziegler, volunteer coordinator of the North Program of EIRENE, at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill., in February. EIRENE, whose founders include the Church of the Brethren, facilitates overseas placements of German young adults who seek an alternative to their country's mandatory military service or domestic civil service. An average of 9 to 10 volunteers come to BVS through EIRENE each year. Ziegler visits roughly every other year to discuss the relationship between the organizations and visit EIRENE volunteers in the United States.

Personnel moves

•**Gene Hipskind**, district executive minister of the Pacific Southwest District, has announced his retirement effective July 31. He has served in the district since September 1994. Hipskind and his wife, Linda, plan to move to Boise, Idaho, to be near their grandchildren.

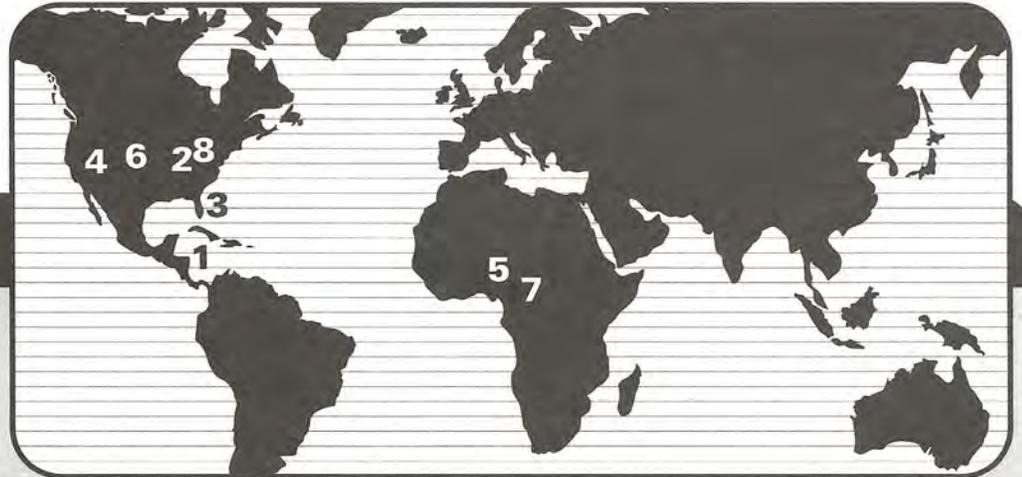
•**Daniel W. Ulrich** has been appointed to a three-year term as associate dean and director

of distributed education for Bethany Theological Seminary, effective July 1. Ulrich will direct the launching and initial development of the seminary's distributed education program, which is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2003. He has

been a member of the Bethany faculty since 1996, serving as assistant professor of New Testament studies. He will resume his regular teaching responsibilities at the conclusion of the three-year appointment, at which time Bethany will con-

duct a new search for a long-term appointment to the associate dean position. Bethany is working at arrangements to offer a full complement of New Testament courses while Ulrich is in the associate dean position.

WORLDWATCH



1. Central America. A pair of General Board Faith Expeditions headed abroad in January, with groups traveling to Honduras and Guatemala. The Honduras group was a women's delegation, with participants living in communities in the southern part of the country. In Guatemala, the group focused on care for creation and visiting Brethren-supported forestation projects and development initiatives. Both groups traveled Jan. 8-17.

2. Fincastle, Va. Four buildings at Virlina District's Camp Bethel were damaged as a result of breaking and entering discovered Feb. 13, according to a report from the district. A television and VCR were stolen. Those goods were later recovered at a pawn shop, but a second breaking and entering occurred the next week, with more equipment stolen.

3. Florida. Forty people from 12 districts gathered at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, Fla., Feb. 7-10 for an event titled "Coming to Life: The Way of Peace through the Spirit." The retreat, led by 2002 Annual Conference moderator Paul Grout and On Earth Peace co-director Barb Saylor, focused on integrating peace as an inward and outward discipline.

4. Arizona. Brethren Volunteer Service worker Don Vermilyea's "Walk Across America" got off to a successful start in the Southwest in February, beginning with a Sunday at the Tucson Church of the Brethren and continuing with stops at the Community Church Fellowship, Papago Buttes, and Circle of Peace congregations in the Phoenix area. Vermilyea was crossing into California by month's end.

5. Nigeria. John Tubbs, the General Board's mission co-coordinator in Nigeria, reported that to his knowledge no members of the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) were directly affected by the Jan. 27 explosions in the major city of Lagos and the riots that followed. The panic after a major munitions depot exploded, left more than 1,000 people dead and thousands of others homeless, according to a United Nations report.

6. Cordell, Okla. The General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries office is rebuilding a

tornado survivor's home as a cooperative effort with Mennonite Disaster Service. Major storms ravaged the area late last year. Another Emergency Disaster Fund grant made in February will provide another \$5,000 to support recovery efforts.

7. Democratic Republic of the Congo. The General Board continued its support to the African nation, where a volcano erupted near Goma in January. An Emergency Disaster Fund grant will provide \$20,000 in additional aid to assist Interchurch Medical Assistance Inc. with the costs of emergency airlifted shipments of medical supplies to Goma.

8. Bayview, Va. The General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund sent a \$25,000 allocation to Bayview Citizens for Social Justice in February. The funds will be used to help provide safe housing, clean drinking water, and economic opportunities for African-American families in the impoverished community.



Illustration by Philippe Lardy

WILL THE CIRCLE BE

unb

Editor's note: Sue Halpern of upstate New York writes a regular column in *Mother Jones*, a national progressive magazine. She wanted to explore the response of traditionally pacifist communities to the events of Sept. 11. She had heard that some Church of the Brethren congregations had been struggling with the flag issue, so found her way to Matt Guynn, who is coordinator of the Seek-

ing Peace Project, a special effort of *On Earth Peace* to respond to the needs of the Church of the Brethren as the country is at war. Through his outreach to churches, Guynn knew of at least five congregations working on flag issues, and put Halpern in touch with Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren in Dayton, Ohio. Halpern writes: "The folks at Mack were very welcoming

and willing to let a stranger into their midst during a very difficult and trying time. My column focuses on community, and I found that the congregation at Mack exemplified all the good (and hard) things about a group of people that takes seriously its relationship to each other, and to its tradition." With permission from *Mother Jones*, Halpern's article follows.



roken?

by Sue Halpern

On a spectacularly clear Sunday in Dayton, Ohio—the same Sunday, in fact, that 9,200 people gathered in Lower Manhattan to memorialize their relatives killed in the World Trade Center attack—23 members of the Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren sat in the church base-

ment, talking about the American flag. The country was nearly two months into its war on terrorism, months that had brought, along with everything else, a discomfiting conflict into the solid stone building at the frayed edge of Dayton's urban center.

On its face, the dispute was about the flag: should it, or should it not, be displayed in the church, particularly in the sanctuary. But the flag, ever a symbol, also represented

DIVIDED OVER
THE FLAG, A
CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN
CONGREGATION
STRUGGLES TO
REGAIN ITS SENSE
OF UNITY

other, more complicated questions. The most fundamental was this: How could church members square their patriotism—their absolute solidarity with the victims of the attacks, their families, the rescue workers, and other Americans—with their pacifism, which is central to their Christian identity? Like the Quakers and the Mennonites, the Church of the Brethren is a “historic peace church.” For 300 years, since the denomination was founded in



Leading a lively discussion. *David Bannerman, member of the symbols team, guides the congregation through talking about the flag issue.*

Europe, Brethren have not merely espoused pacifism—they have attempted to live by it, too.

A Brethren document entitled “How Do We Live Out Our Faith?” makes clear that pacifism is at the heart of their faith: “For many Brethren, how we live is as important as what we believe. The reason for this goes to the heart of our understanding of Jesus. . . . As he was in the world—reaching out to the sick, speaking peace to the enemy, welcoming those at the margins of society—so we seek to be in the world.” This is liberation theology of an older order, from which good works and institutionalized compassion issue. Indeed, relief teams dispatched by the Brethren Service Center in Maryland were among the first aid workers to arrive in Manhattan after the Twin Towers fell and have

provided more than 11,000 hours of service. Brethren have also been sending tangible aid—about \$100,000—to Afghan refugees. In this war—as in those of the past, when many Brethren engaged in alternative service—pacifism has not meant passive disengagement.

The basement of Mack Memorial is standard-issue church basement: gray linoleum on the floors, folding tables, metal chairs. On this particular Sunday the chairs were arranged in the kind of circle that lets one chair be at its head. “We call this a Daté Circle,” explained Greg Bidgood Enders, who co-pastors the church with his wife, Liz. [See accompanying article, “A circle for miracles.”] The people in the circle listen quietly to the person in the speaking chair but don’t respond. The question we are addressing today is, “Where have you seen or felt brokenness, personally or in the community, and where have you seen healing taking place?” For his congregants this meant, more directly, Where do you stand on the matter of the flag?

Weeks before, in the aftermath of Sept. 11, someone had put an American flag in the front of the sanctuary. Though it wasn’t unprecedented—the flag is typically brought out on July Fourth and Memorial Day—a number of congregants, as well as the ministers, thought it was inappropriate. As a peace church, they believed that Mack Memorial should not be promoting nationalism. But another group of worshipers found solace in having the flag there. It spoke to them of freedom and tolerance and solidarity. Between those two positions was a chasm, filling fast with rancor and misunderstanding. Two families left the church in anger—one on each side of the issue—and the congregation’s fall love feast, a Brethren tradition in which worshipers wash one another’s feet before sharing

both a meal and communion, had to be postponed.

“Love feast represents a unity in the body of our church, and we didn’t want to falsely portray that,” said Liz Bidgood Enders, explaining the decision to delay the love feast until the community could come together as one again.

Months later, on the morning of the Daté Circle, the love feast was still not on the calendar. “It’s a struggle not to want to rush things and put this behind us,” Liz Bidgood Enders said when she took the speaking chair. Then she moved off it, and the chair remained empty for a few minutes, and everyone sat in silence. Some heads were bowed. Others were not. The idea is to pray on what the person in the chair has said, and then take the chair yourself, if you are so moved.

Helen Sutton stayed where she was. An outspoken peace advocate who had argued against the flag at earlier meetings, she figured it was time for others to have their say. “When I look at the flag, I think of our support of thug dictators and the years of sanctions against Cuba and Iraq,” she said later. “But even so, I don’t think I can insist that the flag can’t be there any more than anyone else can insist that it can.”

And no one did insist. One by one congregants rose in silence, settled in the chair, and spoke from that place where head meets heart. There was a member of the church’s Peace Witness Committee whose non-Brethren son, a captain in the Army, lost friends and colleagues in the Pentagon attack; she spoke in favor of displaying the flag. There was the church organist who had buried two husbands, both decorated war veterans, who spoke against it. There was the former wife of a former Mack Memorial minister who said, “Love and a lack of alienation and being together are more important than whether or

not we have an American flag in the sanctuary.”

Round and round it went. The conversation was circuitous and inconclusive and yet, in a small and tangible way, appeared to be drawing people closer, if only because they didn't want to miss a word.

Liz Bidgood Enders moved back into the speaking chair. Like her husband, Greg, she is 27 and newly graduated from seminary. Mack Memorial is her first church. “I ask for your prayers to help me,” she said. “When I worship with a flag in the sanctuary I tend to forget that God is not only with Americans, but with all nations.”

Jim Fourman, who has been a member of Mack Memorial for 50 years, nearly twice as long as either of its young pastors has been alive, also took the chair. “If it wasn't for the people who died for the flag, we wouldn't be here today,” he said simply. A Brethren all his life, Fourman felt called to make a distinction between current events and conflicts of the recent past, like Vietnam and Korea, which he opposed. “We should have the flag

up. Because we were attacked. There is a difference here.”

During the Vietnam War, Mack Memorial's ministers were active in the antiwar movement in Dayton. Later, in the 1980s, recalled Gay Mercer, a member of the church for 34 of her 37 years, its pacifism was strong enough to alienate a refugee family from Cuba that the congregation had sponsored—so much so that the family stopped attending the church. Dayton Peace Action meets in the building, as do the antiwar group Pledge of Resistance and the Committee to Save the Iraqi People. Though the congregation's demographics—urban and interracial—make it different from most Brethren churches, its credentials as a peace church are unassailable. So it was significant that when Liz and Greg Bidgood Enders led an interfaith peace walk through Dayton five days after the attacks, just six members of their own congregation participated.

“This is a time when people feel confused and torn in different directions, and uncertain about what will happen,” said Liz Bid-

A CIRCLE FOR miracles



he technique used by the Mack Memorial church to resolve disagreements over the flag is the Daté Discernment Circle, developed in 1987 by Church of the Brethren Process Consultant Barbara Daté of Eugene, Ore. It has been found to be an innovative and helpful procedure when intensive sharing and compassionate understanding are needed.

Although it requires a skilled facilitator, and should not be attempted without training because it is deceptively dangerous, the format is simple. There are four roles: 1. The Body of Listeners, who sit in the round. 2. The Speakers, who come up to one of three chairs in the front and may say whatever they want on the subject at hand. 3. The Special Listener, who sits in a chair facing the Speakers. 4. The Facilitator, who walks around and intensively monitors the process so that each person in the room can feel safe. The process may be used for any one of three objectives: education, healing, and early phase problem-solving.

Barbara Daté has taught and used the Daté Discernment Circle in many places, including in Hawaii on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. It included participants from Japan, Native Hawaiians, and Americans.

It has also been used at Annual Conference during discussion of hot topics, by numerous congregations, by the Ministry of Reconciliation Conference following the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles, and in a large school district in the middle of a teachers strike, among others.

“When it is facilitated, it always works,” says Daté. “Miracles happen.”

For more information, Barbara Daté may be contacted by e-mail at paxdate@mb.sympatico.ca.

Symbols team

members David Bannerman, Carol Gardner, Elaine Stauffer, Nancy Faus, Sally Grant, and Liz Bidgood Enders.



Robert Miller

good Enders. "The flag is very tangible. How to show your faith is much more difficult. A lot of people are struggling right now with what it means to be Brethren."

And not just in her church. According to the General Board's Oct. 12 Newsline, "Annual Conference statements say that 'all war is sin,' but some have found that hard to accept in present circumstances." A few members, Newsline noted, have followed the lead of prominent Quaker and NPR host Scott Simon in "rethinking or renouncing their peace position."

That, so far, has not come up at Mack Memorial, where patriotism, more than pacifism, is driving a wedge into what had been common ground. "Mack Memorial's struggle over the flag is not uncommon right now," said Matt Guynn, director of Seeking Peace, a Brethren project created by On Earth Peace specifically to help churches respond to the events of Sept. 11 and their aftermath. "But its carefulness and thoughtfulness in dealing with the process is special. They are following Brethren tradition of acknowledging and working through the tensions and not just going about their daily lives like nothing is happening."

Even in more settled times, unity among a congregation of 144 souls can be elusive. "How do we expect to have peace in the world if we can't have peace here?" asked Katey Brock, who has worshiped at Mack Memorial since 1954 and whose daughters and grandchil-

dren worship there too.

Still, dissonance can carry a tune of its own. That morning the Daté Circle ended with a hymn called "Healer of our every ill." "Give us strength to love each other," sang the ones in favor of displaying the flag. "Give us strength to love each other," they sang with the ones opposed. They were loud, and a little ragged, but anyone passing by would have said for sure that they were trying hard to sing in unison.

Sequel: *The Mack Memorial congregation appointed a "symbols team" to make a recommendation on display of the flag. The committee presented three options:*

1. Display the American flag alone or in conjunction with flags from all

countries that are a part of the United Nations. 2. Display flags of all countries where the Church of the Brethren has a presence. 3. Display flags representing ancestry of all the members of Mack Memorial.

The committee set March 3 as the date for choosing one of the options. But after many new questions emerged during a peaceful discussion that day, the congregation returned the options to the symbols team, asking it to clarify the choices for a decision to be made later.



This article originally appeared in the Jan.-Feb. issue of *Mother Jones* magazine and is reprinted with permission. It is copyrighted 2002 by The Foundation for National Progress, the magazine's parent organization.

Robert Miller



Symbols team member Sally Grant
explains some of the options to be considered for displaying the flag.

LIVING IN TENSION BETWEEN church and state

A review of *Patriotism and Faith*, by David R. Miller

by Julie Garber



As so often happens, an attack to divide and conquer the

enemy only serves to solidify its resolve. Instead of undoing America, the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center in September concretized dormant feelings of patriotism in millions of Americans and unleashed a devastating retaliatory strike against Afghanistan.

Many Brethren have ambivalent feelings about the events of Sept. 11 and the response of the US government. In an essay for the Perspective Series, David R. Miller, pastor of First Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va., sorts through the competing claims for our hearts and minds and renders an opinion on how the Brethren may hold patriotism and faith together in one hand.

Early Christians whose faith was illegal, Miller writes, “maintained a relatively cool attitude toward the state. They kept a spiritual and political distance from Roman government. To be sure, their lack of legal standing was part of that distancing. But Christians could have made things much easier for themselves had they simply agreed to

make annual religious offerings to the emperor in the way other citizens and aliens under Rome’s realm did. As it was, such offerings were withheld by Christians, because they violated the commandment to worship only one God.”

Brethren are faced with the same dilemma. Miller points to Dan West’s sermon to the Brethren on the occasion of our 250th anniversary, in which West observes: “Brethren always live under tension. The more we try to live our doctrines in the modern world, the more the tensions increase and the heavier they become One of the greatest tensions for Christians everywhere comes out of the relation between church and state.”

Miller confesses that “this is a remarkable insight, yet one laced with regret for many Brethren today. If we feel this tension, we have to ask whether it’s because we are fulfilling our vocation as witnesses of Christ’s gospel, or because tension more accurately arises from our conformity to the compulsions of an economy that entices us to strive for more and more. Or, more recently, is it due to the new political realities of our world subsequent to Sept. 11, 2001?”

Miller grants that feelings

of loyalty to home and country are natural, even for Christians. And he also acknowledges that the constitutional separation of religion and state affords Brethren the luxury of religious freedom and loyal citizenship, but he reminds us of “the coolness of the early church toward Rome. Like the first Christians in Rome, we are morally obligated to contribute to the welfare of the place where we live and to offer care to our neighbors, but a faithful church will teach its members to withhold something of themselves in terms of national loyalty.”

Choosing a principal loyalty to God and Jesus Christ first is not popular these days; it’s barely tolerated. But Miller recounts how the original Brethren “were impressed by the experience of the primitive church, which enjoyed no official relationship with caesars and empires. They did not expect this church to attract crowds. They did not imagine a universal fellowship. They reminded one another, in the words of Alexander Mack’s hymn, to ‘count well the cost,’ for a time would come when each one would be required to ‘risk your reputation, your self, your wealth, for Christ the Lord.’

What made it possible for Brethren to resist the moral authority and punitive power of the state was not a broad appeal to everyone, but a strikingly narrow identification with a small band of disciples devoted to Christ.

“While the nation—ours and others—is a real and undeniable social fact, the church of Jesus Christ points to something that Christians believe is even more real and more universal. Right now it is not clear to the American church how the compelling loyalties of national and American Dream diminish our commitment to Christ and our life in God’s Spirit. To see more clearly, we will need to name those things that claim so much of our lives.”

The claims Miller goes on to name are modest, but surrendering them may be difficult in the current climate. This is the “ultimate tension that results when we live our faith in the modern world.” In the end, “We are called, I think, to be more like those New Testament Christians who, by their living in the communities to which they were called, were the first seeds and signs that a new world was coming here.”

Patriotism and Faith, a new publication in the Perspective series, is available from Brethren Press at www.brethrenpress.com or by calling 800-441-3712.



God's creation more attent

A W

by David Radcliff

“LET’S PRAY
THAT GOD’S
HOPE IN US AS
TRUSTED
KEEPERS OF
THIS PRECIOUS
GARDEN WAS
HOPE WELL
PLACED.”

For whatever else Sept. 11 did, it got our attention. That fateful morning shook us awake to people and places and dynamics in our world of which until then we had barely been aware. Since that time we have been focused on addressing the many issues that day brought to light. Our government is embarking with vigor on its pursuit of the perpetrators, while others of us are just as fervently exploring other paths toward peace and security.

It is regrettable that it often takes a calamity to focus our energies and resources on areas of concern or need, even though in many cases our attention may already have been urgently required. When a family member becomes ill with an untreatable disease, we suddenly rally behind more research for that malady. When a scandal uncovers unscrupulous business practices, we press for new laws to “clean up the industry.”

It is more difficult, however, to muster momentum for change for a serious problem when its effects are incremental or in some way hidden from view, or when we perceive it not to be in our immediate interest to confront the situation. Stepped-up airport security had long been called for prior to Sept. 11, but was delayed out of fear of driving away passengers.

deserves
ion. We need...

Wake-up call

Smokers' bodies slowly adapt to the poisons being introduced into their system so that there seems to be less urgency in changing their behavior—at least until the first spot shows up on the lungs. Don't we have some of this same hesitance when it comes to facing health threats to our planet?

I would hate to think what an x-ray of the "lungs" of our planet might reveal. Every year, humans pump another seven billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, more than three times what the planet can healthily absorb. Meanwhile, we're cutting down the world's forests at the rate of an acre a second, inhibiting the ability of the ecosystem to cleanse itself. The resulting accumulated pollution is slowly beginning to warm the planet.

The repercussions thus far fall short of startling. Sea levels have started to inch up due to melting polar ice and warmer water's greater mass, but it's nothing like the 15-foot rise that will occur if Greenland melts away. Storms are increasing in force and frequency, but thus far have had their primary impact on the people of places like Central America and Bangladesh. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes have not found North America quite warm enough for their blood—yet.

Other ecological problem areas are likewise just beneath our radar screen. We still aren't too troubled that dozens of species of plants and animals are becom-

ing extinct each day—even though we may have already lost the one that held the key to curing a dreaded disease. It hasn't really concerned us that 10 percent of the world's grain is being grown by drawing down water tables; or that in the US four billion pounds of toxic pollutants such as mercury and lead are released into the environment annually by mining operations; or that every year in this country we "develop" another 400,000 acres of wooded area or farmland; or that 70 percent of us can no longer see the Milky Way in the night sky.

We either don't notice things or we don't see it in our interest to address them. Otherwise, we wouldn't each be driving our bigger cars for more miles (8,000 miles per person per year) than ever before, or consuming our weight in material goods every day. We certainly haven't had a Sept. 11-style wake-up call to incite us to give God's earth the attention it deserves.

Nor should we wish for such an event. Who could wish for a devastating disease outbreak caused by environmental toxins or drying up of the world's aquifers, or a string of weather disasters in heavily populated areas of North America (Can we still call them "natural" disasters?).

We shouldn't need such events—at least not those of us who worship God the creator and follow Christ the redeemer of all creation. We have been given the gift of seeing beyond the

immediacy of self interest to look for the greater good over the longer term. We are concerned not only with the exploitation of earth's beauty, but live by God's decree that we till and keep this garden we have been given (Gen. 22:15). And we are able to stand back from the creation as God did, calling it "good" and of value in its own right.

In the accompanying article by Carol Lena Miller, we learn of the efforts of people who of necessity are working to live more sustainably with God's earth. They have no other choice if they wish to be healthy and have enough to eat. The Church of the Brethren is lending support to them in their struggle to survive.

We also notice that there are other benefits of their actions: a closer sense of community, greater harmony with life's daily cycles, the opportunity to experience God's grandeur as it is manifested in a star-filled sky.

Let's hope it won't take a calamity to awaken us to the crisis facing God's earth. Let's hope we will recognize the many warning signs now before us and take up our role as stewards with passion and perseverance. Let's hope no future generation will look back at our time and say, "How did they not see this coming?!" Let's pray that God's hope in us as trusted keepers of this precious garden was hope well-placed. 

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



David Radcliff

In Chanchikiat, Guatemala, Francesca, left, with her mother, Juana, extols the health benefits of her new stove. The Global Food Crisis Fund assists dozens of Guatemalan families in acquiring wood-conserving lung-saving adobe stoves each year.

Poverty an

“A WOMAN SMILED GRATEFULLY WHILE DESCRIBING THE MORE THAN DOUBLE-EFFICIENCY OF HER NEW WOOD STOVE COMPARED TO THE OPEN FIRE SHE USED PREVIOUSLY FOR COOKING. SHE ALSO DESCRIBED HOW HER COUGH HAS SUBSIDED, AND HER SKIN AND EYES DO NOT BURN.”



and hope in Guatemala

by Carol Lena Miller

On Jan. 8 I embarked on a 10-day adventure to Guatemala as a member of a six-person Church of the Brethren Faith Expedition, sponsored by the Brethren Witness Office of the General Board. This office actively works on peace and justice issues around the world, and sponsors these trips as opportunities to broaden participants' vision and understanding of world conditions, both humanitarian and environmental.

The Guatemala trip was an educational eco-justice tour dealing primarily with issues of poverty and deforestation. We focused on learning about Church of the Brethren projects, including installation of wood stoves in homes, concrete water cisterns (a clean water source in the country is nearly unheard of), and a tree/vegetable nursery for reforestation and sustainable agri-

culture. I discovered that even though I thought I knew a lot about living conditions in undeveloped countries, I was shocked by the reality of life on the edge.

We flew into Guatemala City and were greeted at the airport by BVSer Todd Bauer, who is supported by the Global Mission Partnerships office and is working with the projects we would visit. During our one night in the city, we began to see evidence of the third-world nature of this place: no pure water in any tap, outstretched hands of unchaperoned little children on the streets, a small boy pushing a very large loaded wheelbarrow toward the city market area.

The next morning our journey continued as we loaded into a van and drove more than six hours to Ixtahuacan, a small village in the mountainous northwestern Huehuetenango region of the country. The next five days were packed with

people, places, events, sounds, and sights that rocked our usual understanding of people and the way we live in connection to each other and to the earth.

This region is arid, with a rainy season from June through September and dry sunshine the remaining months of each year. So in early January the roads were dry dustbeds of rocky soil and deep ruts. We traveled in our van, in the back of a native's pickup truck, and by foot...and we quickly realized that our motorized transportation was a luxury.

The people here walk everywhere they need to go, carrying on their backs children, or wood, or sacks that resemble buildings. They walk on a complicated web of narrow, hilly foot paths that connect homes, water sources, wood sources, *parcelas* (small parcels of land they farm) and villages. They live in small one- or two-room adobe homes, often perched perilously on a steep moun-



David Radloff

BVSer Todd Bauer, who is supported in his work by the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships office, is one year into his assignment with the Pastoral Social Office of the Catholic church in Ixtahuacan, Guatemala. He works with reforestation programs, the stove and cistern projects, and sustainable agriculture.

“THEY TALK OF THE HOPE
THAT THE COMMUNITY
COOPERATIVE BRINGS,
THE HOPE OF THEIR
SCHOOLS, THE HOPE OF
YOUNG ADULTS
RETURNING HOME AFTER
COLLEGE, THE HOPE TO
CREATE A GLIMPSE OF
THE KINGDOM OF GOD
ON EARTH.”

tainside, perhaps miles from the nearest road.

Upon every piece of dirt something is planted, typically corn used to make thick moist tortillas (their daily sustenance), or coffee for market. We wondered how the farmer and his family possibly kept balance on the extremely steep parcella to plant and tend the crop, and how this situation is akin to their perilous balance of life.

Despite the obvious poverty, I saw much joy and reason for hope. I saw a 14-year-old Mayan girl weaving her own skirt, and I saw a young woman balance a large basket of young turkeys on her head, on her way to market. I saw a woman smile gratefully while describing the more than double-efficiency of her new wood stove compared to the open fire she used previously for cooking. She also described how her cough has subsided, and her skin and eyes do not burn.

I saw another young mother who was afraid to use the clean water in her new concrete cistern, worried it would not last until the rains come again. The cisterns and stoves are built in a partnership between our Global Food Crisis Fund and the Pastoral Social Office of the Catholic Church.

I saw a small nursery with hundreds of hopeful seedling trees that will be taken to farmers for reforestation projects, a cooperative effort by Pastoral Social and the Church of the Brethren's "If a Tree Falls. . ." program. I saw a sudden patch of

lively green tomato and chili plants on a terraced steep hillside, the product of a sustainable farming education project. I saw a people who are strong beyond belief.

After Ixtahuacan we visited the northern rainforest region of the country for a few days, and here we met the people of the returned refugee community of Santa Maria. The people recently returned from Mexico after fleeing their village during the Scorched Earth campaign of the late 1980s, when government troops burned villages, crops, and livestock, and executed any Mayan people they could find. Exiled for 12 years, the people have returned to rebuild their homes, community, and lives.

They talk of the hope that the community cooperative brings, the hope of their primary and secondary schools, the hope of young adults who are returning home after a college education, the hope to create a glimpse of the kingdom of God on earth by working together on sustainable projects. We met a young couple from Charlottesville, Va., who just began a six-month volunteer assignment as accompaniers in this little village; their simple presence will hopefully protect the people from further human rights violations. BVSer Ali Durbin, our guide for this part of our trip, once served as an accompanier here as well.

We hiked into a small protected rainforest, home to howler monkeys, jaguars, and rare mahogany trees. In

the Lachua Laguna, a large lake in the center of the park accessible only by walking 2.5 miles, we even caught a glimpse of the sabalo fish, a dark shark-like species known to exist only in that lake. We ate dinner with Carlos, the park ranger who lives alone 22 days of the month at the lake. We ate avocados, beans, bananas, and peanuts by candlelight in Carlos' hut, and chatted easily about the rainforest habitat.

At the end of each day I felt overwhelmed and exhausted, yet yearning to learn and understand more. But I began to miss basic amenities—clean tap water, showers, electric lights, telephones, indoor bathrooms, food other than beans and eggs. Now that I'm home, I feel immense gratitude, and humility.

I am humbled by the excess in my life, and I miss some aspects of the Guatemalan way of life. I miss people who greet strangers with smiles, and I miss the simple rhythm of waking and sleeping with the rising and setting of the sun. My life condition here in the US is beyond comfortable, and I wonder how much of a rainforest's goodness I use haphazardly in my daily disconnected routine of consumption. I wonder how much I will care in a few weeks or months. I write so that, perhaps, I will remember. 

Carol Lena Miller of Roanoke, Va., has recently begun as volunteer program assistant in the area of care for creation in the Brethren Witness office.

David Radcliff



The "If a Tree Falls" program of the General Board is supporting this nursery, which will provide 25,000 forest and fruit trees each year for reforestation, firewood, and food production. For more information about the program, contact the Brethren Witness office at (800) 323-8039, ext. 228.

Deacons Continue to Extend Christ's Love

Deacon Ministry has always emphasized caring for the spiritual and physical well-being of members.

Today, deacons carry out this important service by fulfilling four functions ~

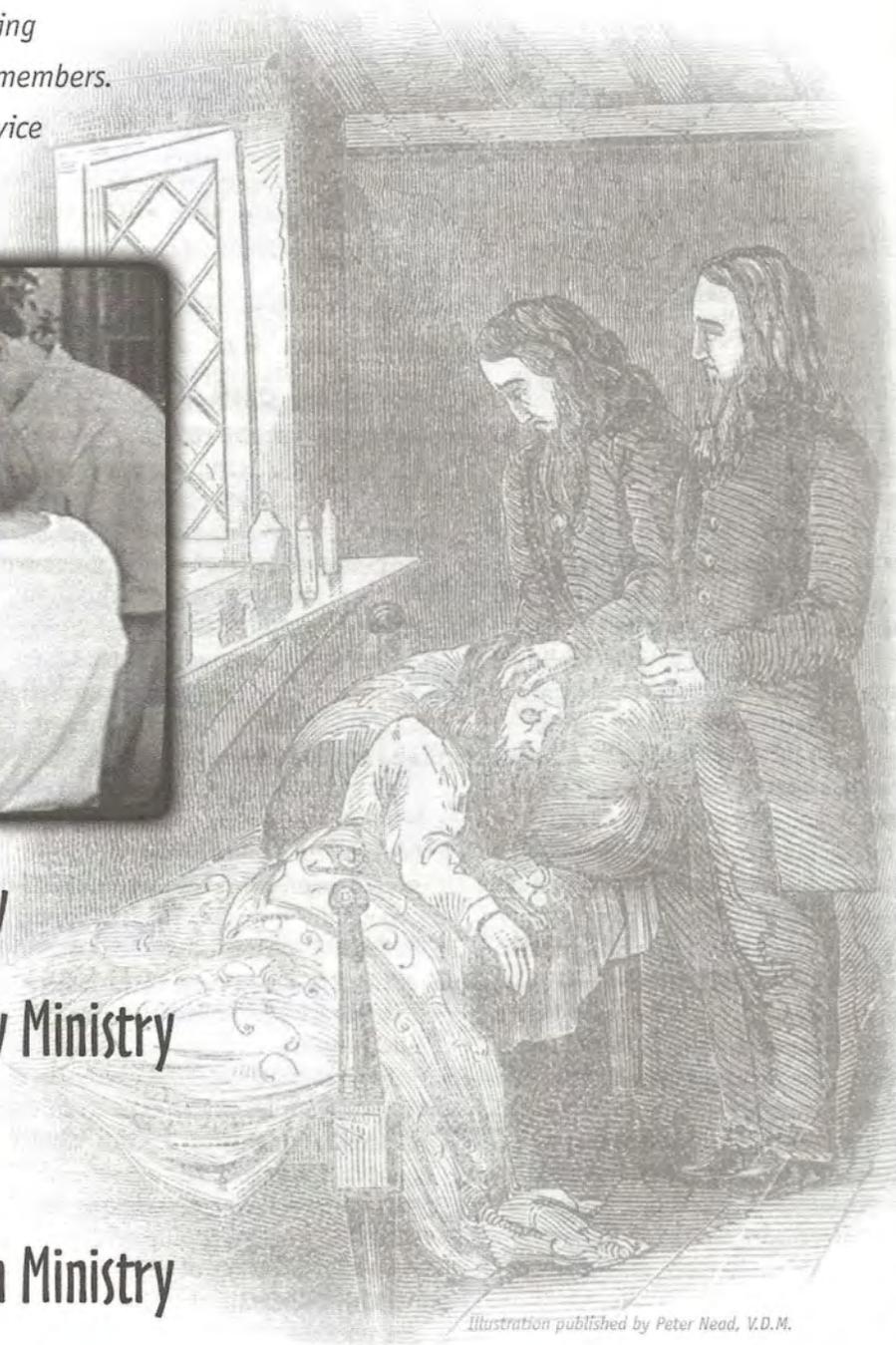


Illustration published by Peter Nead, V.D.M.

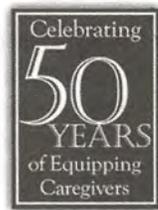
Advocacy and Support Ministry

Discipleship and Hospitality Ministry

Health and Healing Ministry

Unity and Reconciliation Ministry

Deacons can call on the Denominational Deacon Ministry of the Association of Brethren Caregivers for training opportunities, study materials, practical tools and news about deacon activities at other congregations.



Association of Brethren Caregivers

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120

(847) 742-5100, Fax (847) 742-5160 www.brethren.org/abc/

A half-century of leadership

RAYMOND R. PETERS: 1905-2001

by S. Loren Bowman

As a teenager Raymond Peters observed the potential power of organizations to achieve their goals of shaping the future. He promptly tested the assumption as a schoolteacher and part-time pastor. Rapidly the conviction emerged to focus his career toward the official structures of the church. The goal became a reality as Raymond became a staff member, an administrator, a pastor, and a board member of denominational agencies. The full scope of his career is detailed in his autobiography, *From Foothills to Mountaintops*. He died Nov. 2 at the age of 95.

Raymond's initial appearance on the denominational scene provides a key to his goals and his approach to leadership. He was sensitive to emerging needs in the life of the church as sociological and demographic changes occurred among the Brethren. He responded by getting involved in the camping movement in the 1930s. Raymond had a certain pride of bearing as a Virginian and a Peters, but he demonstrated his accessibility and was known as "Pete" in camping circles.

It was on to the national staff as youth director in 1940, and in keeping with his goal of investing defined amounts of time in a given assignment, he moved quickly to head the Christian Education Board, one of five national boards. He saw the need for greater joint planning among the independent boards and his conciliatory spirit helped create the Council of Boards, which he chaired. This inter-agency cooperation eased the transition to the soon-created unified General Brotherhood Board, with Raymond chosen as the first general secretary of

the denomination in 1947, serving there until 1952. Although all was going well, Raymond stayed with his plan to move on after a specific time in a given area.

The next time block was invested in the ecumenical movement as the executive secretary of the Greater Church Federation of Dayton, Ohio, begin-

ning in 1952. This gave him an opportunity to test his sense of a growing conviction about the positive values of the cooperative effort in the mainline churches. His personal goals then took Raymond to the local church scene where he served as pastor of the Mack Memorial congregation in the late 1950s and the Manchester congregation in the mid-1960s. He retired in 1970.

During the years after leaving the general secretary's office, including his retirement, the denomination would not let him take it easy. Once more Raymond became heavily involved in the structures where he felt at home and experienced a sense of delight. He gave his energy as a General Board member, as a member of various committees, and as Annual Conference moderator in 1967. He also played a key role in emerging ministries such as the retirement homes and the Association of Brethren Caregivers.

What are the qualities of leadership that repeatedly called Raymond back to different roles in the denominational structures? His active leadership covered more than four decades in the life of the church. It was my privilege to work with him on Christian education projects, as a staff member when he was on the board, and as general secretary when he was board chair. In retirement we shared a growing friendship as we pondered the future of the Church of the Brethren.

The varied roles Raymond was called to fill indicate a wide range of leadership qualities. I will enumerate three of them which are needed by leaders in any era:

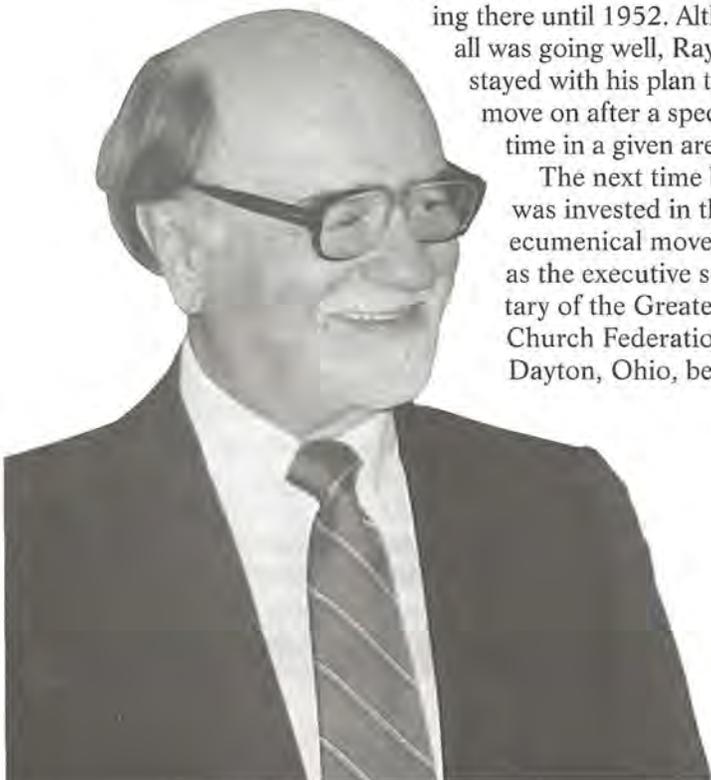
- *Personal integrity* stands out as the basic quality and is the key that supports the other gifts a leader brings to the job. Constituent trust in the intentions of the leader opens the door for advancement toward mutually accepted goals. That Raymond was widely trusted by the church was evidenced in the repeated demands for his leadership.

- *Able conciliator* names the role Raymond preferred in resolving organizational issues. Dialog was encouraged as the road to possible consensus. On occasion he was criticized for not indicating clearly where he stood. However, in the debate on the controversial issue of membership in the National Council of Churches, he strongly urged the church to take the ecumenical road. He did take a position on key issues.

- *Inveterate planner* shows up in Raymond's emphasis upon goal setting, in reaching out to involve new persons in the church's ministry, and in his awareness of the need for creating of new or revised ministries or agencies.

Raymond believed church structures could be beneficent when true to their purpose. He chose these structures for his lifetime engagement. The denomination responded with affirmation, continuing to turn to him to take on key assignments. He found fulfillment in leading the church down new paths and pushing the boundaries to new visions.

S. Loren Bowman was a member of the denominational staff as executive secretary of the Christian Education Commission from 1958 to 1968. He became general secretary in 1968, serving until 1977. He resides in La Verne, Calif.



In the past year, your gifts provided food and hope to God's children around the world.

Honduras (livestock projects) ♦ Sudan (support for schools and emergency food relief) ♦ North Korea (emergency food relief) ♦ El Salvador (women's development projects) ♦ Nicaragua (agricultural projects) ♦ Dominican Republic (micro-loan initiative) ♦ Inner Mongolia (emergency food relief) ♦ Goshen, Ind. (assistance to low-income workers) ♦ Pomona/Inland Valley, Calif. (nutrition, help and homelessness) ♦ Afghanistan (emergency food relief)

Help us continue to reach out in Christ's name to our hungry neighbors. Give—'til it helps!



Global Food Crisis Fund

Church of the Brethren General Board
800 323-8039 ext 228 or 229



ELDERHOSTEL

... is coming to the New Windsor Conference Center at the Brethren Service Center, May 19-24, 2002.

Learn about Amish lifestyle & culture. Experience a field trip to an Amish Homestead including dinner with "the plain folk". Additional program on Appalachia plus dulcimer playing & folk dancing. Presented by authors who taught courses at Ohio State.

For more information or to enroll: call toll free, 877-426-8056; TTY hearing impaired, 877-426-2167; or visit the web site at www.elderhostel.org.

LETTERS

“While Brethren espouse the priest a way that strengthens and grows the much to relieve the pastor of

Bush's visit to New Windsor

I read the article in our local newspaper about the Brethren Service Center hosting President Bush. I usually save articles about the Church of the Brethren, but not this one. I was dismayed that this would get the message out that this historic peace church had suddenly done an about face and now supported the terrorism being pounded on Afghanistan.

Then when I read the MESSENGER article [Jan.-Feb.] I became angry that this was done for publicity—"to let the world know." My anger turned to sadness as I read further and learned that our own people who were

protesting the war and wanting to get our message of peace across were pushed away behind police tape on Church of the Brethren property. They turned the other cheek and went the second mile. But who was their enemy? They should have been allowed to hold their peace vigil anywhere on the property. They were causing no trouble except in the emotions of those who glory in US power, revenge, and violence. I saw a friend of mine in the picture of the peace protesters and felt a deep sadness to what was done to them on the property of this historic peace church.

Sue Vanderveer

Williamsport, Md.
Manor Church of the Brethren

~COME HOME to NEW WINDSOR~



Volunteer...and Support
a Unique Brethren Ministry

The New Windsor Conference Center is located at the lovely, historic Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. Many fond memories are formed here among the beauty and peace of these 26 acres.

As a Volunteer Hostess or Host, you will have the opportunity to share in this ministry by helping to provide Christian hospitality and conference services to our guests in a cozy and homey atmosphere. You will experience the rewards of service as you interact with groups and individuals and witness the true meaning of our motto: "A Quiet Place to Get Things Done."

On days off, an added benefit is our convenient access to Baltimore, MD, Lancaster, PA, Washington, DC and other interesting places with opportunities for cultural, recreational and religious activities. Numerous Brethren churches are available in the area.

We provide a furnished apartment and meals along with a small stipend. You'll need to bring maturity, detail orientation, an outgoing personality and genuine interest in providing excellent customer service. Come join us for a week, a month or longer, if you'd like. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. A few opportunities are still available for this year. **For more information, call or write Elaine Hyde, Conference Coordinator, PO Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776-0188; 1-800-766-1553 (toll-free).**

hood of all believers, seldom is it truly implemented in church. Adopting a lay-driven pastors ministry could do ministry that can and should be done by parishioners."

Lay leaders can help pastors

A theme of the "Pastor care" article [Jan.-Feb.] is one of enduring— finding the strength to keep going in ministry, not quitting, not bailing out, finding the "wherewithal" in the leading of a congregation, especially when it doesn't want to be led.

The article prompted me to secure the *Healthy Pastor-Healthy Church* booklet by Joan Hershey and Steve Clapp published by New Life Ministries. It ought to be in the hands of every pastor and church board member, for it could make a difference in insuring a healthy ministry and healthy pastoral family for churches everywhere, if its advice is followed.

One of the best audio tapes pastors and boards can secure on this topic is Bill Hybels' "Developing an Enduring Spirit" that he delivered to a pastors conference (LS9710) of the Willow Creek Association. He speaks about the challenges, and the solutions, to the sustainability of ministry under the stresses of today.

While Brethren espouse the priesthood of all believers, seldom is it truly imple-

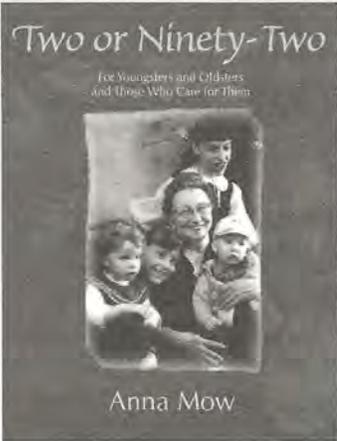
\$10.00

plus shipping and handling

Two or Ninety-Two

For Youngsters and Oldsters and Those Who Care for Them

by Anna Mow



Two or Ninety-Two
For Youngsters and Oldsters and Those Who Care for Them
Anna Mow

Simple wisdom from Anna Mow

Anna Mow's wisdom is simple and timeless. She speaks to all people, young, old, or someplace in between. These short, faith-filled sketches will inspire readers to live fully in their relationship with God and with one another.

Two or Ninety-Two is a delightful gift for marking life's many passages.

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


Brethren Press

SMART STEWARDSHIP

Don't put your eggs in one basket.

The worker entrusted with a single talent in Matthew 25 learned this the hard way. He buried his talent because he feared losing it. In the end, he had no gains to show for his investment decision. The safekeeping of congregational funds is primary for most church stewards. And yet, placing all your congregation's assets in shorter-term instruments may result in sacrificing long-term gains that could strengthen the ministry of your church.

To learn more about balancing safety and performance in your church investment decisions, request your free *Asset Management for Congregations* video for use by your stewardship or investment committee.

Call toll-free 888-311-6530, or return the reply card above.



BRETHREN FOUNDATION

putting church resources to good works

www.bbtfoundation.org



Brethren Foundation is a ministry of Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust.

The Committee on Interchurch Relations
Ecumenical Luncheon
Annual Conference, Louisville
Tuesday, July 2—12:00 noon



*"The Ecumenical
Decade to Overcome Violence.
Contributions from the Historic Peace
Churches"*

Fernando Enns

The man who ignited the World Council of Churches' assembly with his appeal for a Decade to Overcome Violence

Also, presentation of the 2002 Ecumenical Award

Tickets available through the Annual Conference Office
1-800-323-8039 or at www.brethren.org
Limited Seating!

LETTERS

mented in a way that strengthens and grows the church. Adopting a lay-driven pastors ministry could do much to relieve the pastor of ministry that can and should be done by parishioners. Look at Mel Steinbron's books, *Can the Pastor Do It Alone?* and *The Lay-Driven Church: How to Empower the People in Your Church to Share the Tasks of Ministry*.

The annual conference of Lay Pastors Ministry Inc. is in Chambersburg, Pa., this April 12-14 [www.laypastors.com] and Atlantic Northeast district executive Craig Smith is on the organization's board.

Finally, the more distressing confirmation of the article is the low value placed on the role of evangelism for Brethren, and what seems like an excusing of that low interest among pastors. In the accompanying article, Paul Grout rightly draws a distinction between evangelism and discipleship, but God must surely be saying to us: "What part of *go* don't you understand?"

Brethren seem to be much too inter-

Paul Simon Practical Peacemaker

Messenger Dinner at Annual Conference,
Sunday, June 30th, 5:00 p.m.

Paul Simon is a former U.S. Senator, and director of the Public Policy Institute, Southern Illinois University. Senior statesman Simon, who retired from the U.S. Senate in 1996, speaks from wide experience on "the things that make for peace" in the trouble spots of the world



ested in perfecting our servanthood and discipleship than we are in extending the hand of fellowship and the saving word of Christ.

Ronald E. Keener
Gilbert, Arizona

Grandpa Davy's wisdom

I am writing in response to Edward Huber's letter supporting military retaliation against the terrorist network and Afghanistan [Jan.-Feb.].

My great-great-great-grandfather, Elder Henry Dorsey Davy (1811-1895), was once confronted by a US congressman on the doctrine of nonresistance.

The congressman said, "If everybody was like your people, we could have no country, because foreign nations would come over here with armies and destroy us." Elder Davy responded, "My dear sir, can't you see further than that? If everybody believed as we do, there would be no armies, nor fighting."

To Grandpa Davy's thoughts I add this: if our captains of industry and our national leaders of both parties were truly motivated by Christlike love, Sept. 11, 2001, would be only remembered as an ordinary day in the life of the republic. No terrorist attack would have taken place.

Tom Wagner
Whitehall, Michigan

Theology of disobedience

As I was studying Romans 13 concerning being obedient to government, God reminded me of Moses defying Pharaoh, Elijah defying Ahab, Daniel defying Darius, the three Hebrews defying Nebuchadnezzar. Paul, Peter, and other early Christians refused to honor or worship the Roman emperors.

Certainly as Christians, with so many examples of people of God refusing to obey government leaders who expected obedience to do evil things, we should have answers and a theology of disobedience to evil. Brethren have refused to serve in the armed forces, some have refused to pay war taxes, others have returned draft cards to Selective Service, some have refused to register, some left the country, and still others have kept



Experience the World of Alexander Mack and the early Brethren

Without fear or hesitation

Interactive CD-ROM available from Brethren Press in partnership with eMountain Communications. Seven animated chapters, over 60 interactive sidebars. \$49.95.

Brethren Press

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188 www.brethrenpress.com

Are you seeking the
way of peace?

Perspectives

Peace: God's Infinite Justice
by Virginia Wiles

Patriotism and Faith
by David R. Miller

Understanding Islam
by David Metzler

Perspectives is a series of essays on faith issues that face Christians today and is designed to foster personal reflection and group discussion.

\$2.50 per copy.



New from Brethren Press.

Brethren Press

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

Puzzled . . .
about where God's call might be leading you?
Bethany Seminary's Discernment Events
can help you piece it together.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS
Exploring Your Call
A 12 day summer experience
2002 dates: July 25 - Aug. 5

FOR SECOND-CAREER ADULTS
Open Mind, Open Heart
A weekend experience
2002 dates: Sept. 6-8

FOR YOUNG ADULTS
Living in the Midst of Questions
A weekend experience
2003 dates: Feb. 28-March 2

For more information, please contact:

Or call the Seminary and schedule a personal discernment visit.

 Bethany Theological Seminary
615 National Road West
Richmond, Indiana 47374
1-800-BTS-8822
www.bethanyseminary.edu
E-mail: BethanySem@aol.com

their incomes below the tax level.

The church should be proud enough of any such actions that we understand better than Paul did. Our theology explains we must obey God rather than man. I challenge theologians to deal with Romans 13 as Christ would, so the church accepts disobedience to government and a higher obedience to God.

Dean Kindy
North Manchester, Ind.

Another take on 'the only way'

Allen Hansell's "The other side of the 'only way'" [December] is a valued contribution to an important concern among Christians. He is right to observe that "the 'only way' language can negate the gospel of love upon which we stand."

His opening citation from Acts 4:11-12, quoting Petersen's *The Message*, might well underscore the "we" in "no other name . . . by which we can be saved"—reminding us that the "we" implies "we Christians."

It was good to be reminded of



Brethren Business Directory

Find what you're looking for in the Brethren business world at www.brethrenbusinessdirectory.org.

Get your business listed on the directory by becoming a member of Brethren Business Network at the special discounted fee of \$79 (regularly \$119).

Join today, call 219-982-5232.



Brethren Business Network



The Brethren Business Directory is sponsored by Brethren Business Network and eMountain

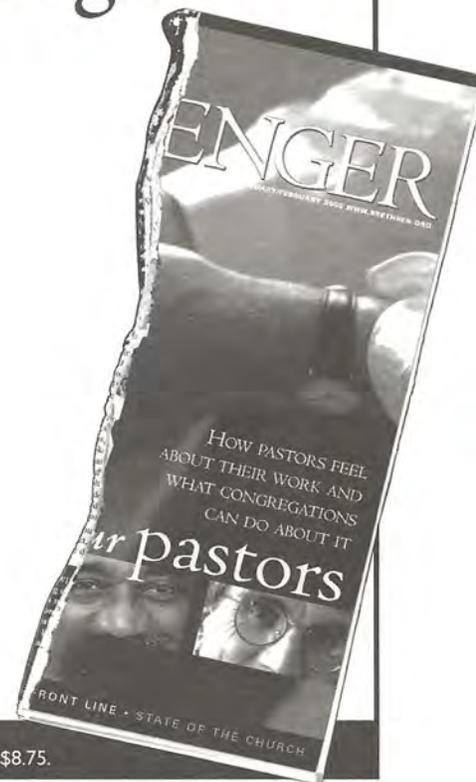
604 E. College Avenue, North Manchester, IN 46962 • Phone: 219-982-5232
email: info@brethrenbusinessnetwork.org

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

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

Introductions are sometimes awkward. But those who get to know MESSENGER find it is a great way to share the global mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren. More congregations are learning that providing new or prospective members with a subscription introduces them quickly to the exciting work of the Brethren. This introduction just got easier. Because it is half-price. Please help introduce MESSENGER to those in your congregation who don't receive MESSENGER.

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



*The only requirement for the introductory rate is to subscribe through a local congregation. New individual subscriptions are \$8.75.

William Beahm's observations about the world's religions. My recollection from Bethany Seminary is that Dr. Beahm's statements reflected his experience of being a missionary in Nigeria. The language of coercion was not helpful. In dealing with neighbors with differing faiths, our Christian claims about "best" and "better" need to grow out of an understanding of the positive values of the other person's faith.

Indeed, as an early missionary to China learned, his years of failure to win converts did not change until he could engage new Chinese friends with a report that their faith almost persuaded him to adopt their ways. When he had positive understandings of their faith, then they were open to hear the possibly "better" Christian message.

We must fully understand and appreciate the object of our comparison. That is part of earning the right to witness. And when another remains unconvinced, it need not lessen my devotion to Christ as the way, truth, and life (for me).

Norman Harsh
Lorida, Fla.

TOURS IN 2002:

Europe and More

EUROPEAN HERITAGE TOURS:..... JULY 12-29
IRELAND:..... SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 1
SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA AND ITS FJORDS:JUNE 17 - JULY 1
SWISS FLACIER EXPRESS:..... AUGUST 12-26
SWISS-VOLHYNIAN MENNONITE HERITAGE TOUR:.. SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 3

Far East

VIETNAM:..... NOVEMBER 6-24

North America

ALASKA CRUISE TOUR: JUNE 19 - JULY 1
EASTERN CANADA:..... AUGUST 2-12
FALL FOLIAGE TOUR IN NEW ENGLAND:..... OCTOBER 8-14
MAJESTIC CANADIAN ROCKIES: JULY 15-28
MENNONITE & AMISH COMMUNITIES IN OHIO:..... MAY 10-14

Service Tours

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TOUR TO PENNSYLVANIA: ... NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 3
SERVICE TOUR TO ISRAEL:..... OCTOBER 25 - NOVEMBER 7

TOURS IN 2003:

Mennonite World Conference Tours

ETHIOPIA & ZIMBABWE:..... JULY 30 - AUGUST 19
KENYA & TANZANIA:..... AUGUST 2-19
SOUTHERN AFRICA:..... JULY 29 - AUGUST 19
TANZANIA & KENYA:..... AUGUST 1-19
WEST AFRICA: JULY 29 - AUGUST 19
ZAMBIA & ZIMBABWE:..... JULY 31 - AUGUST 19
ZIMBABWE:..... AUGUST 1-19
ZIMBABWE:..... AUGUST 8-27

Service Tours

PARAGUAY SERVICE TOUR:..... APRIL 3-17



CALL
1-800-565-0451

E-MAIL:
office@tourmagination.com
WEB:
www.tourmagination.com

"Celebrating over 30 years
of building bridges
among Mennonites and
other Christians around
the world through
custom-designed travel"

9 Willow Street
Waterloo, ON,
Canada N2J 1V6

1011 Cathill Road
Sellersville, PA,
USA 18960
REG. #1567624

CLASSIFIED ADS

Consignment Sales at Annual Conference.

Brethren Press makes space available at Annual Conference for individuals and groups to sell items to conference attendees on a consignment basis. Consignment space must be reserved by May 20, 2002. If you would like information on consignment sales contact: Brethren Press Consignments, 1451 Dundee Ave. Elgin, IL 60120 or kstocking_gb@brethren.org.

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE - (Bohrer Tours, Sebring, FL) October 14-24, 2002. SOUTH AMERICAN HOLIDAY. Visit Rio De Janeiro, Brazil and Buenos Aires, Argentina. May 5-21, 2003. SOUTH AMERICAN EXPLORER visiting New Zealand and Australia. Special places of interest - Queenstown, Christchurch, New Zealand. Melbourne, Sidney, Canberra, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef Excursion. FOR INFORMATION: BOHRER TOURS - Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 3651 US Hwy 27S #40, Sebring, FL 33870 TEL/FAX 863-382-9371, e-mail rdwboh@strato.net or rdwboh@aol.com

"Travel with a Purpose" with Mennonite Your Way Tours. Tour opportunities for 2002 include: Smokies Spring Flowers, April 22-27; The Great Northwest, May 13-23; England, Scotland & Wales, June 11-23; Alaska Tour & Cruise, July 12-

27; Maritime Provinces of Canada, Aug. 6-17; Cruising the Erie Canal, Aug. 27-30; Peaks, Parks & Canyons, Sept. 18-Oct. 5; Missions Tour to Germany, Switzerland & Italy, Oct. 10-24. Ask for 2002 tour brochure and itineraries: MYW Tours, Box 425, Landisville, PA 17538. Tel. 717-653-9288 or 800-296-1991 or www.mywtours.com.

Loans and/or scholarships are available for qualified Church of the Brethren students or employees of a Church of the Brethren agency preparing for a career in a health care profession. This program is offered through the Association of Brethren Caregivers. For qualifications to receive a loan or scholarship, visit ABC's website at www.brethren.org/abc/. For more information, contact Loans and Scholarships Coordinator Linda Timmons at 847-742-5100, ext. 300, or e-mail ltimmmons_abc@brethren.org.

Brethren-operated Child Sponsorship Program.

Support a child through International Christian Aid. Operated by volunteers from Western PA District COB, ICA supports programs in Honduras, Nicaragua, India, and a developing program in Mexico. Help us offer hope where there is no hope. \$25 per month and lots of prayer will help bring this hope to a child. For

information, contact International Christian Aid, 115 Spring Rd., Hollsopple, PA 15935. Phone 888-643-7421 or e-mail interaidinc@aol.com.

Messiah College's Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies announces an international ecumenical conference, "(Re)Connecting Spirituality and Social Justice: Christian Visions, Christian Realities," Messiah College, Grantham, Pa., May 30-June 1, 2002.

This conference will provide the opportunity for scholars, pastors, and laypeople to engage in conversations on the relationship between "Christian spirituality" and "social justice." Keynote speakers include South African theologian Bonganjalo Goba, one of the principal architects of the "Kairos Document"; Charles Marsh, author of "God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights"; and William Willimon, Duke University. More than 50 papers and workshops will explore issues such as ecclesiology, race, hymnody, contemplation, prayer, the eucharist, and nurturing social activism. For schedule and registration materials, visit www.messiah.edu/siderinstitute ("News & Events"). For printed brochures, contact Terri Hopkins at 717-766-2511, ext. 5235, or thopkins@messiah.edu. Space is limited, so register early.

Please send information to be included in Turning Points to Jean Clements, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120; 800-325-8039 x 206; jcllements_gb@brethren.org. Information must be complete in order to be published.

New members

Anderson, Ind.: Ashley Barnett, Colie Barnett, Mary Barnett, Brett Barnett, Brandon Craig, Brandy Craig, Angie Flanigan, Don Lawson, Becky Meier, David Meier, Bill Presser, Sue Preser, Chris Warren

Annaville, Pa.: Michael Wayne Hammer, Michael Paul LaFrance, Phillip John Schiavoni, Alex Gregory Weber, Jacklyn Marie Kreider, Jill Irene Hostetter, Michael Morrow, Susan Morrow, Mike Martin, Janet Martin

Antioch, Rocky Mount, Va.: Allison Weaver, Karen Weaver, Hunter Naff, Jacob Naff

Arcadia, Ind.: Jennifer Allen, Derrick Allen, Rodney Rulon, Natasha Rulon, Joey Reitsma

Bassett, Va.: Danny Sharer, Billy Hampton, Alex Stone

Beacon Heights, Fort Wayne, Ind.: Bill Arick, Jan Shupert-Arick, Margaret Dougherty, Don Jordan, Joyce Jordan, Kathi Saffer

Boise Valley, Meridian, Idaho: Amy Sharp, Asha Sharp, Dan Grout, Edgar Anderson, Arthur Moore

Brands, Saint Thomas, Pa.: Angela Holmes, Nicole Holmes, Ashley Holmes, Danielle Timmons, Tim Young, Debbie Young, Kelli Martin, Betsy Shatzer, John Fahnestock, LaJana Fahnestock, Richie Fahnestock, Roger Harmon, Lisa Harmon, Jeff Rohrer, Tracy Rohrer, Cayla Rohrer, Alyssa Rohrer, Chris Heebner, Kelli Heebner, Rachel Reeder, Carl Rotz, Brenda Rotz, Robin Unger, Jamie Fahnestock, Courtney Snyder, Dave Heckman, Melissa Heckman, Brooke Heckman

Brothersvalley, Berlin, Pa.: Linda Heining, Abby Peterman, Tyler Peterman, Arianna Bodden, Zachary Bodden, Jonna Emerick, Chelsea Emerick, Jordan Emerick, Della Ford, Elisha Henry, Kelley Reiman, Priscilla Gordeuk, Tanya Gordeuk

Brownsville, Md.: Loleta Potter, Idell Waters

Cabool, Mo.: Kelly Bosserman, Melissa Bosserman, Brian Mollhagen, Carol Mollhagen, Brent Wade, Denise Wade

Carlisle, Pa.: Robert Bush, Barbara Bush, Esther Smith, Linda Stone

Columbia United Christian, Columbia, Md.: Jason Armstead, Ethel Armstead, Mindy Dowsett, Wray Kinsley, Susan Kinsley, Mac Ramsey, Debbie Ramsey, Rachel Polen, Chad Wiseman

Community of Joy, Salisbury, Md.: Ed Isaacs, Marie Shores, Wayne Shores, Fran Todd

Dayton, Va.: Arbelia Rhodes,

Randy Lilly, Rita Lilly, Harold Acker, Phyllis Peterson

Defiance, Ohio: Nick Wittwer, Shiloh Smith Wittwer

Dundalk, Baltimore, Md.: Dascal Lynn, John Lynn

Dupont, Ohio: Josh Worline

East Cocalico Fellowship, Reamstown, Pa.: Ron Mengel, Cheryl Mengel, Emery Shenk, Charles Mull, Tracy Mull, Carl Longenecker, Ruth Wagner, Stewart Kaucher, Thelma Shenk

Maple Grove, Ashland, Ohio: Patricia Welch, Willard Welch, Pete Cato, Tracy Dunlap, Laura Kettering, Ryan Steward, Carla Swineford, Sarah Swineford

Maple Grove, New Paris, Ind.: Krista Morehouse, Lauren Yoder, Adam Herschberger, Emily Sharkey

Maple Spring, Egdon, W.Va.: Jennifer Harsh

Maple Spring, Hollsopple, Pa.: William Watkins, Zachary Pebley, Samantha Bridge, Roberta Neuhof, Gabrielle Neuhof

Marion, Ind.: Bonnie Spittler, David Spittler, Shauna Erb, Theresa Reese, Caroline Martin

Marsh Creek, Gettysburg, Pa.: Charles Bennett

McPherson, Kan.: Irene Bittinger, Elsie Holderread, Kenneth Holderread, Weldon Howell, Fred Schmidt, Belle Whitacre, Charles Whitacre, Becky Goss, Edith Schmidt

Mechanic Grove, Quarryville, Pa.: Caitlin Hagy, Claude Hart, Mary Hart, Richard Lefever, Audrey Lefever, Melissa G. Kreider, Scott Palmer, Wendy Palmer

Midland, Mich.: Andrew Bejcek, Nickolas Sumner, Laura Gessford, Steve Hackett, Mary Hackett, Nathan Thomas, Christopher Thomas, Emily Thomas, Doris Mumy, Suzelle Mumy

Monte Vista, Callaway, Va.: Kelly Furrow, Hannah Wray

Mount Pleasant, North Canton, Ohio: Len Horst, Bonnie Horst, Randy Fox, Lisa Fox, Shawn Fox, Jamie Fox

Mountain View, Boise, Idaho: Miriam Higgins

Ninth Street, Roanoke, Va.: Andrew Bolton, Brittany Bolton, Andy Wilson, Jeff Caldwell

Panora, Iowa: John Johnson, Judy Johnson, Erin Tomalas, Esther Clouse, Judy Deal, Bill Mitchell, Sharon Mitchell, Kayla Muyskens, Austin Wilson, Ainslee Sutherland, Andy Roberts, Thea Roberts, Kim Smith, Jim Repp, Kaylee McAlister, Heather Sheehy, Rose Jackson, Heather Baugh

Panther Creek, Adel, Iowa: Bille Jo Bates, Mallory Berkenbosch, Mary Claire McCord, Mark Neuman-Lee, Ben Swinger, Cody Wiedenhoff, Kristin Wiedenhoff, Sharna Winters, Rudy Zagar, Sandy Zagar, Zach Zagar, Micaela Zagar, Ellis Cackler

Pine Glen, Lewistown, Pa.: Amy Stimely Franklin, Donald Harper, Gregory Wakefield, Emily Peters, Mollee

Amspacker, Ryan Edward Harshbarger

Pleasant Hill, Ohio: Chelsea Blundell, Elena Bohlander, Katherine Hillhouse, Cheryl Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Michelle Wehrley, Shawn Wehrley

Plumcreek, Shelocta, Pa.: Margaret Brumbaugh, Brenda Gray, Shawn Blystone, Chris Houllian, Will Orr, Ed Orr, Laurie Barclay, Scott Barclay, Jane Dorr, Francis Dorr

Plymouth, Ind.: Thomas Taylor, Duane Culp, Faye Shedrow, Edna McCan, Joanna McCan, Eleanor Roush

Poplar Ridge, Defiance, Ohio: Kayla Shannon

Purchase Line, Clymer, Pa.: Adam Fetterman, Erica Fetterman, Ashley Rice

Pyrmont, Delphi, Ind.: Patty Buck, Dak Knop, Sharon Stowers, Brett George

Richmond, Ind.: Murray Wagner, Mark Stocksdale, Carol Stocksdale

Ridge, Shippensburg, Pa.: Lee Cover, Ethel Cover, Harold Flewelling, Jean Flewelling

Rocky Mount, Va.: Thelma Hardy, Brittany Gilley, Jean Boone, Roger Boone

Scalp Level, Windber, Pa.: Laura Deyarmin

Sharpsburg, Md.: Courtney Hutchinson, Pam Hutchinson, Lisa Trovinger

Sheldon, Iowa: Mark Bilsland, Pat Dumar, Julie Dumar

Smith Mountain Lake Community, Wirtz, Va.: Carolyn Salley, Ken Salley, Beverly Craft, Ken Craft, James Lan Stone, Huntingdon, Pa.: Tim Launtz, Megan Launtz, Norma Walter

Swatara Hill, Middletown, Pa.: Sara Dehmy, Dana Lehman, Robert, Lehman, Sylvia Lehman, Kyle Lehman

Topeka, Kan.: Marion Metzler

Tucson, Ariz.: Candice O'Shea, Beverly Dyer

Upper Fall Creek, Middletown, Ind.: Janet Berry, Jane VanVoorhis, Brenda S. Clark, Tricia Chapman, Dawn Neal

Walnut Grove, Johnstown, Pa.: Lindsey Lindsey, Emily R. Jones, Alex W. Jones, Hannah E. Clemenson, Richard E. Lopaze, Harry A. Lopaze, Darleen R. Guy, Mark S. Brush, Kelsey M. Debivits, Erin M. Antal, Heather M. Brush

Wenatchee Brethren-Baptist, Wenatchee, Wash.: Carolyn Clarine, Ron Craig, James Hart, John Kitchen, Cherie Kitchen, Brenda McCracken, Riva Morgan, Nancy Thompson, Robyn Weems

West Charleston, Tipp City, Ohio: Bob Kaylor, Janet Kaylor, Ron Mack, Jean Darnell Mack, Don Whitaker, Sandra Whitaker, Deborah Kingham, Sam Bernard, Sara Lynch Davis

West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Alvin Miller, Barbara Miller, Richard Rockwood, Dorothy Rockwood, Charles Stevens,

Mary Stevens, Scott Henely, Wayde E. Miller, Brandi Miller

White Oak, Manheim, Pa.: Alana Fahnestock, Ellen Harter, Tristan Hershey, Brandon Hess, Gary Martens, Angela Nolt, Valerie Stauffer

Zion Hill, Columbiana, Ohio: Jessica Bobby, Kurtis Blakeslee, Mindy Burt, Rebecca Clark, Emily Clark, Kade Neiheisel, Karen Long, Rachel Long

Zion, Prescott, Mich.: Harold Jones, Virginia Jones, Leona Good, Milton King

Wedding anniversaries

Bartholomew, John and Ruth, Lisbon, Ohio, 50

Baysinger, Jerry and Elizabeth, Kansas City, Mo., 60

Bealer, Earl and Grace, Pottstown, Pa., 60

Bealer, Harold and LaVerne, Lancaster, Pa., 65

Bryant, Kenneth and Ruby, Goshen, Ind., 65

Farringer, Dean and Julia, Denver, Colo., 60

Fleagle, Howard "Bing" and Betsy, Waynesboro, Pa., 50

France, Cecil and Genoa, Bassett, Va., 60

Groff, Forrest and Della, Springfield, Ore., 65

Gross, Leon and Sylvia, Monticello, Ind., 50

Grubb, Ken and Ruth, Sebring, Fla., 60

Harmon, Henry and Louise, Roanoke, Va., 60

Hart, Earl and Dorothy, Marion Ind., 50

Hart, Frank and Barbara, Modesto, Calif., 50

Harter, Robert "Gene" and Doris Jean, Camden, Ind., 50

Hendricks, Francis and Estelle, Kingsley, Iowa, 65

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

Horner, Lloyd and Helen, Merriam, Kan., 60

Huffman, Earson E. and Lois, Roanoke, Va., 70

Jackson, Oliver and Daisy, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 60

Kinsel, Glenn and Helen, Hanover, Pa., 55

LaFee, Walter and Neva, Nampa, Idaho, 50

Lewis, Wayne and Dorothy, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 60

Lilyquist, Everett and Betty, Sebring, Fla., 50

Maxon, Neal and Jean, Sebring, Fla., 60

Michael, Gorden and Gertrude, McCune, Kan., 60

Miller, Glenn and Esther, Thomasville, Pa., 50

Nielsen, Alfred and Ethel, Modesto, Calif., 60

Ringer, Virgil and Cora, Alliance, Ohio, 55

Saylor, Henry and Carolyn, Pottstown, Pa., 50

Saylor, Robert and Sally, Pottstown, Pa., 55

Stimely, Robert and Marian, McVeytown, Pa., 50

Whitlow, Starling and Bernice, Bassett, Va., 50

Young, Dale and Mauderite, Akron, Ohio, 55

Deaths

Alger, Thelma Irene, 87, Rileyville, Va., Feb. 6

Ayers, Betty, 40, Martinsburg, Pa., July 27

Back, Willadene Eavers Hess, 81, Middle River, Va., Dec. 31

Baughman, Robert, 85, Plymouth, Ind., Jan. 31

Bauman, Alice D., 85, New Oxford, Pa., Jan. 28

Beach, Lester, 91, Martinsburg, Pa., July 1

Blank, Helen, 80, Frederick, Md., Oct. 10

Bluc, Marlin Dean, 79, Johnstown, Pa., Nov. 12

Boyd, George, 81, Campbelltown, Pa., Nov. 23

Brandenburg, Joy, 49, Elizabethtown, Ind., Nov. 11

Brandt, Mabel, 95, Elizabethtown, Pa., Nov. 7

Brubaker, Ruth, 82, Manheim, Pa., Feb. 4, 2001

Brumbaugh, Alice, 83, Huntingdon, Pa., Nov. 16

Brumbaugh, Clyde, 87, Martinsburg, Pa., Dec. 4

Brunner, Mae, 75, Sebring, Fla., Jan. 22

Buckley, Harry, 87, Oakland, Md., April 10, 2001

Burkholder, Jon D., 62, Overland Park, Kan., Oct. 22

Bush, Virginia, 75, Roanoke, Va., Aug. 26

Buzard, Viola, 94, Venice, Fla., Feb. 17

Cable, Beulah, 85, Kokomo, Ind., Sept. 29

Caldwell, Merlee Elizabeth Shell, 78, Mathias, W.Va., Feb. 19

Cameron, Gladys, 92, Johnstown, Pa., Sept. 3

Cameron, Russell, 94, Salem, Ohio, Nov. 5

Carper, Robert, 74, Roaring Spring, Pa., Dec. 2

Carr, Wayne, 89, Sebring, Fla., Jan. 18

Chance, Anna Heisler, 83, Winona Lake, Ind., Dec. 17

Chance, Varner M., 91, Winona Lake, Ind., April 24, 2001

Cline, Anna, 85, Palmyra, Pa., Oct. 13

Coffman, Kathleen Sheets, 87, Mount Sidney, Va., Nov. 23

Coolman, Wallace G., 72, Huntingdon, Ind., Dec. 28

Coulter, Jack, 69, Huntingdon, Pa., Sept. 29

Coulson, Bob, 79, Modesto, Calif., Feb. 11

Crego, Elcta, 79, Findlay, Ohio, Jan. 7

Crouse, Carroll, 87, Adel, Iowa, Dec. 19

Crickenberger, Issac Cline, 78, New Hope, Va., Dec. 26

Dampson, Joyce, 68, Gibsonton, Fla., Dec. 8

Davis, Mabel, 88, Troy, Ohio, Nov. 24

Deardorff, Harold, 79, Adel, Iowa, July 25

Derry, Claire, 79, Adel, Iowa, June 4

Detrick, Anna Elizabeth Beard, 85, North Manchester, Ind., Jan. 6

Detrick, Ernest, 88, North Manchester, Ind., Dec. 31

Diehl, Norman, 91, Elizabethtown, Pa., May 12

Dishong, Ora V., 85, Windber,

- Pa., Nov. 16
Dispanet, Paul Allen, 80, Lost City, W.Va., Jan. 9
Ditmer, Norma Jean, 75, New Carlisle, Ohio, Nov. 18
Dobbins, Norrean Virginia, 85, Waynesboro, Va., Nov. 16
Dobson, Roy E., 85, Windber, Pa., Dec. 30
Dodson, Arlene, 80, Martinsburg, Pa., Dec. 14
Dolph, Evelyn, 75, Plymouth, Ind., Dec. 3
Dove, Roy Ernest, 94, Fulks Run, Va., Jan. 15
Driver-McCool, Gladys, 90, Bluffton, Ohio, Dec. 17
Eads, Della M., 91, Dixon, Ill., Jan. 24
Early, Milton C., 92, Savannah, Mo., Nov. 7
Earnst, Ruth, 80, Frederick, Md., June 29
Eash, John, 95, Hollsopple, Pa., Jan. 2
Eller, Galen Ross, 64, Stephens City, Va., Jan. 28
Elza, Kathleen Rebecca, 74, Petersburg, W.Va., Nov. 20
Eshelman, Grace L., 90, Hixson, Tenn., June 30
Etter, Eva, 85, Palmyra, Pa., Dec. 2
Etzler, Roger, 85, Frederick, Md., Oct. 1
Eubanks, Marjorie, 88, Milledgeville, Ill., Dec. 5
Evans, Glenn Kenton, 79, Maysville, W.Va., Feb. 7
Fahnestock, Monroe, 78, Manheim, Pa., Nov. 18
Fike, Mabel Mae, 92, Uniontown, Pa., Nov. 27
Flora, J. Alfred, Jr., 82, Vandalia, Ohio, Jan. 3
Flory, Stanley Thomas, 80, Roanoke, Va., Dec. 28
Foltz, John Lory, 61, Woodstock, Va., Jan. 12
Foreman, Jay Marlin, 76, Lorida, Fla., Dec. 8
Forney, Mary K., 95, Palmyra, Pa., Oct. 31
Frantz, David A., 84, New Oxford, Pa., Jan. 27
Fyock, Hattie, 95, Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 13
Fyook, Elvia, 89, Johnstown, Pa., June 4
Fetterman, William L., 64, Clymer, Pa., Oct. 28
Gatsehet, Thelma G., 95, Canton, Ohio, Nov. 28
Gibble, Mabel, 89, Manheim, Pa., Nov. 27
Gortner, Ray, 90, Wooster, Ohio, Nov. 25
Greiner, Stanley G., 90, Manheim, Pa., Dec. 10
Gsell, Albert, 72, Edinburg, Va., Dec. 23
Gudykunst, William, 83, Reading, Pa., Dec. 18
Hahn, Clark, 90, Homeworth, Ohio, Aug. 4
Hancock, Posey, 80, Bassett, Va., May 25
Harmon, Myrtle Hedge, 95, Roanoke, Va., July 18
Harouff, Hugh Bird, 82, Bridgewater, Va., Dec. 6
Harsh, Grace L., 82, Eglington, W. Va., Dec. 18
Hartsough, Evelyn, 73, North Liberty, Ind., Dec. 30
Haycock, Woodrow Wilson, Sr., 81, Edinburg, Va., Nov. 4
Hayes, James, 77, Syracuse, Ind., Dec. 7
Haymaker, Vivian B., 92, Roanoke, Va., July 29
Helmick, Robert Daniel, 94, Petersburg, W.Va., Feb. 10
Hershberger, George, 85, Elizabethtown, Pa., Aug. 20
Hertzler, Raymond "Hacky," 100, Granville, Pa., Jan. 26
Hesser, Elva, 82, Mattawana, Pa., June 21, 2000
Hetrick, Sheila, 55, Oakland, Md., March 19, 2001
High, Ronald Gerald, 65, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 10
Hill, A. J., 77, Brook Park, Ohio, Dec. 2
Hinkle, Frederick E., 75, Petersburg, W.Va., Nov. 17
Hoffer, Calvin, 100, Johnstown, Pa., Oct. 8
Hoffer, Verna, 76, Palmyra, Pa., Nov. 13
Holderread, Ivis, 73, Walkerton, Ind., Nov. 26
Holler, Mabel, 77, Knoxville, Md., Nov. 29
Hopkins, Orpha (Thelda), 80, Prescott, Mich., Nov. 14
Hopping, Glyndon, 64, La Verne, Calif., Jan. 6
Hoshall, Paul F., 75, New Oxford, Pa., Jan. 5
Hottle, Wilda Katherine Turner, 76, Timberville, Va., Nov. 17
Hovis, Louise C., 83, Waynesboro, Pa., Nov. 2
Huffman, Carl Samuel, 58, Dayton, Va., Nov. 14
Ingraham, Mary, 93, Silver Spring, Md., Nov. 16
Iseminger, Bertha, 88, Hagerstown, Md., Jan. 5
Jarrels, Betty Long, 73, Mount Meridian, Va., Dec. 31
Jenkins, Mary Louise Williams, 79, Warrenburg, Mo., Sept. 7
Johnston, Rodney, 90, Lima, Ohio, Dec. 13
Jones, Mabel Nettie, 77, McConnellsburg, Pa., Dec. 8
Judd, Beatrice Ann Campbell, 70, Waynesboro, Va., Dec. 20
Kaetzal, Mary, 82, Knoxville, Md., Nov. 30
Keiper, Ethel, 88, Sioman, Pa., Nov. 22
Keith, Vickie, 47, Osterburg, Pa., Dec. 18
Kilhefner, Elsie, 91, Lancaster, Pa., April 28, 2001
Kimmel, Kenyon W., 90, Sheldon, Iowa, March 29, 2001
Kissell, Miriam Hoover, 78, Trotwood, Ohio, Nov. 15
Klute, Carol, 80, Niles, Mich., Jan. 4
Kurtz, Earl, 88, Elizabethtown, Pa., Feb. 6, 2001
Law, Paul, 86, Dixon, Ill., Dec. 13
Layman, David, 53, Eglington, W.Va., April 15, 2001
Layman, Ruth, 86, Palmyra, Pa., Nov. 25
Leffler, Hilda, 85, Myerstown, Pa., Jan. 11
Lehman, Ollie, 97, Johnstown, Pa., Aug. 25
Lewis, William Preston, 76, Damascus, Va., Nov. 24
Linton, Alan P., Jr., 26, Jersey City, N.J., Sept. 11 (missing, WTC)
Long, Joe, 87, Galveston, Ind., Dec. 7
Longenecker, Abram, 89, Manheim, Pa., Dec. 7
Lutz, Frank, 71, Olathe, Kan., Dec. 25
Main, Fay, 67, Littleton, N.C., Sept. 29
Main, Ruth, 98, Frederick, Md., Sept. 25
Mangum, Joan Brode, 76, Bridgewater, Va., Nov. 5
Mauck, Cecil Kedrick, 87, Edinburg, Va., Nov. 1
McCauliff, Russell G., 74, Johnstown, Pa., April 16, 2001
McWilliams, Matilda, 85, Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 24
Merricks, Wayne D., 74, Roanoke, Va., July 14
Miller, Carolyn, 70, Middletown, Pa., Feb. 6, 2001
Miller, David, 62, Windber, Pa., Jan. 19
Miller, Doris, 72, Dayton, Ohio, Jan. 10
Miller, Ethel Rebecca, 98, Broadway, Va., Nov. 22
Miller, Helen, 89, Oakland, Md., July 25
Miller, Naomi, 81, Huntingdon, Pa., Nov. 15
Miller, W. Frederick, 85, Bridgewater, Va., Nov. 15
Mitchell, Carl Jr., 64, Front Royal, Va., Nov. 22
Mock, James W., 83, Johnstown, Pa., Sept. 25
Nelson, Gladys, 85, Johnstown, Pa., Oct. 21
Nichols, Phillip E., 41, Kansas City, Kan., Jan. 7
Nipe, George M., Sr., 82, Harrisonburg, Va., Dec. 24
Pentecost, Jack A., 66, Greens Fork, Ind., July 20
Petersen, Donna, 72, Waterloo, Iowa, Jan. 16
Phillips, Mary, 89, Johnstown, Pa., Dec. 29
Pierce, Donald Kenneth, 51, Woodstock, Va., Nov. 28
Pullin, Blanche, 89, Waterloo, Iowa, Jan. 9
Radcliff, Margaret, 75, Blue Ridge, Va., Dec. 4
Redifer, Thomas Franklin, 55, Penn Laird, Va., Dec. 1
Ritchey, S. Patricia, 67, Roaring Spring, Pa., Dec. 24
Robertson, Jo Ann Jordan, 70, Roanoke, Va., Jan. 9
Roop, Roger, 91, Union Bridge, Md., May 10
Ross, Lavina, 87, Uniontown, Pa., Dec. 11
Rowlands, Virginia, 74, Wyomissing, Pa., Sept. 28
Rudolph, Harry W., 85, New Oxford, Pa., Jan. 22
Shumaker, David, 80, Bedford Heights, Ohio, Dec. 5
Simpson, Glen, 81, Mountain Lake Park, Md., May 28
Smith, Bobby Lee, 66, Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 15
Smith, Larry Ray, 31, Mathias, W.Va., Dec. 18
Snyder, Catherine, 78, McVeytown, Pa., Jan. 13, 2001
Snyder, Larry, 49, Leesport, Pa., Sept. 14
Southworth, Edward, 83, La Verne, Calif., Dec. 31
Spaw, Althea, 72, Uniontown, Pa., Oct. 31
Speicher, Fern, 84, Johnstown, Pa., Dec. 12
Stair, Elsie B., 88, Stanley, Wis., Dec. 27
Stover, Lois, 93, Milledgeville, Ill., Dec. 11
Strayer, Glenn W., 81, Johnstown, Pa., Dec. 12
Stump, Alton H., 71, Goshen, Ind., Nov. 11
Stutzman, Verda, 85, Johnstown, Pa., Nov. 8
Summers, Carl, 86, Palmyra, Pa., Nov. 2
Supanick, Jacob, Sr., 86, Grey, Pa., June 26
Swomley, Dorothy, 86, Frederick, Md., Dec. 17
Taylor, Margie Bailey, 87, Roanoke, Va., May 1
Taylor, Mary Coulter, 92, Annandale, Va., Jan. 5
Thomas, George L., 89, Windber, Pa., Sept. 19
Thompson, Lois, 87, Raytown, Mo., Dec. 24
Trachsel, Junior, 76, Sugar-creek, Ohio, Oct. 22
Tucker, Joe, 68, Fruitland, Idaho, Oct. 26
Utz, Harley, 103, Greenville, Ohio, Nov. 12
Vaneiken, Maxine, 56, Windber, Pa., Dec. 1
Varner, Mary, 72, Orrstown, Pa., Dec. 19
Wade, Era, 90, Stuart, Va., Dec. 1
Warrenfeltz, Evelyn, 87, Johnsville, Md., May 22
Weaver, Hazel, 82, Davidsville, Pa., Jan. 12
Weaver, Michael James, 27, Mount Jackson, Va., Nov. 30
Weaver, Ray J., 87, Martinsburg, Pa., Sept. 8
Weaver, Robert, 71, Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 6

Pastoral placements

- Cloyd**, Gary, associate pastor, Castine, Arcanum, Ohio, Feb. 4
Dell, Ernest D., from associate to pastor, Aulhwick-Germany Valley, Shirlsburg, Pa., Feb. 1
Garber, Harold, from interim to pastor, Moorefield, W.Va., Jan. 27
Harris, Earl L., from pastor, Fredonia, Kan., to pastor, Peace, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Feb. 1
Hackman, Galen R., from pastor, Conewago, Hershey, Pa., to pastor, Ephrata, Pa., Jan. 15
Harness, Leah Oxley, from pastor, Newton, Kan., to chaplain, The Cedars, McPherson, Kan., Jan. 2
Hileman, Raymond E., from pastor, Ashland, Dickey, Ashland, Ohio, to pastor, Ligonier, Pa., Jan. 2
Johnson, Anthony Leo, Sr., pastor, New Bethel, Chatham, Va., Dec. 1
Kee, Elizabeth, from pastor, Columbus, New Covenant, Powell, Ohio, to pastor, Genesis Fellowship, Putney, Vt., Dec. 2
Layman, Frank Benjamin, III, pastor, Ferrum, Va., Jan. 1
Lowry, James and Joan, from team pastors, Thomas, Okla., to team pastors, Waka, Texas, Dec. 1
Meeks, Gary, from pastor, Garden City, Kan., to pastor, Fruitdale Community, Grants Pass, Ore., Jan. 1
Messler, Amy Faith, from interim to pastor, Trotwood, Ohio, Feb. 1
Messler, Brian, from youth minister to associate pastor, Happy Corner, Clayton, Ohio, Jan. 1
Moore, Edwin, from pastor, Bethesda, Grantsville, Md., to pastor, Asher Glade, Friendsville, Md., Jan. 1
Pinkham, David, from pastor, Midland, Mich., to pastor, North Liberty, Ind., Jan. 15
Ramirez, Tomas, from associate pastor to pastor, Alpha & Omega, Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 1
Riege, Mark Allen, pastor, Camp Creek, Millford, Ind., Jan. 26
Robbins, Edward T., Jr., pastor, Wolgamuth, Dillsburg, Pa., Feb. 1
Rowan, Elizabeth, pastor, Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 1
St. Fleur, Ludovic, pastor, Orlando Haitian, Orlando, Fla., Oct. 13
Wilges, Shawn Allen, pastor, Gratis, Ohio, Feb. 1

Ordinations

- Cox**, Norma, Wiley, Colo., Sept. 25
McGlothlin, Charles David, Living Faith, Flora, Ind., Jan. 20
Williams, Joan H., Arcadia, Fla., Oct. 12

Licensings

- Eller**, Mark E., Trinity, Blountville, Tenn., Dec. 30
Frye, Leslie, Monitor, Conway, Kan., Jan. 28
Gaier, Kay Elizabeth, Manchester, North Manchester, Ind., Feb. 10
Hoffman, Sarah, Monitor, Conway, Kan., March 11, 2001
Hutchinson, Wendi A., Manchester, North Manchester, Ind., Jan. 27
Messler, Amy Faith, Trotwood, Ohio, Feb. 10
Myers, Christine L., Eastwood, Akron, Ohio, Dec. 2
Munsey, Robert Mark, Sumnerdean, Roanoke, Va., Nov. 25
Risden, Nelda J., Bethany, New Paris, Ind. Nov. 18
Sink, Kimberly Smith, Pulaski, Va., Dec. 30
Spurgin, Matthew, Eden Valley, Saint John, Kan., June 25, 2000
Statler, Betsy J., Berkey, Windber, Pa., Jan. 13
Statler, Charles B., Berkey, Windber, Pa., Jan. 13
Steiner, William R., Mexico, Ind., Nov. 25
Tosten, Timothy Eugene, Ridge, Shippensburg, Pa., Nov. 18
Vaughn, Timothy L., Ridge,



Let the poor teach us about poverty

"My mama was crying," the first-grader told Miss Mary, supervisor of the Kids Cafe, "because when I was home by myself the man came to check on the baby. She's afraid he's going to take away the baby."

"What were you doing home by yourself?" asked Mary. "Did you let him in?"

Before the little girl could answer, an older child butted in. "You shouldn't have let him in because he might have a gun and shoot you."

The short exchange brought up several issues at once—absentee parents, child welfare, fear of crime—but I hadn't come here for a lesson on poverty. I was here because weeks ago our Sunday school class had an inspiration that we should do something together to serve in the community. We checked around, discussed alternatives, settled on a program, and timidly attended a training session. Now, finally, we were in our first awkward moments of helping kids to get their meals and asking them their names and what grade they're in. The children were surprisingly friendly and by the end of the evening our team of self-conscious do-gooders was looking forward to coming back in a month or so. "We'd be glad to have you any time," the supervisor told us. "We're here five nights a week."

This gives new meaning to the puzzling statement of Jesus, "You always have the poor with you..." (John 12:8). Any time we feel like getting involved with the poor, there are opportunities to do so. The poor are so much more interesting than poverty.

Poverty is starting to come back into the news. The issue disappeared for a while after 1996 when Congress passed sweeping changes in the welfare system to, as President Clinton said then, "end welfare as we know it." Caseloads dropped, poverty rates decreased, and employment among the poor rose.

But now it is time for Congress to reauthorize the welfare law known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the debate over welfare reform is starting. This debate won't be like before, when the controversy was over work requirements and deadlines for going off the welfare rolls. "The right has moved away from punishing the poor," said a former Clinton advisor, "and the left has moved away from sheltering them." Now both liberals and conservatives are focused on fine-tuning the program, with proposals to shorten or lengthen deadlines, or increase daycare support for working mothers, or promote marriage. There is a long list of proposals, so it is tedious to learn enough to be a good advocate.

Christians are getting involved. Bread for the World (www.bread.org), a Christian citizens' move-

ment against hunger, has launched a campaign called "Working from Poverty to Promise," which asks Congress to target programs toward poverty reduction, not just decreasing the welfare rolls. The organization wants more education and training programs, plus improved support for the working poor, such as transportation and child care.

The National Council of Churches has begun a decade-long effort to "mobilize Christians to take seriously the issue of poverty... and take specific steps to challenge it with all the tools and energies at our disposal." A new website (<http://bruno.nccusa.org/poverty>) features Bible verses and sermons on poverty, including sermons by three Church of the Brethren pastors. Our own General Board has committed to an anti-racism training program as part of its response to the "Caring for the Poor" Annual Conference query.

According to empty tomb, inc., a Christian group that studies giving patterns, church member giving is declining as a portion of income and is currently around 2.5 percent. If church member giving were increased to just 10 percent, this would generate an additional \$78.4 billion to alleviate world poverty, while the total world poverty need is estimated at "only" \$80 billion.

But anti-poverty programs, whether through fundraising or lobbying or even through prayer, won't work unless we get to know the poor first. Then the issues get easier, because we're working for people, not programs. The Bible doesn't give us the hard task of eliminating poverty. Its instructions are more gentle and possible. We are told to be kind to the needy (Prov. 14:31). Remember the poor (Gal. 2:10). "Do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor" (Deut. 15:8).

As the Kids Cafe was about to close, the song leader was trying to get the children to learn "God Bless America" for an upcoming performance. The little guy by me couldn't read so I pointed to the words as we sang. Pretty soon he was pointing to the words as though reading himself, and even got some of them right. I asked his name but I couldn't understand it, and he couldn't spell it, so he said with a grin, "Call me Tom."

Maybe we should ask not what we can do for the poor, but what the poor can do for us. It's not all bad that the poor are always with us. Their blessing always awaits us. Before we fight poverty let's make friends. This is the lesson of Deuteronomy 15:11: "Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.'"—FLETCHER FARRAR

"The Bible doesn't give us the hard task of eliminating poverty. Its instructions are more gentle and possible."

Opportunities

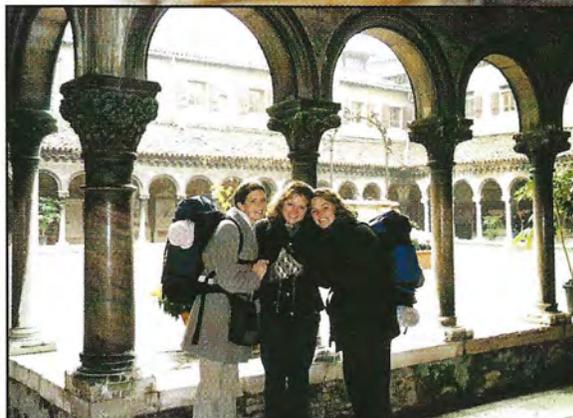
A Brethren education opens the door to a world of opportunities!

And, we view every experience as an opportunity for learning—both inside and outside the classroom. Our challenging curriculum along with internships, externships, study abroad, and community service, give you the chance to apply what you've learned in the classroom. Campus organizations, athletics, the arts and student government also provide valuable learning experiences.

A Brethren education provides for international understanding and competent global citizenry through study abroad opportunities. Brethren Colleges Abroad (BCA) allows you to study for a semester, a summer, or a year at one of eleven BCA locations in Asia, Europe or Latin America.

A Brethren education will change ... YOU!

For more information about Brethren colleges, visit our website: www.cobcoa.org or email: cobcoa_gb@brethren.org or call 1-800-323-8039



Brethren Colleges Abroad
North Manchester, Indiana
(219) 982-5238

Bethany Theological Seminary
Richmond, Indiana
1-800-287-8822
ext. 1810

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia
1-800-759-8328

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania
(717) 361-1400

Juniata College
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania
1-800-526-1970

University of La Verne
La Verne, California
1-800-876-4858

Manchester College
North Manchester, Indiana
1-800-852-3648

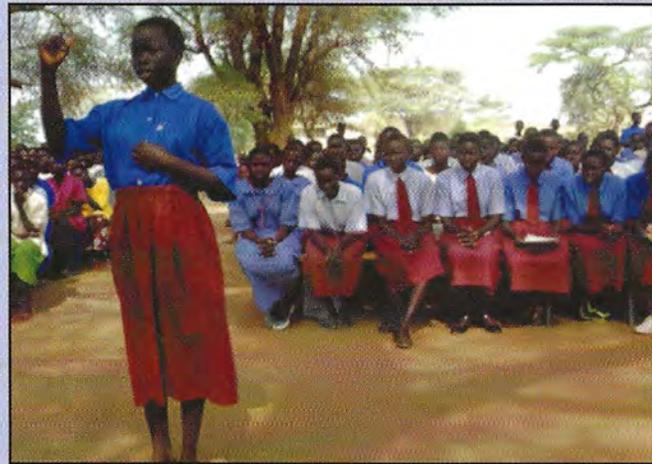
McPherson College
McPherson, Kansas
1-800-365-7402



Support a School Project

Giving help and hope to the children of southern Sudan

“Many of us walked from far away to get to this school. We lack things like school supplies, and even soap for bathing. There are times that our school is bombed by our government. The war has separated us from our families, but with your support we will continue our education. We are here to build a better future for our nation Sudan.” —student at Blessed Bakhita School for Girls in Narus



Only one out of four children in southern Sudan attends elementary school; even fewer go to secondary school. It's not that they don't want to get an education. The problem is that their nation is at war. This means lots of children have had to flee from their homes. Their parents do not earn enough money to pay school fees. And many children have been separated from their parents altogether by the war.

The Global Food Crisis Fund is supporting schools in southern Sudan. We help by purchasing school supplies, building class rooms, providing laundry and bathing soap, and paying the fees of the children too poor to pay.

Your class or youth group can help us help them!

Here's what you can do:

- ◆ Pray for the girls and boys and their schools
- ◆ Send an occasional letter to the schools
- ◆ Raise money for the schools:
 - \$12 buys a case of soap
 - \$20 buys writing materials for a class
 - \$125 covers a student's fees for a year
 - \$200 supports a teacher for a month

That's what you can give. And here's what you'll receive:

- ◆ Materials for beginning your project, including a video about Blessed Bakhita
- ◆ Occasional letters from one or more students from Blessed Bakhita or Sacred Heart schools
- ◆ The good feeling of having supported young people in their quest for a future with hope



Global Food Crisis Fund

Church of the Brethren General Board

800-323-8039 or www.brethren.org/genbd/witness/gfcf.htm