

Church  
of the  
Brethren

# MESSENGER

AUGUST 2002 [WWW.BRETHREN.ORG](http://WWW.BRETHREN.ORG)



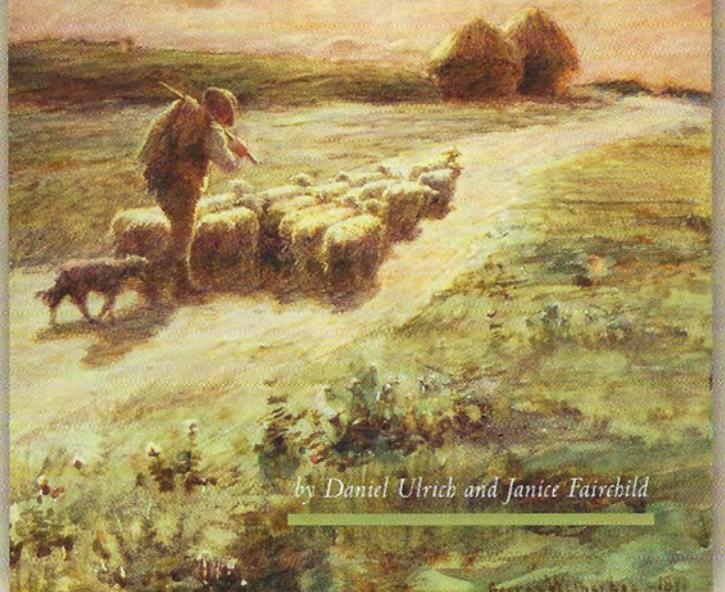
Moved by the *SPIRIT*,  
*COMPELLED* by the issues

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2002

THE ARCTIC REFUGE • LIVING IN AFRICA

# CARING LIKE JESUS

The Matthew 18 Project



*by Daniel Ulrich and Janice Fairchild*

**How would our churches be different if we learned to care for others like Jesus cares for us?**

Daniel Ulrich and Janice Fairchild offer a helpful guide that shows us what it means to practice "Jesuscare" as taught in Matthew 18. Bible study, real life examples, and exercises invite you to practice these values and become a part of the caring community of believers that Jesus desires.

**New from Brethren Press. \$9.95 plus shipping and handling.**



Brethren Press®  
*This day.*

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694  
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188 e-mail [brethrenpress\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org)

## MESSENGER

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

**ONTHECOVER**

Cover photo by Regina Bryan features Brooke Meadows of Huntingdon, Pa., Annual Conference delegate of the Stone Church of the Brethren. The first to speak at the microphones on the query regarding ordination of homosexuals, Brooke used her time to urge Brethren to be considerate and respectful during the upcoming debate. She is a videographer and reporter for an area TV station.

This is the third year Regina Bryan has photographed Annual Conference for the General Board, and her second as lead photographer. A resident of Midland, Va., she serves on the Midland Church of the Brethren transition team. She is employed by Fauquier County, Va., as a construction assistant. In her job, she says, her only photo opportunities are to take pictures of cracked walls and ceilings. But on her own time she photographs weddings and does freelance photography for Brethren Benefit Trust and the Association of Brethren Caregivers.

Other members of the news services team covering Annual Conference were Walt Wiltschek, editor; Amy Heckert, Kathleen Campanella, Keith Hollenberg, Eddie Edmonds, Eric Miller, Danielle Hart, Angie Mountain, Charlie Wyssong, and Carol Guess.

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**10 Annual Conference 2002**

Coverage of the Louisville Annual Conference includes news of business and elections (p. 10), an article on Conference worship services (p. 14), a farewell to Duane Steiner (p. 15), and a roundup of quotations from speakers at Conference events (p. 17).

**20 Northern exposure**

A Church of the Brethren Faith Expedition led by Brethren Witness director David Radcliff recently traveled to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to get a firsthand understanding of the controversy over proposed oil drilling. They learned about Native Americans, their dependence on the caribou, and how our lives impact theirs.

**24 Nigeria mission coordinators**

John and Janet Tubbs are special people who have served the General Board in Nigeria for the past eight years. Their simple living and humble ways, along with a sense of humor, help them adapt to Nigerian culture and to inspire visiting Americans. Janis Pyle recently traveled to Nigeria and returned with the profile article.

Janis Pyle



## FROM THE PUBLISHER



**T**he last time Annual Conference delegates voted on the subject of homosexuality was in 1994, when they accepted a recommendation from Standing Committee that the church refrain for five years from requesting new policy statements on homosexuality. During that time, a committee appointed by Standing Committee was to design and implement a plan that would facilitate ongoing dialog “to open communication channels and to interact with one another with love and respect, seeking greater understanding if not agreement, in the spirit of Matthew 18.”

That subcommittee reported to the 1996 Annual Conference and was scheduled to make a final report the next year. But the overall climate of the church—including vitriolic mail directed at members of the committee—made it impossible for them to complete their assignment. In the years since, there has been little evidence that congregations and districts took seriously the original commitment to engage in dialog (an action that carries the same level of authority as the vote on policy taken at this year’s Conference). In fact, the opposite may have been true: It seems that most Brethren believed we had been forbidden to talk about homosexuality for five years—and breathed a collective sigh of relief that the topic had gone away.

Unfortunately, the conversation that has not taken place denominationally this past eight years was not fully carried out in Louisville, either. While there was much passion on both sides of the debate (almost always respectful, it should be noted), many of the people standing in line did not have a chance to speak. As the clock ran out on the business agenda, the time given to this item was kept relatively short.

Would that all conferencegoers could have sat in on the discussion in Standing Committee the week before. There members had the luxury of time and intimacy. They had broken bread together and knew each others’ names. There was no red light to bring long speeches to a sudden end. While there was the same breadth of opinion and the same degree of conviction seen on the delegate floor, the Standing Committee discussion was characterized by a remarkable level of respect and care.

After all the words had been spoken, people seemed less intent on changing each others’ minds and more interested in wondering out loud how to live together as one family of faith: If we disagree in this case on what constitutes sin, is it still possible to regard each other as legitimate Christians?

Following one speech that was breathtaking in its candor and poignancy, moderator Paul Grout was moved to say that the church would be a different place today if we had shared that deeply with one another the past eight years. He also said he was convinced that we could find unity on any topic, including this one, if we could spend enough time together, in prayer and conversation.

Frankly, not many people in the church seem to expect unity right now. But if we intend even to strive for a renewed sense of community, we may have to return to that denominational decision to be in conversation. When we refuse to talk with each other, we give up on our future and on our trust in God, in whom all things are possible.

*Wendy McFadden*

### How to reach us

#### MESSENGER

1451 Dundee Avenue  
Elgin, IL 60120

#### Subscriptions:

vcole\_gb@brethren.org  
Phone: 847-742-5100  
Fax: 847-742-6103

#### Display advertising:

rmatteson\_gb@brethren.org  
Phone: 800-323-8039  
Fax: 847-742-1407

#### Editorial:

ffarrar\_gb@brethren.org  
Phone: 217-525-9083  
Fax: 217-525-9269

#### Subscription rates:

\$16.50 individual rate  
\$13.50 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](mailto:cobnews@aol.com).

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

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

Chicken  
Soup for the  
**PEACE LOVER'S**  
Soul

**You can help make chicken soup**

Brethren have an unprecedented opportunity to tell the world stories that demonstrate and celebrate the power of nonviolence.

San Diego First Church of the Brethren member Linda K. Williams and others have recently signed a contract with Chicken Soup for the Soul Enterprises for their forthcoming book, *Chicken Soup for the Peace Lover's Soul*. Linda and her team want to feature stories of the many peacemaking efforts of Brethren—both past and present—as they have sought to be instruments of God's peace. Stories—as well as quotes, cartoons, and other genres—are welcome from anyone.

Linda hopes that the message

of nonviolence will be spread to millions of readers who previously had not come in contact with that idea, and who will read the book saying, "Nonviolence! What a concept!"

Linda has been a peacemaker since her husband's grandmother was murdered by a drug abuser in 1981. Since that time, she worked to create a curriculum to teach nonviolence to children, *Caring and Capable Kids*, with the song-writing and recording assistance of Andy and Terry Murray.

For more information or to read sample stories go to the website: <http://chickensoup.peacestories.info>. Or send e-mail to [submissions@PeaceLoversSoul.com](mailto:submissions@PeaceLoversSoul.com) or regular mail to Linda K. Williams, 4967 Alfred Ct., San Diego, CA 92120.



Fletcher Farrar

**Pleasant Hill Village, the Brethren Home of Girard, Ill.,** on June 23 cut a ribbon to dedicate its new \$2.6-million retirement apartment building. After two months of operation, 20 of the 32 units had been rented. A ministry of the District of Illinois and Wisconsin since 1905, Pleasant Hill also operates a 98-bed nursing home. Pictured, from left, are Jane Regula, board member Hilda Bettis, board chair Deborah Ringer, executive director Paulette Miller, and Girard mayor Bruce Pitchford.



*A Faus house in Richmond, Ind.*

## **Richmond Habitat builds Faus houses**

Longtime Church of the Brethren leader Bob Faus died last year, but his legacy lives on quite visibly in Richmond, Ind.

When Bob, former Ministry director for the General Board, moved to Richmond eight years ago, he told his wife, Nancy, that he wanted to become involved in Habitat for Humanity. Brethren frequently volunteer with the non-profit organization, dedicated to building quality housing for those who couldn't otherwise afford it.

Bob eventually became vice president of the local chapter, taking on much of the work during a stretch when there was no president. He led board meetings, wrote and published the chapter's newsletter, and worked on many of the 18 houses built in recent years on Richmond's southeast side.

"The Habitat board said he was their guiding light," Nancy recalls. "They said if not for Bob, they would never have been able to build as many houses as they had."

When Bob died, the chapter wanted to do something to recognize his many contributions. The board finished buying a new piece of property just weeks after his death, and another 14 to 16 homes were slated to be built there.

Last fall the local Habitat group held the groundbreaking for this new addition, which they have dedicated to Bob Faus. It is being called the Robert Faus Addition, and the houses will stand along Faus Place. Members of the Richmond Church of the Brethren are helping with the project. The Habitat chapter plans to continue building four new houses a year until the addition is completed.



## Messiah member awarded fellowship

James Abraham, a senior at the University of Kansas and a member of the Messiah Church of the Brethren, Kansas City, has been awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies for the coming academic year.

Abraham, son of Abraham Omman, pastor of the Messiah congregation, and Mary Abraham, majored in classical languages and English. He will pursue a doctorate in classical studies, specializing in Roman poetry, with plans to teach at the university level.

Chancellor Robert Hemingway of the University of Kansas said in a news release: "James deserves our highest praise for his excellent work as a student of ancient Latin and Greek as well as modern literature. He represents the best of today's students who will be teaching the humanities for the next generation."

## Oak Grove will celebrate 100 years

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va., is celebrating 100 years of being God's hands. A special day of rejoicing and remembering will be held on Nov. 3. Following worship and a potluck dinner, there will be an afternoon service featuring an old-fashioned hymn sing and recognition of former pastors and spouses. —Eleanor S. Brogan

## Mozart concert at Philadelphia First

Alex Ramirez, music director at the Philadelphia (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren, presented a Mozart piano concert at the church June 2. The concert was a benefit for the Dorothy



Ballard Music Scholarship Fund. Ms. Ballard, an elementary school teacher and a talented musician, died in January. The scholarship fund was established to allow young people to pursue their love of music. More than \$4,500 was raised at the event.

Alex began studying piano at age three and appeared in his first solo recital at age five. He received high honors from the University of Texas, where he completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in music.

He is principal bass violist of the Bucks County Symphony Orchestra and teaches piano in his music studio in Abington, Pa. During the 2002-2003 concert season he has piano solo performances scheduled in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland. —Joan Smith-Reese

## Brethren author included in leadership anthology

Brethren author David S. Young of Ephrata, Pa., has authored the chapter "Foresight, the Lead that the Leader Has," in the new leadership anthology of the Robert Greenleaf Center of Servant Leadership in Indianapolis, Ind. The book is *Focus on Leadership: Servant Leadership for the 21st Century* (\$35), published by John Wiley and Sons, Inc. It is available from Brethren Press at 800-441-3712.

Young, interim pastor of the Hatfield (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, uses the concept of "foresight" to help churches discern a vision and a three-year plan of renewal. Young

is chair of the spiritual renewal team of the Atlantic Northeast District. He has authored two books on church renewal.

## Remembered

Mary Alice Engel, who served as a nurse in the Garkida Hospital in the late 1930s, died July 6 at the age of 93. Alice was headed back to Nigeria for a second term of service in 1941 when her ship, the *Zam Zam*, was sunk by a German raider. All passengers and crew of the *Zam Zam* were rescued and detained by the Germans. Because the United States had not yet entered the war, Alice and two other Brethren mission workers were released after several weeks and returned to the US.

Alice finished her nursing career at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. After retirement she moved to Taneytown, Md., and was active in the Union Bridge congregation. —Jim Benedict

## Woodberry pastor retires after 28 years

Franklin E. Keller, ordained minister for 30 years and pastor of the Woodberry Church of the Brethren in the Mid-Atlantic District for 28 years, retired July 31.

A celebration of his ministry was held on June 15 with 150 of his friends and colleagues in attendance. Don Booz, executive of Mid-Atlantic District, was the keynote speaker. Community and ecumenical leaders spoke of Keller's influence on their lives.

Brother Keller noted that his companion and wife of 56 years, Helen, helped him provide a team ministry at Woodberry long before team ministry became popular. —Fred Wilhelm



Franklin E. Keller

4 x 59 = ♥

These four couples in the Manor Church of the Brethren, Boonsboro, Md., were all married within a five-month period in 1943, and recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversaries together. They are, from left, Louise and Charles Hykes, Elsie and Grayson Cochran, Hazel and Lawrence Long, and Betty and Willis Kitchen.

**BRETHRENSPEAK**

“It is a step in bringing people of faith into the kind of community that the New Testament envisions—one that goes beyond class, creed, or color.”

— Brethren Witness director **David Radcliff**, on the General Board's new anti-racism team that will work in the denomination.

**General secretary Judy Mills Reimer** expresses appreciation to **Jerry Crouse** who, along with his wife, **Becky**, spent more than three years coordinating General Board mission work in the Dominican Republic. The Crouses finished their term this summer.

**General Board hears caution regarding future finances**

Prior to Annual Conference, the Church of the Brethren General Board and its Executive Committee held meetings in Louisville to look at finances, welcome international guests, and care for other business.

The largest block of time went to financial matters, with chief financial officer/treasurer **Judy Keyser** and controller **Dennis Kingery** raising a “yellow light” of caution for the next few years. The General Board is running a deficit so far this year, but staff said the overall picture for 2002 still looks good.

In 2003, however, the challenges begin. A 2003 budget was presented using one-time funds to “patch” some ongoing expenses. The board approved budget parameters of \$5,655,000 for the General Ministries Fund—not including self-funding programs and special-purpose funds—for 2003, the first time since 1998 that the parameters were reduced from one year to the next.

The moves forestall more serious concerns to 2004 and 2005, when a combined deficit of more than \$700,000 is projected if things remain unchanged. Annual salary and benefit increases, skyrocketing medical insurance premiums, and other effects of inflation on ongoing expenses are causing the crunch.

The board expects to address the issue as it continues its comprehensive planning process over the next 18 months, setting priorities and focus areas.

Board members gave formal approval to vision and mission statements and a list of core values at the meeting. The vision statement says, “The General Board envisions a dynamic Church of the Brethren doing the work of Jesus in the world.”



Walt Wiltschek

**General Board treasurer/chief financial officer Judy Keyser** paints a picture of the agency's budget situation.

The board also held a commissioning service for its anti-racism team, which will work in the denomination under the Brethren Witness office in an “intentional process of dismantling racism wherever it exists in the body of Christ known as the Church of the Brethren.”

Five outgoing General Board members, including chair **Don Parker** and vice chair **Christy Waltersdorff**, were honored for their service, and a citation was presented to **Jerry and Becky Baile Crouse** as they completed their term of service as mission coordinators in the Dominican Republic.

In other business, the board heard updates on General Board ministries, welcomed international Brethren leaders, changed fall 2003 General Board meeting dates to Oct. 18-21 in Elgin, Ill., and dedicated the General Board exhibit in the Annual Conference exhibit hall.

**BBT board approves new medical plan for Brethren**

The Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) board this spring approved three major changes to the Brethren Medical Plan.

Most significantly, a new insurance carrier will be used by most plan members beginning Jan. 1, 2003. The plan will also partially return to its pre-1998 days when it was self-insured, meaning that a portion of the plan's liabilities will once again be covered by BBT. The third change pertains to the setting of rates, which now will be determined based on age and geography.

BBT said the moves were needed to continue providing high-quality health care insurance while containing



Walt Wiltschek



**Interns, mentors, and General Board staff** gathered in Richmond, Ind., in early June for this year's Ministry Summer Service orientation. It is the seventh summer for the program.

costs—a difficult challenge of late with skyrocketing medical costs and changes occurring throughout the industry, along with the Brethren Medical Plan's aging membership and recent high medical claims.

The BBT board approved these changes during its April 20-21 meetings, held at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. While approving the adoption of this plan for Jan. 1, 2003, it approved moving Bethany Theological Seminary to the new plan on July 1 in conjunction with the start of Bethany's new fiscal year.

The plan's new insurance carrier will be the Congregational Employee Plan (CEP), a national plan for Anabaptist denominations, sponsored by Mennonite Mutual Aid. Given the Brethren Medical Plan's current membership, BBT will immediately be the largest of seven church plans participating.

Beginning this summer, and continuing throughout the fall, BBT staff will hold a series of meetings throughout the denomination to highlight plan specifics and answer questions.

## Large intern group begins Ministry Summer Service

This year's Ministry Summer Service (MSS) orientation took place June 1-7 at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., with 16 interns. It is the largest number of interns since the General Board began the program six years ago as an opportunity for college-aged students to explore their sense of call to some form of Christian ministry.

Chris Douglas, coordinator of Youth/Young Adult Ministry for the General Board, and Mary Jo Flory Steury, director of Ministry, were the primary leaders throughout the week, with a variety of speakers—including general secretary Judy Mills Reimer; Illinois-Wisconsin District executive Jim Yaussy Albright; and Bethany professors Jeff Bach, Tara Hornbacker, and Nancy Faus—coming in for other sessions.

Interns also visited Mack Memorial church in Dayton, Ohio, did a service project at the St. Vincent's Shelter for Homeless, enjoyed a picnic with Bethany staff, and toured the seminary.

The interns serve at their projects for 10 weeks, working with a mentor who attends the last three days of the week-long orientation. Most interns are placed in congregations; some, however, serve in Brethren camps, at district offices, or with denominational programs.



**Richmond (Ind.) Church of the Brethren pastor Kelly Burk** discusses goals and plans with Ministry Summer Service intern Jim Buckles, a Bethany Theological Seminary student.

## Youth workcamps for 2003 announced

The General Board's Youth/Young Adult office is putting together two dozen summer workcamps in 2003, with offerings for junior and senior high youth and young adults.

The young adult workcamp will head to Ecuador next year, with dates still to be

announced. Six junior high workcamps will be held in Richmond, Va. (June 18-22); Harrisburg, Pa. (June 24-28); Lake Geneva, Wis. (June 30-July 4); New Windsor, Md. (July 14-18); Indianapolis (July 23-27); and Dayton, Ohio (July 30-Aug. 3).

Senior high workcamps are slated for Georgia (June 16-22); San Juan, P.R. (June

16-23); Germantown, Pa. (tentatively June 23-29); Cas-tañer, P.R. (June 23-30); Baltimore (June 29-July 5); Denver, Colo. (June 29-July 5); Chicago (July 14-20); North Fort Myers, Fla. (tentatively July 14-20); Jamaica (July 21-28); Oregon (July 21-27); Cross-nore, N.C. (July 28-Aug. 3); Tijuana, Mexico (July 28-

Aug. 3); Pine Ridge, S.D. (Aug. 3-9 and Aug. 10-16); Putney, Vt. (Aug. 4-10); Keyser, W.Va. (Aug. 4-10); and Gould Farm, Mass. (Aug. 11-17). A Brethren Revival Fellowship youth workcamp will be June 15-21 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Further details will be available this summer. Registration for all workcamps will open in late 2002.

## UPCOMINGEVENTS

**Aug. 2-4 Northern Plains District Conference, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls; Oregon/Washington District Conference, Camp Myrtlewood, Myrtle Point, Ore.; Southeastern District Conference, Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, Tenn.; Western Plains District Conference, McPherson (Kan.) College**  
**Aug. 3 Deacon Training Workshop, McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren**

**Aug. 4-8 Junior high youth workcamp, Harrisburg, Pa.**

**Aug. 4-10 Senior high/young adult workcamp, Pine Ridge, S.D.**

**Aug. 4-14 Brethren Witness Faith Expedition to Honduras**

**Aug. 9-11 Northern Ohio District Conference, Ashland (Ohio) University**

**Aug. 16-18 Michigan District Conference, Wesleyan Conference Center, Hastings, Mich.**

**Aug. 17 Ohio/Indiana/Kentucky CPS, BVS & Alternative Service Conference, "Nonviolence in Times Like These," Trotwood (Ohio) Church of the Brethren**

**Aug. 18-28 Brethren Volunteer Service/Brethren Revival Fellowship Unit 250, Roxbury, Pa.**

**Sept. 2-6 National Older Adult Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.**

## New Windsor event focuses on peace

On June 8, more than 100 people visited the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., to consider "The Big Picture: What does peace have to do with me?" The unique event was cosponsored by Brethren Service Center, Church of the Brethren Washington Office, Emergency Response/Service Ministries (ER/SM), New Windsor Conference Center, Interchurch Medical Assistance Inc., On Earth Peace, and SERRV International Inc.

It included addresses from Peaceful Tomorrows member Eva Rupp and Washington Office coordinator Greg Davidson Laszakovits, a variety of workshops, view-

ing the documentary "The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It," and sharing from people who served in Civilian Public Service.

Coordinators Stan Noffsinger and Barb Sayler called it "a marvelous event which exemplifies the impact church agencies can have when they utilize their partnerships to bring people of all ages together."

## Global Food Crisis provide major grants

The General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund made two large allocations in less than a month, making more than \$125,000

## Wildfires force evacuation, but leave camp undamaged

Wildfires threatened Camp Colorado in June, forcing the evacuation of a junior high camp and canceling a pre-junior week. The junior high group was given just 30 minutes to leave the camp; campers were told to bring one change of clothes in their backpacks, along with their sleeping bag and pillow.

"The campers were just amazing," said Tracy Stoddart, a Brethren Volunteer Service worker from Colorado who was serving as a counselor for the week. "They weren't panicking about leaving their stuff at all. They were incredibly mature."

The evacuated campers went to the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren in Littleton, Colo., overnight, until parents and others could pick them up.

It was the first known evacuation in the 51-year history of the Western Plains District camp, located near Sedalia. The mandatory evacuation order was lifted June 20, and the camp was unharmed.



**Forty senior high youth and 10 adult staff at Camp Colorado the first week of June traveled to areas scorched by the Schoonover-area fire to assist with reseedling work. The Forest Service said that quickly establishing ground cover in the burned areas is a priority to prevent erosion.**

## North Dakota camp's lodge destroyed in summer blaze

Camp Mon-Dak, one of two camps in the Church of the Brethren's Northern Plains District, lost its main lodge to a fire on June 7. A bathhouse and six cabins were undamaged.

"There was nothing left of it," camp board chair Rod Wurgler said of the lodge. "It's really devastating."

Junior and youth camps scheduled for the Dunseith, N.D., camp in July were canceled.

Brethren from the area planned to discuss Mon-Dak's future at a family camp, moved to another site, in mid-July. Insurance money would cover the cost of rebuilding, but finances had already been a struggle before the fire.





**JOURNEY INWARD/JOURNEY OUTWARD.** On the front cover, let your finger guide you to the center of the Christ Walk and back to the outer rim. God calls us not only to seal our faith in Jesus Christ, but to share our faith in an ever expanding witness. Micah 7:11 speaks of a day when “the boundary shall be far extended”—words of hope to the people of God.

THE  
LOVE  
OF  
CHRIST



URGES  
US  
ON

— 2 Corinthians 5:14

*Alive together with*  
**CHRIST**  
— Eph. 2:5

So then you are no longer strangers and  
aliens, but you are citizens  
with the saints and also members of  
the household of God.

— Eph. 2:19



Becky Baile Crouse

Workcamps are about relationships as well as service. At Reynosa, Mexico, Courtney Hudnak of Lititz, Pa., poses with her new friend Alejandra Gonzalez. A record 535 youth and advisers participated in last year's 20 youth workcamps.



Luke Croushorn

Music, stories, study materials, and outreach projects help children feel at home in the household of God. Brethren Press creates resources for church schools, vacation Bible schools, and camps.

Keith Hollenberg



For Ed Wall of Fraternity Church in North Carolina and Tae Yi, pastor of the Good Shepherd Church, Souderton, Pa., cross-cultural sharing offers a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.



Photos unless otherwise designated by Walt Wiltschek

Miladys Figuereo is among the 10-member Brethren Worship Team from the Dominican Republic appearing at the 2002 Annual Conference and National Youth Conference. She is the pastor of the Yamasá preaching point.



Within days after the September 11 terrorist tragedy in New York City, this initial Disaster Child Care team was in operation on a Manhattan pier. Over the next two months, 97 trained volunteers served almost 2,100 children.

Kathleen Campanella



Tracy Steadant

Sarah Stover, Quinter, Kan., and local volunteer Quin Middleton at work in the soup kitchen of the Washington City Church. Stover, who wished for a Brethren Volunteer Service assignment in a foreign culture, said she found it serving the homeless on Capitol Hill.

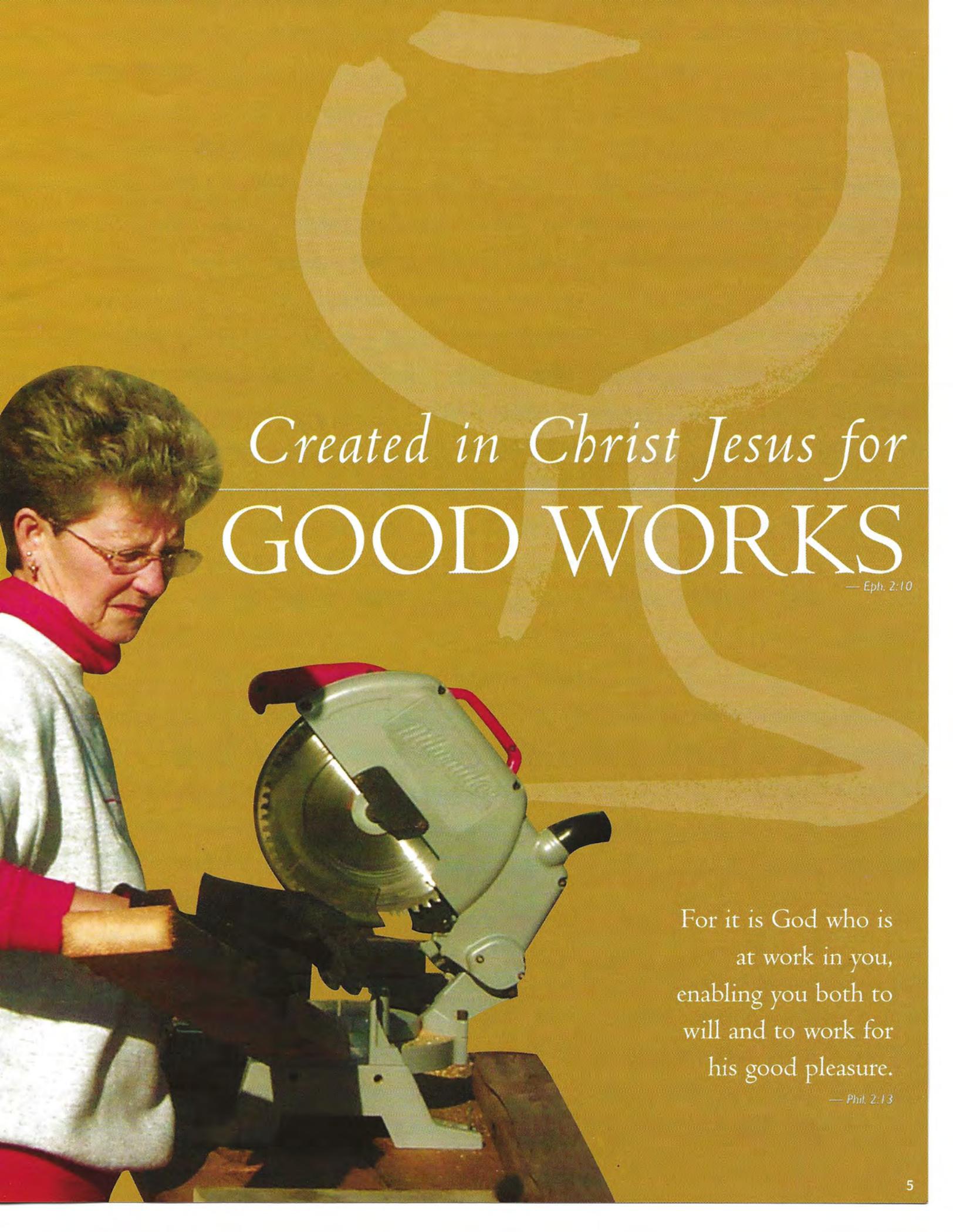
Becky Baile Crouse



Teaching English at the invitation of the churches in the Dominican Republic the past two years were volunteers Jewel Sheeler, Kenda Negley, Daniel Greenawalt, and Denise Negley. They conducted classes each week in 16 congregations.

Disaster Response teams from seven districts continue to help rebuild Siren, Wis., a community assaulted by winds of 260 miles an hour in June 2001. Kay Grim, Mansfield, Ohio, was among the Disaster Response workers last year.



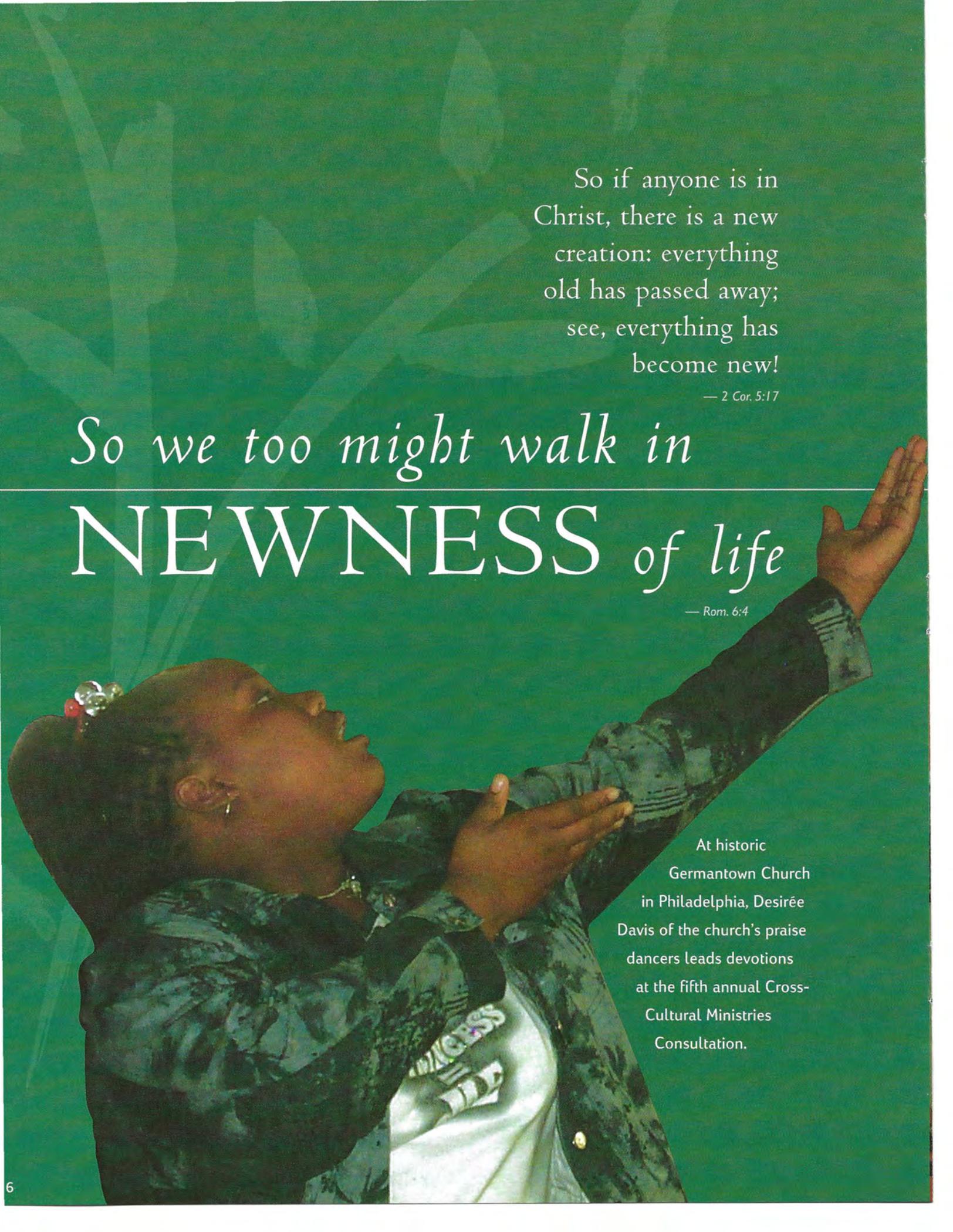
A woman with short, styled hair and glasses is shown in profile, focused on her work. She is wearing a white sweater with a red turtleneck. She is using a white and red miter saw to cut a piece of wood. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a large, faint, abstract white shape that resembles a stylized 'C' or a large letter. The overall mood is one of diligent craftsmanship.

*Created in Christ Jesus for*  
**GOOD WORKS**

— Eph. 2:10

For it is God who is  
at work in you,  
enabling you both to  
will and to work for  
his good pleasure.

— Phil. 2:13



So if anyone is in  
Christ, there is a new  
creation: everything  
old has passed away;  
see, everything has  
become new!

— 2 Cor. 5:17

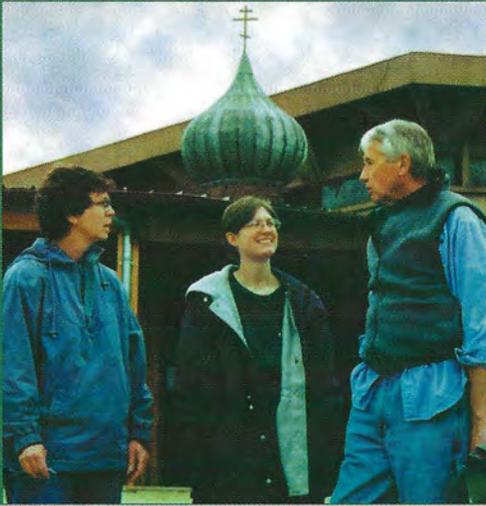
*So we too might walk in*

**NEWNNESS** *of life*

— Rom. 6:4

At historic  
Germantown Church  
in Philadelphia, Desirée  
Davis of the church's praise  
dancers leads devotions  
at the fifth annual Cross-  
Cultural Ministries  
Consultation.

Working and worshipping with the Taizé community in France were 23 Brethren in a young adult workcamp. Included were Dorothy Grout, Jessica Eller, and Annual Conference moderator Paul Grout.



Luke Croushorn

For senior highs, worship at National Youth Conference is a spiritual high. Worship and music coordinators are Shawn Kirchner, Bonnie Kline Smeltzer, Jim Chinworth, Jeff Carter, Joseph Helfrich, and Rhonda Pittman Gingrich.



Through Faith Expeditions, Brethren observe firsthand how the gospel is lived out at key locales of the church's ministry. In Sudan, Alice Lee Hopkins, Bridgewater, Va., and Monica Enoka affirm the sense of Christian solidarity.



David Radcliff

To lay a foundation for peace in Sudan, Dinka youth march and sing on the way to a grassroots peace conference, one of a series inaugurated by the New Sudan Council of Churches.



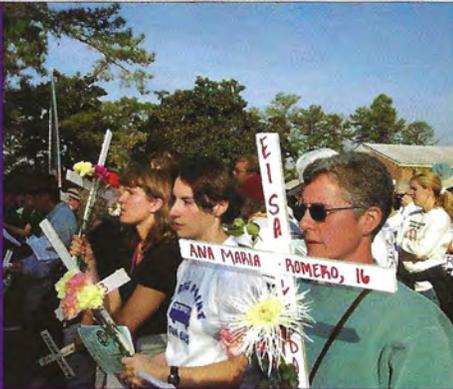
Surveying the devastation in Jos, Nigeria, caused by religious riots are Toma Ragnjiya and John Tubbs. In another city, Kano, the church is being relocated after six members were killed and the building destroyed four times.

Janet Tubbs

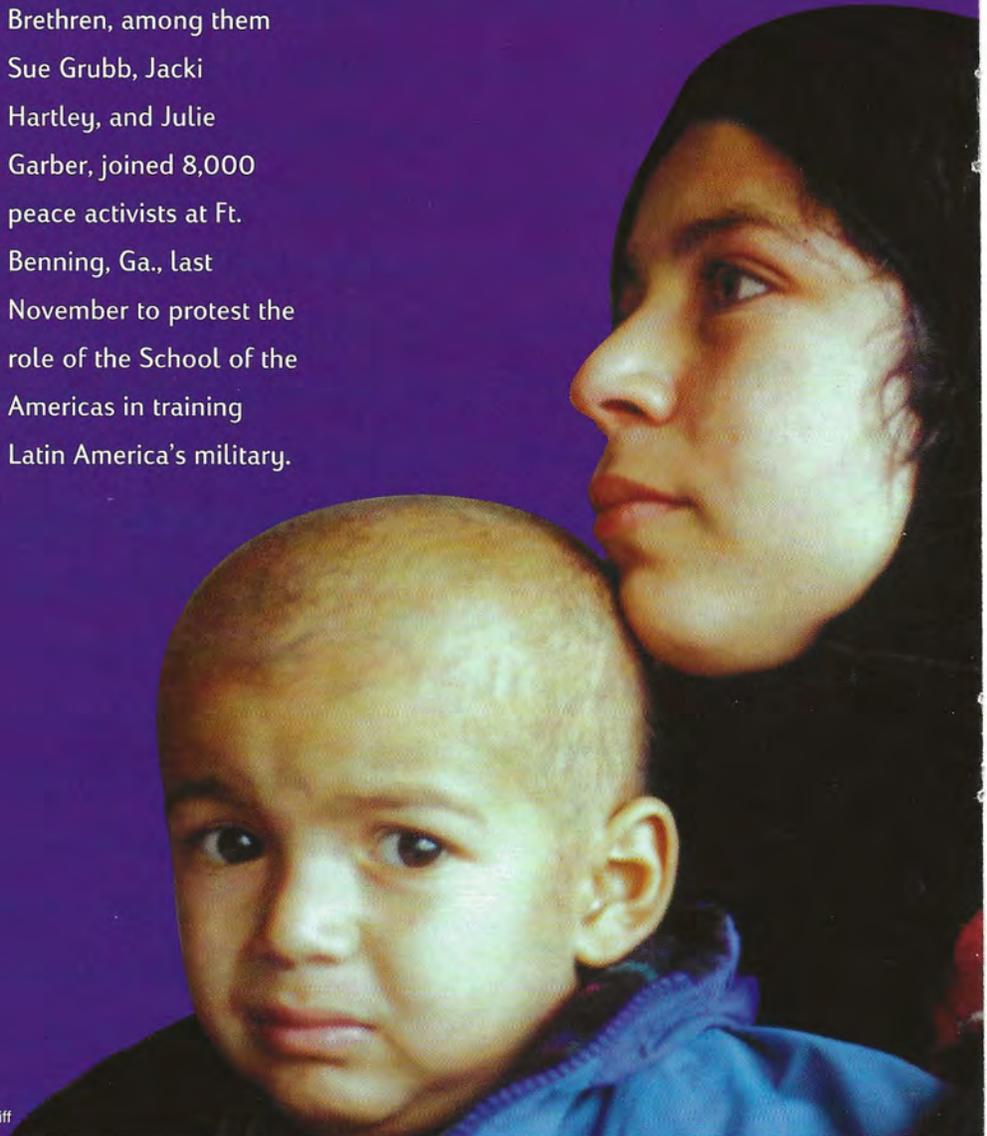


For 30 years Brethren Volunteer Service has placed workers in Northern Ireland. In Belfast Natalie Dutrow, McPherson, Kan., works with youth at the Forthspring Community project.

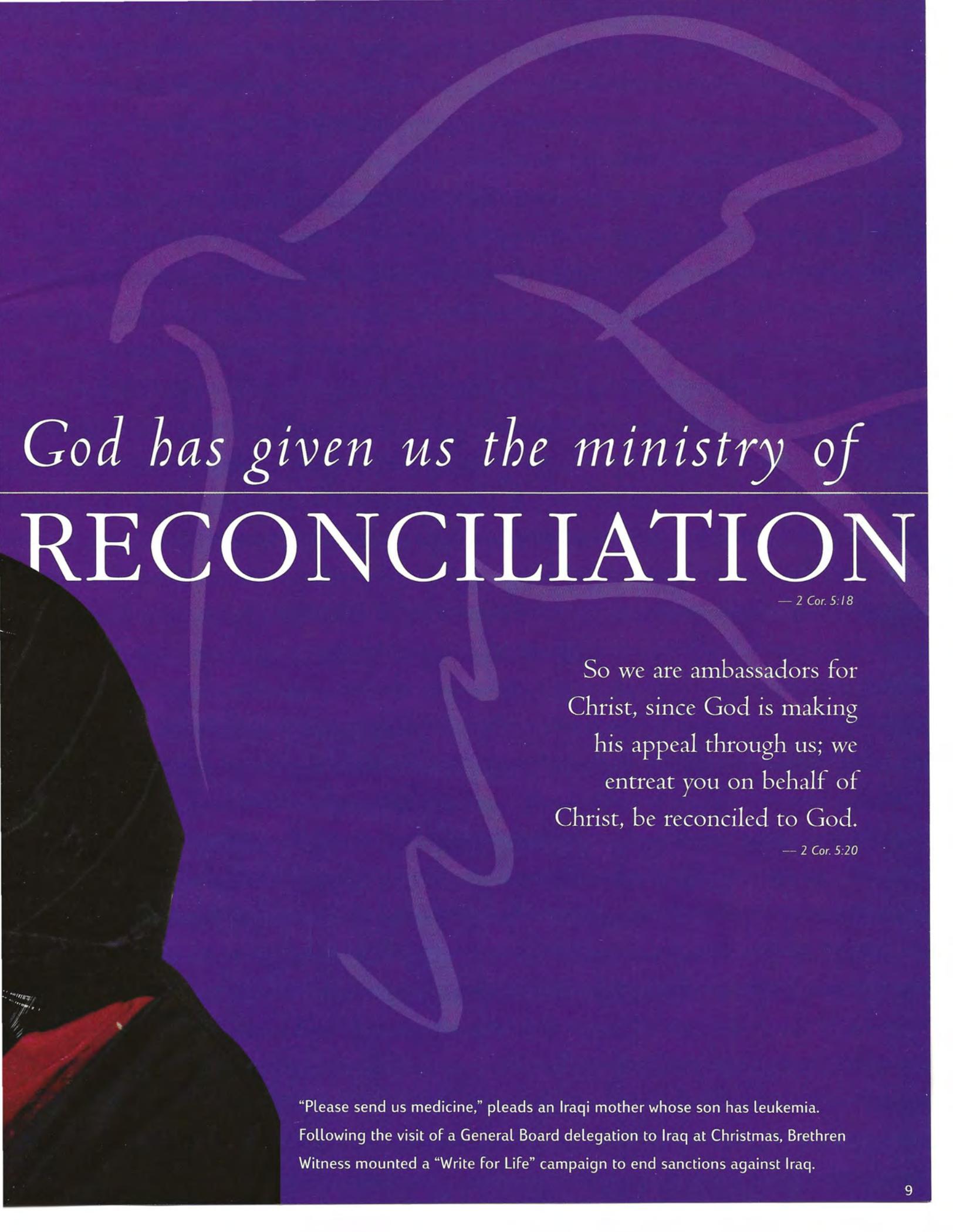
Eric Thompson



Upwards of a hundred Brethren, among them Sue Grubb, Jacki Hartley, and Julie Garber, joined 8,000 peace activists at Ft. Benning, Ga., last November to protest the role of the School of the Americas in training Latin America's military.



David Radcliff



*God has given us the ministry of*

# RECONCILIATION

— 2 Cor. 5:18

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

— 2 Cor. 5:20

“Please send us medicine,” pleads an Iraqi mother whose son has leukemia. Following the visit of a General Board delegation to Iraq at Christmas, Brethren Witness mounted a “Write for Life” campaign to end sanctions against Iraq.

... to equip the saints for the  
work of ministry, for build-  
ing up the body of Christ.

— Eph. 4:12

# BUILDING UP

*the body of Christ*

— Eph. 4:12



Marilyn Montauban, a young Haitian leader, is from First Haitian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y. The other US Haitian congregations are in Florida—Miami, the oldest, and Orlando, the newest.



Guidance on Natural Church Development is among evangelism resources availed to churches by Congregational Life Teams. Here Jeff Glass, San Diego, Calif., leads a workshop at a national Evangelism Connections conference.



To conduct racial awareness education on behalf of the General Board are five Brethren trained by the Damascus Road program: Sharon Reich, James Washington, Valentina Satvedi, Torin Eikler, and Barbara Cuffie.



Ministry Summer Service, sponsored by the Youth/Young Adult and Ministry offices, begins with orientation involving both interns from colleges and mentors from congregations and church agencies. This 2001 group marked the program's sixth year.



David Radcliff

While global in scope, the Decade to Overcome Violence centers heavily on local church engagement. The Springfield, Ill., church signifies its commitment with the dedication of a Peace Pole.

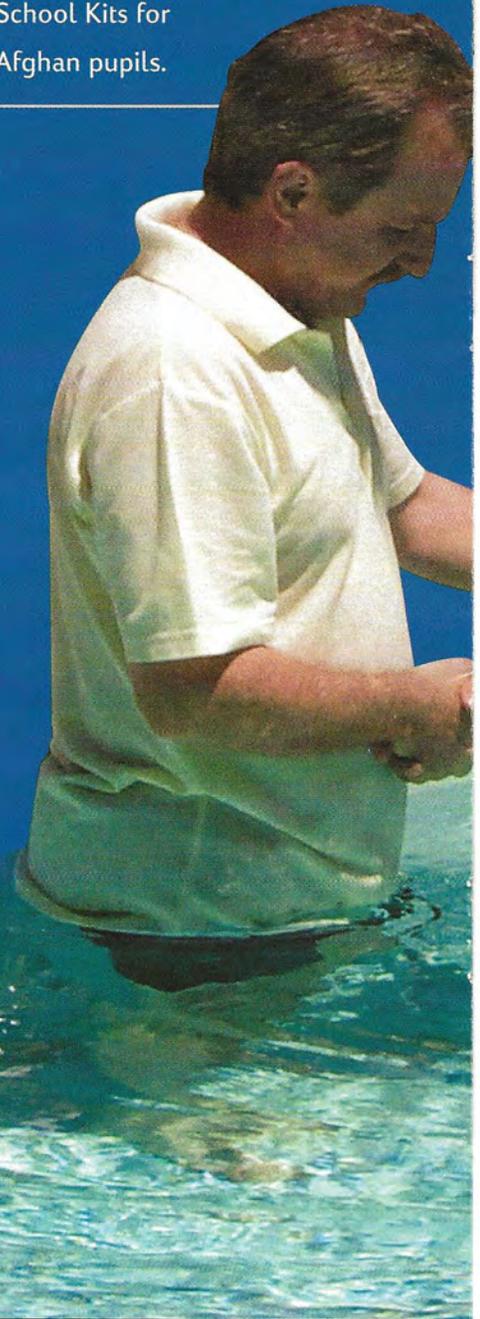


UNHCR / P. Benatar

To assist people displaced in Afghanistan, Brethren contributed \$100,000 through the Emergency Disaster Fund and Global Food Crisis Fund. A current effort of the Brethren Service Center is to help Church World Service collect 50,000 School Kits for Afghan pupils.



Created in Nicaragua for the annual assembly of Misión Cristiana, a partner denomination, is a banner bearing the Brethren identity statement, "Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together."



# THE BOUNDARY

*shall be far extended*

— Micah 7:11

... sharers in  
the promise in  
Christ Jesus  
through the  
gospel.

— Eph. 3:6

The first baptism of the new Brethren church in Brazil occurred in December when Marcos Inhauser baptized Clarice Alves Cruz. The work in Brazil is directed by Global Mission Partnerships and supported by the Emerging Global Mission Fund.

# SERVANTS & STEWARDS

— 1 Cor. 4:1

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.

— 1 Cor. 4:1

The accomplishments highlighted in this report are your accomplishments. They are ministries on your behalf, and on behalf of the whole church, made possible by your prayers and your gifts.

The General Board works diligently to extend the Church of the Brethren's witness across the world, but also strives to use your dollars in the most responsible way possible. That means we live within our means today and we plan for tomorrow so that the ministries of the church are built on a strong financial foundation.

For many institutions, 2001 was a

difficult year. While the General Board's financial picture was somewhat mixed, we were able to finish the year in the black because of strong giving from individuals, savings by staff, and policy measures designed to help even out income variations from year to year.

Of concern was a continued decline in congregational giving to the General Ministries Fund (down 2.3 percent from the prior year). Other shortfalls in income were in bequests, which vary greatly from year to year, and investments, the result of a weak stock market. The General

Board's special funds—Emergency Disaster Fund, Global Food Crisis Fund, and the new Emerging Global Mission Fund—received strong support.

The financial picture was helped by giving from individuals, up 7.3 percent. In addition, staff kept expenses below budget by 2.4 percent.

To make up an overall deficit in the General Ministries Fund of \$135,000 at year-end, the General Board applied a financial policy that allows for the transfer of limited funds from its "bequest quasi-endowment." The quasi-endowment was

## 2001 in review



**Congregational Life Ministries.** Provides training and resources in church development, evangelism, stewardship, spiritual formation, and youth and young adult ministries. Nurtures pastoral leadership through ministry training with Bethany Seminary and the Brethren Academy. Works with district staff, pastors, and camps. **\$1,424,610**

**Global Mission Partnerships.** Guides international church planting, development, leadership training, and theological education. Enlists Brethren in study and action on peace, justice, and environmental concerns. Manages Global Food Crisis Fund and Washington Office. Orients and places volunteers in projects focusing on peace, justice, human need, and the environment. **\$1,240,470**

**Treasurer/Centralized Resources.** Handles finances of General Board and Annual Conference. Manages and maintains technology, archives, and Elgin facilities. Includes costs of telephone, technology, postage, support services for all program areas. Offers financial resource counseling on stewardship and estate planning. **\$1,948,780**

**General Secretary.** Administers work of the General Board and serves as spiritual guidepost for staff and General Board ministries. Oversees human resources. Heads ecumenical representation. **\$640,070**

**Brethren Press.** Communication arm fosters identity, unity, and vision. Publishes Agenda, Source, Newslines, and website. Interprets program, conducts news service. Messenger and the publishing house, which publishes books and curriculum, are in separate self-funding units. **General Ministries Fund portion, \$280,340**

**Brethren Service Center.** Hosts local, national, and global service ministries; operates conference center; provides public information; maintains buildings and grounds. Costs are covered largely by self-funding programs of the center. **General Ministries Fund portion, \$21,030**

set up several years ago to make effective use of bequest income that exceeds the amount budgeted. Proceeds are intended to establish a growing source of revenue to meet cost-of-living increases when income is short, or to be applied when bequest income falls below the budgeted amount. This provision enabled the board to finish 2001 with income over expense of \$14,980.

In addition to the General Ministries Fund, the General Board operates "self-funding" ministries that derive income from sales or service fees. Three units finished the year with income over expense: Brethren

Press, \$61,000; Messenger, \$28,220; and the New Windsor Conference Center, \$50,070. Emergency Response/Service Ministries ended the year with a loss of \$75,500 in the material distribution center; Immigration and Refugee Program with a loss of \$21,710. Each had fund balances to cover the deficit.

All told, the ministries of the General Board approximate \$11.6 million.

The General Board is deeply grateful to you and all who join in doing the work of Jesus in the world.

Complete financial information is available in the General Board auditors report.

Eddie Edmonds



## The love of Christ urges us on

— 2 Cor. 5:14

**Encircled with love.** New symbols—often in reality ancient symbols rediscovered—help us visualize our faith and express the inexpressible. So it is with two recent symbols displayed by the General Board.

One was a canopy, a firmament, that hovered over the General Board exhibit at the Baltimore Annual Conference. Projected on it were scenes of the church's global witness. The dome symbolized God's overarching concern for the whole creation.

The second is a more down-to-earth emblem, one that graces the cover of this report. It is a Christ Walk, a sacred circle with a single path that twists and turns to the divine center, represented by the cross of Christ. The walk is a journey both inward and outward. God encircles us not only when we are at the center but when we are at the rim, there to testify to the love of Christ—love, as the apostle Paul reminded the early church, that was given for all.

Relate the Christ Walk to your own venturing in faith. Trace the path as you meditate on a favorite biblical text or song; consider Psalm 139 or Hymnal numbers 418, 439, and 546. Review how the ministries of the General Board we carry out together are inward and outward expressions of faith.

And with confidence let us extend the Walk, assured, as Paul states, by the love of Christ that urges us on.

**Judy Mills Reimer, General Secretary  
Church of the Brethren General Board**

GENERAL BOARD MINISTRIES AND CONNECTIONS WORKCAMPs. EMERGING GLOBAL MISSION FUND. MINISTRY OFFICE. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRIES. EVANGELISM MINISTRIES. GENERAL MINISTRIES FUND. BRETHERN ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP. SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY. MESSENGER. HUMAN RESOURCES. GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERSHIPS. BRETHERN SERVICE CENTER. FINANCE OFFICE. HEALTHY CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. AGENDA. PROJECT INDEX. DISASTER RESPONSE. MISSION AND MINISTRIES PLANNING COUNCIL. SMALL MEMBERSHIP/RURAL CHURCH NETWORK. LIVING WORD BULLETINS. GENERAL OFFICES. NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE. BRETHERN WITNESS. CENTRALIZED RESOURCES. WASHINGTON OFFICE. NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT. BRETHERN VOLUNTEER SERVICE. BRETHERN PRESS. IGREJA DA IRMANDADE, BRAZIL. HYMNAL. MINISTRY SUMMER SERVICE. LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN PROGRAM. NEW WINDSOR CONFERENCE CENTER. IRAQI DELEGATION. BRIDGES. GIFT OF THE HEART KITS. LET OUR JOYS BE KNOWN CURRICULUM. NUER BIBLE TRANSLATION. GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROJECT. FUNDING. GUIDE FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES. BRETHERN HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES. DISTRICT MINISTRY. INFORMATION SERVICES. COMMUNICATION. CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR. DEATH ROW SUPPORT PROJECT. NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. TREASURER'S OFFICE. CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. YEARBOOK. MINISTRY ASSISTANCE FUND. NEWS SERVICES. ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS. GOOD GROUND CURRICULUM. DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE. DAMASCUS ROAD TRAINING. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS. MINISTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL. FAITH EXPEDITIONS. BRETHERN SERVICE IN EUROPE. CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN LOGO. GENERATION WHY CURRICULUM. VIETNAM PRESENCE. YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE. MATERIAL RESOURCES. TRAINING IN MINISTRY. CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN WEBSITE. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS. CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRIES. PASTORAL VISITS. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM. CARING FOR THE POOR. CHRISTMAS OFFERING. DISASTER CHILD CARE. THE THIRD DAY. THE SEED PACKET. COMMITTEE ON INTERCHURCH RELATIONS. ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. NEW SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. EDUCATION FOR A SHARED MINISTRY. EKKLESİYAR YAN'UWA A NIGERIA. BIBLE QUEST CURRICULUM. BRETHERN MISSION HOUSE. ACADEMY CERTIFIED TRAINING SYSTEMS. NEWSLINE. GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS FUND. PERSPECTIVE SERIES. SISTER CHURCHES. STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION. IN OUR MIDST. YOUTH PEACE TRAVEL TEAM. SOURCE PACKET. EMERGENCY RESPONSE/SERVICE MINISTRIES. PUBLIC INFORMATION. GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE. JUBILEE CURRICULUM. EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND. FOR ALL WHO MINISTER. INTERPRETATION. WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAMS. BOOK PUBLISHING. WORLD MISSION OFFERING. PARTNERS IN ACCOMPANIMENT. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM. BRETHERN REMINDER. PEOPLE OF GOD'S PEACE. □ THE GENERAL BOARD ALSO WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FOLLOWING: BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. ANNUAL CONFERENCE. CHURCH WORLD SERVICE. MISIÓN CRISTIANA, NICARAGUA. KULP BIBLE COLLEGE, NIGERIA. WORLD FRIENDSHIP CENTER, JAPAN. AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES. OUTDOOR MINISTRY ASSOCIATION. BRETHERN BENEFIT TRUST. CROP. WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY. INTER-AGENCY FORUM. SERRY INTERNATIONAL. ALL-AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES. ON EARTH PEACE. ASSOCIATION OF BRETHERN CAREGIVERS. MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. BRETHERN ENCYCLOPEDIA. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT, HONDURAS. CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST LEADERSHIP. INDIA BRETHERN. HILLCREST SCHOOL, NIGERIA. AMERICAN RED CROSS. BRETHERN REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. NEW LIFE MINISTRIES. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST. COUNCIL OF DISTRICT EXECUTIVES. CENTER FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT. IGLESIA CRISTIANA PENTECOSTAL DE CUBA. BRETHERN COLLEGES ABROAD. THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF NORTHERN NIGERIA. INTERCHURCH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. BELIEVERS CHURCH BIBLE COMMENTARY. HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL. MASON TECHNICAL SCHOOL, NIGERIA. CUBA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. BRETHERN EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION. COMPAÑEROS EN MINISTERIO. BRETHERN FOUNDATION. MEAT CANNING PROJECT. RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM, NIGERIA. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY. CWS IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE PROGRAMS. THE CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA. ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARTS. EYN SECONDARY SCHOOL, NIGERIA.

No one can lay  
any foundation  
other than  
the one that  
has been laid;



that foundation  
is Jesus Christ.

– I Corinthians 3:11



in grants in late May and June.

An allocation of \$87,582 will support ministries in southern Sudan. The funds will be used to continue several projects and initiate new ones in some communities. New projects include support for women's development, schools, a mosquito net project, and the purchase of laundry and bathing soap.

The second grant, for \$40,000, will support a Church World Service appeal for the work of UNICEF in Iraq. More about the grant is included under Worldwatch.

**ABC adopts new mission statement and strategic plan**

The Association of Brethren Caregivers board in April approved a new mission statement for the denominational agency.

The new mission statement is: "The Association of Brethren Caregivers fosters the ministry of giving and receiving care, as modeled by Jesus and embraced by the Church of the Brethren, through the development of resources, programs, events, and leadership that connect and undergird persons and communities in their lifelong journeys toward wholeness."

"As this mission statement was developed, the board and staff discussed how important it is for our ministry to follow Jesus' model of both giving and receiving care," says board chair Bentley Peters.

The new mission statement emerged from a vision and planning process the board began last March that also yielded a new vision statement and four areas of strategic focus: advocacy, empowerment, relationship and stewardship. With those pieces in place, the board directed the staff to interpret the areas of strategic focus while preparing a strategic plan for the board's next meeting in September.

**1. Burbank, Ohio.** This year's Youth Peace Travel Team of Carle Gaier (North Manchester, Ind.), Ben Kreider (Lawn, Pa.), Chris Palsgrove (New Windsor, Md.), and Daniel Radcliff (Elgin, Ill.) held orientation the week of June 17 at Camp Inspiration Hills in Northern Ohio District. The group stayed at Inspiration Hills another week to lead junior high camp there, then headed to Annual Conference, several camps in the western US, and National Youth Conference.

**2. Iraq.** The General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund review committee recently approved a grant of \$40,000 to support a Church World Service appeal for the work of UNICEF in Iraq, whose economy and infrastructure have been devastated by more than a decade of United Nations sanctions. The funds will be used to train volunteers to monitor the health of malnourished children, teach mothers to care for newborns, study infant-feeding practices, and provide community clinic services.

**3. Southwestern Virginia.** An Emergency Disaster Fund grant will send \$20,000 to aid a Church of the Brethren Emergency Response/Service Ministries flash flood recovery project in Buchanan County, Va. The funds will help an emergency team with cleanup, home repair, and possible reconstruction of footbridges washed away in severe spring flooding. Virgina and West Marva districts have also raised more than \$10,000 through a special relief offering.

**4. Amwell, N.J.** The Amwell Church of the Brethren, one of the oldest in the denomination, on June 2 held a Day of

Reconciliation in conjunction with the Brethren Church of Amwell, celebrating cooperation between the two congregations. George Gallup Jr. of the Gallup Poll served as keynote speaker for the day, and Church of the Brethren General Board general secretary Judy Mills Reimer and Atlantic Northeast District executive Craig Smith were among others participating.

**5. Puerto Rico.** The 16th annual island-wide assembly of Brethren in Puerto Rico was held at the Vega Baja Church of the Brethren May 31 to June 1 under the leadership of moderator Fausto Carrasco. Business included discussion of involvement in the newly formed Building Better Lives Together Inc. consortium within Atlantic Southeast District and approval of a budget of \$27,690.

**6. New Windsor, Md.** The Brethren Service Center received two awards recently: The League of Women Voters of Carroll County presented an award for outstanding international community service on behalf of the organizations at the center, and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce presented a Golden Apple Award for "an organization exemplifying positive character."

**7. Nigeria.** The General Board's Nigeria workcamp has been scheduled for Jan. 18 to Feb. 16, 2003. An annual workcamp to Nigeria has been held since 1985, with Jeff Mummau serving as workcamp coordinator. Anticipated cost is \$2,150. More details are available at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) or by contacting Global Mission Partnerships at [mission\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:mission_gb@brethren.org) or 800-323-803.



# Moved by the *SPIRIT*, *COMPELLED* by the Issues

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2002

### Getting down to business

*Homosexuality and a name change head a list of contentious issues brought to Annual Conference*

by Walt Wiltschek

Like a horse at the end of the Kentucky Derby, Annual Conference delegates may have left Louisville feeling whipped and worn out. With a packed agenda filled with many of the denomination's most contentious issues, few people may have left this year's Conference feeling happy and energized about the state of the church.

Indeed, moderator Paul Grout frequently challenged those attending about the condition of the North American church in general and the Church of the Brethren in particular. A focus on issues rather than on Christ, Grout said, is tearing the US church apart.

In that spirit, he called on the assembly to speak with Christlike attitudes and respect during deliberations. The 900-plus delegates—one-third of whom were serving in that role for the first time—generally did so.

"These in some ways can be difficult days," Grout said in remarks before the first main business session. "I find that with all that is before us, we are being driven into prayer—perhaps in ways we haven't been in years."

Grout noted in Standing Committee meetings and again in the main business sessions that the confluence of business items this year was notable. While delegates tackled controversial items such as the licensing and ordination of homosexuals and dialog on the denomination's name, the agenda also included a resolution on healing broken relations with the Brethren Church of Ashland, Ohio, and a call to a renewed emphasis on prayer.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that these are coming to us now," Grout said. "I begged us to get down on our knees, and now we're being driven down to our knees."

Repentance and prayer formed a central part of Grout's message, both during business and in the two worship services at which he spoke. Grout used ashes as a symbol of this attitude, inviting Conferencegoers to sprinkle themselves with them at the Saturday evening worship, and pouring ashes over his own head as business began.

Grout also expressed a desire to seek a spirit of unity on all the issues before the Conference, but, with the parliamentary procedures to which he was subject, that often proved difficult.

Only the Brethren Church resolution, which asks forgiveness for the stubbornness and brokenness that caused the two groups to divide in the 1880s and has strained relations since, received enthusiastic, unanimous support from the delegate body.

The unified vote brought a spontaneous round of applause. "It took us 120 years to get here," said delegate Paul Steiner of Mountville, Pa., who holds joint ordination in the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren Church. "This is a grand day!"

On other issues, however—most notably the queries on the denomination's name and one on the ordination and licensing of homosexual persons, long lines of Brethren went to the microphones for debate in which strong feelings were sometimes evident. Both votes narrowly received the needed margin for approval of Standing Committee's recommendations.

In considering the two denominational name queries, which were handled together, those both in favor of and against examination and discussion of the denomination's name spoke passionately about their feelings. A substitute motion to affirm the current name and return the queries was ruled out of order.

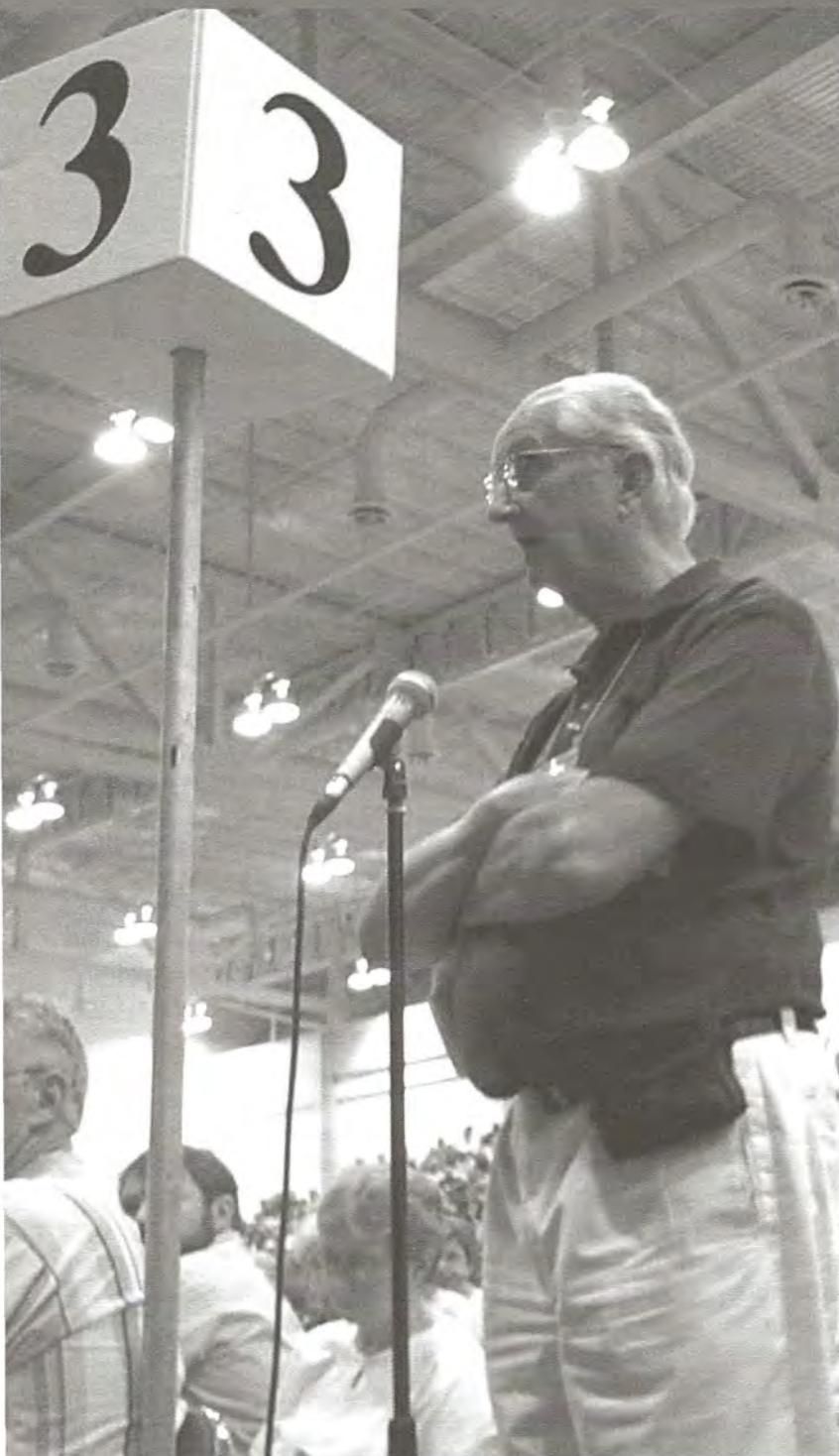
Dale Brown of Elizabethtown, Pa., expressed a

"I FIND THAT WITH ALL THAT IS BEFORE US, WE ARE BEING DRIVEN INTO PRAYER—PERHAPS IN WAYS WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN YEARS."—Paul Grout

Annual Conference volunteer Anne Myers signals the Conference officers from the tellers' table.

Moderator Paul Grout prepares to open a business session as delegates find their seats.

Eddie Edmonds



Jim Garber, of North Manchester, Ind., was one of many who rose to respond to the query on the licensing and ordination of homosexual persons.

concern that, "in terms of our differences, we're not talking with each other... The church will win if we get differing sides together."

Eventually, delegates gave a slight majority to calling a five-person study committee to promote "a denomination-wide dialog" on the denomination's name and report back to Conference in 2003. The committee members are Ben Barlow, Jeff Carter, Alberto Gonzalez, Shawn Kirchner, and Shirley McCracken Spire.

On the homosexuality query, which required a two-thirds majority, many viewpoints, questions, and points of order were again raised.

Delegates ultimately approved Standing Committee's recommendation to affirm the 1983 Human Sexuality paper, topping the needed margin by less than 40 votes. The answer to the Northern Ohio query further states that "it is inappropriate to license or ordain to the Christian ministry any persons who are known to be engaging in homosexual practices" and that such licensings or ordinations should not be recognized.

Disunity was evident even before Conference ended, as dozens of Brethren stood during part of the closing worship service on Wednesday as a silent protest against the decision.

Some additional controversy arose earlier in the week when Grout began business by lamenting the presence of a large US flag hanging at the back of the main hall. He contrasted it with the Conference logo banner at the front of the hall. "I don't face that banner," Grout said. "I face another banner, and I'm not sure quite what to do. I find myself in conflict even as we begin... When we focus on the kingdom of God, these become confusing symbols."



Regina Bryan

"I PRAY THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE ME WITH A DISCERNING AND UNDERSTANDING HEART SO THAT I MIGHT KNOW HOW TO CARRY OUT MY DUTIES AS A SERVANT AMONG THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN." —Chris Bowman

Andi Hammond-Chaffin and Mackenzie Bucher enjoy some playtime in grades K-2 children's activities.

Grout said that the convention center declined a request to take it down, but he would later consider a motion to "suspend business until that symbol is gone" if the holiness and attitude of the Conference demanded it. Later in the week, Grout apologized if his comments about the flag had offended anyone and asked for a time of silence and prayer, saying he was speaking from a precedent set by then-moderator Dan West at a Louisville Conference in the 1960s and by what Grout hoped was God's leading. No motion came to suspend business or remove the flag, and it remained hanging through the week.

Long microphone lines again formed quickly when a General Board recommendation on India relationships came to the floor as the final item on the agenda Wednesday morning. The paper recommended working with two groups in India—maintaining the denomination's partnership with the Church of North India while also seeking to build relationships with Brethren who have separated from CNI and wish for separate recognition.

With time running down, however, and many delegates indicating they didn't feel they had enough information to make a decision, delegate John Huffaker rose to a point of privilege and moved to table the item for further study. The motion received the necessary majority, and the recommendation was tabled. No additional timeline or directive was given.

Other business, however, went more routinely. Delegates gave strong majorities to adopting new guidelines on continuing education and sabbath rest for ministers, though a few expressed reservations that small churches would not be able to afford them. An amendment to the continuing education paper added a section on those serving



Regina Bryan

To loosen up before the business session begins, delegates flap their arms and join in a round of "I'll Fly Away."

in specialized ministries.

A recommendation to ask the Annual Conference Council to "direct a revision and update" of existing statements related to church moderators and report back in 2003 passed easily, as did an unfinished business item that updates discipleship and reconciliation polity. It calls for districts and congregations to use a model of "Shalom Teams," which will work at conflict resolution tasks of consulting, assessment, educating, and mentoring.

Delegates also affirmed a renewed emphasis on prayer in the denomination as an answer to the Mid-Atlantic District query "A Call to Prayer." The Standing Committee recommendation also carried instruction that new resources be developed and that one hour be set aside at the 2003 Annual Conference in Boise, Idaho, for sharing on the blessings prayer has brought over the past year.

Conference lived out a bit of that call as it met this year, with one business session including a lengthy period of "prayers for a hurting world," led by Grout, and a moving song performed by Shawn Kirchner. The time included the ringing of a bell from the Louisville fire department in part to remember the pain of Sept. 11.

Business sessions opened with a time of humor and comedy to help lighten the heavy mood of the

Moderator Paul Grout, who created the 2002 Conference logo and banner, enjoys a laugh as some humor is shared before Wednesday's closing business session.



Conference, including a look at characteristics of "You Might Be a Brethren If..." as well as with songs and prayer to call the body to spiritual centering and discernment.

A joyous welcome was also given to several international Church of the Brethren leaders from Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Nigeria—faith communities that Grout said can now teach the North American church what it means to live in the kingdom of God.

Numerous reports were heard from Annual Conference agencies, ecumenical bodies, and other groups. A special presentation titled "Christ Alive: The Story of the Church"—planned by the team of Lee Krähenbühl, Erin Matteson, and Frank Ramirez—opened business Sunday to provide an overview of Church of the Brethren ministries.

Standing Committee gave a recap of its meetings during the week, and shared an update from the Annual Conference Council that included consideration of a request from New Life Ministries for reportability to Annual Conference. The council "was not of one mind" according to Conference secretary Cathy Huffman, and did not reach any decision. The Council plans to discuss the matter again in August.

Among other reports, Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee announced Cleveland, Ohio, as the 2007 Annual Conference site; the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee recommended a 1.2-percent increase to the pastoral salary scale for 2003, which was approved; and the Annual Conference 300th Anniversary Committee announced a theme for the 2008 Conference: "Surrendered to God, Transformed by Christ, Empowered by the Holy Spirit." 



Christopher Bowman

## Bowman chosen moderator-elect

Delegates at the 2002 Annual Conference in Louisville called Christopher Bowman of Curryville, Pa., pastor of Martinsburg (Pa.) Memorial Church of the Brethren, as moderator-elect. Bowman will assist moderator Harriet Finney in the coming year as Conference heads to Boise, Idaho, and will serve as moderator for the 2004 Annual Conference in Charleston, W.Va.

Bowman, 39, is one of the youngest moderators elected in recent years. He served as chair of the General Board in the mid-1990s, charting the agency's course through its redesign process.

"I pray that God will provide me with a discerning and understanding heart so that I might know how to carry out my duties as a servant among the Church of the Brethren—this chosen and beloved people of God," Bowman said.

Fred Swartz of Manassas, Va., was called as Conference secretary, which will bring an end to his 23-year run as editor of the Conference Journal information sheet. Judy Epps of Runnells, Iowa, was chosen as the new member of Program and Arrangements Committee.

### Those elected to other offices were as follows:

- General Board: At-large, Frank Ramirez; Northern Plains, Jeff Neuman-Lee; Oregon/Washington, Janet Stutzman; Pacific Southwest, Angela Lahman Yoder. (Warren Eshbach, chair; Donna Shumate, vice chair; Glenn Mitchell, Jan Thompson, Merle Crouse, and Jill Best were selected to Executive Committee during reorganization).
- On Earth Peace board: Phil Jones (Brenda Wilkinson was re-elected by OEP membership, and the appointment of Gilbert Bond was affirmed).
- Association of Brethren Caregivers board: Brian S. Black, Katherine Ramsey Melhorn (affirmation also came for appointed members Wally Landes, Diane Harden, and Allegra Hess).
- Bethany Theological Seminary board: representing colleges, Carol A. Scheppard; representing the ministry, Marla Bieber Abe.
- Brethren Benefit Trust board: Harry S. Rhodes (BBT Pension Plan members elected Steve Mason to represent the agencies and appointed Richard Pogue with Conference affirmation).
- Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee: Manny Diaz.
- Committee on Interchurch Relations: Michael Hostetter.
- Standing Committee elected Jim Myer, Kathy Hess, Harold Yeager, and Jim Beckwith to its Nominating Committee, joining four continuing members. —Walt Wiltschek



Worship speakers, from left: Valentina Satvedi, Gene Roop, Tex Sample.

## Somber worship themes emphasize repentance and grace

by Eric Miller

In the wake of Sept. 11 and with some difficult and potentially divisive issues on the agenda, the tone of Annual Conference worship was more somber and reflective than in some recent years.

Moderator Paul Grout addressed the opening and closing worship services with a message of repentance. In the opening worship on Saturday evening, he began in silence, assembling and lifting up a wooden cross. "The church," he said, "is being destroyed by those who assume they hold the spiritual and moral high ground."

We come to Conference as liberal and conservative Christians, but in reality are much the same, he said. We continue to hope for a return to the church of the 1950s, but we must "forget about the 1950s church; it has nothing to do with the kingdom of God."

The call to repentance requires that we recognize that the church needs repentance. "The North American church is in trouble. But make no mistake; the kingdom of God is not." The opening service concluded with an invitation: those who felt called to say "I'm sorry" came forward to where Grout had assembled the cross, sprinkled ash from the burned-down church in Kano, Nigeria, over themselves, and pinned sackcloth to their clothes as signs of repentance.

On Sunday morning, an all-Conference Sunday school before worship drew about 1,000 people. Three speakers led the assembly to reflect upon three parables. Tara Hornbacker made bread dough while discussing the parable of the leaven (Matt. 13:33).

The parable "is not about the smallness of the yeast. It's about the miracle of God that gives growth," she said.

Kelly Burk reflected upon the parable of the laborers in the vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16). If we have a problem with the actions of the landowner, she said, it is with the fact that he chose to be generous with those who only did a little work. In a society that highly values fairness, "generosity is often considered unjust." The parable teaches us that God loves us, she concluded.

Finally, Jim Myer spoke on the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). "The father," he said, "is a picture of amazing grace." Myer noted that the father did not run after his son or offer to change the terms to convince him to stay, but when the son repented, the father ran ahead of him. "Grace doesn't operate on my terms," he said. "We are wrong if we think we can experience grace without repentance."

Preachers throughout the week continued to call the Brethren to a deeper, truer commitment to Christ. Many addressed the need to live in the kingdom of God. In "Two Songs to Sing," Gene Roop, president of Bethany Theological Seminary, preached that the church has to sing both a song that expresses our fear and mourning and a second that takes us beyond fear and sadness into victory, joy, and triumph.

"These days threaten our church, our lives," but he noted that this is not new. The church faced the danger of splitting over the Civil War and over service

"GRACE DOESN'T OPERATE ON MY TERMS, WE ARE WRONG IF WE THINK WE CAN EXPERIENCE GRACE WITHOUT REPENTANCE." —Jim Myer

Regina Bryan



Bethany Theological Seminary professor Tara Hornbacker uses baking bread as a metaphor in an all-Conference "Sunday school" Bible study session.

Regina Bryan



Dave Ingold expresses his thanks to Duane and Jeannine Steiner at a special reception.

in the military during World War I. Though at times fear will not let us go, the church must sing the song of triumph as well as the song of fear, for "Jesus has been raised from the dead."

Valentina Satvedi, pastor of the South Bay Community Church of the Brethren, Redondo Beach, Calif., preached a story-filled sermon entitled "The Heart of the Matter." Like eagles trying to live out our lives as chickens, she said, "we fail to understand truly who we are called to be." Unlike us, Jesus unfailingly represented the kingdom of God, she said. "Jesus stood in his environment but did not change color.... He never gave up being who he was called to be. We try to blend in."

Jesus was trying to wake people up to the kingdom of God. "Jesus said that the kingdom of God is among us." We cannot see it because we think that we know all there is to know about it and are already doing all that we should do. She emphasized the need do more than just be compassionate, pointing out the need to be with Jesus in prayer and to live

## Farewell to Duane Steiner, "a class act"

For 10 years, the steady hand of Annual Conference executive director Duane Steiner has guided the yearly meeting of the Church of the Brethren through both the storm and the calm. At an afternoon reception in Louisville, old friends and new ones filed through a reception to thank Steiner for his service and wish him well in retirement.

Phill Carlos Archbold, moderator of the 2001 Conference in Baltimore, admired Steiner's ability to accomplish whatever task he was asked to take on.

"He had the administrative and organizing skills to get it done," said Archbold. "You could say X-Y-Z to Brother Duane, and he did it.... He loves the church, he believes in it, and he took his job as administrator as a ministry. He worked behind the scenes for the Lord, and I'm glad he did, and I was blessed to work with him."

New General Board chair Warren Eshbach of Thomasville, Pa., called Steiner "a class act."

"He has brought diplomacy, administrative skills, graciousness, and congeniality to this position," Eshbach said. "He always spoke with grace and kindness."

Steiner, a member of the York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Ill., will continue to work through November and will be joined in October by his successor, Lerry Fogle of Frederick, Md. Fogle officially assumes the duties of executive director in December.

Fogle brings 27 years of business experience, a management degree, and 15 years of ministry experience as a pastor.

As Conference director, Fogle will coordinate Annual Conference, work with the Program and Arrangements Committee and Annual Conference Council, and interact with the Annual Conference officers.

Fogle said he enters the job this fall with "high expectations" and has a good base to build upon.

"I plan to come in and continue the fine work that Duane has done," Fogle said. —Angie Mountain and Danielle Hart

"WE ALL CHANGE HISTORY. I WANT YOU TO CHANGE HISTORY POSITIVELY," —Paul Simon

Walt Wiltschek



*Phill Carlos Archbold of Brooklyn, N.Y., shares his passion as he addresses a single adults insight session.*

a life of holiness. "We are called not just to do the work of the kingdom, but to be the kingdom."

Dr. Tex Sample, author and pastor in the United Methodist Church, spoke on "The Upside Down Kingdom" in a message full of vivid illustrations and humor. He said that "one of the fundamental problems of the church is that we always want to take God's story or God's kingdom and put it in another story." God and God's kingdom is always the larger story.

Noting that he loves America, he said that nevertheless "it is very clear to me that my job as a Christian is not to put the Christian story into the American story, but to put the American story in the Christian story. It's very clear to me that when I die, the American eagle will not swoop down to take me to heaven."

He praised the culture of nonviolence of the Church of the Brethren and urged the church to reclaim it. The Brethren peace tradition is "inside of the story of God," he said.

In the closing worship on Wednesday morning, Paul Grout spoke prior to a service of communion. His meditation was illustrated by some of his own artwork as he reminisced on the meaning of being called to the table, both by his mother and by God. He said that when his mother called his brother and him to the table for dinner, they rushed home, not out of obedience, but because they knew there was a place for them.

During his message, people throughout the auditorium stood silently, a statement to the fact that they were hurt and saddened by the Conference vote on the ordination of homosexuals. They did not feel they were welcome at the communion table.

Keith Hollenberg



*Kwanye Ragnjiya and Gwen Brumbaugh Keeney present an insight session on women in the Nigerian church.*

During his message, Grout acknowledged that some at Conference "have even felt that there wasn't a place for us at this table." He said that he himself felt that way at times, but added, "I would like to say to me and to anyone who may feel there is no place for you at this table,... it's not about you and it's not about me. You see, my invitation to this table, your invitation to this table, is not dependent on the grace of others. It is about the grace of God in Jesus Christ."

Referring back to the dinner table of his childhood, he said, "If my family was like the church, there would be no place for my brother and me at the table." Stressing that he was not encouraging sin, he said, "There is a place for everyone at the table, or there is a place for no one." ❧

Eric Miller is a graduate of Juniata College and a member of the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. Since last August he has been living in Beijing, China, as part of a study abroad program for American college students.



Former US Senator Paul Simon, right, greets guests after addressing the Sunday evening Messenger Dinner.

## Speaking of faith

*Selected wisdom from Annual Conference speakers*

by Danielle Hart

Each year at Annual Conference a number of speakers give presentations at insight sessions, worship services, and meals. In Louisville, Ky., with the Conference theme “Thy Kingdom Come,” some of the key speakers’ words dealt with the aftermath of Sept. 11 and the problems facing the church today.

Described by editor Fletcher Farrar as a man whose “actions speak his faith,” former US Senator Paul Simon spoke about “Practical Peacemaking” at the MESSENGER Dinner Sunday evening.

A retired politician and author of 19 books, Simon challenged his listeners to allow their faith to speak through their actions. “We all change history. I want you to change history positively,” he said.

Simon recounted moments in the history of the world where violence was not needed to resolve problems. He spoke of how India gained its independence without bloodshed and how leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, and Nelson Mandela caused a nonviolent revolution to circle the globe.

Simon spoke of times where a simple action by one person changed the outcome of a situation either positively or negatively. “Small things really change the world.”

Timothy Botts, an artist for Tyndale Publishing House and instructor of calligraphy, spreads the word of God through his artwork. “This is a gift God gave me. I am thrilled when I am able to use that gift,” said Botts.

He is known to the Brethren for his calligraphic treatment of the tagline, “Continuing the Work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.” For as long as Botts can remember, he has been drawing pictures. At the Brethren Press Breakfast where Botts spoke,

he presented a colorful slide show of his earliest work up to his most recent. Using his art as a form of worship, Botts uses scripture to create “pictures of words.” It is his way of honoring God’s word.

At the Brethren Volunteer Service Luncheon, Al Herring spoke on “The Heart of Kingdom-Building: The Great Commission.” A frequent leader at BVS orientations and head of diversity programming at the University of Louisville, he emphasized that service is a great opportunity to build community and that everyone has the gift to build communities. “The heart of kingdom-building is community-building.”

Herring believes that God would want the Church of the Brethren to embrace the tough issues, such as gender, race, homosexuality, and ethnicity, and to overcome them together. “It is a passion for me to one day stand in front of a congregation and for it to be a representation of humanity,” said Herring.

Traveling from Nigeria, the president of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria, the Rev. Toma Ragnjiya, discussed “Challenges Facing our Churches—Christ’s Call Today” at the Global Ministries Dinner. As the leader of the Nigerian church, Ragnjiya has helped to bring about much change.

After quoting Romans 12:2, Ragnjiya spoke of the differences and similarities



Bruce Huffman of Rocky Mount, Va., peruses offerings at the Brethren Press bookstore in the exhibit hall.

"IT IS TIME FOR US TO ACT. DON'T JUST SIT THERE, DO SOMETHING," —Rev. Toma Ragnjiya



*Top: A delegate in training? One young Conferencegoer found ways to entertain himself as business debate rolled on; Bottom: Daniel Kline and Laura Van Voorhis spend an afternoon volunteering at a Louisville soup kitchen.*

between the Nigerian church and the US Church of the Brethren. "All of us are witnesses for Christ; that is why we are called Christians," said Ragnjiya.

Even through the differences in the cultures, both churches share many of the same challenges, and he feels that the way forward is for both churches to pray for one another.

Ragnjiya shared specific examples of two different cultures expected to be enemies, Christians and Muslims, working together to live in peace. In times of crisis in Nigeria, he saw Christians protect Muslims and vice versa. "When you are talking about peace, it is possible to have peace in the middle of crisis," said Ragnjiya.

Like Simon, Ragnjiya feels that it is time for Christians to take action. He encouraged each person to be a witness for Christ through peace and evangelism in both churches. "It is time for us to act. Don't just sit there, do something," challenged Ragnjiya.

At the Ecumenical Luncheon Fernando Enns, a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee, spoke of contributions from the historic peace churches to the Decade to Overcome Violence.

Enns addressed the different ideas of peacemaking, differing biblical interpretations, and how some feel that violence is the only way. He feels that this is indeed the decade to overcome violence. "We are together in being deeply shocked about the violence around us," stated Enns. He hopes that together Christians can try to overcome the violence.

Understanding the spirit of violence is vital in overcoming violence, he said. As a peace church, the main question to be asked is, how should the



*Fred Swartz, Harriet Finney, and Chris Bowman are consecrated as Conference secretary, moderator and moderator-elect for the coming year.*

**Church of the Brethren use its power?**

Enns also discussed the role of justice in violence. While some say that there is no justice without peace and others say there is no peace without justice, Enns argued that both must be present. He closed by noting the importance of identity. He said that questioning one's identity or denying one's identity can create violence. Each person needs to have his or her own history or story and be able to tell it freely.

These five speakers, along with the numerous other presenters at Conference, brought fresh ideas on how to overcome violence, to make peace a No. 1 goal, to greet challenges with open arms and minds, and through it all to spread the word of God. 

Danielle Hart, of Roaring Spring, Pa., will be a junior at Juniata College in the fall. She is an intern this summer with Brethren Press, working in news services.



*Paige McGinnis of South Bend, Ind., and other junior high youth helped to assemble school kits for disaster relief.*



*A group of Brethren gathered Tuesday afternoon for a peace witness walk in support of Iraq and other justice concerns.*



Anyone who's been there knows Alaska to be a place of bigness. Big mountains, big plains, big stretches of wilderness, big runs of salmon, herds of caribou, and swarms of mosquitoes, big extremes in temperature and daylight, and big oil reserves. There are also plenty of opinions about what should be done with all this bigness.

A June Faith Expedition to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR, pronounced an-wahr) landed in the middle of this bigness and these big questions. Our group of 13 Brethren made this trip to take a firsthand look at the issues facing God's creation in one of the last remaining unspoiled natural areas left in the United States. We went to learn about the people who have lived in that area for millennia, and whose lives even today are closely bound up with land on which they live. And we also wanted to hear more about the debate over whether there should be oil drilling in ANWR, and what the consequences of such drilling might be on the people and environment of the region.

Our delegation was hosted by the native American community of Arctic Village, a good ways north of the

Arctic Circle and just across the Chandalar River from the Refuge. Although the Gwich'in residents of this small outpost number only around 150, they have assumed a large mantle—they are at the forefront of the effort to stave off oil drilling in the part of the 19.8 million acres of ANWR that is along the coast of the Beaufort Sea.

Environmentalists speak of the pristine beauty of ANWR. In a session with our delegation, Deb Moore of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center called it "the only area of unspoiled Arctic and subarctic wilderness left in the US." The Arctic Tern appreciates the area so much that it migrates there from Antarctica every summer—an odometer-spinning 15,000-mile trip.

The Gwich'in certainly appreciate this aspect of the Refuge, and point out that some 200 species of animals and about as many bird species call the Refuge home. But they have more personal concerns in its preservation—the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Each spring and fall portions of the 130,000 animals in the herd pass by Arctic Village and other Gwich'in com-



# The price of oil

Native American culture is threatened  
by proposed drilling in the Arctic

Article and photos by David Radcliff

*Rockey John, a teenager  
from Arctic Village, surveys his  
(and the caribou's) domain.*

munities during their 400-mile migration to and from the coastal areas of the Refuge. As with all creatures engaged in migratory activity, they aren't simply looking for a change of scenery. They move south in the winter for food after the northern coast is socked in by snow and sub-freezing temperatures. They head back north in the spring to have their calves on the narrow coastal plain, as it is ideally suited for the birthing of as many as 40,000 calves within a two-week span in early summer.

The 125-mile coastal area provides things that maximize the survival possibilities of caribou calves: nutritious food sources, winds to drive away mosquitoes, and broad flat terrain that enables mother caribou to spot predators literally "a mile away."

The Gwich'in of Arctic Village never hunt the caribou during this part of their migratory sojourn. Indeed, they consider this area of the Refuge to be sacred territory, and won't go there even in times of severe food shortages.

It's in late July that they start looking for signs of the herd beginning its southward trek through their area. The

hunters always let the leaders pass by unmolested. "We trust that they'll be the ones to bring the herds through again next year," said Charlie Swaney, the organizer of our visit and one of the community's best hunters. Charlie's family alone may need a dozen caribou to make it through the year, as this meat can comprise as much as 85 percent of the Gwich'in diet.

Care is taken not to shoot those caribou with calves, and to receive the taken animals thankfully. Returning hunters share meat with single mothers and elders of the community, both as a gesture of compassion and to ensure good fortune on future hunts.

The hunt is a total-village experience, with families setting up camp and everyone having roles to play. And every part of the caribou is utilized. "I hear of people just shooting animals for their antlers, and I just can't believe it!" Charlie says incredulously. The community will hope to take several hundred animals, using them for food, clothing, tools, and craft items.

"Culturally, spiritually, physically, socially, we're

“ We are trying to protect this area for all people; we believe that once this area goes, it is the beginning of the end for humankind. ”



reliant on the caribou,” says Faith Gemmill of the Gwich’in Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was established after a watershed 1988 meeting of Gwich’in from Canada and Alaska held in Arctic Village. The gathering cemented the tribe’s opposition to proposals for oil drilling in ANWR.

They were deeply concerned that the drilling would disrupt the caribou that come to the plain to give birth to their young, as the mothers are sensitive to outside threats during that critical period. If the caribou were forced to take refuge in the nearby mountains of the Brooks Range, they would be much more susceptible to marauding bears and insects, and without access to the nutritious vegetation of the plain.

But the elders wouldn’t tolerate advocacy at any cost—they insisted that any voices that were raised be done so respectfully and reasonably. “Go and tell the American people why this area is so important for us,” they instructed the eight-person Steering Committee gathered from four regions. “Do it in a good way, and we will be successful.”

Thus, the battle was joined. On the pro-drilling side is a coalition of oil companies, many Alaskans (including the state’s congressional delegation), the current national administration, and even some native people. Opposing

the drilling are the Gwich’in, other Alaskans, and a range of environmental, religious, and human rights groups.

At stake is the remaining 10 percent of North Slope Alaskan coastline; 90 percent is already opened to drilling as part of the National Petroleum Reserve. This remaining section is estimated to hold three to six billion barrels of oil that is economically feasible to extract—or the equivalent of what the US population currently consumes in six months. This area was given a special designation within ANWR in 1980 as an area set aside for study as an ecological area and a potential petroleum source. It’s been a bone of contention ever since.

While drilling proponents point out that caribou have coexisted with the Prudhoe Bay oilfields for decades, opponents note that the Central Arctic Herd in that area is only one-fifth the size of the Porcupine Herd and has five times more space to range. A US Fish and Wildlife Service report during the Reagan administration claimed that if there were drilling in ANWR, “the expected displacement and reduction of wildlife populations and natural processes in the area would cause a major reduction in its value as a pristine area.”

Gwich’in elders foresee even greater stakes if the ANWR is exploited and its caribou affected. “We are trying to protect this area for all people; we believe that once this area goes, it is the beginning of the end for humankind,” they stated in their 1988 gathering. “We were put here by the Creator to take care of this part of the world,” said Sarah James, in a session with our group. Sarah is perhaps the most well-known ANWR advocate and was the recent recipient of a \$130,000 Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World award.

“Their life and their communities, their traditions and their language, revolve around the caribou herds,” noted Sam Demientieff of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Fairbanks. “Before outsiders came here, the native people used the whole state for hunting and gathering. There are Indian names for all the bends in the river, the mountains, the hunting areas. And we’ve broken every treaty we’ve ever made with them concerning the use of this land. Currently



Several varieties of lichen serve as snow-covered food caches for caribou during the winter. Charlie Swaney explains the differences to Dorothy Wolf and Mary Kay Turner.

*Sarah James stands guard over ANWR on behalf of her people, calling the preservation of the Porcupine Herd a human rights issue as well as an environmental concern.*

the state government is opposed to the subsistence way of life the natives have always lived.”

Before this, it was the teachers and missionaries who affected native communities. The very existence of schools caused previously nomadic groups to settle into towns. Another effect of the arrival of formal education was that native languages were forbidden to be spoken in classrooms—a practice still in place as recently as within the past decade (with the penalty of rulers across knuckles or paddles to behinds).

Missionaries often made converts cut their hair and give up their language and other cultural expressions. Previously unknown diseases brought inadvertently by outsiders sometimes killed half the people in a given village, including many of the elders and other leaders who are counted on to guide the community. All this has led to tremendous identity confusion by native people in Alaska—as elsewhere in the world.

“The turmoil is tremendous,” commented Demientieff. “They are separated from their lands and their traditions, and then in some cases are given lots of money at one time as payout from oil revenues. They don’t know how to deal with all these changes.” This is one reason suicide and rates of alcoholism are even higher among native people in Alaska than in native communities in the Lower 48 states.

Residents of Arctic Village are Episcopalian, and see their faith as an important and integral part of their life. Why did they adopt Christianity so readily more than 100 years ago when visited by missionaries?

“It was a natural fit because of its emphasis on fairness, and it told us that there was more to this life than meets the eye,” explained Joel Dritt, the Second Chief in the village.

There is also more to the issue of drilling in ANWR than meets the eye. It is not just about caribou and energy production. It is also about a way of life. Biologists estimate that the Porcupine Herd has made its annual migration to and from the coastal area for 50,000 years. Anthropologists reckon that the Gwich’in have interacted with the caribou for 10,000 years. “Our belief is that we have been here forever,” states Sarah James. “Our lives and the caribou’s lives began here.”

And Faith Gemmill: “We and the caribou were created together; they were given a part of our heart, and we a part of theirs. Our destinies are therefore linked. What happens to them, happens to us.”

The 1994 Annual Conference statement “Community: A Tribe of Many Feathers” calls on the denomination to support the rights of indigenous people, while working toward more understanding of native culture and building relationships with native communities. The plight of the Gwich’in people

provides the church an opportunity to make good on the commitments it made in that paper, while at the same time being blessed by their ancient yet quite relevant understandings of our relationship with God’s earth and with one another.

As members of the Church of the Brethren, our destiny may also be linked to that of these Christian brothers and sisters. It is, after all, our consuming ways that are a cause for the threats to ANWR. It is our culture that has so affected theirs. Yet it is their reverence for the land and attentiveness to the rhythms of God’s earth that could help us find our way toward a more sustainable future. So as they invite us to join in their struggle for survival, we may be finding a way toward our own as well. **M**

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



Allison Panigeo wears the community's credo on her shirt: “Caribou is our life.”

## What you can do

- Study the 1994 Annual Conference statement “Community: A Tribe of Many Feathers.”
- Reduce pressure for drilling in ANWR by reducing fossil fuel consumption (drive less, buy less, adjust the thermostat).
- As a congregation, take part in a Turn Down the Heat Sunday (fewer cars driven to worship).
- Participate in a Faith Expedition or workcamp trip to a native American community sponsored by the Brethren Witness or Youth Ministries offices of the General Board.
- Take part in an advocacy campaign being launched by the Brethren Witness office on behalf of the Gwich’in people.
- Contact the Brethren Witness office for more information on the opportunities listed above.

# PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

A profile of Nigeria mission coordinators John and Janet Tubbs

by Janis Pyle



Anyone interested in success at long-term mission assignments might do well to study the life philosophies of Janet and John Tubbs. For the past eight years they have quietly served in Nigeria for the Church of the Brethren General Board, the past three as mission co-coordinators.

Without fuss or fanfare, on a moment's notice, they are able to preach a sermon to an international delegation, nurse a malaria

patient back to health, fix a car, repair a computer, cut hair, balance a tight budget, make mango jam, or counsel a lonely Brethren worker.

Though they live in a cozy house in a picturesque compound called Boulder Hill, they are constantly on the go.

They supervise Church of the Brethren personnel at Hillcrest School in Jos and the Secondary School at the EYN (Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria—the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) Headquarters

400 miles away near Mubi. Somehow they remain calm figures while dust storms, monsoon rains, and a nation's political unrest swirl around them.

They stay centered, Janet said, by following a cardinal rule: "If you spend 80 percent of your time in self care, it's amazing what you can do in the other 20 percent." She explained: "In Nigeria, self care includes your health (spiritual/mental/physical) and your relationships with people. It precedes everything else when the climate and culture are new and you are separated from family and all things familiar."

John and Janet are the first point of contact with Nigeria for most short- and long-term mission staff. Rebekah Helsel, a BVS teacher at EYN Headquarters, remembered them waving a warm welcome when she landed at the airport in Abuja, the capital. She spent her first week in their home learning survival skills. "They were there if I wanted to talk and gave me space if wanted to be alone," she said. John Braun, Seattle, Wash., on a recent EYN pastoral exchange assignment, called their hospitality "the gift of availability to people."

In a rare combination, their managerial skills are on par with their interpersonal ones. John handles all of the EYN monies from the US Church of the Brethren. Janet contributes to countless Hillcrest School and Pineview Hostel board meetings. Together they design complex itineraries for visitors. For example, they planned the 10-day itinerary for the US Annual Conference moderator delegation and traveled more than 1,000 miles with the group.



Janis Pyle

Janet Tubbs, right, with Rebekah Helsel, a Brethren Volunteer Service teacher at the EYN Secondary School.



*John and Janet Tubbs at the chapel at Kulp Bible College near Mubi, Nigeria.*

## Take your time A day with Janet and John Tubbs

I woke up later than I had anticipated on April 11. I was accompanying 2002 Annual Conference moderator Paul Grout and his wife, Dorothy, on a two-week trip to Nigeria. No matter that I was going on three days with virtually no sleep, I felt I had a job to do: to capture the wondrous sights of Nigeria and to record the news events of the Majalisa, the EYN Annual Conference.

My plan had been to rise at dawn, and here it was almost 9 a.m. "I let you sleep," Janet Tubbs said. Before I could respond, she said simply: "God blesses preparation. You have come to Nigeria prepared. You have your camera, your film, your notepads and pen, and your story plans. If we go quietly through the day together, you'll get all of the photos and quotes that you need."

I wanted to believe her, but I also wanted to get going. Then she urged me to spend the time to prepare for the day. When I was fully ready, we began a half-mile walk to the site of the Majalisa. Of course, I wanted to hasten the journey, but there were people to greet every hundred yards or so. After we had stopped to chat for the third time, she explained: "In Nigeria, you must establish a relationship, whether it's a 60-second one or a very long one, before you proceed with any kind of agenda. Even if you want to ask a stranger for directions on the road, you first take time to greet. There are many things you have to do to get involved and in touch with the culture or no one will take you seriously."

As we walked, we also came across plenty of photo opportunities: fields dotted with mango trees, goats and long-horned cattle driven by nomadic Fulani herdsmen, children at play along the road. Janet patiently held my bags of belongings whenever I wanted to stop. "Take your time, snap away," she said.

At the conference site, we met up with John. We chatted over a leisurely breakfast at another guest house; food had been saved for us. Before lunch we visited the Majalisa and took tea with two mission families in their homes. "A 12 noon lunch is seldom observed," John reminded me. Janet and John were teaching me to slow down.

In the afternoon, I had plenty of time to myself to pursue my stories. In the evening, we were part of the official US delegation attending worship. All in the day's work, John introduced Paul Grout, the featured speaker, to the assembly.

After the service, lengthier than US ones and without the luxury of air conditioning, we were tired and thirsty traveling back to our guesthouse. John had an idea. "Should we ride into town and get an ice cold Pepsi?" He knew a place that was open at a late hour. No objections from Janet and me. "We never hesitate to take care of ourselves, too," he said. —Janis Pyle

"We never try to be 'one up' on anyone. We always try to be 'one down.' It is amazing how well things go when you have your servant shoes on."

It is not by accident that they move easily from task to task. "God blesses preparation," Janet said, employing a phrase she uses in many contexts (see accompanying article).

They met in Durango, Colo., Janet's hometown, during their junior year in high school when John's family moved there from the panhandle of Texas. They graduated from Durango High School in 1959 and were married Aug. 13, 1960. They have four grown children and six grandchildren.

John's degree is a bachelor of arts in religion from Waylon Baptist University. They pastored Church of the Brethren congregations in Colorado and Nebraska before beginning their employment as teachers at Mason Technical School in Garkida, Nigeria in April 1995. Since then, they've made their home in Africa.

Their practical skills abound. Janet grew up in a second-generation American family of Italian ancestry. "We killed and butchered 90 percent of our own meat, grew a big garden, preserved much of



John Tubbs loves people and attracts a crowd wherever he goes.

our own food, and cooked from scratch," she said. She also went to a cosmetology college right out of high school and drove a school bus for 15 years. To handle medical emergencies, she even got a licensed practical nursing (LPN) certificate before they went to Nigeria and took a tropical medicine course there.

"We don't have the luxury of Wal-Mart or Home Depot, so we have to be creative," John said. He is skilled in electricity, plumbing, computers, auto repair, carpentry, and house framing. He tells the story of the time Janet broke the wooden handle of her spatula. He said: "You cannot buy a spatula in Nigeria. After looking at the broken handle, I decided that I would fix it." He tore apart an old ballast from a fluorescent lamp and salvaged the sewing thread-size copper wire inside. He then wrapped the copper wire around the broken handle and glued it with super glue. Good as new.

Paul Grout, this year's moderator, was impressed with the Tubbs's overall adaptations to the culture, in both practical and spiritual ways. "They have seen the beauty of Africa and its people, but they have been there long enough not to have a romantic view of life there," he said. "They understand what's going on there." He also observed: "They combine a passion for honoring God, a passion for living out their faith, and a passion for serving others."

Janet offered this philosophy of life: "We never try to be 'one up' on anyone. We always try to be 'one down.' It is amazing how well things go when you have your servant shoes on." 

Janis Pyle is coordinator for mission connections, Global Mission Partnerships, for the General Board.

## FALL 2002 TOURS

IRELAND (September 20 - October 1)

FALL FOLIAGE TOUR in NEW ENGLAND  
(October 8-14)

SERVICE TOUR to ISRAEL (NAZARETH VILLAGE)  
(October 25 - November 7)

VIETNAM (November 6-24)

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TOUR to PENNSYLVANIA  
(November 28 - December 3)

## 2003 TOURS

JAMAICA SERVICE TOUR  
(January 24 - February 2)

PARAGUAY SERVICE TOUR (April 3-17)

RUSSIA and UKRAINE (May 23 - June 6)

From PENNSYLVANIA to ONTARIO  
(May 28 - June 2)

In the FOOTSTEPS of the APOSTLE PAUL  
(May 30 - June 15)

EUROPEAN HERITAGE (June 9-25)

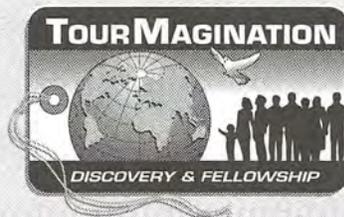
CHINA (June - TBA)

ALASKA (June 25 - July 7)

MAJESTIC CANADIAN ROCKIES (July 7-20)

MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE  
(AFRICA 2003) (8 tours offered in August)

GERMANY and SWITZERLAND  
(October 9-23)



"Building bridges among Mennonites and other Christians  
around the world through custom-designed travel."

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN A TOURMAGINATION TOUR IN 2002 & 2003

CALL 1-800-565-0451

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

E-MAIL: [office@tourmagination.com](mailto:office@tourmagination.com)  
WEB: [www.tourmagination.com](http://www.tourmagination.com)

9 Willow Street  
Waterloo, ON, Canada N2J 1V6  
Reg. #1567624

1011 Cothill Road  
Sellersville, PA, USA  
18960

## Gone, but not forgotten



Iraq. 500,000 children perished . . .  
and counting



Sudan. Two million dead . . . and  
millions more suffering

The Global Food Crisis Fund  
has pledged over \$120,000 in  
aid to Iraq and Sudan this  
year. Help us help them.

Global Food Crisis Fund, 1451 Dundee Ave.;  
Elgin, IL 60120; 800.323.8039 or  
[www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org), keyword: witness

*“ Yet, as I look at the deep need for leadership in our denomination, I feel sure that we need to be open to the idea that God is about to do something very new. ”*

## Poetry and prayer

I've just been reading the July issue, and want to commend you on your editorial. It echoes my sentiments, and I like it for that reason. In addition, I think it well done, and made the more palatable by its salt of humor. It also confirms a youthful intuition of mine embodied in these admittedly naive lines written 55 or 60 years ago. I think of them now with embarrassment, yet am moved by your editorial to recall Paul's admonition to Timothy not to despise his youth:

Prayer is not a mere petition  
Written skillfully by pen,  
Nor an eloquent rendition  
Ended by a stern "amen";

Not alone the grace at noontide  
Done the same year after year,  
Nor the pleading at the bedside  
When a loved one's death is near.

Prayer is thought and lived: each action  
Has a dream that put it there;  
Every deed becomes a fraction  
Of an everlasting prayer.

I thought it an act of boldness that you quoted Whitman as you did. I am now and then struck by the realization that so much that has struck readers in the past as immoral, crude, or inane now speaks profoundly to us about ourselves and nature and God. I thank you for reminding me yet again of this wonderful and prophetic poet.

You will forgive me one quibble? The words you put in quotation marks as Whitman's are not quite Whitman's words, which are these: "The scent of these arm-pits aroma finer than prayer" ("Song of Myself," line 524).

I was brought up short, while looking up the line in question, at coming across the passage beginning "Through me many long dumb voices...." (line 508). Among these long dumb voices are

those of "the rights of them the others are down upon." How could I not think, in light of the Conference decision, of the rights of homosexuals?

My wife and I were among those who stood in solidarity with homosexuals, during the closing Conference worship. It was a minimalist gesture (as, I say with warm appreciation, were the spoken prayers of Paul Grout), but one that helped turn a sense of emptiness to some account.

**Charles Klingler**  
North Manchester, Ind.

## A Puerto Rico perspective

I thank God and the Church of the Brethren for putting me in Puerto Rico, where I can see with my very own eyes

the awful face of American imperialism. I see 103 years of crass and cynical colonialism, 60 years bombarding our little isle of Vieques, and federal courts and judges who arrogantly throw in jail peaceful protesters.

Anywhere else in the world one can find the same kind of abuses committed under the American flag, often costing millions of lives, even going back to the Mexican War. How anyone can feel proud of this train of awful events and still feel she or he is a Christian is beyond me.

I do not own an American flag, but do have a small Puerto Rican flag in my living room to remind me of my love and admiration for Puerto Rico, its people (including my dear wife, Chela), its culture, customs, and traditions. But even there I do not give in to idolatry.



*Retirement Life...*  
**at Affordable Prices**

**Retired?  
Scaling down your lifestyle?**

Cross Keys Village on the campus of The Brethren Home Community is worth exploring. Marvelously designed apartments offer easy upkeep, plenty of storage and room for entertaining.

Affordable cottages from efficiencies to two bedrooms with sunroom and two car garage are available.

A Community Center, fitness room, meeting rooms, and restaurant further enhance your new lifestyle. Looking for carefree comfort, as well as the opportunity to grow and be a vital part of the community in which you live? Visit Cross Keys Village to find out more!



**2990 Carlisle Pike - P.O. Box 128, New Oxford, PA 17350-0128**  
**1-888-624-TBHC or 717-624-5232 • www.brethrenhome.org**

*Where lives are enriched, spirits lifted, and service to others prevails.*

Located at the intersection of Route US 30 and PA 94 near New Oxford, The Brethren Home Community offers a continuum of care which assures healthcare needs will be met.

# LETTERS

With the help and blessing of God, I shall never cast a pinch of incense on the altar of American flag-olatry.

**John Forbes-Eckinger**  
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

## A pattern for renewal

I was pleased to read that Marcos Inhauser [see May issue], who attended Bethany Theological Seminary and was ordained in the Church of the Brethren, seeks to build a new church in his native Brazil. We may have here a pattern for renewal. What if every Bethany graduate went "home" to start a new congregation, say in that person's native Illinois or native Pennsylvania? Suppose each new graduate starts a new congregation in that part of the world he or she knows best?

**Wilbur Dunbar**  
Wooster, Ohio

## Name game

Simply, Peacefully, Together. This has been the motto, mission statement, symbol of the Church of the Brethren. If we live simply then we should have a simple name. Our concerns should be about how we portray the name in the way we live.

Do we want to spend our time defending our name change and saying, "Yes, I belong to the \_\_\_ church. We used to be the Church of the Brethren"?

If we live peacefully we should be able to exist without the chains of gender hangups and without worry about the association of a pop cultural novelist who wrote a book with part of our name in the title. Hopefully our heritage is stronger than a grocery store novel. If we live together! Well look at that! That has brought us right back to the word brethren. People working together for a common idea; to live the life of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Church of the Brethren! How about that name!

**Susan C. Harris**  
Manassas Church of the Brethren  
Manassas, Va.

## Peace conference a success

In early June I attended a conference at the Brethren Service Center here in

New Windsor, Md. It was entitled "The Big Picture: What Does Peace Have To Do With Me?"

It dealt with our present situation with regard to world peace in a very helpful way, dealing with such issues as overcoming violence, humanitarian aid, and dealing with peace in the congregation. The leadership was outstanding and attendance good.

I am especially gratified to have such an event sponsored by the agencies located at the Center— namely, Emergency Response/Service Ministries; the New Windsor Conference Center; the Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc.; On Earth Peace; and SERRV International, Inc., plus the Church of the Brethren Washington Office.

Brethren came from a number of distant districts to attend. The conference is sure to have spawned more peace efforts on the part of our churches.

**Roy Johnson**  
New Windsor, Md.

Do we want to spend our time defending our name change and saying, "Yes, I belong to the \_\_\_ church. We used to be the Church of the Brethren"?

## Idea for leadership of small churches

Small churches are vital to our denomination. Several studies indicate that a significant number of church leaders come from small churches where they have no choice but to actively use their gifts at a young age. Members feel known and cared about. When someone is absent for a Sunday they are missed. There are so few people that each one knows they are highly valued.

## CAREGIVING IS



*"Caregiving is excellent and I hope ABC continues with the same terrific content and design. Thumbs up!"*

— R. Kurt Borgmann, pastor  
Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna, Va.

CAREGIVING is a quarterly publication dedicated to providing practical information and the latest news about caring ministries for the Church of the Brethren. Learn about caring ministries including deacons, older adults, families, chaplains, retirement communities, disabilities and whole health. Subscriptions are available for \$10 annually or at special congregation rates. Call ABC to subscribe.



Association of  
Brethren Caregivers

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120  
phone 847-742-5100 fax 847-742-5160

In spite of these assets it is hard for small congregations to do the work they need to accomplish. Even small churches with much lay talent need an active program of ministry for administrative tasks, visitation in the neighborhood to enhance growth, and time spent to help the congregation with envisioning and implementing the program of the church. While the smallest churches (under 75 average attendance) are the ones where experienced and skilled pastors are the most necessary, we tend to send our ministers there as starting places when they have no experience.

At the same time, many mid-size churches are struggling to find ways to meet needs for second staff, which can often be budgeted as only a part-time position. They too need the additional pastoral help in order to grow. Church growth experts generally recommend additional pastoral staff for each attendance increment of 100 people.

A possible creative solution to these

concerns is the development of church partnership programs. In such programs, larger churches with experienced pastors would form relationships with smaller churches being served by less experienced ministers. The team of two pastors would work

between the churches in ways that were mutually agreeable. An agreement could limit the second staff pastor to very definite duties in the larger church. It could also be very creative, dividing all duties in both churches between the two pastors based on talents and interests. Ideally, everyone would benefit.



**"As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace." Ephesians 6:15**

These letters are a testimony that real joy in life comes from bold and active faith. They don't have great successes to share. They don't represent a growing movement. In fact, the writers are part of a minuscule minority for peace in a world that mainly operates by force. Instead, they speak to the hope that is within us when we live out the gospel call to be people of God's peace. **New from Brethren Press. \$8.00.**

  
**Brethren Press®**  
*This day.*

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694  
 phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188 e-mail [brethrenpress\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org)

The senior pastor could act as an advisor and mentor to the younger pastor. The younger pastor could bring enthusiasm and initiative that could help motivate the veteran pastor. The congregations would have the talents and insights of two ministers who were dedicated to God and creative enough to try something new.

Sharing leadership would only work in a place with a strong commitment to open communication and creative problem-solving. Many details would need to be worked out in advance. Strategies for ongoing communication would need to be in place as part of the calling process. Yet, as I look at the deep need for leadership in our denomination, I feel sure that we need to be open to the idea that God is about to do something very new.

**Jan Orndorff**

Trout Run Church of the Brethren  
Woodstock, Va.

## Name help from Nigeria

My family and I spent two and a half years in Nigeria working for the General Board as a rural development consultant. During those years we picked up some of the Hausa language.

I want us to look at the Hausa word "yan'uwa" which we find in the title of our sister denomination, "Ekklesia Yan'uwa a Nigeria." Yan'uwa is a Hausa term that is literally translated, "siblings of the same mother."

Polygamy is an accepted part of the culture in the northern Nigeria region.

Imagine a household consisting of a husband and four wives with three or four children from each wife. All are children of the same father but not all are children of the same mother. The relationship between siblings and stepsiblings is different. The closer relationship is between the siblings with the same mother and father. Hence

the Nigerian brethren use "yan'uwa," siblings of the same mother, rather than "yan'uba," siblings of the same father.

Our sister denomination uses a feminine term in their name of God, and the use of the word "siblings" rather than the word "brethren" offers the much-needed dimension of gender inclusiveness.

I suspect our Nigerian brethren did not use the word "yan'uwa" because of the feminine aspect of the word. Rather, Nigerian brethren, I believe, chose to use this word to convey the same closeness of relationship as does the English word "brethren." And I for one feel much the same way. The term "brethren" has a depth of meaning for which it is difficult to find a synonym. Until the time comes when we can find a word that offers the same depth of meaning that "brethren" conveys, I'm for sticking with the term "brethren."

**David A. Whitten**  
New Hope, Va.

**Free rent for a Brethren couple** who want to spend the winter (or longer) in warm and sunny South TX. The Falfurrias Church of the Brethren welcomes you to come use our parsonage and fellowship with our small congregation. Call 361-592-5945; 361-325-3950; or 361-664-7782; or e-mail: [bittingr@intcomm.net](mailto:bittingr@intcomm.net); or write Stanley Bittinger, 1614 Santa Cecilia, Kingsville, TX 78363.

**Travel with a purpose**—(Bohrer Tours, Sebring, Fla.) SOUTH PACIFIC EXPLORER, May 5-21, 2003, visiting New Zealand and Australia. Special places of interest—Queenstown, Christchurch, Melbourne, Sidney, Canberra, Cairns, The Great Barrier Reef Excursion. For information contact Bohrer Tours, Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 8520 Royal Meadow Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46217; tel/fax 317-882-5067; cell 317-201-3847; e-mail [rdwboh@strato.net](mailto:rdwboh@strato.net) or [rdwboh@aol.com](mailto:rdwboh@aol.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 Care-givers. For qualifications to receive a loan or scholarship, visit ABC's website at [www.brethren.org/abc/](http://www.brethren.org/abc/). For more information, contact Loans and Scholarships Coordinator Linda Timmons at 847-742-5100, ext. 300, or e-mail [ltimmons\\_abc@brethren.org](mailto:ltimmons_abc@brethren.org).

**Reprint of 1956 book Pleasant Hill**, by Ethel Harshbarger Weddle, the story of German Baptist Brethren and their families in the Girard-Virden, IL, area during 1863-1912 is currently available. The hardbound 2002 edition also contains 92-page pictorial section, every-name index, and 1970s Pleasant Hill Cemetery listing.

Families in the book and photos include Bowman, Brown, Brubaker, Cripe, Crist, Filbrun, Flory, Frantz, Ganger, Gates, Gibbel, Gibson, Harshbarger, Heckman, Lear, Master-son, Mayer, Miller, Minnich, Neher, Ohmart, Parrott, Riffey, Schearer, Showalter, Shull, Smeltzer, Snell, Stowe, Studebaker, Stutsman,

Vaniman, Weddle, Wirt, and Wrightsman.

Hardbound with gold foil and spine, 8 1/2 x 11 on acid-free paper, 377 pages. Available from Girard History Book Committee, 119 W. Madison St., Girard, IL 62640 for \$45, plus \$4 shipping and handling.

**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 1593; phone 888-643-7555 or 814-479-7963; e-mail [interaid-inc@aol.com](mailto:interaid-inc@aol.com).

**Wanted and needed:** Pastor, willing to live and work in rural community. Small, rural, spirit-filled congregation in southern Illinois. If interested, for more information call 618-425-3723 or 618-425-3113. Ask for Thomas or Linda.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

This month's Turning Points include all listings received prior to June 29 and not previously published. Please send information to be included to Verneda Cole, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120; 800 523 8039 ext. 247; [voale\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:voale_gb@brethren.org). Information must be complete in order to be published.

## New Members

**Beacon Heights**, Fort Wayne, Ind.: Heather Closson, Terry Dougherty, Brian Myers, Jeff Sands, Ron Wilson, Holly Wright, Hannah Wysong, Jeremy Wysong

**Bradford**, Ohio: Beverly Long

**Curryville**, Pa.: Jane Stiles, Robert Stiles, Bobby Wagner, Heather Smith, Jamie Kensingler, Penny Burket

**Dupont**, Ohio: Joe Davis, Sue Davis

**East Cocalico**, Reamstown, Pa.: Lauren Good, Ben Mull, Mitchell Mull, Nathaniel Mull, Clayton Eberly, Helen Eberly

**Elizabethtown**, Pa.: Chad Hall, Chris Hall, Mary Jo Hall

**Good Samaritan**, Brandon, Fla.: Jana Maschat, Peg Riley, J.R. Taber, Hank Wehle, Machele Wehle

**Greenville**, Ohio: Judie Campbell, Miriam Cloyd

**Happy Corner**, Clayton, Ohio: Amber Biser, Clay Blackwell, Bev Blackwell, Ryan Cecrle, Rick Horne, David Jones, John Moyer, Karen Moyer, Garrett Rice, Jo Rice, Tyler Rice, Randy Schultz, Jenice Schultz, Earl Smith, Georgeana Smith, Greg Stoiber, Joy Stoiber, Michelle Weaver, Kristen Woodard, Bruce Loxley, Patty Loxley

**Hickory Grove**, Dunkirk, Ind.: Hanna Atienzo, Sandy West, Carrie Moore

**Highland Avenue**, Elgin, Ill.: Phil Abernathy, Mary Dulabaum, Sue Smithson

**Independence**, Kan.: Jason Blex, Christina Bryant, Dale Bryant, Kirshe Bryant, Zoe Bryant, Ron Christman, Ginger Coda, Dannie W. Doub, Donnie Doub, Tammie Doub, Krista Doub, Angelo Gonzalez, Levi Hart, Carrie Meadows, Bob Sanders, Bette Sims, Melissa Snyder, Ray Surface, Dan Tow, Paula Tow

**Ivester**, Grundy City, Iowa: Hannah Button-Harrison, Sam Button-Harrison, Emylee Jensen, Jon Neher, Lucas Neher, Laurie Aude, Lisa Sheller, Alice Draper

**Lampeter**, Pa.: Jeannine Bowermaster, Cindy Harnish, Callie Harnish, Lucas Huber, Donna Nielsen, Michael Whiteman, Nichole Whiteman

**Mack Memorial**, Dayton, Ohio: Teresa Brandt, Jackie Scott, Patty Jones, Kathy Dearth, Kelli Dearth

**Maple Spring**, Hollsopple, Pa.: Cheyenne Alwin, Brittany Blough, Erika Blough, Annie Bridge, Lindsey Callihan, Mark Crummett, Riley McDonald, Jordan Shroyer, Jason Stevens, Donald Tresnicky

**Marilla**, Copenish, Mich.: Beverly Willard, Aaron Desarmeaux

**Modesto**, Calif.: Gail Kristaponis

**Monitor**, McPherson, Kan.: Jamie Frye, Lane Yoder

**Monroeville**, Pa.: Sean Layne

**New Enterprise**, Pa.: Ryan Hall, Leanna Sollenberger

**Olivet**, Thornville, Ohio: Ralph Schooley, Cathy Schooley, Debi Souders

**Philadelphia**, First, Wyndmoor, Pa.: Samuel Knupp, Barbara Knupp

**Pine Creek**, North Liberty, Ind.: David Stull, Tori Stull, Gregory Singleton, Veronica Singleton, Sherry Forler

**Pleasant Hill**, Ohio: Rick Dobberstein, Sandy Dobberstein, Pete Dobberstein, Dick Fox, Jeri Fox, Nancy Gurklies, Bruce Rosenberger, Mary Sue Rosenberger

**Reading**, Pa.: Melissa Bechtel, Lynne Covell, Danne Meneely, Jesse Meneely

**Ridge**, Shippensburg, Pa.: Jeff Mansberger, Christine Mansberger, Nathan Mansberger, Mike Cover, Leslie Cover, Larry Kendall, Bridget Gordon

**Rocky Mount**, First, Va.: Vanessa Burnett, Stephen Burnett

**Saint Petersburg**, Fla.: Kori Brock, Kaman Brock, Missey Lersch, Billy Miller, Alexis Figueroa, Toni Erickson

**West Goshen**, Goshen, Ind.: Dale Martin, Silvia Martin, Patricia Hoover, Rosalie Chandonia

**Woodland**, Astoria, Ill.: Paul Sager, Jeanie Sager, Joanna Sager, Kevin Sager, Karen Sager, Adam Sager, Diane Batterton

## Wedding Anniversaries

**Aukerman**, Alva and Pauline, Greenville, Ohio, 60

**Christ**, Melvin and Alberta, Lowpoint, Ill., 60

**Custer**, George and Velma, Tipp City, Ohio, 50

**Earhart**, J. Stanley and Laurie, Lancaster, Pa., 60

**Frolke**, Darrell and Trudy, Bradford, Ohio, 55

**Grimm**, Bill and Doris, New Carlisle, Ohio, 50

**Halt**, Elmer and Joyce, North Liberty, Ind., 55

**Kurtz**, Willis and Hazel, Hartville, Ohio, 60

**Lautzenhiser**, Glenn and Glennis, Hartville, Ohio, 50

**Mohler**, Eugene and Arlene, North Canton, Ohio, 50

**Printz**, Donald and Marilyn, Bradford, Ohio, 50

**Rowe**, Don and Pat, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 50

**Snavelly**, Duane and Joyce, Freeport, Mich., 50

**Stump**, Paul and June, North Liberty, Ind., 60

**Thompson**, Ken and Charleen, Freeport, Mich., 55

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

**Usher**, Harold and Millie, Mesick, Mich., 60

**Wieland**, Ray and Marge, Hastings, Mich., 50

## Deaths

**Anderson**, Harold, 85, Glendora, Calif., May 4

**Bailey**, Danny Ray, 50, South Fork, Pa., May 25

**Blough**, Lester Junior, 52, Goshen, Ind., May 28

**Blough**, Vergil, 84, Windber, Pa., June 8

**Brandt**, Harold, 94, Elizabethtown, Pa., March 25

**Brenneman**, Earl W., 79, Hanover, Pa., March 30

**Cain**, Lorna V., 87, Moorefield, W. Va., May 11

**Carter**, Melvin, 75, Greenville, Ohio, May 14

**Clayton**, Mary, 95, Moatsville, W. Va., May 11

**Cline**, Jay W., 79, Bridgewater, Va., May 10

**Clouser**, Esther C., 95, North Canton, Ohio, May 15

**Corle**, Ann, 94, Johnstown, Pa., June 6

**Deardorff**, Gladys M., 88, North Manchester, Pa., March 25

**Diehl**, Byron, B., 82, Bridgewater, Va., May 18

**Ebersole**, Margaret, 84, Palmyra, Pa., May 18

**Ehlert**, Elva, 86, Batavia, Ill., May 23

**Etter**, Paul, 86, Palmyra, Pa., May 24

**Fry**, Sara, 87, Martinsburg, W. Va., May 15

**Fuhrman**, Raymond W., 85, Glenville, Pa., May 30

**Ganger**, Richard, 67, Bradford, Ohio, Jan. 18

**Havener**, Joan, 72, Johnstown, Pa., May 28

**Hilmer**, Helen, 100, Elgin, Ill., May 19

**Hocker**, Harold, 88, Greenville, Ohio, July 7

**Hoffman**, Nora E., 95, Windber, Pa., May 24

**Holtry**, Helen M., 75, Shippensburg, Pa., April 28

**Hottinger**, William D., 70, Fort Seybert, W. Va., May 11

**Hreha**, Jean N., 82, Ashland, Ohio, May 23

**Keller**, Elbert, Jr., 81, Harrisonburg, W. Va., May 25

**Keller**, Roy, 78, Bradford, Ohio, June 2

**Kindred**, Sandra, 54, Fort Myers, Fla., May 31

**King**, Shirley, 72, Martinsburg, Pa., May 30

**Knighting**, Carolyn M., 54, Lacy Springs, Va., May 13

**Knupp**, Mary E., 60, New Market, Va., May 19

**Laeffer**, Margaret Rodeffer Meyer, 95, Bridgewater, Va., July 12, 2000

**Leatherman**, Judy D., 74, Martin, W. Va., April 28

**Leonard**, Charles, 82, Elizabethtown, Pa., June 11

**Machamer**, Patricia S., 75, Hartville, Ohio, Dec. 31, 2001

**Machamer**, Vernon E., 74, Hartville, Ohio, Feb. 11

**Manges**, James, 64, New Enterprise, Pa., April 4

**Martin**, Edna, 87, Wooster, Ohio, May 28

**Metzler**, Helen, 90, Martinsburg, Pa., May 17

**Millard**, Walter Edward, 86, North Canton, Ohio, April 10

**Miller**, Lloyd W., 51, Edinburg, Va., May 18

**Mohler**, Henry T. W., 88, Harrisonburg, Va., May 6

**Morris**, Vicki, 50, Glendora, Calif., May 2

**Moyer**, Cecil, 99, Walkerton, Ind., June 11

**Moyer**, Delna C., 87, Bergton, Va., April 29

**Olsen**, Jeanette, 82, South Bend, Ind., May 21

**Over**, Harold, 86, Woodbury, Pa., April 28

**Owens**, Jack K., 70, Taylors Valley, Va., May 30

**Pauline**, Lewis W., 81, Timberville, Va., May 3

**Petry**, Norma H., 81, Arcanum, Ohio, Nov. 27

**Pickel**, Anna R., 92, Timberville, Va., May 5

**Pinter**, William, 83, New Oxford, Pa., May 25

**Rackley**, William M., 77, Modesto, Calif., May 29

**Randall**, Gertrude, 80, Prescott, Mich., May 6

**Renner**, Robert, 92, Astoria, Ill., Jan. 15

**Ritchie**, Julius F., 91, Harrisonburg, Va., June 5

**Rosenberger**, Clarence, 87, Greenville, Ohio, May 29

**Ryan**, Donald, 62, Broadway, Va., May 30

**Schrock**, Alice, 91, Hampton, Iowa, Feb. 25

**Seese**, Geraldine, 92, Sebring, Fla., April 26

**Shockey**, William, 89, Somerset, Pa., March 21

**Shull**, Ernie, 85, North Manchester, Ind., March 18

**Shull**, Helen J., 82, Bridgewater, Va., May 17

**Skinner**, Helen, 95, North Canton, Ohio, May 12

**Smith**, Eston N., 84, Upper Tract, W. Va., April 30

**Smith**, Velma, 89, North Manchester, Ind., May 11

**Snyder**, Ruth E., 76, North Manchester, Ind., June 1

**Southard**, Evelyn E., 91, New Oxford, Pa., June 5

**Sterner**, Virginia, 71, Hanover, Pa., May 20

**Sullivan**, Patricia M., 58, Waynesboro, Va., May 15

**Thomas**, Harry E., 91, La Verne, Calif., May 22

**Towers**, Philip Mahlon, 76, Denton, Ohio, March 22

**Whitmore**, Curtis, 48, North Manchester, Ind., Feb. 12

**Wilkinson**, Warren E., 81, Grottoes, Va., May 18

**Young**, Vida M., 79, Stanley, Va., April 25

**Ziegler**, Harriet, 87, Dayton, Ohio, May 23

## Licensed

**Davis**, Kenneth Evan, Good Shepherd, Bradenton, Fla., May 26

**Folkerth**, David Jay, Cedar Grove, New Paris, Ohio, May 19

**Hensley**, Kevin James, Lakewood, Millbury, Ohio, May 26

**McCallister**, Carolyn Austin, Greenville, Ohio, May 19

**Stags**, Kevin Lee, Sunnyside, New Creek, W. Va., June 2

**Tomson**, Jeffrey A., Mexico, Ind., June 9

## Ordinations

**Baker**, Christopher, Dupont, Ohio, May 19

**Beckner**, Dennis, Columbia City, Ind., April 21

**Coffman**, Marilyn, English River, South English, Iowa, May 19

**Kauffman**, Michael J., Maple Grove, New Paris, Ind., May 19

**Rowan**, Elizabeth, Pasadena, Calif., June 2

**Winesickle**, John E., Bellwood, Pa., May 19

## Placements

**Cary**, Jack, from interim to pastor, Pleasant Valley, Middlebury, Ind., May 1

**Scholl**, Emory F., from pastor, Myersdale, Pa., to pastor, Greenville, Grampian, Pa., and Bethel, DuBois, Pa., April 28

**Statler**, Betsy J., from licensed minister to visitation pastor, Berkey, Windber, Pa., March 4



## The case of the bratwurst burglar

**If the Brethren of a century ago could only see now what has become of the old folks homes they established around the country to deliver care in Christ's name.** Brethren homes have become multi-million-dollar businesses and sophisticated healthcare institutions where dedicated employees still serve the elderly with compassion on behalf of the church. They have also, insiders complain, become targets of overzealous regulators, where more inspections make a poor substitute for less money, and administrators must live in fear.

On Sunday, June 2, the staff of Pleasant Hill Village, the Brethren Home of Girard, Ill., was getting ready for their employee potluck. Tony Ham, a CNA (certified nurse aide), went to the refrigerator for the meat he had brought to grill—three bratwurst, three hamburgers, three pork chops. The meat was gone. Only the plate it had been on was left on the counter. Tony reported the incident to his supervisor, who called the staff together to ask if anyone had seen the meat. No one had. All that would get grilled that night were the employees.

"While on break we got to thinking based on past incidents who might have took the meat," reads a statement taken from one of those present, Brenda Hern. "That is when Sandy the housekeeper came to mind, but where would she have put it? She always brings her lunch in a Playmate cooler and leaves it in A-wing storage. I got a key from the nurse Cathy and went to take a look. I opened the [housekeeper's] cooler and there it was." She called in the supervisor to see, and Tony was brought in to verify that it was his meat. It was. The staff was called together again to try to elicit a confession, but none came. The supervisor then called Barbara Randolph, the nursing home's administrator, who decided that because the meat had been found, and no residents were involved or harmed, her investigation could wait until Monday.

Tony Ham thought otherwise. In a rambling letter to his supervisor he assured her that "you are a very very good person" and asked "don't be mad at me," then said "I will call the State and let them do their job." He wrote that he had once almost gone to jail over stealing that he did not do, perhaps explaining why he didn't want the guilty party to get off lightly. He added: "I will not be back at all because of what happened on Sunday." He never returned to work.

Enter Vern Duiker, field surveyor for the Edwardsville Regional Office of the Office of Health Care Regulation, Bureau of Long-Term Care, Illinois Department of Public Health. Upon his arrival at Pleasant Hill Village June 7 he handed Barbara Randolph a complaint form. "In accordance with Section 3-702(b) of the Nursing Home Care Act, as amended, the substance of the above identified complaint is #117." In a long list of possible offenses on the sheet, #117 is "theft." Duiker angrily told

Barbara Randolph she had erred by not immediately reporting a case of employee theft to the state. "If they'll steal meat they'll steal anything," he told her, as he set about his investigation, which would take two full days.

Randolph is a conscientious administrator. By the time the state arrived, she had taken statements from key witnesses to the meat incident, and on June 5 had called in Sandy Trotto, the housekeeper and chief suspect. "I asked her if she knew anything about how this could have happened," says Randolph's report. "She stated she knew nothing about it and it wasn't true. She said her cooler was too small to hold meat." Two days later, when the state inspector interviewed her, Sandy confessed.

"I thought it was left over from the Friday cookout and was about to be thrown out," Sandy Trotto told MESSENGER. "I was going to bring it home and give it to my dogs. I don't know what was going through my head that day. I lied about it. But I didn't take it out of the building." Trotto had worked at the nursing home for six years and was making \$6 an hour. Last year she won an award for good attendance. On June 10 Randolph terminated her for "giving false information to personnel and the misappropriation of property of the home."

The state wasn't finished. On June 14 Vern Duiker returned and issued to the home a "tag," which is notice of a serious violation that, if proven, can result in fines or loss of license. The "tag" cited was F225: "reporting and investigation lacking for theft incident of 6/2/02." Along with that citation Duiker left a list of residents he had interviewed during his investigation. Randolph said one of the residents listed is a resident of "C-hall," the Alzheimer's wing. "She might be able to tell you her name, but that's about it," said the puzzled administrator. "She would not be a good historian." Another is developmentally disabled and another never leaves his room. Somebody suggested the state had been conducting a witch hunt. Or was it a sand-witch hunt?

In any case, on June 19 the state issued its final ruling. "As a result of our inspection, no deficiencies were found," it said. A note on the report adds: "This was not an extended survey."

Soon after the final report arrived, Barbara Randolph received another letter from the State of Illinois. It informed her that due to budget cuts the state will be lowering the rate it reimburses the nursing home for caring for Medicaid patients from \$69.95 a day to \$65.54 per day. This will cost Pleasant Hill \$77,000 a year. Illinois ranked 44th among the states for the amount it pays nursing homes to care for indigent residents. That was before the recent cuts. —FLETCHER FARRAR

Fletcher Farrar is a member of the Pleasant Hill Village board of directors.

"Brethren homes have become multi-million-dollar businesses and sophisticated healthcare institutions where dedicated employees still serve the elderly with compassion on behalf of the church."

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me*

*Over life's tempestuous sea;*

*Unknown waves before me roll,*

*Hiding rock and treacherous shoal;*

*Chart and compass come from Thee:*

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*

*—Edward Hopper, 1871*



*“Just as the North Star gives direction for the sailor,  
so Jesus Christ gives the church her direction.”*

In a changing sea, the Congregational Life Team, the Ministry Office, and the Youth/Young Adult Office staff reminds you to “position” yourself in Jesus Christ and invites you to set your sails into the winds of the Spirit.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRIES  
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120



# Get plain talk about the Good Stewardship of Money

## The joy of giving.

A gift that makes an impact.

Plans that provide income for life.

A Will that works.



For free counsel about these topics or other financial and gift-giving concerns  
contact the Funding Office at **800 323-8038 Ext.234**

A Stewardship Service of the General Board, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120