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HILLCREST

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Church of the Brethren

MESSENGER

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Walt Wiltschek

12 Goodbye Judy

After five years as head of the General Board staff, Judy Mills Reimer looks back on the board's achievements and points ahead to the question, "What is God calling the church to do?"

14 Forgiveness leads to freedom

Forgiveness is a choice that can transport people from anger and resentment to a full and happy life. Though it is as old as the teachings of Jesus, forgiveness is getting a new look from academics and therapists. Alan Tripp, a graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary, clears up some remaining misconceptions.

20 Missionary life lessons

Roy and Violet Pfaltzgraff spent their careers as medical missionaries serving victims of leprosy in Nigeria. Now retired, they share the lessons that guided their lives, with tenets like, "Find a single focus," "Recharge spiritually," and "Dare to disagree."

24 Celebrate small churches

Over two-thirds of Church of the Brethren congregations fall into the category of "small membership," which is no cause for alarm. Brethren do small best! Once they get over wishful thinking about the past, small churches can find their mission in today's world, and begin to thrive.

ONTHECOVER

"Revenge doesn't work," writes columnist Andrew Greeley in the *Chicago Sun-Times*. "The execution of the killer does not bring peace or satisfaction or closure to the victim's family. It does not bring back the loved one. Life continues to be empty. Rage continues to eat at the soul. There is but one cure for that rage, one way to closure, one way to discharge the obligation to honor the dead person.

"Forgiveness."

"The key sentence in the Lord's Prayer is 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' That sentence in a way summarizes the gospel. We forgive others not to earn God's forgiveness—that is a given—but to manifest God's forgiveness to those around us. Forgiveness is not only a spiritual grace, it is a psychological necessity. Only forgiveness can restore peace and tranquility to the soul."

As Alan Tripp explains in this month's cover story, forgiveness isn't easy, and there are many misconceptions about it. Forgiveness doesn't often come all at once. It is a journey, as shown in this week's cover art by Paul Stocksdale of Cedar House Group. As the eraser does its work, the words on the page move from hard and unforgiving words to healing words.

DEPARTMENTS

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FROM THE PUBLISHER



My two older children, 12 and 14, have just called home from Guatemala, where they are following their dad around as he visits Brethren Volunteer Service projects. The conversation is relatively short because it's an international call, but I hear brief reports of tortillas made fresh each morning, mosquitoes that complicate trips to the latrine, two sessions in language school—and a mayor describing the harsh realities facing his community. After some days of travel, today the three of them find themselves in the same town as a Church of the Brethren Faith Expedition led by Tom Benevento.

The trip to Guatemala is the first international experience the children will remember. I see it as something of a graduation present, a gift to accompany their transitions into middle school and high school. They are traveling light, with not much more than a few changes of clothes. That's what they left with. What will they bring home?

As people of all ages are increasingly able to travel away from home, the church has gained the role of travel agent. Through workcamps, disaster response, Faith Expeditions, BVS, individuals are gaining real experiences in real places with real people—sort of the opposite of the reality that's touted on TV. Through the lens of faith, those seeking to be disciples of Jesus are introduced to the kind of travel that doesn't make it into a tourist brochure. When you engage in church-sponsored travel, you don't seek to be entertained; you go to learn and be challenged. Travel isn't an escape, unless by "escape" you mean to free yourself from all that limits your ability to engage with people who are different.

In a highly mediated culture, we can be grateful for the alternative voice of the church and for the fresh insights that travelers bring to those of us at home.

Even now, with just that short phone call, I see my middle-class suburban home with different eyes. When the children return, will it look impossibly large to them, filled with a dizzying array of luxuries? Will they have new reference points for concepts such as simplicity, need, humanity? What will they have learned from the curriculum of experience?

Years from now, this journey and others like it may help them discern their God-given vocations. Already it is one more step in their faith formation.

Wendy McFadden

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Tok'ahookaadi church celebrates 50 years

The Tok'ahookaadi Church of the Brethren and its associated Lybrook (N.M.) Mission will hold a 50th anniversary celebration July 24-27. The major celebration event will be held on July 26, followed by worship Sunday morning the 27th.

Numerous Brethren have participated in ongoing mission efforts with the area's Native American population at the site, purchased by the Church of the Brethren in 1953. Located in northwestern New Mexico, it is part of Western Plains District and one of only two Church of the Brethren congregations in the state.

Current projects include strengthening after-school programs for the community and making reference and computer services available.

A scrapbook of memories and a display are being created. Individuals are invited to send their memories to Arlene Arviso, c/o Lybrook Mission, HCR 17, Box 1100, Cuba, NM 87013. Pictures should be labeled, with the sender's name and address on the back so they can be returned.

Don Vermilyea



The Tok'ahookaadi congregation posed for Don Vermilyea as he stopped by on his "Walk Across America" for the Church of the Brethren.

Driving fast. It's a good thing!

Julie Gregonis of the Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren in Blacksburg, Va., spent this year's Lenten season promoting peace through simple living. Her idea: to reduce her gasoline consumption in protest of the Iraq war.

"When the war broke out, I wanted to mourn in a very real and tangible way. I wrote to David Radcliff that I felt like I wanted to 'dress in sackcloth and sit in ashes,'" said Julie. "I wanted life as

usual to stop while this travesty was being inflicted on the Iraqi people. I wanted to be uncomfortable so that I would not forget for one hour of the day that my country was waging a war."

With the help of David Radcliff, Brethren Witness director, and the Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches, Julie's idea was transformed into a Lenten initiative, the "Stop the War Fast" campaign, which was circulated to most of the nation's mainline Protestant denominations.

The campaign called for a modest one- or two-day reduction in driving, which is what Julie first thought she would do, but then "I got radical!" she reflected. Instead, to put her faith to the test, she gave up driving completely for the entire Lenten season. Julie, who lives four miles from church and town, walked to worship one Sunday. Other times she arrived on her bicycle.

Julie Gregonis: "We lose a lot by having such materialistic lives."

Her family felt the effects of her fast. Her sons, Kellby, age 7, and Jared, age 4, missed karate and music lessons but benefited by long walks and getting to know the neighbors better. Julie, who home-schools her children, experienced both a renewed joy in her family as well as cabin fever.

Julie notes, "I don't expect society at large to give up the luxury of their automobiles, but I do believe that as Christians, and as members of a peace church, there are some questions we must ask ourselves:

"How can one determine his ethical limit on the use of technology, especially cars, when consumption of this technology may be a fuel for war-waging powers? Is our use of technology causing suffering to people in distant countries? Does the use of technology make it harder for us to feel the presence of God in our lives?"

Materials for a new campaign called "Drive the Car Fast" are now being distributed by the Brethren Witness Office.

—Marilyn Lerch



At 100, an active churchwoman



Ruth Wageman Beck turned 100 in December. She was born and raised in the Zion Church of the Brethren community in Michigan.

Then Ruth and her husband, Charlie, moved to Cando, N.D. At the Cando church Ruth has taught Sunday school, and has been a faithful supporter of women's work, sewing and serving as the need required. Ruth served with the Nursing Home Auxiliary, visiting and doing mending for the home each week.

A good neighbor who attends church each Sunday, Ruth is an example of living the life that Christ has taught us. Everyone is always welcome in her home, and the coffee pot and goodies are readily served. Ruth has served many a meal to family and friends from near and far. She has often attended district conference as a delegate and she subscribes to MESSENGER.

—Beverly Lewallen

Floy Winter



At the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., volunteers from the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, Myersville, Md., pack relief supplies for Church World Service to send to Iraq. They are, from left, Lisa Wolfe, Leroy Masser, Glenn Lantz, Ashley Wolfe, Donna Ritchey Martin, and Ben Ritchey Martin.

God's unfolding response to a Puerto Rico disaster

The story began when Church of the Brethren disaster response volunteers arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, following Hurricane Hugo in 1989. They worked with the residents of Caimito, an area of greater San Juan. Juan Figueroa, pastor of a small nondenominational community church, offered housing to the workers. As the work progressed and Pastor Figueroa became acquainted with the Church of the Brethren volunteers, he concluded that Caimito Community Church should become a Church of the Brethren congregation. That eventually happened.

Among the children of pastors Juan and Isabel Figueroa is a son, John, who, with his wife, Ana, have four sons. One son

needs special medical attention. For him to have the necessary care, they moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., where there is an excellent children's hospital.

Caring arms of the First Church of the Brethren, St. Petersburg, quickly reached out to the Figueroa family. They were given the use of the church parsonage, which became their home for a year.

Through all of this both John and Ana and their sons have been nurtured in their own faithful living, so that their gifts have been called out in a variety of ministries.

On April 27, Ana Figueroa and Martha Beach, Atlantic Southeast District executive minister, were both licensed at the St. Petersburg Church of the Brethren as the first step in set-apart ministry.

Being a mother and a schoolteacher demands much of Ana's energy. However, she makes clear she is open to God's calling for future ministry. Since both she and John are bilingual and highly committed, their future leadership in the church will be the next chapter in a story that began when some volunteers went to Puerto Rico to serve in response to a disaster.

—Glenn E. Kinsel



Martha Beach, left, and Ana Figueroa were licensed to the ministry in April.

Heiseys are People to People people

Enos and Jane Heisey, members of the Spring Creek Church of the Brethren, Hershey, Pa., have visited 57 countries of the world as active members of People to People International, a program founded by Dwight D. Eisenhower to promote global understanding. They recently received recognition from the organization's CEO, Mary Eisenhower, granddaughter of the former president. Their devotion to the organization is evidenced even by the inscription on the tombstone waiting for them at the Heidelberg Brethren Cemetery, Myerstown, Pa.

The organization's magazine, *People*, said this: "By serving as ambassadors of goodwill, this couple

has strived to further PTPI's mission of enhancing international understanding and friendship. Their devotion has no end, as Enos and Jane have pre-arranged a lasting tribute to this organization and to their fundamental beliefs. The inscription on their headstone reads, 'People to People International—Peace, Goodwill, Understanding,' along with this passage from the Bible, 'Go into all the world' (Mark 16:15). The far-reaching impact of Enos and Jane Heisey spans yesterday, today, and tomorrow."

The Heiseys, now in their early 80s, are residents of the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home, Palmyra. Though they no longer travel, Enos continues to serve as a trustee of People to People International, a post he has held for 30 years.

Korean church youth win singing competition

Seven youth from Grace Christian Church of Philadelphia, Pa., competed in May with 35 other singing groups from the greater Philadelphia Korean churches to win the top prize for their performance. Their winning number, sung in three-part harmony, is entitled in English, "The Way to the Orchard."

Pastor Young Min explained that many of the Korean churches have a Saturday school where they teach the second-generation youth the Korean language and culture, in addition to Bible classes. The singing groups came out of these Saturday schools.

Grace Christian is one of two Korean Church of the Brethren congregations in the Atlantic Northeast District. They purchased their building in 1999. The average worship attendance is around 100. —Earl K. Ziegler



Youth from Grace Christian Church of the Brethren in competition.

Police officer killed on duty

More than 1,000 mourners filled the grounds of Topeco Church of the Brethren, Floyd, Va., on May 13 while 400 more attended services inside. It was the funeral of Scott Hylton, 43, a member of the church. A Christiansburg, Va., police officer, Hylton was killed in the line of duty on May 9. After Hylton had pulled into a convenience store parking lot about 5:30 a.m., he got into a scuffle with a 21-year-old man who was suspected of shoplifting cigarettes from the store. The suspect grabbed the police officer's gun and shot him with it. Another officer was wounded in the shooting.

Police later shot and killed the suspect, Christopher Holmes, who had been a talented football player in high school.

Hylton is survived by his wife, Khris, a daughter, Kayelin Darlene, and three sons, Justin, Jonathan, and Jordan. Two days before the shooting, the couple's daughter, Kayelin, celebrated her first birthday at the Topeco church.

YOUTHBEAT

Young Adult Conference examines Brethren identity

What does it mean to be Brethren in the 21st century? The question has occupied the thoughts of numerous corners of the church in recent years, and over Memorial Day weekend it formed the theme for this year's Young Adult Conference.

About 75 people in the 18-35 age range gathered at Camp Eder in Fairfield, Pa., May 25-27 to

explore that question, to worship, to connect, and to relax. The annual event is planned by the General Board's Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office and its Young Adult Steering Committee.

Shawn Flory Replogle of Waterloo, Iowa, was keynote speaker for the conference, leading three sessions.

Replogle used small groups, "instant polls," discussion, and sharing from his own research as he helped the group examine the forces that

shaped the early Brethren and the dynamics of living out those beliefs in modern culture.

Replogle said he sent out a survey in preparation for the conference, asking a spectrum of church leaders what it means to be Brethren. Of 51 forms returned to him, "I got 51 different responses," he said. Even the young adult group at the camp showed a significant diversity of opinion in their responses to poll questions about the church.

Among other highlights of the weekend were several worship sessions, one of them with a footwashing service; morning times for individual reflection; eight workshops on assorted topics; an experience of "Dances for Universal Peace"; campfire singing; and free time for recreation and informal fellowship.

The steering committee also held several sessions to explain and gather input for next year's major National Young Adult Conference. The event, which will be the first of its kind in size and scope, is scheduled for June 14-18, 2004, in Winter Park, Colo. The theme will be "Stand at the Crossroads and Look."

Youth study globalization at Christian Citizenship Seminar

Globalization issues took center stage at this year's youth Christian Citizenship Seminar, as 100 senior high youth and advisors from across the country studied the theme "It's a Small World After All"



Matt Wittschok

Gwen Edwards of Telford, Tenn., left, visited with Alwin Christian and Mamta Chitnis of Naperville, Ill., as participants arrived for the 2003 Young Adult Conference at Camp Eder.

Denomination's membership count continues downward trend

Membership in the Church of the Brethren continued a long, downward trend in 2002, though the rate of decline slowed slightly. According to year-end figures in the *Church of the Brethren Yearbook*, published by Brethren Press, the denomination showed a net loss of 984 members last year.

The denomination's recorded membership now stands at 133,844. The 2002 decline, about 0.73 percent, follows losses of 1,051 in 2001 and 2,425 in 2000. The Church of the Brethren last showed a small annual net gain in membership in 1974, but the overall decline dates to the early 1960s.

Only five of the denomination's 23 districts reported net membership gains in 2002. Western Pennsylvania reported

the largest numerical and percentage gain, with a net increase of 129 members. It leapt past Mid-Atlantic District to become the denomination's fourth-largest. Others reporting gains were West Marva (a net gain of 55 members), Virilina (54), Northern Indiana (19), and Oregon-Washington (14).

Atlantic Northeast District remains the denomination's largest, with 15,505 members at the end of 2002, followed by Shenandoah (which has the most congregations), and Virilina. Idaho is the smallest, with 703 members in six congregations.

Yearbook figures are based on data provided by congregations that turn in updated statistical reports; about 71 percent did so for 2002. Totals do not count overseas membership in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and the large Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).



Youth from the Palmyra and Spring Creek congregations of Pennsylvania created a sign to show off their hometown (and Christian Citizenship Seminar) in front of the "Today Show" cameras in New York City. They are, front row, from left: Erin Smith, Heather Houff, Maggie Blouch; back row: Jake Mellinger-Blouch, Nicole Graves, and Anne Wessell.

May 3-8. The General Board Youth/Young Adult Ministry office and Washington Office sponsored the event, which began in New York and ended in Washington, D.C.

A variety of speakers pointed to the challenges and dynamics that come with globalization, noting the ways it has widened the gulf between the world's "haves" and "have-nots." Brethren Witness director David Radcliff used the Old Testament story of Naboth's vineyard as an illustration, contrasting those in "palace life" with those out working the land.

Manchester College professor Brian Peterson led an international trade simulation that provided the group with firsthand experience in factors like the inequality of resources, production tools, human greed, and countries' drive to survive. Globalization in itself is not a bad thing, he noted. "The problem rests in the way that life gets skewed," Peterson said.

One afternoon was spent in visits with congressional representatives—a day that Washington Office coordinator Greg Davidson Laszakovits said is the "most powerful day of witness that the Church of the Brethren will see on Capitol Hill all year."

Washington Office staff led the group through the maze of legislation, consumerism, trade agreements, and acronyms that make up the world economic scene. Small groups met several times during the week to process learnings and questions, and the entire group joined in worship each day.

Other highlights included a United Nations tour, Sunday morning worship in New York churches (including the Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren and Brooklyn Haitian congregation), and a night in Washington in which groups went

out to a variety of ethnic restaurants in unique neighborhoods.

"I think we can all agree that this has been quite a week," Heather Houff of Palmyra (Pa.) Church of the Brethren said at the closing worship service.

"This week really changed me, and something this week clicked with me. . . . I finally realized how unfair this world of ours is."

The group gained an extra opportunity for community building when one of the participants accidentally knocked over a \$700-plus vase in a United Nations gift shop. An advisor provided the up-front money to the gift shop, which charged only the wholesale price of about \$350.

At an offering during one evening worship, using the base of the shattered vase as a collection receptacle, CCS participants gave \$254 toward the purchase price. A second offering on the final morning raised another \$248, but that entire collection was donated to the Global Food Crisis Fund.



Brethren Volunteer Service workers Heidi Gross of the General Board Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office and Emily Tulli of the Washington Office lead youth through the maze of globalization issues.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Jul. 4-5 General Board meeting, Boise, Idaho

Jul. 5-9 Annual Conference, Boise (Idaho) State University

Jul. 8 Brethren Benefit Trust board meeting, Boise, Idaho

Jul. 9-10 Church of the Brethren Ministers' Association post-Conference meeting, Boise, Idaho

Jul. 14-18 Junior high workcamp, Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, Md.

Jul. 14-20 Senior high work-camps: Douglas Park Church of the Brethren, Chicago; Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization, North Fort Myers, Fla.

Jul. 21-27 Senior high workcamp, Camp Myrtlewood, Myrtle Point, Ore.

Jul. 21-28 Senior high workcamp, Jamaica

Jul. 23-26 Brethren World Assembly, Grace College, Winona Lake, Ind.

Jul. 23-27 Junior high workcamp, Northview Church of the Brethren, Indianapolis

Jul. 24-Aug 4 "Exploring Your Call" discernment event for youth, Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind.

Jul. 25-27 Southeastern District Conference, Mars Hill (N.C.) College

Jul. 27-Aug. 15 Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 255 orientation, Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, Md.



After devastating tornadoes in May, the Church of the Brethren set up a child care center in Pittsburg, Kan. Here volunteers and children play with a parachute.

Brethren begin response to tornado outbreak

Brethren went to work after a record-shattering outbreak of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms caused significant damage in 11 states this spring, though the greatest work likely lies ahead. Nearly 500 tornadoes were reported in the first three weeks of May, mainly in the Plains and the South.

The Church of the Brethren General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries (ER/SM) office took part in the immediate response, opening a Disaster Child Care program at Pittsburg (Kan.) State University on May 16. Five caregivers served for five days.

Elsewhere, Missouri/Arkansas District executive Sandy Bosserman said Brethren congregations in that hard-hit region were spared.

"The storm damage within the geographical area covered by the district is incredible," Bosserman said, "but none in the Brethren faith community have sustained major damage. There is an adequate volunteer pool for cleanup, so our service role will probably come when the rebuild begins."

General Board Emergency Response director Roy Winter said at least one new disaster relief project in an area affected by the storms was likely. Volunteers in Western Plains District were already assisting with cleanup of fields and homes.

Three new grants from the General Board's Emergency Disaster Fund, totaling \$20,000, are assisting the response.

Casting our Net on the other side

- A "Find a Church" site connects congregations and allows people to look for a place of worship near them.
- Easy e-mail links let web surfers ask their questions about the church.
- Traffic to the site has grown rapidly in recent years, with visitors from across the US and around the globe. Sections on Brethren history and beliefs are among the most popular.
- Our new mission project in Brazil has built on the denominational website to create one of its own, carrying the message of the gospel in Portuguese.
- And new this year: A "seeker-sensitive" portal designed for those with little or no familiarity with the Church of the Brethren, lifting up our beliefs, our service, and our witness — another way of living.

Jesus told his followers to test new waters as he called them to be fishers of people.

At www.brethren.org, we're using new technologies to continue that ongoing call.



www.brethren.org: Going into all the 21st-century world.

*An electronic ministry of seven Church of the Brethren agencies:
Annual Conference, Association of Brethren Caregivers, Bethany
Theological Seminary, Brethren Benefit Trust, Brethren Employees'
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Acceptance

At Brethren colleges all are welcome!

We represent an exciting mix of backgrounds, faiths, nationalities and experiences. Our students challenge, respect, and celebrate each others' differences.

A Brethren education strives to educate and develop the whole person with Christian values, high standards of excellence and integrity. Students are challenged to think deeply and critically, and gain the confidence to explore new ideas.

Within a caring, learning community, students have the freedom to flourish—and talents, aspirations and dreams are turned into reality.

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COBCOA

TRAINING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN DEACON MINISTRY



The Denominational Deacon Ministry of the Association of Brethren Caregivers offers many ways new and experienced deacons can receive practical training to help them serve effectively.

BOISE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At the July 5-9 Boise Annual Conference deacons can attend —

- The Denominational Deacon Luncheon with Earle Fike Jr., a retired minister and church leader. He will speak about how deacons are “Entrusted with the Service of Jesus.”
- Several Insight Sessions sponsored by ABC entitled:
 - “Deacon Spirituality”
 - “At Such A Time As This”
 - “Choosing Long-Term Care Wisely”
 - “Christian Parenting: Oh My!”
 - “Innocence Lost: A Discussion on Child Sexual Abuse”
 - “The Age Wave Workshop”
 - “When A Loved One Has A Debilitating Disease.”

CARING MINISTRIES ASSEMBLY

This weekend conference for deacons, pastors, chaplains and caregivers will be held August 14-16 at Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren.

The Assembly’s theme “Healing Out of Silence” will be the focus for four keynote speakers, two worship events and 37 afternoon workshops — all of which apply to deacon ministry. Pastors attending the event can earn one CEU credit. A special track has been developed for chaplains.

Registration materials were sent to all Church of the Brethren congregations in May for this denominational event sponsored by the Association of Brethren Caregivers. To learn more about the speakers and workshops visit ABC’s website at www.brethren.org/abc/.

BBT board makes pension plan adjustments

The Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) board met in Elgin, Ill., April 26-27, approving changes to the Brethren Pension Plan's retirement benefits fund as it dealt with vanishing surpluses and the realities of today's economy.

The new long-range plan will maintain the existing 8 percent interest rate on past contributions to member accounts and those made through July 1. Beginning July 1, however, all new contributions will go into a separate account, with an interest rate initially set at 6 percent and reviewed annually.

BBT staff said the new rate is consistent with most other existing church pension plans and much higher than the average for secular pension plans. BBT president Wil Nolen held out hope the rate on new contributions to the Brethren Pension Plan might one day increase again.

"However, those rates are just not

possible at this time with today's market and the need to safeguard the longevity of the plan," he said.

The board also adopted a new mission statement, along with a vision statement and a list of core values. The vision statement lists 12 ways for BBT to achieve its mission. BBT staff planned to work over the next few months at action steps on several "strategic issues" that arose from the process.

Staff reported participation in the Brethren Medical Plan "remained steady" as it shifted to the new Congregational Employee Plan on Jan. 1. Total enrollment stood at 866. Insurance Plans director Jeff Garber said the plan has been "quite well received."

Staff also said they are researching the possibility of offering a voluntary long-term care insurance plan to all those eligible to participate in the Brethren Insurance Plans and exploring the viability of providing financial services through an alliance with the Brethren Employees' Credit Union.

The board approved the hiring of Los Angeles-based Kayne Anderson Rudnick Investment Management as manager for BBT's new domestic small-cap stock fund. It approved the appointment of Janice Bratton of Hummelstown, Pa., to the BBT board, subject to ratification by Annual Conference in July.

Modern technology helps to preserve old periodical

The Gospel Visitor, originally named *The Monthly Gospel-Visitor*, has now been preserved on microfilm. A forerunner of today's MESSENGER, it was the first periodical published for Brethren.

In April 1851, Henry Kurtz began publishing the *Visitor* in the loft of a spring house. At first controversial, eventually the paper became popular, and other periodicals also began to be published among the Brethren. At the end of 1873, the *Visitor* was merged with another paper and later took the name *The Primitive Christian*.

The microfilming of *The Gospel Visitor* came through the efforts of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives, located at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. There are five reels of microfilm: one under the title *Monthly Gospel Visitor*, and four under the title *Gospel Visitor*. Copies of the microfilm are expected to be available for purchase from Scholarly Resources, Inc. of Wilmington, Del., by the end of the year.

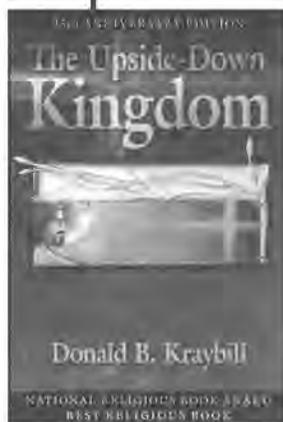
Disaster project directors hone skills and help camp

More than 40 of the denomination's disaster project directors learned by doing May 4-9 at Western Pennsylvania District's Camp Harmony. The May 4-9 event was similar to a hands-on training first done two years ago at Camp Ithiel in Florida.

Camp Harmony director Neal Harvey prepared a variety of construction experiences: both new construction, such as building a large new office area, and projects involving repair and/or improvement.

Directors for the week were Bob Pittman of Virginia District and John

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Mueller of Atlantic Southeast, both of whom shared their expertise in construction skills and procedures. Alice Petry led sessions on group meal planning and preparation.

Evenings were dedicated to presentations and discussions on directing disaster response projects. Guest presenters included Joann Hale of Church World Service and Liz Monahan Gibson of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Celia Cook-Huffman, a Juniata College faculty member, gave a presentation on conflict resolution.

General Board Emergency Response/Service Ministries (ER/SM) volunteer Glenn Kinsel led the group—which is coordinated by ER/SM—in a renewing of baptismal vows during one of the week’s worship services. Western Pennsylvania executive Ron Beachley ended the week with a meditation.

Personnel moves

The Shepherd’s Spring Outdoor Ministry Center board announced the appointment of **Ann Cornell** as administrator of the camp, located near Sharpsburg, Md. Cornell is a member of Frederick (Md.) Church of the Brethren and also lives in Frederick. Prior to the appointment as administrator, Cornell had served as food service director for Shepherd’s Spring since March. She has been actively involved with the camp since its beginning, directing a week of camp and serving in a variety of other volunteer positions.

• **David Shetler**, director of admissions and student development for Bethany Theological Seminary, resigned as of June 30. Shetler began his work with Bethany in October 1996 as advancement associate for Admissions and Alumni. His position grew over the years, resulting in several shifts of responsibilities. During his tenure, Shetler implemented several recruitment initiatives and participated in developing grant proposals, and has served as a member of the pastoral care team.

1. Israel/Palestine. Working with the General Board’s Church of the Brethren Washington Office, general secretary Judy Mills Reimer signed on to two letters related to the Middle East peace process. One letter asks the prime ministers of Israel and Palestine to take the bold steps that peace will require. The other asks US leaders to give unified leadership to the Middle East peace effort. The letters were coordinated by Churches for Middle East Peace.

2. Iraq. The General Board’s Global Food Crisis Fund in May approved another \$20,000 to be sent through Church World Service in support of two UNICEF initiatives. Half of the grant will help supply clean water—considered critical to good health, especially for children—to medical clinics. The other half will aid a project involving duckweed, which is dried and used as a high-nutrition supplement for children and pregnant mothers. Due to short supplies in Iraq, the duckweed will be imported from neighboring Jordan and Syria.

3. Dominican Republic. The annual “conferencia” of the Iglesia de los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren) in the Dominican Republic took place Feb. 21-23 at Camp Betel in San Juan province. About 300 people attended, including 90 delegates from 21 of the country’s 24 congregations or preaching points. Two preaching points—Boca Chica and Sabana Torsa—were given congregational status at the conference, and two other worshipping communities, in Peniel and La Caya, were formally recognized as preaching points.

4. Croatia. Brethren Service Europe coordinator Kristin Flory and current European Brethren Volunteer Service worker Rebecca Blocksome attended the Church and Peace International Conference May 1-4 in Osijek, Croatia. Blocksome is serving at the Mladi Most project in Mostar,

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5. Vermont. A special Brethren Volunteer Service orientation focusing on spiritual growth and an urban experience in New York took place for Unit 254 May 28 to June 17, based in Putney, Vt. Paul Grout, the 2002 Annual Conference moderator, served as resource leader. Of 11 volunteers participating, 8 are members of the Church of the Brethren.

6. Ashland, Ohio. The Brethren Church executive board called Kenneth D. Hunn of Nappanee, Ind., as the denomination’s next executive director, pending affirmation by the Brethren Church General Conference this summer. He will succeed Buzz Sandberg, who made overtures to bridge divisions between the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren Church during his six-year tenure.

7. Utah. Brethren Colleges Abroad officially launched its new Peace and Justice programs at the NAFSA Association of International Educators Conference in Salt Lake City, May 26-30. The new programs will enable students to study at universities and colleges in eight locations around the world: Cuba, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Hungary, Belgium, and Wales. The program will focus on issues of peace and justice by examining current world problems.

8. Missouri. The farewell celebration for the Mineral Creek congregation brought together more than 100 people on May 3 for a day of memories, singing, storytelling, a hog roast dinner, and a worship service with a sermon by Missouri/Arkansas District executive Sandy Bosserman. The congregation, located in Leeton, was the district’s oldest, closing after 134 years of ministry.

A person of firsts who lasts

General secretary Judy Mills Reimer heads for retirement

by Walt Wiltschek



At a June reception in the General Offices, Judy Mills Reimer delivers parting words to her staff.

Walt Wiltschek

Judy Mills Reimer has made a series of “firsts” in recent years.

She became the first woman to serve as permanent general secretary of the Church of the Brethren General Board when she was called in 1998. (Karen Peterson Miller was an interim shortly before Reimer took office).

She was the first woman—only the second, period—to serve as Annual Conference moderator, General Board chair, and general secretary.

And she was the first to lead the General Board after a redesign and subsequent Annual Conference action that resulted in a new structure and a growing number of denominational agencies.

On July 9, though, Reimer marks a “last”: her last day as general secretary

before she reaches the end of her contract and heads into retirement. Annual Conference in Boise, Idaho, will be followed by some much anticipated vacation and family time with her husband, George.

“I feel like I’ve given 150 percent to this job,” says Reimer, 63. “I jokingly say I’ve finished a 5-year job but it feels like it’s been 10 years.”

She came to the daunting job with a varied background—an ordained minister and church planting pastor in Virlina District, a former Brethren Volunteer Service worker in Germany, a successful businesswoman, a teacher, and a mother and grandmother. She combines the down-home Southern charm of her Roanoke, Va., roots with the determined,

speak-your-mind outlook of a CEO, all wrapped in a commitment to ministry.

“She’s a peach of a woman,” says Harold Moyer, her mentor and former pastor at the Williamson Road Church of the Brethren in Roanoke. “Creative, efficient—there’s a ton of super things I could say.”

Above all, the language of calling has been key for Reimer, as a pastor and especially as general secretary. When asked what she hopes people will remember most about her tenure as head of the denomination’s primary ministry and administrative arm, she answers, “That I was faithful to the calling of Jesus Christ . . . and gave all I had.”

That call has not been without frustra-

There's a sense of renewal and hope that comes as we move into God's tomorrow for the denomination. I think the Church of the Brethren is ready to look at its overall structure, to get away from turf issues and ask, "What is God calling the church to do?"

tions, but Reimer says her commitment to it has never wavered. The search committee named three priorities five years ago, she says: to be the spiritual leader for the General Board staff, to move from the old commission structure to a team-based environment, and to work with the treasurer to keep the finances of the board healthy.

Reimer feels she's been able to do that, though the last one has become a challenge in the past two years. After three years of balanced budgets and surpluses, a sharp downturn in the economy led to deficits and the need to downsize staff and make other difficult cuts.

She followed her business-born policy of "making the best decisions at the moment" and moving forward. "If it's not right, you ask forgiveness and make another decision," she says.

Fallout from those cuts, and a wave of divisive issues before the denomination, resulted in numerous calls, e-mails, and visits to the general secretary's office. Reimer doesn't mind people expressing their opinion, she says, but the way some Brethren have done so has taken her aback.

"I've been so shocked and so angered and hurt over the 'mean streak' we have," Reimer says. "I wish we as a denomination could talk to each other and not past each other. Jesus' greatest commandment was to love one another, but with that comes respect. We get so wrapped up in issues that we forget what it means to be true Christians."

The job also has brought many blessings, however. She points to the "tidal wave" of gifted youth and young adults who are already showing new energy and new ideas. She speaks with joy about her role as the denomination's

chief ecumenical officer and the opportunity to help birth the Christian Churches Together movement. She notes the "hunger for spirituality" that she senses.

She has also savored the chance to visit in scores of local congregations and build relationships. Few can know Reimer long before learning about the priority she places on "eyeballing" someone in conversation and maintaining an open-door policy.

Moyer says that connection has made a difference in Virginia District.

"People have been able to put a face on the 'officials' at Elgin," Moyer says. "People say, 'Those people don't know what's going on in our churches, and someone will say, 'Wait a minute! Judy Reimer's there.'"

Most satisfying of all for Reimer, perhaps, are the new General Board mission and vision statements and core values that emerged from a strategic planning process over the past two years. She made the process a priority, and she feels that having those statements in hand will set a solid foundation for the future.

Reimer hands that future off to Stan Noffsinger, whom she hired as manager of the Emergency Response/Service Ministries office in 1999 and later elevated to director of the Brethren Service Center and a member of the agency's Leadership Team. When asked what's ahead for the General Board and the Church of the Brethren, Reimer sees light beyond the clouds.

"I really hope and pray that people know how excited I am. There's a sense of renewal and hope that comes as we move into God's tomorrow for the denomination," she says. "I think the

Church of the Brethren is ready to look at its overall structure, to get away from turf issues and ask, 'What is God calling the church to do?'"

As for her personally, life will bring summers at her beloved family homestead in Franklin County, Va., winters at a new home in Fort Myers, Fla., and more time with family. She says George has been "a very supportive spouse" as he shuttled between Illinois and Virginia, but now she wants to spend more time with him and other family and friends.

George Reimer admits that the scheduling and travel has been a challenge at times, but he says he wouldn't hesitate to do it all over again.

"The sense I've had through all of this is that Judy loved what she was doing, and had a real sense of call," he says. "That's been rewarding for me to see that."

A history of heart problems taught Judy Mills Reimer that life is a precious gift of God, though, and now she wants to make the most of the years ahead. It's time to put other things first. She didn't fulfill everything on her wish list as general secretary, but that's okay.

"There are many things I feel are being left unfinished," says Reimer, "but I believe God calls us to a position, and God calls us from it. There would still be things in 10 years I'd feel would be unfinished.

"This is not my last call. I don't know what God has in store for us next, but we know there will be something. It all goes back to being faithful, and seeking to do God's will." ❧

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

To forgive is more

Are you angry? Are you resentful? Do you hold a grudge or ruminate on vengeful thoughts? Do you feel like you have been emotionally stapled to someone who has hurt you? Does your breathing quicken and your heart rate increase when you think about or are in the presence of someone who has hurt you? Would you like to gain control of your emotional health?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you are quite normal. Most people have experienced resentment, anger, even hatred at some point in their lives and most would rather not suffer the internal turmoil of constant anger and resentment.

There are many reasons to be angry—ranging from slights to serious interpersonal injuries to physical assaults. Anger is a good and appropriate response to the pain of interpersonal injury. Yet, if you stay angry or resentful, you put yourself at emotional and physical risk. Anger on a chronic basis has power over you—over your thoughts, your emotional energy, even negatively affecting cardio-

vascular and immune systems. More significantly, erosion of emotional health leads to increased difficulties in personal and professional relationships. Hostility and aggression have a way of creeping into relationships that have nothing to do with the offender. Symptoms of depression surrounding interpersonal injury may become more pronounced as feelings about the offense go unresolved. There is a better way to live. Learn to forgive.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus develops his ministry in what we call the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-8). Jesus warns against nursing anger (5:22) and goes on to say that we must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (5:44). Ultimately, the only way to prepare ourselves for God’s grace is to forgive those who have wronged us (6:12, 14, 15). If we don’t, the space in our hearts for love is diminished—filled instead with anger and resentment—to the point of not being able to receive God’s forgiveness of our own wrongs. God is love and cannot work in us if we are

than divine

by Alan Tripp



allowing no space for love. Forgiveness can bring our hearts back to love.

Academic study of forgiveness

Want proof? Many researchers have recently turned their attentions to the study of forgiveness because, well, they need proof. There simply was little written about interpersonal forgiveness prior to the mid-1980s, and no empirical studies. Robert D. Enright, professor of human development at the University of Wisconsin, was fascinated by the concept of forgiveness and found that many of his students were interested as well. How does it work? What are its benefits? How is it defined?

In 1985 Enright embarked on a study seeking to define forgiveness. Students and faculty met weekly to discuss readings and concepts of forgiveness, to test assumptions, and to work on definitions of forgiveness. Since that time, there has been a burgeoning interest in the forgiveness studies. By the mid-

1990s research on uses of forgiveness strategies began appearing in scientific journals. The John Templeton Foundation alone funded nearly 30 research laboratories to conduct forgiveness research programs. The results of many of these studies point to a truth Jesus emphatically taught.

A study at Hope College in Holland, Mich., examined how forgiveness improves physical health by measuring physiological responses to nursing grudges and to forgiveness. Heart rate, blood pressure, sweat, and muscle tensions were measured while participants were asked to nurse a grudge and think about ways to get revenge. The same measurements were taken when they were asked to think about forgiving the offender, empathize with the offender, and then actually wish the offender well. The subjects' cardiovascular systems labored when they dwelled on the offender, and the levels of cardiovascular stress and muscle tension increased as they considered revenge. Being angry and holding grudges may initially make one feel in control, but

Forgiveness is power. It breaks the curse of sin, it frees us from our past, it overcomes every evil. It could change the world if only we would allow it to flow through us unchecked.

—Johann Christoph Arnold

What forgiveness is not

Selected from Helping Clients Forgive: An Empirical Guide for Resolving Anger and Restoring Hope, by Robert Enright and Richard P. Fitzgibbons.

Pardoning. A pardon is a legal term involving a judge (who is not the injured party) reducing or eliminating a deserved sentence. The victim in this case makes no decision. In forgiveness, the one doing the forgiving is the victim.

Condoning or excusing. Pressures of circumstances may make a person feel a need to put up with or make excuses for another's bad behavior. Not so with forgiveness. Forgiveness first clearly identifies the offending behavior and its negative effects.

Forgetting. Realistically, pain has a memory. Forgiveness is not amnesia. Forgiveness is remembering the painful event in a new way that frees oneself to live without resentment, anger, and hostility.

Reconciliation. Reconciliation involves at least two parties willing to examine interpersonal injuries, accept responsibility, and commit to changing wrongful behavior. It involves reestablishing trust. Forgiveness is a part of that process. However, forgiveness may be practiced without the offender's participation if the offender refuses or is not present (whether in prison, out of state or country, or deceased). With forgiveness, an uncooperative offender does not emotionally hold the victim hostage.

interviews with the subjects indicated that they felt more in control when they tried to empathize with their offenders. The least amount of cardiovascular stress and the greatest sense of power, well-being, and resolution came when the subjects thoughtfully considered forgiveness.

Studies at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Tennessee established a fundamental relationship between learning to forgive and decreasing health complaints. Still other studies have demonstrated that increasing positive emotional states improved immune systems while reducing heart rate, blood pressure, and respiratory variability. Forgiveness provides transformative movement from negative emotions to positive that improve physical comfort and well-being. It is indeed a healing process.

While forgiveness may have personal health benefits, it is anything but solely self-serving. From a human development perspective, forgiveness is centered in a moral concern with the quest for good. When people seek goodness, it is always in relation to others. Forgiveness transforms the forgiver by changing perspectives, feelings, attitudes, and interactions—all of which lead to healthier interactions with others. A forgiver moves from being judgmental to being understanding, from being resentful to loving, from being anxious to feeling relaxed. All this creates a new direction for a more peaceful existence, both internally and interpersonally.

What is forgiveness?

Robert Enright credits philosopher Joanna North for the best definition of forgiveness. North views forgiveness as



a moral response to unfair treatment. After rationally determining that one has been treated unfairly, forgiveness is the willful abandonment of resentment and related responses, such as revenge, even though one may have a right to such responses. Forgiveness involves responding to the wrongdoer, not only by giving up negative emotions and behaviors, but by eventually replacing the negative emotions with positive emotions such as compassion, concern, and a genuine sense of goodness—actually investing in and hoping for the wrongdoer's well-being. Philosophers call this last step in forgiveness moral love. Jesus taught it: "Love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. 5:44).

Many people realize in retrospect that they have forgiven. They find that they have actually passed into the final work of forgiveness without knowing exactly when they did so. They become aware of a sense of freedom. They are at peace.

Working through the painful process of forgiveness one time makes it less difficult with each new need to forgive. Enright and Suzanne Freedman studied forgiveness with adult incest survivors. Participants met with an educator one hour per week and worked through a workbook of 17 phases of forgiveness at their own pace. Completion of the phases took from 10 to 16 months. Participants became more hopeful, had increased self-esteem, and decreased anxiety and depression. A year later, the benefits remained and others emerged, including increased self-confidence and the willingness to take positive risks.

Beverly Flanigan, a social work professor at the University of Wisconsin, interviewed people across the

Forgiveness comes in phases

This information is from Forgiveness is a Choice: A Step-by-Step Process for Resolving Anger and Restoring Hope, by Robert Enright.

Forgiveness can be a very difficult task. Don't rush or feel pressured into forgiving. Get help if you need it. Recognize the destructive nature of the anger you are feeling and begin to explore a commitment to forgive.

The following paraphrases four phases of forgiveness identified by Robert Enright. These have proven helpful to people seeking assistance with the forgiveness process.

Phase 1—Uncovering your anger

In the first phase, victims reflect on how they have experienced anger resulting from interpersonal injury. They begin to answer questions about how they deal with the anger and identify how much time they spend rehearsing the injury. They begin to take a broader look at the depth of the injury and how it has changed their lives.

Phase 2—Deciding to forgive

The victim decides that efforts at dealing with the anger have not worked. A willingness to explore and begin the forgiveness process emerges. The victim chooses to forgive.

Phase 3—Working on forgiveness

The person works toward understanding the offender from a wider perspective. The person works toward compassion, and accepts the pain of the injury, absorbing it rather than lashing out at others. The individual acknowledges that nothing will make the injury disappear and chooses to reshape its effects. At this point, the person may begin to develop compassion or "moral love" for the offender.

Phase 4—Discovery and release from emotional prison

In the last phase, forgivers begin to discover meaning in their suffering and discover their own need for forgiveness. They recognize that they are not alone and discover purpose in life. Finally, forgivers discover that they are free—free of resentment, anger, fear, and hostility.



United States who believed that they had forgiven the unforgivable. She discovered that those who found the courage and strength to forgive people who had committed horrendous acts against them believed that there was very little, if anything, that could not be forgiven.

Research has demonstrated people who are able to forgive may experience greater joy, a profound sense of control over life, less stress, less illness, greater optimism, hope, compassion, empathy, and self-confidence. Researchers of forgiveness have found that while it may be more difficult for some than others, everyone is capable of forgiveness.

Hope of the future

I love the scripture verse from 1 John: "Children, love must not be a matter of theory or talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action" (3:18). Forgiveness transforms evil to good, but only if we practice it. In fact, when it is practiced, forgiveness becomes a part of one's very being and identity. How else could one forgive 70 times seven (Matt. 18:22)?

The bloodiest century in human history has finally passed, but what hope do we have for the future? More people died in ethnic conflicts, civil strife, dictatorial power grabs, retaliatory and punitive military strikes, and world wars during the 20th century than in all other centuries combined. What is different as we move into the present century?

The Church of the Brethren is a historic peace church. What kind of peace witnesses will the Church of the Brethren provide in the 21st century? What do we have to offer? One answer is to participate in the very nature of God in the world. Transform it through forgiveness. Live forgiving lives. Teach forgiveness. Let forgiveness become inseparable from our very beings in all that we do. **W!**

Alan Tripp of Madison, Wis., is a member of the Church of the Brethren and a 1999 graduate of Bethany Seminary. He has a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a bachelor's from Manchester College. He is employed as a program and planning analyst for the State of Wisconsin in the area of community forensics. Alan is married to Mona Jean Harley and they have two children, Annika and Eli. They attend the Madison Mennonite Church.

Do we forgive for ourselves or for others?

Even though forgiveness is ultimately a loving response to an offender, the focus of forgiveness begins within oneself. In one notable study, researchers evaluated the effects of two brief group interventions. One group focused on self-enhancement reasons for forgiveness and the other on forgiveness as a means to restore interpersonal relationships.

The two one-hour sessions included discussion to generate empathy for the offender. The goals of these interventions were to develop new perspectives on having been victimized, on the personal need for forgiveness, and to understand the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. The only difference between the two groups

was the rationale for forgiveness.

The intervention for interpersonal reasons emphasized beneficial effects of forgiveness on relationships, both with the offender and with significant others. The self-enhancement intervention focused on the positive personal consequences of forgiveness, such as reducing obsessive thoughts about the offense, reducing anger, fear, and bitterness, and reducing other stress-related symptoms.

Both groups had less desire for revenge, an increase in positive feelings for the offender, and more desire for reconciliation than the control group. While both groups improved, the self-enhancement group was more effective than the interpersonal relationship group at reducing feelings of revenge, increasing positive thoughts toward the offender, and promoting

conciliatory thoughts. Both groups reported six weeks later that they felt less victimized, had increased positive feelings toward the offender, and were less likely to hold a grudge.

Interestingly, the self-enhancement group felt more affirmation for the offender than the interpersonal group.

Theologian Lewis Smedes states that serious pain is always egocentric. Getting us to focus on ourselves is the very job of pain—especially emotional pain. Pain tells us that there is something in need of change. It pushes us to act. Addressing the personal pain is necessary before good can be done for the person who caused the pain. Forgiveness moves the spirit to a position of healing that calms the inner emotional turmoil and offers good will to the person who has caused the injury.

Forgiveness resources

Books

Seventy Times Seven: The Power of Forgiveness, by Johann Christoph Arnold.

Why Forgive?, by Johann Christoph Arnold and Steve Chalke.

Forgiveness is a Choice: A Step by Step Process for Resolving Anger and Restoring Hope, by Robert D. Enright.

The Art of Forgiving: When You Need to Forgive and Don't Know How, by Lewis B. Smedes.

Exploring Forgiveness, edited by Robert D. Enright and Joanna North.

Forgiving the Unforgivable: Overcoming the Bitter Legacy of Intimate Wounds, by Beverly Flanigan.

Caring Like Jesus: The Matthew 18 Project, by Daniel Ulrich and Janice Fairchild.

Videos

Bridge to Forgiveness, by Ted Swartz and Lee Eshleman, with musical guest Ken Medema.

Journey Toward Forgiveness: From Rage to Reconciliation, Mennonite Media Productions.

Websites

www.choosingforgiveness.org
www.forgivenessweb.com

The books and videos are available from Brethren Press at 800-441-3712 or www.brethrenpress.com.

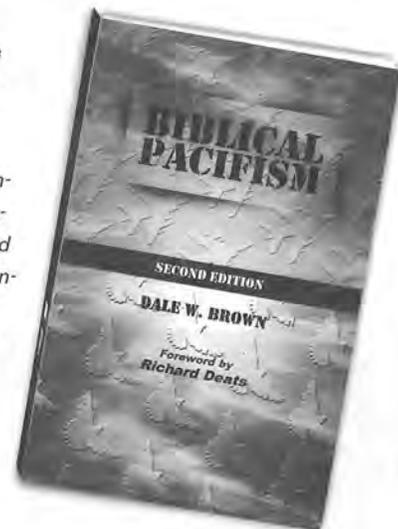
As our world reels

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Lessons from a lifetime

This missionary couple



Janis Pyle

Violet and Roy Pfaltzgraff, who devoted their careers to caring for leprosy patients, still keep up with trends in the treatment of the disease.

What did Dr. Roy Pfaltzgraff, 85, and his wife Violet (Hackman), 84, learn from a lifetime on the mission field?

Risk personal involvement

“We were never afraid to touch the people,” Roy said, as they looked back on their almost 40 years spent in medical missions in Nigeria.

This first of their mission philosophies, one common to many Church of the Brethren mission workers, becomes quite profound when it is revealed that their focus was no less than the

eradication of leprosy, not only from Africa, but from the face of the earth.

“Treating leprosy patients has been our life purpose,” Violet said simply.

Roy has been widely recognized as a leprologist. He is known worldwide for his contributions to training doctors on the subject and for writing textbooks about clinical diagnoses of the disease.

Follow callings

Their home in Brethren Village, Lititz, Pa.—with its equal mix of African artifacts, tropical plants, family photos, and professional leprology journals—is a comfortable blend of their past and current interests. It’s a cozy setting for them to recall how they met.

“It was love at first sight,” said Violet about falling in love at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College, where they would marry in 1942. Their relationship lasted, they agreed, because both felt called by God to be overseas missionaries. After they met, Violet changed her course of study from education to pre-nursing, a move that would ultimately make her a full partner in his medical assignments. She followed him to Philadelphia to pursue her nursing degree as he completed his medical training at Temple University.

“I always thought we would serve in China,” said Violet, “but that door was closed.”

Integrate faith and work

On Jan. 28, 1945, Roy was ordained and Violet was consecrated into ministry at York (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren. (Roy’s first sermon, at this occasion, prophesied a hope that has come true: that one day Nigerians would send missionaries to the United States! American churches now routinely welcome missionaries from Africa to help them renew their faith.)

Immediately, they left for their first Church of the Brethren assignment, one in Lassa, Nigeria, which blended their desire to

of mission

ministered to body and soul of leprosy patients

by Janis Pyle

heal body and soul. “To rebuild a broken body would be futile; along with it we must offer freedom for the soul in a new life in Christ Jesus,” Roy wrote from his heart later that year in the *Gospel Messenger*, as he encountered people in leper colonies for the first time. (See “Hands,” p. 22.) Roy and Violet worked at the existing small Lassa General Hospital, as Roy supervised construction of a new hospital. Roy was also a minister in the Lassa EYN (Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria—Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) from 1945 to 1953.

In Garkida, they held pastoral leadership roles (1954-1982), at Virgwi EYN, even as they managed their clinical leprosy work on behalf of the Church of the Brethren at the Adamawa Provincial Leprosarium. (When the denomination turned the leprosarium over to the Nigerian government in 1976, the Pfaltzgraffs continued to work there until 1982).

They returned to the United States in 1982. For the next 10 years, until their retirement, Roy was medical consultant for a nondenominational mission group, American Leprosy Missions.

—continued



Violet Pfaltzgraff, right, dispenses medicine to Emmanuel Mwada, a leprosy patient and hospital worker, at the Adamawa Provincial Leprosarium in Garkida, Nigeria.

Spiritual renewal

by Violet Pfaltzgraff

In the October 8, 1949, *Gospel Messenger*, Violet wrote these words that all mission workers should heed about the importance of spiritual renewal. The piece was written after a year back in the United States following their first mission term.

We have received many benefits from our visit to the homeland. The tropical heat and pests had worn us down physically. Isolation from a wider society had made us culturally starved. And our greatest trouble we felt to be a great spiritual hunger.

We visited our families and were relieved from anxieties we had concerning their welfare. We no longer needed to take pills day after day to ward off malaria, one of the diseases which in former days made Africa the white man’s grave. We could drink water without boiling it and milk came to the door pasteurized. The children could again put on their clothes without waiting until we first turned their shoes upside down to ascertain the absence of scorpions. The children could play out of doors without our having to worry about poisonous snakes and mad dogs.

We received many physical and cultural

benefits from our year at home but they were small in comparison to the spiritual values we received. During the last year of our first term, we became conscious of a deep spiritual need. As always, with those who submit their lives into his hands, God saw our need and we were led to Bethany Biblical Seminary. We were there only a few months before our return to Africa, but what we got while there was worth every minute of it. For we saw that we did not become spiritually empty on the field; rather it was while we were on the field that we became conscious of a need that has always existed. . . .

Find a single focus

Their first term in Nigeria coincided with the development of dapsone, a drug in the sulfa family, that actually reversed the effects of leprosy. When they could actually see significant results, they began embracing leprosy control as their life work. According to *Leprosy: Medicine in the Tropics* (a book Roy co-authored with Anthony Bryceson in 1990), leprosy, by definition, is “a chronic infectious disease, which is essentially a disease of peripheral nerves, also affecting the skin and sometimes certain other tissues, notably the eye, the mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, muscle, and bone.” In 1945, the number of cases in one province alone in Nigeria was 20,000, about the total in all of Nigeria today, Roy said. The disease, no longer widespread, is relegated mainly to India, Brazil, and Myanmar (formerly Burma).

The culmination of the Pfaltzgraffs’ work was an award from the Damien-Dutton Society for Leprosy Aid. Each year it goes to a person or a group of people “who have made a significant contribution to the conquest of leprosy, either by direct patient care, research, education, social rehabilitation or philanthropy.” At the 1997 award ceremony, Dr. Wayne Meyers, Damien-Dutton medical advisor, cited Roy: “He is known worldwide for his expertise in the clinical manifesta-

tion and diagnoses of leprosy and for his extensive contributions to the physical rehabilitation of leprosy patients.”

Roy said, “Violet and I have been blessed to have a life with a singular focus.” He would counsel others: “One is more effective and efficient if you can make a lifelong vocational decision and stick with it, if at all possible.” For those contemplating mission work, they agree that short-term mission trips should not be ends in themselves but should be used as springboards for choosing long-term commitments.

Practice teamwork

Teamwork has been a hallmark of their life together. “From the moment we met, Violet worked by my side in our medical program,” Roy said. “She did the major portion of hospital staff training and supervision. She trained staff to carry out procedures to provide surgical rehabilitation for patients. Any awards that I receive also belong to her.”

Violet noted, “Our goal for our patients was always self-sufficiency. Many leprosy patients had grown accustomed to being cared for. We always wanted to integrate them back into society.” Roy added: “I got the reputation of a doctor who wanted to send everyone home.” To make patients more ambulatory, he devised numerous innovative appliances, such

Hands

by Roy Pfaltzgraff

Excerpted from a Dec. 1, 1945, *Gospel Messenger* article, in which Roy pleaded for help for people with leprosy. He was writing from Garkida, Nigeria.

On Easter night the leper colony church held its communion service. Their church is a fine large one in native style. But in the dim lamplight the place looked strange and medieval. There were perhaps 150 communicants with joyful faces uplifted and eyes gleaming from the shadows crowded together in the front part of the church on the low mud benches.

Then came the time to distribute the diva (African bread). Each man held out his two hands cuplike to receive his portion. I was struck by the many different sorts of hands I saw. Of course, some were old and some were young, some ugly and some beautiful. But more than that: here was a pair of young hands, thin, long and shapely; next to it was a pair with one finger missing on the left hand and half a finger gone on the right. Here was one with mere stubs of fingers but pretty good thumbs; next to them was

just a pair of nubs wobbling unsteady on bony wrists, scarcely able to hold a piece of paper in their fumbling grasp.

Why this great difference? All these people had the same disease, I was told. But some had such perfect hands while others really had no hands at all. Why should this be? Perhaps I could find out while distributing the other sacrament. Again I looked at the hands, but compared them with the faces this time. “Yes, this is the answer,” I thought. The deformed and fingerless hands belonged to the old faces and the perfect hands belong to those still young. But I looked again. No, that didn’t quite hold true for here was a boy about 12 years old with only two stumps of fingers on each hand. On looking further, I found quite a few exceptions to my conclusion. . . .

A few days later I again visited the leper colony, and there I discovered the solution to this problem of mine. The deformed, hopeless cases had been that way when they first came to the colony, and many had been deformed a long time before that. The men with good strong hands had come to the colony when they first saw signs of their awful disease. Their

leprosy had been checked and many would soon be on their way back to their villages with a new lease on life, taking with them Christ, their new companion, taking him into places which never before had seen the light of his gospel. On the other hand, the old, deformed cases would most likely stay on in the colony until they died, thus contributing little, if anything, to society or the church.

The young lepers of Africa will be set free when we can publish widely the opportunity for a new life at the leper colony, and when we can educate the people in the value of early treatment. Then, too, after they come to the colony, we must provide hygienic and pleasant surroundings, good food and enlightening education. But to do all this simply to rebuild a broken body would be futile; along with it we must offer freedom for the soul in a new life in Christ Jesus.

This is but the briefest outline of an immense program which urgently needs men, money, materials and many, many prayers. Can you find a place for yourself in this program to save the thousands of young lepers of Nigeria?



The women's choir at Virgwi Church in Garkida bid the Pfaltzgraffs a fond farewell when they left Nigeria in 1982.

as braces, shoes, and artificial limbs for leprosy patients, using appropriate technology for the developing world.

Recharge spiritually

Roy, often called upon to share his expertise, estimated that he trained almost a thousand doctors about leprosy diagnoses.

"When I was called away for work, Violet still had the trials of running a household in Africa and the hospital as well," he said. All of their children, except for the first-born, were born in Africa. Their children, all married, are (in birth order): Roy, Jr. (Haxtun, Colo.); George (St. Croix Falls, Wis.), David (Keymar, Md.), Kathryn Pfaltzgraff Eller (La Verne, Calif.), and Nevin (LaRonge, Saskatchewan, Canada). They have 16 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

To refresh spiritually, Violet often took walks with the children in the countryside, pointing out sights distinctively African, such as century plants, weaver birds, and papaya, date, and banana trees. In an accompanying article, she underscores the value of furloughs back home for mission workers. (See "Spiritual renewal," p. 21.)

Dare to disagree

Perhaps Roy is best known for writing textbooks, many chapters for treatises on leprosy and original research papers. In reviewing Roy's career as a noted leprologist,

Dr. Meyers said: "His incisive articles on controversial topics in the treatment and management of leprosy continue to appear in medical journals. They are always helpful, but sometimes stimulating, even irritating, to the hierarchy of world leprosy academia." The Pfaltzgraffs did not court controversy, but didn't back away from it when it crossed their path. They disagreed, occasionally with the Church of the Brethren, particularly about handing over hospital projects to governments in Nigeria, believing those governments were not yet ready to assume responsibility for them.

Keep an open mind

Several years ago Roy and Violet were quoted as saying that if they were starting over, they would devote another 40 years to the fight against leprosy. But they have changed their minds.

"Today, we would attempt to control HIV/AIDS," Roy said. "The disease is almost 100 percent fatal. There's so much stigma attached. It's the scourge of the present age as leprosy was in the past." He sums up: "If we could, we would continue to devote our lives, to paraphrase Mother Teresa, 'to care for God's poorest of the poor.'" ❗

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

Significant events for the Pfaltzgraffs: A timeline

1942: Married April 10 at Elizabethtown College. Violet received R.N., Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing, Philadelphia, Roy received Doctor of Medicine, Temple University Medical School, Philadelphia
1945: Ordination of Roy and

consecration of Violet to Church of the Brethren ministry
1945-1953: Roy, medical officer, and Violet, nurse, at Lassa General Hospital, Lassa, Nigeria. Roy supervised construction of a new hospital
1954-1964 and 1965-1976: Roy and Violet served

Adamawa Provincial Leprosarium at Garkida, Nigeria
1954-1982: Roy was a minister at the Virgwi Church, Garkida
1976-1982: Roy was chief consultant leprologist, Gongola State Government, Nigeria
1982: Roy received Honorary

Doctorate of Science Degree, Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria
1983-1992: Roy and Violet served American Leprosy Missions in the United States
1992: Retirement
1997: Roy received Damien-Dutton Society Award

Celebrate the faithful remnant

Small churches must give up wishful thinking. Brethren do small best.

by James L. Kinsey

I had just finished my presentation on the small-membership church. As it ended, Pastor Mack came right at me, eyes a split screen of anger and sadness. "If you are so smart, then tell me this. How can I save my struggling congregation? We have two rapidly growing nondenominational programs a mile on either side of us. I am losing members daily. My people are discouraged and ready to throw in the towel."

I felt the pain. I had just stated in the presentation that it is high time for a new Brethren metaphor, around which our small-membership congregations (over two-thirds of us!) can organize. It is time we train pastors for our Brethren reality and repent of wishful thinking. That thinking that we can "grow" big congregations is causing us to battle one another and engage in deadly debates. We can study all the mega-congregations we want, and attend all the high-powered evangelism meetings out there. But reality is this: Brethren do small best. Let's learn to do it even better.

As Carl Dudley states it in his latest edition of *Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-First Century* (October 2002, Abingdon Press), "Small churches are not organizational errors to be corrected, but intentional choices of members who put a priority on human relationships. The task of the small-church leader is to maximize their potential impact with a remarkable array of resources that they use intuitively."

Brethren congregations are suffering from two competing trends. The first is the demographic decline in many rural communities and regions. Small towns and rural regions are aware that their youth are leaving for "greener pastures." Businesses are closing, especially farms and farm services, taking with them jobs and income-producing work. This trend affects Brethren in most areas even when housing developments are everywhere. This is most profound from the Mississippi River to the Rockies.

Second, we are trying, with a small body of believers, to be a multi-programmatic institution. We see plenty of need that we want to address. Our resources, both in persons and finances, are stretched beyond our ability to deliver quality programs. Some would argue that if we tithed, we would have more than adequate funds. However, added to the limited person time, funds alone will not save us.

The small membership church is not in the mainstream of our culture. Pastor Mack was painfully aware of that. The small membership church is a people in exile, like the Hebrew children. Like those children, led by Moses, that

body of believers is beset on all sides by what feels like a hostile world. Just like the early church, derision is everywhere. Congregational resource systems seem not to care. The not-so-hidden message is for those unable to thrive, like the businesses around them, to close.

John H. Bennet, in his article "Rural Remnant" (from the *Small Church Newsletter*, Missouri School of Religion, September 1996) states that we must adopt a "remnant theology and practice." He states that most pastors "are not really trained for, nor committed to, a ministry in exile.

"Small and/or rural congregations that claim a vision for ministry in such a context are worthy of the term 'faithful remnant' and must prepare for the rigors of extended exile."

A "remnant" is a small body of believers from what had been a larger group. This small body feels charged with continuing the work of Jesus as in the days when the Spirit first captured them. A feeling of being adrift in what used to be a solid institution creates the sense of being in "exile" at home but not really at home. The building may look the same but the body of believers is completely different. Many feel at a loss to know what to do next to keep the doors open and to keep the limited ministry alive. Remnants have no difficulty remembering the past. There is a soul-felt longing for those days to return so all will be well again, and a desire to fan the embers of memory into the powerful flames that once were.

A faithful remnant that does "remnant thinking" will instead look toward the future, build on the past, and create a new church anchored in the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Remnant thinking" is knowing that God has given everyone present gifts to be used in ministry. The faithful remnant will use all of these gifts for the sake of the body of believers and the neighbor's good.

The issues and questions each congregation who wants to become a "remnant in exile" must ask are:

- How is the "gospel" lived by her members so that the congregation is really a "Good News" community of faith?
- Is the congregation really engaged in mission, or just waiting for its death?
- Is the congregation a "teaching" source, training her members to move forward even in her diminished condition?
- How does the congregation partner with other ecumenical bodies to address needs in the community?
- How does the congregation measure its sense of worth?



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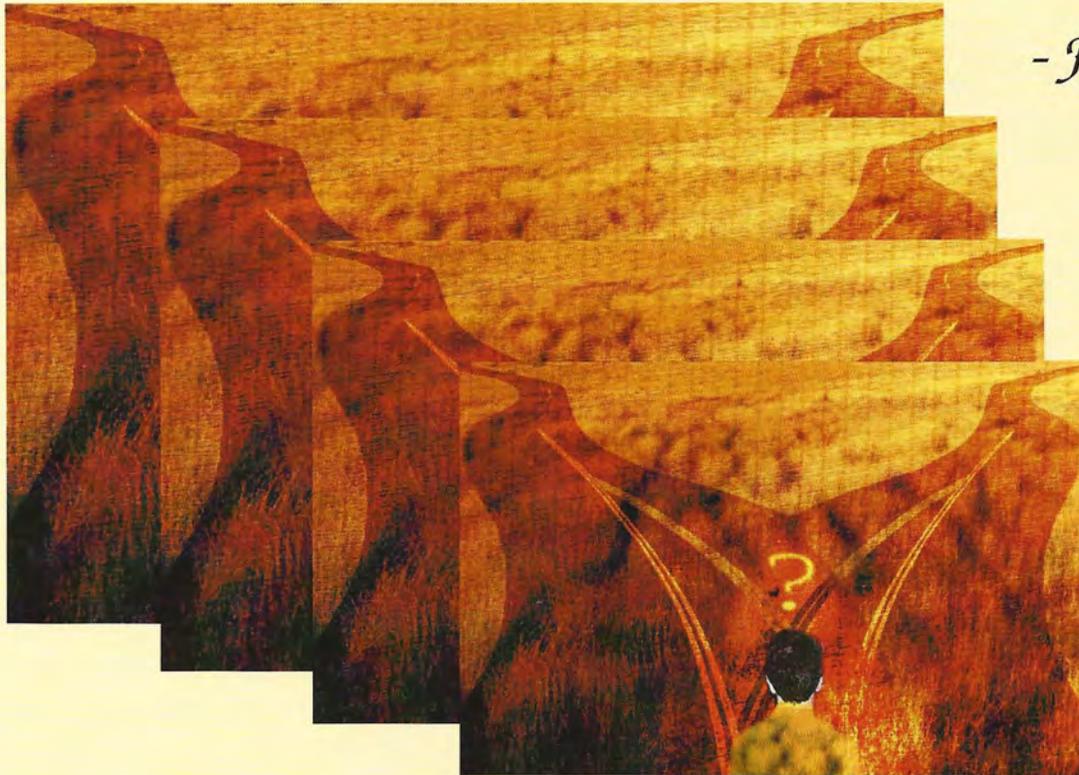
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Several visitors swelled the crowd on Father's Day at the Girard (Ill.) Church of the Brethren, where a small but determined core group is bringing in guest speakers on Sundays while the congregation is without a pastor.

The worth issue is key to whether a congregation moves into being a "remnant in exile" with confidence, or easily quits the journey. With a strong sense of worth and call to ministry, any congregation can address its present condition and flourish in "remnant thinking."

God has a bias for small groups. Jesus chose 12. The early church created small clusters of believers around the region. They were fruitful in ministry to the neighborhood. These clusters of believers were so successful in how they did simple ministries that God added to their numbers daily.

Any body of believers that wants to maximize its time as a "remnant in exile" will do serious reflection and action around the historical markers of its congregation. Why was this body planted in this location? What were the dreams for the future that excited this congregation's formation? What have been the mission and the ministries of the body? Can any of these be recycled or reclaimed and made permanent in today's neighborhood?

With the vision of its ministry, the congregation must then take a serious and honest look at its neighborhood. What ministries are needed by those who live there? Such a study must contain in-depth Bible study, especially around "remnants in exile" who were called to ministry and mission.

Small membership churches, whether in town, city, or countryside, can work well only on one or two ministries or mission points. The key is to find the congregation's niche, the place where no one else is already providing ministry. Do not run competition with other congregations

or service groups. Congregations must prayerfully discern whether they can take on a certain ministry, or whether an alliance of other small-membership congregations in the neighborhood is needed.

Whatever ministry is chosen, the congregation must learn to do it well, pausing from time to time to evaluate how it is going. They must prepare for changes in the plan and have a plan B. There must be feedback from those for whom the ministry is designed. A celebration is in order at every step along the way.

In the midst of this ministry, like any faithful remnant, members must not get discouraged. The prime work of leadership is to keep the membership encouraged and to give it good resources for carrying out the ministry. Leadership must create support systems that keep everyone on task. When the going gets rough, those support systems will provide the faith resources so that giving up will not be an option.

This "remnant thinking" ministry is hard work. Like the Hebrews on the exodus, temptations to create golden calves will abound (Exodus 32). For this to work, each leader must have a support group. That support group will help the leader reflect on the ministry and offer spiritual tools for the task at hand. Whatever is done must be done in celebration and awareness of the anointing God has placed on each marvelous task. **■**

James L. Kinsey of Lake Odessa, Mich., is a member of the General Board's Congregational Life Team for Area 2. He specializes in small-church revitalization.

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LETTERS

Jesus welcomed all who sought his refuge. Can we do less? In what case would we dare to deny anyone opportunity to seek God's grace? Should only those without sin be permitted entrance into our group?

Judging others' worthiness

Since Alexander Mack and seven others committed themselves to living in New Testament righteousness, has our Brethren waltz with God been more forward or backward? Have we spent too much time worrying about whom we find acceptable to join our fellowship?

Almost 300 years' hindsight tempts us to ask whether we have been too much the devil's instrument chasing all variety of

queries, when we could have been about the Lord's real business. Jesus told us to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul and to love our neighbor as ourself. He explained that our neighbor is whomever we meet that needs our help. Finally, Jesus told us that we are all sinners but could find salvation in his sacrifice.

Jesus welcomed all who sought his refuge. Can we do less? In what case would we dare to deny anyone opportunity to seek God's grace? Should only those without sin be permitted entrance into our group? Insofar as we meet together as sinners under the sign of the cross, is it not incumbent on us to be mutually encouraging toward God's forgiveness? Until God grants grace, are we not all conjoined as his children in sin?

Our determination to judge others' worthiness has left too many brothers and sisters in the wreckage of arguments over leadership, military service, communalism, slavery, race, missions, divorce, music, stewardship, education, gender, and sexuality, as well as a host of questions dealing with mode of dress, baptism, and church authority. It's my prayerful proposal that we begin to accept seriously Jesus' commandments and example.

We need to look in a mirror. We need to trust that whether we arrive in the morning or evening, salvation is not ours to judge but lies in the hands of God alone.

Claude Simmons
Churchville, Va.

Iraq war was wrong

President Bush was wrong to use military force to overthrow the government in Iraq. The arguments of cause for this

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action were false and so thousands of people died for unjust reasons. The president is scrambling now to produce evidence that will exonerate him and make the sacrifice of lives seem worthwhile. I am ashamed of the actions of my country.

There are some American citizens who think I should not express this opinion, that everyone should maintain solid support for the decisions of our elected officials, especially the president, in a time of conflict. But I believe it is my right and my obligation to ask for examination of this aggressive act of war.

I have been a member of the Church of the Brethren all of my life. One of the distinguishing beliefs of that denomination is that war is wrong. Another strongly held belief among many Brethren is that we should stand up and speak out against injustice, not just when it hurts us, but when it is hurting anyone anywhere. Not to do so is to turn our backs on the teachings of Jesus.

Settling disputes by violent means is archaic and futile. Violence only begets violence. It is time for the United States to become a partner in the community of nations instead of taking on the role of world dictator. It is time to bring our thinking into the civilized 21st century and put away the "adult toys" of war. It is time for all those who dream of a peaceful world to do the work to make that dream a reality.

Beverly Hoover Seese
Delphi, Indiana

Pacifists caring for mentally ill

It was pleasing to read about Gerry and Harry Graybill in the March issue. Twenty years is a lot of service and they are still active. During World War II Harry gave four years of service as a war objector. Some of those years he worked in a mental hospital, the most significant work done by pacifists at that time. The institutions were labeled insane asylums, and mentally ill people were sometimes an embarrassment to their families. These men and sometimes their wives worked patiently and with love and skill and were instrumen-

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tal in changing the treatment of mentally sick people. During the war period mentally ill people were sometimes herded together as though they were animals, abused by unskilled workers. And now we have mental hospitals, more knowledge, and better care. Some credit goes to people like Harry.

Wilmer Brandt
Marshfield, Vt.

Memories of Andrew Cordier

The letter in the May issue concerning Andrew Cordier brought back memories. I knew him personally.

When I graduated from Millersburg (Ind.) High School in 1931, Cordier, then a history professor at Manchester College, delivered the baccalaureate sermon for our graduating class. I still remember his topic:

"Ambrose, England hath need of thee."

Twenty years later, when I attended a seminar sponsored by the Brotherhood in Washington, D. C., and New York City, I ran into Andrew Cordier at the United Nations. He did not remember me personally, but he did remember the occasion of his address at Millersburg High in '31. Even his topic!

Your letter writer failed to mention that when Brother Cordier left the United Nations he became president of Columbia University. I visited him there, and this time he knew me.

Don Snyder
Waynesboro, Va.

What does it mean to be a Living Peace Church?



"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy!'"

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~ Matthew 5:43-44

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Lessons from a robin

Every day this week a male robin has been banging on the front door of the church. The first time I heard it I went to the door and saw the robin sitting on the railing looking back at me as if to say, "What are you looking at?" After several more thumps, I peeked around the cor-

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ner to see this robin flying into the window fighting his own image on the glass. As I sat in my office listening to the irritating thump I pondered on a few things:

- If only more church members would be as enthusiastic about trying to get into the church as the robin, what a vibrant church we would have! Unfortunately, it seems many church members are as zealous about leaving the church as the robin is about entering. God seeks enthusiastic, sincere, and genuine worship.

- We focus on false threats. How many of us worry over things that don't exist? Like the robin that fights the illusion of an invading enemy, we often lose sleep over inaccurate perceptions. I often fret over sermons that I think are mediocre only to have someone say, "That was one of your better sermons, preacher." Let's do ourselves a favor and go gentle with ourselves. Jesus said, "Who of you by worrying can add

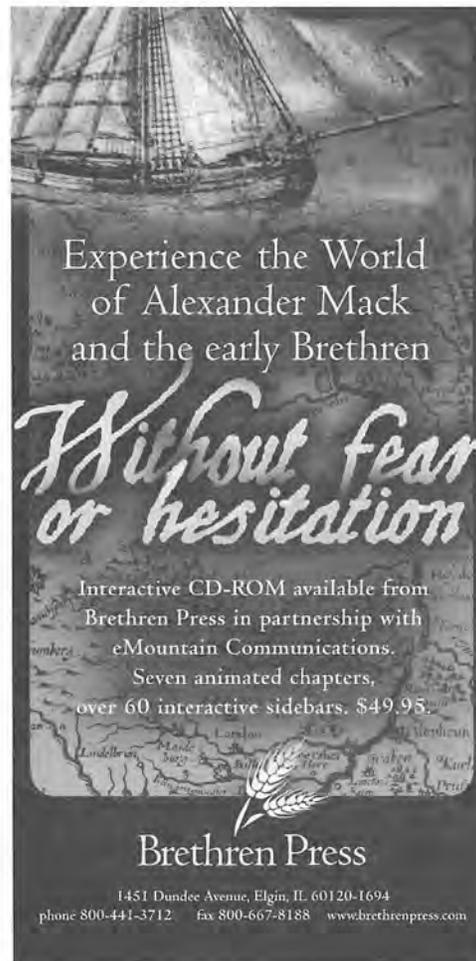
a single hour to his life?" (Matt. 6:27).

- What is the difference between stubbornness and perseverance? Stubbornness is close-minded. It doesn't matter whether the goal is achievable or not, many people will go after it like the robin banging his head against the window. On the other hand, perseverance is open-minded. After banging your head against the wall, stopping and evaluating your approach may prove to be more beneficial. Had the robin realized that if he smiled, shook hands, and walked away, the image in the glass would have done the same.

I feel sorry for the robin and hope he will soon decide enough is enough. And though I have made some observations on life through his escapades, it still irritates me to hear his thumping on the church front door!

David Whitten

Moscow Church of the Brethren
Mount Solon, Va.



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Volunteers urgently needed. The General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries office is seeking volunteers to help rebuild homes on the Pacific island of Chuuk in Micronesia. This project, coordinated by Mennonite Disaster Service, is in response to Typhoon Chata'an, which destroyed more than 1,000 homes last July. Volunteers will serve six-week stints under hardship conditions, with no indoor plumbing, electricity, or medical services. Interested people should contact Roy Winter or Jane Yount at 800-451-4407 as soon as possible.

Minister of families wanted: Full-time position in growing, caring, and innovative congregation. Responsible for developing congregational programs for children, youth, and younger families and outreach to a multi-cultural neighborhood. (Anglo and Hispanic). Dually aligned congregation with both Church of the Brethren and American Baptist heritage in beautiful Pacific Northwest. For more information, contact the Wenatchee Brethren-Baptist Church, Wenatchee, WA at wbbcu@nwi.net or 509-662-3681.

58th annual Eastern CPS reunion will be held Aug. 7, 2003, at Chambersburg Mennonite Church, Chambersburg, PA. Open to all who served in Civilian Public Service during WW II. For a program and registration form contact Irvin E. Cordell, 57 E. Grandview Ave., Mercersburg, PA 17236; 717-328-2746.

Visit our neighbors down under in Australia, New Zealand—and Fiji in the South Pacific, January 17-February 11, 2004. In addition to the major cities, highlights will include Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Rainforest, and the Aboriginal's mysterious Ayers Rock in the Outback; New Zealand's farmlands, Alpine mountains, and spectacular Milford Sound cruise. For additional information and itinerary please write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or kreiderk@etown.edu.

RiverBarge the Ohio River, Oct. 23-30, 2003 on a Mennonite Your Way Tour. This cruise begins and ends in Cincinnati, Ohio. Fly-in options available or join the bus from eastern PA. RiverBarging is very relaxed and informal. Our barge will be lifted through several locks. There will be port stops at several historic houses, museums and parks. Bring along books to read, stitcher, games and puzzles, or watch the river towns go by, walk the upper deck, play shuffleboard or relax in the hot tub. Information and complete itinerary available: MYW Tours, Box 425, Landisville, PA 17538. Phone 800-296-1991; e-mail MYW1525@aol.com; website mywtours.com

Cruise/tour to Greece and Turkey. "Walking in the Footsteps of Paul" March 2-12, 2004. Hosted by Brethren couple with over 16 years experience as

professional travel agents. Three nights in Athens and six nights aboard Royal Olympic Cruise Line's the Triton. The Bible comes alive with beautiful ports-of-call. Lectures on board ship and professional guide service on land. Flights arranged from all major US cities. "Early Booking Discount." Fax or phone 814-444-8800 or 877-456-8769 (4JO-RNY); e-mail jnljaunt@floodcity.net; on the web: www.smallgrouptours.com.

Remember last winter? Escape the cold, and come to the sun! You are invited to be part of a large, enthusiastic Brethren congregation in Sebring, Fla., winter home to people of many denominations. We offer exciting worship services, a rich fellowship, plus activities such as our annual Bible Conference, bus trips to local attractions, golf and bowling outings, and other fellowship opportunities. We will try to help you find accommodations if necessary. Call 863-385-1597, or write Pastors Cecil Hess or Wendell Bohrer at 700 S Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870.

Live in Florida sunshine! Member of the Sebring congregation has double-wide mobile home for sale, only 2 miles from the church. Home is fully furnished with quality appliances. Ready to move in. Water and lawn mowing included in monthly rental. Submit inquiries to Sebring Church of the Brethren, 700 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870.

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Please send information to be included in Turning Points to Jean Clements, 1451 Dundee Ave. Elgin, IL 60120; 800 323-8039 ext. 206; jclements_gb@brethren.org. Information must be complete in order to be published. Information older than one year cannot be published.

New Members

Bakersfield, Calif.: Nick Herder, Jacob McKenzie, Mitchell Leercree
Beaver Creek, Hagerstown, Md.: Caleb Pryor, Debbie Gillin, Keith Griffith, Heather Griffith, Anthony Minnick, Nathaniel Minnick, Rebekah Minnick
Beaverton, Mich.: A. June Matthew
Big Creek, Cushing, Okla.: Sue Brooks, George Brooks
Blue Ridge, Va.: John Ballou, Margaret Ballou
Bridgewater, Va.: Paula Craun, Whitney Hardy, Clara Metzler, Rebekah Miller, Kelly Remnant, David Stutzman, Chelsea Turner
Brook Park, Ohio: Bryan Bohrer, Joey Moses, Kristi Skinner
Champaign, Ill.: Becky Deinstadt, Rose Redmon, Michael Cain
Circleville, Ohio: Keri Christy
Everett, Pa.: George Hopp, Chad Morral
Faith Community of the Brethren Home, New Oxford, Pa.: Elizabeth Kinsel
First Central, Kansas City, Kan.: Leonard Conner
Frederick, Md.: Tom Fralin, Retta Fralin, Wesley Tibbs, Cindy Tibbs, Jim Mackintosh, Lisa Mackintosh, Christina Brooks, Maria Pippin, Greg Pippin, Jan Jones, Bob Jones, Renel Cidor, Susan East, Sylvia Little, David Dorsey, Ed Day, Sandy Day, Dennis Christopher, Rebecca Parrish, Bob Garver, Shirley Garver, Barbara Huffer, Wayne Huffer, Michele Shaffer, Steve Shaffer
Geiger, Friedens, Pa.: Kacey Bence, David Barnick
Glade Valley, Walkersville, Md.: Wayne Frederick, Barb Saylor, Altia Sherman, Gerry Sherman, Sunora Wilbar, Jim Wilbar, Sandy Wright, Wilbur Wright
Greenmount, Harrisonburg, Va.: Beulah Shank
Heidelberg, Myerstown, Pa.: Ross Gingrich, Curvin Martin, Mary Ann Martin, Dennis Bender, Doris Bender
Kokomo, Ind.: Emily Hooker, Jonathan Hooker, Erin Pyke, Evan Pyke, Joe Sinka, Jennifer Sinka, Christopher Dzierla
Lititz, Pa.: Emily Becker, Jeremy Becker, Lauren Bednar, Jeff Bingeman, Amanda Bomberger, Zach Buckwalter, Brigitte dePerrot, Derrick Garrett, Ben Huber, Ashley Parry, Frederick Fry, Patricia Fry, R. Kenneth Hess, Zachary Rowe, Elizabeth Rowe, Colin Shelley, David Thompson, Lissa Weiler

Locust Grove, Johnstown, Pa.: Terri Hilbrecht, Roman Marano, Tom McVicker, III, Katie Patsch, Tina Primel, Jerry Wicks
Manor, Boonesboro, Md.: Charles Reichard, Jean Reichard
McPherson, Kan.: Steve Benne, April Benne, Curtis Curry, Eric Goering, Aaron Masterson, Renee Schowengerdt, Sarah Schowengerdt
Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Warren Eshbach, Teresa Eshbach, Lloyd Kulp, Timothy Cisney, Craig Partridge, Fenton Fox
Memorial, Martinsburg, Pa.: Kim Ebersole, Randy Trexler, Rhonda Trexler
Myerstown, Pa.: Harry Young, Cory Burke, Jackie Burke
New Paris, Ind.: Janae Kurtz, Haley Stanolis, Jordyn Green, Amy Jean Yoder, Elsie Harshberger, Kayli Miller
Parker Ford, Pa.: April Minnick, Charles Minnick, Jr., Robert Kirkner, Paul College, Beth College, Valerie Kilgannon
Peters Creek, Roanoke, Va.: Dino Graves, Amanda Graves, Pauline Hungate, Mitch Spencer, Roxanne Spencer
Pittsburgh, Pa.: Adelia Ann Muti, Kelly Marie Ward, Matthew Ward, William Douglas Cheatham, Colleen D. Cheatham, Carolyn Stone Elmore, Kendal W. Elmore, Larry W. Shank
Waynesboro, Va., March 29
Arnold, Lloyd, 86, Frederick, Md., Feb. 23
Atkins, Doris Iva Caracofe, 85, Bridgewater, Va., April 10
Baker, Doris M., 86, Haxton, Colo., Nov. 28
Beekner, Kenneth, 66, Callaway, Va., Feb. 16
Bowman, Harold, 89, Greenville, Ohio, May 19
Brant, Norwood, 89, Berlin, Pa., April 18
Brightbill, Grace, 75, Bridgewater, Va., May 9
Brown, Callia Susan, 96, Greenville, Ohio, Jan. 25
Brown, Carl, 81, Troy, Ohio, April 18
Brown, Don, 81, Wichita, Kan., Feb. 24
Bulger, Max R., 85, Everett, Pa., April 6
Burket, Velma, 91, Bedford, Pa., March 11
Butler, John, 85, Grantsville, Md., Oct. 12
Byers, Dorothy Virginia Smith, 75, Mount Sidney, Va., April 30
Carbaugh, Paul N., 35, New Enterprise, Pa., May 12
Carr, Norma Jean, 59, Timberville, Va., March 31
Cline, Lois Elizabeth Miller, 88, Harrisonburg, Va., April 4
Cline, Ronald, 58, Frederick, Md., Dec. 28
Comer, Charlotte Marie, 95, Tenth Legion, Va., April 17
Coulter, Earl Saxe, 87, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 23
Daniels, Eugene James, 8, Broadway, Va., April 15
Dayton, Sophia, 92, Topeka, Kan., May 15
Dean, Alice E., 88, Circleville, Ohio, Aug. 29, 2002
Detrick, Myrtle, 91, Greenville, Ohio, Dec. 16
Drake, Marie L., 86, Martinsburg, Pa., April 20
Eigenbrode, Minnie Kretzer, 81, Waynesboro, Pa., April 24
Festog, Jackie, 70, Frederick, Md., Dec. 13
Fitzwater, Ralph Junior, 69, Moorefield, W.Va., March 28
Frieze, Dorothy Reedy, 88, Linville, Va., Jan. 25
Frost, B. D., 66, Brook Park, Ohio, Nov. 10
Fryman, Betty, 82, Greenville, Ohio, Jan. 6
Funkhouser, Sarah Bell Keckley, 98, Strasburg, Va., Feb. 18
Garber, Esther, 91, Cushing, Okla., Sept. 26
Gentry, Marjorie, 91, Sebring, Fla., March 30
Gerber, Blanche, 100, Palmyra, Pa., March 24
Gilmore, Eva A., 86, Ashland, Ohio, May 11
Grabill, Paul R., 95, Altoona, Pa., Sept. 14
Groff, Kenneth, 89, Greenville, Ohio, May 15
Haldeman, Paul, 84, Sebring, Fla., April 8
Hanlin, Harman Eugene, 76, Mount Storm, W.Va., Feb. 12
Heasley, Bonnie, 90, Avon Park, Fla., April 13
Heddings, Jesse Auten, 82,

Wedding Anniversaries

Bush, John and Marty, Martinsburg, Pa., 60
Cordero, Jorge and Felicita, Sebring, Fla., 50
Earley, Roy and Clara, Berea, Ohio, 50
Furry, L. Carl and Leona, Williamsburg, Pa., 65
Hollenberg, Ralph and Jean, Sebring, Fla., 50
Huffaker, David and Marcia, West Milton, Ohio, 50
Hurst, John and Marjorie, Greenville, Ohio, 65
Koontz, Glenn and Freda, Martinsburg, Pa., 71
Miller, Addison and Barbara, Sebring, Fla., 60
Myers, Homer and Mickey, Smithsburg, Md., 50
Sifrit, Robert and Mina, McPherson, Kan., 50
Smith, Clarence and Thelma, Charlottesville, Va., 50
Stotler, Ralph and Jane, Chambersburg, Pa., 60
Thompson, Fred and Lorraine, Roanoke, Va., 60
Weikert, Duane and Joyce, Laura, Ohio, 50
Wilson, Robert and Rowena, Wichita, Kan., 50

Deaths

Allen, Gladys, 60, Roanoke, Va., March 19
Almarode, Melvin J., 78,

Catlett, Va., Feb. 28
Heitz, J. Emory, 94, Garrett, Ind., May 10
Henderson, Forrest L., 91, Greenville, Ohio, March 7
Herbst, Ralph, 74, Frederick, Md., May 13
Herman, Audrey, 78, Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 6
Houff, Wanda Arnold, 80, Dorcas, W.Va., April 8
Huffman, Evelyn, 91, Greenville, Ohio, Feb. 1
Hutchison, Zona, 82, Thomas, Okla., March 25
Jewell, J. Paul, 80, Olathe, Kan., May 11
Johnson, Elaine D., 68, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 13
Jones, Marjorie Frances, 80, Bridgewater, Va., April 20
Kiefer, Lila, 89, Akron, Pa., Jan. 29
Kiracofe, Mary Catherine Evers, 49, Dayton, Va., Feb. 26
Knott, Robert, 89, Laotto, Ind., May 10
Kreider, Eloise, 82, Greenville, Ohio, Dec. 9
Lambert, Paul, 72, Broadway, Va., April 1
Lein, William, 94, New Oxford, Pa., May 11
Link, Ralph Wayne, 66, Baker, W.Va., April 4
Long, Annabelle, 78, Lititz, Pa., Jan. 8
Mallott, I. Floyd, 80, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 17
Manning, Mary Catherine, 84, Mount Jackson, Va., March 29
Martin, Elizabeth, 92, Sebring, Fla., April 3
Mauzy, Delphia Mae, 77, Dorcas, W.Va., Feb. 10
McCracken, Genevieve, 82, Frederick, Md., Dec. 31
Metzler, Alma C., 91, Goshen, Ind., Feb. 6
Miller, Esther, 88, Lawrence, Kan., May 18
Miller, M. Willard, 88, Bridgewater, Va., April 8
Miller, Robert, 70, Broadway, Va., May 10
Miner, Dorothy, 75, Elgin, Ill., Jan. 31
Moehko, Carol Horner, 51, Brook Park, Ohio, April 20
Morgan, Maxine, 75, Cando, N.D., April 12
Myers, Lola, 75, Taneytown, Md., March 20
Myers, Raeburn Sherman, 81, Harrisonburg, Va., May 5
Neale, Melma Frances, 89, Sangerville, Va., July 22, 2002
Nearhoof, Della R., 100, Johnstown, Pa., Oct. 14
Nowlan, Snow Mildred, 89, Roanoke, Va., April 28
Ogelsby, Nellie, 86, New Oxford, Pa., May 1
Overholser, Evadean, 80, Wakarusa, Ind., March 14
Popelarski, Mattie Zora, 76, Plano, Texas, April 27
Porterfield, Mary, 73, Sebring, Fla., April 21
Powers, Margie, 89, Frederick, Md., March 1
Reed, Frances Elizabeth Rankin, 91, Fort Defiance, Va., April 29
Rhodes, Robert, 73, Roaring Spring, Pa., April 25
Riedel, Allen, 76, West Milton, Ohio, April 28
Ritchie, Edith Pauline Dove, 77, Linville, Va., March 1
Robinson, Jane, 82, Sebring, Fla., April 21
Rodgers, John, 78, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 5
Rodgers, William Francis, 81, Grottoes, Va., Feb. 14
Roth, Ruth Roop Rinehart, 92, Westminster, Md., May 4
Royer, Bessie, 98, Covington, Ohio, Jan. 15
Ruffner, Paul M., 90, Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 1
Schmucker, Alvin, 71, Milford, Ind., April 6
See, David, 47, Broadway, Va., May 21
Seese, Edwin D., 76, Windber, Pa., April 17
Shankle, Delma, 95, Frederick, Md., May 8
Shiflet, Roy Wayne, 62, Dayton, Va., April 11
Smith, Dorothy, 84, Frederick, Md., Dec. 21
Smith, Janet L. Williams, 65, Timberville, Va., May 1
Smith, Meredith C., 89, Martinsburg, Pa., March 3
Smith, Naomi, 92, Hagerstown, Md., Jan. 15
Sponaugle, Mabel Warner Bennett, 92, Circleville, W.Va., April 22
Steckman, Jack, 65, Palmyra, Pa., April 25
Steinmetz, Mary, 94, Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 6
Stuckey, Glenn, 94, Seville, Ohio, April 12
Summers, Louise, 81, Frederick, Md., Dec. 16
Talaber, John L., 59, Hershey, Pa., March 25
Tarry, John R., 38, Martinsburg, Pa., Jan. 27
Teaford, Madonna, 92, Greenville, Ohio, April 29
Thomas, Fannie Virginia, 81, Frederick, Md., Feb. 11
Thomas, Roy W., Sr., 87, Somerset, Pa., Sept. 13
Thomas, Ward Fike, 97, Bruceton Mills, W.Va., April 25
Tusing, Leo Franklin, 79, Mount Jackson, Va., April 6
Warner, Ralph, 83, Sebring, Fla., April 22
Weaver, Gilbert Richard, 65, Stanley, Va., Feb. 25
Weaver, Scott, 40, Enid, Okla., Sept. 4
Webster, Mildred, 77, Callaway, Va., Nov. 21
Wehrer, Albert, 88, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 13
Weigle, Alberta M., 93, Waterloo, Iowa, April 9
Whitmer, Sandy Lane, 40, Dayton, Va., April 25
Wilkins, Minnie Lou, 65, Mathias, W.Va., April 2
Wimer, Eva P., 91, Franklin, W.Va., April 20
Witner, Bessie, 92, Frederick, Md., Feb. 6
Wood, John, 80, Frederick, Md., Nov. 12
Woollard, Albert Wayne, 85, Topeka, Kan., March 7
Zimmerman, Kathryn, 76, Frederick, Md., Jan. 29



Citizens of Heaven

A vibrant conversation flows around and through the Church of the Brethren in several newsletters from both official church groups and informally related interest groups. Here, in addition to news and events, new ideas are tried, or old ones explained, and theology gets thoughtful discussion. Through their newsletters these groups are always exploring the question, "What does it mean to be Brethren?"

In the February issue of *Femailings*, the newsletter of Womaen's Caucus (P.O. Box 1324, Claremont, CA 91711 and www.womaenscaucus.org), Jim Lehman contributed a provocative article on the origins of the new group called Voices for an Open Spirit. "VOS has arisen because many of us feel that the Church of the Brethren is changing direction," Lehman writes. "For 150 years the movement in the church has been progressive. Now it seems that the church is becoming more conservative. While these labels are less than satisfying, they result from our attempt to say that the church is not as open and inclusive as it once was. Those of us who know that the essence of Jesus' message and example and the reality of his death and resurrection is the inclusive love of God find we have to stand up for this reality and work for it in the Church of the Brethren. No, I want to correct the theology of that last sentence. We believe we are called to open ourselves to God's inclusive love through Christ and be channels for its flow."

Lehman writes that while homosexuality is the most controversial issue regarding inclusiveness, sexual orientation is not the only issue that divides Brethren. "VOS encourages an open spirit as we study the Bible, grow spiritually, invite people to the church, understand our own humanity, work for peace and justice, and conduct our common life."

"Many of us want to stand up for inclusion and work for it. This is part of the spirit of VOS. But many of us recognize that this just prolongs the conflict. It puts us in the position while fighting for inclusion of being unwilling to include those who exclude. There is another deeper spirit behind VOS that says loving your enemies means refusing to be drawn into conflict with them. Put positively, it means being so suffused with love so that an angry word from another does not make us angry but actually evokes understanding and caring.

"Why try to stay together and learn to live and even cherish our diversity? Because that is God's intention for the whole human community. And because we will have nothing to say to any of the other troubled peoples of the world unless we do this among ourselves."

The *BRF Witness*, the bi-monthly newsletter of the Brethren Revival Fellowship (P.O. Box 543, Ephrata

PA 17522-0543), never hesitates to take on the tough issues, and when doing so it doesn't pussy-foot. Recent issues address "The Arab-Israeli Conflict," "The Continuing Homosexual Issue," and "Brethren: A Precious Name." The current *Witness* presents "Patriotism: An Anabaptist Perspective." Frank Reed, a teacher in the Brethren Bible Institute and member of the White Oak congregation, Manheim, Pa., begins with the declaration, "The United States of America is the greatest nation in the world. It is likely the greatest nation that will ever be in the world." Soon he adds, "But we must not forget that America is a nation in the world. . . and it behaves like a nation in the world." It arms countries to control them, and manipulates governments to protect American interests. "This is not Christianity," he writes.

"As Christian believers, we are not first and finally citizens of the USA. We are citizens of Heaven. It is best not to speak of America as 'our country.' It is the country in which we happen to have been born." He adds, "We are citizens of a different country and we are not at war with anyone except the powers of darkness."

"Our lives and allegiance belong only to God and His kingdom, and not to any earthly realm."

"We are responsible to live as citizens of the world, and not of any one country. The Kingdom of God has no geographic boundaries. How then can members of the Church defend geographic boundaries with military power?" Read the entire essay at www.brfwitness.org.

"God is Great Despite the Bombs" declares the winter/spring issue of *Signs of the Times*, the newsletter of Christian Peacemaker Teams (P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680, www.cpt.org). The article describes the ordeal of Church of the Brethren member Cliff Kindy of North Manchester, Ind., who had been in Baghdad with other CPTers as a witness for peace even after US bombs began to drop. Finally ordered by Iraqi officials to leave, those expelled left Baghdad in three cars, racing along a shrapnel-covered highway through a bombing zone toward Jordan. One of the cars blew a tire and crashed, leaving Kindy with a head gash and another CPTer with broken ribs. An Iraqi civilian stopped by and drove the injured peacemakers to a nearby town that had been devastated by US bombing. "At the only functioning medical clinic, an Iraqi doctor graciously treated their wounds, refused payment for his services, and sent them on their way." Another Brethren, Peggy Gish, writes of the warm friendships she made among the suffering people of Iraq: "A big piece of my heart is still there."—FLETCHER FARRAR

"We are citizens of a different country and we are not at war with anyone except the powers of darkness."

—Frank Reed

Relationships Can Be Tricky



Brethren Retirement Centers Want to Strengthen Relationships with Congregations and Districts



The oldest existing Brethren home was established in 1889 when one district responded to the need for a faith-based community to care for older adults. In fact, all of the Brethren homes came out of congregational and district ministries.

Today, Brethren facilities offer a range of living options for older adults and provide faith-based care through professional staff. Brethren Retirement Centers have been recognized nationally by consumer groups for their high level of service and compassionate care.



So what's missing? *You!*



Just as it was from the beginning, the relationship between a Brethren home and your congregation and district is essential for creating a faith-based community. These Brethren Retirement Centers invite you to participate in a ministry that honors and values all individuals. Call the Brethren Retirement Center nearest you and ask how you can work together to enrich the lives of older adults.

 The Fellowship of Brethren Homes is a ministry of the Association of Brethren Caregivers

For a brochure describing the Brethren Retirement Centers call the Fellowship of Brethren Homes at (800) 323-8039. The Fellowship of Brethren Homes connects Brethren homes to the mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren.

Brethren Retirement Centers

Brethren Hillcrest Homes
La Verne, Calif. — (909) 593-4917

The Brethren Home Community
New Oxford, Pa. — (800) 624-8242

Brethren Retirement Community
Greenville, Ohio — (937) 547-8000

Brethren Village
Lancaster, Pa. — (800) 367-9899

Bridgewater Retirement Community
Bridgewater, Va. — (800) 419-9129

Casa de Modesto
Modesto, Calif. — (209) 529-4950

The Cedars
McPherson, Kan. — (620) 241-0919

Church of the Brethren Home
Windber, Pa. — (814) 467-5505

Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home
Boonsboro, Md. — (301) 733-6284

Garden Terrace & Garden Terrace West
Wenatchee, Wash. — (509) 663-2154

Good Shepherd Home
Fostoria, Ohio — (419) 435-1801

John M. Reed Home
Limestone, Tenn. — (423) 257-6122

Lebanon Valley Brethren Home
Palmyra, Pa. — (717) 838-5406

Long Beach Brethren Manor
Long Beach, Calif. — (562) 426-6547

Northaven Retirement Residence
and Assisted Living
Seattle, Wash. — (206) 365-3020

The Palms Estates of
Highlands County
Lorida, Fla. — (863) 655-1909

Palms of Sebring (Affiliated)
Sebring, Fla. — (863) 385-0161

Peter Becker Community
Harleysville, Pa. — (215) 256-9501

Pinecrest Community
Mount Morris, Ill. — (815) 734-4103

Pleasant Hill Village
Girard, Ill. — (217) 627-2181

Spurgeon Manor
Dallas Center, Iowa — (515) 992-3735

Timbercrest Church of
the Brethren Home
North Manchester, Ind. —
(260) 982-2118

The Village at Morrisons Cove
Martinsburg, Pa. — (814) 793-2104

West View Manor
Wooster, Ohio — (330) 264-8640

For more information on these homes visit
www.brethren.org/abc/fellowship/directory.

When Emergency Response/Service Ministries responds, **YOU are there.**



When homes and lives are rebuilt, You are there:

In the two-and-a-half years after Hurricane Floyd flooded the East Coast, 1,939 Disaster Response volunteers donated 93,488 hours rebuilding homes. This ministry continues in Mississippi, recovering from tornadoes, and West Virginia, rebuilding after floods, through \$85,000 in grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund.



When children are scared and sad, You are there:

When tornadoes hit Kansas, a US Airways plane crashed in Charlotte, NC, Tropical Storm Isidore struck Mississippi and Hurricane Lili flooded Louisiana, children were comforted by Disaster Child Care or Child Care in Aviation Incident Response (CAIR) volunteers.



As people are fed and homes rebuilt in Afghanistan, You are there:

The Emergency Disaster Fund granted \$50,000 to provide immediate humanitarian aid, employment for local women, and reconstruction of 1,500 homes through our partnership with Church World Service. This includes the home of Rahmuddin Huzruddin who is seen completing some work on his home.



As 38 million people in southern Africa face starvation, You are there:

Canned meat, school kits, health kits, blankets and gently used computers were shipped to Angola from the Brethren Service Center. Multiple grants totaling \$89,500 from the Emergency Disaster Fund are supporting widespread efforts in southern Africa to prevent famine.



As the people of Iraq rebuild from war, You are there:

Schools are being rebuilt, children are receiving medical supplies, emergency drinking water is being provided and other humanitarian assistance is reaching Iraq through \$72,000 in grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund. Members of the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren are shown inventorying medical supplies bound for Iraq.

You are there through the Emergency Disaster Fund.

A ministry of encouragement, restoration and service in a broken world.

*Join in this ministry: Emergency Disaster Fund
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**Emergency Response/
Service Ministries**



New Windsor, Maryland