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Brethren

MESSENGER

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MESSENGER

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ON THE COVER

Sisters Karen Myers-Bowman and Judy Myers-Walls, Ph.D.'s on the faculties of Kansas State University and Purdue University, respectively, have conducted research with children and parents about peace and war for nearly 15 years.

In a recent study, they asked children to draw images of peace and war. The drawing on the cover is an 11-year-old girl's vision of peace. She describes it this way: "It's happy. Everything's nice. People are friendly. The earth is pretty and not being burnt up and stuff. The sun is shining." The drawing at right is by an 8-year-old boy.

Many more of the children's thoughts and ideas appear in this month's cover article. To learn more about the work of Myers-Bowman and Myers-Walls, visit www.ces.purdue.edu/terrorism.



8 Children: Teachers of peace

Karen Myers-Bowman and Judy Myers-Walls, with the help of several colleagues, interviewed hundreds of children ages 3 to 18 (including some Brethren and Mennonites) over the past few years. They found that children are learning the lessons of peacemaking—and those children have much to teach adults, too.

12 India: Two partners, one God

Annual Conference moderator Chris Bowman traveled to India with other church leaders earlier this year and found two vastly different realities in the wake of the 2003 Conference decision to relate to two groups in India: the Church of North India and the India Brethren who separated from CNI. Bowman found the spirit of God blowing in both groups, but the future still presents challenges.

16 Hot enough for ya?

Global warming has become a hot topic with Hollywood's *The Day After Tomorrow* in theaters, but what are Americans doing about the problem in real life? David Radcliff takes a look at the effects of global warming, the United States' role in it, and ideas of what Christians can do to make an impact.

18 Taking stock of social responsibility

Socially responsible investing (SRI) is an admirable but difficult goal. Those who do investing for Brethren are expected to achieve good returns on those investments while remaining true to the beliefs and values of the denomination. Much attention has been given to this area in recent years, and SRI initiatives are maturing to help the Anabaptist voice be heard in corporate circles.

Nevin Dulabaum

18



DEPARTMENTS

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A

Are the weather reports in your local paper like the one in mine? In addition to predicting the weather for the coming week, the report invariably provides a statistic jarred loose from the computer:

—“Back-to-back 60s, similar to those forecast Wednesday and Thursday, have occurred in June’s opening two weeks in 104 of the past 134 years—78 percent of the time since 1871.”

—“Since 1980 the city has recorded at least one 90-degree June day in every year but 1982.”

—“With nearly an inch and a half of rain at the airport today, this May is now the sixth wettest on record.”

—March to May was “the 22nd mildest spring here in 134 years.”

—“Today’s temp could be nudging 90 degrees, the highest reading since 92 degrees was registered on Aug. 28, 2003.”

Apparently, if it’s hot, it helps to know it’s record-breaking hot—even if the statistic is nearly meaningless. Somehow, even when they’re disembodied, numbers legitimize in a way that words and feelings do not. We collect factoids like those over-sized trophies that children receive for participating in a sport, as if everyone should feel special by winning something even if all they did was show up.

The information available to us is so vast that it’s hard not to feel overwhelmed. Fragments stick with us, but then we can’t remember their source. (Did I read that in the paper, or did I hear it at the water fountain?) We pass them on, not always mindful of their validity but treating them like truth.

Statistics seem to be made of the truth, but there’s another kind of truth in stories. There’s truth in telling how we experienced the weather, regardless of whether it was as hot or cold as yesterday.

When we gather at the Big Meeting in Charleston, I’ll keep a lookout for storms. But I’ll also be listening for stories of how we have sheltered each other when the wind has blown. I’ll be listening for God’s voice in the sound of sheer silence that follows the storm.



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AROUND THE DENOMINATION

Updates and highlights from the Church of the Brethren districts

Atlantic Northeast: The district's Recreation Committee planned to hold a Run-Walk for Peace June 26 at Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, with 5K or 10K runs or 5K walk options available. Proceeds benefit the Brethren Housing Association and Emergency Disaster Fund.

Atlantic Southeast: The district is planning a follow-up to its "Lost in Florida" winter event, inviting Center for Anabaptist Leadership director Jeff Wright for a workshop called "Growing the Church Family." It will be held Oct. 8 at the Sebring (Fla.) congregation.

Idaho: An all-district worship service took place May 23 at Camp Stover in New Meadows. Fruitland Church of the Brethren members and pastor Bill Frey led an evening of praise and fellowship.

Illinois/Wisconsin: Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, Lowpoint, Ill., is celebrating growth. Sunday morning attendance at the small, rural congregation has risen from an average of 23 to about 40 in the past year. Seven new members joined on Easter alone. Pastor Joe Meredith has been making an effort to reach out to the community with Bible study classes on Tuesday evenings.

Michigan: Brad Hardesty and General Board Congregational Life Team member Jim Kinsey were the scheduled leaders for a "Celebrating Possibilities" mini-conference June 26 in Midland, Mich., focusing on the needs of small-membership and rural churches.

Mid-Atlantic: The District Leadership Calling Team has called John Thompson of the Bush Creek congregation to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of moderator-elect Bob Barr.

Middle Pennsylvania: District men gathered June 12 at Camp Blue Diamond for a "Running on Empty" spiritual retreat. Richard Shreckhise, Randall Yoder, and Tom Ness provided leadership.

Missouri/Arkansas: Youth from the Peace Valley (Mo.) congregation this spring packed and shipped clothing for Christians in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Northern Indiana: Four district congregations were among the top 10 churches in Indiana in their per-capita support of the Church World Service Tools of Hope & Blanket Program. Mount Pleasant, Wakarusa, Goshen City, and Cedar Lake were each honored with a banner.

Northern Ohio: The second annual district family picnic was scheduled to take place

June 19 at Inspiration Hills, with a fishing contest, softball, kickball, a prayer walk/hike, a bake-off, food, and worship planned.

Northern Plains: South Waterloo (Iowa) is working toward completion of a major new \$1 million addition to its building. It received a temporary occupancy permit for the lower level recently and hoped to finish the second floor by the end of May.

Oregon/Washington: Plans are coming together for the district's mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico, slated for Aug. 14-21. It will include work with Compañeros en Ministerio in Tijuana plus time for some sightseeing in San Diego.

Pacific Southwest: The district's Peace & Justice Network is offering scholarships to help individuals and congregations find ways to become "living peace churches" as called for at last year's Annual Conference. Scholarships cover leadership training and attendance at other events.

Shenandoah: The district held its 12th annual Brethren Response Auction May 14-15, drawing more than 2,000 people and raising more than \$180,000. Ninety percent of proceeds are sent to Church of the Brethren disaster relief work.

South/Central Indiana: The Richmond congregation made its move to a different church building during worship on May 16, saying farewell to its facility of 75 years and then walking together down the street to its newly purchased and much larger building two blocks away.

Southeastern: The district conference program committee is asking congregations to collect items for Church World Service Gift

of the Heart school kits, which district youth will assemble during the conference.

Southern Ohio: The fourth annual district invitational softball tournament will be held July 17-18 in Brookville.

Southern Pennsylvania: The district combined with neighboring Mid-Atlantic to can 77,700 pounds of chicken at this year's meat canning project. A total of 272 volunteers representing 43 congregations participated.

Southern Plains: Denaye Richards has been called as youth director for the district. Richards, from Carmen, Okla., has been active in the district's camping program.

Virginia: The district's World Hunger Committee sponsored a bike ride June 5 starting at the Antioch congregation. It is part of a series of events to raise awareness and raise funds for hunger relief. Distances of 10, 25, and 50 miles were available.

West Virginia: The Shiloh congregation in Kasson, W.Va., will hold its annual homecoming events throughout the day on Aug. 1.

Western Pennsylvania: The Church of the Brethren Home in Windber offered its chicken barbecue event June 5. District youth held a volleyball tournament May 1 at Pleasant Hill.

Western Plains: The Monitor congregation near McPherson, Kan., planned a celebration of ministry for pastor Sandee Kitzel as she and her husband, Larry, prepared to enter Brethren Volunteer Service. The celebration was scheduled for Kitzel's last Sunday at Monitor, June 27.

Do you have district or congregational stories that might be of interest to MESSENGER? Send them to MESSENGER, c/o In Touch, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.



An urban ministry event titled "Christ Is Our Peace: Breaking Down Dividing Walls" was held earlier this year at Hollins Road Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va. Eighteen ministers (including the four pictured in discussion, above) from 12 congregations in Virlina District attended. The district's newly recognized Urban Ministry Committee hosted the event, with leadership by Bruce A. Yoder, director of Capital Campaign YMCA of Greater Richmond.

The cast of New Millennium Players brought the story of John Kline to life this spring during a performance tour around Southern Ohio District.

John Kline rides again in Southern Ohio District

In the spring of 1862 soon after being released from prison, John Kline, a farmer, elder, and physician, traveled from his home in Broadway, Va., to serve as moderator of Annual Meeting held in the area of Brookville near Dayton, Ohio. Kline was shot and killed near his home in 1864, but 142 years later he reappeared in Southern Ohio.

On April 23-25, pastor Frank Ramirez of the Everett (Pa.) congregation played Kline and led the New Millennium Players' combined cast of 15 from Bedford County, Pa., and Elkhart County, Ind., in performing *The Final Journey of John Kline*, a 45-minute drama written by professor Lee Krähenbühl of Manchester College. It follows Kline during the final four years of his life.

The drama was presented at four churches in the Miami Valley, concluding at Prince of Peace Church in Kettering on Sunday followed by the Brethren tradition—a carry-in meal. An average of 100 people attended each performance.

The purpose of this event was two-fold: to teach a bit of history about an important early Brethren who "counted the cost" and to serve as a fundraiser for the new Brethren Heritage Center in Southern Ohio. (Details on the center are at www.brethrenheritagecenter.org). —Jim Denlinger



Crocheting group gives a gift to local hospital

Venice (Fla.) Community Church of the Brethren—which has 12 to 15 year-round members and doubles that number during the winter—each year explores possible outreach/service projects that are a good fit for the church and the community.

This year, during a visit to Sarasota Hospital, pastor Mary Boyd learned that the neonatal floor was missing the gifts of a woman who had supplied them with hand-knit and crocheted hats and blankets for babies born prematurely. Boyd carried the idea to the church, and at the end of March she and member Jeanne Cripe delivered 300 caps and blankets to the hospital.

The caps and blankets were

A large group met at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., in May for a community-building event.

Among the participants were Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren pastor Jeff Carter, top right, and Manassas pastor for congregational life Nancy Fitzgerald, second from right in front row.

made by five women who met at Boyd's home every Tuesday through the winter, plus some who did additional work at home. They stay supplied with yarn by picking up bundles at yard sales, catching sales in the stores, and receiving financial donations. The group also provided burial gowns and tiny blankets for babies who did not survive. The hospital has expressed much appreciation for the items. —Dorothy Gall

Brethren foster community dialogue

Brethren from the Manassas (Va.) congregation were among those taking part in a May 1 event at George Mason University titled "Balancing Freedom, Human Rights, and

Security in Our Community."

Co-sponsored by Prince William County (Va.) group Unity in the Community and by the university, the program sought to create "constructive dialogue" among area residents, organizations, and government institutions. It included panel presentations, break-out sessions for discussion, and an informal reception.

The four breakout sessions addressed topics of "Interfaith Relations," "Raising Consciousness of Immigrants and the International Community," "Confronting Our Fears in a 'Code-Orange' World," and "Police-Community Relations."



Illana Naylor

Congregations gather animals for Heifer 'arks'

It's not because of all the spring rains, but at least two Church of the Brethren congregations are floating an Ark.

East Chippewa Church of the Brethren, Orrville, Ohio, and Walnut Grove Church of the Brethren, Johnstown, Pa., each undertook efforts to fund a Heifer International Ark (helping to buy a long list of animals to be sent to developing countries) in the past year.

At East Chippewa, the year-long effort included children's

stories based on the books *Faith the Cow* and *Beatrice's Goat*, plus a challenge from an 80-year-old member for everyone to give a quarter for each year they had lived. For the culminating celebration on March 28, children brought animal figures up to the worship center as the names of all the animals purchased were read.

At Walnut Grove, a six-month project raised more than \$2,000, ending with a "shopping spree" in which pastor Mike Clark was able to fulfill his goal of buying a water buffalo as part of the congregation's

gift. Youth members Amanda and Todd Beisel sketched pictures of the animals purchased for use in a dedication service.

Both congregations said the event was a wonderful cross-generational opportunity.

—Twyla Stroup and Marie Camut contributed to this report

REMEMBERED

• **Dean Egge**, a member of Williamson Road Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va., died May 27 in Gary, Ind., following a heart attack suffered while en route to Evanston, Ill. Egge was an active participant in the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren and was best known for his wood sculptures, which were displayed prominently in a number of venues. A memorial service was held June 1 in Roanoke.

• **Shirley Fike**, a nurse and former missionary for the Church of the Brethren, died May 2 in Winona Lake, Ind., at the age of 71. With her husband, Don, she served with the General Board in Ecuador 1957-59; as a house parent in Elgin, Ill., in 1959; and in Puerto Rico at the church and hospital in Castañer, 1960-74. She was a graduate of McPherson (Kan.) College. A memorial service was held May 8 at Zion Chapel in Goshen, Ind.

• **Gwen Bobb**, who served as an administrative assistant and coordinator of historical resources in the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill., from 1959 to 1979 died May 27. She worked for the Ministry and Home Mission Commission and later for the General Services Commission, and, after retirement, as a volunteer for the Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists.

LANDMARKS & LAURELS

• **East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren**, North Canton, Ohio, has been celebrating its 200th anniversary the last Sunday of each month this year with a hymn sing of favorite praise hymns, gathering with friends from surrounding churches. The main celebration will begin with renewal services Sept. 22-24, with Tom Zuercher and John Ballinger speaking. A pancake breakfast will begin events Sept. 25, followed by a historic video, crafts, music, a picnic lunch, a catered dinner, worship, and other activities. On Sunday, former pastors will share during Sunday school, and pastor Jared Zuercher will lead worship.

• **The Ministers of Music**, a male quartet from the Lancaster, Pa., area, presented a concert celebrating their 25th year May 2 at Florin Church of the Brethren, Mount Joy, Pa. The group sang together for the first time at Florin in 1979, and over the years since have sung at Lititz (Pa.) Church of the Brethren and provided concerts throughout central Pennsylvania and in Florida, New England, and Indiana, according to the Lititz newsletter. The quartet includes Lititz pastor Bob Kettering, Lamar Dourte, Dale Engle, and Ron Ludwick.

• **Doug Archer**, peace studies librarian at the Hesburgh Library at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., has received the 2004 Intellectual Freedom Award from the Indiana Library Foundation. The award recognizes his longtime advocacy for intellectual freedom and support for local control of library policies, in opposition to last year's Supreme Court ruling that public libraries must have filters on their computers to block out potentially offensive websites. Archer is a member of Mount Pleasant Church of the Brethren, Bourbon, Ind.

• Manchester College students **Rose Burkholder** of Shipshewana, Ind., and **Hannah Ditmars** of Pickrell, Neb., will study internationally next year with Fulbright Program grants. Ditmars is a member of Holmesville (Neb.) Church of the Brethren. The two seniors continue a Fulbright tradition at Manchester, which has produced 17 scholars in the past eight years.



Hannah Ditmars, left, and Rose Burkholder will study abroad next year as Fulbright Program grant recipients. Ditmars expects to teach English in South Korea; Burkholder will study in Germany.

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Brethren, let's renew!

Something exciting is stirring. The next five years are a window of opportunity for the Church of the Brethren to be renewed. We have a vision to fulfill; we have a call to tend; we have a mission to carry out.

Three strengths indicate that Brethren are in a prime time for renewal: a spiritual focus, a servant heart, and an emphasis on healthy churches. Let's renew, Brethren. Let's renew.



DAVID YOUNG

a unique approach to spirituality that is Christ-centered, expressed in heart and hands. This spiritual focus in Christ provides the big "E": energy for renewal.

In March 2000, 850 people attended a Renovaré Conference to learn about spiritual disciplines. From the prayer room, I unexpectedly caught a glimpse of those people streaming into Leffler Chapel at Elizabethtown College; I saw a vision of Brethren being renewed. A capacity crowd learned how spiritual growth comes by practicing spiritual disciplines as described by Richard Foster and Emilie Griffin. Something exciting is stirring.

Isaiah called the Israelites from focusing on their decline to becoming a servant people—a light to the nations. God has a vision for the Brethren and has given us resources to fulfill our mission. God is inviting us to a spiritual journey of renewal.

Second, Brethren have the spirit of servant leadership. From John 13, we understand that serving in the name of Christ is at the heart of spiritual transformation. In church renewal, the one who serves is lifted to leadership and leads by serving God and meeting the needs of others. We can take our spiritual focus, listen to God and to one another, and shape an initiative for new life.

Immersing this initiative in prayer, we can form a denomination-wide renewal team where denomination, district, and local congregations work together. Servant leadership for church renewal calls us to unite as a team where each is an important player and the least likely one may have the solution. The gift of dialogue helps us place listening and discernment at the center of all conversations. We can assess our

strengths and see things whole. Then we can discern a compelling biblical vision and plan.

Servant leadership is courageous in the face of the odds and deals creatively with budgets and resources, people and programs, one ministry and another. For the church, there are three keys to regain energy: develop the spiritual focus noted above, identify one's originating mission (as in our 300th anniversary), and reconnect our churches—God's mission centers—with local communities. Foresight, the central ethic of servant leadership, is to act when there is time to do so, which makes this current window urgent.

This points to our third strength. Brethren have resources for being a healthy church with an urgent mission. Any plan for denominational renewal involves revitalizing congregations and planting new churches. This model for congregational revitalization grows out of Brethren training. Churches who feel led call a renewal team, enter the spiritual journey, assess their strengths, and discern a vision and a three-year plan. Using spiritual discernment and with God's help, they implement that plan. The outcome is changed lives and vibrant churches.

People across our denomination are eager for renewal. Due to space limitations, we turned away more than 500 people excited to attend that conference at Elizabethtown. The steering committee applied many principles of renewal: catching a vision, getting the word out, enlisting churches, and seeing to each person's needs. Despite a very low registration cost, "less than an oil change," the conference netted a

profit due to everyone's generosity. Church renewal is labor-intensive but cost-effective.

Having a compelling vision and plan for denominational renewal will serve God. Tying vision, identity, and leadership into the heart of the servant for a recent ministry

conference in Atlantic Northeast District, I was struck how the prophet Isaiah called the Israelites from focusing on their decline to becoming a servant people—a light to the nations. God has a vision for the Brethren and has given us resources to fulfill our mission. God is inviting us to a spiritual journey of renewal.

My wife, Joan, urges renewal because she has witnessed the outcomes in churches. We have experienced the ripple effect in national, district, and local settings. Something exciting is stirring. Hard work is ahead. Our family invites dialogue. Brethren, let's renew! 

David S. Young lives in Ephrata, Pa., and is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. He has a doctor of ministry degree in church renewal and is author of two books on the subject.

QUOTEWORTHY

"Without asking questions, nothing grows—it shrivels. And that's not good for Islam or any other religion."

—Muslim author Irshad Manji, speaking at the 2004 Associated Church Press convention

"The science is bad, but perhaps it's an opportunity to crank up the dialogue on our role in climate change."

—NASA research oceanographer William Patzert, talking to the Associated Press about the disaster movie *The Day After Tomorrow*. (For look at global warming without the Hollywood hype, see David Radcliffe's article on page 15)

"Christians should never identify violence against others with the will of God and should always work to prevent and end it."

—from an ecumenical pastoral letter released by leaders of the National Council of Churches USA and its member communions, calling for a "change of course" in Iraq.

"The gospel is not something we can cast off for the sake of convenience."

—Mennonite Weekly Review assistant editor Robert Rhodes, in an editorial about Christian response to the war in Iraq

"The problem is not that we've tried faith and found it wanting, but that we've tried mammon and found it addictive, and as a result find following Christ inconvenient."

—Arthur Simon, in *How Much is Enough: Hungering for God in an Affluent Culture* (quoted in *Ministry of Money* newsletter)

"Our words are inadequate to persuade people to repent and trust Christ. . . . Our duty in evangelism is to first pray, and then to speak."

—Pastor Craig Alan Myers, in the Blue River Church of the Brethren (Columbia City, Ind.) newsletter

"As Anabaptists, process often becomes our drug of choice. We get addicted to process."

—Center for Anabaptist Leadership director Jeff Wright, speaking at the Church of the Brethren church planting training event about the need to move from talking to action

"If we suffer for a while to gain our independence and our freedom and to build ourselves up, I think it will be a good thing for the church in Africa. And we will not, on the altar of money, mortgage our conscience, mortgage our faith, mortgage our salvation."

—Anglican Archbishop Peter Akinola of Nigeria, speaking on efforts to make African churches less dependent on more liberal Western churches for financial support. He was quoted by the Associated Press. (RNS)

"When pastors, deacons, and other congregational leaders handle conflict effectively, the whole congregation benefits."

—Annie Clark, coordinator of conflict transformation for On Earth Peace

CULTUREVIEW

Nearly 40 percent of US teens ages 13 to 17 have been a camper at least once at a summer camp run by a religious organization with religious teachings or songs in its program, according to researchers with the National Study of Youth and Religion. Teens of Mormon parents are the most likely to have attended (78 percent), followed by teens of conservative Protestant, mainline Protestant, and Jewish parents (at 53, 48 and 43 percent, respectively). Catholic teens are comparatively much less likely to have attended religious summer camps (24 percent).

• **A proposed UPN reality show called "Amish in the City"** has been dropped from plans for the fall schedule following months of protest and lobbying, according to a *Mennonite Weekly Review* report. The show planned to transplant several Amish youth into big-city life. "I certainly hope this is the end of Anabaptist reality television," Tim Marema of the Center for Rural Strategies said in the article.

• **The portion of adults who generally do not attend church** has risen sharply in the last 13 years, a Barna Group study shows. The percentage of

Americans who are "unchurched" grew from 21 percent in 1991 to 34 percent in 2004. Researchers defined unchurched as those who have not attended a church service in the past six months, other than for a holiday service, such as Easter or Christmas, or for a special event, such as a wedding or funeral. (RNS)

• **Eighty-six percent of Protestant pastors** consider relational or friendship evangelism very effective in bringing people to Christ, according to findings of a nationwide Barna study commissioned by the American Tract Society. Respondents named lifestyle evangelism (68 percent), event evangelism (24 percent), door-to-door evangelism (15 percent), and tract evangelism (14 percent) as other very effective methods. Less than 2 percent named preaching as effective evangelism.

• **According to the US Census Bureau's 2000 data**, people age 65 and older now make up about 12 percent of the US population —roughly 35 million people.



JUST FOR FUN: SCRABBLE

ON THE ROAD AGAIN West Virginia hosts Annual Conference for the first time when Brethren meet in Charleston this month. Unscramble the names of these cities that have hosted Annual Conference over the past century. Answers are printed below:

ACONE OVERG
INAWON LEAK
SHYHERE
UWEAKLIME
NUGEEE
DIMCHORN
ARCHTTEL

LATESET
CATINIINNC
GRITBUSHTP
IIWATCH
BROILMEAT
PAIDLIONASIN
DOORCOLA PINSSGR

Answers:

1930 to 1935; Hesley (Pa.), numerous times from 1940 to 1948; Winton Lake (Ind.), numerous times from 1948 to 1951; Columbia (1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982—and scheduled again for 2000); Charlotte (1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978); Baltimore (1979); Indianapolis (1978, 1981, 1993); Colorado Springs (Colo., 1931, 1948, 1953); Pittsburgh (1980); Wichita (Kan., 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986); Stamford (1987); Milwaukee (1990, 1991); Eugene (Ore., 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986); numerous times from 1981 to 1985; Ocean Grove (N.J.), numerous times from 1986 to 1988; Winton Lake (Ind.), numerous times from 1989 to 1991; Englewood (Colo., 1992); numerous times from 1993 to 2001; Chicago (1993, 1996); numerous times from 1997 to 1999; numerous times from 2000 to 2002; numerous times from 2003 to 2005; numerous times from 2006 to 2008; numerous times from 2009 to 2011; numerous times from 2012 to 2014; numerous times from 2015 to 2017; numerous times from 2018 to 2020; numerous times from 2021 to 2023; 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CHILDREN: TEACHERS OF PEACE

A WIDE-RANGING STUDY SHOWS
THE LITTLE ONES CAN STILL LEAD US

By Karen S. Myers-Bowman and Judith A. Myers-Walls

For almost 300 years, members of the Church of the Brethren have worked to promote and live peace. Peace is central in the church, as evidenced by its identity line: "Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together." Brethren peacemaking is active and incorporated in our everyday lives, as illustrated by the statement on the peace and justice segment of the denominational website, www.brethren.org: "We practice peaceful living."

A commitment to active peace is hard work, but it is especially challenging during times of political conflict. The current state of war between the US and Iraq and the widespread fear of terrorism have been accompanied by a strong emphasis in US society on military intervention and defense. However, Brethren have been faced with many wars over the past 300 years, and the denomination has maintained its

peace focus throughout. This is a testament that Brethren are learning to be peacemakers generation after generation.

How does that learning take place? What do today's pacifist children know and believe about war, peace, and peacemaking? What can adults learn from the children?

A number of resources provide recommendations for parents and teachers to support children's peacemaking activities and abilities. Many of these materials are based on personal experience and testimony and have their foundations in Christian education. As academics and child and family researchers, however, we have felt that more exploration is needed. Therefore, we combined our Brethren heritage and passion for peacemaking with our professional training to find out what children are thinking and what lessons we can learn

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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.

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

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

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

The 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) 992-3733

Timbercrest Senior Living Community
North Manchester, Ind. —
(260) 982-2118

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

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

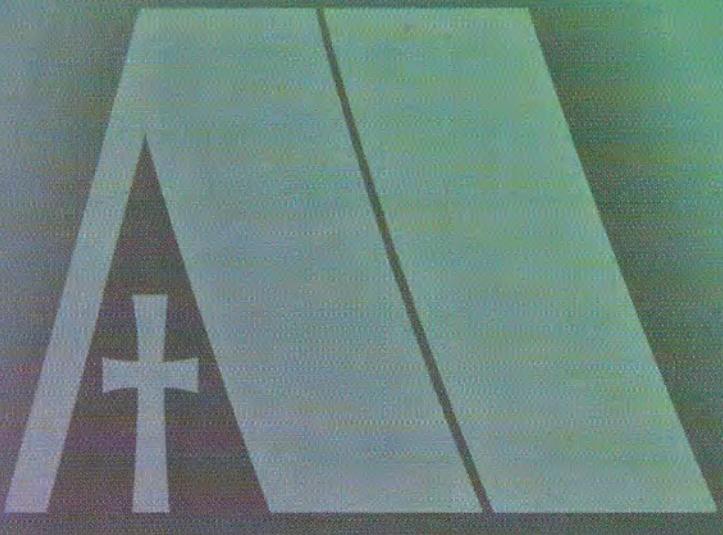
For more information on these homes visit
www.brethren.org/abc/fellowship/directory

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"When you act friendly to one person, then they treat their friends like that and it goes on and on until it finally gets to the president."

—8-year-old boy



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from them. Through those investigations we have identified recommendations to nurture new generations of young and older peacemakers—especially in times of war.

To explore our questions, we (and several colleagues) interviewed hundreds of children between the ages of 3 and 18 in countries around the world over the last several years. The children have shared their ideas through words and drawings of war and peace. Thirty of those interviews involved Brethren and Mennonite children who have been incredibly insightful and provide glimpses into the future of peacemaking in peace churches. Following is what these Brethren and Mennonite children from Indiana and Kansas have to teach us—in their own words.

The children included several themes in their descriptions of peace and war that mirror central teachings of the Church of the Brethren: following the teachings of God/Jesus, warmth and connection in human relationships, active peacemaking strategies, and providing service to others. They also made many creative suggestions for alternatives to war.

Following the teachings of God/Jesus

The children referred to Jesus and other religious influences during their interviews. It was very common for them to say that God and Jesus are involved in peace. They also indicated that in war, "God is sad" (6-year-old girl) and that "War is not what God wants" (8-year-old boy).

The children also mentioned church leaders, pastors, Christians, and members of Brethren Volunteer Service or Christian Peacemaker Teams as people who are involved in peace, and indicated that they learned about war and peace issues in church, Sunday school, and Bible school.

Expressing warmth and connection in human relationships

The children described peace as involving human connection, friendship, and caring for others. Conversely, they described broken relationships in their portrayals of war.

A 7-year-old boy said, "In peace everyone starts loving and

giving away hugs—loving hugs." An 8-year-old boy drew a peace picture with two people and explained, "They are making peace by being friends." An 11-year-old girl said, "I think peace is when other people, all the people, are being nice to each other and when everyone's in unity.... They care about each other.... That's one of the things you need to have if you're going to have peace."

In contrast, a 9-year-old boy said that in war, "Two people who are not friends fight . . . start hating and fighting . . . (It ends when) two people are nice and forgive." A 12-year-old girl said peace starts when "two countries support each other. (It ends) when they won't support each other and become against each other."

Active peacemaking strategies

In our study, the children from historic peace churches overwhelmingly showed an understanding of peace as an activity—something one does, not merely a state of being or the way things are. Even some of the youngest children exhibited this understanding.

A 6-year-old girl said peace is "sharing and putting guns in the trash. No fighting." A 7-year-old girl said, "You draw pictures for your teachers and your friends. You are not unpolite. You help people, like if they drop their stuff on the floor, like their math papers, you help people pick them up. And you say nice things." An 11-year-old boy said peace "starts by people, instead of using war, working it out and finding virtues and stuff they have the same, and then becoming friends."

Providing service

When describing peace, the children included the ideas of sharing and providing service to others—especially to those who are in need. For example, a 5-year-old girl said peace is "helping people get up." A 6-year-old girl indicated peace starts when we "help poor people have food and a house and clothing." A 9-year-old boy described the following images of service in his peace drawing: "Two people are helping each other make hay and stuff and bundle it all up. And that is somebody that got hurt, and somebody's bringing him into their house. And these two people are making food."

When asked what happens in peace, a 10-year-old boy said,

"You raise money for people who don't have any or send clothes to people who are in the middle of wars." A 12-year-old girl described peace as, "People helping each other . . . and if someone is weak, they give them food."

Several children described peace as occurring through what we've called the "ripple effect." They characterized peace as beginning with one person or action and progressing (or rippling) to include more people or actions.

An 8-year-old boy included the ripple effect of peace in this way: "When you act friendly to one person, then they treat their friends like that and it goes on and on until it finally gets to the president." A 10-year-old boy said, "When someone cares for someone, then they feel like they have to give them something back; then they care about other people and it just goes."

An 11-year-old girl said, "Peace starts when people start being nice to each other and start realizing that when you're mean, it hurts other people's feelings. It doesn't just hurt the person you're talking to, it hurts the people around you when you say it. And it hurts you, too. So they start being nice, and then more people start being nice and it turns into peace."

Alternative strategies

The children identified many alternative strategies to war. Some of these responses were given when they were specifically asked, "Are there ways other than wars that problems can be solved?" However, many of the ideas emerged spontaneously from the children during our discussions of war and peace.

Most commonly, children suggested the use of dialogue and discussion to solve problems. For example, when a 12-year-old girl was asked why there is war, she replied, "Why? I have no idea. I do not find any reason for there to be war. Why can't they, in simple words, why can't they just talk over coffee, you know?"

Other children suggested that an alternative to war is to stop fighting and to refuse to participate in war activities. One of the youngest children in the study, a 4-year-old boy, said,

there should be "less fighting." A 6-year-old girl suggested, "If one kid hits the other kid, then the first kid shouldn't hit back." Peace starts "by one person either protesting war or not taking part in war," said an 11-year-old girl. A 7-year-old boy suggested, "Maybe all the men take off their guns or something and throw their hands up and say, 'Peace!'"

There also were several very creative and unique suggestions made by the children. "Can I just tell you how they should figure out what to do (instead of having war)? They should have chess tournaments, or they could race, or hold something like the Olympics, or maybe have dogs catch Frisbees," said an 8-year-old boy. His 7-year-old brother suggested the game "rock, paper, scissors" for solving disputes.

Children as peacemakers

We specifically asked the children, "Do you think kids can do anything to make peace?" Once again, the peace-church kids provided insightful and creative answers.

Several focused on how children can treat others with kindness and respect. "They can be nice to other kids and be polite and stuff like that and not cause even itty-bitty little wars," said an 11-year-old girl. A 7-year-old girl suggested, "They can help people sweep the floor, give flowers, help people move in, and invite people over."

Others emphasized activities we would consider to be activism. "Kids can write letters to the president and have him change his mind," suggested a 9-year-old boy. An 11-year-old boy said, "They could tell people. They could help make posters and raise money."

A 10-year-old boy envisioned a longer-term strategy: "We could probably learn about (peace) and then not be in the military when we grow up. Sooner or later there would be only two or three people. Then they would say, 'What are we doing this for? It's more like a secret club that little kids have. Not the real thing.' So they'd quit."

Most importantly, several children reminded us that they can be the teachers, and adults can learn a lot from them. A 9-year-old girl suggested, "Children can teach people about

**"War is not
what God
wants."**

—8-year-old boy

(drawing at right by
11-year-old girl).



it and keep teaching them until they listen." A 7-year-old boy said, "Yeah, kids can do a lot of things about war, but we don't always think of it."

How can we help them think about what they can do? What can the adults in peace churches do to encourage and support the young peacemakers around us?

Recommendations

- Listen to the children. Their thoughts can be fresh, inspiring, and creative. Listening will also help adults know if children have misunderstandings or concerns.
- Help children find words for peacemaking. Help them expand their insights and express their thoughts.
- Take action with children. Help them learn how to contribute to the ripple effect of peace. Go ahead and start small—close to home. Be a model and a partner.

Conclusion

As we work toward the pacifist vision of a lasting, worldwide peace, children need support and education as peacemakers. Parents and children need to talk about peace as they live their

"Peace starts when people start being nice to each other and start realizing that when you're mean, it hurts other people's feelings."

—11-year-old girl



daily lives. Churches and communities need to work together. And so on and so on "until it finally gets to the president!"

This ripple effect of peace (as so beautifully described by these children) must be fostered and encouraged so that our children in the Church of the Brethren can be great leaders, teachers, and makers of peace. ■

Karen Myers-Bowman is associate professor of Family Studies and Human Services at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan. She is a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill., and has been involved with Manhattan Mennonite Church in Kansas. Judith Myers-Walls is associate professor of Child Development and Family Studies at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., and is a member of Lafayette Church of the Brethren.

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Two partners,

By Christopher Bowman

A visit reveals the challenge

In 2003 the Church of the Brethren chose to change its India relationships. Annual Conference delegates approved a proposal to relate with both the Church of North India (CNI), a long-time partner, and with India Brethren who have broken away from CNI.

As a first step in this new approach, from Feb. 25 to March 5 Global Mission Partnerships executive director Mervin Keeney, Ministry of Reconciliation director Bob Gross, and I as Annual Conference moderator visited India on behalf of the Church of the Brethren. It was important that we met face-to-face with members of both groups.

The visit was an eye-opening experience. I not only gained a new appreciation for the wide-ranging diversity in the country but also became more aware of the significant difficulties facing us as we live into the

Conference decision to relate to both CNI and the Brethren. The visit also made me more appreciative of these two distinct and dynamic partners.

Four days were spent in New Delhi, where we met with CNI officials and joined in Sunday morning worship. Four days were also spent in Gujarat State, where we visited churches of the India Brethren. CNI leaders were not happy with the decision of Annual Conference; the India Brethren were thrilled. The first half of our visit helped us recognize the depth of concern and disappointment our decision had caused. In the second, we found great celebration and joy.

These were two very different visits.

The Church of North India

When pastors from the different denominations in my hometown meet for lunch, it is difficult enough to

Merv Keeney

agree on pizza toppings; I can't imagine us agreeing to a common book of worship. Yet that is what happened in 1970 when six denominations in northern India—Brethren, Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Church of India, Methodists, and the United Church of North India—united to form the Church of North India. We have been a CNI partner ever since.

For nearly 35 years CNI has provided a living witness to Jesus' prayer that his followers might "all be one" in the same way that Jesus is one with the Father (John 17:21). Theirs is a marvelous fulfillment of the dreams of the ecumenical movement of the 1960s and '70s that so strongly emphasized not just unity of the Spirit, but uniting organizationally.

In a nation where 98 percent of the population is non-Christian, it is important to show by example that Christians have "one faith" with "one Lord and one baptism" (Eph. 4:5). In the 20th century, the most obvious and effective way of doing this was through



Moderator Chris Bowman, center, is surrounded by India Brethren greeting the delegation at the Taropa congregation.

one God

and blessings of India relationships

unification. Glancing through the CNI Book of Worship one can quickly see the deliberate ways in which the various founding traditions are represented with respect. More than a million Christians, including thousands of past Brethren, now call CNI their spiritual home.

During our visit, we were honored to meet with the CNI moderator, general secretary, and other officials. Concerned CNI members and the bishop from Gujarat (where the Brethren are located) were also part of our meetings. Gifts were exchanged, and we brought greetings at the New Delhi church during Sunday worship.

We were introduced to CNI's mission statements and seven "priorities for the 21st century." These seven priorities are easy for us to affirm: (1) Rejuvenating pastoral ministry, (2) Evangelism within and without for costly discipleship, (3) Restructuring the structure, (4) Ministry of service, (5) Solidarity with "subaltern" (marginal groups and "Untouchables"), (6) Creating healing communities through inter-/intra-faith action, (7) Equipping God's people for participatory learning.

The way CNI is implementing these priorities is impressive. In our visit we heard about many vibrant and life-changing ministries. Programs in education, health, and service along with new church development caught our attention. CNI leaders talked of building communities of "resistance and hope" especially among

Christopher Bowman



CNI MISSION STATEMENT

"The Church of North India as a United and Uniting together is committed to announce the Good News of the reign of God inaugurated through death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in proclamation and to demonstrate in actions to restore the integrity of God's creation through continuous struggle against the demonic powers by breaking down the barriers of caste, class, gender, economic inequality and exploitation of the nature." (see www.cnisynod.org)

India's disempowered peoples. A new AIDS awareness and prevention emphasis, after-school programs, strengthening of lay leadership, moving youth "from the periphery to the center," and an increasing emphasis on spirituality all resonate strongly with our common goals of a practical and personal faith.

Sunday worship in New Delhi opened with the hymn "How Great Thou Art." The white robes and red stoles of the priests, bishop, and general secretary joined the brightly colored flowers of the compound in colorful celebration. The morning hymns were listed by number on a plaque on the wall just as they would be in hundreds of Brethren churches in the United States. As I listened to the priest consecrate the Eucharist, I reflected on the joy we find when different faith traditions can do more than just agree on the toppings for their pizza.

India Brethren

The next day we traveled south to meet the Brethren. It was clear from the moment we met the welcoming committee at Vadodara airport that for the India Brethren, this visit was a very big deal. After 30 years of failed attempts to be acknowledged by the US Brethren, things had finally changed. The arrival of the Church of the Brethren moderator was a significant event. Each day was a celebration.

At each stop we were warmly welcomed. Signs and banners proclaimed "a new relationship" and there

Global Mission Partnerships executive director Merv Keeney, right, presents an artistic rendition of the Church of the Brethren tagline to Church of North India general secretary the Rev. Enos Das Pradhan.

NEW PARTNERSHIP



TOGETHER AHEAD

was a sense of hope for the future. Flowers, garlands, and hearty handshakes were given in abundance. We enjoyed a cultural program with folk dancing, singing, and even a fireworks display. Our hosts were gracious, thoughtful, and filled with joy.

During our visit we traveled with the India Brethren

Strengthening our relationship with one group seems to deepen the pain felt by the other. Yet we can also provide an important witness. . . . We can share a visible witness to the unity of our faith.

moderator, office holders, and our translator. We saw examples of the church's devotion, faithfulness, and growth. New buildings were proudly displayed. We participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Brethren high school in Valsad. We dedicated a new parsonage with much fanfare and celebration. A visit to the teachers' college was also on the itinerary.

One particular highlight was the celebration of love feast at the Champawadi church in the Vyara area. Some 380 people participated. The fellowship meal, the communion bread, and the feet we washed looked different than those back home, but the event was familiar nonetheless. These were, indeed, our brothers and sisters in Christ. The bread which we broke was the communion of the body of Christ.

Challenges facing the India Brethren have to do

Moderator Chris Bowman, kneeling at right, takes part in a love feast feetwashing service at the Champawadi church.

India Brethren tout the new relationship with the US Church of the Brethren on a banner at one of the delegation's stops.

with pastoral training and Christian witness. Since India Brethren are not admitted into the seminary of the Church of North India, alternative forms of training are needed. The India Brethren also yearn for training in Brethren beliefs and practices.

Along with leadership development, the witness they provide amid strife will also be a challenge to the India Brethren. Organizationally quite small, they find much of their administrative energy and planning consumed by questions about property and power. This can sap the spiritual life of a church.

Still, the many instances of enthusiasm and joy with which the India Brethren welcomed our small delegation spoke of a hope for the future along with an appreciation for the past. Conversations with the youth and the

women's fellowship in Valsad, for example, gave me great hope for the witness and work of the church. The strong caring and hospitality ministries of the women's fellowship, and the deep spiritual commitment of the young adults bode well for the future.

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow

Hope for the future can also be seen in the new leadership emerging in both groups. The new general secretary of CNI, the Rev. Enos Das Pradhan, is a thoughtful and dedicated leader. He stated clearly and often that he was interested in moving forward rather than looking back.

The new communicator for the India Brethren, brother Darryl Sankey, is a thoughtful and trustworthy

Merv Keeney



influence as well. His humble servant leadership will be a good influence in forging our new relationship. His training in reconciliation and conflict resolution make him an insightful leader who can help us weave our way through these thorny issues.

It was a privilege and honor to visit with our two church partners in India, but we have work to do. Rebuilding our relationship with the Church of North India will require careful and humble negotiations. Beyond these official conversations, we may also want to reconnect with some of the thousands of Brethren who remain in CNI to affirm their decision to be active and supportive members of that ecumenical church.

Encouraging the work of the India Brethren will be no less daunting. Assisting in pastoral training, exploring our mutual tradition, encouraging visits and exchanges are all needed steps in reconnecting and rebuilding the relationship.

The dispute between the groups about property ownership is at the heart of every aspect of the relationships with CNI and Brethren in India. It is also affecting the spiritual heart of both groups. Both sides seem to recognize the high cost (financially and spiritually) of the property issue, but neither seems able to escape from its grasp. Neither side brings up the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:40 or the words of Paul in 1 Cor. 6. The conflict has captured both sides without their intent.

Strengthening our relationship with one group seems to deepen the pain felt by the other. Yet we can also provide an important witness in our work within these two relationships. We can share a visible witness to the unity of our faith. In this work we, too, may find that diverse and disjointed parts of the body of Christ can come together with respect and love. There are two partners but only one God. There are two (or more) perspectives, but there is one body of Christ.

Toward the end of our tour we visited the apartment once used by Church of the Brethren missionaries Wilbur and Mary Emmert Stover when they began work in India along with Bertha Ryan in 1895. The city apartment was completely dilapidated—unsafe for human habitation. Looking at that apartment, one could not help but realize the world is changing and time moves on. It is not power, property, or position that makes the church faithful or alive; it is the Spirit of God that lives within. 

Christopher Bowman is the 2004 Annual Conference moderator and pastor of Memorial Church of the Brethren, Martinsburg, Pa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- "New 'Relationships' with India Churches," Messenger, 2002, pp. 24-28.
- "Building Relationship in India: US Delegation Report: Latest Trip Prior to Annual Conference Action," Messenger, June 2003, pp. 22-25.)
- The complete text of the 2003 Annual Conference action is available online at www.brethren.org/ac/ac_statements/2003/IndiaRelationships.htm.

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Hot enough

By David Radcliff

When it comes to global

One of the first words I learned was "hot," thanks to the presence of a heater in the front room of the house we lived in when I was young. I knew early on to steer clear of the appliance, as getting too close could spell trouble.

In our world today, we're playing with fire. There is broad scientific consensus that the Earth's climate is heating up and will continue to do so through this century. By 2100, the temperature could climb 5-9 degrees Fahrenheit; it has already increased by that much in polar regions. Imagine the average temperatures in an area 1,000 miles south of you, and transport them to your present location.

And while you may be able to turn up the air conditioner a few notches—or emigrate to the next country north—other living things in your area won't be so lucky. Indeed, a recent study reported in the journal *Nature* predicted that millions of species, perhaps a quarter of all living things, may perish by 2050 if the warming continues at its present pace.

We need not rely on scientific study for all our information about this phenomenon. Brethren delegations to Arctic Village, Alaska, have observed it firsthand. Last summer, host Charlie Swaney of this Gwich'in community lamented, "In the winter-time, it hardly gets down to 60 below any more."

You might think this kind of change would be welcomed 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, but native people see it as disconcerting. It has meant an increase in the growth of underbrush on the previously open tundra, and changes in migratory patterns of wildlife upon which native people depend for life and culture. And the permafrost, which acts as a frozen foundation for life in the

Arctic—and repository of billions of tons of global warming gases that will be released if it ever melts—is beginning to thaw ominously. Already in 2002, ice cover in the Arctic and Greenland shrank by 650,000 square miles. If the world's glaciers ever all melt, global sea levels would rise 260 feet.

Not even the oil companies up on the North Coast are immune from the effects. Activity on the fragile coastal plain can take place only when the ground is frozen solid. Over the past 30 years, the window of operation has narrowed from 200 to 100 days a year, thanks to global warming and thawing of the tundra.

Even with these warning signs, it's still tempting to see climate change as a problem to be dealt with in the future. However, for 160,000 of the world's people, there is no future—thanks to global warming. That's how many people the World Health Organization says died last year as a result of the effects of a warming globe. More frequent and more severe storms killed thousands outright and polluted already tenuous water supplies for tens of thousands more. Disease-carrying insects found their ranges expanded thanks to milder temperatures. Upwards of 20,000 people died in an unprecedented heat wave in Europe last summer.

* * *

We can pick our reason for being concerned about global warming. Is it because we respect creation out of religious or moral concerns and feel compelled to spring to the defense of millions of life forms with which we share this planet?

Is it a matter of justice? Are we incensed that those at the margins of global society—native people, the poor without

Simple things you can do to curb global warming

- **Get out of that car!** Every mile you don't drive is a pound less CO₂ emitted. Live close to work and school; consider buying a hybrid vehicle. See driving as a last resort rather than a ready option.
- **Be a good housekeeper!** Cut heating and cooling demands, and turn the water heater down. Purchase energy-saving light bulbs and appliances. One compact fluorescent bulb can keep 600 pounds of CO₂ out of the atmosphere over its lifetime.
- **Think about the food you eat!** What is the energy cost of producing, transporting, storing, and preparing it? Is there space for a community garden on your church property?
- **Let your light shine!** Let the local media know that you're having an energy audit for your church facilities or that the congregation has set aside a Sunday to walk/bike/car pool to worship.
- **Lighten up!** Thinking "smaller" related to just about every purchase or activity can make a difference—from the size of your house and car to the distance you travel for vacation.
- **Speak out!** Let your government know that you think global warming is an issue that demands action. Signing the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change and raising fuel efficiency standards would be a good start.

gh for ya?

warming, most Americans are asleep at the wheel

access to clean water—are being endangered by something caused primarily by the world's richer industrialized nations?

Are we perturbed that some would forward this problem to our children and grandchildren, leaving them to deal with a toasted planet? If so, we would call for generational justice—a commitment to provide a healthy Earth to those coming after us.

Unfortunately, most of us are neither perturbed nor incensed nor compelled. For the most part, we're asleep at the wheel. The causes of global warming are so closely tied to the kind of life we've learned to live that we either don't want to think about it, or we find a way to dismiss it as the latest "environmental scare." This releases us to continue lifestyles that make us the global leader in yet another category: With 4 percent of the world's population, the US contributes 25 percent of the world's global warming gases. All told, US per-capita energy consumption is twice that of other industrialized nations.

Take auto travel. In the US, we each drive an average of 9,000 miles annually, 50 percent more than 20 years ago. We travel in vehicles that on the whole get no better gas mileage than 1980 models, with every gallon of gas sending 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO_2)—the most common global warming gas—into the atmosphere.

And it has recently been discovered that soot from forest fires and diesel engines carried aloft and deposited on polar ice may be behind as much as one-quarter of the global warming that is occurring, as it dims the reflectivity of the ice.

Or household energy use. A typical US home's annual energy consumption creates about six tons of CO_2 . And as our houses increase in size (houses today are one-third bigger than 20 years ago, even as our family sizes have decreased), they create a larger energy footprint.

Or our eating habits. The typical food item on the dinner table traveled more than 1,500 miles to get to us—not by magic carpet, but by emission-emitting vehicles. We each eat more than a pound of beef every week, even as the average cow daily belches about 640 quarts of methane—one of the most potent global warming gases. All together, raising, packaging, and shipping our food creates 11 percent of a house-

hold's global warming emissions.

Or our consumption of things like paper. Again, we lead the world with a per-capita consumption rate of 760 pounds annually. Every pound of paper made from trees (as opposed to recycled content) creates three pounds of CO_2 and requires 3.5 pounds of wood. All told, the world is losing about 25 million acres of CO_2 -absorbing forests each year, about a third of which is harvested to produce paper.

At root, global warming isn't just an environmental issue. It's a faith issue. It's a moral issue. It's about life and what we will do to preserve it.

At the heart of all the world's religions and moral codes is a sense of obligation for the well-being of others—especially those whose lives are directly affected by our choices.

In the Christian tradition, one clear thing about Jesus' life and ministry is that he cared about this-worldly matters,

David Radcliff

At root, global warming isn't just an environmental issue. It's a faith issue. It's a moral issue. It's about life and what we will do to preserve it.



including the physical well-being of others. The travails of hunger or disease or lack of opportunity were affronts not only to the sufferers but to him, as noted in Matthew 25 in his well-known parable about who will inherit eternal habitations. Today, one-quarter of all preventable illness in the world is attributable to environmental degradation. "Lord, when did we see thee sick from drinking from a polluted well or swept away by a flood or run off your land by the changing climate?"

Whatever our basis for concern, the path ahead for us—if we want to live responsibly—is to pay attention to the impact our lifestyle has on the lives of others, including other life-forms on this planet. Then we must have the courage and creativity to live in a new way, for the health and well-being of all living things—and, in the end, for our own spiritual health as well.

David Radcliff is director of New Community Project (newcommunityproject.org), a faith-based non-profit organization, and lives in Elgin, Ill.

Taking stock of social

By Karla Hignite and Will Thomas

Church balances need for good returns

Many Brethren don't like to talk about the power of money. Brethren in the United States have long struggled personally and as a denomination with issues of economics.

Twenty years ago General Board staff member Shantilal Bhagat—now retired—authored *What Does It Profit?*, a study guide published by Brethren Press for use in adult Sunday school and discussion groups. In it, Bhagat asserts that "Christians must be concerned about economic life because economic activity and discourse lie at the very heart of human experience."

Bhagat and his co-authors present a biblical case for a faith that encompasses the economic realm of daily living. Jesus repeatedly spoke to issues of economics, and many teachings in the Bible call for concern regarding the welfare and well-being of our neighbors. That does more than suggest a need for Christian concern and commitment in these matters, Bhagat says. It

requires it. He writes: "The ethical concept of justice is basic in all that the church stands for. Because of the crucial joining of ethics and economics, the church must concern itself with all aspects of economic life, including a critical understanding of the system which sustains that economic life as well as undergirds the institutional church."

Guided by Annual Conference

The denomination first drafted investment guidelines incorporating socially responsible criteria in the early 1970s. Ever since, the denomination's investment and shareholder advocacy decisions have been guided by a variety of Annual Conference statements and church agency resolutions. For example, the 1986 statement "Divestiture of Investments in South Africa" made a specific change in the denomination's investment policy.

Anne Myers was chair of the five-person study



responsibility

with ethical concerns

committee appointed by the 1985 Conference. Former general secretary Judy Mills Reimer was the study committee's secretary. "It was a real hot button," says Reimer. "Members of the church were saying we should not be supporting anything that supported apartheid and were asking how to get rid of our investments that did." At the same time, says Reimer, committee members knew the church had a fiduciary responsibility to uphold.

As former head of the Pension Board from 1980 to 1982, Myers understood the denomination's fiduciary responsibility well. "At any given time, the church is entrusted with the money of many people with views across the spectrum," says Myers. "You have a responsibility to those whose funds you're holding to try to achieve some level of return at the same time that you are trying to invest in a manner consistent with the norms and views of the denomination."

The problem of purity

Myers suggests a core conflict concerning investment decisions centers on a desire for purity. "The church wants to be pure—to not invest in things counter to what we value as a church." That's a good but difficult goal, says Myers, because strictly adhering to such a view in today's world of corporations is so complex. "Because companies are so diversified in their involvement and product lines, it's not always easy to make clear distinctions about the rights and wrongs of all their behaviors and policies."

Stewart Hoover, a former General Board staff member and now professor of media studies and religious studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, agrees. "If you try to totally 'bleach' your investments, you quickly realize you can't."

At the same time, says Hoover, it is incumbent on church investors to monitor investments and take an

Three strategies for socially responsible investing

As the denomination's financial arm with management oversight of Brethren Pension Plan accounts and church agency assets, Brethren Benefit Trust has a fiduciary responsibility to try to achieve sufficient returns for investors. Coupled with that is a commitment to manage assets in ways that uphold Brethren ethical and social values. In doing so, BBT continues a longstanding Church of the Brethren tradition of applying socially responsible criteria in its selection of investment options. BBT does so using three distinct, yet complementary, strategies.

1. Social Screening. Certain companies are "screened"—eliminated completely from potential investments—based on their products or activities. For instance, BBT avoids investment in companies with poor environmental records or companies that support human rights abuses in other countries. In keeping with Annual Conference policy statements, BBT eliminates from its portfolio the top 25 companies receiving prime military contract

awards from the Department of Defense or any company deriving more than 10 percent of gross revenues from prime Department of Defense weapons contracts. Likewise, BBT does not invest in companies deriving more than 10 percent of gross revenues from the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or gambling devices or operations.

2. Shareholder Advocacy. In other instances, BBT participates as a shareholder in dialogues and resolutions with companies in its investment portfolio. Through these actions, BBT works to persuade those companies to adopt practices and procedures in keeping with Annual Conference statements, resolutions, and policies.

3. Proactive Investing. As one aspect of proactive investing, the BBT board in 2003 approved the creation of a Community Development Investment Fund that gives active Pension Plan members and Brethren Foundation clients the opportunity to invest a portion of their money with a primary focus on social improvement rather

than financial return. The fund helps underwrite community development projects in economically disadvantaged communities in the US and abroad.

The new fund directly supports communities through four primary sectors of lending: affordable housing construction or rehabilitation, micro-enterprise, small business startups or expansions, and non-profit facilities. Investments are through the Calvert Foundation, which has a decade of community investment experience. BBT will also direct some international investments through Calvert's International Community Development Notes to assist countries where Brethren are currently active, such as Nigeria, Sudan, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Questions related to the new fund can be directed to Will Thomas, 800-746-1505 or wthomas_bbt@brethren.org (Foundation clients), or Don Fecher, 800-746-1505 or dfecher_bbt@brethren.org (Pension Plan members). —Will Thomas

active role in associating with and communicating with corporations to voice the concerns of the church. "The church must continue to be on the front lines of discussion, to be involved in critiquing and commenting on the larger culture in which it exists."

That culture includes what Hoover suggests has been a "corporatization" of the US in recent decades—a concentration of corporate power far greater than what existed even 25 years ago. Through mergers and acquisitions, a smaller number of hands now control larger pieces of the pie.

At the same time, socially screened investments have grown dramatically, both in size and influence. According to the 2001 Report on Socially Responsible Investing Trends in the United States, published by Social Investment Forum (www.socialinvest.org), when all SRI-related investor interests in the US are combined, total assets exceed \$2 trillion. According to the report, that accounts for about one dollar out of every eight professionally managed in the US today.

As evidenced by denominational activity of past

BBT participated in a successful effort encouraging Procter & Gamble to offer Fair-Trade Certified coffee. The company agreed to offer a fair-trade alternative under the Millstone label. Fair-Trade Certified coffee uses environmentally friendly farming methods and pays growers a fair price.



decades, no single approach to investing or withholding assets can be said to be most effective for all situations. Boycotts, divestment, and shareholder advocacy each has its place in an overall strategy of applying steady pressure on corporations. The religious community has itself become much more savvy in understanding the time and place for each.

The maturing of SRI

One sign the SRI movement has matured in recent years is its growing focus on leveraging assets not only as a "stick" to encourage corporations to do the right thing, but also as a carrot to affirm good work being accomplished. An extension of that philosophical shift is a trend toward community investing—investing portions of an individual's or organization's assets in funds that directly benefit communities and families in need. (See sidebar, page 19.)

A second, emerging fundamental shift is increased partnering with an eclectic mix of groups who share very specific concerns. For instance, in the wake of recent corporate scandals, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) is more likely to work in cooperation with public watchdog groups and public employee pension funds on issues of corporate governance due to shared concerns about worker

rights. Likewise, an ICCR meeting on global climate change might include not only faith-group representatives but also representatives from the Union of Concerned Scientists, CERES, and the World Wide Fund for Animals.

These seemingly disparate groups bring complementary strengths to the table, Thomas says. "The members and staff of ICCR have engaged corporations for decades. They are highly experienced in shareholder dialogue and good-faith negotiations and are well-respected by many corporate leaders." While other advocacy groups may be much less experienced in shareholder efforts, they bring large amounts of data, a legal understanding of corporate policies and regulations, and knowledge of industry practices. That kind of information can help the larger coalition frame its requests in ways that appeal to a company's business interests, Thomas says.

Awareness of the need to find a common language based on corporate interests signals yet a third shift for SRI. "More often at ICCR meetings I see us working

"Very often the kinds of changes the religious community is asking for are the very things that can ultimately help a company achieve financial stability and success."

to present a strong business case to corporations for what we're asking of them," says Thomas. "If you base your arguments strictly on moral grounds, the walls can go up. But when you also speak in terms of profitability, risk, and shareholder value, you cut through the resistance and aren't as easily dismissed."

Interests in moral reform and profit don't have to be diametrically opposed, Thomas says. "Very often the kinds of changes the religious community is asking for are the very things that can ultimately help a company achieve financial stability and success."

In the relatively short time the SRI movement has existed, denominational leaders have engaged corporations on a variety of concerns in multiple ways and with varied levels of success. Continuing that pattern of leadership today means addressing new issues as they emerge and actively seeking partnerships with groups whose knowledge and skills complement those of the religious community. No doubt additional issues and responses will yet emerge. Perhaps more important than particular resolutions or the manner of engagement is that the church does continue, as Bhagat suggests, to "prick the consciousness" of the corporate world. **W**

Will Thomas is chair of the ICCR board and director of socially responsible investing for Brethren Benefit Trust. He lives in Elgin, Ill. Karla Hignite, a former BBT staff member, is a freelance writer living in Colorado Springs, Colo.



Seventeen students received degrees at Bethany's commencement ceremonies in May. Front row, left to right: Kathryn Eisenbise, Leslie Frye, Ever Mudambanuki, B. Elizabeth Cox, Patricia Meeks; back row, Brian Messler, Mark Godfrey, Andrew Sampson, Richard Yeager-Stiver, Holly White, Noel Naff, Thomas Coursen, Jeremy Ashworth, Mbode Ndirmbita, Paul Liepelt, William House, Joshua Brockway.

Bethany celebrates its 99th commencement

Bethany Theological Seminary celebrated its 99th commencement May 8, with two observances in Richmond, Ind. A ceremony for conferring degrees took place in Bethany's Nicarry Chapel, and a public worship celebration was held in Stout Meetinghouse on the adjacent Earlham College campus.

John H. Gingrich, professor of religion and philosophy and dean emeritus at the University of La Verne (Calif.), and chair of the Bethany board of trustees, gave an address at the conferring of degrees ceremony. Russell Haitch, Bethany's assistant professor of Christian education and director of the Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults, was the speaker for the afternoon worship.

Eleven students received master of divinity degrees, one with an emphasis in ministry with youth and young adults. Six students received master of arts in theology degrees, four with an emphasis in peace studies. Those who received degrees are:

- Master of divinity with emphasis in ministry with youth and young adults: Noel S. Naff, Tryon, N.C.
- Master of divinity: Jeremy Ashworth, Fort Wayne, Ind., with distinction in ministry studies; B. Elizabeth Cox, Waynesboro, Pa.; William House, New Castle, Ind.; Paul Liepelt, Madison, Conn.; Patricia L. Meeks, Greenville, Ohio; Brian P. Messler, Baltimore, Md.; Ever Mudambanuki, Zimbabwe; Mbode Ndirmbita, Nigeria; Andrew Sampson, Forest, Ohio; and Richard Yeager-Stiver, Marion, Ohio.
- Master of arts in theology, with a peace studies emphasis: Thomas Coursen, Richmond, Ind.; Leslie Ann Billheimer Frye, McPherson, Kan., with distinction in theological and historical studies; Mark Godfrey, McPherson, Kan.; and Holly White, North Hampton, Ohio, with distinction in theological and historical studies.
- Master of arts in theology: Joshua Brockway, North Canton, Ohio; Kathryn S. Eisenbise, Elizabethtown, Pa.,

with distinction in biblical languages.

Graduates' future endeavors include careers in pastoral and congregational ministry, teaching, and additional graduate study.

BBT Board adopts five-year strategic plan

The Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) Board of Directors affirmed its blueprint for operations over the next five years as it met April 17-18 at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. The board approved a strategic plan that includes initiatives pertaining to the Brethren Pension Plan, Brethren Medical Plan, Church of the Brethren Credit Union, and Brethren Foundation, as well as overall marketing efforts.

"After 18 months of study, research, and discussion that led to the creation of this plan, we believe these strategic issues will guide a majority of BBT's work for the years to come," BBT president Wil Nolen said. "We're excited about what the future holds for BBT."

The strategic plan focus on the pension plan calls for the board's Investment Committee and staff to improve the method of funding retirement benefits to reduce the possibility of future unfunded liabilities. The board began addressing the issue a year ago when it approved creation of "A" accounts for contributions before July 1, 2003, and "B" accounts for contributions on or after that date.



Annual Conference moderator Chris Bowman, right center, completed his tour of Brethren agency board meetings with a stop at the Brethren Benefit Trust meetings in April. Board member Fred Bernhard looks on at left.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2-3 Ministers' Association Conference, Charleston, W.Va.

July 3 General Board meeting, Charleston, W.Va.

July 3-7 Annual Conference, Charleston, W.Va.

July 6 Brethren Benefit Trust Board meeting, Charleston, W.Va.

July 12-18 Senior High Workcamp, Mendenhall, Miss.

July 12-18 Senior High Workcamp, Surprise, Ariz.

July 19-23 Junior High Workcamp, New Windsor, Md.

July 19-25 Senior High Workcamp, Crossnore, N.C.

July 19-25 Senior High Workcamp, Los Angeles, Calif.

July 22-26 Bethany Theological Seminary youth "Exploring Your Call" event, Richmond, Ind.

July 22-Aug. 13 Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 260, New Windsor, Md.

July 23-25 Brethren Revival Fellowship "Brethren Alive" meeting, Elizabethtown, Pa.

July 23-25 Missouri/Arkansas District conference, Bolivar, Mo.

July 23-25 Oregon/Washington District conference, Myrtle Point, Ore.

July 25-31 Senior High Workcamp US Disaster Response

July 26-Aug. 1 Senior High Workcamp, Washington, D.C.

July 28-Aug. 1 Junior High Workcamp, Indianapolis, Ind.

July 29-31 Southern Plains District conference, Nocona, Texas

July 30-Aug. 1 Southeastern District conference, Mars Hill, N.C.

July 30-Aug. 1 Western Plains District conference, McPherson, Kan.

The major strategic initiative for the medical plan is a continuing effort to locate and implement reasonable coverage for members at affordable premiums. Inflationary trends and unfavorable claims experience make it a major challenge to provide a good benefit plan at a reasonable cost.

On April 1 BBT fulfilled a strategic plan goal of sponsoring a denominational credit union by assuming all administrative functions of the Church of the Brethren Credit Union (CoBCU), which until mid-February was the Brethren Employees' Credit Union. Staff members reported that they have begun a review of operating policies and procedures and are exploring development of new products and services. Dennis Kingery, director of Credit Union Operations, supervised relocation of the credit union offices to BBT and the launching of a new "look" complete with new logo, brochure, forms, and website. The board also affirmed the creation of a Credit Union Service Organization (CUSO) as another strategic priority. A CUSO typically offers an expanded range of financial services to members of a credit union, although it is a separate organization.

Under the umbrella of the Brethren Foundation, the board included a strategic priority to support church agencies and related organizations in development of their own deferred giving programs. This will support primarily those agencies with insufficient staff to implement such a program on their own. The Brethren Foundation will prepare educational articles, provide descriptive materials, consult with potential donors, and administer gifts that come to client organizations.

The final component of the strategic plan contemplates the development of a consistent marketing identity for the wide range of ministries provided by BBT.

In the last in his series of visits to board meetings of the five Annual Conference agencies, Conference moderator Chris Bowman opened the meeting with a meditation and prayer. Board members expressed appreciation for Bowman's presence.

Future BBT board meetings are scheduled for July 6 in Charleston, W.Va., and Nov. 19-20 in Northern Indiana District.

Personnel moves

- Financial constraints forced a staff reduction at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., with the elimination of the position of New Windsor Conference

Center director held by Joe Buss since September 1997. The conference center is a self-funded program of the General Board.

Buss had led improvements at the center including the remodeling of Zigler Hall in 2002 and improvements in customer satisfaction, service, and community accessibility. As of May 4, Buss began a three-month separation period with full salary and benefits. The responsibilities of the position will be distributed among other staff.

- Jacqueline Hartley began work as coordinator for the Church and Persons with Disabilities Network, a ministry of the Association of Brethren Caregivers (ABC), on April 27.

"By devoting Jacki exclusively to the Church and Persons with Disabilities Network, we're making sure that this important ministry receives the attention and support that we haven't had the staff time to give it in recent years," ABC executive director Kathy Reid said. Hartley is working on a part-time, contract basis from her home and the ABC office; she can be reached at 847-742-5100 or jhartley_abc@brethren.org.

Hartley served previously as a workcamp coordinator for the Youth/Young Adult Ministry office of the General Board when she was in Brethren Volunteer Service 1999-2001, and for On Earth Peace as part of the 1997 Youth Peace Travel Team and the 1996 Conflict Resolution Team. She is a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill.

- Randall Yoder, district executive minister for Middle Pennsylvania, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31.

In almost 20 years as district minister, Yoder has helped strengthen the district's ministry and helped develop sensitivity to congregations as the reason for being for the district. He also helped develop the district office into a "state of the art" resource and ministry center.

Yoder previously served as pastor of three Church of the Brethren congregations in Indiana—Clear Creek, Roann, and Kokomo. He is a graduate of Manchester College and Bethany Theological Seminary.

In his retirement, Yoder is interested in serving as a trainer and coach for congregational revitalization and redevelopment, and plans to spend more time with his family and with his congregation, Stone Church of the Brethren in Huntingdon, Pa.



1. Iraq. A 'Pastoral Letter on Iraq' issued in May by the National Council of Churches received support from Brethren leaders. The letter was written 'out of a deep love for this country (the US) but also out of a profound concern at the direction this cycle of violence is taking us.' It called for a 'change of course' in Iraq. It was shared with congregations by the General Board's Brethren Witness/Washington Office and endorsed by general secretary Stan Noffsinger.

2. Israel/Palestine. A letter from ecumenical leaders to President Bush was coordinated by Churches for Middle East Peace and signed by Brethren Witness/Washington Office director Phil Jones in May. The letter asked for understanding of 'the crisis in the Holy Land confronting Christian Palestinians, Christian institutions, and those who wish to visit the birthplace of Christianity.' It specified concerns about effects of the separation barrier being constructed by Israel, the possible removal of tax-exempt status of some church institutions, and Israel's denial and delay of visas for clergy and church personnel.

3. Sudan. In mid-May, a statement from the National Council of Churches executive board called for world attention to an apparent attempt at genocide in Sudan. The violence going on in Darfur has already claimed tens of thousands of lives, according to the NCC. 'The Church of the Brethren would certainly echo this call of concern, guided by the 1996 Annual Conference statement on

'Nonviolence and Humanitarian Intervention,' said Stan Noffsinger, general secretary.

4. Haiti. An allocation of \$10,000 was made from the General Board's Emergency Disaster Fund in support of an expanded Church World Service appeal for materials and aid following the violent overthrow of the Haitian government in March. The grant, which is the second to be sent to Haiti after an initial grant for

emergency food and medicine, will help provide a variety of aid and services including first aid, legal assistance, food security, health assistance, agricultural recovery, income-generating activities, psycho-social assistance, and conflict resolution.

5. US West Coast. Two new West Coast disaster relief projects are planned by the General Board's Emergency Response program. In Julian, Calif., Church of the Brethren volunteers will join a fire clean-up project organized by Mennonite Disaster Service beginning the week of Aug. 1. In Skagit County, Wash., a flood recovery project will rebuild homes for 10 low-income families. Elsewhere, the disaster relief program is gearing up for a flood recovery project in Greenbrier County, W.Va., while an ongoing project in Poquoson, Va., continues as well.



6. Nigeria. Stan Noffsinger, Church of the Brethren General Board general secretary (left), made his first visit to Nigeria April 28-May 8 as part of a small US delegation. The group met with leaders of Ekklesiyan Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN-Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) including Filibus Gwama, EYN President (second from left), and Yohanna Y. Balami, EYN general secretary (second from right). At right is Merv Keeney, executive director of the board's Global Mission Partnerships. The delegation also included Robert Krouse, who begins as Nigeria mission coordinator this summer, and board member David Sollenberger, who filmed the trip for this fall's mission offering emphasis. During the visit, the US and Nigerian church leaders discussed developing a new level of relationship between the two general secretaries, both to facilitate discussion about how major issues facing the church affect both bodies and to develop respect for the experiences of each nationality. "It's not just about being the church in the US," Noffsinger said. "We're in a church that spans the globe."

Changes mark Manchester's Regional Youth Conference

This year brought changes for the Regional Youth Conference at Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.). The conference shifted for the first time from a Friday evening through Sunday format to a 24-hour event beginning Saturday morning. Another new feature for 2004 was a Saturday night "RYC Cafe" coffeehouse when youth shared a variety of talents in music, acting, and comedy.

About 115 senior high youth and advisors from the Midwest attended the event, held Apr. 17-18.

Amid the changes, worship remained at the heart of the conference, with three celebrations focusing on the national youth theme "Seeking, Thirsting, Longing" held during the weekend. York Center Church of the Brethren

Walt Witschek

(Lombard, Ill.) pastor Christy Waltersdorff and Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren (Fort Wayne, Ind.) pastor Jeremy Ashworth spoke at two of the services.

Waltersdorff used a story of a lost cat to illustrate God's tireless searching for us even through the wilderness times of our lives, a reminder that "this dangerous world is drenched in God's grace, and we don't

From left, Cori Miner, Cassidy McFadden, Anna Smith, and Aaron Hostetler act out a song at the RYC coffeehouse.

travel alone." Ashworth prompted the youth to think about the things they long for, noting that, "When I am longing for God, everything else finds its place."

The third service featured three youth from the districts in the Midwest region—Nick Kauffman from Indiana, Jonathan Keeney from Illinois, and Colleen Hamilton from Michigan—sharing their reflections on the theme. The youth speakers urged participants to truly live as Christians, to actively seek God, and to renew their spiritual thirst by immersing themselves in God's Word.

Each service ended with a creative expression of commitment, inviting participants to scoop up sand, pour water, and light candles.

The conference also included Manchester College Peace Week activities during free time, a choice of 10 workshops, and a special gathering for high school seniors.

Bits and pieces

- Dates for the next **National Youth Conference** have been announced by the General Board's Youth/Young Adult Ministries office. NYC will be held July 22-27, 2006, at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colo., beginning Saturday with dinner at 5 p.m. through closing worship ending at 11:30 a.m. Thursday. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday.

- The General Board's Brethren Witness/Washington Office has a new **resource packet on conscientious objection** that includes educational resources and a tool to help youth groups and others record their personal beliefs and convictions. Among many other resources available from the office are information and updates on pending draft legislation, background information on conscientious objection, and workshops on what it means to be a conscientious objector and how to claim conscientious objector status. To order a packet or for more details, call 800-785-3246 or e-mail washington_office_gb@brethren.org.

ONCAMPUS

Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.)



Former General Board general secretary Judy Mills Reimer of Goodview, Va., was elected to a five-year term on the Bridgewater Board of Trustees this spring. Pleasant View Church of the Brethren (Blue Ridge, Va.) pastor Matthew Fike was also elected to the board.

Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, Pa.)



Elizabethtown senior Amy Milligan of Broomall, Pa., has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study Radical Pietism at Phillips University, Marburg, Germany, during the 2004-2005 academic year. She will work on a project titled "Radical Pietism Then and Now: Roots, Development, and Impact upon Biblical Interpretation." Milligan, a dual major in German and religious studies, previously studied at Marburg in 2002-2003 through Brethren Colleges Abroad.

Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.)



Men's volleyball coach Ken Shibuya capped a strong season by being named the 2004 Tachikara/AVCA Division III Men's National Coach of the Year. In his second season at the helm of the Juniata program, Shibuya led the Eagles (18-7) to a second straight Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association Division III title and the Molten Division III Men's Invitational Volleyball Championship.

University of La Verne (La Verne, Calif.)



US Rep. David Dreier, congressman representing California's 26th District and chair of the state's Republican congressional delegation, served as commencement speaker for La Verne's graduate ceremony on May 29. *Los Angeles Times* reporter/columnist Patt Morrison, US Magistrate Judge Stephen G. Larson, and Encinitas Union School District superintendent Douglas P. DeVore spoke at other graduation-related events.

Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.)



Manchester faculty and staff members are donating an estimated 9,000 textbooks to help a fledgling Philadelphia community college for Hispanics build its library. The texts cover subjects ranging from science and education to computers, writing, languages, and math. The collection—including cataloging the texts—is a project of the first graduating class of Manchester's newest degree program, Master of Arts in Contemporary Leadership.

McPherson College (McPherson, Kan.)



US District Judge J. Thomas Marten delivered this year's Flory Public Policy Lecture on April 18. Flory addressed the topic "And What of the Constitution? An Independent Federal Judiciary in a Culture of Fear."



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Global Mission Partnerships, Church of the Brethren General Board, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120, 800-323-8039

Photos (top to bottom): Nancy Steedle, BVS/Global Mission Partnerships volunteer, works with the EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) Women's Development Center (photo by Merv Keeney); Brethren Witness/Washington Office director Phil Jones marches for peace (photo by Bryan Hissong); Suely Inhauser, co-national director—Brazil, teaches Sunday School children (photo by Carol Bowman); Carolyn Graham, BVS Older Adult Unit #259, serves at the Washington (DC) City Nutrition Program (photo by Samuel Bowman).

BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (1905-2005)

CENTENNIAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual Conference 2004

- Brethren Life & Thought Double Issue Available
- Debut of Centennial Greeting Card/Autograph Book & Congregational Connections Form
- Interactive Presentation on Distributed Education at Bethany Exhibit
- Insight Session on Youth & Young Adult Institute
- Display of Books Authored by Bethany Faculty and Alumni/ae at Brethren Press Exhibit

NOAC 2004

- Centennial Focus including Insight Sessions, Exhibit, Book Display

September 2004 - October 2005

- Display and List of Books Authored by Bethany Faculty and Alumni/ae

November 11-12, 2004

- Founders Lectures featuring Walter Brueggemann

April 8-10, 2005

- "Music and the Arts in Worship" Conference

June - October 2005

- Alumni/ae Arts Display

June 28 - July 1, 2005

- Heritage Bus Tour #1

Prior to Annual Conference 2005

- Open House for Annual Conference Travelers

Annual Conference 2005

- Debut of Bethany Hymn
- Debut of Bethany Quilt
- Special Bethany Exhibit
- Debut of Centennial History
- Display of Books Authored by Bethany Faculty and Alumni/ae at Brethren Press Exhibit
- Debut of Bethany Anecdotes Book
- Debut of Children's Book

September 11, 2005

- Bethany Sunday has Centennial Focus

September 27-30, 2005

- Heritage Bus Tour #2

September 30 - October 2, 2005

- Homecoming Weekend
- Alumni/ae Concert
 - Opening Convocation
 - Mini Classes Taught by Present and Former Bethany Professors
 - Picnic
 - Recognition Banquet
 - CANTUS Concert
 - Closing Worship Service

October 2005

- Messenger Issue

A Pilgrimage
of Faith...
*a Future
with Hope*

BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CENTENNIAL 1905-2005

Web provides 'berry' good peace-themed music options

Hymnals are like raspberries—you can never have too many. Unlike raspberries, which are best kept frozen, worship music needs to be warm and alive, growing. With *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, the Hymnal Supplement series, and camp songbooks, Brethren can vibrantly express being a living peace church in a variety of musical genres.

I can't keep from hunting more berries, however. I'm no Internet guru, but I squirreled away a music website sent out by On Earth Peace some months ago with a title that went to my Brethren heart: Lion and Lamb Music (www.lionandlambmusic.com). One can hear and download choral music scores that contain the themes of peace, justice, and diversity. Great! More berries!

So what's different about this site? Run by a brother-sister team, it acts as a music score distributor (not publisher!). Purchase a score, receive a number/letter key that allows downloading of the file, then print the score instantly (at 600 dpi). Need more than 25? Customize your license. It makes quick work for choir, worship band, and music leaders to legally obtain songs, even distribute scores to musicians for a head start in learning a piece. Another option: By using a "plug-in" program called the Finale Viewer (free download), one can view a score, play it as a "midi" file, or even transpose before printing.

Lion and Lamb Music's positive tone matches its ethos, with a nice variety of quotable quotes in the headers. So far, just under half of the songs have downloadable MP3 files, in addition to the standard PDF format for viewing the scores. I hope they add more. The offerings are listed in four categories: religious, semi-religious (non-sectarian), non-religious (no religious references), and special occasion.

I found a few of the texts a little '60s breezy-too-easy: "Let's all just get together and love each other." (In contrast to this gauzy cheesecloth feel, music by peace church artists whose CDs you see at the Annual Conference bookstore—like Michael Stern, Linda Williams, Peg Lehman, Shawn Kirchner, Lee Krähenbühl, Steve Kinzie, Bill Jolliff, Steve Engle, Andy and Terry Murray, and Joseph Helfrich—seem like they're more tightly woven out of stur-



LANI WRIGHT

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dy cotton. Some of "our" artists have websites to market their recorded music, but no MP3 files.)

Lion and Lamb is fairly new (2003), and has big plans: expanding its catalog with new writers and new music, augmenting the audio offerings with vocal demos and accompaniment tracks that you can burn to a CD, and adding custom-designed slide/sound presentations.

While this site has very useful features, it would benefit from more networking. Networking is what builds and sustains a sense of community: people connecting via their interests and talents, and thus expanding everyone's opportunities. If the Ahrend siblings (the heart behind Lion and Lamb Music) really want a forum beyond their own music, their idea of highlighting peace/justice themes and artists by distributing sheet music from a centralized site could become the Amazon.com of the peace/justice music scene.

If we want to disseminate the seeds of that message, we do well to connect organizations and artists to build a community committed to singing our faith in a peaceful, honorable way of being a living peace church. These individuals should find each other, not only for moral support, but for financial solvency.

Here are two examples of how this is beginning to happen:

The Children's Music Network (www.cmnonline.org/Peace.htm) has a jump on Lion and Lamb Music, having been networking since the 1980s. It's nonprofit, has members from both US and Canada, and is composed of performers, songwriters, educators, distributors, parents, and kids who "share songs and ideas about community-building through life-affirming, multicultural musical forms for, by, and with young people."

New Songs for Peace (www.newsongsforpeace.org), a UNESCO-endorsed project connected with the United Nations' International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence (2001-2010), is already doing some of this collecting on an international scale. If you have the privilege of a fast browser, these are worth a listen. It's strictly recorded music—no downloadable printed music—but they are being collected into a book for some future date. The songs and resources (still being solicited) make a contribution to peace through the musical expression of international artists.

Perhaps some of the peace church artists listed above could even network with these folks to get a broader hearing for their message that there is another way to live. ■

Lani Wright lives in Cottage Grove, Ore., and is a member of Springfield Church of the Brethren. A worship music aficionado, she has assisted with several Brethren Press hymnal-related projects.

OTHER RESOURCES: For a wide variety of popular artists (Christian and non-) whose songs focus on peace and justice (from Ken Medema and Sweet Honey in the Rock to Tracy Chapman and Jackson Browne), check out www.Musicverve.com, which also sells sheet music. You have to know who you're looking for—artists are in alphabetical order by first name, not subject matter. Orders typically take two to eight weeks to arrive.



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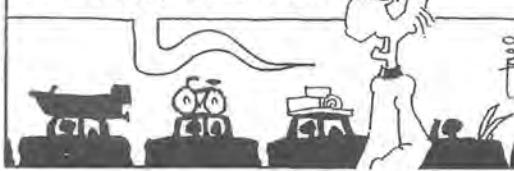
The opinions expressed in "Letters" are not necessarily those of MESSENGER. Readers should receive them in the same way as when differing views are expressed in face-to-face conversation.

Letters should be brief, clear, and respectful of the opinions of others, with strong differences handled in the spirit of Matthew 18. Preference is given to letters that respond directly to items in MESSENGER.

Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Send letters to MESSENGER, Attn: Letters, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 or messenger@brethren.org. Please include hometown and phone number.

SUMMER WEEKENDS IN CROWDED PARKS, TEEMING RESORTS, AND PACKED BEACHES AREN'T FOR ME. I PREFER MORE PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS. A PLACE ONE CAN BE ASSURED OF PEACE AND SOLITUDE...



Keep the gospel coming

I congratulate you on the cover of the May 2004 MESSENGER. It depicts of first importance what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about. The apostle Paul said in 1 Cor. 15:3-4 (RSV): "For I delivered to you as of *first importance* (emphasis mine) what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures." The cross on the cover with people from various races also illustrates the truth about the Lamb (Jesus Christ) from Rev. 5:9: "Worthy art thou to take the scroll and to open its seals, for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

In addition to my pleasure at the cover, I was overjoyed at Wendy McFadden's reference to the sacrifice of Jesus. It says in Gal. 6:14a, "But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." And then you [May editorial] wrote, "But deepening our faith means learning all we can about the biblical text and the people behind those pages—especially the central figure of Jesus Christ." Well by now I am jumping out of my seat shouting, "Yes!"

I hope this encourages you to keep on putting articles in the MESSENGER that help us all to deepen our faith by learning all we can about the biblical text and especially about Jesus Christ.

Bud Sechler
Cando, N.D.

Christ's sacrifice was necessary

Ron, I'm not sure what "internal translator" you are referring to [May 2004



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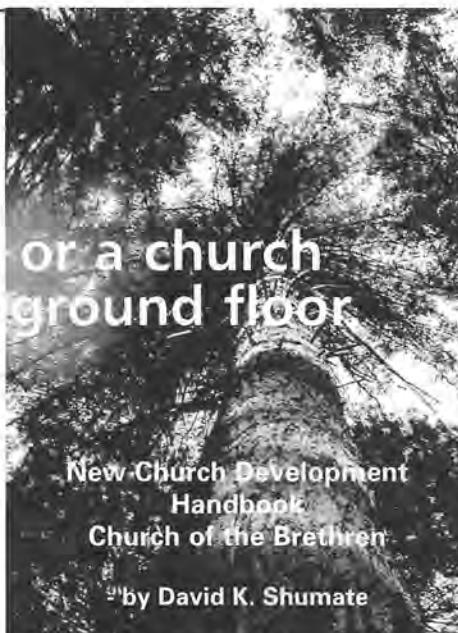
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Letters, "Passion": Once was enough"], but here is what the scriptures say:

"But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed," Is. 53:5.

"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly . . . but God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Rom. 5:6,8.

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures . . ." 1 Cor. 15:3.

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins," 1 John 4:10.

"And they sang a new song, saying 'You (the Lamb, Christ) are worthy to take the book, and to break its seals; for you were slain, and did purchase for God with your blood people from every tribe and tongue and ethnic group and nation,'" Rev. 5:9 (my emphases).

He did die "because" of my sin, but he also died "for" my sin, for it was impossible for me, or anyone, to be clean before God apart from the blood of Christ. The sacrificial offering of Christ's body is the one thing that Christ told us to remember each time we share in communion.

I write this to encourage us in the peace that we have received in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:13-14a).

Don Snell
Goshen, Ind.

Reviews help make sense of media

I noticed the changes in the MESSENGER right away. Thank you for the Media Review. I watch very little television because there are other things I'd rather do, and I don't know what's on that's good. The review of "Joan of Arcadia" [March 2004] led me to watch the show. I liked it and plan to watch each episode.

There is so much media available. I appreciate any help I can get to find a show to my liking.

I also appreciate the review of the movie "The Passion of the Christ" in the April MESSENGER. Ron Waters described it well—powerful, gripping, disturbing, overwhelming. It made Lent much more meaningful to me.

Sue Vanderveer
Williamsport, Md.

It's what's inside that counts

"The quality goes in before the name goes on" was a Zenith technology motto and the title of a memorable sermon by Earle Fike Jr. in the 1970s. The sermon resonated because we owned a black-and-white Zenith television set which lasted far longer than we anticipated or desired with the advent of color. The thesis of the 15-minute sermon was simply that naming a thing did not provide the value; the value was derived by paying attention to components and workmanship with standards of quality control. The implication was clear: What we desired in our churches and members required attention.

The current proposal for a study of the name of our denomination came before our district conference. I joined other delegates in sending it on to Annual Conference Standing Committee given the strong feelings of the spokespersons for the study. However, as the study has progressed and been discussed by our church, I would like to pose some thoughts and questions for reflection.

As a 47-year member of the Fairview congregation, I have never had any negative feelings about the name in the local church, the district, or the brotherhood. When speaking of the Church of the Brethren to others I have used their lack of understanding of the name as an opportunity to share both my faith and the beliefs of the church. I have been nurtured and challenged to continue my study and accept responsibilities at every level of the church. I consider the invitation to serve the church a great honor; being a woman and not born Brethren have not limited me.

The local church discussion of the study of the name "Brethren" was enlightening. One of the values of the discussion was to bring the subject into clearer focus. Over half of the members present had not grown up in the Church of the Brethren. When joining the church, the name was not a factor in repelling or attracting them to the church; rather the activities of the church and the love shown in the fellowship were the factors that drew them to become members.

Some members had been given packets a week in advance to prepare a summary of certain items. The members who summarized the negative comments offered that they had personally not experienced similar reactions. The negativity expressed in the comments were hints of an agenda beyond a change of the denomination name.

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The group also talked about the name "Church of the Brethren" and wondered what name would: 1) Convey a true picture of all churches and members; 2) Transfer the long-standing heritage and history of the church; 3) Imply a reasonable purpose, as most name changes of denominations have been made when churches united with other denominations; 4) Project present and future mission of the members; and 5) Be rooted in scripture and hold integrity with Jesus' teachings and mandates for the New Testament church. Some members reviewed the names presently suggested and saw no names that conveyed all five of the criteria.

Once again I thought of "The quality goes in before the name goes on" and said a prayer of thanks for Earle Fike Jr. and the impact that sermon had on my life and witness. Names are important and convey the quality and sometimes the function and the contents; protecting a name brand requires vast amounts of time, energy, and revenue from the producer. We have a heritage, a history, a mission, and a mandate from Jesus (Matt. 28:19-20); what else is in a name?

Marilyn J. Koehler
Udell, Iowa

A Journey of Hope and Peace

Iraq

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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; jlements_gb@brethren.org. Information must be complete in order to be published. Information older than one year cannot be published.

New Members

Anville, Pa.: Mike Shearer, Diane Shearer
Arcadia, Ind.: Doug Dilley, Monica Dilley, Emily Dilley, Nina Dilley, Christopher Dilley
Bakersfield, Calif.: Sahara Dunham
Bear Creek, Dayton, Ohio: Ashleigh Farrell, Ann O'Hair, Lori Kayler, Albert King, Tony Lutz, Diane Lutz
Bridgewater, Va.: Quintin Garber, Donna Garber, Stephanie Hutchinson, Fred Swartz, Nancy Swartz, Casey Carpenter, Justin Carpenter, Christy Craun, Chad Flora, Drew Hartman, Colton Ringgold, Cheyenne Ringgold, Kelly Chapman, Earline Chapman
Cedar Creek, Garrett, Ind.: Tammi Gerber
Donnels Creek, North Hampton, Ohio: Bill Smith
Franklin Grove, Ill.: Patti Gant, Martha Keene, Jerry Sales, Annie Sales
Frederick, Md.: Charles Medinger, Irma Medinger, Cathy Brookes, Chuck Cote, Ruth Cote, Justin Hedges, Gary Mullins, Paula Mullins, Mike Reynolds, Michele Reynolds, Amanda Cline, Erin McKittrick, Jodie Brubaker, Jay Phillippe, Jane Phillippe, Kim Haugh, Lori Leonard, Sabrina Cordova, Ed Wu, Mary Ann Wu, Shana Boggs, Karyn Hanana, David Martin, Leslie Haugh, Jamie Dewing, Louis Lapides, Ann Meehan, Toni Rydberg, Lisa Soye, Grace Steingeiser, Gayle Woodard

Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: Sara Senter, Jessie Hickerson
Geiger, Friedens, Pa.: Renee Lemmon, Todd Strelko, Brenda Shepley, Kayla Pelliccione
Heidelberg, Myerstown, Pa.: Valerie Patches
Kokomo, Ind.: Alex Fruth
Lansing, Mich.: Tammy Lindsay, Ryan Hedstrom
Lick Creek, Bryan, Ohio: Ed Keck, Marjorie Keck, Jeanie Johnson, Chelsea Richie, Robert Peverly, Iva Peverly, Brittany Suffel
Lima, Ohio: Jameel Ellis, Joe Dukehart, Bethany Dukehart
Lone Star, Lawrence, Kan.: Julie Hoffman, Justin Hoffman
Mechanic Grove, Quarryville, Pa.: Leah M. Holzhauer, Krista L. Mauger
Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Alix Hall, Sarah Kownacki, Laura

Kownacki, Michael Prescott
Monte Vista, Callaway, Va.: Christopher D. Martin, James Hodges, Annabelle Hodges
Mount Morris, Ill.: Theresa Le Francois, Madelyn Griffin, Carol McBride, Sidney Cope, Carl Hufford, Shannon Burr, Peter Hufford, Marisa Nakajima

Mountain View, Boise, Idaho: Ying Wang, Shiyang Zhang Wang, Barbara Sim, Richard Espenosa, Jessica Weins, Chelsea Kerschensteiner
Nappanee, Ind.: Brandy Marie Kuhn

Parker Ford, Pa.: Emily Elliott, Patricia Smith, Charles Hookway, June Hookway
Peach Blossom, Easton, Md.: Les Groves, Dennis Wooters, Sr., Dennis Wooters, Jr., Gloria Buzi, Brenda Pierce, Michael Pierce, Phillip Ridenour, Susan Walbridge, Timothy Young, Melanie Young

Prairie City, Iowa: Kelsey Maggard, Ashley Nolin, Aaron Peter, Courtney Wilfawn, Courtney Charls, Travis Curry, Dan Kuecker, Julie Kuecker, Jacque Kuecker
Prairie View, Scott City, Kan.: Kathryn Gale Minnick, Carl James Minnick, Luke Alan Minnick, Skyler John Glenn, Ryan Michael Wilson, Travis Austin Butler, Icy Lee Turner Butler

Prince of Peace, Kettering, Ohio: Jeanne Lamb, Brenda Naylor, Nicholas Walker, Shannon Walker, Steve Walker
Ridge, Shippensburg, Pa.: Gerald Davidson, Lora Davidson, Jeremy Smith, Bruce Varner, Tamara Varner, Guy Timmons, Sr.

Scalp Level, Windber, Pa.: Amy Benko, Jo Ann Brenna, Tammy Muscatello
Sebring, Fla.: Marchall Dubree, Jan Dubree, William Moyer, Muriel Moyer, Beverly Noffsinger, Larry Shilling, Kay Shilling, Mary Wolf, Emerson Davidson, Martha Davidson, Donald Bohrer, Louise Bohrer, William Isenbarger, Marcia Isenbarger, Dean Ramer, Julia Ramer, Don Rider, Roger Schrock, Katie Schrock, Beverly Sherwood, L. V. Warner, Ruth Warner, Paul Larimer, Margaret Larimer

Smith Mountain Lake Community, Wirtz, Va.: Blaine Loos
Trotwood, Ohio: Scott Fisher, Steve Herman
West Charleston, Tipp City, Ohio: Sharon Bailey, Jessica Heller, Mary Manning, Whitney Tamborski
West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Connor Biddle, Ashley LeCount, Dustin Stutsman, Sandra Birchfield

West Richmond, Richmond, Va.: Samantha Haslego, Joanne Spaw, Nadene Brunk, Gabriella Ryan, Mike Faus, Renee Clark, Laura McDonald, Ross McDonald, Sean Solanky, Gary Fields, Hannah Elizabeth Miller
Westminster, Md.: Katie Johnson, Camerone Ripley, Cassie Forman, Santos Morales
Woodbury, Pa.: Logan Barkman, Brianna Beck, Karlee Beck, Marla Beck, Seth Lingenfelter, Abigail Ott, Vicki Stapleton

Gabriella Ryan, Mike Faus, Renee Clark, Laura McDonald, Ross McDonald, Sean Solanky, Gary Fields, Hannah Elizabeth Miller
Westminster, Md.: Katie Johnson, Camerone Ripley, Cassie Forman, Santos Morales
Woodbury, Pa.: Logan Barkman, Brianna Beck, Karlee Beck, Marla Beck, Seth Lingenfelter, Abigail Ott, Vicki Stapleton

Wedding Anniversaries

Alesi, William and Yvonne, Sebring, Fla., 50

Bates, Donald and Emma, Goshen, Ind., 60

Bolt, Kenneth N. and Esther, Brownsville, Md., 50

Brocius, Byron and Dorothy, Harrisburg, Pa., 50

Clutter, Ray and Evelyn, Sebring, Fla., 55

Coffman, Robert and Carolyn, Moneta, Va., 50

Eichelberger, Eugene and Joyce, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 50

Foster, Paul and Janet, Harrisonburg, Va., 60

Hare, James and Zona, Vero Beach, Fla., 50

Hetrick, Kenneth and Hertha, New Oxford, Pa., 55

Hodges, James and Annabelle, Vinton, Va., 50

Hoover, Paul and Mary, Gettysburg, Pa., 60

Houff, James L. and Mary Z., Champaign, Ill., 60

Kline, Adam and Shirley, Newmanstown, Pa., 50

Mann, Everett and Margaret, West Alexandria, Ohio, 60

Marshall, Albert and Maxine, Sebring, Fla., 65

Michael, Herbert and Marianne, Iowa City, Iowa, 60

Miller, Curtis and Muriel, Mount Morris, Ill., 50

Miller, Myron and Dorothy, Richmond, Va., 55

Miller, Nelson and Leah, New Oxford, Pa., 60

Sloter, John and Mary, Sebring, Fla., 50

Vernon, Wister and Ann, Richmond, Va., 55

Wicks, Feb. 1

Jackson, Miriam, 81, Wilmington, Del., April 24

Kendall, J. Paul, 96, Kokomo, Ind., April 23

Kerr, Dorothy A., 86, South English, Iowa, April 11

King, Donald W., 81, Martinsburg, Pa., April 21

Knapp, Ada, 88, Cicero, Ind., March 9

Knill, Madeline Rebecca, 78, Frederick, Md., May 5

Lehman, James, 68, Frederick, Md., Dec. 29

Mackley, Keith, 53, Jefferson, Md., Nov. 5

Malone, Margaret, 86, Hollidaysburg, Pa., Jan. 25

McKinney, Bonnie, 74, Roaring Spring, Pa., April 24

Miller, Raymond, 88, Somerset, Pa., March 15

Murphy, Edith P. (Pat), 80, Uniontown, Pa., April 7

Painter, John, 87, Frederick, Md., Nov. 9

Patrick, Cynthia, 60, Hedgesville, W.Va., April 30

Paxson, Rosemary, 88,

Springfield, Ohio, Feb. 5

Ream, Alvin, 86, Silver Spring, Md., April 14

Riley, William C., 77, Goshen, Ind., Feb. 25

Sollenberger, Verna, 84, Annville, Pa., March 1

Spahr, Miriam, 90, York, Pa., April 14

Steward, John, Sr., 88, Ashland, Ohio, May 5

Stuart, Ulysses, 91, Sebring, Fla., March 26

Teets, Ivan L. (Bud), 71, Uniontown, Pa., April 9

Trace, Maxine Ellen, 87, Hagerstown, Md., April 24

VanWestrenien, Florence, 97, Rodney, Mich., April 8

Wolfe, Pauline, 88, Frederick, Md., Aug. 27

Young, Beryl, 72, Frederick, Md., April 4

Zuck, Glen Howard, 81, Herndon, Va., April 9

Licensings

Allmon, Robert Christopher, N. Ind. Dist. (North Webster, Ind.), May 16

Downing, Wayne, S. Ohio Dist. (Stony Creek, DeGraff, Ohio), March 7

Ferry, Christopher A., W. Pa. Dist. (Somerset, Pa.), May 16

Smith, Cheryl A., W. Pa. Dist. (Monroeville, Pa.), April 25

Stoner, Linda K., W. Pa. Dist. (Somerset, Pa.), May 16

Wibbing, Bradley B., Mid-Atl. Dist. (Fellowship, Martinsburg, W.Va.), May 2

Placements

Allmon, Robert Christopher, pastor, North Webster, Ind., May 16

Bauer, James R., pastor, Richland, Pa., May 1

Bowser, Harold L., from interim to pastor, Stonerstown, Saxton, Pa., April 19

Burr, Michael J., pastor, Koinonia, Grand Junction, Colo., April 1

Davis, Steven D., pastor, Farmington Bethel, Farmington, Pa., May 1

Diehl, Stanley T., from pastor, Beaver Dam, Union Bridge, Md., to pastor, Piney Creek, Taneytown, Md., May 16

Johnson, Robert C., from pastor, Mount Zion, Linville, Va., to pastor, Blue Ridge Chapel, Waynesboro, Va., May 1

Kee, Elizabeth, pastor, New Covenant, Powell, Ohio, Feb. 1

Miley, Jeffrey B., pastor, Tyrone, Pa., May 11

Deaths

Alexander, Muriel, 78, Modesto, Calif., April 15

Arnett, Waldo Emerson, 86, Boonsboro, Md., April 18

Arquilla, Marjory J., 68, Harrietta, Mich., April 1

Ayers, Thelma, 84, Martinsburg, Pa., July 7

Baird, John, 19, Lexington, N.C., May 5

Barnhart, Galen K., 89, La Verne, Calif., April 22

Bird, Carl, 71, Continental, Ohio, May 4

Black, Nancy, 80, New Windsor, Md., Oct. 15

Boger, Iona (Mable), 100,

It's prime time

Hey, math fans! Have you heard the recent research out of Michigan State University? It seems a graduate student there, using an ordinary personal computer linked to others, has discovered the world's largest known prime number. (Try to contain your excitement.)

A prime number, for those who still cringe at the mention of mathematics, is a number that can be evenly divided only by itself and 1. This particular prime number is more than 6.3 million digits long and would take about 1,500 pages to write out, according to an Associated Press report.

It's rather nice these days to find something that can't be easily divided. We see headlines of ethnic conflicts, partisan bickering, and a globe with more and

more new lines drawn. Scott Eyman of Cox News Service last year described a US culture "splintered into shards."

Churches have drawn similar headlines, with the Episcopal/Anglican church, Methodists, and others talking schism. US Librarian of Congress James Billington in 2002 noted an "accelerating fragmentation of Christianity" as he analyzed new encyclopedia data, from 20,800 denominations in 1981 to 34,000 two decades later—plus more congregations unaffiliated with any denomination.

The Church of the Brethren's Council of District Executives last summer shared its perception of this same pattern within the denomination, citing "signs of fragmentation" over a variety of issues and between numerous special-interest groups. It led to a call for a consultation on ecclesiology, taking a hard look at what it means to be the church.

A series of such consultations is being developed for 2006-2007. Conversation, however, can begin well in advance of that official framework.

This past May marked the 50th anniversary of the landmark US Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, which brought an end to sanctioned school segregation in this country. It said the doctrine of "separate but equal" was unacceptable.

Many of the solutions to segregation were imperfect,

and much work remains for US race relations. Segregation by geography and economics continues in many parts of the nation. But *Brown*, in its exploration of constitutional rights, found the value of being together rather than separate.

Others are discovering that, too. The United Methodist Church, amid its bitter theological disagreements, approved a "unity resolution" at its recent General Conference. The resolution stated that Methodists "remain in covenant with one another, even in the midst of disagreement, and affirm our commitment to work together for our common mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the world."

In *Sojourners* magazine, meanwhile, a pair of Presbyterians with differing perspectives ran parallel articles on "Why the Evangelical Church Needs the Liberal Church" and vice-versa. Auburn Theological Seminary president Barbara Wheeler, in her article, said, "A church that contains members we think strange, even barbaric, is a healthier setting for us, for our formation as Christians. . . . Familiarity and affinity breed bad habits as well as virtues."

Closer to home, some Brethren have discovered the blessings of ethnic and cultural diversity through the annual Cross-Cultural Consultation, the most recent of which occurred in Puerto Rico in April. The events are rich tapestries of languages and expressions of faith. Two queries before Annual Conference this year ask how the denomination can become more intentionally multicultural.

It's rather nice these days to find something that can't be easily divided. We see headlines of ethnic conflicts, partisan bickering, and a globe with more and more new lines drawn.

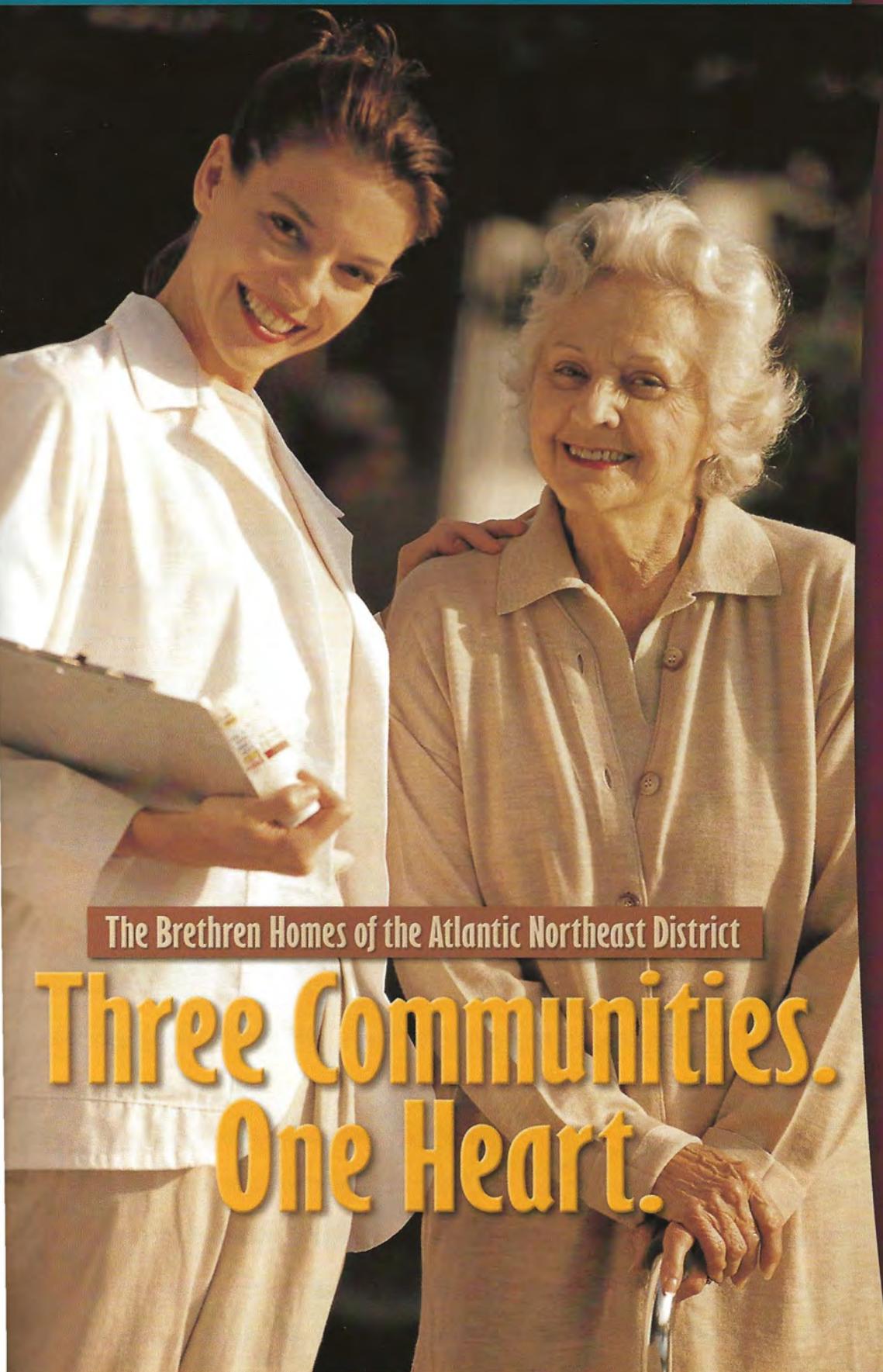
Whatever threatens to divide us, it stands against the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one" (John 17:21 NKJV). The church is to be about multiplication, not division. In his *Sojourners* article that ran alongside Wheeler's, Fuller Theological Seminary president Richard Mouw reflected, "Our only hope for moving on together as partners in the cause of the gospel is to bow together at the cross of Calvary."

If we cannot put that cross before our issues, statements, disagreements, and prejudices, our days may well be numbered. If we can, we may find the Church of the Brethren is in its prime.—Ed. 

COMING NEXT MONTH: National Young Adult Conference, clergy renewal and sabbath rest, Bethany makes "Connections," low-carb Christians, movie review, and much more.



WALT WILTSCHEK
MESSENGER Editor



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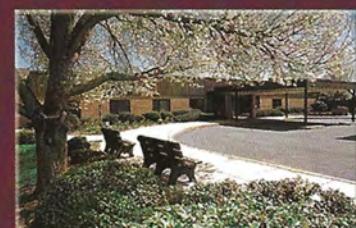
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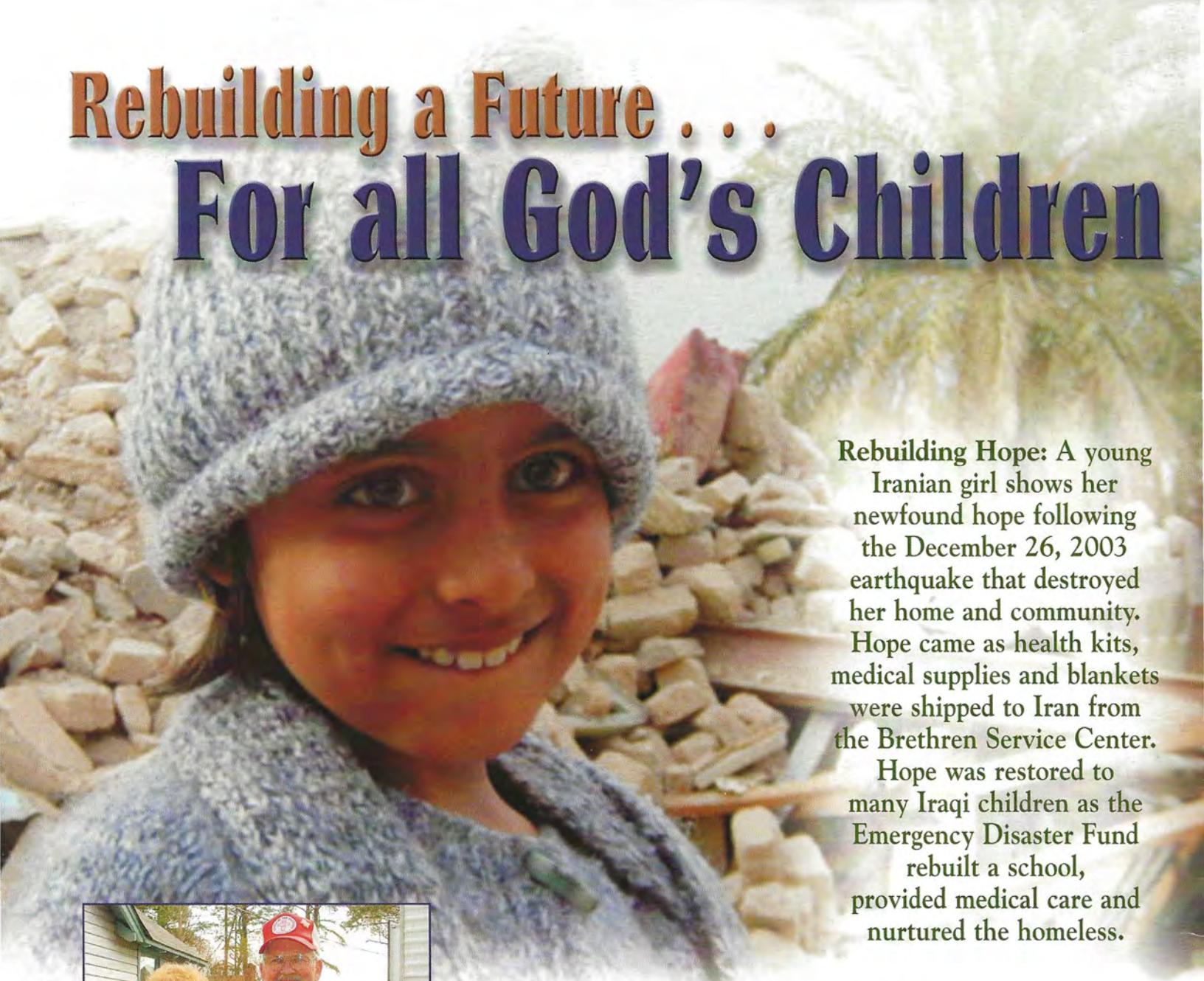


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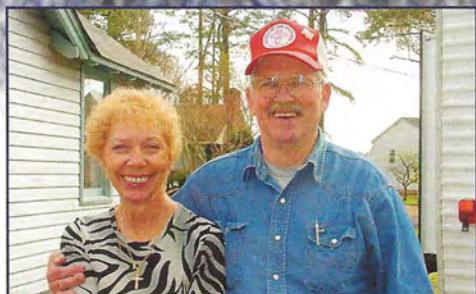


Rebuilding a Future . . . For all God's Children



Rebuilding Hope: A young Iranian girl shows her newfound hope following the December 26, 2003 earthquake that destroyed her home and community. Hope came as health kits, medical supplies and blankets were shipped to Iran from the Brethren Service Center.

Hope was restored to many Iraqi children as the Emergency Disaster Fund rebuilt a school, provided medical care and nurtured the homeless.



Rebuilding Lives: A Hurricane Isabel survivor, posing with Disaster Response Volunteer Jimmy Spencer, is pleased with the progress on her new home in Poquoson, Virginia.



Providing Comfort: Disaster Child Care volunteer, Pauline Hess provides support and comfort to a young girl in Norfolk, Virginia after Hurricane Isabel. Children also experienced this loving touch in California after the wildfires and in Kansas after tornados.

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