

Church
of the
Brethren

MESSENGER

JANUARY 2005 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG



CROSSING CULTURES

==== A vision of Revelation 7 ====

STRANGERS NO MORE • GENESIS • READING THE 'OTHER' GOSPELS

Hebrews 12:28 - Brimming With Worship

Celebrating Music and the Arts in Worship

April 8-10, 2005 - Richmond, Indiana
at the Richmond Church of the Brethren

Featuring Keynote Addresses by:



Sally Morgenthaler

Centennial Keynote

Founder of Sacramentis.com ("Re-imagining Worship for a New Millennium") Morgenthaler's vision is to move worship beyond presentation (information, performed music, preaching) to an interactive, sacred experience involving all the arts.



James Abbington

Rosenberger Endowment Keynote

Professor of music in the Department of Fine Arts at Morgan State University, Baltimore, and Executive Editor of the African American Church Music Series published by GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago.



Nadine Pence Frantz

Katonah Endowment Keynote

Professor of Theological Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, and currently developing two projects relating to worship and visual art: a set of reflections around images of Jesus as the Christ, and a book using visual art to engage with the theological task.

For pastors, church musicians, artists, ministers, laypersons . . . ANYONE who is interested in enhancing the worship experiences of their congregation!

Conference Sponsors

Rosenberger Memorial Recital Series

The Rosenberger Memorial Recital Series at Bethany Theological Seminary was established by the family of Lester Markley Rosenberger and Pauline Howe Rosenberger to sponsor recitals and workshops featuring noted musicians.

*Stephen I. Katonah Endowment
for Faith and the Arts*

The family of Stephen I. Katonah created this memorial fund at Bethany Theological Seminary for faith and the arts to reveal spiritual truths of justice and faith in contemporary life as depicted through various mediums of art.

Bethany Theological Seminary

Celebrating one hundred years of preparing people for Christian ministry and educating those called as witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the cities and communities of the world.

- Dynamic Worship Services
- Helpful Workshops
- Engaging Small Group Discussion

Registration Fees

Out of Town (includes motel lodging)

First person in congregation - \$199

Additional persons from congregation - \$129

Includes all activities, three lunches, two nights motel lodging with breakfast

Commuter (no lodging provided)

First person in congregation - \$99

Additional persons from congregation - \$69

Includes all activities and three lunches

Registration forms will be available in January.

Call Bethany's Public Relations Office at 800-287-8822 or E-mail BethanySem@aol.com to request forms.

For additional 12:28 Conference information including a list of workshops, and a complete listing of Bethany Seminary Centennial events, visit www.bethanyseminary.edu.

A Pilgrimage
of Faith...

a Future
with Hope

BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CENTENNIAL 1905-2005

This workshop qualifies for 1.5 CEUs.

“... publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works” (Psa. 26:7b KJV).

Church
of the
Brethren

MESSENGER

Editor: Walt Wiltschek Associate Editor/News: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford Publisher: Wendy McFadden Subscriptions: Diane Stroyeck Design: The Concept Mill



ONTHECOVER

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...” These words from Revelation 7:9 (NKJV) have been a rallying point for people of minority ethnic and cultural groups in the Church of the Brethren. What would it take for our church to match that heavenly scene? What is preventing that from occurring? This month's cover photo was taken by Charlene Rauch of Harleysville, Pa., on a workcamp to Nigeria this past summer. It symbolizes the beauty and strength that occurs when cultures intertwine. Such experiences don't require going halfway around the globe, however; crossing cultures can occur in our own backyards.

8 All nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues

Last summer, Annual Conference considered a pair of queries related to making the Church of the Brethren more aware of and open to multi-ethnic and cross-cultural ministries. A diverse study committee is now wrestling with those questions. In this month's cover article, some members of the denomination's ethnic leadership share their observations, hopes, and frustrations.

12 A 'big vision' for Hispanic ministries

Ruben Deoleo hit the ground running when Atlantic Northeast District called him as director of Hispanic ministries. His big dreams reflect a passion for church planting and a hope that Hispanic and Anglo members can bring out the best in each other.

14 For we are strangers no more

The hymn “For We Are Strangers No More,” written just over 25 years ago, has quickly become a favorite among Brethren. Nancy Rosenberger Faus looks back a quarter-century, uncovering the story of the hymn's origin and its journey into Brethren life.

16 Reading the 'other' Gospels

So you've read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John 800 times each, and you think you know everything Jesus ever said word for word? Not so fast, says Frank Ramirez. Many other New Testament books shed light on Jesus' life and words.

18 Genesis: God's promise comes full circle

MESSENGER's “Journey through the Word” begins “in the beginning” this month, with a look at Genesis. Eugene Roop breaks down this lengthy book, noting the stories, the themes, and the connections as God's promise is revealed in a series of biblical sagas.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 From the Publisher
- 3 In Touch
- 6 Reflections
- 7 The Buzz
- 20 News
- 25 Youth Life
- 26 Media Review
- 27 Letters
- 31 Turning Points
- 32 Editorial

One of the more horrific stories in the Bible is Herod's slaughter of Bethlehem's baby boys, an account that we would just as soon skip when reading about wise men traveling from the east to bring exotic gifts to Jesus. How does one make sense of such human depravity?



WENDY McFADDEN
Publisher

A month ago, that question hung in the air, unspoken, as a group of us squeezed into the tiny Chapel of the Martyrs, a memorial to the one and a half million Armenians who were victims of genocide in 1915. Surrounding the altar were glass cases displaying human bones. This solemn place was part of our introduction to the Armenian Orthodox Catholicosate of Cilicia, located in Antelias, Lebanon, a suburb of Beirut.

While Lebanon and 1915 seemed far away from today's Church of the Brethren in the US, I thought of the connection our church had with the Armenian people: A heart-felt response to their plight was our first organized relief effort. Now, almost nine decades later, I had the opportunity to experience the Armenian Orthodox liturgy, see the precious items salvaged when church members fled Turkey, and hear their story as a people dispersed across the world. Our host explained that theirs is a church of living martyrs. "Martyrdom is an expression of victory of life over death."

I was in Lebanon for a meeting of the communication advisory group of the World Council of Churches. One of our group could relate all too well to the disturbing scene in the chapel. A decade ago she alone among her siblings escaped the Rwandan genocide, because she was working in London. She spent anxious weeks before hearing that her husband and children had survived.

Some years later, at a conference on genocide, one of the Armenian church leaders connected the experiences of the two peoples—Armenians at the beginning of the century, and Rwandans at its close: Bones have no color, he observed.

As our group of visitors became acquainted with the history of our hosts, we saw how profoundly the experience of persecution and suffering and diaspora had shaped that church's identity. For most Christians in the US, true suffering is far away, both geographically and chronologically. The suffering of an entire people is almost incomprehensible to us, in our anesthetized existence.

Today a massive statue, a figure with hands raised in supplication, stands on a hillside overlooking Beirut. A symbol of the Armenian martyrs, it was purposely shelled during the Lebanese war in an effort to provoke the Armenian church into taking sides and joining the fighting. But, we were told, the church chose to maintain its "positive neutrality."

Victory of life over death. That was true two thousand years ago in Bethlehem and in Jerusalem. We can join others around the world in bearing witness to that truth, even in the face of this new century's own suffering.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER

1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:

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

Advertising:

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

Editorial:

messenger@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039 ext. 263
Fax: 847-742-6103

Subscription rates:

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

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

Connect electronically:

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

To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to www.brethren.org.

A free study guide for each issue of MESSENGER is available on the site; go to keyword "MESSENGER" and click on the study guide link.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, January 2005. Copyright 2004, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0555.

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



Printed on recycled paper
(20% post consumer)

AROUND THE DENOMINATION

Updates and highlights from the Church of the Brethren districts

Atlantic Northeast: Lebanon Valley Brethren Home, Palmyra, Pa., held its 30th annual meeting Nov. 9. A fall bazaar at the home raised more than \$4,500 for several special projects.

Atlantic Southeast: "Manna in the Wilderness: Coming to God in Daily Life" will be held at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, Fla., Feb. 24-27. Glenn Mitchell and Jonathan Shively will serve as leadership.

Idaho: The Constitution Study Task Team proposed a board structure of 12 members (six congregational representatives and six pastors) to district conference delegates, who affirmed continued work on the plan. A district budget of \$8,675 was approved for 2005.

Illinois/Wisconsin: Christy Waltersdorff has been called as chair and Wilbur Bowman as vice chair of a new leadership team, which replaces the district board in a restructuring approved this fall.

Michigan: The Marilla congregation in October dedicated the "Willoughby Worship Walkway" in honor of Don and Marie Willoughby's 31 years of leadership in the congregation. The ramp and walkway extends east of the church.

Mid-Atlantic: A task team is considering whether to change the date of district conference, held in early October in recent years. It will bring a recommendation to the 2005 conference.

Middle Pennsylvania: District conference delegates approved a revised constitution that reflected changes in the district structure. A "Pennies for Congregational Ministries" offering totaled \$6,357.09.

Missouri/Arkansas: "Dunkerfest" has become an annual event at the Cabool (Mo.) congregation, featuring chicken and dumplings, baked goods, and a flea market. This year's fest took place Oct. 9.

Northern Indiana: The Middlebury congregation cut the ribbon this fall on a new addition that nearly doubles the church's size. It will be used primarily for Christian education and children's ministries.

Northern Ohio: Bethany Theological Seminary professor Tara Hornbacker will be guest speaker for the annual pastor/spouse retreat Feb. 20-22 in Sandusky.

Northern Plains: The district, through its witness commission, is providing sup-

port for the work of a Sudanese refugee resettlement ministry in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Oregon/Washington: Portland (Ore.) Peace Church of the Brethren hosted parts of the fall meeting of the Brethren progressive group Voices for an Open Spirit, with about 50 people attending.

Pacific Southwest: Pasadena (Calif.) Church of the Brethren hosted a "Dry Bones Consortium" Oct. 31. The meeting of pastors, academics, students, and others from California and Arizona was organized "to further, deepen, and extend the Anabaptist legacy."

Shenandoah: District conference delegates approved congregational status for Mountain View Fellowship in McGaheysville, Va., and for Knight's Chapel Fellowship, Barboursville, Va.

South/Central Indiana: Camp Alexander Mack in Milford is preparing to mark its 80th anniversary with a day of celebration May 1. Other events during the year will also feature the anniversary.

Southeastern: District youth planned to enjoy a New Year's Eve ski retreat Dec. 31-Jan. 2 at Camp Carmel in Linville, N.C. Gary Benesh and Ricky Thomas were leaders for the event.

Southern Ohio: District pastors will have a chance to sit in the pews when they meet for a worship service Jan. 19 at Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren in Tipp City. Glenn Timmons will preach.

Southern Pennsylvania: Delegates approved a new district plan of organization and bylaws and welcomed Trinity Church of the Brethren as a new fellowship at district conference this fall.

Southern Plains: The Lake Charles Community (La.) congregation will host a winter district meeting Feb. 18-19. . . . The Thomas (Okla.) property was sold for a net \$26,899.50.

Virginia: District conference delegates authorized the church extension committee to receive Living Faith Church of the Brethren, Concord, N.C., as a full congregation pending completion of all requirements, which is expected to happen soon.

West Marva: General Board Youth/Young Adult Ministries director Chris Douglas led a youth workers' training workshop Oct. 23, hosted by the Sunnyside congregation near New Creek, W.Va.

Western Pennsylvania: A district video has been produced to provide interpretation of the district's programs, and a website has been established at westernpacob.org.

Western Plains: The third of four regional celebrations honoring 30 years of On Earth Peace took place Nov. 12-14 in McPherson, Kan. The event featured a JOYA (Journey of Young Adults) concert and a conflict transformation workshop.

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

Julie Hostetter



West Marva District held a combined Christian education and ministry ethics training event Nov. 13 at Sunnyside Church of the Brethren near New Creek, W.Va. General Board Congregational Life Teams Area 3 (Southeast) coordinator Julie Hostetter led a plenary session titled "Called to Teach!" Ministry director Mary Jo Flory-Steury led the ethics training. Numerous workshops followed. A total of more than 110 people attended. Above, Jan Matteson of Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren leads a workshop on small-group ministry.



Florida 'holy rollers' spring into action

The holy rollers of Jacksonville (Fla.) Church of the Brethren gave it their all in the city's First Annual Bed Race, to benefit the City Rescue Mission.

The five-man team used an old cast-iron bed and four bicycle tires to create their bed-mobile, which they planned to roll along the mile-long race course. Funds raised by 13 participating teams were donated to the rescue mission, a recovery ministry that helps homeless and needy people in the region.

After early track runs the morning of the race, Team Brethren showed promise. They pushed the bed at a steady pace and maneuvered it smoothly around corners. Unfortunately, shortly after the

race started, a bump in the road loosened a wheel. Though the team made quick repairs en route, the competitors' hopes were dashed when the wheel broke off following a collision with a wayward racing bed.

Despite an early exit from the race, Team Brethren's spirit was not dampened. They have already begun plans to build a stronger and speedier bed, and will be ready to compete in next year's race.—**Matthew Garman**

Parker Ford celebrates a ministry three-in-one

In a rare three-fold ordination service, three members of Parker Ford (Pa.) Church of the Brethren joined the ranks of the set-apart ministry Oct. 10. To make the occasion even more unique, the three were members of the same family.

Husband and wife John (Jay) and Carol Doering and their son Timothy were all ordained on the same day by Atlantic Northeast District executive Craig Smith. Jay and Carol were ordained in a separate



Parents Duane and Michelle Dancer look on while Oakland pastor David Shetler prays for tiny baby Gabriel during a dedication service.

Oakland receives its own 'littlest angel'

Oakland Church of the Brethren, located near Gettysburg, Ohio, welcomed its smallest addition ever when Gabriel Lucas Dancer was dedicated on Nov. 28 during both worship services.

Gabriel, who was born July 1 weighing only 13 ounces, was presented for dedication by his parents, Duane and Michelle Dancer.

Gabriel is believed to be the smallest baby to survive without using a ventilator. Research is under way to include Gabriel in the Guinness Book of World Records. In addition to the church family, a number of extended family members joined the Dancers for the celebration.—**Becky Maurer**

service immediately prior to Tim's ordination, so the parents could assist in ordaining their son. "It's pretty special that we got to participate in his ordination," Carol said.

Tim Doering has been serving as associate pastor of discipleship at Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren but chose to be ordained at Parker Ford, "to affirm this is my home church and to thank the people who were a part of this process."

Tim received a bachelor's degree from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and completed his ordination requirements by taking classes through Bethany Theological Seminary's Susquehanna Valley Satellite in Elizabethtown, Pa. He will continue to serve the Ephrata congregation.

Jay and Carol were called by Parker Ford in 1999 to serve as

part of a transitional shared team ministry at the church along with two other pastors, Robert M. Latschaw and David Willauer. The couple also completed their coursework through the Susquehanna Valley Satellite. The Doerings will continue to serve at Parker Ford, where Jay contributes to the preaching ministry and Carol fulfills a multitude of pastoral care responsibilities.

Following the ordinations, Jay and Carol said that they always knew their son would become a pastor, but it wasn't until four years ago that they knew they would be following in their son's

From left, Carol, Tim, and Jay Doering will all celebrate the same ordination anniversary. The parents and son were ordained together Oct. 10 at Parker Ford Church of the Brethren.



Top left, Ryan Raymer tests out the Brethren "vehicle." Above, "Team Brethren" included: front row, Matthew Garman; back row, from left, Jerry Hartwell, Jevon Morris, Ryan Raymer, Ronny Raymer, and Justin Raymer.

footsteps. Jay noted that even though they were ordained on the same day, "We don't think so much (of being pastors) as a family affair. Tim has a direction, and we have a direction."

Those different directions could be observed in the two different types of ordination services held. Jay and Carol's was traditional in nature, and Tim's was a contemporary service.—David Willauer



Community Church of the Brethren in Idaho experienced more than 60 percent membership growth this fall. Among the new members are, from left, Kathryn and Mark Bausman, Gretchen Krasznavolygi, Mistie Kestie, Rose Mauldin, Dan Detrow, Marilyn Lancaster, and David and Dee Humphrey. Not pictured: Alyssa Mauldin, LaRena Holderreed, Ashley Bausman.

Twin Falls congregation sees membership boom

Community Church of the Brethren in Twin Falls, Idaho, is "alive and excited about their continued ministry," according to Carol and Duane Strickler, who completed a year as interim pastors in October.

The congregation has good cause for excitement. In September and October it received 12 new members, increasing the membership from 19 to 31. It also held its first Vacation Bible School in years this past summer, with 21 children participating, and hosted district conference in the fall.

Capping Community's celebration was the installation of Kathryn and Mark Bausman as pastors on Oct. 23, at the end of district conference.

As Stan Noffsinger, general secretary of the Church of the Brethren General Board, said after speaking at the conference: "This congregation has been in a process of revitalization. Several attendees noted that not many years ago there was talk of closing the church.... The Twin Falls story will be one to watch."

Carol Strickler and Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford contributed to this report.

Remembered

Martha Cupp, who formerly worked in the MESSENGER subscriptions office, died Nov. 19. Cupp worked with MESSENGER from 1989 to 1993 and again from 1995 to 1997. She had previously been an elementary school teacher in Elgin, Ill. A memorial service took place Dec. 4 at Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin.

LANDMARKS & LAURELS

- **Southern Ohio District** marked its 150th annual district conference when delegates met at Salem Church of the Brethren in Englewood Oct. 8-9. About 225 Brethren from 52 congregations attended. Moderator Sheila Shumaker, pastor of the Troy congregation, led the meeting.

- **Mountain View Church of the Brethren**, Boise, Idaho, recently received the Church of the Year Award from the Idaho Chapter of Prison Fellowship. Mountain View pastor David McKellip and members Robert Lee, Bob Lee, Russ Reneau, Bob Mays, and Dale Blickenstaff all serve on a nine-member board of directors for Bethel Ministries, which operates transitional homes in Boise. Men who "graduate" from the homes must have completed a six-month discipleship program.

- **Manchester College** (North Manchester, Ind.) is among the "Best Midwestern Colleges," according to the *Princeton Review*. The *Review's* rankings put Manchester in the company of 170 colleges and universities recognized as outstanding in the region, the college reported in a press release.

- The Schowalter Foundation has given a \$10,000 grant for the year 2005 to the new Sunday school curriculum project **Gather 'Round: Hearing and Sharing God's Good News**. The grant will be shared between the two sponsors, Brethren Press and Mennonite Publishing Network.

- **Donald and Richard Eberly** in September received a "Green Tag Forest" award for their 24-acre Eberly Woods property, according to the *Berrien County (Mich.) Record*. The designation requires "incorporating good forestry practices, assuring a balance of natural diversity and sustainable forest productivity." It is only the third such award given in Michigan to date, the *Record* reported. Donald Eberly is a member of Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren in South Bend, Ind.

- **David Moon**, pastor of Fairview Church of the Brethren (Oakland, Md.), was named "Most Beautiful Person" in Garrett County, Md., this fall for his volunteer efforts. Moon is president of the Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad and a hospital volunteer. He was to represent Garrett County in the Maryland "You Are Beautiful" statewide ceremony in Annapolis.

- **Nick Kauffman**, a member of Goshen (Ind.) City Church of the Brethren and Northern Indiana District youth cabinet vice president, was recently named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.



Dave Willauer

Depth means more than certainty

Does strong faith require certainty?

Many Christians would say so. Given the popularity of certainty, it's not surprising that the fastest growing churches in America are ones where the responses to life's complexities are unequivocal and fixed; where there's no question that God has a predetermined plan in place; and there's no uncertainty about



KELLY BURK

how to behave and what to believe. Anything less is considered weak and lacking in faith.

Such certainty is understandably appealing. Personally, I find great joy in definitive answers—this explains my secret love of accounting. For younger generations who have grown up in a whirlwind of change and turmoil, yearning for absolutes makes perfect sense.

The reality is, however, that very little about life is definitive. On a daily basis, we face a multitude of contradictions, paradoxes, ironies, and tragedies that don't lend themselves to easy answers. Instead, they demand a sophisticated faith.

As much as I long for an uncomplicated world full of easy answers, the fact is that life is complex and calls for depth in our faith. Not surprisingly, the society that resists such depth is at the same time in desperate need of it.

By sophisticated, I'm not suggesting that we use big words or require formal theological education for all. Rather, mature faith involves asking honest questions, thinking through theology, wrestling with paradoxes, recognizing pain, admitting uncertainty. And through it all there's an ever-deepening commitment to, and profound love for, Jesus Christ.

When tragedy struck with my father's sudden death at the age of 48, I questioned my faith like never before. In agony over how this could have happened, I sat through worship services overcome with grief and anger. During my daily jogs, I sobbed and cried out to God, "Why?" At the age of 21, I suddenly found my childhood theology inadequate.

The astonishing thing about that time in my life is that people shared repeatedly with me that they were moved

by the depth of my faith. I didn't understand how anyone could say that. Did they know how many questions I had and how uncertain I felt about my beliefs?

It wasn't until later that I realized what others were referring to was my willingness to wrestle with the hard questions of faith. For the first time I was really thinking hard about what I believed. I had no idea at the time that those very questions would eventually lead me to seminary, to a deeper faith, and into pastoral ministry.

Being absolutely certain about matters of faith can appear admirable and strong. My experience, however, is that while sustaining that kind of certainty is actually easier than confronting uncertainty, it usually falls short of reaching the fullness and depth to which God is calling us.

An example of this temptation to live in the ease of certainty is our tendency to identify people, groups, and nations by the oversimplified categories of good and evil. Rather than recognize that we all have the capacity for both good and evil, we see the world in black and white, with no shades of gray. But as Alain-Fournier once wrote, "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, that it's rather hard to tell which of us ought to reform the rest of us."

Allowing room in our lives of faith for wrestling, thinking, questioning, and learning does not presuppose faith without conviction. For whatever our theology, I believe we are all genuinely seeking to live the command to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27). Living with ambiguity just means that we commit our deeply held convictions to the possibility of change in response to new insights and to God's continued revelation.

As much as I long for an uncomplicated world full of easy answers, the fact is that life is complex and calls for depth in our faith. Not surprisingly, the society that resists such depth is at the same time in desperate need of it. Fostering sophisticated faith among people who want easy answers isn't easy or popular; but maybe, just maybe, our unique combination of Pietist and Anabaptist traditions equip us to play this vital and relevant role. Is this where the living God is leading us today? 

Kelly Burk is pastor of Richmond (Ind.) Church of the Brethren.

QUOTE WORTHY

“That is why, when battles rage on, people hold on. They find sufficient unity, and a rubbed raw but sufficient love, and they even find the presence of God.”

—Kathleen Norris, writing in her book *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* about the church as a divinely inspired institution

“You don’t need ‘Rev.’ in front of your name or initials after your name to pursue the ministry that God has called you to.”

—Virgina District executive David Shumate, urging the “priesthood of all believers” in his report to district conference

“People want to be associated with a winner, and Jesus Christ is a winner.”

—the Rev. Brian K. Bauknight, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, Pa., in an address on keys to good stewardship. Bauknight was quoted in *The Reporter* of the Northern Illinois Conference.

“It’s amazing to me that we ask, ‘What would Jesus do?’ and we don’t even know what he did do!”

—Annual Conference moderator Jim Hardenbrook, on the need for Brethren to spend more time reading the Bible

“Wrenches can get thrown in the works when you’re out on the edge of things.”

—New Community Project director David Radcliff, on the challenges of pushing beyond the ordinary

“Church members often miss the point on two significant church dynamics. They mistakenly think that a carry-in meal is mostly about the food, and they erroneously believe that tithing is mostly about the money. How sad!”

—Atlantic Northeast District executive Craig Smith, quoted in the Michigan District *COB Connection* newsletter

“You can’t study the early history of the Brethren without seeing their interest in peace.”

—Donald F. Durnbaugh, in an address sponsored by the CrossRoads Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center in Harrisonburg, Va. About 75 people attended the event.

“Creative programs of dialogue, hospitality, and collaboration are flourishing between Christian and Muslim neighbors, and we in the West can learn a great deal from these forms of coexistence.”

—Church World Service executive director John L. McCullough, following a visit to the Middle East

CULTUREVIEW

• **US National Council of Churches** (NCC) general secretary Bob Edgar welcomed the US Catholic Bishops’ decision Nov. 17 to join Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT), an effort to bring Catholics, evangelical and mainline Protestants, and Orthodox Christians around a common table for the first time. The Church of the Brethren had been among those helping to build the new movement.

• **The war in Iraq** was the most important “moral issue” for voters in November’s presidential election, according to a national poll by progressive groups, far outpacing abortion and gay marriage as top-shelf concerns. Voters who listed “moral values” as the most decisive factor in their votes overwhelmingly went for President Bush. Forty-two percent of voters in the new poll listed the Iraq war as their top moral concern, followed by 13 percent who listed abortion and 9 percent who said gay marriage. (RNS)

• **Eastern Mennonite Seminary professor Anil**

Solanki recently completed a 35-year project to translate the Bible into his native Indian language of Gujarati, according to a report in *The Mennonite*. It’s the first Gujarati Bible translation to be done in more than 180 years and takes into account the many language changes that have occurred in that time. Three other translators assisted Solanki on the project.

• **More than 16,000 people**, including a contingent of 200 Brethren, gathered outside the gates of Fort Benning, Ga., in mid-November for an annual demonstration of opposition to the School of the Americas (SOA), a combat-training school for Latin American soldiers. The gathering culminated with a solemn “funeral” procession to the gates of Fort Benning led by actor Martin Sheen.

More than 20 people were arrested for acts of non-violent civil disobedience.



JUST FOR FUN: WORD SEARCH

IN THE WORD MESSENGER this month begins its “Journey Through the Word,” a month-by-month look at the books of the Bible. In the puzzle below, find these 12 terms related to the beginning of this study. Answers can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and backwards:

Bible	C	P	E	N	T	A	T	E	U	C	H	N
Genesis	X	O	R	A	N	G	E	L	M	L	K	U
Exodus	T	B	I	B	L	E	M	O	S	L	S	M
Leviticus	N	S	L	A	A	N	U	M	B	E	R	S
Numbers	E	T	T	E	L	E	E	X	S	V	E	C
Deuteronomy	M	X	D	U	V	S	Y	O	Z	I	T	R
Pentateuch	A	T	O	R	W	I	M	P	E	T	P	I
Scripture	T	M	U	D	H	S	J	S	O	I	A	P
Torah	S	C	D	E	U	T	E	R	Y	C	H	T
Testament	E	B	M	U	N	S	A	X	I	U	C	U
Chapters	T	U	R	E	X	H	G	E	N	S	W	R
Moses	Y	M	O	N	O	R	E	T	U	E	D	E



Barbara Daté of Eugene, Ore., left, and Richard Kyerematen of Philadelphia catch up after an Annual Conference Cross-Cultural Ministries Luncheon.

by Elissa Hoffert

ALL NATIONS, tribes, peoples, and tongues

Ethnic leaders see hope, challenges for cross-cultural ministries in the Church of the Brethren

Imagine the scene the apostle John described in Revelation 7:9: a multitude in white robes holding palm branches and standing before the throne praising the Lamb. Every nation, tribe, people, and language is present, uniting with one purpose, no voice off-key.

This same vision is alive in the heart of the Church of the Brethren, where members from different ethnic backgrounds have challenged the church to recognize its ethnic barriers and demolish them.

Belita Mitchell, pastor of Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren is among those who have

been working in their congregations, communities, districts, and the denomination to ensure that the Church of the Brethren reaches out to all people of color. First drawn to the Church of the Brethren by the witness of its members, Mitchell began as a member at the Imperial

Heights Community congregation in Los Angeles and later served 2 ½ years as interim pastor.

"People I encountered lived out the faith they professed," Mitchell says of her time at Imperial Heights. "They put an emphasis on service and imitating Christ. There was a strong sense of community, warmth, and connectedness."

Mitchell now finds herself in a congregation that has an unequalled opportunity to open its doors to others. The South Allison Hill community, which Harrisburg First calls home, is located in the inner city and reflects Harrisburg's broad ethnic diversity.

"Immigrants and migrants first land in neighborhoods like ours," Mitchell notes.

Harrisburg First has stretched itself to meet the needs of those in the community. Not only does the church open its doors for workcamps, student service projects, and a broad range of community services (such as the Brethren Housing Association and a thrift shop); it has also established a second Sunday worship service that offers bilingual, contemporary praise.

"We wanted to reach out to the community and



Chris Detrick

Belita Mitchell speaks at an Annual Conference event.



Kayla Camps, left, and Carrie Fry-Miller connect during Ministry Summer Service orientation.

“For now, we live in a world wracked by ethnic divisions and racial prejudice. Yet knowing that God intends to populate heaven with people from every ethnic background has important implications for those of us who claim to follow Christ. If God’s heart reaches out to the whole world, then our hearts need to as well.”

—From *The Word in Life Study Bible, New Testament Edition*, in a reflection on Revelation 7:9

include persons from diverse backgrounds,” Mitchell says. “Our second service fulfills that desire.”

The congregation also shares its building with an Indonesian fellowship that holds services in its own primary language. Mitchell feels the church earnestly seeks to live out its mission statement, which reads: “We are called to build a Christ-centered multicultural community in the inner city, sharing the love, healing, peace, and justice of Christ.”

While some Brethren congregations are reaching out, others are finding it hard to experience that diversity.

Valentina Satvedi, pastor of South Bay Community in Redondo Beach, Calif., came to the United States from Valsad (formerly Bulsar), India. When Satvedi came to the US to go to Bethany Theological Seminary, it was not her intent to become a full-time pastor. But in 1997 Satvedi began pastoring North County of San Diego, and moved from there to South Bay in August 2000.

The South Bay congregation has 60 members on its rolls, but averages mid-30s for attendance. Among those, however, “I am the only person of color,” Satvedi says.

Although Satvedi felt some discomfort in the wake of the

September 11 attacks, she feels that most people in her congregation are very comfortable with her ethnicity. But she is aware of some unwritten rules, such as having to be “very conscious of how I speak against the government.”

While Satvedi deals with issues like these at home, she also sees room for improvement in the Church of the Brethren as a whole.

She feels, for example, that it is important to provide materials for people in their native language. When she brings the issue up, however, some people voice a concern that providing it for one person would mean that every person should have that same privilege. This frustrates Satvedi, especially since she identifies with people who have to learn English.

“Folks who don’t speak fluent English are at a greater disadvantage, and so are we for not getting their input,” Satvedi says.

James Washington, pastor of Faith Center Fellowship Church of the Brethren in Whitehouse, Texas, agrees that there could be some improvements made, especially by the General Board and Annual Conference.

Washington feels that many individual congregations

Marie Joseph of the Miami Haitian congregation adds to a lively Cross-Cultural Consultation worship time with tambourine rhythms.



Walt Wiltshchek

are doing what they can to get things moving in the right direction, and he is excited about the denomination's Cross-Cultural Ministries Team, which grew out of a grass-roots initiative. When it comes time for the General Board to make a decision, however, he feels "the wheels turn very slowly."

A query first discussed in 2002 was brought to the table at the annual Cross-Cultural Consultation in Orlando, Fla., in 2003 and evolved into two separate queries, each brought through a district.

One, "Becoming a Multi-Ethnic Church," asked, "How are we to become the church John saw in Revelation 7:9?" The other, "The Need for Cross-Cultural Ministries," asked "for assistance in identifying and naming the barriers that exist in the Church of the Brethren which are preventing the biblical vision of Revelation 7:9 from happening within our congregations and districts, and to outline specific steps which can enable congregations and districts to overcome them." Both queries were included as new business at the 2004

Annual Conference in Charleston, W.Va.

Conference delegates eventually approved the concerns of both queries, linking them together, and voted to call an ethnically diverse study committee. Six were elected, and an ex officio member from American Baptist Churches USA, which has a vibrant multiethnic ministry, was to be appointed. Upon realization that the group did not include an African-American member, delegates directed the committee to call an additional member from the African-American nominees on the original ballot.

The committee was instructed to respond to the questions posed by the queries and report to the 2005 Conference (see sidebar, "Query Follow-Up"), and to suggest how Conference can continue to receive progress reports on multi-ethnic and cross-cultural ministries each year through 2010.

"The way the final decision came about was frustrating," Mitchell says, "but in the end it worked out with a positive result. I believe the delegate body understood the intent of the two queries and desired to be faithful and just. I felt a strong movement of God's Spirit among us during those final discussions and the eventual decisions."

Washington also sees a move in the right direction. "It didn't get shifted under papers and lost," he says.

He is equally excited about the Anti-Racism Team, brought together by the General Board two years ago following Annual Conference action. Washington serves on the team along with Satvedi, Barbara Cuffie, Torin Eikler, and Sharon Reich.

Walt Wiltshchek



CROSS-CULTURAL CONSULTATION

A denomination-wide Cross-Cultural Consultation has been held annually since 1998. Recent gatherings have taken place at the Germantown congregation in Philadelphia; at Camp Ithiel near Orlando, Fla.; and, last year, in Puerto Rico.

The event is planned by a Cross-Cultural Ministries Team. The group, which grew out of grass-roots efforts, receives organizational support from the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries office. Congregational Life Team members Duane Grady and Carol Yeazell serve as liaisons.

The 2005 gathering and celebration is planned for April 21-24 in Richmond, Ind. Events will be held primarily at Bethany Theological Seminary and Richmond Church of the Brethren. For details or more information, contact Duane Grady at 800-505-1596 or dgrady_gb@brethren.org.

Miami Haitian pastor Ludovic St. Fleur, left, and Roy Fahnestock of St. Thomas, Pa., visit at a church planting event.

QUERY FOLLOW-UP

The Annual Conference Council has been following up on the directives provided by a pair of 2004 queries that led to formation of the Multi-Ethnic/Cross Cultural Study Committee, later renamed the Intercultural Study Committee.

The study committee held its initial meeting Oct. 17-18 in Elgin, Ill. It called Asha Solanky as chair and Nadine Monn as recorder. Other members are Darla Kay Bowman Deardorff, Ruben Deoleo, Neemita Pandya, Gilbert Romero, and Thomas Dowdy. Annual Conference Council asked the Committee on Interchurch Relations to assist in naming an ex officio member of the study committee from the American Baptist Churches USA.

In addition to organizing, the study committee explored reasons for the study and looked at what research needs to be done and what dialogue is needed with the denomination. A general timeline was established and committee member assignments were made.

The Annual Conference Council also is seeking the assistance of General Board Congregational Life Team staff who serve as liaisons to the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team to develop a form for use by agencies, districts, and congregations in assessing their ethnic ministries and relationships.



Regina Bryan

“We make people aware of racism within our denomination,” Washington says. “After we define it, we offer ways to dismantle it.”

Although steps have been taken to help the Church of the Brethren become a church that accepts all ethnicities, some wonder if it is enough.

“This has been an issue for years and years,” Satvedi says. “It will take a while for us to really see how successful it is.”

For now, Mitchell feels the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team is working to widen the circle. “We are setting an

example of what the church can and should look like,” she says.

Ludovic St. Fleur, pastor of the Miami Haitian congregation, says great potential exists in the church. St. Fleur came to the US in July 1979 and has been pastor to his growing congregation, which worships in the Creole language, for eight years.

Openings exist, he says, but, “We need to make our own effort.” He feels that the members of the Church of the Brethren must all work together to see how they can make the denomination better than it is.

“If we work hard, and we call our own ethnic people, then one day we will not be in a position to talk about minority or majority, but we will be one church, equal in spirit,” St. Fleur said. “Wait and see how God can make us stronger.”

And perhaps if St. Fleur’s ideas come to pass, then John’s Revelation vision will truly become a reality. **AM**

Elissa Hoffert teaches freshman English, journalism, and newspaper at McPherson (Kan.) High School and attends McPherson Church of the Brethren.

Top right, James Washington preaches at Annual Conference; left, Sonja Griffith and Don Mitchell join in a time of upbeat praise at a Cross-Cultural Consultation.



Walt Wiltschek

A 'big vision' for HISPANIC MINISTRIES

Ruben Deoleo is leading Atlantic Northeast's newest outreach

by Angie Mountain

When Ruben Deoleo left the Dominican

Republic to focus on planting churches in the United States, he intended to foster congregations under the umbrella of the Mennonite church in Michigan.

Instead, Deoleo—29 years old at the time—left behind his roles as lawyer and part-time minister in his homeland and found himself moving to Lancaster, Pa., late in 1989. He came at the invitation of Guillermo Encarnación, with the prospect of filling an associate pastorate at the Alpha & Omega congregation in the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren.

"Many things happened to me for me to come to the Church of the Brethren," Deoleo says. "As soon as I came over here, a lady from the Church of the Brethren, Jean Wine, taught me English. She had a very hard time with me; it was a wonderful experience. She was willing to come to Lancaster and teach English to me and my wife.

"I like to talk," he adds. "It's wonderful to be able to say what we think and what we feel. And it helped me a couple years later; it opened the door for me to get a

job. There's no way how to say thank you for that."

Today Deoleo works as a counselor at the Dauphin County Prison in Harrisburg, but he also serves Atlantic Northeast as part-time director of Hispanic Ministries—a position created when the district recognized his talents and decided to make his role an official one.

When the district went through a staff redesign in 2003, Deoleo found the courage to apply for a position. His qualifications didn't exactly match that position, district executive Craig Smith says, but his application did land him a job.

"We were impressed with his interview and the gifts he brought to the table," says Smith. "We saw the need to work with Hispanic ministries and created the position during that redesign. He was almost doing his job prior to becoming a staff member. He had experience and a relationship (with the district) prior to his call to serve."

Indeed, Deoleo had already immersed himself in his passion for planting and nurturing young Hispanic groups, having continued as associate pastor at Alpha & Omega until 1996, serving as moderator for some of the district's other Hispanic congregations, and working with the Harrisburg First church in a variety of ways.

He now worships at Maranatha, a multicultural fellowship that shares the facilities of Lancaster Church of the Brethren, and also shares some worship opportunities.

"It is a blessing to be doing things together," he says of the relationship. "Love Feast, Sunday school, and activities. We had five children and youth baptized in November during the Anglo service. There are things we can do together."

Reaching a point where Hispanic and Anglo ministries blend together into a style that encompasses the best of both is one of many ideals motivating Deoleo, who was ordained in the Church of the Brethren in 1992. Growing up in the Evangelical Mennonite Church under the guidance of his grandmother, Deoleo was 22 when he first found an opportunity to plant churches. Of the three fellowships he helped to start in the Dominican, two are still there.

"I received Jesus when I was very young," he said. "I was 19 when I was baptized, the president of our local

Bethany Theological Seminary professor Scott Holland, left, interviews Ruben Deoleo at a new church planting event.



Mark Wittschenk

Ruben Deoleo translates business sessions into Spanish at Atlantic Northeast's district conference. He is currently working on new Hispanic church planting projects in eastern Lancaster County and in Bethlehem, Pa.



Walt Witschek

youth group, a volunteer Sunday school coordinator . . . “

It seems wherever Deoleo sees a need for ministry, he dives in to try to fulfill it. Paid position or not, there are always opportunities to serve.

“I was just responding to what God had called me to do, and He was responding to me,” he said. “In 2002, I saw a change in my ministry. I started to put together my vision to plant 30 churches in 10 years. We don’t have the funding or leadership for all the 30 churches yet, but we are preparing people for the ministry, preparing others to be part of that vision.

“That’s part of the vision God was preparing us to have.”

Preparing others for leadership is another of the goals that drives Deoleo’s work in the church. He has good leadership skills and he’s a team player, Smith says, but Deoleo’s qualifications to plant churches run deeper than that.

“He loves the Lord, and he loves people,” Smith says.

“I think he wants to see Hispanic leadership develop and grow within the Church of the Brethren. He has a passion for that—he gets that we are partners in ministry, doing kingdom business together.”

Deoleo, who is also part of the denomination’s Intercultural Study Committee called by the 2004 Annual Conference, enjoys the opportunity to visit different churches and talk about the Hispanic community, about how this country is changing demographically.

He sees roles for Hispanic ministry that go beyond worship alone. Deoleo believes Hispanic Christians have a mission of reconciliation, that they may be the path through which Anglos and African-Americans find a closer relationship, as well.

“When the Hispanic population starts to grow in the church, it brings about the possibility that the church will be more ready for a multiethnic change,” he says. “We have to be able to go and worship, no matter what the language or worship style, and be comfortable.

“We’ll be challenged about an attitude: our belief about what worship is. It’s a process. The church has to have the intention to change and be close to minorities.”

Though Deoleo sees a need for Hispanic leaders to

learn about the organization of the church, as well as Brethren history and traditions, he also knows that they can offer to the church a host of wonderful gifts: energy, passion, vision, talent, and youth.

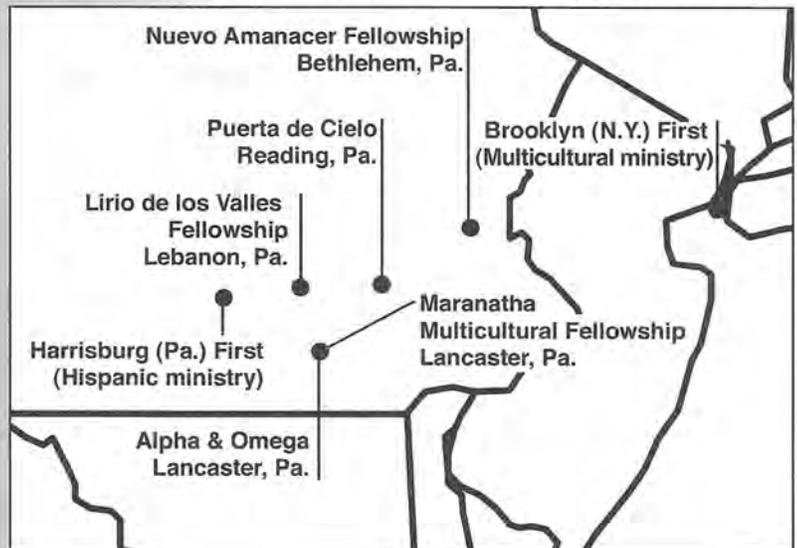
Because Atlantic Northeast District has more Hispanic churches and leaders than most other Church of the Brethren districts, it’s a seed bed for the remainder of the denomination, he says, even in places where churches may have a few more reservations.

“I praise God for an attitude that we can make things different,” said Deoleo. “I pray for us to have a big church and leaders we can be able to send to other districts and to plant churches.

“We have a big vision over here,” he adds. “I believe in a powerful God (who) will touch the heart of the people in order that things happen. I believe things will be changing. And I believe it will be for good.” ❧

Angie Mountain lives in Ambler, Pa., and is a member of Ambler Church of the Brethren. She writes for *The Intelligencer* in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

HISPANIC CONGREGATIONS IN ATLANTIC NORTHEAST



For We Are Strangers No More

Hymn's words ring true
25-plus years later

by Nancy Rosenberger Faus

Just over a quarter-century after its birth, the hymn "For We are Strangers No More" certainly is no stranger to the Church of the Brethren. It is sung lovingly and passionately in many congregations and at district conferences and Annual Conference, calling sisters and brothers in Christ, whatever their culture or language, to "praise the Lord together as we join song to song and prayer to prayer."

The facts about its beginning are what still seem a bit strange. Hopefully the record now can be set straight, after digging through archives and conversations with Dianne Huffman Morningstar, the composer. Unfortunately we cannot speak with Kenneth Morse, writer of the text and Church of the Brethren poet laureate, who died May 23, 1999.

One summer in the late 1970s, the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren hosted a music and worship workshop in New Windsor, Md. During that weekend, Dianne says she and Ken "worked together to present new ideas for the creative use of hymns in worship."

At the closing service of the workshop, the group experienced communion together. Not only was it deeply moving to the participants; it caused Ken to have a restless night's sleep as a new hymn text was "brewing" in his mind and soul. The next morning at breakfast he asked Dianne to write music to the lyrics that he would send her after he completed the text. As Dianne says, "This was a deep honor, and I humbly accepted."

Ken kept his word, and, several weeks later, "on a hot August afternoon, the phone rang as I was unpacking groceries," Dianne recalls. "He had completed the text! I had nothing to write on in the kitchen . . . and an empty grocery bag was close by, so as he started to share the lyrics, I wrote them on the back of the bag. When he was finished, he asked if this made any sense. OF COURSE, KEN!

"It was the perfect 'exclamation point' to the meaningful experience that grew from the event in New Windsor. I asked him to please repeat the lyrics, and to speak the words with the inflection that he wished for the music. He chuckled and said he was the poet, not the

musician . . . but he did agree to recite his words in the way he wished the music line to flow."

Not more than a day passed when Dianne went to the piano with music manuscript paper in hand. She was so inspired by Ken and the New Windsor experience that she wrote a first draft that she mailed to him immediately. Several days later a memorable phone call came to her. On the other end of the phone, "This gentle man quietly said, 'Dianne, you captured the essence of the event in New Windsor, and you brought my words to life, just as I intended. Thank you, and God bless you.'"

What she thought was to be a first draft was also the final draft. Could it be so easy? Dianne was amazed! She says, "It seemed that Ken and I 'danced through this hymn' with the angels who inspired us. I still smile every time I hear it, play it, sing it, for it is a joy and blessing to have been chosen to be a partner in music with this talented and gifted man of God."

What a powerful story, one that Dianne only recently related in an e-mail. As for the period following the birth of the hymn, more information comes from the archives at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill.

PROCLAIMING: Kingdom
322 For we are strangers no more
STRANGERS NO MORE (1 || 10 || 11 ||) with refrain

Refrain G Am C F C

For we are stran-gers no more, but mem-bers of one

F C F E7 Am

fam-i-ly: stran-gers no more, but part of one hu-

G C C7 F Dm E7

man-i-ty: stran-gers no more, we're neigh-bors to each

Am A9 C G7

and we're broth-ers now

Fine

What she thought was to be a first draft was also the final draft. Could it be so easy? Dianne was amazed! She says, "It seemed that Ken and I 'danced through this hymn'."

In 1979 Daystar Associates, a corporation formed that year by Ken Morse and others, sent a memo under the names of Morse, Joyce Miller, and Geoff Brumbaugh to Joanne Nesler Davis at the Elgin office, saying that they would prepare a 20-minute slide production for the 1979 Annual Conference in Seattle, to interpret the World Ministries Commission's (WMC) program. The Daystar treasurer's 1979 report verifies that money was received for the WMC slide tape production titled "Strangers No More" to be presented at the 1979 Conference.

The following year, 1980, the hymn was printed in the Annual Conference booklet and sung at the conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. It was then published later that year in the fourth part of the Brethren Songbook, a loose-leaf book of old and new hymns and songs that were to be tested for possible inclusion in what would ultimately become *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, published in 1992 by Brethren Press, Faith and Life Press, and Mennonite Publishing House.

Within that 12-year span, "Strangers No More" became a favorite hymn among

Brethren. When final decisions were made for *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, the Brethren representatives on the Hymnal Council insisted that it be included in the new hymnal. It is found there on page 322 as "For we are strangers no more," the words of the first line, with the tune name STRANGERS NO MORE.

The denomination's Copyright Permission office at Brethren Press has evidence that the popularity of the hymn extends beyond the Church of the Brethren. The Community of Christ denomination, based in Missouri, sought permission to include the hymn in its Monthly Piano Club. It has been used at an opening convocation at Bluffton (Ohio) College and for a church choir anthem at Belmont (Ontario) United Church.

In 2000 it was used as the theme song and a logo title on the resource packet for the 100th anniversary of the Commission on Overseas Mission of the General Conference Mennonite Church. The Catholic Church also has used the hymn, when the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis and the College of St. Catharine featured it at a joint symposium on "Making Room: Welcoming the Stranger," a dialogue of Faith and Culture.

In a time such as this, when the world is fractured by hatred, violence, terrorism, and war, we need to turn to No. 322 in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, and sing

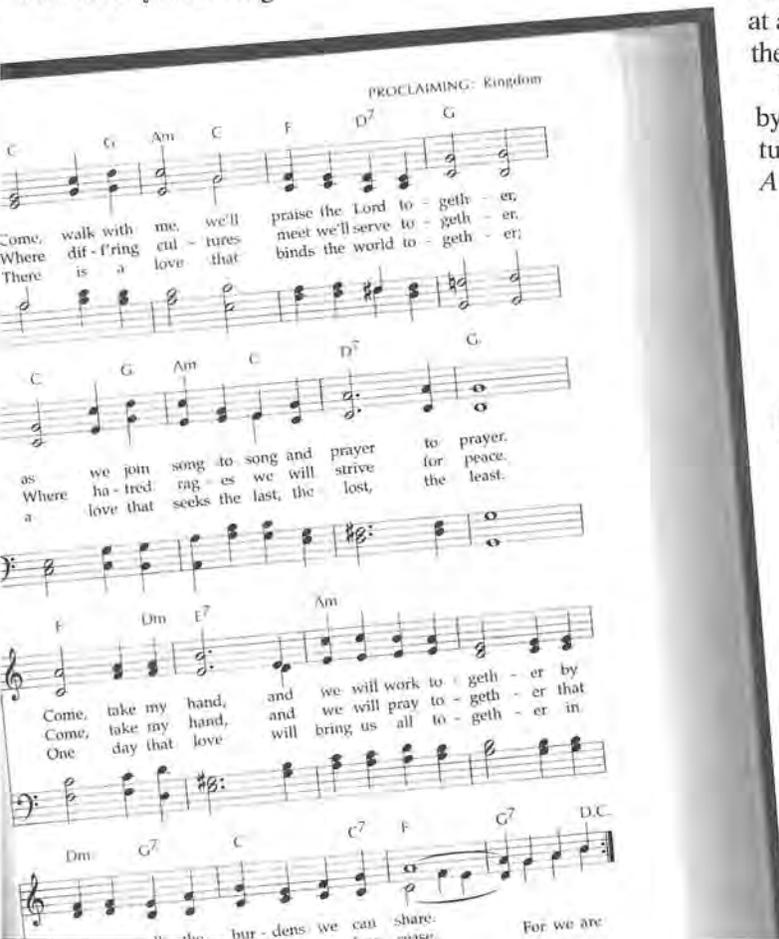
"Come walk with me. . .
Come take my hand . . .
We will work together. . .
and we will pray together that justice
come and strife and warfare cease."

Are we willing to sing this song of justice and love with passion? Are we ready to be:

"members of one family, strangers
no more, but part of one humanity . . .
strangers no more,
we're neighbors to each other now,
strangers no more,
we're sisters and we're brothers now"?

May it be so! 

Nancy Rosenberger Faus is a former faculty member of Bethany Theological Seminary, where she still serves in an adjunct role, and has been a frequent songleader at Annual Conference and other events. She lives in Richmond, Ind.



Medieval print depicting
Jesus with the four Gospel
writers—Matthew, Mark,
Luke and John.



Reading the 'Other' Gospels

by Frank Ramirez

Many New Testament passages
can shed light on Jesus

In his address in the closing moments of the 2004 Annual Conference, moderator Jim Hardenbrook of Idaho asked Brethren to read one Gospel a month—our choice! He said we might read a different Gospel each month, or the same Gospel 12 times if we chose, but his intent was for us to relive and relearn the life and words of Jesus.

That's Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I think you all know that. If you were to read any one of them 12 times—or all four of them three times each—between now and the 2005 Conference in Peoria, Ill., you'd do just fine.

HOWEVER . . . just in case you get tired of re-reading the same four Gospels, I thought I would suggest some other Gospels you might read: Gospels you read in the New Testament without even knowing it.

Believers seem to think the words and actions of Jesus are confined to the four Gospels. Not true! You find Jesus throughout the New Testament, and in some books you might think are the least likely places. For example . . .

The Gospel of Jacob

Okay, you call it the letter of James. We get the English name James from the Hebrew *Ya'akob* through the Italian *Giacomo*. It is attributed to Jacob, the brother of Jesus, who led the church in Jerusalem until 62 A.D., when he was murdered by the religious authorities during a power vacuum. He was respected by Christians and Jews alike for his piety and his poverty.

His letter contains more echoes of the words of Jesus than any book outside the Big Four. What is interesting is the way he recalls the words and thoughts of Jesus, not the printed Gospels. One has to believe that James

is relating what he heard the way he heard it, so that if the words do not quite match what is written elsewhere, that's because James is writing from memory.

Compare James 5:12, for instance, with the following words from Matthew 5:34-37. James writes: "Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation."

In Matthew, Jesus says: "But I say to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

Then there's James 2:5 and Luke 6:20: "Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?" Compare that to: "Then (Jesus) looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.'"

And it's hard to read "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27) without thinking of, "I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (Matt. 25:36).

So numerous are these examples that I'm convinced, though I certainly can't prove it, that other portions of the letter also quote Jesus. Certainly there is no other

document in the New Testament that is so Brethren. There are many more parallels listed in the accompanying breakout box, but I have a feeling that anyone familiar with the four Gospels will find more on their own.

The Gospel of Paul

The apostle Paul makes the point in Galatians (1:18-19, 2:1) that he deliberately avoided learning anything from those who knew Jesus personally, at least for many years. Some suggest that Paul had little interest in Jesus beyond his death on the cross and his resurrection. That's simply not so.

On the contrary, Paul refers to the life and work of Jesus all the time. He just didn't use footnotes or quotation marks. Brethren writer Graydon F. Snyder, in his book *Irish Jesus, Roman Jesus*, makes clear that Paul knew the Jesus tradition pretty well. Snyder connects the dots between Paul's writings and the Gospels and compiles an impressive list. Here are just a few examples:

In 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16 Paul talks about God's people killing "both the Lord Jesus and the prophets," and Jesus in Luke 11:49 says, "Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute. . . .'"

Paul asks, "Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?" (1 Cor. 5:6), calling to mind the parable that compares the Kingdom of God to "yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened" (Luke 13:21).

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them," Paul writes (Rom. 12:14). That sounds a lot like, "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:28).

Snyder lists many other parallels between Paul and Jesus (some, to be fair, with writings outside the New Testament), but the most compelling is the beautiful language of Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, which is strikingly similar to the language of Mark 14:22-25. And we haven't even talked about the arresting passage of 1 Corinthians 15, Paul's testimony to the resurrection of Jesus.

The 'Red-Letter' Passages of Acts

Most of us realize that Jesus is still physically present in the first chapter of Acts and verbally instructs the apos-

The moderator's call

Annual Conference moderator Jim Hardenbrook shared the following in a statement on the 2005 Conference theme, "Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus":

"The book of Hebrews calls a group of Christians to reconsider Jesus. In the midst of their persecution and questions the writer asks them to take another look at Jesus; to consider him. I'm convinced such an exercise would be good for us. Therefore, I'm going to challenge every member of the denomination to read a Gospel every month between now and Peoria."

The full theme statement is available at www.brethren.org/ac/peoria/theme.htm.

ties before ascending into heaven (Acts 1:4-8), but there are plenty of references to the life, work, and words of Jesus in this book by Luke, an author of one of the standard four Gospels. One example is from Peter's speech in Acts 4:11, where a quotation from Isaiah 28:16 is directly referred to by Jesus in Matthew 21:42.

Certainly Jesus speaks directly to Paul and Ananias following Paul's conversion, and this story appears not once, or twice, but three times in the book.

Most important of all, however are words of Jesus we would never have known had Paul not quoted them in Acts 20:35: "In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

The Gospel of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

There's an old folk song first recorded by Blind Willie Johnson and his wife, Angeline, in 1930 that asks the question, "Who's that writing?" and then answers it by saying, "John the Revelator. Wrote the book of the seven seals." I hate to argue with an old blues singer, but if you read Revelation you'll see that the source is none other than Jesus himself. That's why it says, "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John . . ." (Rev 1:1).

The Revelation of Jesus is the Gospel, pure and simple, only in a sort of video form. The genre of apocalypse was well known in his time. People knew how to read these books. The basic message of Daniel and Revelation, as well as several nonbiblical books, is that tough times don't last, tough people do. Therefore, hold on!

You might seek out Vernard Eller's book, *The Most Revealing Book of the Bible*, which is out of print but available free at www.hccentral.com/eller7/, and read that along with Revelation. His book, 30 years old, is relevant today—as is Revelation itself.

. . .

That's just scratching the surface. There are all sorts of references to the life, words, and work of Jesus throughout the New Testament: 2 Peter 1:17-18 comes to mind, with its reference to the transfiguration.

Now that I think about it, you might as well read the whole New Testament before Annual Conference just to avoid missing something Jesus said and did! **WU**

Frank Ramirez is pastor of Everett (Pa.) Church of the Brethren and a member of the Church of the Brethren General Board.

Gospel parallels in James

James 1:2	Matt. 5:12
James 1:6	Mark 11:24
James 1:12	Matt. 10:22
James 2:8	Matt. 22:39
James 2:10	Matt. 5:19
James 2:13	Matt. 18:35
James 3:6	Matt. 15:11, 18-20, Mark 7:15, 20, 23
James 3:18	Matt. 5:9
James 4:6	Matt. 23:12
James 5:1	Luke 6:24
James 5:9	Matt. 24:33
James 5:14-15	Mark 6:13, 16:18, Matt. 9:2
James 5:17-18	Luke 4:25
James 5:19-20	Matt. 18:15

Genesis: *God's promise comes full circle*

by Eugene F. Roop

The book of Genesis is divided into four great sagas, or narratives.

A saga may have the characteristics of a short story—that is, beginning with a dramatic tension, then resolved as the narrative draws to a conclusion (such as

The saga of Abraham and Sarah

The words, “These are the descendants of Terah,” (11:27) introduces the first of the ancestral sagas, the saga of Abraham and Sarah. The tension driving this saga emerges in 11:30: “Sarah was barren; she

there is no child (15:2)? After trying adoption (Genesis 16) and then giving up (17:7), Sarah becomes pregnant and gives birth to Isaac (21:1-3).

Immediately God asks Abraham to give Isaac up, to sacrifice the beloved son for whom they had prayed and waited and waited. The two walk toward Moriah, silent except for Isaac’s question, “Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” God responds to Abraham’s obedience by restoring his son and the promise. The saga concludes on a note of joy, as Sarah gave birth to a son and God’s promise has passed to the next generation.

The saga of Jacob

The second ancestral saga begins as did the first, “These are the descendants of Isaac” (25:19). This begins with a family in conflict. God acknowledges that conflict will mark this family present and future (25:23).

The fighting begins in the womb! Over the years readers have tended to take Jacob’s side over Esau. The narrative itself

Immediately God asks Abraham to give Isaac up, to sacrifice the beloved son for whom they had prayed and waited and waited.

the Joseph saga, Genesis 37-50). Or, the saga may consist of a series of episodes and poems held together by a theme such as a journey (the Abraham/Sarah saga, Gen. 11:27-25:18).

The saga of the earliest time

Genesis begins with the saga of all humanity, which scholars call the primeval (earliest age) saga. This begins with a prologue, the familiar poetic litany of creation organized by the seven-day pattern. This litany reaches its crescendo with creation in the image of God, the man and the woman (1:27-30). They were blessed with fertility and placed in charge of all creation.

The familiar narrative that follows tells of God forming ‘adam (the man) of earth and breathing into ‘adam the breath of life. The one “not good” element in creation, “loneliness,” is solved by the creation of “the woman,” while the man was deep in sleep.

The series of narratives that follow tell of the destruction of God’s creation with the breakdown in the relationship between the man and woman, siblings, and even the divine beings and mortal women (Genesis 2-6). In anguish, God decides to complete the destruction initiated by sin and start over (Genesis 6-9). However, human violation that ruined creation initially re-emerges first in family (Genesis 9) and then in community (Genesis 11).

had no child.” That conflicts directly with God’s promise: “Go from your country . . . to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation” (12:1-2).

This divine promise echoes throughout the ancestral sagas—Abraham/Sarah, Jacob, and Joseph—constituting the thread that weaves together the ancestral drama. The juxtaposition of these two “facts,” Sarah’s barrenness and God’s promise, begs for resolution.

Abraham and Sarah want a child. How can there be a great nation if

Abraham sacrifices Isaac, engraving by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1851-60).





does not do that. Sometimes one initiates the fight, sometimes the other. The same is true for the subsequent conflicts in the family: Jacob and Laban and Rachel and Leah. To be sure, Jacob and Rachel's son, Joseph, will carry God's promise on to the next generation, but the narrative itself does not absolve any family member of responsibility for perpetuating and intensifying the family conflict.

The center of the saga lies in the struggle between Jacob's wives, Leah and Rachel (29:31-30:24): Leah is fertile, but not loved; Rachel is loved, but barren. Each feels the anguish of an unfulfilled life. The struggle does not have a happy ending. Rachel gives birth to a son, Joseph, but expresses her continued anguish: "May the LORD add to me another son!" (30:24). Rachel becomes pregnant again, but dies giving birth, naming the child "Ben-oni" (son of my sorrow) (35:18). Leah never receives the love she seeks (30:20), yet it is Leah who is buried in the family "plot" with Jacob (49:28).

Conflict follows this family throughout the saga. There are moments when the conflicted family comes together, as when Rachel and Leah unite in opposition to their father, Laban (31:14), and when Esau and Jacob together bury their father, Isaac (35:29). But most importantly, the conflict that tears this family apart does not destroy the divine promise that the family carries (35:12).

The saga of Joseph

Once again we find the familiar words introducing a new saga: "These are the descendants of Jacob" (37:2). This saga reads like a short story, following the triumphs and tragedies of Joseph from age 17 to his death. The plot moves from the disintegration of the family to its reconciliation. Can the divine promise survive the disintegration of the chosen family?

Later on Joseph rises to heroic stature, but not at the beginning! A young shepherd tending flocks alongside his brothers, Joseph brought home to his father negative reports about his brothers. Jacob gives his favorite son, Joseph, a costly robe. Joseph further ignites animosity by relating his dreams to his brothers—dreams in which Joseph becomes the head of the family, the one to which his siblings would pay royal homage.

The brothers responded with a conspiracy of their own, kidnapping and selling their brother to a passing caravan. Joseph ends up in Egypt, serving in Pharaoh's court, and Jacob mourns the presumed death of his beloved son.

In Egypt, Joseph grows to the stature of a model son of Israel. He gains a position of political power and employs that power for the benefit of the Egyptians and for his family. A famine forces the family reconnection (41:57, 42:1-3). Through a series of encounters, Joseph engineers the movement of

his brothers, who do not recognize him. Thereby Joseph introduces a measure of accountability for his brothers' abuse of him, provides food for his Hebrew family, and eventually sees his favorite brother, Benjamin, and his father, Israel (Jacob).

The conclusion of this saga comes in the speech by Joseph: "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones" (50:20).

In these few words, Joseph sets his family's life within the divine drama of blessing: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. . . . and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Gen. 12:2-3). The family of Israel finds itself forgiven, reconciled, and secure.

• • •

Genesis began with the divine evaluation of creation: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (1:31). Then life becomes dreadful. Sin manifests itself in disobedience, murder, violence, intrigue, abuse, etc. But in the midst of that, fertility continues, reconciliation happens, faithfulness occurs.

As the book draws to a close, Joseph gathers the family's story up and interprets it theologically: regardless of what people intend, God works for good, that all might be fed, families might be restored, and blessing might flourish for all the families of the earth. 

Eugene F. Roop is president of Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind.

MESSENGER'S "Journey through the Word" series will provide a brief overview of a different book (or books) of the Bible each month through December 2009. Coming in February: Exodus, by Grady Snyder.

GENESIS: A CLOSER LOOK

When Written: Oral tradition dating from 1500 B.C. and later

Famous Stories: Creation accounts; Cain and Abel; Noah and the ark; tower of Babel; stories of Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, and Joseph

Well-known Verses: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1); "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Gen. 12:2).

Other Notes: Genesis is the first book of what is known as the "Pentateuch," the five books of Moses. Those books are known in Jewish tradition as the "Torah," or the law.



Connie Burk Davis, left, receives a recognition certificate upon completing her term of service on the Association of Brethren Caregivers board as of Dec. 31, 2004. Board chair Sue Moore presented the certificate at the board's September meeting.

ABC shifts focus to 'ministry imperatives'

The Association of Brethren Caregivers (ABC) board approved a re-envisioning of ministries during Sept. 24-26 meetings in Elgin, Ill. The board agreed with staff recommendations to change ABC's focus from nine distinct ministries to five "ministry imperatives": Whole-Person Health Ministry, Disabilities Ministry, Older Adult Ministry, Mental Health/Illness Ministry, and Uncompensated Care.

"We're changing the paradigm around the way ABC has provided ministry to the denomination," ABC executive director Kathy Reid said. "Under this structure of imperatives, ABC can focus its attention on five specific areas, allowing more flexibility to respond to new concerns and inviting opportunities for collaboration."

The re-envisioning will have implications for ABC's services, Reid said. Resources for the Denominational Deacon Ministry will be provided under each new imperative, providing crossover for people providing caregiving in congregations; each imperative has a component devoted to family life concerns; the Voice Ministry will continue with several ministry components but will devote attention to the Mental Health/Illness Ministry; and the Whole-Person Health Ministry, a re-naming of the Lafiya program, will shift from a congregational approach to a focus on individual awareness of health and wholeness. Ongoing programs such as

National Older Adult Conference and the Caring Ministries Assembly will continue.

The Brethren Chaplains Network has been realigned to the General Board's Ministry Office to better serve the denomination's chaplains. ABC will continue to provide training events for chaplains at denominational conferences.

A new area is the issue of uncompensated care. Emerging from the Fellowship of Brethren Homes, this imperative will raise awareness of problems Brethren homes experience by providing \$14 million annually for residents no longer able to pay for care.

In other work, the board created a study committee to evaluate how ABC and its ministries fit into the structure of the denomination. This committee will report its findings at the fall 2005 board meeting. ABC will then be prepared to share its viewpoint with the Annual Conference Review and Evaluation Committee, which will evaluate Brethren structure and programs in 2006.

The board also approved a break-even budget for 2005, and bylaw changes were made to allow the chair of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes, a ministry of ABC, to serve as an ex officio board member with voting ability. Board members elected Allegra Hess of West Chicago, Ill., and John Katonah of Evanston, Ill., to second terms on the board and Daniel McRoberts of Caledonia, Mich., to a first term.

Brethren participate in NCC General Assembly

Five Brethren represented the denomination at this year's National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) General Assembly meeting in St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 9-11.

Delegates Nelda Rhodes Clarke, Jennie Ramirez, and Marianne Miller Speicher, who began a four-year term of service with this meeting, were among those attending, along with Stan Noffsinger, general secretary of the General Board, and Becky Ullom, the board's director of Identity and Relations. The theme "Weave Anew: Unity, Peace and Justice, Hope," based on Ephesians 4:15-16, encouraged the 36 member communions to reclaim their collective Christian voice on a national level.

The assembly unanimously adopted a comprehensive policy statement called "The Church and Children: Visions and Goals for the 21st Century," representing a holistic view of childhood and the diversity of children's gifts and needs. Delegates also reaffirmed the NCC executive board's call for urgent intervention to stop the killing in Darfur, Sudan, and received a new study guide and gave feedback for development of a new policy on human biotechnologies.

The assembly addressed the national elections

with an "Action on Dialogue Among US Christians on Christian Values" and a related "Open Letter." In the action, written "in the wake of divisive national elections in which matters of faith played a highly visible role, and during which the discussion of moral values resulted in the widely held perception of opposing Christian camps in the United States," the assembly asked for "a process that attempts to engage the spectrum of Christian churches in our communities in dialogues about Christian values."

The meeting marked the death of Yasser Arafat with prayers "for his people, colleagues, and families" and a call "for restraint on the part of all parties and respect for the dignity of all peoples and sacred places."

Prior to the assembly, about 30 young adults gathered to discuss young adults' role in the NCC

NCC honors labor success

Two former opponents in a years-long workers' rights struggle were co-recipients of a Peace and Justice Award of Excellence from the National Council of Churches (NCC) General Assembly. Stan Noffsinger, general secretary of the Church of the Brethren General Board, said the event marked a significant success for all involved.

Baldemar Velasquez, of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), and William Bryan, CEO of the Mt. Olive (N.C.) Pickle Company, were honored for their labor agreement, ending a 5 1/2-year consumer boycott of the company.

The agreement, made with the North Carolina Growers Association, allows 8,000 guest workers from Mexico to gain a contract and union representation, among other measures. The guest workers are the first such workers in the US to gain these goals, the NCC said.

"I rejoice," said retired pastor Gene Bucher, who last year finished a four-year term as a Church of the Brethren delegate to the NCC. "It is a great victory."

and issues facing that group as individuals and as a demographic. "It was a blessing to meet young adults from other denominations who are also committed to making Christ's yearnings for humanity a reality," Ullom said.

For more details on the assembly, visit www.nccusa.org.

Anniversary committee meets with The Brethren Church

The Annual Conference Anniversary Committee met Oct. 14-17 in Ashland, Ohio, spending an afternoon with the Brethren Church Tercentennial Committee to plan joint activities at Annual Conference 2008 in Richmond, Va., when Brethren mark their 300th anniversary.

The committee's recorder, Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, announced plans for the joint 2008 Conference. The Church of the Brethren and The Brethren Church will open the conference with separate worship services Saturday evening. The groups will then come together for celebratory events Sunday including morning worship, interpretive activities in the afternoon, and a global celebration in the evening. The denominations will conduct business separately Monday and Tuesday, and close the conference with a joint worship service Wednesday morning. The conference will include joint interpretive displays related to the anniversary.

A subcommittee of Leslie Lake and Dean Garrett (Church of the Brethren), and Brad Weidenhamer and Dale Stoffer

(Brethren Church) was named to plan the Sunday afternoon activities. Another subcommittee will be named to plan the joint worship experiences, including members from both anniversary committees and the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.

A September 2007 kick-off celebration at Germantown Church of the Brethren in Philadelphia is being planned. Members of all the denominations that trace their roots to the first Brethren baptisms in 1708 in Schwarzenau, Germany, will be invited. Initial ideas for the event include lectures, a Sunday morning worship service, a neighborhood service project, ethnic food booths, and a marketplace.

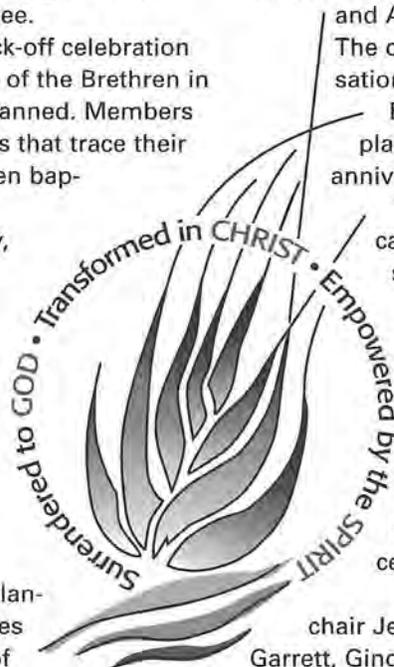
The committee also spent significant time planning events and activities specific to the Church of the Brethren. Gingrich said the committee has held conversations with a

variety of groups about how to include them and their constituents in the celebration, including: the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren, Cross-Cultural Ministries Team, Women's Caucus, and Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.

The committee also is in conversation with the Brethren Encyclopedia Board about planning for an August 2008 anniversary event in Schwarzenau.

The committee has put out calls for submissions of anniversary-related music and dramas, and a call for worship resources is forthcoming; details are at www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.org. Resources will be distributed in late 2006 so that congregations and districts can prepare for 2007-08 celebrations.

Committee members are chair Jeff Bach, Don Durnbaugh, Garrett, Gingrich, Lake, Lorele Yager, and Annual Conference executive director Lerry Fogle, ex officio.



JAPAN



Beverly Eikenberry holds up an origami crane carrying a crystal heart. The peace crane was made famous worldwide by the true story of Sadako Sasaki, a 12-year-old girl who died of leukemia from her exposure to the atom bomb as a 2-year-old. Sasaki folded 1,000 paper cranes in the hope that it would make her well.

The World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan, marks its 40th anniversary in 2005. On Aug. 7, 1965, 20 years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the center was started by Barbara Reynolds, an American Quaker, and Tomin Harada, a Hiroshima physician. Directors for the center have been Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and Friends. Many have been Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) workers.

The directors, usually a married couple, live at the center and provide hospitality for nearly 125 guests a month, teach English classes, visit a nursing home for survivors of the atomic bomb, and direct daily operations with the help of a bilingual staff person. Joel and Beverly Eikenberry, members of Manchester Church of the Brethren, North Manchester, Ind., are currently serving as directors through BVS. Don and Pauline Hess of Virginia will begin a two-year term as directors in May.

Beverly Eikenberry shared the following from her experience at the project:

"Hiroshima is an old story,' I said to my husband as we contemplated our answer to a call to serve as directors of the World Friendship Center. 'The world's eyes are on places like Israel and Iraq. No one cares about Hiroshima any more.'

"We came to Hiroshima in spite of our question about its relevance, because we wanted to support the center's mission of peace. What we discovered about Hiroshima, however, surprised us. Aug. 6 will mark 60 years since the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. In those 60 years Hiroshima has remembered the devastation and has cared for those who suffered because of it. Out of this remembering, the people of Hiroshima

live committed to peace and reconciliation. For 60 years Hiroshima has been talking, living, working . . . making peace.

"Hiroshima is relevant because of a decision made only a year after experiencing total devastation. Hiroshima decided to rebuild as an international city of peace. Making that statement alone is commendable, but the city actually lives out its goal. Examples are countless.

"Before a performance of *The Messiah* last December, the principal of a school encouraged everyone in the audience to do what they personally could to make peace. A high school music teacher organizes small public performances in the Peace Memorial Park,

LEARN MORE

Beverly and Joel Eikenberry will lead an insight session and host a booth related to the World Friendship Center at the 2005 Annual Conference. Conference will be held July 2-6 in Peoria, Ill.

where peace songs are performed, poetry is read, and a microphone is passed for individuals to express thoughts and opinions. The major newspaper supported sending five delegations around the world to engage people in discussions about making peace. The mayor is organizing an international conference of mayors in New York in May, when the non-proliferation treaty is revisited. Others are interpreting for British prisoners of war from World War II, who are returning to their places of internment through a program called 'Agape.' One village raised a monument in their honor, and some of the POWs have experienced a healing peace for the first time in their lives.

"Survivors of the atomic bomb tell their stories of growing beyond bitterness and hatred to reconciliation and a goal of 'No more Hiroshimas!' Those who are able to tell their stories do so because of a passionate desire for others never to experience what they did. They have traveled a journey deep within themselves that leads to the understanding that the real wrong is not atomic weapons, nor any particular nation or people. The real wrong is war itself.

"We feel humbled at the sight of an entire city seriously working at peace and reconciliation. Hiroshima is a voice of reason and compassion crying in the wilderness of a world at war. The voice is soothing and full of hope. Hiroshima, we have discovered, is not an old story. Hiroshima is the story we wish will be our future."



Beverly Eikenberry

Joel Eikenberry assists Michiko Yamaoka as she relates her experience of the atomic bombing to a PAX group at the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima. Yamaoka was one of the "Hiroshima maidens" survivors of the bombing who were brought to the US for plastic surgery. The Eikenberrys report that she "attributes the beginning of her healing to the time when a Quaker Bible study group accepted her, and an American full of compassion said to her, 'I'm sorry.'"

The American Committee for the World Friendship Center recruits the directors as well as Peace Ambassadors—or "PAX Teams"—who visit Japan and the US to spread the message of peace. For more details about the director position, contact Larry and Alice Petry, 330-733-2879 or petryvilla@aol.com. For information about PAX Teams, contact Mary Ann Albert, 574-834-3406 or cwamaa@maplenet.net.

BVS units complete orientations

Two Brethren Volunteer Service units—numbers 261 (Brethren Revival Fellowship) and 262—have completed orientation, with 30 volunteers beginning new projects across the US, Europe, Latin America, and Africa. Volunteers, their home churches or hometowns, and placements (if available) are as follows:



Unit 261 (above). *Back row:* John Shenk (staff); Jennifer Kennedy, Upton Church of the Brethren, Mercersburg, Pa., to Maine Area Home School, Lewiston, Maine; Lynette and Holly Auker, Blue Ball Church of the Brethren, Gap, Pa., to Good Shepherd Food Bank, Auburn, Maine. *Front row:* Ruby Shenk (staff); Rob Raker, Greencastle (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, to Brethren Mission House, Dominican Republic; Amanda Akers, Welsh Run Church of the Brethren, St. Thomas, Pa.; Marian, Kevin, and Tyler Auker, Blue Ball Church of the Brethren, Gap, Pa., to Good Shepherd Food Bank, Auburn, Maine.

Unit 262 (below). *Front row:* Sandee Kitzel, Monitor Church of the Brethren, Conway, Kan., to Brethren Disaster Response, New Windsor, Md.; Tara Failey, West Worthington, Ohio, to Pesticide Action Network, San Francisco; Kevin Dibert, Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, to Brethren Disaster Response, New Windsor, Md.;

Missy Clements, Codorus Church of the Brethren, Loganville, Pa., to L'Arche Kilkenny in Ireland; Dana Young, Grace Church in Akron, Ohio, to L'Arche Dublin, Ireland; Philipp Pfefferle, Bad Krozingen, Germany, to Su Casa Catholic Worker House, Chicago.

Middle row: Larry Kitzel, Monitor Church of the Brethren, Conway, Kan., to Brethren Disaster Response, New Windsor, Md.; Jenny Hartwell, Deltona, Fla., to Brethren Woods, Keezletown, Va.; Nicole Suiters, New Enterprise (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, to Friendship Day Care, Hutchinson, Kan.; Melissa Neher, Santa Cruz, Calif., and Daniel Otten, Freising, Germany, to Camp Courageous, Monticello, Iowa; Carolyn Gong, University Baptist and Brethren Church, State College, Pa., to Bridgeway, Lakewood, Colo.; Carmen Kingsley, Elkhart, Ind., to Emmaus Community, France; Kandice Arwood, Ottawa, Ill., to GETO, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Back row: Christoph Baecker, Paderborn, Germany, to Hopewell Inn, Mesopotamia, Ohio; Stephanie Speicher, Richmond, Ind., to Su Casa Catholic Worker House, Chicago; Daniel Otten, Freising, Germany, to Camp Courageous, Monticello, Iowa; Krista Kunkel-Baecker, Paderborn, Germany, to Hopewell Inn, Mesopotamia, Ohio; Rebecca Allen, Seattle, to CPR Sierra, Guatemala; Anji Couillard, White Bear Lake, Minn., to Trees for Life, Wichita, Kan.; Steph Hartley, Lewistown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, to Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria Secondary School; Andy Miracle, Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren, to General Board Brethren Witness/Washington (D.C.) Office; Emily Wampler, Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren, to CooperRiis, Mill Spring, N.C.; Oliver Peter, Hamburg, Germany, to CentrePeace, Bellefonte, Pa.; Michael Stover, Dayton, Va., to Washington (D.C.) City Nutrition Program; Becky Snavelly, Mountville, Pa., to Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos, Houston, Texas.

For more details on BVS, visit www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Jan. 16-Feb. 12 Global Mission Partnerships Nigeria Workcamp, Mubi, Nigeria

Jan. 18-25 Prayer for Christian Unity week

Jan. 23-Feb. 11 Brethren Volunteer Service Winter Unit 263, Gotha, Fla.

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 Council of District Executives Winter Meeting, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Mar. 1-31 Mental Retardation Awareness Month

Mar. 4 World Day of Prayer

Mar. 4-6 On Earth Peace 30th anniversary event, Modesto and La Verne, Calif.

Mar. 4-6 Regional Youth Conference, McPherson (Kan.) College

Mar. 6 Brethren Press spring curriculum quarter begins



Genelle Wine

Church of the Brethren creates Christmas Eve service for CBS

by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

On the evening of Nov. 23, Bethany Theological Seminary's Nicarry Chapel was lit up within and without for the taping of the Church of the Brethren Christmas Eve service on CBS. Through the stop-and-go action of three days of rehearsals and four hours of taping, a Brethren worship service was created to glorify God and to extend an invitation to millions of viewers.



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

"It feels like this is a gift that the church has been given," said preacher Chris Bowman, pastor of Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna, Va. "It's in turn a gift that we can give back to other people." Admitting to some nervousness before the taping, Bowman said wryly, "I'm a good Brethren preacher, so I second-guess my sermon all the time. My goals in writing it were first just to tell the story again, second to bring a bit of a challenge to folks to respond with

committee of Bethany staff had help from area congregations, students, and volunteers to provide onsite coordination and hospitality for the 200-some people who took part.

Only participants, crew, and a by-invitation audience were in the chapel for the taping. Families and friends of the participants watched a live feed in the school's gathering room. Inside the chapel, Bowman preached about living out Christmas; 51 students from Juniata College, in Huntingdon, Pa., blended their voices with a children's choir from four congregations in Indiana; soloists and instrumentalists gathered new energy for the "real thing"; readers took advantage of coaching by Bethany professor Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm—who wrote most of the spoken worship resources—to share the gospel message. Candlelighting ended the service, as it does at many Brethren congregations on Christmas Eve, and then came something most Brethren do not experience: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" to the rhythm of congas and steel drum.

Playing the steel drums was Glenn McClure, who composed a piece sung by the Juniata choir, "Santo," the first movement of "St. Francis in the Americas: A Caribbean Mass." The composer from Geneseo, N.Y., is not Brethren but offered to play for the taping after music coordinator Shawn Kirchner asked permission to rewrite the piece, which has been performed at Carnegie Hall, for a smaller drum section.

The taping represented much work by many people, as organizers had only two months to pull the service together. Brethren Press publisher Wendy McFadden served as executive producer. For the technical side of creating a network-quality program, she worked with producers from the Presbyterian Church (USA), who created last year's Christmas Eve service for CBS. The service's content was planned by McFadden, Kirchner, Bowman, Wilhelm, and Stan Noffsinger, general secretary, and Del Keeney, Congregational Life Ministries executive, of the General Board. Many others worked on tasks such as decor, communications, copyright permissions, translation, and logistics.

Those involved with the service could not find enough superlatives to express their feelings.

"We're giddy," said Jodi Schwartz, whose children Erin and Ben were in the children's choir. "I think it's a marvelous opportunity," said Russ Shelley, director of the Juniata choir. "It was a celebration," said Michael Hodson, a reader for the service. "I'll remember it for a very long time," said Thomas Dowdy, who played the saxophone.

Audience members agreed. "I enjoyed it immensely," said Donna Hollenberg of Richmond Church of the Brethren. Asked if she would watch it again on Christmas Eve, she did not pause: "Oh yes!" **W**

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford is director of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board.

To order a DVD or video of the service (\$14.95 or \$19.95, respectively, plus shipping and handling), including a behind-the-scenes documentary by Brethren videographer David Sollenberger, call Brethren Press at 800-441-3712.

their lives, and third to try to be authentically Brethren."

The seminary campus in Richmond, Ind., was taken over by the event for several days. A film crew from Lyon Video and lighting crew from SaboStudios numbered close to 30. They surrounded the school with trucks full of equipment and monitors, parked a generator on the front walkway, placed lights on the chapel roof to illuminate its high windows, and snaked cables through the hallways. Evergreens were propped outside the chapel windows and votive candles festooned areas of the lawn visible from inside.

Musicians and choirs held hours of rehearsals. A planning

ONCAMPUS



Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.)

Bridgewater had a record 540 freshmen begin this past fall, part of a booming enrollment at the school. ... The Eagles lost 55-48 in overtime to Washington & Jefferson in the first round of the Division III football playoffs. Four team members were named to the All-South Region football team.



Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, Pa.)

Alumni Candace Abel of Elizabethtown, a 2002 graduate, and David Sykes, a 1970 graduate, each begin serving a three-year term on the board of trustees in January. Abel is founder and director of Brittany's Hope, an Elizabethtown foundation that helps families seeking to adopt special-needs children. Sykes is president and CEO of Prospec Electronics, Inc. of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.



Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.)

A 24-year wait for a national title finally ended in Rochester, Minn., Nov. 27 as the Juniata women's volleyball team captured its first Division III national championship on the strength of a 3-0 victory over Washington University (Mo.). Juniata (37-3) captured the elusive title on its 19th trip to the semifinals. Larry Bock was named the 2004 Tachikara/AVCA Division III National Coach of the Year.



University of La Verne (La Verne, Calif.)

The school received a record number of applications for this academic year, according to the *Campus Times*: 2,000 as compared to 1,680 the previous year. The entering freshman class was the largest in La Verne history, part of a total of 559 new students who started this fall. La Verne has a total of 7,646 undergraduate and graduate students.



Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.)

Jo Young Switzer became president of Manchester Dec. 1, seven months earlier than announced at her appointment last August. Outgoing president Parker Marden will continue as "president in leave"; the transition was made early so that Marden can work primarily as a fund-raiser. Switzer's formal inauguration will take place next fall.



McPherson College (McPherson, Kan.)

McPherson students Tiffany Barry and Kari Kresky have been designated 2004 "Teachers of Promise" by the Kansas State Department of Education. Barry is pursuing a degree in English, while Kresky is completing a degree in elementary education.



Beth Rhodes

Myles Smith of Bakersville, N.C., assists at a Washington, D.C., food bank during a 2004 summer workcamp. Registration for 2005 workcamps opened Dec. 1, with 203 registrations in the first 8 hours. Visit www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/workcamps.

No fear: God's presence is felt at workcamps

Christina Custer, a youth member of Oakland Church of the Brethren near Gettysburg, Ohio, shared the following among reflections from her experience at a 2004 Church of the Brethren summer workcamp in St. Croix, Virgin Islands:

"As 25 youth jumped out of the vans from the airport, I realized that not only was I the only youth from Oakland, but I was the only youth from our entire state. When entering the girls' bedroom for the week, I felt out of place and didn't know where to put my bags.

"A familiar face soon drove away those fears, though. Asleep on the top bunk, an old friend from a junior high workcamp gave me a huge hug after a little bit of prodding to wake her up. Friendships were the least of the things I needed to worry about. By the end of the week I felt like every single person in our group was a friend—a blessing that doesn't always happen when a large group of teenagers get together. . . .

"I didn't travel all the way down to the Caribbean just to make friends, though, and our workcamp directors made sure that there was plenty of work to go around. Our group of 30 was divided into three groups, and I ended up on a construction crew. When I first heard this, I was a little worried because I'm not exactly the greatest with a hammer and nails.

"It wasn't the hammer and nails I had to worry about I soon realized, however, as we reached our worksite and a man with Americorps pointed to the top of a high roof that we were to seal and said, 'C'mon.' I could feel myself go a little weak. Heights have always bothered me, and this man was proposing that I climb a ladder to work on a roof for the entire day. I was about to suggest that I go with a different crew when I thought, 'I came down here to work by being Jesus' hands and feet; if this is where he wants me to be, I am sure he'll help me with my fear.'

"I won't say that the fear never came up again—especially when I was climbing down the ladder and it shifted about a foot before someone grabbed it, but I truly believe God calmed my fears so that I could work and help the family that lived in the home. When I saw the family, who had about 9 or 10 children and lived in this tiny house, I was grateful God had given me the strength to allow them to live in a home that would stand up to any storms."—Christina Custer

If Grace Is True: A controversial look at universalism

Does God save every person? In their book, *If Grace Is True*, Philip Gulley and James Mulholland answer with an enthusiastic "Yes."

Both men grew up and became Quaker pastors while believing in judgment and eternal damnation for those who are not saved. Having to preach the sermon at a memorial service for a troubled, wounded woman who had never accepted Christ triggered a change. That eulogy "was the breaching of a dam—the first rivulet of what would soon become a coursing flood."



JAMES H. LEHMAN

"Now, by salvation," they write, "I mean much more than a ticket to heaven. I mean much more than

being cleansed of our sins and rescued from hell's fire. I mean even more than being raised from the grave and granted eternal life. By salvation, I mean being freed of every obstacle to intimacy with God."

The authors are offended by the picture of God as a harsh judge who would banish people to horrible suffering no human parent would ever inflict. Instead God loves us with patience and persistence. God's deepest wish is to be in relationship with us, and God will not stop until

"God's patience is infinite. It is not merely for this life. God's grace is persistent. It endures beyond the grave."

every person has taken his or her place in the kingdom.

The authors examine the Bible, which shows us both a wrathful God and a loving God. They argue that the believer must weigh scripture to discern which passages accurately reflect God's character. They suggest Jesus himself did this, in Matthew 22:36-40, where he emphasized one part of scripture over others in answering the question about the greatest commandment.

The authors wrestle with the idea that Christ had to die to satisfy God's wrath. They confront the question

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

"In their desire to emphasize the power of God's grace, they end up trivializing human freedom... But Gulley and Mulholland have done what many evangelicals and orthodox Christians more generally have failed to do: they have honestly faced the church's traditional doctrines of salvation and eternal justice, even if only to reject them."

—John Wilson, *Christianity Today*

whether people can come to God who do not know Christ. They struggle deeply and painfully with the place of people like Adolf Hitler. They ask whether people can be reconciled with God after they die. They deal with the violent images of judgment in Revelation.

In the end they answer, "God's love is eternal. It does not end at our death. God's patience is infinite. It is not merely for this life. God's grace is persistent. It endures beyond the grave."

This is a readable book, liberally salted with anecdotes and citations from scripture, but the authors make the odd stylistic choice to combine their experiences and write in the first person singular "I" rather than the plural "we." The book has two valuable appendices: "Universalist Themes and Verses in Scripture" and a "Short History of Universalism."

The authors conclude with this vivid image: "At the great banquet, the only tears will be tears of joy. We will see a fundamentalist Christian embracing Gandhi, a humbled Hitler washing the feet of a Jewish Holocaust victim with his tears, Paul shaking hands with a Japanese pilot, Jesus kissing Judas. The lion lying down with the lamb."

For some Brethren this will be a radical and troubling book. Others will find it reassuring. **44**

James H. Lehman is owner of Brotherstone Publishers, an author, and a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Phillip Gulley & James Mulholland, *If Grace Is True* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2003), 256 pages. Paperback list price: \$13.95.

Gulley is a Quaker minister and author of a series of novels set in the fictional town of Harmony, Ind. Mulholland is author of *Praying Like Jesus*.

A BRETHREN CONNECTION

The 36-page essay *Universal Restoration*, part of the Brethren Press "Perspectives" series, looks at a form of universalism that has been held by some Brethren during the denomination's history. Author Frank Ramirez examines this belief of all people being redeemed at the final judgment through both scriptural and historical roots. "From Alexander Mack to Vernard Eller, seminal members of our denomination have held this (belief) to be true," he writes. The booklet includes study questions and a bibliography. To order this or other titles in the Perspectives series, call Brethren Press at 800-441-3712.



Chaplaincy also a lay option

The article by Chris Meehan in the October MESSENGER prompts me to affirm that hospital chaplaincy is not only an option for ordained or licensed clergy, but for lay persons as well.

I am indebted to Chris Douglas for this enlightenment. As pastor of the Indianapolis Northview Church of the Brethren, she questioned me one day as we drove to a district event what I had in mind when I retired. I replied that I had nothing particular planned, but was not really concerned about that period in life.

However, at her instigation, I met the director of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Indianapolis Methodist Hospital (now part of Clarian Health System). The result of that conversation was that I entered the next CPE class and thereby began one of the most personally enlightening and spiritually fulfilling times of my life—so much so that I joined a subsequent CPE unit. Now, 15 years later, I continue to volunteer two days per week as a chaplain on a surgery/trauma nursing unit in the hospital.

The purpose of this letter is to emphasize that volunteer work in chaplaincy does not necessarily require training beyond CPE. That is not to say that additional academic training wouldn't be helpful, but as a denomination that embraces belief in "the priesthood of all believers" there is a place for lay persons in chaplaincy. I might also attest to the advantage of being non-clergy when the patient may have developed negative attitudes toward the

Pontius' Puddle



We've **tripled** our
"Connections" grant!
Now it's \$3,000 for incoming
Church of the Brethren
students.

Why?

Brethren students model
another way of living
... on our campus.
... in our congregations.
... in the world.

Added to other aid for students beginning fall 2005.
We also offer scholarships of \$1,500 for each year of service
to students who participate in BVS before entering college.

Manchester College
www.manchester.edu

Don't Forget the 2005 MESSENGER Youth Essay Contest

Anyone age 13-18 during the current school year is eligible. Just answer the question, "What do you like best about the Church of the Brethren?" in 300 words or less and send it to messenger@brethren.org or to 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 by March 31. Include name, address, age, phone numbers, e-mail, and home congregation. Up to five entries will be published in the July/August 2005 issue, and the writer of the top entry will be invited to share his or her essay at the 2005 MESSENGER dinner at Annual Conference.

Building relationships. Advancing your mission.



Pat Swartzendruber (Virginia), Dan Hess (Indiana), Rich Gerig (Arizona), Jerry Kennell (Colorado), Mike Wiese (Indiana).



ADVANCEMENT Associates

Strategic visioning / Fundraising campaigns
Constituency relations / Communications

866-777-1606 toll free
info@advanassociates.com
www.advanassociates.com

organized church. At times I have been able to say, "Would you tell me more about your experience? I'm a lay person."

Ernie Barr
Carmel, Ind.

Team ministry needs breadth

Interesting article on "free ministry." It sounds like a good idea to get more voices in the formal ministry of our churches. But I was rather amazed to see that some featured churches, such as the Middle Creek Church, appear to have a ministry staff composed solely of men!

The beauty of the idea of team ministry is that it encompasses various perspectives at the formal ministry level. I wonder how a team of all white men can offer that breadth of perspective on the experience of life, for all of God's children?

It would be interesting to hear how different churches seek out the voices of the full range of humanity: women (and men), people of color (and white people), the poor and the wealthy, people of varying ages. The diversity of humanity is our strength, and we as Christians need to reach out to hear from all of our beautifully diverse humanity.

Audrey DeCoursey
Portland, Ore.

THE MUTUAL AID SHARE FUND

A Caring and Sharing Ministry

The Mutual Aid Share Fund is a nonprofit corporation created to provide matching financial assistance to congregations addressing financial needs in their church or community. Join the individuals and churches who insure their properties with MAA! Through the Mutual Aid Share Fund, membership fees and donations uphold the principles of Christian faith and help support our Brethren denomination.



 **Mutual Aid Association**
FOR CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

3094 Jeep Road, Abilene, KS 67410-6064 1-800-255-1243 www.maabrethren.com

HOMEOWNERS FARM RENTERS BUSINESS CHURCH

Should we be 'set apart'?

It has been an increasing problem for me to accept our Brethren description of ministry as "set-apart." I suspect the term derives from the Acts 13 account of the calling of Saul and Barnabas at Antioch into missionary service. However, making this term normative to describe ordination is of little value, really. Moreover, I think it actually speaks *against* our basic beliefs as Brethren.

With our historically strong idea of the "priesthood of all believers," how can we call persons to a special category suggested by the term "set-apart"? I've read that our spiri-

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.

tual progenitor, Alexander Mack, would not accept ordination nor any special titles. In the New Testament church, we read that persons were ordained. They were "selected, appointed, chosen" to leadership. They were called to be servant leaders of Christ and the church. In the modern era, ordination is convenient to help us move around the world, which seems to demand an "official" minister. I am certainly not suggesting that we get rid of ordination; but let us not refer to it, as we have been for some years now, by the term "set-apart."

As we strive to call persons into leadership in the church, it may well be very unappealing to them to think of themselves as "set apart" from the body of Christ. We want them to feel very much a part of things, not "set apart" as though they were lepers having to live outside the community, or more highly endowed than the rest of us and unapproachable in that way.

I hope these thoughts will start some others in the larger church to think about how to better describe what we mean by calling and ordination. One suggestion I have which might serve to replace the term "set-apart ministry" is "ordained leadership." When we call people into the ministry, we are calling them to "ordained leadership." That is, they are being chosen to give official leadership in the church.

Perhaps the notion of "set-apart ministry" seemed to fit well with our system of professional, paid ministers. The professional minister is "set apart" by virtue of the fact that he/she is paid to do a job. But with fewer and fewer full-time pastors in the church and with more emphasis on self-supporting and bivocational ministry ["The Return of Free Ministry?," Nov. 2004], there is a lot less "set-apartness" in this way.

Let us get away from using language that not only doesn't say what we really want to say, but, in large part, says what we don't want to say!

Gale Younkins
Harrisonburg, Va.

Ten Commandments are key

The US Supreme Court in 2005 will make its greatest decision by deciding if the Ten Commandments will be displayed in US government buildings ["Quoteworthy," Sept. 2004]. Some states allow it, and some states don't.

The Ten Commandments are a moral law for this nation. The Ten Commandments can't save you. The Ten Commandments aren't a state religion, so they are legal in US government buildings.

NONVIOLENCE
is NOT for
WIMPS
MUSINGS
OF AN OHIO FARMER

RALPH DULL

Nonviolence is Not for Wimps: *Musings of an Ohio Farmer*

Facing violence with active nonviolence may strike most people as being ridiculous, cowardly, and ineffective. This book makes a case for just the opposite, even with Hitler. Musings also include the author's experience in Iraq. The commentary runs the gamut, a little amusing but mostly serious dreaming of what could be.

It includes 18 successful cases of nonviolent action or resistance. A reader says, "The book is a classic in holding one's interest." A reviewer writes, "Reading the musings felt like sitting in the living room talking to Ralph." Another reader, "It's positive, uplifting, and might food for thought."

Available from christine@dull.com
or 937-832-6365.

Paper, 188 pages, (\$15 plus \$3).

PROVIDING TOURS FOR 35 YEARS

2005 TOURS

PARAGUAY SERVICE TOUR
(March 31 - April 14)

TULIP TIME in HOLLAND
(April 25 - May 4)

In the FOOTSTEPS of the APOSTLE PAUL
(May 27 - June 12)

ALASKA CRUISE TOUR (June 8-20)

SWITZERLAND, FRANCE and GERMANY for
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN/FAMILIES
(June 14-21)

SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA and its FJORDS
(June 17 - July 1)

EUROPEAN HERITAGE (July 7-22)

SMALL TOWN THEATRES and COUNTRY GARDENS
(July 26 - August 1)

RUSSIA and UKRAINE (July 29 - August 12)

EUROPEAN FALL HARVEST
(September 22 - October 6)

EGYPT with MEDA (October 9-21)

FOLLOWING JESUS in ISRAEL (October 19-31)

INDONESIA (November 10-27)

2006 TOURS

JAMAICA SERVICE TOUR (January 20-29)

AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND (February 3-23)

VIETNAM (February 8-25) • MEXICO (March 10-18)

PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA and PERU (March 21 - April 6)

ENGLAND and SCOTLAND (June 28 - July 10)



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

CALL 1-800-565-0451
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

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

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

1011 Cothill Road
Sellersville, PA 18960-1315
USA

gather 'ROUND

hearing & sharing God's good news

POSITION OPENINGS

Publishers of the forthcoming *Gather 'Round* Sunday school curriculum seek to fill two editorial positions:

Managing Editor

Full-time position managing the receipt, scheduling, and production of all curriculum materials; editing and proofreading copy; and assisting project director with overall development and administration. Applicants should have excellent editorial and communication skills, have high ability to manage detail, and be well-grounded in Mennonite or Church of the Brethren beliefs and practices. Location: Elgin, Ill., preferred. Start date: End of February 2005 or sooner.

Associate Editor

Half-time contract position overseeing the writing and design of student resources for the curriculum. Applicant should have excellent writing and editorial skills, communicate well in person and over distance, and be well-grounded in Mennonite or Church of the Brethren beliefs and practices. Location: Open. Start date: End of February 2005 or sooner.

Denominational balance on project staff will be a significant factor in selection.

Contact Anna Speicher, project director, at gatherround@brethren.org or 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120. Phone 800-323-8039, ext. 209. Deadline for inquiries: January 15, 2005.

For 215 years, the US Supreme Court has ruled on many decisions, but this one about allowing the Ten Commandments to be displayed in US government buildings will be the most important in the history of the United States.

Just because the Ten Commandments talk about God doesn't mean it's a state religion. What's next—the Declaration of Independence? In the preamble and the Declaration of Rights, it talks about God, but the Declaration of Independence isn't a state religion. Will the US Supreme Court decide that the Declaration of Independence is illegal and wrong?

US sovereignty hangs in the balance on the US Supreme Court's shoulders.

George Culley
Pinckneyville, Ill.

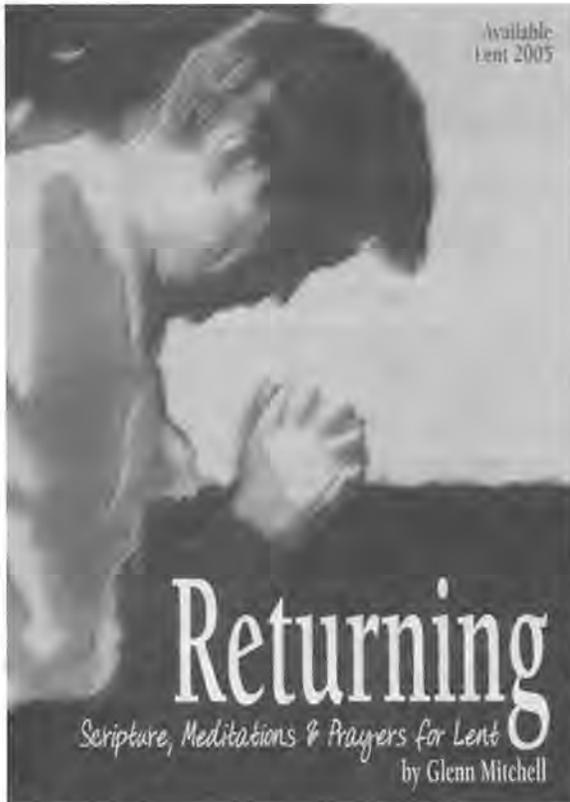
CLASSIFIED ADS

POSITION AVAILABLE: Administrator, Camp Mardela (full-time salaried with benefits and housing). Camp Mardela, located in Denton, Maryland, in the Mid-Atlantic District, offers summer camping programs, seasonal programming, and year-round retreat facilities. The administrator oversees the operation of the camp facility and programs. Desirable skills include business administration, computer, marketing, communication, and extensive church camp leadership experience. Interested persons should send letter of interest and resumé by January 31 to: Curtis Hartman, 7187 Boggs Schoolhouse Rd., Westover, MD 21871, or curtishartman@hotmail.com.

Two beautiful Christian tours escorted by CoB couple with nearly 20 years experience as professional travel agents. June: Van trip in Ireland limited to only ten passengers. Includes a stay in a castle and an authentic Irish Ceili. September: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. Includes a visit to Schwarzenau and Wittenburg to explore our roots. Departures arranged from any gateway city. 877-456-8769 www.smallgrouptours.com.

3.9¢ per minute Long Distance State-to-State. No service fees, no need to dial extra digits, or minimum usage requirements. Rates are the same all day every day, with 6-second billing. In-State Long Distance: MI 2.9¢, IL 2.9¢, OH 3.9¢, IN 3.9¢, PA 4.25¢, VA 4.25¢. 2.9¢ per minute Phone Cards, no connection or maintenance fees. Cards available in \$10 or \$20. Send check to: Walmer Communications, 8913 Orchard Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362. Call toll-free: 1-888-853-9244 or walcom@adelphia.net.

Travel with Joan and Wendell Bohrer to the Greek Isles, June 5, 2005. 12 days. Visit Capri, Dubrovnik, Mykonos, Rhodes, Rome, Athens, Naples, and much more. Contact BOHRER TOURS: Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 3651 US Hwy 27S, #589, Sebring, Florida, 33870 Tel/fax 863-382-9371 e-mail rdwboh@aol.com.



Daily Devotions for Lent and Easter 2005 from Brethren Press

Glenn Mitchell offers a path for returning to our Creator through daily scriptures, meditations, prayers, and suggestions for living with the text through the day.

Item # 8496; \$2.00


Brethren Press

Order from Brethren Press
Phone 800-441-3712
www.brethrenpress.com

Please send information to be included in Turning Points to Jean Clements, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120; 800-523-8039 ext. 206; jclements_gb@brethren.org. Information must be complete in order to be published. Information older than one year cannot be published.

New Members

Beaverton, Mich.: Judy Wolfgang
Community of Joy, Salisbury, Md.: Hannah See, Emma Hutchison, Kevin Brown, Christopher Potvin, Wayne Shores
Dixon, Ill.: Carol Anne McCrystal
English River, South English, Iowa: Melodi Bouslog, James Scanlon, Marie Lewis
Ephrata, Pa.: Dan Fox, Diane Fox, Trevor Graham, Wendy Graham, Brad Ortenzi, Lori Ortenzi
Fairview, Cordova, Md.: Lauren Baker, Nancy Baker, Kristi Boyle
Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: Rex Snider, Paula Snider
Fruitland, Idaho: Shela Gerdau, Craig Gerdau, Christy Munster, Harvey Mahler
Good Samaritan, Brandon, Fla.: Paul Church, Cathey Church
Harmony, Myersville, Md.: Alexis Fogle, Brandon Fogle, Doris Hodge, Matthew Wisner, Wesley Wisner
Lafayette, Ind.: Tom Brown, Ann Belser Brown, Paul Brown
Leamersville, Duncansville, Pa.: Blair Holsinger, Dot Holsinger, Heather Kennedy, Doug Kennedy, Brooke Kennedy, Emily Kennedy, Karen Claar, Amanda Crum, Chris Lamson
Manor, Boonsboro, Md.: June Henson, Sonny Henson
Maple Grove, Norton, Kan.: Lexi Hardiek
Maple Grove, Lexington, N.C.: Lisa Brown
Marsh Creek, Gettysburg, Pa.: Kirsten Orndorff, Vickie Negley
Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Todd Reisinger, Edward Neuhart, Lauren Neuhart, Charles Richmond
Middlecreek, Rockwood, Pa.: Brad Benford, Becky Benford, Chance Benford
Mill Creek, Port Republic, Va.: Eric Humphries, Karen Altice Stutzman
Moorefield, W.Va.: Joyce Wolfe, Becky Smith, Sean Fitzwater,

Murphy Gene Pratt, Allen Barb, Mary Barb
Olathe, Kan.: Paul Coffman
Pleasant View, Burkittsville, Md.: Robert LaGrange, Pat LaGrange, Ken May, Bonnie May
Poplar Ridge, Defiance, Ohio: Robert Chase, Tara Chase
Pyrmont, Ind.: Jacob Smeltzer, Andrea Smeltzer, Wesley Smeltzer, JeanAnne Smeltzer
Purchase Line, Clymer, Pa.: J. Fred King
Red Oak Grove, Floyd, Va.: R. J. Thompson, Karen Thompson
Roxbury, Johnstown, Pa.: Garrett Scott Ford, Dale Andrew Goodwin, Amanda Nicholle Grohal
West Charleston, Tipp City, Ohio: Alaina Harvey, Naomi Miller, Connor Pyles
West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Jerry Miller, Barb Miller, Curtis Bartoe
York Center, Lombard, Ill.: Arbie Karasek

Wedding Anniversaries

Balsbaugh, Robert and Betty, Newmanstown, Pa., 60
Basinger, Dale and Evelyn, Linville, Va., 50
Dunno, John and IvaLoo, Defiance, Ohio, 50
Fleetwood, Douglas and Betty, Cordova, Md., 71
Garver, Kenneth and Elizabeth, Poland, Ohio, 60
Gcib, Roland and Ruth, Ephrata, Pa., 65
Hertzler, Earl and Eva, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 60
Mast, Fred and Frances, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 55
Metzler, John and Anita, Nappanee, Ind., 60
Patrick, Evan and RoseMary, Lafayette, Ind., 50
Plank, Cleyson and Frances, Lewiston, Minn., 50
Saylor, Adrian and Elaine, Saint John, Kan., 50
Schafer, John and Betty, Tipp City, Ohio, 65
Schwarten, Hans and Helen, Cordova, Md., 55
Shaffer, Richard and Edith, Gettysburg, Pa., 55
Smith, David and Wilma, Ashland, Ohio, 50
Strite, Galen and Jane, Middletown, Md., 50
Whitmer, John and Donna, North Liberty, Ind., 60
Wine, Max and Sara, Harrisonburg, Va., 50

Deaths

Barnhart, Virginia, 88, Clearwater, Fla., Oct. 20
Begley, Dorothy, 84, Frederick, Md., Oct. 5
Bowman, Virginia M., 88, Hagerstown, Md., Oct. 22
Brown, Helen Thrasher, 90, Jefferson, Md., July 8
Burroughs, Robert, 77, Hagerstown, Ind., Oct. 18
Butts, Earl L., III, 42, Hagerstown, Md., Nov. 7
Clark, Byron E., 50, Brookville, Ohio, Oct. 15
Clouser, Henry L., 87, York, Pa., Nov. 7
Cripe, Kenneth, 96, Flora, Ind., June 24
Cupp, Martha H., 74, Elgin, Ill., Nov. 19
Curry, Jeanne Eleanor, 50, Milton, Mass., Jan. 20, 2004
Dobbins, Ethel, 85, Wilton, Iowa, July 19
Doutrich, Greta Hopple, 40, Lebanon, Pa., Dec. 5, 2003
Dunno, IvaLoo, 70, Defiance, Ohio, Oct. 18
Echard, Catherine Lam, 84, Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 25
Ecker, J. Aldine, 88, Mount Morris, Ill., Nov. 7
Fair, Alma M., 102, Franklin Grove, Ill., Oct. 23
Felix, Delton, 83, Lafayette, Ind., Nov. 11
Gohn, Helen M., 96, York, Pa., Oct. 30
Green, Thelma E., 89, Grantsville, Md., Oct. 5
Hafer, Helen, 81, Lebanon, Pa., May 30
Haupt, Nancy Jo Grossnickle, 60, Jefferson, Md., June 7
Hillner, Betty Lou, 77, Marengo, Ill., Nov. 19
Hitz, Audrey, 66, Cleona, Pa., Jan. 5, 2004
Hoke, Cassel Jacob, 80, Nappanee, Ind., Oct. 19
Holderread, Kenneth R., 88, Goshen, Ind., Sept. 16
Hoover, Pauline M., 75, Goshen, Ind., Oct. 17
Hoover, Sarah, 85, Martinsburg, Pa., Nov. 10
Hose, James Calvin Eugene, 69, Moorefield, W.Va., Oct. 9
Hostetler, Dwight, 77, Friedens, Pa., Oct. 24
Hursey, Lucile, 89, Somerset, Ohio, Oct. 13
Johnson, Ethel, 94, Wooster, Ohio, July 2
Kerkove, Leveta, 90, Sigourney, Iowa, Aug. 31
Kurtz, Anna Grace, 97, Goshen, Ind., Oct. 51
Laysner, LeRoy, 88, Lebanon, Pa., April 14
Leckey, Mildred, 83, Johnstown, Pa., Oct. 25
Lentz, Paul A., 85, Johnstown, Pa., Nov. 2
Metzler, Anita F., 84, Nappanee, Ind., Oct. 30
Miller, John C., 89, Tipp City, Ohio, Oct. 12
Miller, Lois, 84, Palmyra, Pa., Sept. 24
Murray, Meriam, 86, Brookville, Ohio, Nov. 2
Queer, Catherine, 86, Rockwood, Pa., Jan. 10, 2004
Richards, Helen B., 95, North Manchester, Ind., Oct. 25
Richardson, Charles, 85, La Porte, Ind., Aug. 27
Ross, Kerry, 43, South Bend, Ind., July 24
Royer, Lillian, 85, Lebanon, Pa., Sept. 8
Seppi, Lawrence, 79, Ephrata, Pa., Oct. 4
Shankster, Mildred, 102, Philippi, W.Va., Oct. 16
Sheffer, Paul C., 80, Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 6
Sheller, Mary Gilbert, 100, North Manchester, Ind., Jan. 28, 2004
Slusher, Marvin Eugene, 79, Roanoke, Va., Nov. 5
Spangler, Keith A., 53, Penhook, Va., Oct. 14
Stauffer, Esther, 66, Leola, Pa., Sept. 8
Stauffer, Harold C., 84, Mount Morris, Ill., Oct. 24
Steffy, Clarence, 84, Akron, Pa., Aug. 10
Stewart, Mary Madeline, 84, Boonsboro, Md., Oct. 21
Stover, Ivan, 83, Denver, Pa., Sept. 8
Suter, Corinne, 95, Iowa City, Iowa, June 24
Unger, Hattie, 86, Palmyra, Pa., Sept. 24
Walters, Robert E., 87, Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 18
Weaver, Elmer, 84, East Earl, Pa., Sept. 13
Wise, Merle, 74, Middletown, Md., April 11
Wooten, Jennetta, 82, Enola, Pa., Oct. 18
Yohe, Henry A., 91, York, Pa., Oct. 15

Licensings

Frazer, William Jason, Mo./Ark. Dist. (Bethany, Norborne, Mo.), Sept. 19
Goss, Randall, S/C Ind. Dist. (Lower Deer Creek, Camden, Ind.), March 21
Gwilliams, Fred Mark, Southeastern Dist. (Ewing, Va.), Oct. 17

Huffine, Mark Charles, Southeastern Dist. (Erwin, Tenn.), Oct. 17

Ordinations

Clark, Terry K., Mid-Atl. Dist. (Pipe Creek, Union Bridge, Md.), Oct. 31
Doering, Carol, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Parker Ford, Pa.), Oct. 10
Doering, John N., Jr., Atl. N.E. Dist. (Parker Ford, Pa.), Oct. 10
Doering, Timothy, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Parker Ford, Pa.), Oct. 10
Heck, Dewayne, S. Ohio Dist. (White Cottage, Ohio), Aug. 22

Placements

Beckwith, James M., from pastor, Montezuma, Dayton, Va., to pastor, Annville Pa., Nov. 1
Bowman, Christopher D., from team pastor, Memorial, Martinsburg, Pa., to pastor, Oakton, Vienna, Va., Oct. 24
Decker, James D., pastor, Nanty Glo, Pa., Oct. 4
Goss, Randall, pastor, Lower Deer Creek, Camden, Ind., March 15
Judy, Richard M., team pastor, New Covenant, Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 17
Kindy, David Allen, from interim to pastor, Fraternity, Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 1
McCumber, Jay, pastor, Cornerstone Christian, Lebanon, Pa., Oct. 1
Monn, Timothy L., from pastor, Living Stone, Cumberland, Md., to pastor, Midland, Va., Nov. 14
Oskin, Deborah Lee, team pastor, New Covenant, Columbus, Ohio, June 1
Oskin, Michael D., team pastor, New Covenant, Columbus, Ohio, June 1
Pippin, Louise R., pastor, Green Hill, Westover, Md., Nov. 1
Stacey, Ronald Charles, from interim to pastor, Parkview, Lewistown, Pa., Oct. 31
Statler, Charles B., from interim to pastor, Sipesville, Pa., Nov. 1
Staton, William Henry, Jr., pastor, Bethel, Keezletown, Va., Nov. 1
Waite, John, team pastor, New Covenant, Columbus, Ohio, June 1

Foul behavior

If you don't follow sports, and basketball in particular, you might not know the name Ron Artest. Or, at least, you might not have known it until recently.

On Nov. 19, Artest—a former Chicago Bulls player now with the Indiana Pacers—earned the sort of national spotlight that no player wants. The cameras that night found the 25-year-old Artest in the stands, beating up a fan.

Some details remain sketchy, but the basic plot was this: Artest fouled a Detroit player, the Detroit player responded by shoving Artest. After Artest walked off the court, a fan threw a beverage-filled cup at him. Artest charged into the stands and responded with his fists. One of his teammates soon followed. Then a mob scene broke out, with fans pouring onto the court. A full-scale brawl ensued.



WALT WILTSCHKEK
MESSENGER Editor

NBA commissioner David Stern responded by imposing multi-game suspensions on several players, including a season-long suspension for Artest. "We have to make the point that there are boundaries in our games," Stern told the Associated Press.

Those boundaries increasingly are being broken. A Texas Rangers pitcher threw a chair at some heckling fans in Oakland in September. A spectator attacked a marathon runner during the Summer Olympics in Athens. Two years ago a father and son ran onto the field at Comiskey Park in Chicago and assaulted the opposing team's first-base coach. The list goes on.

Certainly professional sports earn some of the blame. Sports are by nature competitive and filled with emotion, and the large amounts of alcohol consumed at such events can cause fans to channel those emotions unwisely. The skyrocketing salaries players earn can also raise expectations and cause fans to be less forgiving.

It's more than that, however. In years of covering local and high school sports, I've seen too many instances of parents and others yelling at coaches, at opposing players, even at their own children.

Nor is it limited to sports. It almost seems to be a national pastime to attack, physically or verbally, the people who are out in front. Disgruntled workers shoot their

bosses, and students shoot and stab teachers and classmates. TV shows make entertainment out of real-life conflicts and disputes. We belittle our elected officials with comments that are often un-Christian, and we even tear down pastors and others whom we have called to leadership in the church. Violence spirals out of control.

Such violence isn't new. Unfortunate episodes have blemished sports and many other settings for years. What's troubling is how culturally accepted, or at least expected, these acts of violence have become. Bad behavior isn't limited to NBA fans and players.

As the *Navasota (Texas) Examiner* said in an editorial about the Artest incident: "What does this say about our society? Nothing flattering. At the very base level, it shows that either parents aren't teaching, or youngsters, whether they're outstanding athletes or not, aren't listening. Either way, something has got to change."

Jesus said this 2,000 years ago. Violence was present in his time, too, right up to his crucifixion on one of the cruelest instruments of torture known. It makes his words, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also," that much more relevant.

Not all athletes are a Ron Artest. I'll never forget an interview with an All-Star National Football League wide receiver who was nearing the end of his career. He was trying to make the Baltimore Ravens roster, but it looked likely that he would be cut from the team.

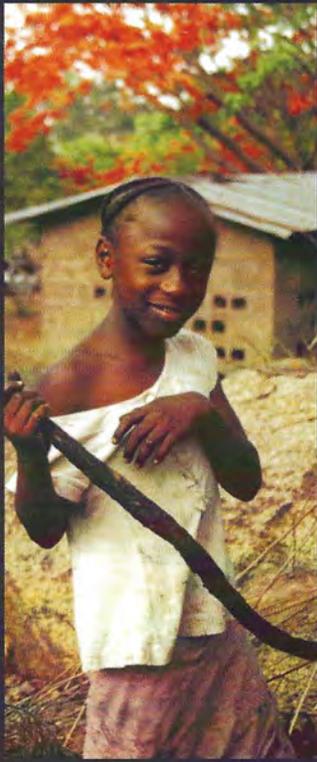
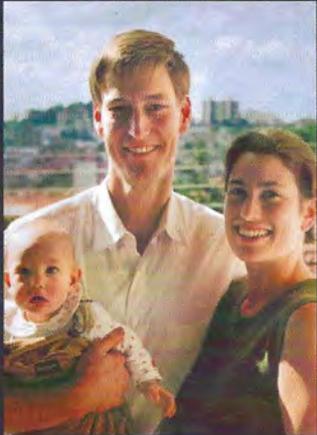
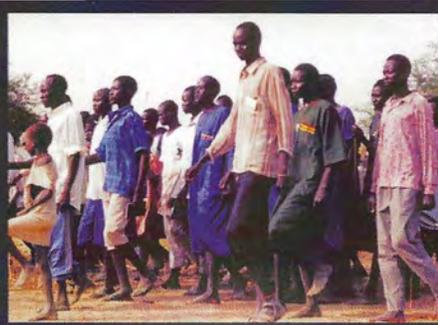
Let's make a New Year's resolution to focus on what's really important. Annual Conference has issued a call for us to be a "living peace church." Let's show the world that there's another way.

I asked him whether it was disappointing to reach the end of the road as a player.

He said it would be hard, but football wasn't the most important thing in his life. "You know what's most important?" he asked. He picked up his young daughter who was walking nearby and said, "This is what's most important."

We could all benefit from such perspective. Let's make a New Year's resolution to focus on what's really important. Annual Conference has issued a call for us to be a "living peace church." Let's show the world that there's another way, beginning with the way we treat each other.—Ed.

COMING NEXT MONTH: A place where everyone knows the Church of the Brethren; the man who builds churches; the first female college president; young adults buck trends; and more.



**MISSION
ALIVE
2005**

April 1-3, 2005 Goshen, Indiana

A Missions conference to energize and equip the Church of the Brethren to faithfully share Christ's love with the world

Register online now at brethren.org

Engaging Topics:

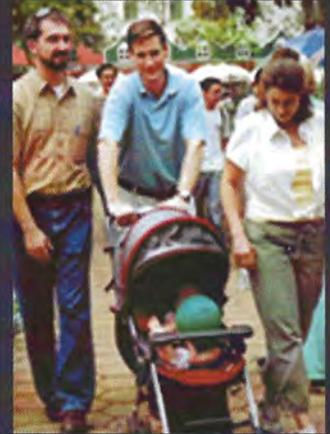
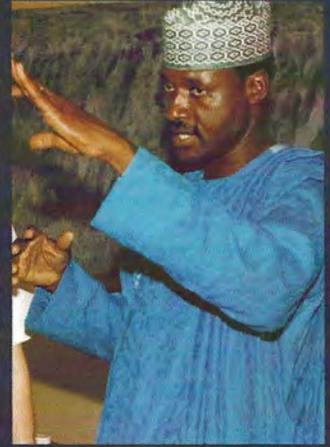
- Biblical Guidance for Mission**
- Learnings from Mission Experience**
- Emerging Models of Mission**
- Accepting the Challenge of Mission**

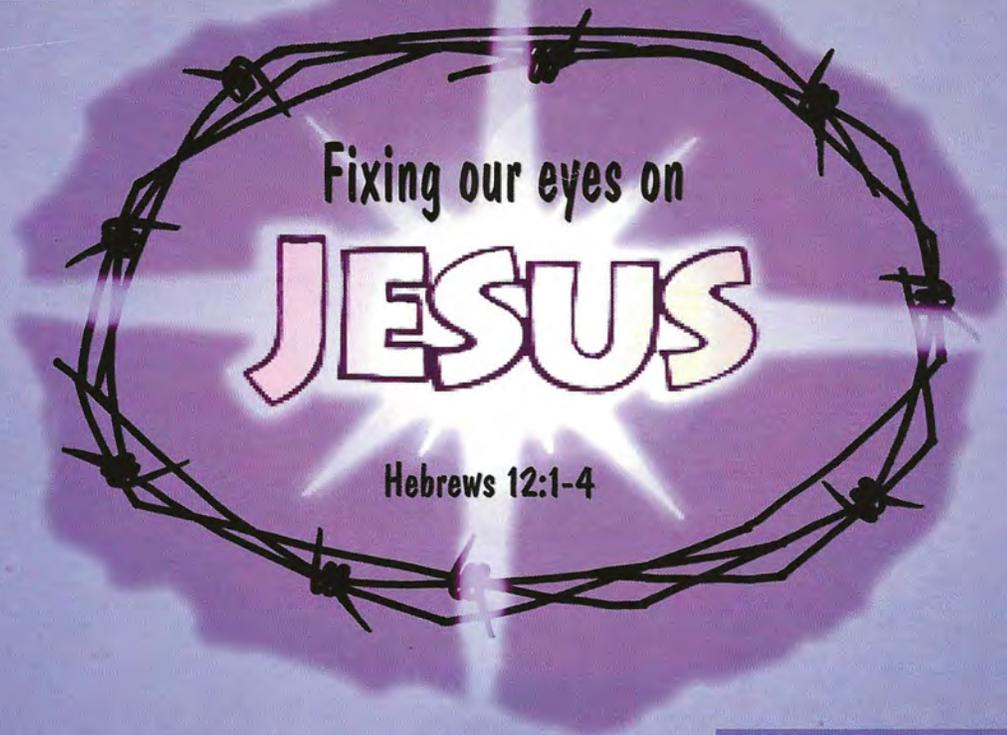
Also: Stimulating Workshops

A graduate level Missions class built around the conference is available through Bethany Seminary/SVS for graduate credits. CEUs can also be arranged.



**Church of the Brethren General Board
Global Mission Partnerships**
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120
800-323-8039 x230





Advanced registration starting in March
online at www.brethren.org/ac

Make plans for
Annual Conference
July 2-6, 2005 in Peoria, Illinois

ADVANCE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

for non-delegates is available starting in March, on-line at www.brethren.org/ac or by using the form included on the Information CD to be sent to every congregation in March.

Conference pre-registration closes May 20, 2005. After that time you may register on-site with an additional \$10 fee. See the Information CD or the Annual Conference web page for fee schedule and other Conference information.

Program Booklet (available in May)

Please send the following:

Copies at \$12.00 each of the 2005
Annual Conference Booklet (spiral binding)

Copies at \$2.00 each of the 2005 Annual
Conference Information CD-rom

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount remitted \$ _____

Delegates sending the delegate authorization card and registration fee automatically receive one program booklet.

Information about Conference programs may be obtained by contacting your pastor or Annual Conference office, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120

Volunteer Helpers

I am volunteering my help with the Conference tasks
I have marked below

Please number them in order of preference.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Grades K-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 3-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usher | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior High | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior High |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Adults |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teller | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unloading/Loading Crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Information | |

I plan to arrive at Conference on _____

My age is (circle one): 16-22 23-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 60+

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

email address _____