



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

Newsletter of the Global Food Initiative

www.brethren.org/gfi

Summer 2024

Doers and Givers *Greetings from the new GFI manager, Jennifer Hosler*

I joined the Church of the Brethren as a young adult, inspired by the church's emphasis on being *doers of the word* (James 1:22) and on living simply *to give generously* (James 1:17). A denomination that stressed following Jesus through service and simplicity? Yes, please! I was drawn to this community of faith that teaches a radical discipleship. We model "another way of living" as we are reconciled to God and seek to be reconciled to one another. Part of that reconciliation to one another and to God involves sharing what resources we have, just as God our Father is a generous giver (James 1:17-18). The gospel of Jesus is good news for the poor (Luke 4:18; James 1:9-11).



Nathan Hosler

Jennifer Hosler

The Church of the Brethren's Global Food Initiative is a terrific example of how Brethren give generously and how we preach a holistic gospel of Jesus. The Global Food Initiative has been part of the Church of the Brethren's ministry for more than 40 years, empowering our siblings in Christ to meet their nutritional needs, to farm sustainably, to feed children, and to create livelihoods.

Donations to the Global Food Initiative support food security and hunger-related initiatives around the world, in countries like Nigeria, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Honduras, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. We also fund local church projects in the United States, through congregations seeking to make community gardens or to address hunger in their communities.

I bring diverse experiences to my new role, including depth within the Church of the Brethren. My husband Nathan and I served in Nigeria for two years with *Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria* (EYN - the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) doing peacebuilding work. I am a local church pastor at the Washington City congregation in Washington, D.C., where we received a GFI church garden grant about 10 years ago (our garden is still going!). My current tenure with GFI builds on my experience as a member of the GFI Grant Review Panel, where I served for five years on a volunteer team, assisting the review of large grant applications (greater than \$5,000). My travels and ministry have allowed me to see first-hand the ministry of GFI in the United States and around the world: soybean fields and goat projects in northern Nigeria, Capstone 119 urban gardening in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, La., and congregational Growing Projects through Growing Hope Globally. In addition to my ministry training, I am a community psychologist. My expertise focuses on program development, implementation, and



Nathan Hosler

Jennifer Hosler stands in front of Guinea Corn (a type of sorghum) in Kwarhi, Nigeria.

Church of the Brethren
1451 Dundee Ave.
Elgin, IL 60120

847 429-4332
jhosler@brethren.org

Jennifer Hosler,
Editor



Jennifer Hoeler

Harvest of vegetables from the Washington City (DC) church garden

evaluation. I work with communities and congregations to address social issues and promote community well-being — which is a great fit for GFI.

I am grateful to be in my new role as Manager of the Global Food Initiative (GFI) for the Church of the Brethren. This position involves a mission dear to my heart: strengthening bridges between the US church and our siblings in Christ around the world. I envision that we can utilize GFI to strengthen solidarity across national, ethnic, and religious boundaries, by sharing resources, learning from one another, and developing relationships of mutual care. Learning and sharing

should be bi-directional, since Brethren *everywhere* have much to share together. We are *doers* and *givers*. I look forward to seeing God’s blessings through this work and I appreciate your prayers for the journey ahead.

A second motor for Uganda flour mill

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from GFI in 2021, the Uganda Brethren have operated a flour mill in the southwestern town of Hima. The service is free for the Brethren-run orphanage, destitute widows, and low-income farmers. More affluent farmers and businesses pay a normal rate.

Even though milling is a two-step process requiring two different machines – first the huller, then the grinder – the mill operated with one motor since it began. This meant that the belt attaching the motor to the machines had to be changed twice for every single client, regardless of the amount of grain they brought. As fast as the millers worked, they could not make up for the inefficiency. This resulted in long lines, with the wait time often lasting all day.

Since April, all that is in the past. A GFI grant of \$2,000 has enabled the purchase of a second motor. Both machines now operate simultaneously with a huge increase in efficiency. Thank you, Global Food Initiative! You have helped the Uganda Brethren to help others!

—Gordon Hoffert is Country Advisory Team representative for Uganda for the Church of the Brethren Global Mission program



Dawnhale Stehrak

New motor, funded by GFI



Gordon Hoffert

Women bring their bags of grain to the Hima mill



Gordon Hoffert

A miller at work



All GFI funds come from gifts specifically designated for GFI. To donate, visit <https://www.brethren.org/gfi/> and click the Donate button or send a check by mail with Global Food Initiative in the memo (address in the Newsletter header).