

evangelical

# VISITOR

June 1994



**Outnumbered and  
overjoyed:  
a father celebrates  
his daughters**

**The key to  
evangelizing teens:  
Christian parents**

# Special People

Catherine Oberlin



At age 90, Catherine Oberlin is the oldest member of Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church. Several weeks ago, I met her in the grocery store. She drove there and was shopping to fill her own MCC grocery bag. I thought, "This is a special person," and decided to visit her to pursue the thought.

I spent some time with her in her pleasant country home where she has lived since she was 13 months old. She lives alone now and seems to manage well with Penny (a little poodle) for company.

Catherine's family lived in McVeytown, Pa. Her mother died when Catherine was a baby. Her father struggled alone, but finally decided he could manage the older children (with some help from relatives) but couldn't cope with a baby and earn a living for his family at the same time.

A neighbor told him of Mr. and Mrs. William Longacre near Thompsontown, Pa., who had no children. (Mr. Longacre was serving on a pastoral team at Cedar Grove at that time.) They were happy to receive Catherine, and while they didn't legally adopt her, she became their child and she says, "I had a wonderful home." Her biological father (who didn't remarry) never visited her, as he said, "I couldn't have, and left her behind, and I knew she had a good home."

At age 18, Catherine married Carl Oberlin. They lived with the Longacres, as by that time the Longacres were older and needed help.

After Carl and Catherine had four children, Carl was saved dur-

ing a Brethren in Christ tent meeting in the area. Catherine was a Christian and was affiliated with a Methodist church within walking distance. Carl wanted to attend Cedar Grove Church and Catherine gladly went with him.

Their family grew to six children, three of whom are faithful members at Cedar Grove. In addition to raising their children, they cared for Mr. and Mrs. Longacre as well as Mr. Longacre's sister, until their deaths.

After their children were grown and gone, Catherine decided to work outside her home. She was employed in a dress factory from the age of 50 to 70. Carl died at age 66. Catherine loves her home and wants to stay there as long as she can.

She served on the Cradle Roll at Cedar Grove Church for 17 years, has always supported the church in prayer, and has been faithful in attendance.

Recently she had the honor of turning over the first shovelful of dirt at the groundbreaking for Cedar Grove's planned educational wing.

Catherine can always be found in her place for services, the only concession to her age a hassock to rest her feet on, due to some back trouble and also two hip replacements which she had in 1987.

She is truly a special person.

**"Special People" profiles a wide variety of Brethren in Christ members of all ages and from all walks of life.**

**You are invited to submit a short article about some "Special Person" you would like to introduce to Visitor readers. Articles should be typewritten, preferably 300-400 words, and must have the approval of the person being profiled. If your article is accepted for publication, we will contact you to secure a photo for publication (which will be returned).**

**Mail your article to Evangelical Visitor, P.O. Box 166, Nappanee, IN 46550.**

*This article was written by Ferne Hepner, also a member of the Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church, Mifflintown, Pa.*

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General Church Offices  
431 Grantham Road; P.O. Box 290  
Grantham, PA 17027-0290  
Telephone: (717) 697-2634  
FAX Number: (717) 697-7714

General Church Officers

*Moderator:* Harvey R. Sider

*General Secretary:* R. Donald  
Shafer

*Director of Bishops:* John A. Byers

*Director of Finance:* Harold Chubb

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# Outnumbered and overjoyed



Typical North American male—that's me. If there is a sporting event on TV, I watch it. Baseball, basketball, football, hockey, even golf. I always believed that a son would make all of these better. We would be a team. Inseparable. A dynamic duo. There would be a baseball glove in the hospital crib. I would introduce my son to doubleheaders and slam dunks as early in life as possible.

I tried to convince my wife, Valerie, that we should name our future son after the 1977 New York Yankees' outfield—Lou Pinella, Mickey Rivers and Reggie Jackson. When she pointed out that our child would have to live with the name Louis Michael Reginald Tabb for the rest of his life, we decided to look somewhere other than the sports page for the perfect name.

We settled on Caleb Andrew after the Old Testament spy who stood against the crowd and the disciple who brought his brother to Jesus.

But the doctor delivered our first child and he was a she, so we traded in Caleb Andrew for Bethany Rachel. And when she looked up at me with big, dark eyes, the room seemed to get a little foggy.

To celebrate Bethany's second day in the world we watched a baseball game on TV together. The New York Yankees were playing the California Angels. I pointed out that just because one team was named after heavenly

messengers we did not have to root for them. As I recall, her reaction to baseball was much like her mother's—she slept through most of it.

When Hannah Michelle was born two years later, she found the world a rather annoying place to be. So she did what any rational person would do—she cried. I placed my hand on her back as she lay under the warming light and spoke to her as I had before she was born. She suddenly stopped crying and lay very still as though she felt secure and safe.

So I did what any rational dad would do. I cried.

Sarah Elizabeth came into this world two years after Hannah and staked a claim on my left shoulder for a



# A father celebrates his daughters

sleeping place. Night after night, Valerie handed our third daughter over to me for the magic shoulder treatment.

Now I'm the only male in an all-female household. Every stuffed animal in our house has been given a distinctly feminine name. Even our dog is female. Our tomcat couldn't take the pressure and ran away.

All three girls came with curly hair as standard equipment. Long flowing curls are a beautiful sight for a dad to behold—until Mom goes out of town for the weekend.

"Honey, you'll be fine with the girls by yourself. It will be good for the four of you to spend some time alone together."

It was good until Sunday morning—the one day of the weekend when they actually had to look presentable in public.

Dresses were no problem. Bethany and Hannah could pick out what they wanted to wear. Sarah, like most two-year-olds, will wear whatever you talk her into. Even finding three pairs of matching socks was less taxing than I anticipated.

There they were—bodies bathed, teeth brushed, clothes on. Only one thing left. I had one thing going for me: as pastor of the church no one would say anything too critical of the girls' appearance for fear of becoming a sermon illustration. I took full advantage of this knowledge more out of necessity than desire to put fear in the hearts of my congregation.

In addition to inviting me into their world, my girls share mine as well. My girls have learned the essentials: how to cheer and how to boo. Hannah is especially fond of Michael Jordan. A Michael poster hovers over her ballerina and Little Mermaid posters.

My daughters also try to watch football with me. They understand that there is some team from Dallas, where Bethany was born, that we are supposed to cheer for. And there is a team from Washington that we are supposed to root against. Things become complicated when they ask, "Which team is Michael Jordan's?"

I am outnumbered but overjoyed. Daughters and fathers have the potential to have one of the most unique of all human relationships—and I get to experience it three times over.

Long ago I was told to enjoy my children while they were young. I've listened. Right now my girls think Daddy is the greatest man on earth.

I realize time will change this. As they grow up, other men will come into their lives. One day, each daughter will believe there is another man more wonderful than her father. I'll have to learn to call those men sons.

Whatever the future may hold, I know this: Bethany, Hannah, and Sarah will always be my little girls. They'll never get so big they can't wrap their arms around my neck, look into my eyes, and say, "I love you, Daddy." And there will never come a day when I will not love them with all my heart.

---

*Mark Tabb is pastor of First Baptist Church in Springville, Calif. His wife and three daughters are willing participants in basketball games and outdoor expeditions. Excerpted from **They Eat Dirt. Don't They?** (David C. Cook). Used by permission of Chariot Family Publishing and David C. Cook Publishing Co.*

**T**HE NUMBER ONE PREDICTOR of teenage faith is parental influence. Researchers agree that the values of Christian parents exert the most important influence on their teenagers' values. Most studies reveal clear parallels between the children's faith and the faith of their parents. If parents focus on four basic areas, the evangelism of their teens will be under way.

### **1. Christian parents must lead by example.**

There is only one way for this generation to be convinced that Jesus is Lord: they must see him in us. If we are to incarnate the message of Christ for our teens, then we must stand for the same things for which Jesus stood. Jesus championed the

helpless, confronted the corrupt, loved his enemies, and eventually died for his commitment to the truth.

Teens thrive on great causes against impossible odds, and when they observe their parents dying to self and living for others, Christianity begins to look like a cause worthy of commitment.

Teenagers discover truth via relationships, and parents who desire to evangelize them will focus on the same. The Christian parent is someone who believes not in a set of truths but in a person—Jesus Christ. That is what the Christian faith is, and it will never be easy to pass on. It means living in such a way that

our lives would be unexplainable if God did not exist.

### **2. Christian parents must trust their teens.**

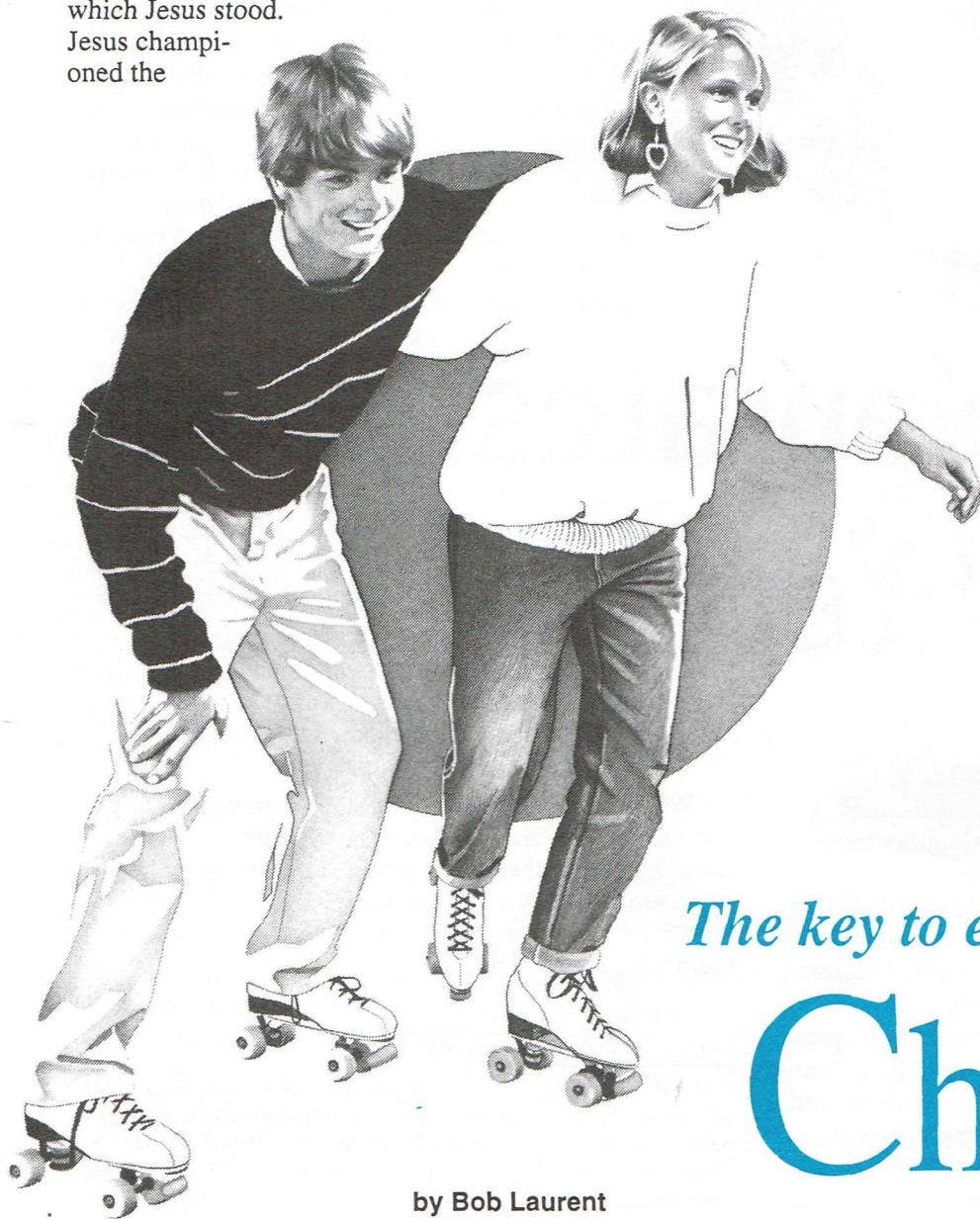
The best way to show teens that you love them is to communicate your sincere trust in them. Of course there are risks involved in giving freedom to teenagers. Parents are painfully aware of the damage teens can do to themselves if they are given indiscriminate liberty.

Parents who are hopeful and trusting are much better evangelists than those who are perpetually suspicious and doubting. Research shows that teens feel closer to parents who create an atmosphere of trust and acceptance, of hopefulness and flexibility. Such parents know that inherent dangers come with trust, but they accept them because they realize that New Testament evangelism is historically a "high risk/high reward" phenomenon.

There is, of course, a sense in which teens should earn your trust and be given every opportunity to do so. But many youth have become trustworthy as a direct result of being trusted by their parents even when those teens didn't believe in themselves. The wise parent sees the balance between earned and unmerited trust, never forgetting that the teen who can be trusted is more likely to be the one who eventually trusts in Christ.

### **3. Christian parents must learn to take the spiritual pressure off their teenagers.**

No one can be forced into Christian commitment. That you thrive on 5:30 a.m. devotions does not man-



*The key to evangelizing teens:*

# Christian

by Bob Laurent

date that your teen must be a spiritual giant before breakfast. Just because you have chosen full-time ministry as a vocation, your children should not be badgered into following suit and belittled if they do not.

Dr. David Elkind, author of *All Grown Up and No Place to Go*, reminds us that, when confronted by spiritual pressure from parents, younger children blame themselves for not measuring up to standards. Elementary school children will usually blame the world for their duress. But adolescents blame their parents.

The wisest course for Christian parents is to stop worrying about their teens and trust them to the Lord's care. Worry is not only irrelevant and irresponsible, it is irreverent. Anxiety over the spiritual warfare of our children, as accepted and widespread as it is in the church, still precludes God's ability to bring them to faith. When I finally decided to follow God's advice, "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything" (Philippians 4:6), the spiritual attitudes of all the teens in our home improved dramatically.

#### 4. Christian parents must learn how to love and be loved.

I was not raised in a Christian home, so it is no surprise that my father and I were never close—a fact that has caused me a lot of guilt and occasionally crippled my spiritual growth. Not having experienced the type of love I felt I needed as a teen, predictably I have struggled with receiving love from my heavenly Father.

The sense of low self-worth I inherited as a teen followed me into

my adult years and marked each relationship with the same lack of intimacy I'd had with my father. I would let friends get only so close before I would withdraw, convinced that the more they knew me, the less they would like me. One day, out of frustration, a pastor friend bravely exhorted me, "Bob, I think I finally understand you. You desperately need to be loved, and the irony is that you won't really let anyone love you. My guess is that your biggest problem is that you won't let God love you! Every relationship you have would improve if you could get this fixed."

But not until last Christmas did the Holy Spirit bring the kind of healing I needed to realize the fullness of God's love. We had invited my parents to spend the holidays with us, and as usual, I had mixed emotions. I loved my father, but the distance that marked our relationship during my teen years had only gotten worse as I approached middle age.

Although we both became Christians after I left home, we frequently argued over personal beliefs. Eventually we began to avoid each other, and I felt we had a tacit agreement to steer clear of anything resembling a serious talk. But during his holiday visit, my father broke that contract.

I was about to join the family for our annual viewing of *It's a Wonderful Life* when I noticed Dad sitting alone at our dining room table reading his Bible.

"Hey, Dad, the movie's about to start. Let's go downstairs."

He looked up and replied, "Listen, son. I can't do that. We need to have a talk first."

At that moment, I was no longer a 43-year-old Bible professor with three teens of his own. I was a boy of 14 who had just been summoned by his father for a lecture.

"When I was at Mayo Clinic this summer, I realized there was a chance I might not survive the surgery I was facing. My attending physician was a

Christian and asked me one day why I seemed troubled. I told him that if I died, my only regret would be that, although I became a Christian late in life and have had a wonderful ministry, my own son dislikes me."

As he spoke, I sensed that these thoughts were even more difficult for him to express than they were for me to hear. And so I quietly listened, forcing myself to meet his eyes.

Dad rose from his chair and stepped toward me. "Son, I know I hurt you deeply through the years, and although I don't deserve it, can you find it in your heart to forgive me?"

I will never be able to describe the emotions I was feeling just then. But one thing I knew for certain: He was a brave man, and I was proud of him for taking this risk. Still, I was too stunned to speak, so he filled the silence.

"There's one other thing I've been wanting to tell you, too, but I never knew how." With a quivering voice, he said, "I love you, Bob."

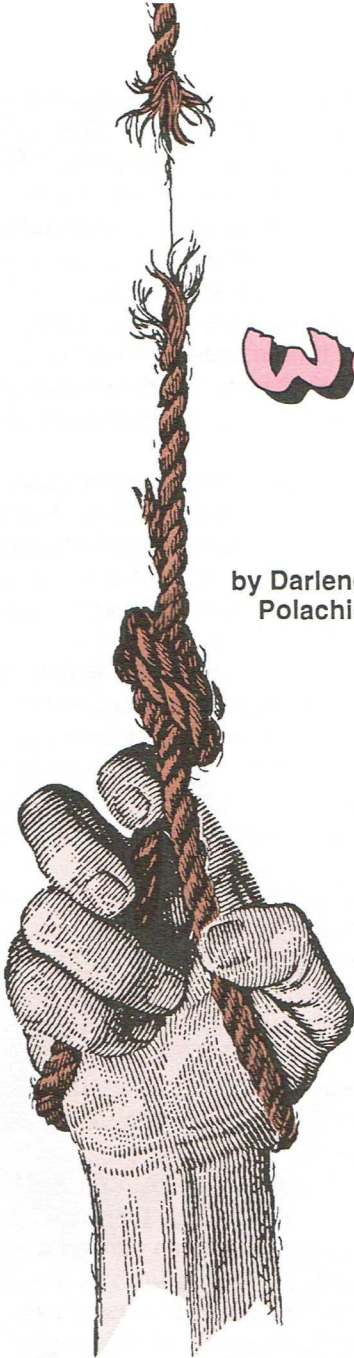
My tears were instantaneous. The embrace that followed will always be a prized memory for me. Months later, I am still experiencing the spiritual exhilaration and healing that resulted from our reconciliation.

Love is the key for reaching your children. Christian parents who have close friendships with their teens make the ultimate evangelists. And the good news is that as the parent of a teenager, you can save the precious years that my father and I tragically wasted. Your love for your teens will lead them to Christ, and in Christ they will not only find life but a parent who is their best friend.

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*Dr. Robert Laurent is the author of Keeping Your Teen in Touch with God (David C. Cook) and Bringing Your Teen Back to God (David C. Cook). He is the Dean of Student Affairs and also teaches Bible at Judson College in Elgin, IL. Excerpted from Equipping Your Child for Spiritual Warfare (David C. Cook) by Dr. Bob Laurent, and used by permission of David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin IL 60120.*

# parents



by Darlene  
Polachic

As worriers go, my friend Adrienne was a professional. Adrienne worried about everything. She worried about her husband's safety when he went to work, and she worried about him on his way home. She worried about how she would cope if anything happened to him. She worried that her children wouldn't make good grades, and she worried about what would happen if they did not. She worried about her health and who would do her housework if she took ill. When she did her laundry she worried about how long her washing

# Why worry?

machine would hold out and how they would afford a new one when it broke down. Adrienne even worried about worrying.

"I've discovered something terrible about myself," she confided over coffee one morning. "I'm a compulsive worrier."

I could have told her that, but it took the Lord to get the message through.

"I was reading in my Bible last night," she went on, "and the Lord hit me with a verse from Philippians: 'Don't be anxious about anything.' I never realized it before, but my worrying is sin," she told me in amazement. "I don't want to do it anymore. I'm going to kick this thing. Will you help me?"

"Of course," I assured her. "But how?"

"Be my support group. Maybe if we learn everything we can about worry—you know, why people worry and what they worry about—we can learn to overcome it. Are you game?"

Adrienne was a good friend. Besides, I'm something of a worrywart myself. I figured only good could come of this venture.

We decided to do our research independently and to share our findings once a week over coffee.

Adrienne couldn't wait a week. She called me on the telephone the very next morning. "I decided to start by defining what worry is..."

"Good thinking," I agreed.

"...and it isn't pretty, especially for a Christian. I never realized that worry is the same as saying to God, 'I don't believe You!' When I'm fretting over things beyond my control or things I can't correct by changing my own behavior, I'm telling God, 'I don't believe I can trust You.'"

"And," she went on breathlessly, "do you know what Corrie ten Boom said about worrying?"

I had a feeling she was going to tell me.

"Corrie said, 'Worry is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength—carrying two days at once. It's moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worry doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it just empties today of its strength.' Corrie's right, you know. When I'm weighted down with worry and anxiety, I have a hard time coping with the simplest daily problems."

In view of all Adrienne had learned, I felt like an utter failure. But this seemed to be the time to throw in my few meager findings.

"I learned the difference between worry and concern," I told her almost apologetically. "Concern makes us take constructive action to do something to help ease the situation. But worry burdens our minds and bodies without helping us find a solution to the problem. It's like racing a car engine without letting out the clutch. You burn energy, but you don't get anywhere."

Adrienne chuckled, but it was a thoughtful chuckle.

I pulled out a clipping from my church newsletter that had caught my attention. I read it to her.

"Did you realize that 40 percent of the things we worry about are in the past, 30 percent never happen and 22 percent can be handled routinely? Of the remaining 8 percent, we can do nothing about only 1 percent."

Adrienne didn't say anything for a moment. I had plenty of my own reflecting to do.

"You know," my friend said finally, "it might be helpful to keep track of the things we worry about and see how many are legitimate concerns and how many fit into that measly 1 percent. Shall we try it and report our findings over coffee a week from now?"

Since I had been thinking along similar lines myself, I agreed.

It was one of the longest weeks of my life. By the time Adrienne arrived the following Tuesday morning clutching several sheets of paper in

Darlene Polachic lives in Calgary, Alberta.

her hand, I was bursting with impatience. So was she, I learned.

"You'll never believe the sort of things I've been worrying about," we chorused as one, then laughed and settled down to some soul-deep sharing.

"Can you believe," I told her, "that I've been worrying about how I'd support my children if my husband died suddenly?"

"At least that's something important," Adrienne said. "I worried about the dog. It ruined our whole summer."

"Your dog? That's overdoing it a bit."

"Last summer Bob wanted us to go on a real vacation," Adrienne explained. "He suggested we take the kids to Disney World. But I got all caught up in worry about the 'what ifs.' What if my mother took ill? What would we do about the dog? What if something happened to her? And so on and so on. Before long Bob and I were arguing and he got angry because I'm always so negative." She sighed. "We ended up at the lake for a weekend."

"Looking back now," she went on, "I see nothing would have happened, and we most likely would have had a wonderful time."

"Hindsight is always 20/20," I murmured, though not too loudly. I had often fallen into the trap of my own 'what ifs.'

Adrienne put a thoughtful finger to her lips. "I wonder what makes people worry."

"I've read it could be a weakness of temperament," I volunteered. "Or background. I knew a woman who grew up in a terribly poor home. She's comfortably off now, but she still worries about being poor again."

"Phobias and bad childhood experiences would fit in there too," Adrienne suggested. "But surely it's not too idealistic to believe God can deal with our weaknesses."

We had much to think about that next week. We also wanted to begin setting down some practical guidelines for handling worry.

We postponed writing down the guidelines because Adrienne made an amazing discovery. "Since I've been analyzing my worries and realized

how silly most of them are," she confided, "something strange has been happening. I'm different. My whole family is different. My negative spirit hung like a black cloud over our home. The more I worried, the less cheerful I became. Then Bob would start complaining and the children would grumble and whine. I'd find myself worrying about what was happening to our family."

Adrienne planted her palms on the table and fixed me with a straightforward look. "Worry isn't a response to problems. It creates them!"

Her admission set me to thinking how my own anxieties affected the atmosphere in our home. It made me realize how important it is to formulate some guidelines to deal realistically with worry.

The first batch of guidelines had us giggling like schoolgirls. We took turns reading the points we came up with. We called them "Tips for Scientific Worrying" (see sidebar).

Our tenth tip became the springboard for some serious pointers that we gleaned from our study of the Scriptures. They were to give both Adrienne and me a sense of peace and security and eventual victory over our respective anxieties. We called them "The Bible's Cure for Worry" (see sidebar).

Both of us posted copies strategically in our homes. We included the supporting Scripture references because sometimes we found we needed more than just a brief reminder.

Wonderful things have happened since Adrienne and I started our Worriers Support Group. Every time we meet, Adrienne marvels how much her life has changed since she acknowledged her worry as sin. Just last week she called to ask if I would look after the dog this summer. She and Bob are taking the children on a tour of the entire east coast, ending up in Disney World. It will take them a whole month.

"If anything happens while we're away," she said gaily, "I don't want to know."

For Adrienne, that's progress! ■

### The Bible's cure for worry

1. Remember the foolishness of worry (Luke 12:22-28)
2. Remember the power of God (Matthew 6:25-34)
3. Remember that God cares for you (1 Peter 5:7)
4. Take your concerns to God (Philippians 4:6,7)
5. Focus on God's goodness (Psalm 27: 13, 14)
6. Take courage (Matthew 14:27)
7. In everything give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

### Tips for "scientific" worrying

1. Never worry unless you have all the facts.
2. Decide exactly what you are going to worry about. Reduce it to a simple statement you can write on paper.
3. Worry about only one thing at a time.
4. Set aside a specific time to worry.
5. Select a pleasant room and a comfortable easy chair. Never worry in bed; beds are for sleeping.
6. Set a time limit—say, one hour—and don't do anything else but worry. Make a good job of it.
7. When the time is up, quit! Then get on with life.
8. Never worry with a sad face. Smile, sing or whistle.
9. Never worry when you're tired or depressed.
10. Never worry alone. Take the Lord along.



*Left—part of the 192 persons celebrating the grand opening in the MCC SELF-HELP atrium.*

*Right—Pastor Zuck places the church sign outside the MCC SELFHELP building.*

# New\* Joy Church

On February 22, in the middle of our "Sharing the Message of New Joy Phone's For You" campaign, I received a telephone call from a young woman. She said she had received a call from this very nice lady about a week ago and then just today she had received a letter inviting her to the "Grand Opening Celebration of Joy" on Palm Sunday. She wondered if she could come by herself. She had heard that at some churches only members or families were welcome and she did not want to get there and be shunned or unwelcome.

She went on to say, "No one in my family is a Christian, but I've been reading the Bible and listening to Christian radio some. But now I believe it's time to take the next step. Yet I don't know what step to take. Just last week I was thinking about this and praying—asking God to show me what to do. It's so easy to be led astray and I don't know if I'd fit into any of the churches I know of. Then, that very evening, I received a telephone call. It was from a nice lady inviting me to the New Joy Church! I think I'll come to the grand opening, if that's okay!" She came for the grand opening, and the next Sunday she brought another family member!

---

*John Zuck is pastor of the New Joy Church in Ephrata, Pa.*

There is something fresh and exciting about what God is doing in the New Joy Church ministry!

For Connie and me, this all began last February when I received a phone call from Bishop Warren Hoffman of the Atlantic Conference asking me to consider pastoring a church-planting in the Ephrata, Pa. area. It was a possibility I could not shake, even though I was literally "shaking in my boots" at the thought of accepting the assignment. Following a "U-Haul adventure in moving" from Calgary, Alberta, involving the terrors of international border crossing, dodging tornadoes in eastern Montana, skirting flooding in the Midwest, and traversing 2,550 miles (4,100 kilometers sounds better to some, "eh"?) we finally arrived in the fruitful and bustling community of Ephrata, located in north-central Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Following our arrival, I discovered that for more than a decade various individuals felt that a Brethren in Christ church should be planted in the Ephrata/Akron area. Detailed demographic studies over the past several years conducted by the Atlantic Conference confirmed the population growth of the area and the need for a new congregation. We proceeded to set up a church office in our home and by late September we were con-

ducting weekly team-building meetings for interested people, focusing on prayer, study of biblical outreach principles using the book *Inside The Mind Of Unchurched Harry And Mary*, and projecting our vision.

The Lord brought together a truly excited, enthusiastic, committed and visionary team, without which the New Joy Church could not have happened! Between following up on some 40 facility possibilities (very few were actually possible), selecting a fitting name for the church, and gearing up for "The Phone's For You" outreach thrust, during October and November over 1,000 doors in northeast Ephrata were knocked on with over 110 interested in more information. A "Family Discussion Group" resulted, involving four community couples during December and January.

The "Sharing the Message of New Joy" phone campaign, a central component of our outreach strategy, was conducted in February. In spite of the

severity of the winter of '94 which hindered phoner turnout, over 17,000 calls were placed with nearly 1,200 persons not actively involved in one of the local churches requesting further information. In addition, just prior to grand opening, a nearly 14,000-piece direct mailing blanketed Ephrata/Akron and surrounding communities. Though we were tired, the excitement level was high. What would happen on Grand Opening Sunday?

Palm Sunday dawned overcast and dreary. By 7:30 a.m. it was raining hard. We were disappointed! I tried to be positive and commented to Connie at breakfast, "Well, if 200 people come, then I'll know why God sent this rain; because we can't handle any more than that." Can you believe it? In spite of torrential rain, 192 moms,

## ...off to a running start

by John Zuck

dads, boys, girls, youth, singles and grandparents came to celebrate the message of New Joy—one dynamic hour of worship and children's ministries offered simultaneously. I wish you could have seen them streaming in; every chair was filled! Some 60 family units registered as first time attenders at New Joy Church. Several have inquired about spiritual commitment and many have asked questions about the church. On Easter Sunday, April 3, 124 people came and on April 10, 120 were present!

The various forms of outreach have been effective. To date, 43 families came as a result of "The Phone's For You," 10 from canvassing, and

18 from other outreach—direct mail, advertising, etc., plus relatives and friends. Now we are challenged with the awesome task of follow-up with all the families God is sending to us, and developing ways and means of incorporating them into congregational life. Several "joy groups" are meeting in community homes through the week, with others projected to begin shortly. Additional team members are needed especially in the area of high school youth ministry. We are confident that God will supply even as he has to this point, meeting all our "needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

God has blessed in amazing ways and all praise, honor and glory belong to him alone!

Yet I want to thank you, the Brethren in Christ brotherhood, for your partnership in New Joy. We are together praying and working in partnership with Christ as he builds his church. A pastor in another denomination, inquiring about the New Joy grand

opening, asked, "How did you do it?" My response, "We prayed lots and we worked lots!" I emphasize and have stressed many times, prayer is our front line offensive in church planting! Prayer is effective! It is your persistent, faithful prayer that has and is tearing down the strongholds of Satan, overcoming the hurdles and blockages he has placed in our pathway—and there have been many. But I have space only to highlight one briefly.

Even though I reported our lease agreement with MCC SELFHELP Crafts to the Akron Borough in December, and again in January, I was informed later in January that church ministry was not a permitted

usage of a site zoned industrial, without a special exception. By that time everything was in motion, poised on the launch pad, ready to go. Dates were set, 24,000 pieces of dated literature printed, etc. What could we do but pay the \$450 and apply for a special exception? We did just that, but would it come through favorable and in time? By late February we had heard nothing. At the February 17 New Joy Advisory Committee meeting I shared my dilemma, but stated that we were moving ahead with our plans, trusting God to part the waters. The pastors and bishop affirmed that course of action and were extremely supportive. "Don't slack off, press on, go for it," they said. "If it doesn't



work out, be assured, we'll come and visit you in jail!" (This is a true story!) On March 1, I managed to get verbal concession to begin services, just six days before our first preliminary service. Then, on March 21, just six days before the grand opening, following 75 minutes of vigorous debate, the New Joy Brethren in Christ Church was granted a special exception to use the atrium/chapel area of the MCC SELFHELP Crafts building!

Friends, God is never late! (But as I read somewhere, "He sure misses a lot of great opportunities to be early!") But always, no matter what, regardless, "The joy of the Lord is your strength!" ■



*Pastor Woody Dalton and wife Kim greet some of the Brooklyn guests.*

WHAT DO A BUSLOAD OF PEOPLE from Brooklyn, N. Y., have in common with a Women in Ministry Seminar in Harrisburg, Pa.? Plenty! This particular seminar was partially responsible for bringing 42 members of the Pilgrim Chapel in Brooklyn to Central Pennsylvania to spend a weekend worshipping with the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church. This joint venture actually began in early 1993, when several members came to Harrisburg to attend the Brethren in Christ denomination-sponsored seminar on Women in Ministry. It was at this time that the seeds of a future visit were planted.

Because members of the two Brethren in Christ churches found themselves on opposite sides of the issues presented at the seminar, Glenn Dalton, pastor of the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church, entered in dialogue with Grafton Forbes, pastor of Pilgrim Chapel, in an attempt to find a common bond in Christ which would surpass the differences of opinion. As a result of ongoing communication, a friendship formed between Pastors Dalton and Forbes, leading

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*Deb McCoy is a member of the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church and has two sons, Nathan and Joshua.*

## A common bond

by Deborah E. McCoy

Pastor Dalton to extend an invitation to the Pilgrim Chapel congregation to come to Harrisburg for a weekend of shared worship.

In early October, after countless telephone calls, letters and much anticipation, the Pilgrim Chapel bus pulled up in front of the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church where 42 members of the Brooklyn congregation, ranging in age from infancy to older adulthood, met their eager Harrisburg hosts for the first time. Imagine the excitement of the moment—two “city” congregations with different cultural, geographical, and socioeconomic backgrounds, meeting to worship together for an entire weekend. And what a weekend it was!

Saturday’s evening service was led by the Pilgrim Chapel congregation. Their choir, resplendent in their robes, led the church in spirited singing while Pastor Forbes preached the sermon. Following the service, everyone gathered in the church basement for snacks and a time to mingle together for the first time. During this

get-acquainted time, hosts for Sunday dinner met their dinner guests. Several members of the Harrisburg Singles Group were heard to exclaim with delight when learning that they would be hosting Pastor Forbes’s sons!

The following day began with a continental breakfast which brought together the Brooklyn congregation and the majority of the Harrisburg congregation, hosts and non-hosts alike. Following breakfast, the Sunday service began, with special music provided by a men’s group from Pilgrim Chapel and a smaller group of

their choir members. Pastor Dalton delivered the sermon to a crowded church. The service was heightened by both congregations sharing communion together.

Following the service, hosts and guests left for Sunday dinner. Many of the hosts later took their Brooklyn guests on a driving tour of Harrisburg, garnering such praises as “Everything is so green here,” or “It’s so peaceful, so quiet here.” Many found the city’s river view to be beautiful.

You might well ask what, if any, were the benefits of two diverse groups sharing a weekend of worship together. Let me offer several benefits. First, there was a newfound appreciation for the different styles of worship. The Harrisburg congregation is used to Pastor Dalton delivering a sermon that is normally twenty-five to thirty minutes in length. Compare that with Pastor Forbes ninety-minute delivery! Likewise, our congregation, which does not have a choir, has a more reserved style of

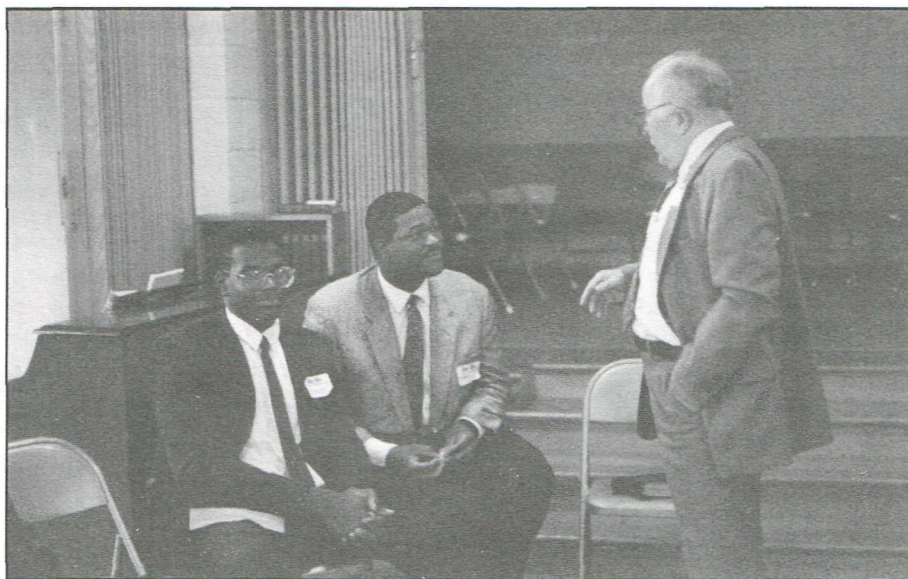
Paul Bigham (right) visits with Pastor Forbes's sons.

singing. We thoroughly enjoyed the spontaneous singing, rhythm, and tempo of the Pilgrim Chapel choir and congregation, singing which rocked the rafters of the Harrisburg church and set our hands to clapping.

Another benefit we Pennsylvanians experienced was a new appreciation of our surroundings. Our guests from Brooklyn are surrounded by brick high-rises and macadam, making our green trees and riverfront look a little bit like heaven to them. Seen through their eyes, what we once saw as "noisy, dirty neighborhoods" took on a different look.

Of course, spending a weekend with Brooklyn residents helped to remove the mystique of the "native New Yorker." Visiting with the Pilgrim Chapel congregation also gave us a glimpse of the reality of their lives in a high crime area. We realized that worship surely does provide a respite from the tensions of everyday life.

For our congregation, this weekend involved many church members



who are not normally involved in church activities. No one who was asked to participate refused. And those who were unable to help because of prior commitments apologized profusely for not being able to help! In all, approximately 25 families hosted dinner guests, while several shared hosting duties and others provided transportation. This involvement bonded our church, giving us a sense of community. We did not work separately but as a whole.

As our guests rode off, laden with leftover donuts, homemade apple pie, a basket of York County apples and lots of private stories to share, everyone involved was aware that the most significant outcome of this shared experience was realizing that we all share a bond in Christ as people seeking to know him and serve him where we are. Who could ask for anything more? ■

## Martinsburg observes "Handicapped Sunday"

The Martinsburg congregation of the Allegheny Conference observed "Handicapped Sunday" as a part of the "Disabilities Week" promoted by Mennonite Health Services. As people entered into the morning worship service, they were asked to assume a handicap for the first portion of the worship service. To aid them, cotton balls and rubber bands were passed out to every one. Folks could choose to put cotton balls into nostrils as a breathing handicap, into ears as a hearing handicap, into their mouths as a speech impediment, or over glasses as a vision impairment. Rub-



ber bands could be wrapped around fingers to simulate arthritis. One inspired fourth grader took a heavy rubber band and locked his knees together. Others, using their own imagination, remained seated as though unable to stand, or used only one hand, or kept eyes closed, or found another way to identify with those who have some physical limitation.

Since there was no advance notice given, people realized that some handicaps come without warning, and cannot be stopped at the end of the pastoral prayer. The children went to Junior Church singing "Zacchaeus

Was A Wee Little Man," reminding us that even those

without handicap may be unable to do everything they want to do.

The morning message reminded us that God is sovereign. Nothing can happen without his permission. He counts all humans as his own and has a plan and purpose for every life. Before God, all humans are disabled, for all are imperfect and defective. By his grace, God is able to make people what he wants them to be. The congregation's surprise was turned to thoughtful and thankful meditation as they considered what God has allowed and what he has not allowed to happen in their individual lives.

A World Hunger Fund offering was received as a part of \$1,500 annual goal.



# Portrait of a servant

by Paul Eberhard

Allow me to attempt a portrait—well, maybe just a pencil sketch—of someone. I trust that, though I cannot begin to fully portray reality, this portrait will be a clear yet simple depiction of a servant.

When José León Herrera Hernandez was saved some 20 years ago, he felt called by God; called to communicate the message of the gospel to his family first and also to everyone he met; called to exert all his energies, all his time, in introducing people to the Savior who had so graciously changed his life. It was a call to serve. It's as simple as that, a call to be a servant. The more I get to know José León, the more I am convinced that he is fulfilling that calling well.

There is much that one could say when describing a servant, and much I could say about José León; but let me start by saying a servant is humble. This is exemplified well in the leader of the Honduran churches, and is the foremost requirement for all ministers serving with him. When one is clothed in humility he does not fight for positions but allows a responsibility to be laid on him. José León did not look for the position he is now in; in fact he tried to turn it down. But God rewards the humble. Humility has allowed José León to love those who do not love him, and he does not take it personally when someone says a biting word

against him because there is no pride present to feel the sting.

Being a humble servant, he does not expect to be the recipient of the good things he could wish for, or the things others may be getting; his gaze is solely on pleasing his master. For this reason, when a few of those "extras" do come his way they are seen as blessings, not "payment." I don't think José will ever say, "Well, it's about time they came through with this. I deserved it!" As a servant seeks to please his master, he must do so with great faith, trusting that while he is concerning himself with fulfilling his master's will, someone else is concerning himself with the servant's needs. When the servant can trust completely in the one who is caring for him, there is a rest and a peace which make serving a joy and a privilege.

Another thing José León does not seek is the glory. He, more than anyone, recognizes that the work in Honduras is the Lord's. We are just the tools in his hand. My co-worker would be the first to want all of you to know that he has not planted all of the 60 church groups we now have (as of February 1994). He has actually planted very few of them. This has been a team effort (and an excellent team it is!), with José León being just one among the many team members. In terms of who gets the recognition, it can never be the servant.

Also necessary in a servant is "teachableness." José León does not pretend to be well-educated or even

an excellent speaker, but the school of life has had much to teach, and José has been an able learner. This does not make him a smart man, but it has made him a wise man. The servant who is not willing to learn is demonstrating pride, saying that he knows more about what is to be done and how it can be accomplished than the master who gave him his marching orders.

Humility can never be overemphasized when speaking of a servant, for serving is the opposite of pride. If one tries to serve with pride in his heart there will be conflicts and reactions to those things that are "unfair." A selfish servant will be detoured from the master's will while seeking his own interests.

The kind of service our master desires of us is a joyful service motivated by love. When it is love that motivates our service, it is a pleasure to endure hardships, knowing they are a part of serving. José will often throw back his head and laugh, rejoicing that the devil has launched another attack in our direction. Most of the Honduran pastors share his views of trials and sufferings, so when difficulties come they are neither a surprise nor a depressant. This attitude is commonly expressed by the pastors with such phrases as, "There is no victory without a battle," or "If Satan is not angry with us, we must not be doing anything." If Satan seems to be upset, that should be cause for rejoicing, not cause for us to get upset. Without such an attitude toward hardships, none of us in ministry in Honduras would be

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Paul (left in the photo above) and Audry Eberhard and family serve with Brethren in Christ World Missions in Honduras.

left standing after the first round. However, with a selfish love, such an outlook on life is impossible. Selfishness and pride tint the lenses of our soul so that trials appear as foreboding threats rather than shining opportunities.

A true servant does not only go through the motions of being a servant, but actually has the heart of a servant. José León will go without food to tell someone about Jesus, not because he ignores the hunger, but because he doesn't even feel it. Service to his master is his sole desire and thus his complete satisfaction. I call that love, love played out practically in daily life. He also knows how to rejoice when others are blessed, even if he remains in need. Shortly after our arrival in Honduras we found and purchased a mission vehicle for our use. He was happier for us than I was, even while he remained in great need of a vehicle also. The irony was that I knew José would be receiving funds for a vehicle also, but could not tell him at that time. However, keeping this little secret for several days gave me a chance to see his unselfish joy displayed in a consistent manner, unabated by time and unaffected by his need. Again I say that these things are so because he finds his satisfaction, his motivation, his very existence in doing his master's will.

That kind of service cannot be motivated by duty, by glory seeking, by personal gain, or by guilt; it can only be motivated by love.

And so I am caused to pray, "My Lord, I want to be a bond-slave. I want to have the heart of a bond-slave and the appearance of one. For only as your bond-slave will I find joy and peace."

A portrait of a person shows accurately the most outstanding features of that individual, be it an enormous mustache, a cute dimpled chin, beautiful eyes or frost-colored hair. In a portrait of a servant, certain features should always stand out, catching the attention of all who view him or her. I suggest to you that those most outstanding features, yes the most beautiful features, should be humility and a total dedication to and love for the master. I trust that these qualities can become

more prominent in me with each passing day, and I pray the same for you.

Now let me dispel a notion I myself have created. This is not an article about José León Herrera, it is a picture of any true servant of our Lord. I use José as an example because I feel he is a good one, and we learn better from examples than from theory. My intent, however, is for us to see the qualities of the man described, not his identity. This could just as easily have been a portrait of Billy Graham, or Sadhu Sundar Singh (of India), or William Carey, or countless others. And hopefully it is a sketch, at least in part, of you and me.

Besides being a description, I have intended for this to be a challenge to us all; a challenge to allow ourselves to

be used by God in the way that José León has been. Some may say, "Oh, I could never be as useful to God as that man is." I say, "Wait a minute. You are focusing on the servant rather than the master. It matters little one's *abilities*; it matters much one's *availability*. Knowledge and experience have little value; humility and dedication are indispensable. So, my dear brother or sister, I ask you to stop looking in the bathroom mirror at yourself, the servant, and start looking into the mirror of God's Word, for only in this mirror will you accurately see both yourself and the one who is standing behind you, beside you. Focus on Jesus, for I believe that therein lies the key to greater service. ■

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## SPICE

- ✍ Scholarship Program for Indian Children's Education (SPICE) has been in place for over 30 years. When evangelism began among the aboriginal people—the Santals, the Uraons, and the Mundas—who were generally illiterate, something needed to be done about educating the children. In many rural areas there are no schools. It has become much more practical to have the children stay in hostels near a good government school. Tuition is charged at the school. The children live in the hostel with houseparents. It is very important to have good houseparents who supervise the homework to be done, teach the Scriptures and Bible stories, and oversee the chores that need to be done in the life of the hostel (cooking, laundry and cleaning, even perhaps a vegetable garden for food).
- ✍ So the scholarship amount of \$100 a year per child pays for tuition, a few books, slate and other supplies, room and board at the hostel, and/or the services of the houseparents. Nowhere else can you get so much for your dollars.
- ✍ The present day leaders have come up through the SPICE program. Samuel Hembrom is the son of Patras Hembrom, and Moses Marandi is the son of Stephen Marandi, both early leaders in the Santal church.
- ✍ Moses and Samuel have been best of friends through their early school years. Since the early 1980s, they have crossed over the border into Nepal, going from village to village witnessing and having meetings in homes. Today, Moses and Samuel continue to go once a month in this vital ministry to the Nepalese Christians. Now, the only difference is that they no longer have to walk but can go via a motorcycle.
- ✍ How did these men get their training? They got an early start in one of our Brethren in Christ hostels in Barjora. As you invest in these children who are presently going to school and living in the hostel, you may very well be investing in the future of the church, not only in India, but also in Nepal.
- ✍ We hope to enlarge the program and have hostels for the children in Nepal. Also we hope to include Orissa as well as Bihar in the SPICE program in India.
- ✍ We need more sponsors. In Bihar we have 150 SPICE children and we hope to include Orissa with about 15 children. For more information, write to Brethren in Christ World Missions, P.O. Box 390, Grantham PA 17027. ■

# God at work in our world

## Unusual service

*Thelma Book—Kitakyushu, Japan*

Doyle and I are visiting the Shin Shimonoseki Church once a month while their pastoral couple, the Hirokawas, are serving as short-term missionaries in California. Nobue Nishimura, second daughter of church chairman Asao Nishimura of Nagato, is living in the Hirokawas' tiny house and helping the congregation with visitation, Sunday school, etc.

Nobue spent most of last year with Youth With a Mission, doing training at their Okinawa base and then serving for four months in Europe. Because of this connection, YWAM leaders had asked if a group of YWAMers could headquarter with Nobue while they were on a mission to Japan.

So the tiny Shin Shimonoseki church (a building about 10 ft. by 10 ft.) was packed that morning in January with perhaps 15 Korean college students from Incheon. This was their winter vacation, and they came—along with a number of other teams—to run the length of Japan in a “march-around-Jericho” campaign to pray and praise down the strongholds that keep so many Japanese people from trusting Jesus. They did not speak Japanese, but they had picked up phrases here and there. Some of them could understand simple English, so this was an international meeting.

It was not your usual Japanese church service—even at Shin Shimonoseki, where the smallness of the congregation makes for informality. The group was accompanied by a Korean YWAM missionary to Japan who acted as interpreter. They sang several songs for us in Korean, Japanese and English. Then Doyle gave the message while the interpreter translated it into Korean (the congregation had more Koreans than Japanese that day).

After the benediction, they each took the hand of someone not in their group and sang to us individually in Japanese, “I love you with the love of the Lord” and “I see in you the glory of my King....” Many of them had tears in their eyes as they sang. When they finished, they gave a bear hug to the person to whom they had sung (hugging is almost never done in Japanese society). Last of all, they had us sing a song in Japanese—new to most of us—which stated how wonderful is Jesus! Soon they had us all holding hands and dancing while we told the Lord and each other how wonderful he is!

Yes, it was not your usual Sunday morning service. There were several people there for whom the experience must have been almost overwhelming, one of them a student from our own college. We praise the Lord for the vibrant enthusiasm of the team. He will honor the faith of these students. May many more such teams come and wrench this land and its people from the bondages their culture has imposed against the gospel. Praise to our God forever and ever!

## Dry strike

*Joan Barlow—Mtshabezi Hospital, Zimbabwe*

The weather pattern here is very different from New England. Maybe it is similar to the West with its flat plains. Here you almost always see the rain coming. This gives you a few minutes to pick up your belongings and get inside. You can also watch the rain go by, off to the side, while you stand on the dusty ground and wonder why it missed you. It is interesting that the rains almost always come from the same direction. If the wind is blowing the wrong way, the rain usually won't come.

One day recently I was watching a severe thunderstorm off to the side of

us. It was on the “wrong” side, so I suspected it wouldn't come our way. The sky was even partly sunny over our area. After several minutes of watching, I thought maybe I should pick up a few things, just in case. So I went out to the garden to gather together the tools.

As I picked up the hoe, there was a deafening boom of thunder and a cracking all at the same time. My heart was pounding as I ran into the house: “Where are the kids?!” Daniel and Michelle were at the house, screaming but fine. Joseph was with friends at a neighbor's house. The lightning had hit a tree only 20 feet from our house. No rain, no storm; it was what they call a “dry strike” as it threw dust and dirt into the air when it hit the ground. We thank God no one was hurt, for that same storm claimed a man's life only a few miles away.

For me it brought to mind the shortness of life and how quickly it can end. Are we ready to meet God? I know I can say I am ready, not because of anything I have done but because of what Jesus has done for me.

The other thing it brought to mind was, “What am I doing to tell others about Jesus?” What if an unsaved neighbor had been struck by lightning and went to stand before God? Would God have had to say, “I cannot let you into heaven because you have never believed in Jesus to save you”? If that neighbor then looked at me and said, “Why didn't you ever tell me? You knew how I would suffer; why didn't you care?” how could I answer? No answer would truly be good enough.

Are you ready to meet God? Are you a faithful servant, doing what God is calling all of us to do? God is so faithful to us. We expect him to be. But are we as faithful to him? I earnestly pray that we will be faithful servants to do all that God has called us to do. ■

# General Conference Information

The deadline for registration is past. If you plan to attend General Conference and have somehow overlooked registering, call Barb Heinemann (717) 697-2634, and give her the information requested on FORM A, which was an insert in the January issue of the *Visitor*. (The deadline was June 1.)

If you need transportation from the Harrisburg airport, call Jim Hess (717) 790-9670, and give him all the information requested on FORM B. (The FORM B deadline was also June 1.)

Full refunds will be given if cancellations are made to the Registrar, Barb Heinemann, before June 25. No refunds after that date except in case of emergencies. Because of postal delays, please make any cancellations or changes after June 15 by phone.

If you arrive on Saturday, please do so by 9:00 a.m. so that registration can be completed by 9:30 a.m. General Conference begins at 10:00 a.m., July 2. Voting members of Conference are expected to attend all business sessions unless excused by the General Secretary or the Moderator.

All men, women, and children attending General Conference should register on FORM A. And all persons 18 years and over, attending day sessions, should pay the registration fee. The only exceptions are persons attending evening sessions only.

If your agency desires anything to be included in the registration packet, please contact the General Secretary's office at (717) 697-2634 before June 15. Also, if your agency will be using the overhead projector during Conference, we request that you remember to frame your overheads, and use large lettering.

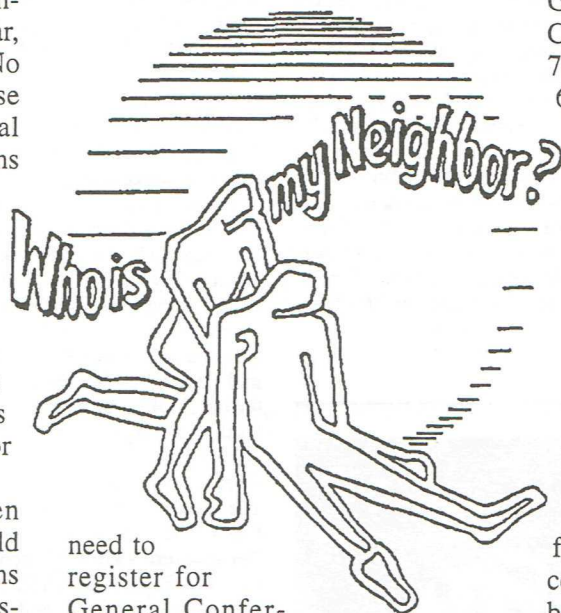
## Pre-Conference Stewardship Seminar registration

Registration for the Pre-Conference Stewardship Seminar will take place in the Grantham Church. Please check your stewardship seminar

information for these times. The Information Booth during the Pre-Conference seminar will be in the Grantham Church, starting at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 30, and remaining there through 9:00 p.m.

## General Conference registration

Registration for General Conference will be in the Sollenberger Sports Center on Friday evening, July 1, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., and on Saturday morning from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. All persons, including those attending the Pre-Conference sessions, will



need to register for General Conference during these times. Room assignments and meal tickets will be included in your registration packet. Those arriving at times other than registration hours will need to pick up their room assignments and meal tickets at the Information Booth. If you are not able to pick up your registration packet yourself, please have someone else do it for you.

The Information Booth for General Conference will be located in the main lobby of the Eisenhower Campus Center, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning and continuing for the duration of Conference. Those arriving on campus at unusual hours should inform Dale Wolgemuth, Director of Information Services for

the General Conference. Call him at home, (717) 766-3006. After Friday morning (July 1), between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., you can reach him at Messiah College, (717) 766-2511, ext. 7145. Dale will arrange for Campus Public Safety to assist persons arriving at unusual hours in finding their room. The Public Safety Office is found in the main lobby of Eisenhower Campus Center.

## Conference phone numbers

If you need to leave a telephone number at home while you are at General Conference, the General Conference phone numbers are (717) 766-2511, ext. 7145, or (717) 691-6009. If the call does not go through either of these two numbers, dial (717) 691-6005. This number automatically goes to the 24-hour Public Safety Office.

## Program Committee note

The General Conference Program Committee would like to inform all attendees of the three major offerings which will be taken during Conference. On Sunday and Tuesday evenings, offerings will be received to help cover General Conference expenses. Any funds received in excess of expenditures will be used to support the ministries of the denomination through Cooperative Ministries. The third offering will be taken on Wednesday evening to support a special Hispanic Ministries project. Your prayerful consideration and generous participation in these offerings will be greatly appreciated.

For more information, check previous issues of the *Evangelical Visitor*, starting with January 1994, or consult the printed program, copies of which have been mailed to each congregation. You can also contact Ken Mark, Convention Director, 304 Berkshire Rd., Grantham, PA 17055. You may phone (717) 766-0403 and leave a recorded message. ■

# Church News

## Allegheny Conference

Lenny Gault spoke Apr. 24 to the **Air Hill** congregation, Chambersburg, Pa., on "God Working at Blandburg." ● The **Chambersburg** church had a family emphasis weekend Apr. 16-17 with Bob and Dottie Crider. ● Joseph Christopher of the **Fairview Ave.** congregation, Waynesboro, Pa., recently earned the Herald of Christ award from Christian Service Brigade. ● The **Five Forks** congregation, Waynesboro, had mid-April renewal services with Ken Hepner. ● Eber Dourte and Robert Crider filled the pulpit in April for the **Hollowell** church, Waynesboro. ● Siegfried Enke from California was the May 1 speaker at the **Iron Springs** church, Fairfield, Pa.

On Apr. 13 the **Martinsburg**, Pa., church viewed the video "Aflame" with Thomas Hermiz, former CHA president. ● The **New Guilford** congregation, Chambersburg, Pa., hosted Allegheny Conference on Apr. 9. ● The **Springhope** church, Schellsburg, Pa., had their mother-daughter banquet May 7. ● The **Morningstar** Singers were in

concert Apr. 10 at the **Van Lear** church, Williamsport, Md. ● Thirty men and boys from the **Walkersville**, Md., church enjoyed a trip to an Orioles baseball game on Apr. 8. The group focuses on building father-son relationships through various activities.

## Atlantic Conference

Five persons were baptized Apr. 3 into the fellowship of the **Conoy** church, Elizabethtown, Pa. Sixty-seven boys and men attended a Good Friday breakfast. ● The **Cross Roads** congregation, Mount Joy, Pa., enjoyed a retreat Apr. 15-17 at Kenbrook Bible Camp with speaker Henry Ginder. ● The **Saturday Circle** group of the **Elizabethtown** church heard pianist Richard Roberson on Apr. 16. ● The **Pioneer Clubs** of the **Fairland** congregation, Cleona, Pa., closed their year with a program on Apr. 24. ● On Apr. 13 the **Free Grace** congregation, Millersburg, Pa., saw the video "Wait of the World." Gayle Von Keyserling was speaker at the May 3 mother-daughter banquet. ● The **Hershey**, Pa., church hosted a *Jubilee* workshop on Apr. 19.

The **Hummelstown**, Pa., church recently participated in the MCC grocery bag project. ● The Easter service of the **Lancaster**, Pa., church included the dramas "On the Road to Emmaus" and "The Empty Tomb." ● The **Messiah College Singers** were in concert Apr. 10 at the **Manor** church, Mountville, Pa. ● "One Man's Tears" was the Apr. 10 message by Phil Keefer to the **Master-sonville** congregation, Manheim, Pa. The church has "adopted" missionaries to Africa, Don and Becky Shenk. ● The **Millersville**, Pa., church brought in 4,935 pennies for the Pa. MCC relief sale. ● The **Messiah College** group Spirit Force ministered in song in the Apr. 10 service of the **Montoursville**, Pa., church.

The **New Covenant** church, Quakertown, Pa., had a record attendance of 166 on Easter Sunday. Ed Rickman spoke Apr. 24 on "Pitfalls of Family Finances." ● On May 8 the **New Joy** congregation, Akron, Pa., began to hear a sermon series on "Family Joy." ● Earl and Lois Musser are serving as interim pastoral couple of the **Palmyra**, Pa., congregation until Louis Cober begins in mid-September. A farewell dinner for the **Zooks** was Apr. 10. ● Peter Dyck spoke Apr. 10 on "MCC Stories of Faith and Courage" to the **Pequea** congregation, Lancaster, Pa. The church received nine new members on May 1. ● On Apr. 17 the **Perkiomen Valley** church, Collegeville, Pa., had Youth Rally Day, with a meal for youth and parents, then a video scavenger hunt.

On Apr. 21 the **Sonshine 'n' Coffee** group of the **Refton**, Pa., congregation heard Mary Bricker speak on pediatrics in Zambia. ● The **Silverdale**, Pa., church reports on its April council: Attendance and offerings are up dramatically; plans to purchase a new furnace; installation of handicap access and sidewalks; the parsonage to become the Christian Education building. ● The **Skyline View** congregation, Harrisburg, Pa., has approved the hiring of a part-time youth advisor. ● Larry Serge was guest musician on Apr. 17 at the **Souderton**, Pa., church, followed by a lasagna lunch. The church hosted the Atlantic Conference quiz meet on Apr. 24. ● Arthur Climenhaga led May 6-8 services for the **Stowe**, Pa., congregation. ● On Apr. 24 Rufus and Janet Good gave a slide presentation on the work

in Africa to the **Summit View** church, New Holland, Pa.

## Canadian Conference

The youth of the **Boyle** congregation, St. Ann's, Ont., watched the video "Sex, Lies, and the Truth" as part of a series on dating. ● The **Bridlewood** church, Agincourt, Ont., had *Bring-a-Friend Day* and a meal after the service on May 1. ● The **Delisle**, Sask., church co-sponsored a dinner theater Apr. 29 at the high school with The Confessions drama group. ● The **Falls View** church, Niagara Falls, Ont., had a seminar Apr. 16-17 on conflict resolution with Nan Cressman. ● Paul Hostetler spoke in the Apr. 20 evening service of the **Heise Hill** church, Gormley, Ont. ● The **Kindersley**, Sask., congregation received two new members on Apr. 10. ● The adult/senior high Sunday school classes of the **Massey Place** church, Saskatoon, Sask., recently saw the video series "Jesus Then and Now." The **Briercrest Bible College Choir** was in concert Apr. 10.

The **Oak Ridges**, Ont., church had its first men's breakfast at the church on Apr. 16. ● The men of the **Orchard Creek** congregation, St. Catharines, Ont., met for breakfast May 7 at the **Golden Griddle**. ● The May 10 spring ladies' night at the **Port Colborne**, Ont., church featured a *fashion show* and *cooking demonstration*. ● The **Ridgemount** congregation, Hamilton, Ont., has seven small groups meeting weekly. ● Ron Sider led a Bible Conference Apr. 16-17 for the **Rosebank** congregation, Petersburg, Ont. ● The **Sherkston**, Ont., congregation had a Mar. 31 dramatic presentation of the Last Supper called "I Am the Vine." ● The **Upper Oaks** church, Oakville, Ont., had a May 6 evening on "Discovering Church Membership." ● Approximately 230 people were hosted Apr. 9 for the **Can-Am** quiz tournament by the **Wainfleet**, Ont., church. ● Eight persons were baptized Apr. 3 at the **Westheights** church, Kitchener, Ont. Janice Epp spoke at the Apr. 21 women's gathering on "Get Out of the Boat."

## Central Conference

Margaret Engle was speaker for the mother-daughter banquet Apr. 29 of the **Amherst** congregation, Massillon, Ohio. ● An 18-piece instrumental ensemble under the direction of Robert Westbeld pre-



"If we want to reach the teenagers, we must go out to where they are to bring the gospel to them. They are not exactly breaking down the doors of the churches to get in." Thus Pastor Bert Harkness of the **Kirkland Lake** (Ont.) Brethren in Christ Church described the mission of a community rock concert hosted April 16 by the church. "The question has to be, do we care about the young people of today? The answer will dictate the methods we use to preach the gospel to them. We don't have to abandon our sense of morality, nor our stand for righteousness. We must learn, however, to conceptualize it in their language if we want them to own it."

The group **Heart Attack** staged the concert in Northern College auditorium, attracting more than 200 people. Opening for the Edmonton-based band was **Kirkland Lake** native Donna Bradley, who expects summer release of her first album. Decisions for Christ numbered 17.

sented selections from "I Claim the Cross" recently for the Ashland, Ohio, church. ● The Beulah Chapel church, Springfield, Ohio, hosted the Apr. 30 Central Conference quiz tourney. ● Glenn Ginder gave a seminar Apr. 17 at the Carland-Zion church, Owosso, Mich., on resolving conflicts. ● On May 1 Lorne and Lois Ruegg, and Graybill Brubaker spoke to the Christian Union congregation, Garrett, Ind. ● Three persons were baptized Apr. 24 into the Fairview congregation, Englewood, Ohio. The congregation joined the nearby Friends church for an Easter sunrise service.

The Lakeview church, Goodrich, Mich., is receiving gifts for a pew Bible fund and recipes for a 25th anniversary cookbook. ● On Apr. 24 the Nappanee, Ind., congregation combined with the North Main Mennonite church for a combined choirs concert. ● The Northgate fellowship, Tipp City, Ohio, received an offering Apr. 10 for Orissa, India. ● The Pleasant Hill, Ohio, congregation cooperated in sponsoring a community Continentals concert on Apr. 22. ● The Cross Ways singing group provided music for the Apr. 24 missions service of the Sippo Valley congregation, Massillon, Ohio. ● The Union Grove church, New Paris, Ind., hosted a quiz with the Nappanee team on Apr. 20.

### Midwest Conference

Norm Sullivan of Trans World Radio spoke in the Apr. 17 morning service of the Abilene, Kan., church. ● On Apr. 7 the MPF of the Mound Park congregation, Dallas Center, Iowa, presented the video "Partners in India." ● The Mt. View congregation, Colorado Springs, Colo., had an all-church cookout and fellowship on Apr. 23. ● The Oak Park congregation, Des Moines, Iowa, has begun shepherd groups. The 40th anniversary celebration was May 22. ● Two men from the Rosebank church, Hope, Kan., sang in the Men's Mennonite Choir concert Apr. 17. The congregation joined the Abilene church May 1 for a concert by Chiz Rider. ● The Zion congregation, Abilene, Kan., had a video Apr. 10 by Vietnam vet and evangelist Dave Roeber. (Our apologies for crediting the May issue news item from Zion to Abilene.)

### Pacific Conference

The Chino, Calif., church hosted the area churches concert of prayer on Apr. 10. ● Pastor Zagol of the Ontario, Calif., church led a small group lately on "Growing Kids God's Way." John Byers led a spiritual life conference Apr. 24-26. ● The World Wide picture "Come the

Morning" was viewed Apr. 17 at the Pacific Highway church, Salem, Ore. ● Graybill Brubaker has agreed to be interim pastor beginning in August for the Upland, Calif., congregation. Charity Book Putnam was guest artist at the May 15 young artists' concert. ● Several women from the Walnut, Calif., congregation attended the 20th Annual Pacific Conference Women's Retreat Apr. 22-24.

### Southeast Conference

Paul Johnson, Asbury Seminary graduate and former missionary, was

guest speaker May 1 at the Holden Park church, Orlando, Fla. ● Roy Musser was May 1 speaker for the Winchester, Va., congregation while Pastor Stambaugh attended the conference pastors and spouses retreat. Paul Hostetler gave a presentation on May 15.

### Susquehanna Conference

Pauline Allison was speaker for the May 7 mother-daughter brunch of the Big Valley congregation, Belleville, Pa. The Hobe Sound Bible College Choir ministered on

Apr. 17. ● Grant Beachy of the Carlisle, Pa., church is serving this summer with OMS International in Medellin, Colombia. On May 1 the church began a video class on "Wrestling with Angels." ● Mike Adkins of Focus on the Family ministered in the Apr. 17 services of the Cedar Grove church, Mifflintown, Pa. ● The Cedar Heights church, Mill Hall, Pa., had a volunteer appreciation banquet on Apr. 23. John and Amy Yeatts introduced the Jubilee curriculum on Apr. 18. ● The homecoming Sunday offering Apr. 24 at the Fairview church,

## Partnering with God

by Harvey R. Sider

There is an astonishing expression in Isaiah 59:16. Almighty God is portrayed as standing in amazement at the lack of prayer: "He...was appalled that there was no one to intercede." Jesus, knowing the urgency and power of prayer, right now is praying for us (Heb. 7:25).

Someone has said, "God has chosen prayer as the key by which his church does its work." It is little wonder the priorities of the early church had such a powerful impact that within the first century the gospel had rimmed the Mediterranean (the familiar world of that day) and spread as far as India. The power and effectiveness of the New Testament church was directly related to its prayer ministry.

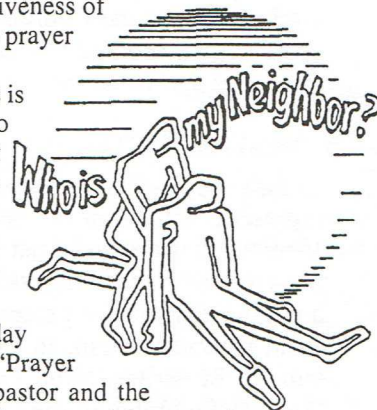
With General Conference just one month away, this is an appeal to all readers of the *Evangelical Visitor* to become engaged in a new level of prayer involvement during the next five weeks. Develop your own schedule of intercession prior to and when General Conference is in session.

You and your congregation may like to use some or all of the following ideas:

1. The "Family Life Calendar" notes that the Sunday prior to General Conference is designated as "Prayer Sunday." This could be an occasion for the pastor and the Sunday school leaders to highlight General Conference and then spend quality time in public and corporate prayer for those who will meet at General Conference, the inspirational services and the business sessions.
2. Surround your pastor and delegates with prayer. Take the issues in the Conference Agenda and together pray for God's Spirit to clearly direct in all decisions.
3. Throughout June pray for the scores of people who carry special responsibility during the week of Conference. Among others, these include: moderator, general secretary, program coordinator, conference director, and those giving leadership to other ministries, like youth and children. Pray that the worship experiences will lead to renewed vision and courage to accomplish our mission.

Join with nearly 75 prayer partners who are committed, along with others, to intercede with God to make this a great work. Partner with those who will participate in the concert of prayer preceding Conference and the prayer vigils throughout the week so that God will enable his people to discern his will and move forward courageously with evangelism and discipleship.

Harvey R. Sider is Moderator of the Brethren in Christ Church.



# E.V. Timelines

## 100 Years Ago

*June 1, 1894 issue*—A printing of Rhoda E. Lee's now-famous speech to General Conference concludes: "Oh may I dare to hope that a missionary fund may be started and a systematic method of foreign work be organized, and that each of us will practice economy and self-denial to swell the fund? 'The King's business requires haste,' and may God speed the time when I 'hear a rumor from the Lord that an ambassador is sent among the heathen.'"

## 75 Years Ago

*June 2 and 9, 1919 issue*—"General Conference convened at the Antrim Church on May 15, and was well attended, delegates being present from nearly every district in the brotherhood. The local attendance was unusually large, many taking advantage of the excellent weather and good roads came by auto and on Sunday, May 19, perhaps upwards of 2,000 people visited the grounds.... After September the *Visitor* will be changed to a 24- instead of a 16-page paper and the regular subscription price will be \$1.50.

## 50 Years Ago

*June 19, 1944 issue*—In the General Conference report: "The Publication Board reported a very profitable year.... The institutions operating under the Publication Board have begun the system of tithing their net income. The Committee on Doctrinal Literature reported that its materials were nearly completed. A few sample chapters of the doctrinal manual were read to Conference.... The petition for conformity to dress standards demonstrated the vital interest of the Church in this live issue.... We trust our beloved brotherhood will be enabled to stem the tide of immodesty and inconsistency that is sweeping the masses with it."

## 25 Years Ago

*June 30, 1969 issue*—Bishop Roy V. Sider writes: "This General Conference represents 10,404 of the believers in Jesus Christ in North America. During 1968 we experienced a net increase in this membership of 201 persons.... We must accelerate our witness for the Lord Jesus. Last year 50 members averaged a net increase of one person. What a shocking comparison to the New Testament Church!" Also, in Editor Zercher's editorial, "Faithfulness or Relevance," he writes, "The forecast is for rough seas and unfavorable winds. Weather favorable to the church is of the past.... On this sea the church sails with a crew threatening to desert and herself confused as to her course. Membership growth is down.... Youth and ministers are leaving the church because the church is not involved...." After citing reasons for hope, Zercher concludes, "This 99th Annual Conference finds us on the threshold of revolutionary decades at the close of this century. In our desire to be relevant it is imperative that we remain faithful."

## 10 Years Ago

*June 1984 issue*—In the lead article, "The Four Faces of Stewardship," author Fred Smith notes that "the early church was not famous for how it grew, nor even for its balanced budgets. It was known for the way people loved each other.... True Christians have a stewardship of identity: they are pilgrims, sojourners, citizens of heaven on their way home." In the same issue, background on the Pilgrim Chapel quiz team, and the revision of the Foundation Series for Children curriculum.

Reesers Summit, Pa., went for a new furnace. Charlie B. Byers spoke. ● The Jr. Choir of the Grantham, Pa., church presented "It's Cool in the Furnace" on May 1. Martha Starr spoke at the Apr. 15-16 women's retreat on "Celebrating Being a Woman of God."

John Bundy led Holy Week services for the Green Grove congregation, Spring Mills, Pa. ● Steve Engle With Dusty and Co. presented a program of ventriloquism Apr. 17 at the Hanover, Pa., church. ● Rodney Carpenter ministered in mime at the Apr. 30 ladies' breakfast of the Jemison Valley church, Westfield, Pa. ● The youth of the Marsh Creek church, Howard, Pa., planned white water rafting for May 21. ● The Mechanicsburg, Pa., church is investigating the idea of starting a daughter church. ● The Messiah Village church, Mechanicsburg, had a concert Apr. 14 by the student choir of The Peoples Church, Toronto. ● On Apr. 13 a representative from Roxbury Holiness Camp showed a video and spoke to the Redland Valley congregation, York Haven, Pa. ● Paul Hostetler spoke Apr. 17 to the Rosegen congregation, Duncannon, Pa.

*Cut-off date for July issue news and "For the Record" reports was June 1. Correspondents, are you submitting your news on time?*

## For The Record

### Births

**Anderson:** Emily Rose, Feb. 11; Sean and Paula (Gsell) Anderson, Mt. Rock congregation, Pa.

**Armstrong:** Jacob, Apr. 24; Terry and Sandra (Marr) Armstrong, Wainfleet congregation, Ont.

**Barley:** Ashley Marie, Mar. 27; Ralph and Tracey (Weiss) Barley, Manor congregation, Pa.

**Cober:** Sorina Anne, Apr. 2; Tim and Sandi Cober, Botswana, Africa (Westheights congregation, Ont.)

**Collins:** Benjamin Edouard, Mar. 23; Marc and Tammy (Flagg) Collins, Wainfleet congregation, Ont.

**Esh:** Travis Mark, Feb. 16; Sam and Sue (Lapp) Esh, Refton congregation, Pa.

**Gipe:** Sarah Elizabeth, Jan. 15; Kurt and Melissa (Rockwell) Gipe, Antrim congregation, Pa.

**Hess:** Austin David, Mar. 28; David and Jodi (Stoudt) Hess, Pequea congregation, Pa.

**Illman:** Christian Philip, Feb. 23; Philip and Dianne (Winger) Illman, Westheights congregation, Ont.

**Jacoby:** Lindsey Anne, Apr. 6; Mark and Terri (Krause) Jacoby, Lancaster congregation, Pa.

**Kreider:** Molly Evelyn, Mar. 30; Ken and Kelly (Hart) Kreider, Pequea congregation, Pa.

**Latham:** Danielle Lee, Mar. 13; William and Autumn (Nicklis) Latham, Mechanicsburg congregation, Pa.

**Mathna:** Tyler Christian, Mar. 23; Ronald and Rae (Measler) Mathna, West Shore congregation, Pa.

**McNeil:** Aaron Zachariah, Feb. 6; Andrew and Spring McNeil, Westheights congregation, Ont.

**Page:** Vanessa Marie, Apr. 14; Don and Pauline (Hockenberry) Page, Cedar Grove congregation, Pa.

**Prior:** Emily Jean, Apr. 8; Keith and Bonnie Prior, Grantham congregation, Pa.

**Richmond:** Danielle Kellee, Mar. 24; Don and Diane Richmond, New Guilford congregation, Pa.

**Stouffer:** Austin Kevin, Mar. 28; Mike and Kelli (Baer) Stouffer, Antrim congregation, Pa.

**Turner:** Naomi Corinna, Apr. 7; David and Marilyn Turner, Westheights congregation, Ont.

**Watkins:** Joshua Mark, Feb. 21; Mark and Sireana Watkins, New Covenant congregation, Pa.

**White:** Gregory Luis, Dec. 29, 1993; Greg and Ana White, New Covenant congregation, Pa.

**Williams:** Jordan Spencer, Apr. 19; Carl and Nancy (Biemans) Williams, Wainfleet congregation, Ont.

**Yoder:** Justina Mae, Mar. 30; Larry and Teresa Yoder, Fairview Ave. congregation, Pa.

**Zercher:** Benjamin Paul, Apr. 27; Gene and Paula (Stump) Zercher, Nappanee congregation, Ind.

## Weddings

**Beamer - Nagy:** Tricia Stephanie, daughter of Louis and Dagmar Nagy, Fenwick, Ont., and Jason Emmet, son of Glenn and Sheila Beamer, Fenwick, Apr. 2, at Boyle Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Lee Winger officiating.

**Cutshaw - Rook:** Pamela, daughter of Michael and Jean Rook, Upper Strasburg, Pa., and Robert, son of Lorraine Cutshaw, McConnellsburg, Pa., Apr. 9, at Air Hill

Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Gerald Wingert officiating.

**Dillman - Tughan:** Penny Tughan and Raymond Dillman, Mar. 12, at St. James-Rosemount United Church with Rev. Rick Burgess officiating.

**Dykstra - Yzerman:** Holly Ann, daughter of Bill and Shirley Yzerman, Dunnville, Ont., and Jeffrey Lawrence, son of John and Mary Dykstra, St. Ann's, Ont., Apr. 16, at Boyle Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Lee Winger officiating.

**Falkiner - Burrison:** Helen Marie Burrison, Ridgeway, Ont., and Franklin Frederick Falkiner, Fort Erie, Ont., Mar. 26, at Sherston Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Leonard J. Chester officiating.

**Gramm - Downey:** Denise Arlene, daughter of Liam and Arlene Downey, Ormond Beach, Fla., and Roger Alan, son of Ethan and Elizabeth Gramm, Orlando, Fla., Feb. 26, at St. Paul's Church with Rev. Fred Ruse and Rev. Ethan Gramm officiating.

**Koffel - Landis:** Wanda, daughter of Jacob and Lois Landis, Souderton, Pa., and Shannon, son of Mairlyn Koffel, Apr. 9, at Souderton Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Joe Hyatt officiating.

**Lehman - Knight:** Christine Lee, daughter of Jeff and Barb Knight, Indiana, Pa., and Leron Lee, son of Bessie and the late Larry Lehman, Huntingdon, Pa., Apr. 23, at the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church with Rev. Donald Hezlep officiating.

**Melhorn - Roland:** Nancy Beth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Roland, Mechanicsburg, Pa., and John Alan, son of Rev. and Mrs. Charles Melhorn, Mechanicsburg, Mar. 12, at Grantham Brethren in Christ Church with Bishop John Hawbaker, Rev. Charles Melhorn, and Rev. John Gallagher officiating.

**Wolgemuth - Lehman:** Lavonne, daughter of Dennis and Karen Lehman, Manheim, Pa., and Justin, son of Dale and Lois Wolgemuth, Manheim, Mar. 19, at Manheim Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Keith A. Tyson officiating.

## Obituaries

**Eshelman:** Mary G. Eshelman, born June 16, 1906, in Abilene, Ks., daughter of George and Martha Gish Lenhart, died Apr. 11. Preceding her in death were her husband, Charles F. Eshelman; and two sons, Robert L. and David L. Surviving are her daughter, Lois E. Beachy; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was a retired home economics professor at Messiah Col-

lege, founder and member of the board of directors of the Children Family Center, Messiah Village, and a graduate of Messiah College and Cornell University. She served as a missionary in Southern Rhodesia for 18 years. She was a member of Messiah Village and the Carlisle, Pa., churches. The funeral was conducted by her pastor, Rev. J. Robert Lehman. Interment was in Grantham Memorial Park.

**Etter:** Hazel E. Etter, born Nov. 15, 1899, daughter of Irwin H. and Elizabeth Hershey Gramm, died Apr. 6. Her husband, William K. Etter, preceded her in death. Surviving are 2 daughters, Mary Balmer and Catherine Nadalsky; 2 sons, Jacob and David; 7 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; 3 brothers, Hershey, Samuel, and James Gramm; and 5 sisters, Esther George, Alma Cober, Martha Rohrer, Ellen Wiles, and Isabelle Franklin. Hazel was a member of the Pleasant Hill congregation, Ohio, where the funeral was held with Rev. Thomas R. Kershner officiating. Interment was in Highland Cemetery.

**Groff:** Ginger S. Groff, born Oct. 2, 1951, daughter of Elwood and Florence Chapman, died Apr. 11. Surviving are her husband, Joseph Groff; a daughter, Carrie; two sons, J. Aaron and Jonas; and a brother, Terry Chapman. She was director of health services and had been a staff nurse at Elizabethtown College since 1979. She had been a clinic nurse of Manheim Medical Center and a relief charge nurse in obstetrics at Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital. She was a member of the Elizabethtown congregation, Pa., where the funeral was held with Rev. David L. Hall and Rev. James H. Rhen officiating. Interment was in Conewago Cemetery.

**Hunt:** Reba H. Hunt, born Mar. 7, 1916, died Apr. 13. Surviving are her husband, Benjamin F. Hunt; a daughter, Barbara Anne Millard; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild;

and a sister, Mary Jane Long. Reba was a graduate of Mechanicsburg High School and West Chester Teachers College, and a retired teacher. She was a member of the Messiah Village congregation, Pa., where the funeral was held with Rev. J. Robert Lehman and Rev. Richard Miller officiating. Interment was in Mechanicsburg Cemetery.

**Kennedy:** Grace M. Kennedy, born Aug. 4, 1936, daughter of Charles and Martha Myers, died Feb. 5. Surviving are her husband, Norman Kennedy; and six children, Ben, Vernon, Gwen Welty, Mildred Gottfried, Loren, and Norma. Grace and her husband farmed in the Greencastle area. She was a member of the Antrim congregation, Pa., where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. The funeral was held at the church with Rev. Steven D. Munger and Rev. Wilbur Benner officiating. Interment was in the Montgomery church cemetery.

**Mertz:** Gertrude T. Mertz, born Sept. 8, 1902, daughter of John H. and Bessie Bowen Watkeys, died Apr. 18. Preceding her in death were her husband, Carl P. Mertz; three sisters, Lillian W. Monismith, Gladys Rieber, and Margaret McGear; and a stepson, Richard C. Mertz. She attended the Fairland congregation, Pa. The funeral was held at Christman's Funeral Home with Rev. Vernon Bosserman officiating. Interment was in Serenity Gardens.

**Wingert:** Mary B. Wingert, born Dec. 2, 1898, died Apr. 20. She was the widow of Arthur Wingert. Surviving are a sister, Kathryn P. Witmer; and nieces and nephews. Mary had served as organist at the Mechanicsburg, Pa., church. She also loved and served the children and young people. She was a member of the Messiah Village church, Pa., where the funeral was held with Rev. Charles R. Burgard and Rev. J. Robert Lehman officiating. Interment was in Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

## Opening for Video Producer

Mennonite Central Committee is accepting applications for video producer (Akron, Pa.). This salaried position is available Sept. 1, 1994. Qualifications include a commitment to Christian faith, active church membership and nonviolent peacemaking. Applicants must have at least six years of experience in actual video production as well as overseeing video production; must be committed to teamwork, "more with less" productions, and able to juggle multiple productions simultaneously. Interested persons in the United States contact Goldie Kuhns, 21 South 12th St., P.O. Box 500, Akron, Pa. 17501-0500, phone (717) 859-1151. Applications due July 15.

## **Climbin' up the mountain, children...**

by *Mim Stern*

Many children in our churches are taking an imaginary trek up the Himalayas in an effort to help the fast-growing work of sharing Jesus in Nepal.

If this is news to you, let me give a bit of history of what children in Brethren in Christ churches have done for the cause of missions.

Some of you may remember (about thirty years ago) being part of a Junior Prayer Band at your church. This was promoted by the late Auntie Cora Sider who had a real vision for what children could do.

At that time my husband and I were houseparents at Youngways Hostel in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, a home away from home for sixty-plus missionary kids over a twelve-year period. Our house was

old and rambling. Under the wood floors (which needed replacing) was a three foot space which served as a secure hide-out for the kids. How to pay for the floor replacement was a problem.

When this word reached Auntie Cora, she attacked the project with her characteristic quiet vigor and soon the quarters were rolling in to pay for vinyl floor tiles to cover the new cement floors. Enthusiasm rode high as the miracle money was collected ...thousands of dollars.

In 1981 the Junior Prayer Band Projects became known as the Missions Prayer Fellowship Children's Projects. The need that year was funds to support tutors for missionary children in Nicaragua and Venezuela with a goal of



\$6,000. Thus began a yearly feature as specific needs with "children appeal" came into focus. God provided talented writers and artists. You may recall some of the projects: "From Totem Poles to Jesus"—India; "Rainbow over Senegal"; "Greater than Gold"—Colombia; "The Copper Connection"—Zambia; "Tales of Thailand";

"Make it to Mexico" (Offerings this year: \$16,124); "Light for London"; "Helping with the Harvest"—Honduras; and "Jimilia Yesu" (Stand up for Jesus)—Malawi.

This brings us to the present project: "Good News for Nepal!" with a goal of \$12,000. Lynn Byer has compiled nine units of interesting material which may be fleshed out with maps, National Geographic articles, audio/visuals listed in

## *Money Matters*

# Transformed lifestyles = transformed ministries

by **W. Edward Rickman**

Does my "lifestyle" have any direct relationship to the ministries of my church? Most definitely it does!

Repeatedly, Jesus inferred that changes in the lifestyle of his disciples would produce changes in the ministries of his people. The Word of God draws some detailed comparisons in the effectiveness of ministries in direct response to the obedient transformation of individual lifestyles. In Luke 10, Jesus appointed 72 persons for the express purpose of preceding his appearance at every town and place he planned to visit.

One of the most striking points of the instructions Jesus gave them was the obvious lifestyle changes which would be required in order to carry out his purposes. Let's take a moment to review those expected lifestyle changes.

1. The need to recognize the task is bigger than their abilities. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

2. The need to become effective persons of prayer. "Ask the Lord of the harvest...to send out workers into his harvest field."

3. The need to be willing to face a hostile environment. "I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."

4. The need to learn to live without reserve resources. "Do not take a purse or bag or sandals."

5. The need to learn not to be distracted. "...do not greet anyone on the road."

6. The need to learn contentment whether or not there is peace. "When you enter a house...stay in that house."

7. The need to accept the provisions

you receive. "...eating and drinking whatever they give you..."

8. The need to be content. "Do not move around from house to house."

I think we get the point. These instructions are obviously counter to the lifestyle to which these disciples were accustomed.

The important fact is that they apparently were willing to accept some lifestyle changes in order to fulfill the commission of their Lord.

In addition, the transformation of their lifestyles also resulted in transformed ministry. Listen to the exaltation of Luke 10:17: "The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.'"

What a surprised joy they expressed! Transformed lifestyles produced transformed ministries. It is

the resource material, and information picked up from current missions writings. It provides the leader with a fine opportunity to gain much information and inspiration about what God is doing in our world today.

You ask, "But who is the missionary in Nepal?" That's the exciting thing! It's no one you know, yet. The work in Nepal began as a result of believers in Bihar (in North India) sharing the gospel with relatives and friends visiting them from Nepal, not many miles across the border. As this country was closed to the gospel of Christ until just a few years ago, people had to meet secretly. Imagine the surprise of the Indian church leaders as they made an encouragement visit, to find pockets of believers here and there growing in the Lord.

Today, the country is open for evangelism although several leaders suffered imprisonment by enemies of the Lord. Jack McClane reports chills running up and down his spine during a recent trip as

he saw the evangelism explosion happening there...and without high tech. Eight groups with more than 500 members are now meeting...by the time you read this, another group may have been spawned. The first Brethren in Christ church building in Nepal was dedicated on March 8, 1992, when the Graybill Brubakers visited there. Above the pulpit, a sign made by a Hindu artist, "The Light of the world is Jesus," hangs in a place where not long ago there was only darkness!

Birtnager is the town from which these groups radiate in a 40 mile radius. The current project is to help develop a church/training center and provide tools for evangelism. "The Life of Christ Visualized" has great effectiveness in that culture but is not available locally. This is something children can certainly relate to.

The national leader is Deepak Shrestha, well-trained with a Masters of Divinity degree earned in India. Other

pastors are Sehm Lal Hembrom, Murmu and Amarnath. Thank God for these able servants as you pray for Nepal.

Are you excited about this project? I am. It's God's doing and we can be a part of the action by involving our children in contributing towards the goal of \$12,000 to make the gospel available and understandable to the people of the mountain kingdom of Nepal.

*Mim Stern is MPF Projects Coordinator*

*Postscript: Currently, Children's MPF projects run from September to September (with the school year). Materials are compiled in units and sent in two or three mailings throughout the year. The Nepal mailings were September 1993 and January 1994. If your church has not received these, please contact Mim Stern, 4407 Walnut St., Apt. 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19104, phone: (215) 222-1609. Also, if materials come to you and you're not the user, please pass them on to the appropriate person. Lastly, we fell short of our goal last year. If ALL churches use the materials, this will not be the case this year.*

imperative that we understand that lifestyle change alone will not produce the desired transformation of ministry. Change for change's sake changes nothing. It is the willingness to make these changes in lifestyle as a means to accomplish God-given goals that will produce ministry transformation.

Jesus said, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Mt. 6:33).

There is an obvious necessity of setting priorities in our lifestyle. Jesus taught a very definite priority scale in the lifestyle of his followers which places his kingdom and his righteousness as the top priority. There is also an implied guarantee of having the necessities of life provided if this priority is in place.

Why is all this so important? It is important because we live in a culture that is self-centered and offers extremely tempting benefits to those who are willing to "go for the gold." There is an endless bombardment of verbal and visual stimuli to persuade us that

more material things will produce happiness, joy, self-fulfillment, and peace. Not only does every generation have to decide priorities in lifestyle, but every individual is forced to make daily decisions in lifestyle priorities. It is a continuing battle and it is, for the Christian, always counter-culture. You will note that Jesus preceded his word about kingdom and righteousness priorities with the words: "For the pagans run after all these things..." (Mt. 6:32). There will always be that tension between Christian priorities and the current culture.

We as the people of God need the reminder that our highest priority is to fulfill the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also need to be aware that opportunities to do just that are being lost because there are not adequate resources.

All of this should cause us to reevaluate our lifestyle priorities in light of ministry opportunities.

As the Brethren in Christ meet together on June 30 and July 1 to consider the theme "Transforming Life-

styles in a Self-Centered World," let's pray together that God will begin a real renewal among us of our spiritual perceptions regarding our lifestyles in relation to the ministries to which God has called us. Let our prayer be: "O God, transform me!"

*W. Edward Rickman is Director of Stewardship (U.S.) for the Brethren in Christ Church.*

### Cooperative Ministries

Receipts—Year to Date  
January 1 - April 30, 1994

	1994	1993
<b>Proportionate</b>	<u>828,992</u>	<u>633,387</u>
Congregational	656,873	623,655
Individual	172,119	9,732
<b>Designated and</b>		
<b>Direct Giving</b>	<u>183,581</u>	<u>164,402</u>
Congregational	99,676	92,213
Individual	83,905	72,189
<b>Total to Date</b>	<u>1,012,573</u>	<u>797,789</u>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<u>4,093,469</u>	<u>4,210,537</u>
<b>Received to Date</b>	24.7%	18.9%

# "It's Can-Am, of course"

by Aubrey Hawton

The crowd in the "Jeopardy!" studio was hushed, awaiting the final question-and-answer round. The scores were tied, with any of the three contestants still in the running for the grand prize: a trip to Grantham, Pa. (Oooh!! Aaahhh!!)

The final category, "Celebrations," flashed on the screen, and the host began to read the clue: "I have over 400 legs, encompass a large geographical area, and celebrated my 10th birthday in 1994 with my largest-ever attendance."

As the clock ticked off its seconds, the contestants scrambled to write their "Final Jeopardy!" questions. Finally, it was time to decide on this segment's winner. Two incorrect answers—"the celebrations of Puerto Rico's statehood" and "a radiation-induced mutant bullfrog"—left only one contestant, a retired minister from Lancaster County, Pa., with a shot at finishing in first place.

"And what is your question, Rev. Engle-Sider-Brubaker-Cober-Ulery?" asked the host.

"That's easy, Alex. It's obvious that

the only possible answer is the Can-Am Bible Quiz Tournament, which was held on April 9, 1994, at the Wainfleet, Ont., Brethren in Christ Church, with over 200 participants attending."

Have you ever wished that you, too, knew more about the Bible quizzing events of the Brethren in Christ? Well, read on to find out all about this year's exciting Can-Am Tournament.

The morning of April 9 began much like any other southern Ontario morning. The parking lot at the Wainfleet church was blanketed in a few centimeters of snow left over from the previous Wednesday's storm. But by 7:00 a.m., the activities had begun. Cars, vans and trailers from Ontario, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Maryland, and New York poured into the church parking lot. Yawning teens, and their equally-awake coaches streamed into the church to join others of the 26 teams who had come to compete in the 10th Annual Can-Am Tournament, sponsored by the Canadian Conference Quiz

Director and the Board for Congregational Life of the Canadian Conference.

This year's tournament saw 10 teams competing for the Junior Division championship (quizzers with two years or less of quizzing experience), and another 16 teams competing in the Senior Division.

A full morning of round-robin allowed the teams to "get to know each other," and determined positions for the afternoon's double-elimination playoff rounds. Some excellent quizzing over 1 and 2 Corinthians was evident by all of the participating teams, with no one team demonstrating a clear dominance during the round-robin portion. The only team to pass through the round-robin portion undefeated was Ocean Community Fellowship from Tom's River, N.J. (quizzing in the Junior Division).

Following a lunch break, needed for refueling depleted bodies and refreshing tired minds, the playoff round began, with all teams again quizzing. In the Junior Division, Ocean Community Fellowship was relegated to the losers' bracket by a strong Paramount (Md.) Brethren in Christ team, only to meet them again in the finals. Some of the best quizzing of the entire tournament was between these two teams in the Junior Division finals, with Ocean Community forcing the first quiz into overtime with a correct answer on the last question, and ultimately winning the quiz in a 5-question overtime. That win set up the final quiz—another Ocean Community versus Paramount showdown. The tension in the audience was evident as each question progressed, and when the final question had been read and answered, Ocean Community had emerged with a narrow victory, to become the winners of the Can-Am Junior Division. Nappanee (Ind.) Brethren in Christ rounded out the top three. Other Junior Division teams included Grantham (Pa.) Brethren in Christ; Upstate (N.Y.) Nazarene; Lakeholm (Ohio) Nazarene; Chambersburg (Pa.) Brethren in Christ; Lusby (Md.) "Pigs"; Beulah Chapel (Ohio) Brethren in Christ; and Cross Roads (Pa.) Brethren in Christ.

The Senior Division saw much excellent quizzing during the day, as well. The final two teams turned out to be Elizabethtown (Pa.) Brethren in Christ, who had advanced through the winners' bracket, and St. Paul's (N.Y.) Nazarene, who had advanced through the losers' bracket. In a final quiz where denominational affiliations were evident in divided cheering sections, Elizabethtown pulled off a one-quiz win to capture the 1994



## Scholarship for the Young Church Musician

*Sponsored by the Board for Congregational Life  
through its Music Trust Fund*

These scholarships of \$200 are to be used for private music lessons.

### *Eligibility:*

1. Applicant must be a member or regular attender of a Brethren in Christ congregation.
2. Applicant's age must be 14 to 19 as of September 1, 1994.
3. Applicant must be presently studying music, and must be participating in some way in the music program of the local congregation.
4. Applicant must exhibit potential for assuming responsibilities in the area of church music.
5. Recommendation by the pastor or a church musician must accompany the application.

Application deadline: August 31, 1994. Plans are for the recipients to be notified by September 30. For a scholarship application, contact:

Board for Congregational Life  
P.O. Box 290  
Grantham, PA 17027-0290  
(717) 697-2634

Can-Am Senior Championship over a strong St. Paul's team. Finishing in third place was the team from Fawn Grove (Pa./Md.) Nazarene. Other Brethren in Christ Senior Division teams included Grantham (Pa.); Mt. Rock (Pa.); Pequea (Pa.); Manheim (Pa.); Wainfleet (Ont.); Palmyra (Pa.); Harrisburg (Pa.); Westheights (Ont.); and Carlisle (Pa.).

While quizzing is a team competition, special recognition was also given to the top individual achievers in both the Junior and Senior Divisions. The top Brethren in Christ quizzers in the Junior Division, were Kristen Race (Beulah Chapel), 10th; Brian Kipe (Chambersburg), 9th; Stacy Mulisano (Paramount), 8th; Kimberly Kipe (Paramount), 6th; Esther Rosen-trater (Nappanee), 4th; Jenny Kipe (Paramount), 3rd; and Richard Spotts (Grantham), 2nd.

In the Senior Division, the top quizzers included Kelly Risser (Elizabethtown), 9th; Stuart Heisey (Mt. Rock), 8th; Lisa Pertusio (Palmyra), 6th; Brian Wigg (Westheights), 5th; Karen Helmuth (Carlisle), 3rd; John Houck (Pequea), 2nd; and Marcus Yeatts (Grantham), 1st.

Congratulations to all of the quizzers who participated, and particularly to the "Top 20" who demonstrated excellence in their quizzing pursuits.

Each year since 1990, the final presentation at each Can-Am Bible Quiz Tournament has been the Jason Rosado Memorial Award. This award is presented to a quizzer who has made an outstanding contribution to Bible quizzing at the Can-Am Tournament, in the opinion of quizmasters, officials, quizzers, and coaches. The award is presented in memory of Jason Rosado, a second-year quizzer from the Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church who passed away on April 8, 1989 as the result of a car accident while his team was traveling to the Can-Am Tournament. This year, Jason's aunt, Jean Heise of the Wainfleet congregation, presented the award to Marcus Yeatts. Marcus is one of the "senior" members of the Grantham quiz team, and an excellent role model for all quizzers to emulate.

The Wainfleet congregation has graciously hosted the Can-Am for seven years. Also, to the quizmasters and officials, I owe gratitude, for without them, nothing could have happened.

Finally, to all of the teens and adults who are devoting themselves to the study of God's Word, we offer our support. You are and will continue to be in our prayers. I am convinced that Bible quizzing—whether on a weekly basis in

local practice sessions, at Regional Conference monthly meets or Finals in June, at the Can-Am or the Lancaster Tournament, at World Bible Quiz Association Finals or at denominational finals in July—is an excellent training ground for the youth of the church. Let's continue to support them with our prayers, and with

our words of encouragement—and maybe with a trip to next year's Can-Am, which will be held on April 8, 1995.

*R. Aubrey Hawton is the Can-Am organizer and Brethren in Christ denominational quiz director.*

Dear Fielding,

Apparently May and June are marrying months in this church. Couple after couple stand before the people in extravagant ceremonies followed by food and festivities. I watch these couples—so pure and innocent-looking—from my vantage point in the choir loft. They are full of promises, unsuspecting of the difficulties the future will bring. They seem so sure that the bliss of the moment will last forever.

I guess I'm old and cynical. During these ceremonies I want to jump out of my hiding place, run up the train of the bride's lace-bedecked dress, and disrupt the ceremony before the two young people declare a vow they may not keep. Ah, what an important thing a mere mouse could do—to prevent heartbreak and pain.

Bitter? You are thinking that I sound bitter? Well, yes, I suppose I am. My Millie was as beautiful a bride as those in this church. She made vows of fidelity just as they do. And you know as well as I what happened. One flirtation and she was gone—with a mouse half her age and only half as handsome as I! Bitter. Yes, but more hurt than bitter. And I cry out with rage when I see these creatures making promises. Do they really know what they are promising? Do they have any idea how long a lifetime will seem?

But, Fielding, as I listen to these ceremonies, every so often I sense a hope that I can't explain. I wonder if it comes from the fact that some of these couples are promising not only to love each other, but also to love another one whom they call Jesus. His name keeps coming up. Apparently this Jesus will have a bride someday. Who she is, they never quite say. And the preacher declares that Jesus' marriage will last forever. So...why should not the bride and groom in the ceremony today be able to stay together forever? It's odd reasoning, but I hear it repeated again and again.

So they don't talk about A. Nony and Millie Mouse's divorce. They don't talk about disease and hardship, infidelity and trouble. They talk about this hope they have. And it seems enough for them; if Jesus can do it forever, then certainly so should they....

As much as I have resisted it, the hope in this building sometimes melts my mean streak. It's not a hope that people or mice will be perfect, or that troubles will never come. It is rather a hope that comes from this Jesus fellow. As I told you last time, he's never really here...but he is. He seems to be in the sweet-faced lad who says "I do." He's in the minds of the parents who weep silent yet joy-filled tears. (Do they sense the future?) He's in the well-intentioned heart of the lovely lass who promises "forever" to her stalwart lover.

Ah, my heart breaks, Fielding. Where was this Jesus when Millie and I parted? Could his hope have held us together? I wish I had known him then.

Give my regards to your sweet Twilly. And don't ever take her for granted.

Sincere and struggling,  
A. Nony Mouse



# MESSIAH COLLEGE NEWS

## Messiah celebrates commencement

Messiah College held its 84th annual commencement on Saturday, May 14. Of the 488 graduates of the Class of 1994, 235 received Bachelor of Arts and 253 received Bachelor of Science degrees.

The commencement exercises featured a special tribute by Board of Trustees Chairman Galen Oakes to President D. Ray Hostetter, who is retiring this year after 30 years at the helm of the college.

Dr. Os Guinness, a speaker and writer living in Northern Virginia, gave the commencement address. Dr. Guinness was educated in England where he did undergraduate studies at the University of London, and postgraduate studies at the University of Oxford. He has written numerous books. His latest is *Fit Bodies, Fat Minds: Why Evangelicals Don't Think* (Baker 1993). His next book will be on the subject of vocation. Since 1984, he has lived in the Washington, D.C. area, and is currently a Director of the Trinity Forum, a seminar-style forum for senior executives and political leaders that engages the leading ideas of our day in the context of faith.

A total of 37 graduates were from the Brethren in Christ Church. The following comments represent what several of these



*Messiah College celebrated its 84th annual commencement May 14.*

Brethren in Christ graduates had to say about their Messiah experience.

**Melanie K. Hawbaker**—I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Messiah College. My best time was one year I spent in Nairobi, Kenya, at Messiah's sister college, Daystar University College. I have also made strong, faithful friends who have given me many memories, and have helped me grow during my four years at Messiah. Instructors at Messiah have fulfilled my expectations and I feel prepared to enter the work force.

**Beth L. Jacobs**—While attending Messiah College I appreciated the Christian atmosphere and the caring attitude of the professors.

**Brent L. Keener**—I really enjoyed being involved in the different opportunities Messiah has to offer. There are so many different clubs and organizations that there is plenty to do if you work at putting the time and effort into it. If anything, I would like to have been in more groups earlier in my college career.

**Chadwick L. Warfel**—Messiah College has really opened my eyes to the rest of the world, both in the area of world views and also to other cultures. My time here has taught me so much about others while strengthening my own Christian beliefs. My past year in particular, studying and working in both Europe and Central America, has been invaluable and certainly unforgettable.



*President and Mrs. Hostetter will be leaving Messiah College on June 30 after 30 years as President and First Lady. The Hostetters will visit Oregon for a few months to visit family, travel back to Pennsylvania for the inauguration of Messiah's new President in October, then settle down in Sanibel Island, Florida, where they have vacationed for 20 years.*

## May 1994 Brethren in Christ graduates

Christopher I. Bert, computer science, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Dawna E. Bert, engineering, Upland, Calif.

Philip K. Brubaker, Christian education, Arcanum, Ohio

Christopher R. Cober, engineering, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Wendy F. Cober, elementary education, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Sharon K. Cook, English, Harrisburg, Pa.

Jacob Daniel, engineering, Lusaka, Zambia

Lisa A. DeRoose, behavioral science, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Mark H. Erb, accounting, Manheim, Pa.

Matthew H. Erb, accounting, Manheim, Pa.

Jeffrey C. Erikson, English, Dillsburg, Pa.

Melanie K. Hawbaker, international business, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Carla L. Heisey Double, pre-veterinary, Manheim, Pa.

Peter L. Hess, engineering, Lancaster, Pa.

Nancy L. Huber, English, Annville, Pa.

Amy J. Hulett, biochemistry, Baltimore, Md.

Beth L. Jacobs, early childhood education, Fairfield, Pa.

Jared E. Keefer, Christian education, Dillsburg, Pa.

Brent L. Keener, human resource management, Dillsburg, Pa.

Heather E. Martin, early childhood education, Thompsontown, Pa.

Lynn A. Maynard, family studies, Williamson, Pa.

Jay Scott Mylin, English, Manheim, Pa.

Richard Alexander Neff, French, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Thanh T. Nguyen, human resources management, Harrisburg, Pa.

Rena J. Peachey, elementary education, Belleville, Pa.

Eric J. Poe, elementary education, Montoursville, Pa.

Jason E. Richwine, mathematics, Carlisle, Pa.

Rebecca R.E. Smeltz, psychology, Lewisburg, Pa.

Andrew L. Steckbeck, accounting, Mount Joy, Pa.

Julie M. Stone, biology, Williamsburg, Pa.

Jodi L. Stoner, family studies, Chambersburg, Pa.

Gordon Alan Thornton, sports and exercise science, Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada

Mylan L. Tyrrell, health and physical education, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Chadwick L. Warfel, international business, Leola, Pa.

Heather H. Wideman, sports and exercise science, Gormley, Ontario, Canada

Alex D. Yost, family studies, Lancaster, Pa.

Virginia R. Zink, engineering, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

### **Grant received for project on American Protestantism; Conference slated**

Messiah College has received a grant of \$172,834 from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. to fund a project entitled "Re-forming the Center: Beyond the Two-Party System of American Protestantism." This project will re-examine the notion that American Protestantism can fairly and accurately be described in terms of two oppositional "parties" (i.e., fundamentalists versus liberals, or evangelicals versus the mainline churches).

The hypothesis of the project is that the lived experience of many, if not most, American Protestants is not nearly so neatly divided. As part of the project, three major conferences will be held at Messiah College (in June 1994, 1995, 1996) and several books will be pub-

lished disseminating the results of these meetings.

The first of the conferences will be held at Messiah College on June 2-5. The main thrust of the first conference is descriptive. "Reclaiming a Nonpartisan History of American Protestantism 1900-1960" is intended both to stand alone as a scholarly conference and to lay a sound historical base for the rest of the project.

Planning for this project was funded by a grant from the Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture. The co-directors of the project are Douglas Jacobsen of the Department of Biblical and Religious Studies and William Vance Trollinger, Jr., of the Department of History and Political Science.

For further information contact either of the co-directors at (717) 766-2511.

## **SOUTHERN AFRICAN REUNION SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 4-7, 1994 IN WATERLOO, ONTARIO**

Ontario Brethren in Christ and Mennonites who have served in Southern Africa will be hosting a full scale "family reunion" at Conrad Grebel College this summer. Returned Southern Africa mission and service workers from across North America are invited. The goal of the reunion is to reconnect returned workers, both with their country of service and with each other, and to re-inspire them for ongoing ministry here.

Enock Shamapani, Brethren in Christ bishop in Zambia, and his wife Lastinah will bring firsthand reports of the current life, faith and struggles of the church in Southern Africa.

The reunion will also include lots of African music, stories, worship and fun. Activities are planned for all ages.

For more information contact Bruno Baerg, MCC Ontario, 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ONT N2G 3R1; Phone (519) 745-8458. FAX (519) 745-0064.

# Discipleship for the 21st Century

## Is there life without TV?

by Samuel M. Brubaker

One of the concepts highlighted by this column in the past year is simplicity of lifestyle. Today we set forth an example of a specific application of that concept by a Brethren in Christ family.

The role of television in the life of most people in North America—Brethren in Christ included—can hardly be overstated. The allure, the power of this medium touches all who watch the screen. Christians generally recognize TV's potential for both good and evil, and insist that it's important to control "the tube." Many Christians decry the prominence of programming which undermines Christian values. But how many of us gain effective control of TV in our homes? This question is especially pertinent to families with children.

Sam and Sharon Cassel and their family of Dayton, Ohio (Fairview Brethren in Christ congregation) have achieved control—the TV set in their house is connected to neither cable nor antenna. The only reception it gets is from the VCR—i.e., complete control over programming. In a recent interview, they shared thoughts and feelings on this topic.

Sam and Sharon describe their transition to life without TV. In a move to another home, they decided to defer renewing the expense of cable. When faced with the need for installation of an antenna, they decided to omit that also. Not that TV had in the past dominated their household—they had followed the policy of no TV during the school week. But now, to a new degree, they are free of the domination of TV.

Do they miss it? Mostly no, but occasionally yes. One of the daughters says she wouldn't have time to watch. Another reported that she'd "make time" for certain programs if they were available to her. The third girl reported she has more time for outdoor activity. The parents reported that they don't miss it. All agreed that it would have been nice to be able to watch the Olympics. In the past, they would at times watch family-type programs together.

Does lack of TV put them at a disadvantage in the world? To be sure, they are less able to discuss the current shows or popular stars with their friends. But this author has observed that these teens are able to discuss meaningful issues with good insight and intelligence. They are vivacious, friendly, and quite involved with youth activities. They have access to news and ideas through Christian radio. Mostly the girls feel that there is no ridicule from peers, although one feels

that she is at times ridiculed by friends who are "TV addicts."

The parents report that without TV less time is consumed watching the screen; there's less bending of schedules and activities to fit the TV schedule; there is reduced conflict, since there is no need to debate which show will be chosen; they play more games as a family. They conclude they're better off without it.

The Cassels don't feel that rejecting TV is essential for discipleship. They don't push it on anyone; many of their friends wouldn't know their home lacks TV. They don't know for how long they'll keep the TV non-functioning. But they do feel that for the present, abstaining from TV is a discipline beneficial for them.

Some people might regard this family as out of date or out of touch. But are they missing out on anything really important? Serious Christian disciples would do well to consider that the Sam Cassel family might be out ahead of us all in this discipline.

*This column is a ministry of the Board for Brotherhood Concerns.*



Bulletins and newsletters reprinting "Pontius Puddle" must pay \$10 for each use to Joel Kauffman, 111 Carter Road, Goshen, IN 46526.



# Onesimus

Dear Paul,

What did you mean when you told the Romans to "be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God...for he is God's servant for your good..."? Surely you didn't believe that Caesar was "good"! Well, perhaps you did think he was "God's servant." After all, you wrote that letter before Nero began his nasty persecution of believers. Although they weren't exactly of high moral caliber, until then the Roman emperors weren't bloodthirsty beasts, devouring Christians simply because of their faith. By the time John received his revelation, the empire and its leaders seemed like beasts, and he used that imagery to describe them.

I raise this issue because we recently had primary elections here. These days we are given the right and even expected to participate in the selection of government officials. Not all believers consider participation a good idea; then again, not all believers avoid participation. At a recent gathering of brothers and sisters our discussion of this matter was rather heated, although no one left the conversation irate and no relations were irreparably broken.

The majority believed Christians should participate in electing the "best" candidate to office, and some of these folks even thought there is such a thing as "Christian politicians." Furthermore, they believed that we, as average citizens, do influence how these elected officials vote. Additionally, they argued that our traditional understanding of how "Anabaptists" refused to vote is simply erroneous. (Supposedly Mennonites provided the "swing vote" in the Philadelphia area when, in the 1700s, they voted for Quakers candidates.)

The minority position argued that there is little sense in voting for the "lesser of two evils." (Often that's what is meant by "best candidate.") They conceded that "Christian politician" isn't really an oxymoron; that is why Mennonites probably voted for Quakers. However, today there are few, if any, obviously Christian candidates. Moreover, they didn't believe that the average citizen had as much lobbying influence as the special interest groups which are

always prowling the halls of Congress. And not only that, but there's a lot of "wheeling and dealing" done in those halls...seemingly hardly anyone votes because of conviction.

I am rather torn on this matter. In the past I thought that our participation in the political arena was important, and I even believed that one party adhered more closely to "Christian" principles than the other. I don't believe that any longer. It seems as though the system is broken; the best laid plans of government "often go awry" (I offer my apologies to Robert Burns, the great Scottish poet, for stealing that line from his original "gang aft agley"). So these days I lean toward the above mentioned "minority" position. But my sympathy lies there for a slightly different reason than those cited.

It seems as though governments cannot cope with or alleviate the social problems which beset nations. It is impossible to legislate moral attitudes and behavior. Governments can allocate funds to swab social sores, but that does not deal with the source of the problem: human nature. I fear there's a real temptation to believe that if we send the "best" candidates to the halls of government, then we have fulfilled our responsibility to ameliorate society. Rubbish. We underestimate the power of the church to improve the world through its faithful witness to God's transforming power, and we need to develop models which remind people that there is the hope of improvement. If the governments want to legislate rules forbidding racism, fine. Let's integrate our congregations to show that God's love transcends ethnic and racial boundaries. If the governments want to argue over the morality of abortion, fine. Let's begin to minister to single mothers and let's adopt unwanted children. If the governments want to get tough on welfare, fine. Let's help people break out of the poverty cycle through tutoring and job training. If the governments want to legislate morality, fine. Let's introduce people to Jesus Christ, who can make them truly moral people.

Perhaps I'm a dreamer, but I really believe that we, with God's help, can do a much better job at what the governments of this world claim to be doing a good job with currently. John Wesley

didn't rely on Parliament to solve England's social problems. He personally addressed the alcoholism ravaging the country. Menno Simons didn't ask the state to clothe the naked or feed the hungry. Instead he defined true "evangelical faith" as being involved in these activities. Paul, I guess that in this day and age I am not convinced that your understanding of the state is as accurate as that of John. He was right: God is our only hope in the face of an out-of-control state. Sorry.

Still, grace be with you,  
Onesimus

## Annual Meeting of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society Sunday, July 3

9:00 p.m.

(During General Conference)

### Theme: The Bi-Vocational Ministry

Ardis Alderfer: Interview with  
Martha Ginder, the wife of a  
former bi-vocational minister



Winnifred Worman: "Growing  
Up in the Home of  
Bi-Vocational Parents—John  
and Nellie Hostetter"



Norman Hostetter: "The  
Implications for Church and  
Community of the  
Bi-Vocational Ministry of John  
and Nellie Hostetter"



**Refreshments served.**

**All interested persons are  
invited to attend.**

## Not "competition" but "completion"

by Jack McClane

Raising children in the 1990s, pursuing the American dream, working 50 hours a week, commuting an hour and a half to work, encouraging your daughter in sports and your son in the courtesies of the road—these don't make it easy to keep a clear focus on reaching the nations for Christ. Do these demanding tasks of North American families mean the church should de-emphasize world evangelization? That might match the mood of some, but the call of Christ to his church remains unchanged.

For 100 years, Brethren in Christ people have understood that the Great Commission is a major part of the church's function in the world. It has been part of our Christian experience, making us an authentic New Testament church. The Great Commission—missions—does not *compete* with the church...it *completes* the church. It is hardly a department; it's our destiny. By our Lord's own declaration, it is what matters most.

Historically the Brethren in Christ have responded to the Great Commission through the creation of a mission board whose leaders are elected by the churches and report back to the churches. Missionaries are members of the church, credentialed and supported by the church, and expand our church worldwide. To God be the glory for 100 years of good missionary history.

Where do Brethren in Christ missions stand with other agencies today? Across North America, mission strategists are speaking about reaching the unreached. It is an emphasis clearly centered in Scripture giving focus to mission agencies. As a church we can rejoice because unreached tribes are responding to the gospel through Brethren in Christ missionary efforts in places like India, Malawi, Mozambique, and London. Of significance is the fact that there are many tribes and ethnic groups that would be listed as unreached but

for our faithful witness to them by proclaiming the gospel, establishing the church, and nurturing it on to greater maturity.

Many mission strategists and multiple mission agencies are deeply involved in the movement called "2000 A.D. and Beyond." Undoubtedly the Lord of the church has brought this vision into focus, which purposes a church for every people and the gospel for every person by the year 2000. No one should be without access to the life-changing message of redemption. We support this movement and invite parachurch groups to work with us and through us in planting churches in unreached areas. This is nothing new for Brethren in Christ. It is what we have been doing for one hundred years. We do continue, however, to re-examine our approaches to ministry, recruitment and support patterns, but our primary objectives remain unchanged. They are:

1. *Reach the lost.* We want our missionaries to be involved in leading people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. May we never lose sight of this highest of callings.

2. *Plant national churches.* The Great Commission makes it clear that we are to go into all the world and make something that will last. You cannot make disciples outside the context of the local church. We will always be a church-planting mission.

3. *Train national leadership.* We are encouraged with the progress we are making in this area. It is being given greater attention because of the unusual growth of the church in some areas. Enrollments in our Bible schools and theological colleges in Africa are again on the increase. In Nicaragua we now have four extensions of our Bible school so that pastors in even the most remote areas of this mountainous country have access to good training. Sixty-six persons are enrolled in these four satellite locations. A new Brethren in Christ Bible school is now in operation in Mexico with ten pastors enrolled. Extensive training is being given to our 60-plus pastors in Honduras as they are brought together in key geographical

areas. The construction of a new Bible school will soon be underway in Mozambique. In India, four young men just completed their training in April and three young men are in pastoral training from Nepal.

The many institutions founded by Brethren in Christ missionaries and now administered by national personnel strengthen our churches and fulfill the compassion ministries exemplified by our Lord.

As we approach the beginning of our second century of world missions:

- Let us affirm that our response to the Great Commission is more than impulse; it is commitment to the divine mandate.

- Let us rebuild our missions awareness among the new generation coming into leadership. This new generation will do what it values.

- Let us keep our sense of urgency. Each passing day means one day less to proclaim the transforming gospel of Christ.

- Let us look to the Scriptures to explain our world. News shows, professional athletes, musicians, and actors see the world differently than those who are called and chosen by God.

- Let us remember that the hope of the world is Jesus. He is the Peacemaker.

- Let us keep our absolutes absolute. Christ is still the only way to Heaven.

- Let us hear again that Jesus is coming back to this world for his church, but not until the church fulfills its responsibility to God's objective and timetable. Jesus said, "and this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the *whole world* as a testimony to *all nations*, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

- Let us declare again that as Brethren in Christ we are, above all else, a Great Commission agency, called to proclaim the good news of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

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Jack McClane is executive director of Brethren in Christ World Missions, P.O. Box 390, Grantham, PA 17027.

## La familia se traslada al sur (or, Getting ready for General Conference—Part 3)

Por primera vez, la familia Menonita y de los Hermanos en Cristo tiene más miembros en el hemisferio sur que en el norte. Esa es la noticia sobresaliente en el Directorio de 1994 de los Menonitas y Hermanos en Cristo, indica Larry Miller, secretario ejecutivo del Congreso Mundial Menonita. Los datos para este último directorio fueron recogidos en Estrasburgo (Francia) por el personal del CMM.

Los miembros bautizados en los 194 cuerpos organizados en 61 países ahora sobrepasa las 973.000 personas. En 1990 los datos indicaban 856.600 miembros en 171 cuerpos en 60 países. Esto representa un incremento de 117.300 personas, o sea el 13.7 por ciento. Dos países africanos mostraron un aumento excepcional: Zaire, de 112.900 a 136.200 (incremento de 21 por ciento), y Etiopía, de 10.000 a 50.000 (aumento de 400 por ciento).

Las iglesias en el sur (África, Asia, Australia, y América Latina) tienen más de 519.000 miembros, mientras que las iglesias del norte (Europa y Norteamérica) vienen detrás con 455.000. Los países con más miembros son: EEUU 287.781; Zaire 136.200; Canadá 117.932; India 84.195; Indonesia 60.709; Etiopía 50.018. Cinco países adicionales tienen alrededor de 20.000 miembros o más: Alemania, Mozambique, Paraguay, México, y Tanzania.

Los datos comparativos de 1990 a 1994 por continente indican lo siguiente: África, un aumento de 176.500 a 276.653; Asia y Australia, un pequeño aumento de 147.600 a 151.057; América Latina, un incremento de 83.400 a 91.436; Europa, una disminución de 68.600 a 49.132 (lo que refleja el éxodo desde lo que fuera la Unión Soviética); Norteamérica, un aumento de 380.500 a 407.713.



If you read Spanish, you know now that for the first time, North America and Europe are no longer home for the majority of Brethren in Christ and Mennonites. According to the Mennonite World Conference 1994 Directory, 53 percent of us live in Africa, Asia, Australia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Africa has seen the greatest increase, having three of the top ten countries with most members.

One of the groups contributing to the increase is in Mozambique, which did not appear in the 1990 directory. An independent organization called Assemblies of God (no association with any Pentecostal denomination) became affiliated with the Brethren in Christ in the early 1990s. Under the leadership of Agostinho Jose Zavier, the Brethren in Christ in Mozambique have approximately 22,900 members in 258 congregations (close to the numerical size of the Brethren in Christ Church in the United States and Canada). Meanwhile, the Brethren

in Christ Church in Zimbabwe lists 16,152 members in 210 congregations, and Zambia counts 8,326 members in 118 congregations (1991 figures).

As we come together next month at General Conference, let this information remind us that we are part of a larger picture—the world-wide Body of Christ. Yes, we need to decide how best to organize our denominational boards and our regional conference leadership. We have other agenda items which will help to shape our church's life and ministry. And we will celebrate together the Lord's presence among us. But I trust we will leave General Conference with renewed determination to serve our Lord through ministries directed and energized by the Holy Spirit—both in our local communities and in our mission outreach around the world. *There is life—and work to be done—after reorganization.* G



And now, for those of you who, like me, do not yet know Spanish, the English translation of the MWC news release:

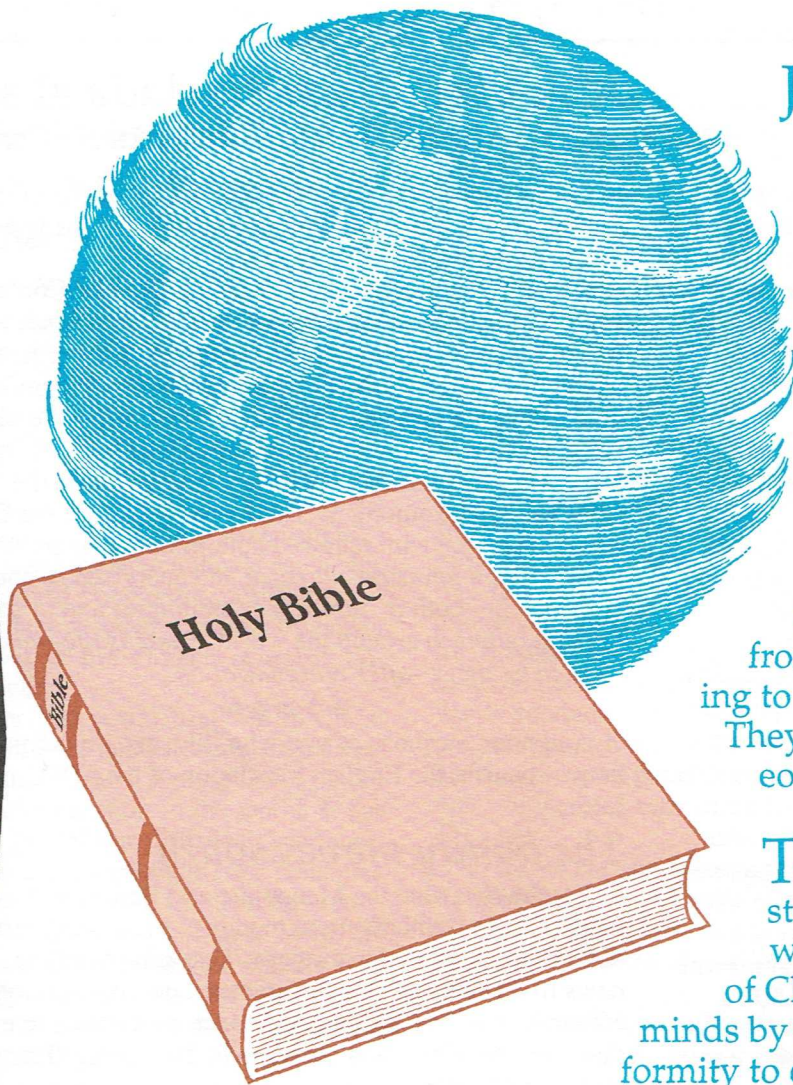
### *The family moves south*

For the first time the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ family numbers more members in the southern hemisphere than in the northern. That's the headline news from the 1994 World Directory, points out Larry Miller, Mennonite World Conference executive secretary. Directory data was gathered in Strasbourg (France) by the MWC staff.

Baptized members of the 194 organized bodies in 61 countries now exceeds 973,000. The 1990 compilation showed 856,600 members in 171 bodies in 60 countries. This represents an increase of some 117,300 or 13.7 percent. Two African countries showed exceptional growth: Zaire up from 112,900 to 136,200 (21 percent increase) and Ethiopia up from 10,000 to 50,000 (400 percent increase).

Churches in the south (Africa, Asia, Australia and Latin America) top 519,000 members while churches in the north (Europe and North America) trail with just 455,000. Countries which count the most members are: USA 298,781; Zaire 136,200; Canada 117,932; India 84,195; Indonesia 60,709; Ethiopia 50,018. Five additional countries have around, or exceed 20,000 members: Germany, Mozambique, Paraguay, Mexico and Tanzania.

Comparative regional figures for 1990 and 1994 show Africa up from 175,500 to 276,653; Asia and Australia up slightly from 147,600 to 151,057; Latin America up from 83,400 to 91,436; Europe down from 68,600 to 49,132 (reflecting movement out of the former USSR); North America up from 380,500 to 407,713. ■



*Jesus Christ  
commissions  
the church to  
make disciples*

JESUS CHRIST commissions the church to make disciples of all the world's peoples. The church is called to share the gospel in every culture and stratum of society. Evangelism includes bringing people to a saving faith in Christ and to responsible membership in the church. The people of God are also called to be a redemptive influence in the world, confronting corporate sin and seeking to overcome evil with good. They are to be a voice for righteousness, peace, and justice....

THOSE WHO FOLLOW CHRIST are strangers and pilgrims in the world, called to share the light of Christ. In the renewing of our minds by God's grace, we resist conformity to our fallen, broken world. Nonconformity calls us to reject the world's unrestrained materialism, its sensualism, and its self-centeredness. Rather we seek to express the values of God's kingdom by a lifestyle of modesty and simplicity.

*from the Brethren in Christ  
Articles of Faith and Doctrine*

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Messiah College  
Grantham, PA 17027-  
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