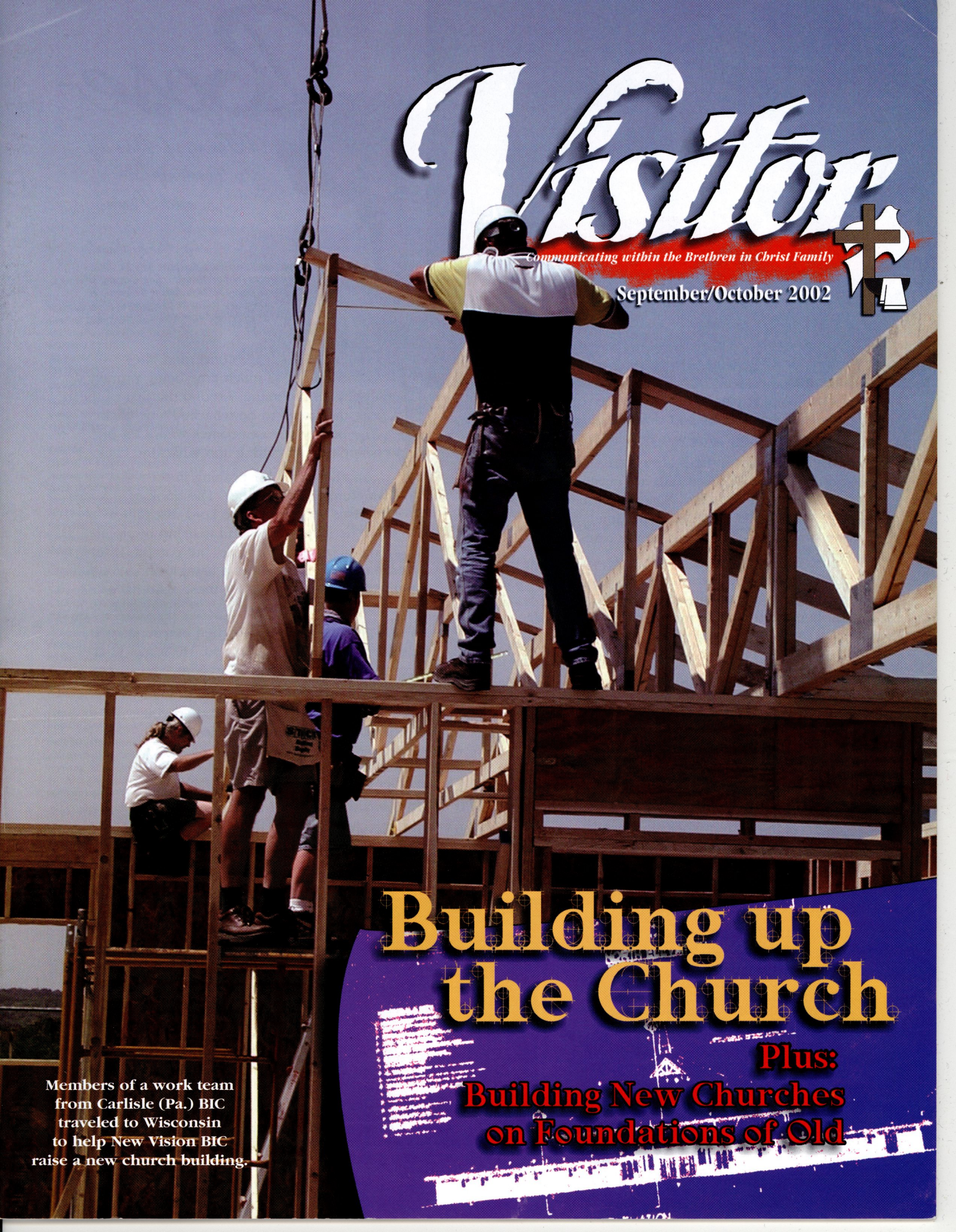


Visitor

Communicating within the Brethren in Christ Family

September/October 2002



Building up the Church

**Plus:
Building New Churches
on Foundations of Old**

Members of a work team from Carlisle (Pa.) BIC traveled to Wisconsin to help New Vision BIC raise a new church building.

The Rose

*A Thing of Beauty
To Contemplate
... and Prune*

by Perry Engle

*(from New Community Newsletter, May 25, 2002,
one of his last Food for Thought columns as pastor.
The Engle family has been making the transition
to their new role as the bishop family of the
Pacific and Midwest Conferences as of August 1.)*



An amazing thing happened this past Monday, my day off. - It rained in Southern California!

I had already planned to prune the roses after their first bloom, so I decided to get it done, even though it was drizzling.

Four-year-old Sophia is always eager to help me with whatever job I am engaged in. "Daddy, let me rake." "Daddy, let me dig." "Daddy, let me paint." On Monday, she wanted to help me prune the roses. "Daddy, let me cut the plants."

"Sure, honey," I said with a sigh. (But always the pastor, I thought to myself, okay, she's in the way, but here's a teachable moment.)

I showed her how to cut the old flowers off the stems, and we talked there in the rain about why it's important to cut off the old flowers to make room for the new ones. She worked well, trying to hold her yellow umbrella while dead-heading the roses.

By the time we went in for lunch, we were muddy and soaked - and I was full of understanding.

Theology becomes so clear in the garden.

*P*runing is essential for beautiful blooms and fruit. Our statement of purpose claims that our ultimate goal is to unleash people for a "life of mission in the world." What that means is that we want people to be fruitful - to bloom where God plants them in the world.

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

Do you notice something? *Every* branch gets pruned. The fruitless branches get cut off. The fruitful branches get cut back. Both fruitless and fruitful are pruned. Why? To ensure maximum fruitfulness.



As far as roses are concerned, they spend at least as much time being pruned as they do blooming. Around the first of the year, they need to be whacked way back.

The beauty of roses comes with a lot of snipping and cutting and whacking back.

Another word for pruning in the Scriptures is "discipline." The book of Hebrews tells us that the Lord disciplines those he loves (12:6), and that "no discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it" (12:11).

Don't get angry with God when he prunes you. He's not just doing it to hurt you. He wants your life to be beautiful and fruitful in Him.

What areas of your life need to be pruned? Will it hurt? Yes, but just for a while, and then you will bloom even more radiant than before.

*B*efore Sophia and I headed in out of the rain, I gave her a quiz.

"Why do we cut the old flowers off?"

"To make room for new ones!" she said smartly.

"And what will it look like when the new ones come in?"

"Beautiful!" she gushed.

Smart kid.

(Did I mention that Sophia's middle name - and the middle name of all three of my daughters - is "Rose"?)

Prune us, O Lord, so that we might be more beautiful for you!

Amen.



Sophia R. Engle (seen alone in picture at top) is joined in picture directly above by sisters Madeleine R. and Katianna R. Engle

Visitor

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RESPONSE & Dialogue

After a surplus of letters last issue, only one for this issue . . .

Dear Ron and Visitor staff,

I've been reading your reports of General Conference. I particularly enjoyed Paul and Lela Hostetler's recounting of conferences past and Carolyn Kimmel's affirming article.

I remember, as a boy, my dad (*former bishop Charlie Byers*) coming home from Conference and relating to my mother the lively discussions and who led the debates. I do not remember all of the debaters, but the names of E.J. Swalm and John Climenhaga were frequently referred to. It was not unusual to hear of heated debates causing conferences to run to 10 and 11 p.m.

My own first big impression of General Conference was in 1950, that year held at Memorial Holiness Camp. I have always looked forward to Conference. I was expected to be there after becoming a bookstore manager, so for many years I attended regularly. It was always an exciting time to meet friends from all over the U.S. and Canada. There was great inspiration at the conference sessions as well as the evangelistic meetings held in the tent. I continue to enjoy General Conference when possible to attend.

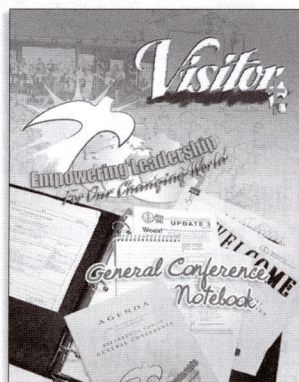
Carolyn Kimmel's article (*of a conference rookie's first impressions*) should be required reading for all BIC members. How refreshing!

**Nelson Byers
Chambersburg, Pa.**

(In turn, note Nelson's work within a special BIC ministry honored on the next page.)

And the winner of the first annual Jacob Award is...

John Hawbaker's relay of the excitement at Roxbury Holiness Camp Meeting each year is extensive, helping capture the many sights and feelings of this week-long family-oriented worship event. The challenge comes in figuring out how to include as much as we can in our coverage of the overall BIC ministry, but it is a challenge I wish we had more often. - R. Ross



The Stories You Are Reading

The reason Roxbury Holiness Camp gets into *Visitor* year after year isn't because it's near the central BIC offices. In fact those who assume we in the Communications office in Grantham are down there doing coverage during the week it runs in August have been right only one day out of the past three years. What pretty much guarantees Roxbury coverage are the envelopes of pictures, written stories and testimonies, booklets and newsletters that arrive at our office each year, all offered with the intent of sharing the excitement of that multi-faceted event that others in the larger church family might not otherwise ever see. This year's envelope from camp meeting director John Hawbaker (pictured below) included 45 photos, plus a set of seven articles and testimonies written for us by Lucy Mellinger, editor of the event's daily Roxbury Ripples newsletters, as well as each day's newsletter from the 9-day event. (2 more short articles were e-mailed later.)

Though we are disappointed to see the number of letters to the editor drop off to a single response again in these last few weeks, after the more extensive input we received this summer, we *are* beginning to see more people offer stories and, even better, pictures of people, events and happenings within the Brethren in Christ Church that help us share the activity in our ministries.

Two contributors stand out as noteworthy, and even generated some discussion as to what we might call an award we would give for outstanding coverage. Since movies have the Oscars, we thought about calling ours the Jacobs, named after one of our church forefathers. And in addition to John, we would also nominate others like Pastor Ken Abell.

Stepping up to take the campmeeting report challenge, Pastor Ken included his own report from Memorial Holiness Camp Meeting this year, including a dozen photos, all sent to our office electronically via e-mail. Beyond that article, Ken's upcoming

. . . but a couple nice packages



Two Christian Light Bookstore Managers Honored

- reported by Roger Lloyd Williams, Exec. Dir., Board for Media Ministries

Are Your Own . . .

contributions also include an essay on kindness, now slated to appear on the inside cover of our next issue, and a report on the Landing Place, a new BIC church plant in Ohio we will include in our annual Church Planting coverage in January. All of these share things the rest of us might otherwise remain unaware of, or be unable to share in.

A unique phenomenon became apparent as this issue came together. As we began to choose the articles that would carry the designated theme and then looked at the content and origin of several of them, it was notable that most of our articles and stories were initiated outside circles of church leadership.

Those who fear the church's communication pieces might become nothing more than the mouthpiece of the church leadership should consider the content of this issue, for it demonstrates something just the opposite. I note movement in the church initiated by the people in the church, which again demonstrates something that is in itself a unique element to the Brethren in Christ. With the exception of Craig Sider's sermon from General Conference, which *was* initiated by General Church Leadership and then delivered by Bishop Sider, all other articles were either submitted by pastors and other lay people from our churches, or were initiated as a story they prodded and then we helped develop.

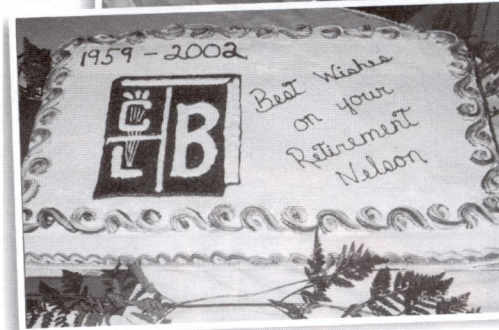
Though Carolyn Kimmel, Shannon Wagner and I all did some coverage of events and news within the churches, even traveling to observe some of them, most of that slate of stories was initiated or encouraged by a call from outside the main offices. Our cover story, about the group from Carlisle (Pa.) BIC who travelled to Wisconsin to help put up a church building, demonstrates that regular people within the church can see the capability there to do something, and then start prodding others.

Ideas and stories *you* share might just as easily spark ideas in others and prod activity throughout the church.

The events that light up your church and ministries might be exciting for others in your church family to know about, either to help celebrate your excitement or to shoulder some of your burden or concern. Even better, ideas worth noting may also multiply their results as they ignite ideas in others. Even if there's not much to report, isn't it still good just to hear from others in the family occasionally?

Magazines like *Visitor* (and *Yes!*) exist to allow you to share visits with the brothers and sisters in churches throughout the states and provinces - and your eyes and ears become the eyes and ears that help the rest of the church body see. You may even become the prod to action. - **Ron Ross, Editor**

More than one hundred friends, relatives, employees and colleagues of Nelson Byers honored him with a dinner in Chambersburg, Pa. on June 28. After 43 years of managerial service in the BIC church's bookstore ministry, Nelson retired as district manager of Christian Light Bookstores. At the event, Nelson (pictured at right) told how serving as a bookstore manager was a way for him to serve in a Christian ministry that has touched thousands of lives over the years. Obviously, from the participation of people at the dinner, Nelson has had a tremendously positive influence on employees, colleagues and others he has associated with over the years.



Former Christian Light Bookstore manager and Nelson's colleague, Glen Hess, asked the poignant question, "Who will we now turn to when we need advice?"

Nelson now has a truck and is available to "haul for hire." He is also exploring an expanded role as a grandfather.

Dean Frey, of the Chambersburg BIC Church, will be assuming Nelson's managerial responsibilities for the district, as well as the bookstore in Chambersburg.

Joseph Gianato, manager of the York, Pa. Christian Light Bookstore, was chosen as the runner-up in the Jim Carlson Bookstore Manager of the Year award, sponsored by Spring Arbor Distributors. With more than 5,000 Christian bookstores in the USA, this is quite an honor.

Joe was recognized for his outstanding performance at a ceremony held at the annual Christian Booksellers Convention in Anaheim, Cal. in July. Virginia Grant, a Spring Arbor Distributor representative, stated, "Your management and leadership skills shine through, Joe! Christian Light Bookstores has truly chosen a winner to lead your district stores."

For more about Christian Light Bookstores, a continuing ministry of the Brethren in Christ Board for Media Ministries, go to their web site, www.christianlightbookstore.com

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Building Up

First of a two-part report on a church-raising project in Wisconsin.

A group of around 100 members of the Carlisle (Pa.) BIC Church dedicated a week in June to go to Waukesha, Wisconsin to help New Vision BIC begin the process of raising their new church building.

The sight of a church raising up so quickly became a spectacle that drew the attention of many new neighbors and coverage from several local news outlets. Beyond that outward spectacle, though, the event also demonstrated several other lessons in helping to build up the church – not just the lumber and nail kind, but the kind created by people gathering as a body of believers, especially when they gather to focus on a mission.

by Ron Ross

Photos from video by author unless otherwise noted

God seemed to have been blessing many aspects of events that led up to several elements and players converging on this one eventful week in June.

On the Sunday morning that would begin the activities a pleasant breeze gently blew across the open slab of concrete that would be the foundation of the new building. Several rows of chairs were neatly arranged on the open concrete, awaiting the worship service that would launch the week. The bright blue sky and sunny weather further added to the blessings seemingly bestowed on the worship and the events that it would celebrate.

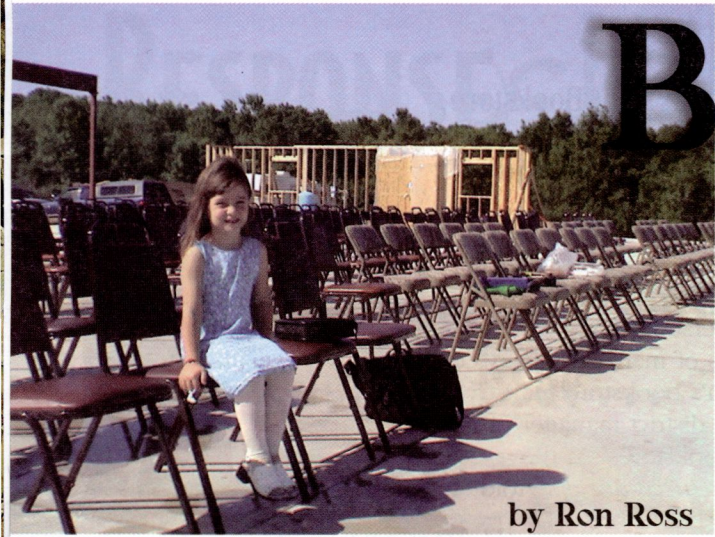
Pastor Matt Lewis arrived to join the preparations of the worship team and other members of his church who had come to set up. After ten years as a church plant in a small storefront in downtown Waukesha, the church crew is used to setting up in a minimal space, but this was admittedly even more minimal than normal.

Other than chairs and sound equipment, the open slab was not much more than that. A single metal girder structure standing just off center would one day support the glass entrance to the sanctuary, but all of what would be the walls and roof of the church still lay as huge piles of raw lumber and wood frames around the parameters of concrete. Only one single section of wall frame had been erected to hold the electrical panels that now fed power to several unanchored outlets poking out at various spots across the open concrete. Still, in spite of the sparse set-up, church was unmistakably getting ready to happen.

Five-year-old Jackie Lewis, Pastor Matt's daughter was delighted to see rows of chairs now set up, better denoting the area of the floor that would be the sanctuary of her new church. She ran to pick and test a seat in the first row, while older siblings Catherine and Josiah (6 and 8) went up to others to try and help with the set-up.

Paul and Heidi Reese, their son, and other members of the worship team had set up music stands and were checking sound

From top: ¹Young Jackie Lewis was excited to be one of the first to grab a seat for the church service that would dedicate the building effort to come. ²Her sister Catherine helped another church member set up a make-shift coffee station at an open electrical outlet. ³The New Vision congregation joined with the two busloads of workers from Carlisle BIC to celebrate and dedicate the work and church to come. ⁴With the new highway interchange seen behind him, Pastor Matt Lewis presents a message of dedicating our schedules to God. ⁵The view from the intersection, as seen late the next afternoon.



the Church

*In Him the whole building
is joined together and rises
to become a holy temple in the Lord.
And in Him you too
are being built together
to become a dwelling
in which God lives by his Spirit.*

-Ephesians 2:19-22

levels on sound systems plugged into the various makeshift outlets. They were also practicing and experimenting with ways to hold their music down on the breezy open platform.

Young Catherine now stood helping an adult member of the church set up a makeshift coffee station at one of the other outlets. (It seems to me an important note for historians that coffee comes before walls in the early 21st century church.)

Other cars soon began drifting in, and then a couple chartered buses pulled in next to the large, open canopy tent erected on the far side of the lot, making their first delivery of the team from Carlisle they were transporting all that week.

And as a short little blurb or spotlight in the Church News section it might have appeared - something like "A hundred members from Carlisle (Pa.) BIC joined the members of New Vision BIC on the open concrete foundation of New Vision's new building to worship and celebrate before launching into the week of work that would help raise most of the main structure of the building."

Except that Matt Lewis also invited me to come and participate in the activity for a few days.

So, I got more of a chance to see some of what brought the activity together, and a chance to meet the many people who helped make it happen. And within that opportunity I noted several aspects that deserved to be highlighted as models of building up God's church - both literally and figuratively.

Building Up the Team

One of the more interesting aspects of what came together here is that it hinged on several people - people in fairly divergent places, and people on different paths - all following a lead of the Spirit within them.

More notably, many of the people who saw the potential for Carlisle to work at this were

Building Up continues on next page



Top 2 photos by Chuck Seiber - Carlisle



Photo above: Steve Witt - New Vision

From bottom working up:

At 7:00 sharp on Monday morning, Carlisle's resident construction experts and crew chiefs work at checking final specs and handing out supplies in order to start assigning tasks to the gathered workers. By later that morning the frames for walls were going up, and by mid-week the main trusses for the roof were going into place.



Building Up *continued from page 5*

not the people who would in turn make it work. It was people who saw the potential in others and then prodded the gift or ability into action.

Most notably of all, none of these people were pastors or even the designated leaders of the church.

I made one of my first note-taking stops at the office of BIC General Secretary Ken Hoke. I knew Ken had been the pastor at Carlisle before starting in his current role four years ago, and since I knew the Carlisle work team's annual efforts have been going on for over ten years now, I stopped in to get his insight. To my surprise, he said he knew little detail of how the effort had started. In fact, he noted it one of his greatest joys to point out that the effort to start this ministry initiated from within the laity of the church.

It turns out the Carlisle team was initially conceived, and is still guided by the vision of essentially two men in the church who didn't necessarily have the skill to take on the huge building projects the group does, but who saw the potential to do it within their church family.

"We were the 'shoulder tappers,'" notes Ron Manley of the initial efforts of he and Charles Seiber. "We looked around at the potential within our church and we thought 'we can do this.'" So, Manley turned some of his expertise from work in agricultural sales toward making a pitch to recruit people. Manley notes he had also worked with Mennonite Disaster Relief in 1985, which probably provided him with a vision for the kind of work he suddenly realized the

unique combination of skills and talent at Carlisle could handle. *(There are enough skilled laborers and craftsmen at their church to support a regular ministry in building and woodwork, which we reported on in our January/February 2001 issue.)*

For the last 10 years, Carlisle has annually sent a work crew to help build with Houses for Humanity projects in South Carolina. The teams, usually around 100 in number, are comprised of several construction professionals from within the church or associated with it, as well as a number of able-bodied helpers who bring tools and willing spirits to help the given effort of each of their trips. The range of people who help on these trips has included young and old, skilled and unskilled, builders and support staff, but all take an active role in the effort.

Chuck Seiber, who helped with the initial effort and was the chief organizing force behind this current team project, is usually joined by his wife Arlene, who helps supervise the kitchen and support crews.

In fact, it's noteworthy that a significant part of the teams that go each year are the support team for the building crew. On this year's trip, approximately 20 of the 100 people on the crew were there to help cook and clean – making meals and scheduled snacks for the workers, and processing the several pounds of laundry generated by the sweaty crew each day.

Apparently the support crew has a few ministry opportunities of its own, as they make quick friends at local grocery stores and laundromats they frequent throughout the week. Regularly buying twenty watermelons in one shot reportedly became enough of a novelty at one store to allow them to share the story of their team mission when they were asked about it.

Deb Judd, the team nurse on the trip, has been along for the ride for each of the trips. She joined the earlier trips' nurse Kas Bert once she was unable to help wield a hammer after throwing her shoulder out one year, and in recent years now takes her place waiting on the sidelines to take care of several various cuts or abrasions she will see throughout the week. "I go through a lot of tape wrapping up blisters on the hands of many novice workers from the second day on," she notes. Judging by the number of

Within a few minutes of the crew's arrival the work begins, starting almost immediately with the constant task of cutting lumber to specified lengths. Boards make frames for walls, which are lifted into position and then covered, making the way for work to begin on the roof framework others had been preparing in the parking lot to be lifted by crane into place.

Photo by Jonathan Bert - Carlisle



youth she corralled to tape up during our brief conversation on the second day, the role is significant to the ongoing success of the overall effort. Her conversation and listening ear are an added bonus, though ministry is notably part of everybody's job.

Asked to Build a Bigger House

After almost 10 years of annually sending a crew down to help build houses in South Carolina, the Carlisle team was approached by Pastor Matt Lewis, who had read of their efforts in the *Evangelical Visitor* and decided to do a little shoulder tapping of his own.

At their end, Lewis and the New Vision church were seeing several things come together that seemed to back a vision to move their church from being the storefront church plant it has been for its first ten years. A more rooted building could better house a church body and ministries that were fast outgrowing their current facilities, though the move out of downtown Waukesha was of some concern. Still, Lewis seems assured the Lord is blessing their chosen site among the suburban growth just off an expressway that carries millions to and from nearby Milwaukee every day.

In fact, several things seem to have gone toward reassuring their move.

For one thing, when the church chose a site just off a minor interchange on the Interstate highway their hope was to get some exposure just by their close proximity to the interchange. Instead, soon after they started plans for the new building, the state decided to rework the interchange to allow for far greater traffic flow to serve unexpectedly rapid growth in the area. That it increased the potential exposure of the church to its new community seemed a plus.

Even better, though there was some initial scuffle on how the new interchange might infringe on the actual plot of land the church sits on, the eventual outcome of the debate found the state highway crews paving a significant portion of the church's parking lot in exchange for allowing their entrance to be relocated by a few necessary yards.

When buying the plot of land, there had also been concern about the church's ability to afford the entire plot, which included the

acreage they wanted to use to build the church and parking lot as well as a subplot with a residential home.

However, earlier in the year one of the church families had felt led, even compelled, to sell their home and seek a small ranch home. They took a leap of faith to follow their spirit and sell the house even though they had no place to live. Then, after several months of living with another family, they discovered the perfectly suited, single-story ranch home they needed, and it would be right next to their church. The family's immediate purchase of the subplot with the house in turn more fully allowed the church's purchase of the land.

So, now the church itself is at a site where a significant flow of traffic is moved by via the new traffic lights. People driving by or waiting could find attentions easily drawn by events and activities at the church, especially things like the sight of the church itself suddenly being raised, seemingly overnight.

One passerby, a local carpenter named Jeff, who was on his day off and just on his way to get something at Home Depot, was intrigued enough by the flurry of activity at the site on Monday to drive in and ask about it. Then, so enthralled was he with the story that he retrieved his tools and joined the effort for several of the days they were there.

The two drivers of the chartered busses, charged mainly with delivering the crew to Wisconsin and then to the work site each day, also suited up in work clothes and tool belts.

The liaison at the local lumber company personally checked on the progress several times during the week and reported that he knew of several praying for the effort.

One local builder's union requires its membership to participate in certain amounts of community service, and

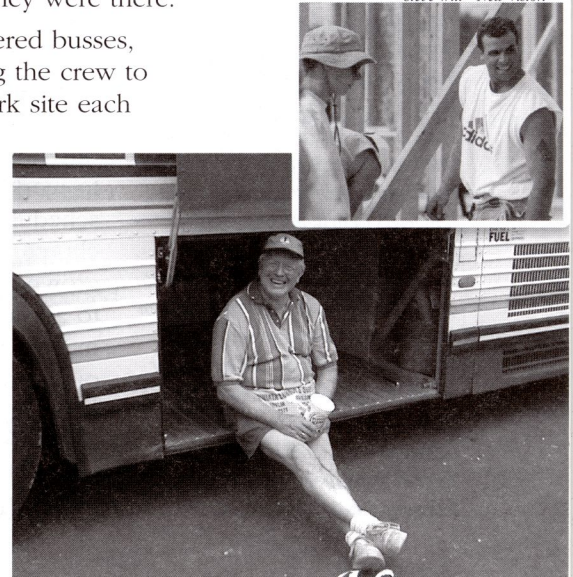
Building Up continues on next page

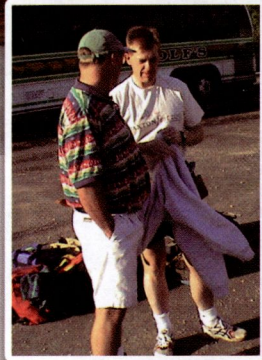


An important part of the overall effort is the support crew, consistently ready to serve the construction crew with full meals, as well as morning and afternoon snack breaks and a daily trip to the laundromat to wash the workers' clothes.

Other workers enticed to join the effort included a local carpenter named Jeff (to the right in top photo of those below), who was initially intrigued by the scurry of activity he glimpsed on his way to Home Depot on his day off, and the two drivers of the busses chartered for the trip, one seen here (lower photo) taking a break, but dressed in full work regalia.

Steve Witt - New Vision





Building Up *continued from page 7*

several members wholeheartedly signed up to join the New Vision effort. They were slated to help put the roof on after the Carlisle crew had helped raise and frame the walls and then placed the roof trusses.

Helping others build part of plan to build up their own church

Ron Manley notes that in some ways the activity of getting away from Carlisle to work on someone else's project is somewhat intentional toward an effort to build up their own church. He says the group needs to retreat away from the tasks and callings at home in order to better enforce interaction within their own group. Part of the dynamics of their week-long trip together is time spent in interaction together, although after a day of heavy labor, many opted for simpler activities like playing board games at the facilities where they were camping, rather than some of the more active options that were offered by some of the hosting congregation.

In general, people at any church only get to interact a little bit with each other at most church meetings, forced to working within the parameters of scheduled worship services and other church events. Carlisle BIC has now grown large enough to make the move to a fourth Sunday morning service, making a trip like this an important outing for those in the church to get to better know each other. With several separate services at their one church, many along on this trip are meeting each other for the first time, in spite of

all regularly attending the same church. Manley also notes that youth have always played a significant role in the trips. For one thing, they are willing and able workers (although young Kayla Diller, along on her first trip, admits she's now developed a new respect for the work regularly done by her father Marv, one of the construction crew chiefs along on the trip). Beyond their capability and willingness though, the youth have proved to be a most important part in recruiting their parents to come along. On this trip several families have taken a week's vacation to come to this together.

Most importantly, working together as a church family putting up buildings over the years has brought together a diversified set of gifts and skills to help others, but it has helped build up the body of their own church as well. The details of raising a larger church building instead of their normal housing projects added several new challenges to their work this time, but among the team's several resident construction professionals are a variety of backgrounds, so the stretch may have helped new gifts emerge to the forefront on a project of this size and scope.

Plus, the newly added element of putting this group's skills to work actually building a church has only made the trip all the more blessing for many on the team.

In a debriefing session a few weeks after the team's return to Pennsylvania, the question was raised whether or not they will tackle a project of this size again. Though it doesn't seem likely this will be their annual event, many seemed open to the idea of responding to the call again knowing God can align the right things again for another special project.

After all, someone with a vision might one day be led to come tapping their shoulder.

Over the rest of the summer, several other churches also came to help in the building effort, plus members of New Vision helped in finishing the building and started praying and preparing for their church family's move into a new home and into a new community, as well as for potential opportunities for new ministries offered by the overall effort.

Their stories, and an update on the move, currently slated for December, all in the November/December issue of *Visitor*.

From top: The Carlisle team poses in front of the growing church structure later in the week. Pastors Alan Robinson (Carlisle, white shirt) and Lewis chat as they watch work from the sidelines. (Though he did a couple devotionals, Robinson and his two daughters were along as workers, not as leader.) Lizzy Beach, one of the youngsters of New Vision, poses next to one of the tables she and other children in the church painted to decorate an eating area within the tent erected for the workers and other activities during the building process. In the lower picture, several Carlisle youth sat at them to enjoy the picnic lunch following Sunday's worship service.

In With the New...



...In With the Old?

by *Carolyn Kimmel*

"Forgetting what is behind, straining toward what is ahead, I press on towards the goal."

These words from the third chapter of Philippians challenge us all towards future ministry and investigation of what the Lord has in store for us.

For 79-year-old Elbert N. Smith, a retired Brethren in Christ pastor and Messiah College professor and administrator, these words have special meaning, in this, the twilight of his life.

"There's always a possibility of resting on one's laurels," he says. "On the one hand, I think it's appropriate that we (the older generation of the church) sit back and let the younger people exercise leadership. Part of the wisdom of the older generation is to turn over the reins and give the younger generation guidance and support."

Yet, he is quick to point out, there needs to be a balance. "Look at Moses. He took over leadership at age 80! God uses our experiences – He doesn't waste a single one. When he was 80, Moses was ready to do a spectacular job for God. So there are opportunities to work with God and yet, at the same time, we need to train others, as Moses trained Joshua."

As the BIC emphasizes the need to raise up new leaders and puts great effort into starting church plants, aimed largely at the young, non-churched population, where does that leave older members of the denomination? Is their input still welcome? Will the traditions that have made up the BIC's rich history still be valued and practiced or will they be cast aside as relics of a bygone time?

These are questions that "the old guard" of the church are tossing around, with some worry, in a culture that eschews suits on Sunday, traditional hymnbooks and the 30-minute sermon meant to edify the soul even if it makes the hearer uncomfortable at times.

"We didn't give the people what they wanted; we gave them what they needed and then they found it was what they were hungry for," said Eber Dourte, a former BIC pastor who, with his wife Ruth, planted Hollowell BIC Church in Waynesboro, Pa. in 1944.

At multi-generational events such as Roxbury Holiness Camp both young and old lend their own unique elements to the overall interaction and worship, each adding important dimension to the overall experience of these events. Pictured above are New Life, a music group from Messiah College that brought their brand of song and spirit to several camp meetings and to General Conference this summer, and on the right are attendees to this year's Roxbury experience who were also at the 1935 or 1936 meetings, carrying the strong sense of tradition within the gathering. The combination struck by interaction such as this lends a model for our regular church interaction.

(Roxbury pictures by Julie Miller. More pictures and reports on the event are featured on page 30.)

In with New... continues on next page

In with New... continued from page 9

But you have to tailor the approach and outreach or you'll never interest the non-churchgoer, the argument goes. Nonsense, say some of the older church leaders. Their churches drew in the unchurched people as well, without coddling them.

"We were very focused on needs, but we used Biblical, religious instruction to bring them to Christ and nurture them," Dourte said.

"There were dozens and dozens of people saved with nothing going on except simple services and simple sermons," echoed Ruth Dourte, recalling the early days of that church.

Don't misunderstand, the Dourtes aren't against trying new things to reach people for Christ. They started some new things themselves at Hollowell, such as home visitation and a great emphasis on Vacation Bible School.

Then there was the issue of the organ they brought to Hollowell, one of the first in BIC churches. "We were accused of being worldly. Some of our members got together and threatened to set this organ outside," Ruth Dourte recalled. "We did innovative things and we know how it feels to do them and feel misunderstood."

The troubling question to the Dourtes, and other older BIC'ers, is whether today's methods are shoring up a firm foundation for tomorrow's mature Christian. It's a question today's church-planting pastors are asking themselves as well: Once the unchurched person accepts Christ, what is the seeker-gear'd church plant doing to grow the new Christian's relationship with God and take it to the next level of commitment and nourishment?

John Reitz, pastor of The Bridge, a restart of a BIC church in Hummelstown, Pa., thinks a church plant can minister to both the seeker and established Christian. The church has hired a pastor of spiritual development toward that end, so Reitz can

stay focused on seekers.

Other church plants are offering the Alpha series, to introduce people to Jesus, and following up with discipleship training classes to nurture spiritual development.

Almost every generation has had to work through trying to maintain the heart of tradition and ethical concerns in a way that's compatible with the generation and the times, Smith said.

"I don't think you can be hard-core and say it has to be in the old way alone," he said. "Our history has been one of flexibility, or we'd all still be in head coverings, plain clothes and singing with no musical instruments. But we must maintain our core – sincere faith and commitment to the word of God and to the fellowship."

In fact, the debate over changing traditions is well recorded in the BIC's history book "Quest for Piety and Obedience." Its pages are filled with accounts of conflicting concerns over things now very commonplace in our churches.

The implementation of Sunday School was up for debate at General Conference in 1876. Opponents feared it would "encourage pride and worldliness, open doors to unsound doctrines and compromise the quality of Bible instruction." Ironically, today, the publishers of the BIC's Jubilee Sunday School curriculum tout as one of its virtues that it gives children a sound introduction to BIC doctrine, practices and history.

And consider this excerpt from a 1906 *Visitor* decrying "Child Exhibition" or what we now enjoy as children's plays at church.

"The custom of training children to "show off" their singing and recitation and other little accomplishments is to be deplored. A tiny creature, beautifully dressed, standing up to 'speak' before an audience is a questionable spectacle. They may enjoy it, and parents too, but at what cost? Self-consciousness, vanity and aggressiveness drive modesty out of a child's heart, while

the elders are laying up for themselves a stock of annoyance for the future.”

Music is and always has been the subject of intense debate. Back in the early 1900s, there was disagreement over whether musical notes should accompany the publication of words in the hymnbooks.

Think the debate of traditional hymns vs. worship songs is new? Think again. In 1906, one church leader is quoted speaking against the new songs' portrayal of the Christian life as “a fascinating panorama of birds, fruit, flowers and music instead of the narrow thorny path of self-denial and suffering with our Master by walking in His steps.” Guess they wouldn't think much of “Every move I make, I make in You”!

The same debate goes on today: “There's a lot of difference between a repetitious ditty and the theological concepts or spiritual content of a hymn,” laments an older BIC member. Meanwhile a church-planting pastor declares, “When you sing, ‘A Mighty Fortress is Our God,’ the average person driving a truck isn't relating to that.”

Some of the older BIC members are also bemoaning the loss of the BIC doctrinal teaching, such as the peace position. There are plenty of people joining BIC churches who do not hold to the peace position, nor are they expected to, in order for membership.

The older crowd grew up on three main points to their faith – simplicity, modesty and non-conformity, all of which, they argue, are in jeopardy or are lost today. “It's hard to tell a BIC'er from anyone else nowadays,” one senior commented.

“The emphasis now is more on action and performance rather than on thinking deeply and prayerfully about our obedience to the Scripture and conforming not to the world but to the sacrificial life example of Jesus,” echoed another senior.

The younger members of BIC churches would benefit greatly from tapping into the experience of the older members, seniors say. “You can't help but learn the longer you live,” one said.

Which brings us back to Elbert Smith, who urges seniors to set some types of goals and challenges to keep themselves moving as their age moves upward.

“We're in a kind of transition between the old BIC concept of working until you can't anymore – idle hands are the devil's workshop – and a society that says retirement is a time for the ‘golden years’ and lots of relaxation. Balance is the appropriate attitude.”

Smith said though some retired pastors expected to be called for special assignments and interim pastorates, the opportunities for such service are lessening as pastoral support systems grow. (There are assistant pastors, for example, to pick up the slack.)

There are special roles seniors, who often have more free time, can play in the church, such as making newcomers feel welcome by visiting them, starting a card ministry to encourage others in the congregation or volunteering for short-term missionary service. Also, seniors have probably been through their share of trials in life and can comfort and shore up others as they face similar difficult times.

And that would include both young people and young churches as they begin to grow. *EA*

“Our history has been one of flexibility, or we'd all still be in head coverings, plain clothes and singing with no musical instruments. But we must maintain our core – sincere faith and commitment to the word of God and to the fellowship.”

Upland BIC (and other churches) mark significant anniversaries

As we were finishing work on our article on building the foundations and traditions of the church (*on the 3 pages preceding*) we noted a flurry of notes on BIC churches celebrating milestone anniversaries. Among them, Upland (Cal.) BIC had alerted us at their regional conference as to the planned festivities.

Upland would be celebrating the 100 years as a church in September, with several special events or activities slated to mark the milestone. For one, several of the church's former pastors, including founding pastor Christian Charles Burkholder, were invited to return to share greetings and memories. (Well, apparently somebody dressed like Burkholder was expected.) With the Upland community invited as well, several hundred were expected for the September 22 service.

Current pastor Steve Smith became the most recent to shepherd the flock when he stepped in to fill the position two years ago, although it is not his first experience in the church's parsonage. Smith is son of Elbert Smith, who pastored from 1966-1975, and was among those slated to fly in for the celebration. The younger Pastor Smith and his wife Phyllis actually met in the Upland youth group, so in a way it was a return to home for them.

Pastor Smith looks forward to the celebrating the church's positive impact it has had on its community. "There are so many people who grew up in the church who continue to be members, several have become pastors or have gone on to do ministry work," he said. "I feel so privileged to be part of its history."

The Upland Church was founded in response to a need for a worship center to serve the surge of workers who came in with the growth of the citrus industry in the late 1800's. Prayer meetings, Sunday school and other services were first held in people's homes, then moved to a tent before the original 14 members purchased the church's first home in 1904. As the church continued to expand in number and ministry, a new building was constructed in 1919, then the current building in 1950, with two additions added since. And with each expansion has come new service to the church and the community it serves, modeling the active adaptation to need and service that embodies a signature of the Brethren in Christ Church itself.

Other churches celebrating anniversaries (*that we have heard of*) include: **Rosebank** BIC, in Talmage, Kansas (also celebrating 100 years); **Clearview** BIC, in Kindersley, Saskatchewan (95 years); **Sherkston** (Ontario) BIC (80 years); and **Ransom Creek** BIC, in Clarence Center, New York (125 years).

Ransom Creek is expected to report on their event in the next issue of Visitor, but if you know of other milestones or events that celebrate the healthy impact of our deep-rooted churches in other communities, we'd love to forward that too! *AV*

Playing her

Sometimes as she sits in her pew just before Sunday Services begin, Florence Hostetter has the urge to jump up and get to the organ bench in time for the prelude.

But that's understandable – since this 85-year-old member of Rosebank BIC Church in Hope, Kan. played the piano and organ there for 50 years. She retired in February to much acclaim, and with a surprise plaque of recognition, from the congregation that has adored her for many years.

"After I stopped playing, I really missed it for the next few weeks. But I do love to sit and listen to the organist now," she said. "Sometimes I think I need to get up for a song, but then I catch myself."

Hostetter played every Sunday and rarely missed, and she never got paid for the job. "I considered it a ministry," she said. "I felt it was one thing I could do for the Lord."

She learned the F chord from her mother when she was 5 years old, and she only had a couple of formal piano lessons after that. She never had an organ lesson, yet she read the notes of complicated hymns with no trouble.

"I played by ear. Then I put the notes together with the sounds I heard. That's how I learned to read music," she said.

Not all that long ago, she was surprised to learn she could only play one sharp, and she turned the rest into flats without realizing it. "I found out when I went to play with the pianist and she told me!" Hostetter said with a laugh.

Hostetter grew up attending Belle Springs BIC, near Abilene, Kan., which is now closed. She switched to Rosebank BIC when she married her husband, Millard, who grew up in the Rosebank congregation.

Hostetter couldn't start playing her beloved hymns at church right away because there were no musical instruments in church then! She confesses she thought that was rather

Personality Profile

heart out for 50 years

silly – since she happily hammered out her tunes on her piano at home.

“We were about the last church in this territory to get a piano,” she recalls – in about 1952.

In fact, when the Hostetters married in 1937, they wanted to rent a piano for the church ceremony but were told they weren’t allowed. So they got married at home. “We had to have the ‘Wedding March,’ you know!” she said. “My husband’s sister played it on the piano at home.”

Through the years, Hostetter has played at countless church services, 87 funerals and a few weddings. She got a job playing for funerals at several local nursing homes.

At 85, however, her eyes aren’t what they used to be, and playing the organ every Sunday got to be a bit much for her. “I thought I had played long enough,” she said.

She still plays the organ once or twice a week at home, for her own enjoyment. And she plays mostly – you guessed it – hymns. “My favorite is ‘Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.’ That really helped me through some tough times.”

Just lately at church, they’ve taken to singing worship songs, which leave her a little empty, she admitted. “We love the good old hymns, you know, at our age. I grew up with hymns, and they just give me a spiritual boost,” she said. “Although do you know that one (worship song) that starts out ‘As the deer?’ We like that one.”

These days, without Sunday services to practice for, Hostetter is starting a ministry of encouragement through cards and letters to people who are going through tough times.

And, of course, she’s taking time to pamper her husband. The couple has four grown children and nine grandchildren.

“Having the good Lord the head of your

lives, that’s the key to a good marriage,” she says, and she ought to know since she’s a 65-year veteran of matrimony.

She says the two have never had a fight – never – in all those 65 years. “I guess we just give in,” she said, with a chuckle. “He’s been so sweet to me, and I try to be just as sweet to him.”

A Personality Profile of Florence Hostetter

By Carolyn Kimmel

“I considered it a ministry. I felt it was one thing I could do for the Lord.”



Empowering Leaders for an

“...to prepare God’s people for works of service”

Adapted from the second of four messages delivered at the evening services the week of General Conference. Each builds on a segment of Ephesians 4:1-16

Ephesians 4:1-16

Unity in the Body of Christ

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” ⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹**It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up** ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

This four part lesson series, given as the evening messages at General Conference also includes:

“Embracing Our Call” by Pastor Doris Barr, featured in the July/August General Conference issue,

“Engaging Our World” by Pastor Bruxy Cavey, to be featured in our November/December issue

and ***“Enlisting for Service”*** by Pastor Matt Lewis, to be featured in our January/February 2003 issue..

All of us lead in some respect, whether we lead in our families, or we lead in the marketplace, or we lead in the church, or we lead in school. And the truth of the matter is we want to lead effectively.

So what does an empowered leader look like? Well, one answer is found in a book. Originally written twenty years ago, it sold millions of copies and was a best seller. The book is *Dress for Success* by John Malloy, and he says being a great leader is really about *appearing* powerful. You know, empowering leadership, appearing powerful.

So how do you dress? Well, here it is in brief – there’s basically one over-arching principle. “Authority and power,” Malloy writes, “are associated with dark colors. The darker the colors, the greater the authority.”

To think people actually buy this stuff and do what it says.

There is another book that weighs in with a second opinion, and one of the places it does so is in Mark, chapter 10.

At this point in the story, James and John have been following Jesus and they want to be “head of the pack.” In fact, they not only want to be head of the pack on this earth, but they want to be head of the pack in Heaven.

In the church I grew up in there was the big pulpit chair and then the other two chairs right next to it on either side. James and John wanted the chairs on either side of Jesus’, so they’re having this little private deal with Jesus to try and position themselves.

And as Jesus addresses them, in verse 41 it says when the other ten heard about this they became indignant with James and John.

Jesus called them all together and He said, “you know that those that are regarded as leaders among the Jews and the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials execute authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must become your servant, and whoever wants to be first, must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus said there’s a standard approach that’s used in the world, a Gentile approach. People who don’t operate according to the kingdom of God, they lord it over their followers. They use leadership to elevate themselves. Leadership is about dominating, about status and instilling fear in people.

For leaders in the world, Jesus said, it’s a competition to see who gets to the top, and being on top means that everybody serves you. Then Jesus looked at his disciples and said it is not so among you. Leadership that way is not the kingdom way.

An Ingrained Fear of Leaders

Because leadership can be abused, and because even Jesus gives warnings about leadership, we can sometimes

Empowered People

by Craig Sider

Bishop, Atlantic and Southeast Conferences

overreact – and sometimes we have.

For some people, when they read this text in Mark, they become very distrustful about leadership – in any form. Even folks in leadership positions may choose to never initiate, never challenge the status quo – instead always asking “what do you want to do?” They may hold back when they should be surging ahead.

People with that perspective hold back leaders that God wants to use to move ahead. And when that happens families suffer, and churches suffer, and people suffer. It's as though an eight-cylinder engine is suddenly only allowed to run with five.

Please note, *to lead is a good thing*. Jesus doesn't discard leadership, or the proper use of authority. But, He *does* redefine it, and He redeems it. He says leadership is not about *being* served, it's about *serv*ing.

So how best do you serve other people?

The theme I've been given to address is the “Empowering Leadership for an Empowered People.”

In God's sovereignty, brothers and sisters, He has placed us in such a day as this.

In Revelation 7 John wrote, “before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures and they fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen. Praise and Glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God, forever and ever. Amen.’”

That is a picture of an incredible day. The world has come to an end, and all the people from all across the globe, and all across time, who have ever trusted Christ will worship God forever, unabashedly and without restraint. *Every* human being was designed to fly and to soar on that day.

And there is one reason why *that* day is not *this* day — there's one reason why God hasn't called the final time out. God longs for, and has given time for more of His creation to be in the multitude, and He's counting on the church to make it happen.

God has placed us in such a time as this, and I believe He wants the Brethren in Christ church to make a difference at this moment in time, which will require empowering leaders who have godly character, who lead diligently and effectively.

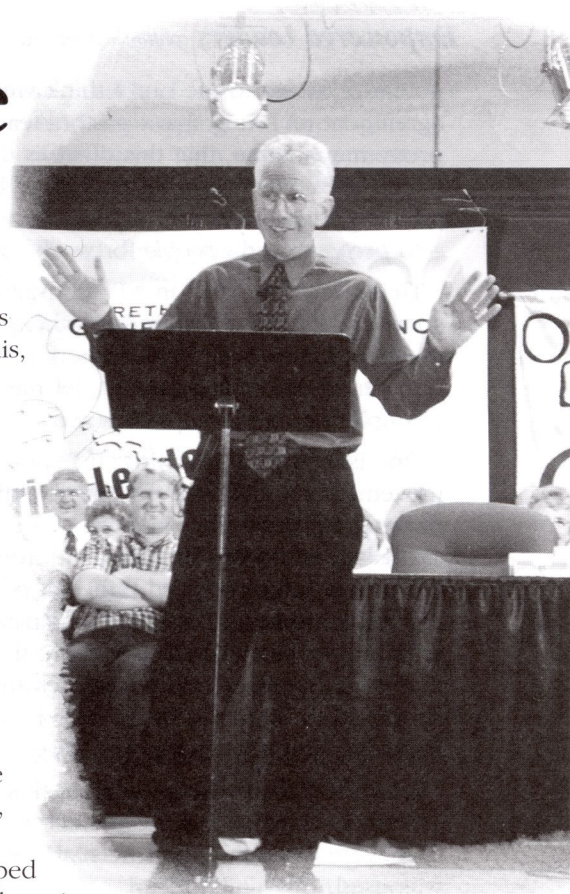
And it will require empowered people, people who are released and equipped to use all that God has given them for ministry.

The text that I've been asked to build from is Ephesians 4, and though I've been asked to work from a certain few verses, I think verses 1-16 puts the whole thing in context. A key section reads, “then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching, and by the cunning and craftiness of men and their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love we will in all things grow up into Him who is the head,” With Jesus Christ as the head, the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as *each part* does its work.

Hone in on verses 11 and 12. It was Jesus who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers.

Friends, the text is clear. Jesus has called some to certain positions of leadership in the church. In fact, the text says that he's given them as gifts to the church; gifts necessary for an individual, and gifts for a body of believers to develop; and among these he identifies apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

Now the truth of the matter is, I could take the next several pages trying to unpack the question “which of those offices is relevant today?” And “do they apply to a local church or to a series of churches?” So here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to bail out, and I'm



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going to just go to the one I think we're all in agreement on – and that's pastors/teachers. Scholars pretty much agree, that this office is to give leadership within the context of a local body of believers. The text says God gave some to be pastors and that he said why – to *prepare* God's people for works of service.

That word "prepare" in NIV translations is seen in some translations as "train," in others it says "equip" – the King James even says "to perfect." Since it has a number of different meanings, let me offer a couple examples to help you understand.

One is a surgical meaning. If I should in all my movement on the platform one day trip over the podium and land right in front of a doctor friend, and I landed on my shoulder and, for the sake of the illustration, say it popped right out of joint, and I kind of looked up at him and said, "help me," and he came and popped that shoulder back in, then this is the word that would be used. He put it back the way it was supposed to be in the first place. That's why the King James version says "perfected." See?

Another place you come across this term in the New Testament is when Jesus came across the fishermen and they were "mending their nets." Here again this term was used.

Within the context of our verses in Ephesians then, the function of the pastor is to both corporately and individually help put believers into the condition that God has designed for them to be.

Empowering leaders are *not* primarily care givers. They are charged with the development of God's people so *they* can minister.

Let's Look at Empowering Leaders

The foundation for leadership in the kingdom is a love for God's people that flows out of the freshness of God's work inside of each of us. That's what distinguishes kingdom leadership from the standard used in the world.

Moses demonstrated this kind of leadership in Exodus 32, where he went up on the mountain, and when he went up on the mountain and then comes down to find his people involved in revelry. He's angry, and he knows God is angry, but he goes up to God. Why? To plead for the people. He says, "God, please forgive their sin. But if not, then blot me out of the book you've written." Do you see that? A foundational love for the people of God.

It's the love that we portray when we wash each other's feet. Jesus himself took the towel and knelt down and washed the feet of the disciples that were following him. It's the love that we saw in Jesus' willingness to give up his life for lost people.

There is no place in the kingdom for self-serving leaders who are intent on making a name for themselves and building a personal empire. The foundation for leadership in this kingdom is a love for God's people. That's true of pastors, it's true of ministry leaders in church, it's true of bishops and other leaders.

It's my clear sense that what allows that love to be a reality in the life of a leader is not a new book, or a new method, or a seminar, or a skill development, or even dressing for success. It is a leader making a private pact with God that they will develop intimacy with Jesus no matter what the cost. That leader will build into their life the necessary practices and relationships and activities that will allow the love of Jesus to flow in them. That's what generates an enduring sustaining love for God's people. Without that, we are leading people for our ends, not God's.

With that love is a foundation, and from that leaders prepare their congregations corporately, and prepare God's people individually.

Leading the Flock

The word that's translated pastor comes from a root word that means "shepherd." Now I've never been to Israel to see a real live shepherd in action, and my hunch is I'm not going any time soon, but all that I read about shepherd's leading a flock is that shepherds lead in *front* of a flock. Several passages in scripture allude to that.

The Lord is my shepherd, and so he leads me. And so the shepherd is scouting out for green pasture, as the sheep are there. One writer I was reading noted the shepherd doesn't even look around that much, he just looks ahead. He's looking for green pasture, looking for a safe path, because in his heart he wants every one of those little sheep to be safe. So, in a unique way, that shepherd has a perspective that is broader and farther out than anybody else.

There is a significant truth for that in the kingdom. We need empowering leaders who will look on today's horizon, and out of their love for God's people, will forge a vision for the group they lead. Yesterday's horizons just will not do, the landscape has changed.

You know, vision for the 1950's is great for the 1950's, but it's going to make no impact for today. We need a vision for today that will impact today. It will be scary, and it will be risk-taking, and it'll be uncomfortable. People will be saying, "Why are we doing that? Why are we going there?"

It is the responsibility of the leader to scan the horizon, and to lead the charge in vision formation. A fresh, inspiring, God-honoring vision that is compelling to a group. I'm not going to lay out a way that you ought to do it in your congregation, or a template that's

going to make it work where you are, but I do know this, people can't focus on fog, and we have many uninspired churches because there is no clear and compelling vision at work in those churches.

Leaders have to communicate a clear vision

I want to be careful that we don't confuse a clear and compelling vision with crafting a vision statement/missions statement or purpose statement, because a lot of our churches, were involved in that about 3-5 years ago. We went through some laborious processes. In fact, the reason you probably did it is because we in leadership told you you should do it.

And here's what happens. I go to visit churches, and I sit with their church boards, and I say can you tell me what your vision is? And they say, "you know what, we worked on that three years ago. I think the board secretary has a copy in his file."

Don't just go through some exercise. Go after a fresh, clear, compelling, God-honoring vision. It just does a number of things. It ignites passion in people — like a match to the fuel. I talked with one of my pastors who had stopped by the week before Conference, and I was sharing a little bit of what I was going to share, and he said, "You know that's true. Our youth group has just soared. It's not just that we've gone from ten to ninety, but we've gone to new heights. Why? Because we have a God-honoring, compelling leader who is shaping a vision."

Providing focus for a ministry assures you don't just go all over the place, and it breeds ownership across the church.

The truth of the matter is we can keep very busy as God's people, but we don't function well without a clear and compelling vision. Corporately, leaders have a responsibility to be at the forefront of vision formation. They have a corporate responsibility, and wherever your area of leadership is in the church, you really can't shirk this responsibility.

Empowering leaders also have an individual responsibility

As leaders look at the body of Christ for which they lead, they're not only aware that they need to have this vision for God's people, but they're concerned about each of these people. They want individual believers to grow and develop and become mature, and they want to create opportunities for individual believers to exercise their gifts, take steps of faith and venture out. This isn't because the leaders want to be elevated — empowering leaders aren't concerned about elevating themselves — they just love to see people soar and use their gifts.

I got a glimpse of this early on, with my own father. I'm the youngest of four boys, and my Dad always

created opportunities for each of us. It was as though he had "discernment eyes" for emerging and latent gifts and talents in each of his boys. With encouragement he would thrust us into situations that would be opportunities for us. I didn't see it at the time, but it was like he had four individualized development programs, one each for Dwayne and Vance and Kevin and Craig.

I remember as early as eight years of age going to market to sell produce, yet I don't remember any of my older brothers ever doing that. It was as though Dad knew I enjoyed interacting with people, and he knew I kind of liked that transaction that went on on the back of the tailgate of the Ford station wagon.

As I went on through my teen years, Dad just kept creating opportunities for me. And then, after an event, he would encourage me, and he'd teach me, and it wasn't always as though he had to be better than I was. Even after I went into pastoral ministry, my father, a pastor and bishop, was quick to point out where he thought my gifts far exceeded his.

Empowering leaders, whether or not a pastor in the church, they just look to build people up. That's what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13:10. He said, "that when I come, I may not be harsh in my use of authority, the authority the Lord gave me, for building you up, not tearing you down." Empowering leaders, they want to see God's people soar. They're not interested in holding them down, boxing them in, controlling them — they want to set them free, to see them use their gifts.

As empowering leaders in the kingdom operate out of a deep love for God's people, they'll scan the horizon and they'll somehow in their context form a clear and compelling vision, developing and releasing individuals. And the text says the result of empowering leaders is not empowering leaders themselves. The result of empowering leaders is empowered people — not a subservient people, not a second-class people, not a group of people bent on serving the leader, but an empowered people prepared for the work of the ministry.

The battle of the church is won or lost right there.

The Bishop is Coming to Town

I got into the plane at 7 a.m. in Sarasota, Florida last September 11 (even got upgraded to a first class seat, a bit of a quandary for an Anabaptist bishop). Then, once we had landed in Charlotte for our connector flights we suddenly all found out how life had changed on the ground, and it turned out I would spend a couple days in Charlotte. That Thursday was my son Matt's birthday, and Laura and I had made an agreement that I should be home for this, and I would have flown any plane to get there, but... there weren't *any* planes.

"Maybe if I go down to the bus station," I thought, and

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Empowered Leaders *continued from page 17*

I got on the last seat of a bus going to Harrisburg. There's a bench for three right in the back of the bus, and I got the spot right beside the toilet. (Now *that's* how Anabaptist bishops should travel.)

I was right beside a Brazilian girl who was 22 and spoke no English and a deep-sea diver who had been in the Gulf of Mexico, had made it to New Orleans and decided to take the bus home to Philadelphia. The girl and I obviously didn't carry on a huge conversation, but the guy was really chatty. As we're driving along his "buzz factor" just kept going up and up, and he kept talking away. I found out everything about him. When we got into Richmond, we spent another three hours in the terminal there. I learned he went to the Catholic school just down the road, in St. Mary's, and he told me about the Catholic church, what was wrong with it, and why he didn't go.

Then he asked the question.

"So what do you do?"

And I said, "Well I work for the church."

"Oh," he says. "So what do you do for the church?"

I said, "Well I kind of give leadership to pastors and churches over a couple different conferences."

He says, "Well that's interesting. What do they call somebody in your kind of church who does that?"

I said, "Well, it's kind of interesting given your background. They call me a 'bishop.'"

And his face went white.

And he said, "I've been swearing for four hours." (And he almost did it again.)

And then, we had a fascinating conversation about Jesus, and it even became a small group.

You know, it's fascinating, whether you're inside the church, or outside the church, there's a sense that when the bishop is there, or the pastor, then God's really there.

If somebody's in the hospital, and six gifted lay people go visit them, and pray with them, and minister to them out of God-given gifts, but the pastor doesn't come, the consideration is they didn't get a real visit.

I believe it's time for God's people to pick up the mantle of ministry *and* for God's people to be *allowed* to pick up the mantle of ministry.

God's people are not there just to attend and give and usher just so the pastor can do his deal – that's consumerism, pure and simple. Rather, the pastor is

there and called by God to train and equip and empower God's people to be all that God has gifted them to be.

We've robbed the church of its power by suggesting that God's presence is somehow more present in the gifts of a few, and it's killing the church.

Everyone's gifts make up the body

This text in Ephesians, or other text in 1 Corinthians 12, or in Romans 12, or in 1 Peter 4, they all make it clear that *every* follower, *every* believer of Jesus Christ is designed, and gifted, and empowered, and required by God to be a player in the church, bringing God's presence through their unique gifts.

And God did not gather his gifts like Santa Claus does in a big bag, and then one day just scatter them across the crowd. God is much more intentional than that.

God is like an artist – just look at His creation.

1 Corinthians 12:11 says, "all of these are the work of the one and the same spirit, and he gives them to each one *just as he determines.*"

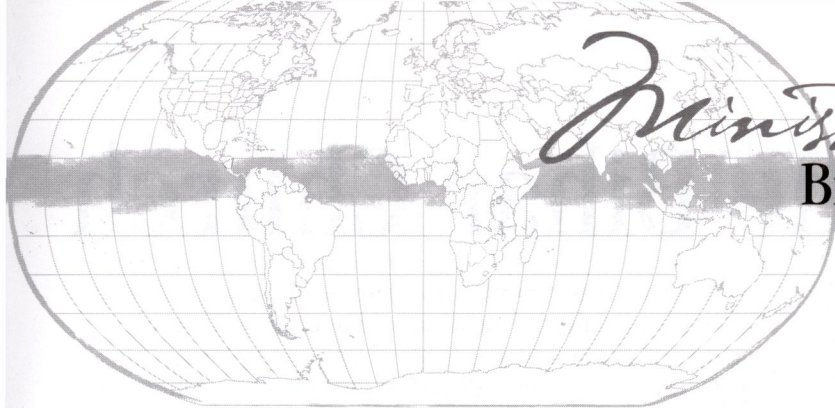
Though I'm his dad, I still think my son Nick is a fairly good artist. So, I watch the way he sketches a picture. He sits in front of this sheet of paper, and he outlines, and then he fills in details, and then he shades. I think he's done, yet he steps back and he kind of looks at it from this side, and then he kind of looks at it from that side. Then he kind of zones in, and he shades a bit more, and smudges it a few places, and then he steps back again. And I can tell that this time he's saying to himself, "Looks good."

That's how God gifts people.

He very intentionally designs believers for ministry. Ephesians 4 tells us that when pastors and leaders are equipping and training and empowering, and when God's people are fully engaged in ministry, then the church is firing on all cylinders. It's then that the body of Christ is built up and becomes mature, attaining a unity of faith.

I think of *all* the people in the Brethren in Christ church. God has fashioned and gifted each believer just as He designed. The world will not be won for Christ, and the body of Christ will not be built up on the backs of just a few professionals.

It's time for churches and pastors to declare that God's gifts-significant ministry belongs to God's people and that God's people are released to do significant ministry in the life of the church. *AV*



Whose Work Is It?

By Jim Reapsome, Editor of World Pulse

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A visitor interrupted my conversation with the owner of a Christian bookstore in a Middle Eastern country. She did not have an appointment. She was a customer who had just walked in off the street. Never mind that the proprietor and I had some important work to discuss. He did not usher her out of his private office and hand her off to one of his store clerks, but instead promptly invited her to sit down and hastened to bring her a cup of tea. Then he attentively listened to her questions about some books she wanted to buy.

Was that the right way for the manager of a bookstore to use his valuable time? I wondered. Surely someone else in the store could have answered her questions and he could have given himself to more important work. Of course, I was thinking totally according to accepted managerial concepts in the West and totally outside the box of his Arab culture.

Apart from questions of management and culture, I also learned another valuable lesson that I should have learned from Jesus. Interruptions never bothered him. He never turned people aside because he had his own agenda to pursue. For Jesus, people came first, not "the work."

Yet how often Christians talk about doing God's work, but they toss a fit when something not on their calendars upsets their plans. Obviously, God's work for them is what they planned to do for the day. It is not to listen to people who barge into their lives like dogs after a good roll.

Our Western culture clashes with the values built into the lives of most other people in the world. They are not bound by time management principles. They know nothing about objectives, goals and standards. They represent the culture of Jesus' day more than ours does.

In some cases, it seems, missionaries build fences to ward off those nasty interruptions. If not literal walls around their compounds, then walls around their Daytimers to avoid anyone who might keep them from completing "the work."

In the end, they fight battles between people and rigid ministry demands. They have to decide whether or not to put aside their own agendas for the sake of learning what God had in mind when he sent some people to spoil their well-oiled plans. How liberating it is to junk our plans for the sake of finding God's plan. We must learn to relax and accept the people who knock on our doors or telephone us just when we are in the middle of something either brilliant or relaxing.

When we fall into bed, we can thank God that although the day did not work out as we planned, and although we did not get everything accomplished that we had hoped to, we did not turn aside people for the sake of our work.

In some cases our missionaries must sacrifice their work, or slow it down, not just to help people, but also for their own character development. God is more concerned about who they are than what they do. On the home side, we tend to forget that side of the missionary equation. When we look for results in the work, we must also remember that "the work" includes what God is doing in their lives. How they produce much fruit for Jesus may very well be seen in the way they react to interruptions from their local people.

While we pray for their success in ministry, we should also pray for their grace, patience and discernment when people seem to get in the way of their assignments. In many cases, a cup of tea with an unannounced visitor may be the best way to bring Jesus into that person's life. Can we stop what we are doing long enough to listen to someone's call, or read the e-mail? Can we pause long enough in a busy errand to chat? We can remember Jesus the next time we are tempted to feel put upon and sidetracked from our agendas. He makes us more like himself and uses us to touch those who interrupt us.

Initiatives in the Bihar Church

Hembrom, Marandi, Tudu, Kachchhap, Murmu – strange sounding names to North American ears. But these are the names of a few of the eleven pastors and two “Bible women” who sat with us in the entry to the Purnea guesthouse. They had come to tell us about all the things they are doing, the dreams they have for expanding the church in northern India. It was through the efforts of several of these leaders that the Brethren in Christ witness was extended into Nepal and now reaches beyond into Tibet. And it is through several of these men that evangelism is happening in parts of West Bengal. These eleven pastors currently oversee 46 churches and are hoping to establish more in the near future. It was exciting to hear them talk passionately about their ministry to those 46 congregations and to project possibilities for the future. Their daily routines sounded very similar to accounts I have read of early American itinerant preachers who traveled from place to place preaching the gospel and encouraging the believers. I was encouraged by their dedication and courage.

One of the recent initiatives of the church in Bihar is a collaborative relationship with BORN, an Indian organization focused on evangelization in Bihar. The

acronym stands for Bihar OutReach Network and was begun by an Indian Christian in Patna, the capital of Bihar. In partnership with this organization, the BIC in Bihar hope to reach out to some of the most underprivileged of India’s people. The Musahars are among the so-called Dalit, or outcasts. They are relegated to the lowest positions in Indian society and have little opportunity to lift themselves socially or economically. With operational grants from BORN, the BIC hope to pursue four specific projects through which they intend to reach out evangelistically to the Musahars. The first is a tailoring school for

women. This two-year program is aimed at providing practical skills for Musahar women that will enable them to earn a living. In the course of training, the women will be introduced to the gospel by Christian women who care for their material and spiritual needs.

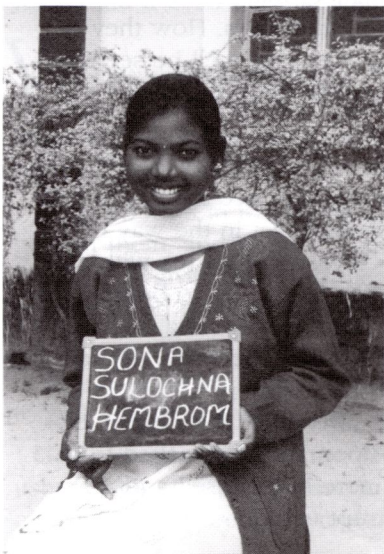
A second effort is to begin a hostel for Musahar children. BIC leaders have approached local authorities about using an empty government school to house the children and BORN is willing to provide funding for the personnel who operate the hostel. Like the SPICE hostels, this one would give children a place to live within walking distance of government schools. The third project is to focus on direct evangelism through the medium of the Jesus Film. The project would include the purchase of a vehicle for transport and equipment to show the film. The fourth effort is a Bible school for training pastors. The church hopes to renovate an unused building on BIC property for use as a school building for pastors. These ambitious plans are clear indications of the intense desire of the Bihari church to reach Bihar people for the Lord.

In addition to these new efforts, the church in Bihar continues to maintain its longstanding ministries – ministries such as the work at Madhipura hospital and the children’s hostels made possible through the SPICE program. We saw the results of both of these ongoing ministries firsthand. At a Santal village we had first visited in 1996, we were able to renew friendships with fellow believers and to witness with pleasure the progress of young Christians.

Sona was one such young Christian. She is currently a college student with undeniable leadership potential. During our visit to the girls’ hostel at Purnea, it was Sona who organized the younger girls, lined them up for photographs, wrote their names on the slate, and then showed us through the hostel. When we visited the village, it was Sona who worked in the background to prepare our meal so the village women could be free to interact with us. When we stayed with the Marandis at the guesthouse Sona was there too, helping to cook our meals and do our laundry.

Were it not for the ongoing ministry of the SPICE program, Sona would not be able to continue her education. This education will likely provide her with opportunities in later life through which she will be able to contribute to the expansion of the church in India. It may happen through her own efforts or

Dr. Dwight Thomas accompanied Dr. Lowell Mann to India in January 2002 to encourage the church in India, to obtain photos of the SPICE children for their sponsors and to explore the possibilities of producing an Indian hymnal. Dr. Thomas and Dr. Mann are from the Elizabethtown (Pa.) BIC Church.



through collaboration with a Christian husband; but in Indian culture, higher education for Christian young people is a critical component for building the future church. Sona is just one of 350 SPICE children.

SPICE is an acronym for Scholarship Program for International Children's Education. Most of the SPICE children come from sharecropper farmers' homes. They live in Brethren in Christ hostels and walk to nearby government schools. If these hostels were not in existence, most of these children would receive no education since their home villages have no government schools nearby. Each hostel has a house parent who oversees the children's chores, has daily devotions with them, and helps them organize their study time. The children help with the cooking and do their own laundry. They also hear many Bible stories, sing songs together, and learn to pray. Living conditions are meager – sleeping on grass mats on a concrete floor, sitting in long lines on the floor for their meals, washing their clothes at the water pump, and walking on dirt roads to school. But these children realize that it is a great privilege for them to go to school and they do not take it for granted. Sona and other children from these hostels are likely to be the future leaders of the Brethren in Christ church in Bihar.

And this is not new – two of the three members of the current executive committee in Bihar acquired their education as a result of Brethren in Christ hostels. The ongoing efforts of the SPICE program serve the church by providing much needed educational opportunities for Brethren in Christ children and strengthen the future by feeding promising young leaders into the church.

Whether through older endeavors like the SPICE program and Madhipura Hospital or through newer efforts such as new congregations and collaborative projects with BORN, the church in Bihar continues to work enthusiastically and creatively at spreading the gospel in India. When you read about or hear strange names from strange places, you can be assured that they represent people who are carrying out the work of the church. Their conditions are probably different from yours and their problems may be unique, but they love and serve the same Lord and Savior as those of us in North America and they need and desire our continued prayer and support.

The EASTER London Team

Mike and Melri Wright led the first of four teams for 2002 to London on March 21-Apr 5, comprised of eight young people plus the Wrights. Mike serves as Associate Pastor in the New Life Brethren in Christ Church in Collingwood, Ontario.

When I think about our trip to London, England, many memories flood my mind – memories of connections, confrontations and conversations. When Mike and I led one of our BIC teams to work with Jay Smith and Operation Mobilization in Muslim ministry, we had opportunities to make connections and build relationships with team members from our BIC churches and many countries around the world. It was amazing to see the growth and change in our team members and also to experience the common bond we shared with other Christians even though our languages and cultures were different.

I remember seeing confrontations during our 2 weeks in London. Members from our team needed to confront their pre-conceived ideas about how to do evangelism, and their fears about sharing their faith. We handed out tracts, set up book tables on the street and did door-to-door work – many of us had never been involved in evangelism in those ways. I also watched others, and found myself stepping out, taking a risk to confront passionate Muslims with flaws in their religion and with the love of Jesus. We spent two Sunday afternoons at Speakers Corner watching and participating in debates between Muslims and Christians. Some of the confrontations occurred between Jay Smith and those listening to and heckling him and some of them occurred as we entered into conversations with people around us. It was intense and challenging!

Finally, I have many memories of conversations with the people we met. I felt the frustration of the language barrier as I attempted to talk with a Turkish-speaking woman at a church drop-in and the joy of sharing my faith with a man on the tube (subway). I will never forget the hour and a half Mike and I spent in one woman's doorway listening as she talked about her marriage and her concerns about her children – she seemed so lonely and we had the opportunity to tell her about the difference Jesus has made in our lives as individuals and in our marriage.

Through all of these experiences, I was changed. I learned more information about the reliability of the Bible that was exciting and realized that I need to continue to read and study. I am more willing to dive in and talk with friends about my relationship with Jesus, instead of wondering if the timing is right or worrying about what I'm going to say. Also, I started praying for opportunities to meet and develop relationships with Muslim women in our community and have recently had conversations with some women who were eager to share about their lives. This experience has had such a huge impact in my life – I pray that many others will take the opportunity to become involved in a short-term trip to London. It is a life-changing adventure!

Melri Wright

Church Takes Sabbatical with Pastor

by Shannon Wagner

A church – on sabbatical? “How does a church take a sabbatical?” you might ask.

Elizabethtown (Pa.) BIC Church decided that while their pastor, Dr. David Hall, took a three month sabbatical to experience God’s refreshing touch on his heart and to really be open to hearing what the Lord desires to impress upon him, that they as a congregation should do the same. Granted, they couldn’t all go away nor step away from routines all at the same time, but they could make a concerted effort to set aside extra time for Bible study, prayer and reflection. And that’s exactly what they did.

The Summer Adult Discipleship Series, “A Work of Heart,” was one way that they committed to developing a deeper walk with God. The series encouraged people, both individually and collectively, to sensitize themselves to God’s word and to open their hearts in a deeper way to the voice of the Spirit. Their quest was to kindle a spirit of openness, receptivity and sensitivity to God’s leading and for their hearts to be more like God’s heart.

The series was essentially broken down into two parts:

- **Shaping Our Hearts Through Events of God’s Choosing**, based on Reggie McNeal’s book *A Work of Heart*. It discussed factors that God uses to shape our hearts: Calling, Culture, Community, Conflict & Challenge, Commonplace, and Communion.
- **Shaping our Hearts through Spiritual Disciplines** (*Communion*), based on Richard Foster’s book *Celebration of Discipline*. It discussed spiritual disciplines that are crucial ingredients of our communion with God: prayer, fasting, meditation, simplicity, and worship.

Spending extra time in prayer was another key element of their sabbatical. To help the congregation set time aside out of their normal routines, the church designated all five Tuesdays of July as Days of Prayer, all blanketed under the theme “Be still and know that I am God.” The sanctuary was open the entire 24 hours each of those days, with someone present in the lobby at all times for security and assistance. In addition, there was a 6 a.m. prayer time, a 7 p.m. corporate prayer time, and a printed prayer guide that could either be used in the evening prayer service, by families or by individuals.

The church leadership supplied weekly suggestions for the congregation on how to make prayer a more meaningful part of their lives. Each week offered the different themes: “Lead Us in Paths of Righteousness,” “Behold the Lamb of God,” “Seek First the Kingdom of God,” “The God of All Comfort,” and “Growing in the Knowledge of God.”

The anticipation is great, waiting to see the fruit born of that many people making a concerted effort to draw closer to God.

Allegheny

Since the children’s department at Antrim BIC, Chambersburg, Pa., is getting really big, they invited the staff and children’s workers from Living Word Community Church, who currently minister to 600 children in York, Pa., to come and give special training to the Antrim children’s team on working with large numbers of children.

On a more spiritual note, Pastor Dwayne Potteiger is making a concerted effort to get all the people at Antrim actively in ministry. “I don’t care how many members we have at Antrim,” he said, “However, I do care how many ministers we have.” He pointed out that all Christians are called to “labor” in the harvest and that their goal is for every member to be a minister.

The church saw 9 youth and adults go to Newark, N.J. for a week-long missions project; 41 youth and adults go to Christian Retreat Center for another week-long missions project; and two people go overseas on a month-long missions project.

In May, **Five Forks** BIC, Waynesboro, Pa., held an outreach event inviting unchurched friends, family, and neighbors to see the Fitz Family perform. The Fitz family uses a combination of juggling, unicycles, the Chinese yo-yo, humor and audience participation to encourage people of all ages to discover, celebrate and use their unique gifts in the Lord’s service. Their performance draws in unchurched people and shares the gospel with them while they’re there. Keeping in circus spirit, the church even served cotton candy and sno-cones.

People from Five Forks congregation also showed God’s love in practical ways by helping put on two roofs, helping a single lady move, and by cutting and stacking wood for a single mom. The church has also been helping environment and missionaries at the same time by collecting aluminum cans for recycling. Money received is given to Randy & Kim Eberly, missionaries in Mexico.



News and Events within the North American Congregations

Hollowell has also been busy reaching out to help those in need. The Ladies Sewing Auxiliary of Hollowell BIC Church, Waynesboro, Pa., has been very active making things and compiling kits for the needy. During the nine months from Sept. 2001 to May 2002, they produced 88 comforters, 120 newborn layettes, 300 health kits, 100 school kits, and 2 large boxes of bandages.

Montgomery BIC Church's Sunday School Picnic was much more than a picnic. The Mercersburg, Pa. church used the picnic as a chance for the congregation to get to know more about the jobs, crafts, hobbies, and special interests of each other. The church set up tables and people were asked to bring along items that told a little bit about themselves, their work, and what they like to do, and put them on display for the rest of the congregation. The picnic also included the more traditional door prizes, a cookie baking contest, organized games, and a pig roast.

Mt. Tabor, Mercersburg, Pa., showed compassion to the poor living in large cities by collecting 16 grocery bags of food for them. Then, on July 14th, the teen class was in charge of the Sunday morning service. Special guests, Barb & Friends, an elderly lady and five teens who use puppets to minister, shared the creation story during the service.

There's nothing like a little ice-skating to cool down in July. The youth at **South Mountain Chapel**, in Shippensburg, Pa., enjoyed a skating trip on July 21.

Atlantic

The people at **Conoy** BIC Church, Elizabethtown, Pa., are getting to know each other better while sharing their skills. "Among Friends" classes gives people in the congregation an opportunity to take skills and hobbies (like baking, fishing, archery, golf, gardening, crafts, woodworking, etc.) and teach them to others that want to learn them.

Elizabethtown (Pa.) BIC Church took advantage of the "Relay for Life" held next door to their church at the fairgrounds as an opportunity to be a presence in their community. The church provided use of their parking lot and

supplied a prayer chapel in the lounge of the church for those who desired to stop by for a time of prayer and reflection. Two people were in the church throughout the event as hosts and available for those who wanted someone to pray with them.

The people at **Fairland** BIC Church, Cleona, Pa., make a special point of showing God's love in practical ways, and June was no exception. They held a Single Parents' Banquet offering single parents and their children a night out for free. The night included a meal, a guest speaker, and entertainment for the kids. A group of 15-20 people from the church also helped an elderly couple by painting their house for them.

This summer, **Free Grace**, in Millersburg, Pa., took part in "Fun in Son" and "Son and Fun." "Fun in Son" was a combination church family picnic and outdoor service, while "Son and Fun" was a Thursday afternoon program in the park with songs, games, snacks, Bible stories, and Veggie Tales for elementary age children. The park program was in addition to their week-long VBS.

Hempfield BIC Church, Lancaster, Pa., celebrated Youth Sunday with an Outdoor Worship Service and Recognition of Graduates. The youth led the service which included testimonies from various youth group members giving a testimony about what the youth group has meant to them. The adults were also given opportunity to share how much the youth group has meant to them.

Lancaster (Pa.) BIC Church is excited that their weekday children's programs, such as preschool, toddler gym, and morning break, have become a significant way of bringing new families into the church. The natural progression has been for families of the weekday programs to eventually bring their children for the Sunday morning Fun 'n Friends program. While the children are learning about Jesus and having fun in the classrooms, the parents check out what's happening in the sanctuary and like it. During the past two years, over 20 families have become part of the Lancaster BIC Church family this way.

New Joy, Ephrata and Akron, Pa., had a busy summer. Among their highlights for these two

fairly new churches were: eight people got baptized; 11 people became members of the church; and a team of 22 youth and adults went to Mississippi on a short-term missions trip. The churches also offered their first VBS, with over 105 children/youth and 40 staff participating. A week prior to the official start of VBS, they held a wet and wild VBS promotion day to preview the upcoming excitement.

In an effort to introduce the church to the community and to show God's love to them, **Silverdale** (Pa.) BIC Church, held a Community Fun Fest with activities, food, face painting, games, pony rides, and much more, all for free. There was also a place at the festival to pre-register children for the upcoming VBS. The church made a very intentional effort to cover the event in prayer with people signing up to pray for the festival on designated days during the two months preceding the event.

Canadian

Ladies at **Boyle** BIC Church, St. Ann's, Ont., participated in "An M&M for You" – and there was no candy involved! A morning message, massage and Mmmm good food highlighted the event.

The **Clearview** BIC Church, Kindersley, Sask., congregation celebrated the 95th anniversary of the BIC in Kindersley on June 16, with a potluck dinner after church. Boys and men of the church enjoyed a fishing retreat at Chitek Lake June 21 through 23.

The church reports a time of growth, but with it come "labor pains" as the church dynamics shift from small church to medium-sized church. Therefore, the church has turned to a study of "church growth dynamics" to better understand the shift so turmoil will not result.

The Junior High Sunday School class at **Covenant** BIC, Penetanguishene, Ont., invited the congregation to "Le Café des Crepes," a pancake breakfast. Proceeds were sent to World Vision Canada for continued support of their foster child, Asanka, from Sri Lanka.

June 23rd was bittersweet for the **Heise Hill** congregation in Gormley, Ont., as they said goodbye to Pastor Mike Anderson. During the

Church News continues on next page

Church News *(continued from page 23)*

morning service he gave his farewell message to the congregation, who in turn then made a presentation to the Anderson family. In the afternoon, they said goodbye at a farewell tea. On June 26 through 30, the youth group attended the "Creation" festival in Mount Union, Pa. It's one of the largest youth-oriented Christian events held each year in North America.

How can we experience joy through all that life throws at us? For six weeks beginning May 19, Pastor Tim Albrecht at **Massey Place Community Church** in Saskatoon, Sask., looked at the book of Philippians for answers to that question. Each week he offered an idea for cultivating joy such as keeping a "joy journal" and recording reasons one had to rejoice and reminders of God's faithfulness. Perhaps pressing a leaf from a prayer walk in the pages of the journal or slipping in a picture of a person who brings joy would enhance the journal. He also suggested surrounding oneself with joyful people for a contagious effect!

When two or three are gathered in His name, He is there! With that promise in mind, **Pathway Community Church**, Kitchener, Ont., is looking for prayer warriors. They meet every Thursday evening at the church office to pray for the church and the community.

The folks at **Port Colborne** (Ont.) BIC enjoyed a special missions report on Haiti from Peter Kentie Jr., Ryan Hogg and their team of students who went there. The congregation praises the Lord for a recent spaghetti supper/silent auction that raised more than \$2,600 to support Jaako missions trip, the Urban Mission team and other youth programs.

It was time to celebrate 100 years at **Rosebank BIC**, Petersburg, Ont., in June! Former pastors were on hand and Bishop Darrell Winger gave the meditation and dedication "Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future." Even the mayor honored the church! Informational tours were given and walls were decorated with pictures from past and present.

Sherkston (Ont.) BIC Church celebrated its 80th anniversary with gusto. The congregation enjoyed an abbreviated performance of "A Man for all Seasons" (The Roy Sider story), an historical perspective on the church from Dr. E. Morris Sider and a message from Dr. Walter Winger. An all-church barbecue ended the celebration.

"Praise in the Park" was the name of a recent outdoor service by the **Springvale** (Ont.) BIC. A picnic lunch and games followed the service.

Great Lakes (formerly Central)

Folks from **Beulah Chapel** in Springfield,

Oh., attended Memorial Holiness Camp near West Milton, Oh., July 19 through 26. Pastor Paul Woellhof concluded his time of pastoral service at the church on July 28. A reception was held following the Sunday School hour.

There's a new youth group at **Blessed Hope BIC** in Milwaukee, Wis., called TOUGH Club. It stands for "Teens Obey Under God's Hand."

The **Bethel BIC Church** in Merrill, Mich. held its 23rd annual Gospel Tent Meeting June 2 through 16. Pastor Bedsaul Agee served as the evangelist, and special music was presented each night by various families of the church.

Fathers and sons at **Morrison** (Ill.) BIC Church enjoyed a campout together on June 7. Mothers and daughters enjoyed a banquet just for them on May 18. Food, fun, recipes and cake decorating tips were shared. The church also did Family Night on the Road again where they met at each other's homes for evening services.

Members of **Pleasant Hill** (Oh.) BIC Church enjoyed a Father's Day service in a nearby park followed by a picnic.

Fairly recent BIC church plant, **White Rock Community** in Noblesville, Ind., praises God for "growth" in its body. Attendance is up 51 percent and giving is up by 56 percent over last year!

Midwest

Abilene (Kan.) BIC Church hosted a Youth for Christ International musical team from Africa in a concert called "Generation 21."

On June 2, the youth of **Bethany BIC** in Thomas, Okla., had fish to fry – literally – to raise money for the church camps and events. Harvest Rest and Relaxation was held June 23 at Red Rock Canyon after the morning service. This is a fun time after most of the harvest is completed, and those who do custom harvesting leave for the north.

The **Oklahoma City** (Okla.) congregation is looking forward to moving into their new and expanded facilities in early September.

The **Rosebank BIC** congregation, Talmage, Kan., took part in community worship in Hope Park on Sat. June 15.

"You Asked for It" is an innovative way to get ideas on what people want to hear from the pulpit. The **Zion BIC Church** congregation, Abilene, Kan., is asking its members to fill out a "You Asked for It" card with either a sermon topic or Scripture text suggestion.

Midwest and Pacific Bishop Event

Bishop Perry Engle invited all churches in the Pacific and Midwest conferences to join him in a day of prayer on the first day of his new post, Aug. 1. He called it a day to give thanks for God's faithfulness in sustaining the church through the leadership of people such as John and Eva Brubaker, outgoing bishop and his wife. He also asked for each church to pray for him as he began the "awesome task" of overseeing the churches the Lord has placed in his care. Those in southern California were invited to stop by his office on the grounds of the Pacific Christian Center in Upland to pray with him, while those from the Midwest were asked for prayers via e-mail, phone or fax.

Pacific

Juan Wall, area advisor for Mennonite Mutual Aid, was featured evangelist for a revival held by the **Agua Viva** congregation in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

The women of **New Community BIC Church** enjoyed a retreat around the theme "Treasures of the Heart," with speaker Cheryl Ford. The men were studying the Prayer of Jabez in their bi-weekly Bible study. The congregation also got to hear and see a special presentation of the gospel by Doug and Margie Myers. Doug uses chalk drawings and Margie uses the ministry of song to convey their message.

Riverside (Calif.) BIC Church began its "Summer on the Lawn" series with a potluck meal followed by a Bible study. The book *Finding Common Ground*, by Tim Downs is also being used as the basis of a Saturday evening book discussion on sharing faith.

Several teens from **The Point**, a satellite ministry of Gateway Community BIC in Chino, Calif., were involved in summer missions with Teens in Missionary Service. Plus, up to 35 people signed up for The Point's camping trip weekend on Catalina Island.

Scott Jensen was installed as the new pastor of worship at **Upland BIC**, Calif., on July 7. The congregation got to know him at a potluck dinner following the service. On July 28, Upland BIC was also the site for a very special celebration of service and appreciation for retiring bishop John Brubaker and his wife, Eva.

Valley Christian BIC, Moreno Valley, Calif., has received more than \$292,000 in commitments in its recent "Step into the Water" campaign. Recently the congregation closed escrow on land to the east of their present property that will be used for a larger facility and future growth of both the Valley Christian School and Church.

The **Walnut Valley BIC**, Walnut, Calif., installed Pastor Serounian Keir as pastor on

Stirring Questions

by Shannon Wagner

July 17, followed by a lunch and ice cream social at the Cross family's home. Keir has called on the congregation for prayer as he seeks to launch a worship team program at the church.

Southeast

Adney Gap BIC, Callaway, Va., emphasized the Christian's armor, Eph. 6:13-18, during its VBS on June 24 through 30. Songs, stories, object lessons, Bible teaching and memorization, contests and crafts were planned and directed by Stacy Poff and her husband, Pastor Mike Poff. The church notes increased Sunday School attendance since the VBS ended.

The giving was generous at the VBS program at **Millerfield BIC Church**, Columbia, Ky., in July. During "Faith Mountain," the children exceeded their goal of \$200 and raised \$394 to buy nutritional supplements for Mthshabazi Hospital in Zimbabwe.

Susquehanna

The folks at **Big Valley BIC** in Belleville, Pa., were treated to a concert by the Hobe Sound Men's Trio on June 16. The congregation was also busy collecting items to send back to Zambia with Peter and Cheryl Guinther, and the church's VBS raised \$753 to buy bicycles for pastors in Zambia.

On July 12, Verna Schwartz, wife of missions administrator Glenn Schwartz, helped listeners at the **Messiah Village Church**, Mechanicsburg, Pa., better understand Islamic beliefs in her Friday Forum presentation.

Ransom Creek Community Church, Clarence Center, N.Y., was privileged to have Bishop Ray Hock install Pastor Kathleen Leadley on June 6. The congregation gives many thanks to Herb and Sandy Spurrell and Daniel and Jane Ales for their interim service. *(Kathleen Leadley's story is scheduled to appear in our November/December issue.)*

Redland Valley Church, Lewisberry, Pa., has a vision for impacting their valley and the world with the love of Jesus Christ. On June 9, they met together for a hymn sing, to take a spiritual gift survey and have dinner together to work toward that vision. The church held its 4th annual Children's Fair on July 11 at a nearby borough park. Free games, prizes, pony rides, crafts, treats and more were featured.

Daybreak Community Church in Royersford, Pa., recently began a new Monday night ministry that all but fell in their lap, yet has already proven to be a great way of reaching out to those who are searching for hard answers — and all while enjoying a mix of coffee and conversation.

Pastor John Pletcher has been getting to know the owner of Perks Coffee, a local bistro style coffee shop, for about a year now, and the owner has been asking a lot of questions about God and spiritual issues. He was raised in Romania as a Greek Orthodox and came to the United States in 1993 with \$13 in his pocket. He met his wife, raised Roman Catholic, here in the States, and they both have grown disenchanted with formal religion and have been searching for something real.

One day, the coffee shop owner approached Pastor Pletcher and asked him if he'd be willing to lead a discussion group on faith and spirituality there in his shop. He was personally interested in participating in such a group and knew of several other customers who had expressed a similar interest to him. So thus began Stirring Questions.

"It's amazing how people can open up when they can hide behind a cup of coffee," says Pastor Pletcher. This isn't a bunch of Christians sitting around having a theological discussion, though. It's more like a few Christians among a group of mostly non-Christians seeking for the truth. About half the attendees are from Daybreak (though some of them are "seekers") while the other half has been drawn either by the sign in the coffee shop window or by word of mouth.

Using the "Tough Questions Series" by Willow Creek, the group discusses such crucial issues as "How Can Anyone Know God Exists?," "How Could a Loving God Allow Suffering?" and "Is Jesus Really

the Only Way?" An open forum, everyone is free to speak their mind, all helping to process the answer. "The discussion is completely conversational," says Pastor Pletcher, "and the ambiance is great!"

The coffee shop is open to the public during the discussion, so people come in and out for coffee while the group works right there in the open. The sign in the window invites people to feel free to join in and participate in the discussion. Though Stirring Questions is scheduled to run from 6:30-8:30 the evenings it is held, participation in the full two hours is not a requirement by any means. In fact, it's not uncommon for people to trickle in or out part way through. When the owner sees someone come into the coffee shop who he thinks might be interested in joining them, he even motions to them or gets up and invites them to join in. Others have come in for coffee and ended up sitting off to the side on a big comfy chair and intently listening for twenty minutes or so while they drank their coffee.

They don't know exactly where this ministry will lead yet, but they see it almost as a test pilot group. If the interest is great enough, the owner is open to more groups forming. "We're excited to see what kind of flavor it takes on in the future," quipped Pastor Pletcher.



Stirring Questions
@ PERKS COFFEE
 In Trappe Center on Ridge Pike


Who's in the Mix?
 This new group is for people of all different "flavors" and backgrounds who share an honest interest in life's richer questions on faith & spirituality.

What's Brewing?
 Great discussion on hot questions like:
 How does anyone know God exists?
 How reliable is the Bible? How could an all-powerful God allow suffering and evil? Is Jesus really the only way?
 Do Science and the Bible conflict? ... and many more!

Come Check it Out!
 Drop in any Monday evening, grab a cup of the best coffee around and enjoy the warm ambiance of Perks. Jump right in on the discussion or simply "sit and soak" while others talk.

Monday Nights!
 —Drop in Anytime —6:30 pm to 8:30 pm—

Need More Info? Contact John Pletcher at 610-495-9725 or pletch@enjoydaybreak.com



Births

Anthony, Katherine Rose, born Jan. 16 to Duane & Susan (Mott) Anthony of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

Cox, Abram Xavier, born May 17 to Ian & Jen Cox of Millersville BIC Church, Lancaster, Pa.

Dukeman, Sarah Elizabeth, born March 24 to Bryan and Sharon (Kern) Dukeman of Cross Roads BIC Church, Mount Joy, Pa.

Gerlach, Joshua Wilson, born May 23 to Ryan & Melissa Gerlach of Millersville BIC Church, Lancaster, Pa.

Hutchins, Vivienne Fay, born June 4 to Brodie & Pamela Hutchins of Air Hill BIC Church, Chambersburg, Pa.

Martin, Andrea Joy, born April 29 to Wil & Jen Martin of Millersville BIC Church, Lancaster, Pa.

Monroe, Nika, born June 11 to Mike and Jemila Moore of Grantham (Pa.) BIC Church.

Ocker, Blaine Cameron, born May 31 to Arvin & Deanna (Negley) Ocker of Montgomery BIC Church, Mercersburg, Pa.

Phillips, Joshua Scott, born July 22 to Scott & Brenda Phillips of Elizabethtown (Pa.) BIC Church.

Shank, Austin Michael, born June 27 to Phil & Deb Shank of Millersville BIC Church, Lancaster, Pa.

Stoner, Jacob Andrew, born Jan. 21 to Allen & Kelly (Yorks) Stoner of Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church.

Weddings

Boggs-Horst: Monica Horst, daughter of James & Jean Horst of Lancaster, Pa., and Aaron Boggs, son of Richard & Dora Boggs of Franklin, W. Va., were married on June 22 at Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va., with Lee Ebersole & Richard Ross officiating. The couple will reside in Harrisonburg, Va.

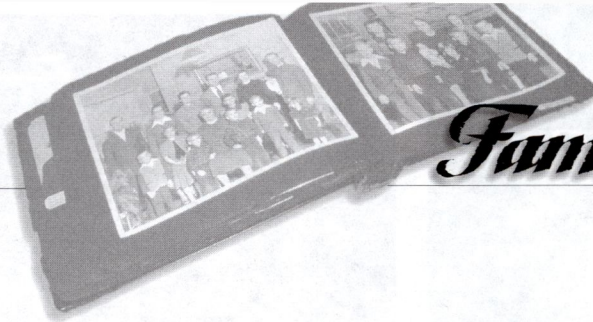
Fretz-Gordon: Amanda Gordon, daughter of Paul Gordon and Kristine Gordon, and Brad Fretz, son of Brian Fretz and Bonnie Lindsey, were married on July 13 in an outdoor ceremony on the groom's lawn, with Pastor Gerald Tyrrell officiating. The couple will reside in Selkirk, Ont.

Groff-Lehman: Melissa Sue Lehman, daughter of Frank & Nila Lehman of Lititz, Pa., and K. Ryan Groff, son of Norman J. & Jan M. Heming, of Manheim, Pa., & also of the late Kenneth E. Groff, were married on July 13 at Manheim (Pa.) BIC Church, with Rev. Keith Tyson officiating. The couple will reside in Lititz, Pa.

"The wedding party itself was practically a regional conference."

In the June 22 wedding of Jill Deardorff and Jeff Stauffer, not only were the bride and groom both offspring of Brethren in Christ pastors, so were the best man, the maid of honor, and all the bridesmaids. With that kind of pastoral gathering that then drew to the wedding itself, it probably seemed only natural to have one of the bishops come and take charge of the service. (Actually, bride and groom reveal they wanted to just let their dads be dads for the service.) Surrounding the bride and groom (front left) at their reception are: the bride's sister Lori (at the far left) and parents Greg and Sheila Deardorff (looking over either shoulder of the groom); Laura and Bishop Craig Sider (to the left in the back row); best man Alan Thrush (son of Lynn and Carol Thrush, who serve as the pastoral couple at Gateway Community in California, and so were the only parents not able to attend the Pennsylvania wedding); Jim and Jane Stauffer, standing behind their three daughters Julie (in front of her mother), Janelle (in front), and Jenna; and John and Teresa Reitz, standing next to daughter Rebecca (far right), the maid of honor.





Family Record

A Chronicle of the Brethren in Christ Family



Lives Remembered

Hayes-Blye: Katherine Newbold Blye, daughter of Robert and Carol Blye of Pottstown, Pa., and Paul Steven Hayes, son of Susan Hayes of Dillsburg, Pa., and the late Steve Hayes, were married on June 22 at Christ Episcopal Church, Pottstown, Pa., with Rev. Kell Morton and Rev. James Spurrier officiating. The couple will reside in Wayne, Pa.

Heist-Garman: Melissa Joy Garman, daughter of Glenn & Cathy Garman of Manheim, Pa., and Ryan Matthew Heist, son of Michael & Cindy Heist of York, Pa., were married on June 15 at Manheim (Pa.) BIC Church, with Rev. Eugene Heidler officiating. The couple will reside in Cockeysville, Md.

Koontz-Gleason: Misti Michelle Gleason, daughter of Harold & Donna Gleason of Putnam Okla., and Nathan Doyle Koontz, son of Jerry & Janan Koontz of Clarendon, Tex., were married on June 1 at Bethany BIC Church, Thomas, Okla., with Reg Martin officiating. The couple will reside in Clarendon, Tex.

Long-Morgan: Karen Louis Morgan of New Bloomfield, Pa., daughter of Albert & Shirley Morgan of Orwigsburg, Pa., and Stephen Earl Long, son of David & Kathryn Long of Greencastle, Pa., were married on June 29 at Perry Alliance Church, Shermansdale, Pa., with Rev. Mervin Potteiger & Rev. Dennis Ritchey officiating. The couple will reside in Greencastle, Pa.

Munslow-Wright: Kathryn Wright, daughter of Wayne & Shirley Wright of Newmarket, Ont., and Shawn Joseph Munslow, son of Mr. John Munslow of Newmarket, Ont., and Mrs. Joan Munslow of Owen Sound, Ont., were married on July 27 at Heise Hill BIC Church, Gormley, Ont., with Rev. Mike Anderson officiating. The couple will reside in Newmarket, Ont.

Rudy-Smith: Dianne Smith and Ronald Rudy were married on July 27 at Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Church, with Rev. David Miller officiating. The couple will reside in New Cumberland, Pa.

Zettlemoyer-Warren: Dottie Warren of Mechanicsburg, Pa., and Anthony Zettlemoyer of Mechanicsburg, Pa., were married on June 1 at Grantham BIC Church in Grantham, Pa., with Rev. Mary Jane Davis officiating. The couple will reside in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Albin, Kenneth Wayne, born Nov. 25, 1926 in Emporia, Kan., son of the late Harold & Lena Albin, died May 4, 2002. Surviving are his wife, Elsie; a son, James; three daughters, Vinita Dowell (husband James), Tammy Lancaster (husband Melvin), and Iona Miller (husband Mike); a sister, Deloris Cox; and 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a brother, Orval. Kenneth served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War. He worked for Southwestern Oklahoma State University from 1972-1990 when he retired. He was a member of Bethany BIC Church, where funeral services were held officiated by Reg Martin. Interment was at Bethany Cemetery.

Goodin, Susie E., born Aug. 17, 1934 in Adair County, Ky., daughter of the late Sam & Nina Stargel Rector, died June 3, 2002. Surviving are her husband, Claude Goodin; five daughters, Angie Carter (husband Ronnie), Sheila Goodin, Helen Graham (husband Harold), Wilma Carter (husband Lowell), and Barbara Wesley (husband T.J.); three brothers, J. W. Rector, J.C. Rector, and Jerry Rector; four sisters, Jewel Belton, Nelda June Wolford, Clemine Hall, and Linda Kerns; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by a son, Larry Goodin. Susie was a member of Millerfield BIC Church, Columbia, Ky. Funeral services were held at Stott-Phelps, McQueary Funeral Home, officiated by Darrell Karnes. Interment was at Tarter Cemetery.

Humphress, Ina, born May 10, 1932 in Adair County, Ky., daughter of the late Willie Callahan & Esther Walker Callahan, died July 7, 2002. Surviving are a daughter, Francine Neat; a sister, Mildren Faulconer; a brother, Jesse Callahan; two granddaughters; and a great-grandson. Ina married Garnett "Blue" Humphress on June 25, 1948, he passed away on May 20, 1974. Ina was a member of Knifley (Ky.) Christian Church. Funeral services were held at Parrott and Ramsey Funeral Home, officiated by J. Richard Lehman, pastor of Millerfield BIC Church. Interment was at Campbellsville Memorial Gardens, Campbellsville, Ky.

Long, Martha Levina, born Oct. 20, 1914 in Springvale, Ont., daughter of John & Christina Teal, died May 28, 2002. Surviving are a son, Elvin Long; three daughters, Helen Berthelette, Mary Doerwald, and Mable Nix; 17 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Mary Crane, Esther Hansell, and Bertha Helka; and one brother, Herbert Teal. She was preceded in death by her husband, Murray Long; a son, Elmer Long; and four siblings, Verna Hux and Orland, Clarence, and Bruce Teal. Martha was a long-time member of the Brethren in Christ Church; known for her beautiful hand quilting; and her sauerkraut making skill was demonstrated for years at Heritage Day at Niagara Christian Collegiate. She was a member of Springvale (Ont.) BIC Church, where funeral services were held, officiated by Pastor Allan Thompson. Interment was at Springvale Greenwood Cemetery.

Marshall, Bertha Tryphosa Stengel, born April 11, 1901, passed away April 25, 2002. Surviving are a son, John (wife Ruth) Marshall; four grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Arthur and daughter Betty Howden. She was a member of the Cheapside BIC church where the funeral service was held, officiated by Rev. Gerald Tyrrell. Interment was at Cheapside United Cemetery.

Stonesifer, Sr., Carl R., born April 1, 1912 in York, Pa., died July 3, 2002. Surviving are his wife, Emma Stonesifer; two daughters, Emma K. Hoke and Anna Ruth Wine; and a son, Carl S. Stonesifer, Jr. He was a member of Fairland BIC Church, Cleona, Pa. Funeral services were held at Stauffer's Mennonite Church, officiated by Rev. Frank Zeager, Rev. Kent Martin, and Rev. Ron Slabaugh. Interment was at Stauffer's Mennonite Church Cemetery.

Letters From Camp

Reports from 3 BIC camp meetings show the week-long family-oriented gatherings are alive and active.



All Memorial Holiness photos provided via e-mail by Ken Abell

MEMORIAL HOLINESS CAMP MEETING

The Wonderful Journey Out of Uncertainty

by Ken R. Abell

It has been a wonderful journey for Memorial Holiness Camp. God's hand has been actively at work behind the scenes. We stand in awe of how bureaucratic details and red tape were dealt with in ways that can only be described as Providential.

Four years ago we were uncertain of the camp's future. Ohio EPA had made it very clear that drastic changes were needed. Today the necessary steps have been taken - EPA has given us the green light to press on, full speed ahead.

It is clearly God's doing. Like the people of Nehemiah's time who had a mind to work, so it was in the Great Lakes Conference. Many people were involved, and it could easily be called the Journey To Victory. We needed West Milton's approval to provide services,

and moneys had to be committed. The estimated cost just for the campgrounds to remain open was a daunting \$450,000.

Prayer was a central element as we stood firm in the face of this task and watched how God moved in our midst.

- *The Village of West Milton agreed to work with us and even had a Christian Interim Manager.*
- *The Village agreed to seek a 50% grant for the sewer.*
- *An Ohio agency got us a 2% loan for the water.*

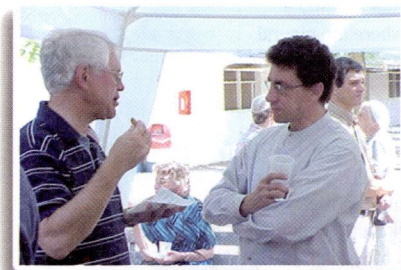
A fundraising plan aptly named "Open The Wells" was organized. The outcome was a remarkable example of vision in action.

- *182 parties committed \$424,670.*
- *As of July 18, 2002 \$335,315 has been paid.*
- *104 pledges have been paid in full.*

A breakdown of the costs also reveals God's sovereign hand.

- *Water installed for \$282,937.*
- *Sewer bid \$210,000.*
- *Refund of \$15,697.*

The primary BIC ministry of Memorial Holiness Camp is its annual camp meeting. As everyone knows, campmeeting is about people seeking a closer walk with Christ and/or a deeper understanding of faith issues. Campmeeting 2002 - July 19th - 26th - was a significant time of focused spiritual emphasis. The theme - "Be Not Afraid...I Am With You Always" - had some history: The Management Team's first telephone conference call to plan the summer was scheduled for September 11, 2001. As the horrible events of that day unfolded we



realized our attention would be on gathering news and touching base with loved ones so we rescheduled.

Rev. Sam Hollingsworth of Fairview BIC preached the keynote message, pulling no punches to make it clear that according to an understanding of the foundation of Scripture fear is contrary to faith. There is no reason to fear because Christ is indeed with us always.

During camp we were blessed with powerful Bible teaching from Dr. John Oswalt and Rev. Doug Sider, Sr. In a tangible example of how God works in the planning details, their skills and styles blended together to provide a unified message of hope. Their words clearly communicated God's personal call on individual lives, reminding each of us that God is sovereign and in complete control of history.

The youth speaker for the week was Rev. Steve Schellin. Over eighty teenagers were challenged by his energy and zeal for God's Word.

The music ministry was truly inspiring. The opening weekend Rev. Joseph Fox of Nappanee BIC and Rev. Rob Douglass of Ashland BIC gave leadership to an eclectic worship team recruited from across the Great Lakes Conference, including for one session a conga-playing pastor from west of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi River. Then beginning Sunday evening Dave Hershberger and a group from Mechanicsburg (Pa.) BIC took over the task of coordinating a locally grown worship team. As always at MHC, we were fortunate to have New Light, a student singing group from Messiah College. Their commitment, talent, leadership and enthusiastic participation in all the aspects of ministry efforts were a model for both young and old to emulate.

This year we tried a couple new ideas. For the first weekend we coordinated with BCL to provide a primitive camping experience for children ages 8-12. Tents were pitched and a campfire used for cooking and nighttime storytelling. Thirty children participated and from all reports it was a tiring but rewarding experience. We also had a Spanish service Sunday afternoon to highlight and bless the Hispanic ministry of the Springfield BIC Church. There was lively singing and testimonials that provided a glimpse of the dynamics of our enriched community. Rev. David Espinosa, pastor of the Springfield church planting "Inglesia El Buen Pastor" preached the challenging message.

The future of our journey together has some uphill curves because we need to continue



upgrading the facilities. The Camp Board of Directors has secured a consultant and it has been determined that we need to purchase land.

A 15-acre tract is available but we need someone to purchase and hold it until the camp can buy it from him or her.

The visionary goal is to develop a year-round retreat center ministry, which will require our complete dependence on the One who set the stars in place and owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Please keep the camp in your prayers. Its legacy will continue to be renewed as we strive to be faithful with the resources and vision God has so abundantly provided. *AV*

A Report from Camp Freedom

Respectfully submitted by Dennis L. Ritchey, Secretary

Another campmeeting has come and gone, and we want to share this report with the church. Camp convened on January 23, 2002 and concluded on Sunday evening, February 03, 2002. The ministry of the Word was straight and true, and the Lord walked among us as we gathered for prayer, praise, and worship, seeking to bring honor and glory to our loving Heavenly Father. The weather was very conducive to campmeeting, with temperatures into the 80 degree range almost every day, with no daytime rain to speak of.

The camp schedule saw some major changes, as one of our evangelists, Mark Hunter, had to cancel, due to the illness of his wife. I'm sure your continued prayers for her would be much appreciated. Albert Barr served very capably, and Paul Pierpoint,

weekend speaker from Hobe Sound, Fla., and Walter Hedstrom, conference president of the Alabama connection of the Bible Methodist Church, very graciously changed their schedules in order to accommodate our request for help in filling the empty slots left by the cancellation. Others also shared in ministry, notably David Fuller from Hobe Sound, Paul Martin from York, Pa., and John Pawelski from Dayton, Ohio. Bedsaul Agee preached the message for the healing service.

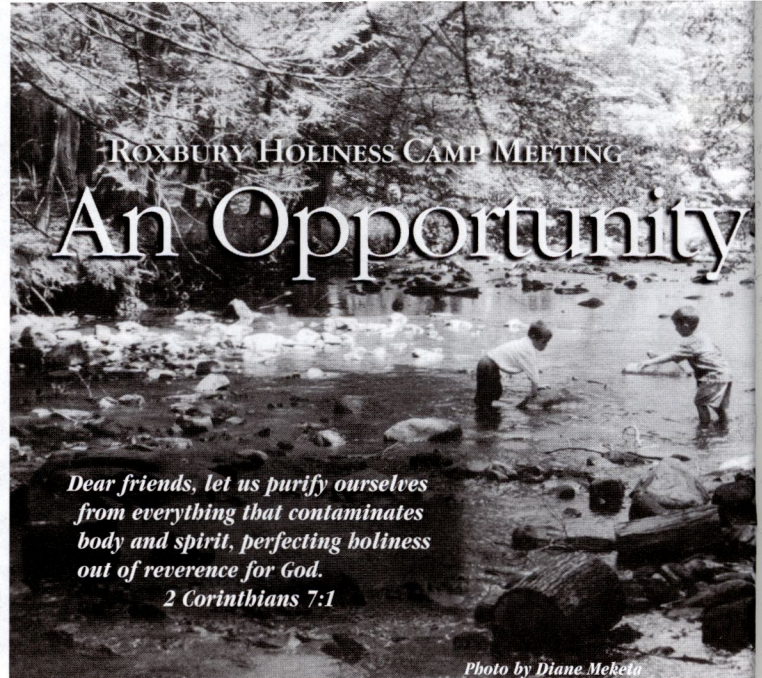
The Victory Trio served the camp as song evangelists, and did a very good job. They are veterans in this type of ministry, having served for numbers of years in this kind of work. The Lord graciously helped them at the camp this year.

Bruce and Rhoda Byler, from Michigan, served as youth workers, along with some other adults who gave of their time and energy. A highlight for the whole camp was a music package put together by the youth, shared on the second Saturday afternoon. The young people had brought or borrowed musical instruments, and put to good use guitar, clarinet, violins, cello and piano in their package. Singing was also a part of this program.

The children's program was capably handled by John and Ruth Pawelski from the BIC mission in Dayton, Ohio. The activities included memorization of Scripture verses accompanied by motions and stories from the Bible, among other things. The core group consisted of three lads, who were joined by others who came and went. These three lads were also most active in the children's missionary project, collecting money to purchase Bibles for new believers in Malawi, a BICWM children's project. These three boys and others collected a total of \$510 (the last word I received), which will buy 102 Bibles in the Yao language. We praise the Lord for the work of the Pawelskis and these children.

Missions Day services were shared by the BIC Hispanic work in Miami and other locations, and the Fort Myers Rescue Mission in Ft. Myers, Fla. The offering for the day services was over \$2,100, to be divided equally between the two groups. Speakers for the day were Mervin Potteiger, Judy Williams, Eduardo Llanes and Robert Walker.

The Board of Directors made the decision to revamp the schedule for campmeeting for 2003, as follows. Rather than starting camp on Wednesday evening, the board moved the starting service to Friday evening, January 24, 2003. As well, the board moved to schedule a full day of services on the Monday of camp, rather than just an evening service, as had been our custom. We desire to let the Church know of these changes, so camp attenders can plan accordingly. The Lord willing, evangelists for 2003 will be Ken Smith and James Plank, with Paul and Nancy Gray serving as song evangelists. We extend a warm, hearty welcome to any and all who would like to attend another holiness camp.



Even though the land around Roxbury, Pa., experienced dryness this summer, a time of spiritual refreshing was provided for all who attended Roxbury Holiness Camp Meeting from August 2-11. As we focused our hearts on "coming clean" before God, we were cleansed, renewed, and re-energized to serve.

Based on the camp meeting theme, "Come Clean," John Hawbaker reminded in his keynote message that we need to be serious about purity – both inward and outward. The theme was used throughout the 9-day span of the event, which begins and ends with event-filled weekends and features plenty of events and activities in between.

Alan Robinson and Fred Fitch were featured speakers in the evening services.

Alan, Senior Pastor of the Carlisle Brethren in Christ Church, preached a series of messages on the theme, "Living Clean in a Dirty World." Each evening he introduced us to a Bible character who faced difficult choices, but was able to live a clean life. He had a fascinating way of introducing each character, describing their life situations without revealing the name of the individual, and we were continually intrigued and anxious to learn who the next person would be.

Alan also encouraged us to find someone for whom we can be spiritual mentors. He suggested we put our own names in the story as we were challenged from Hebrews 12 not to risk being hindered in a race with eternal consequences, and to keep in mind that we are running a marathon, not a sprint.

Fred Fitch, pastor of Zarephath Community Chapel in Somerset, N.J., preached a series of sermons on practical holiness from the book of James. First he spoke about trials and temptations (we can't avoid them); then told us God is aware of our suffering; and finally asked us to consider trials and temptations pure

to "Come Clean"

Reported by Lucy Mellinger, editor of *Roxbury Ripples*

joy because they push us toward the goal of spiritual maturity. Fred encouraged us as individuals and as churches to be single-minded, characterized by prayer and praise, confession, and accountability.

During the first weekend of camp Bruxy Cavey, Teaching Pastor for The Meeting House family of churches in the Toronto area, came with his message of "Inside Out Holiness." We must choose between following the way of religion or the way of Jesus. Religion is any system of rules, regulations and rituals that people use to get right with God. While Jesus lived on earth, he forced people to make a choice between a relationship with him and holding on to their religious practices. He taught that holiness grows from the inside out. If we clean up on the inside, then the outside will get cleaned up as well.

The last weekend of camp was highlighted by the ministry of Carlos Ortiz, pastor of the Elim Brethren in Christ Church in Staten Island, N.Y. Carlos is also very active with Concerts of Prayer of Greater New York, World Vision, and MDS Restoring Hope Project in NYC. On September 11 he arrived at the Empire State Building at 9:05 a.m. for a gathering of the Board of Greater NY Concerts of Prayer. Within minutes of the news of the attack on the Trade Towers, he and the group he was with were evacuated. They walked across the street and prayed. (*Ortiz's story was featured in our May/June issue.*) Carlos says, "The Spirit was powerful, and immediately I saw the call of Esther at Susa - 'For such a time as this' you have been called!" Carlos challenged us to ask God, "For what reason did you save me?" and to hear his answer to each of us - "for such a time as this." NYC is the most influential city in the history of the world. As a result of recent increases in immigration there are now 174 people groups in NYC. What a mission field! He requested, "Churches in NYC need people resources. Come and help us. Pray for us."

Music Ministry

Don McNiven was Music Director for the camp. His amiable, fun-loving spirit and

capable musical leadership made singing the choruses and hymns of the church a great joy for all. Loine Bert provided exciting preludes, offertories and accompaniment on the piano.

New Light, a musical group from Messiah College, participated in many of the evening services, providing leadership in worship and a variety of styles of ministry in music.

Special music programs were provided by four individuals or groups: Heaven Scent, a male quartet from the Mechanicsburg BIC Church, sang in an enthusiastic, upbeat style; Steve Rotz, a tenor from the Dillsburg congregation, sang psalms, hymns, spirituals, and prayers, including "The Lord's Prayer" and "Down From His Glory"; Shannon Smith from Brentwood, Tenn., sang a variety of music from contemporary to gospel to southern gospel; and guitarist Richard Kiser sent fingers flying over his four guitars! Richard is from Salem, Va., and is married to Esther Conner.

Esther and her sisters Ava and Wanda also surprised the Roxbury crowd by singing "I Woke Up This Morning Feeling Fine," a song they sang for the first time at Roxbury as young girls in 1956.

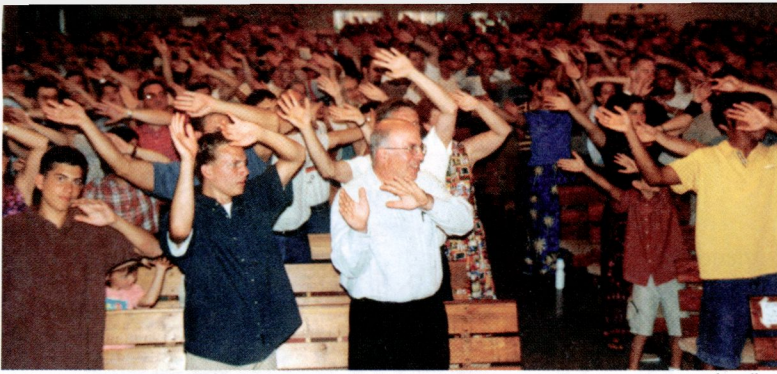


Photo by Julie Miller

Above: John Fickett honors John and Jolene Haubaker for 25 years of service as Camp Meeting Director. Below: Leading the congregation in singing "Siyabamba" (We are Marching in the Light of God).



Diane Meketa



Julie Miller

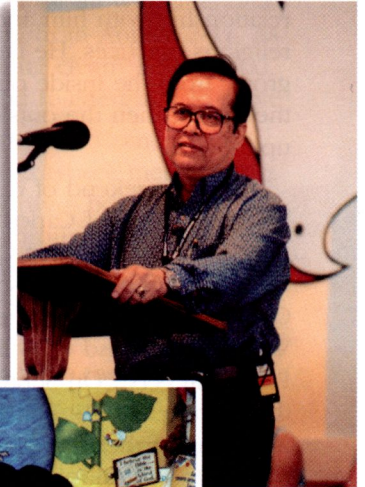
Missions Day is always a highlight at Roxbury Camp

As Wednesday, August 7 dawned, the campground bustled with anticipation and activity—it was Missions Day! Children from the Sunbeam Center were swarming everywhere, collecting money for their missions project. Missionaries poured onto the grounds. People drove in from far and wide. Messiah Village residents arrived by the vanload. What would God say to our hearts today? What would his people give in the missions offering?

Many speakers spotlighted their area of service. A highlight of the day was hearing from Dr. Phaitoon from Bangkok, Thailand. He became a Christian while he was a student at the University of Minnesota. He was exceedingly thankful that he found Christ while in America, and he now has a great passion to win people to Christ in Thailand. He explained that there is freedom to evangelize there, and entreated us, “Don’t miss the opportunity. Come and help us.”

Chairperson of the Brethren in Christ Board for World Missions, Grace Holland, left us with a closing challenge. “Do you care about unreached people? Whom will you send from your church, your family?”

And the eagerly anticipated offering for world missions and church planting? \$143,106. We praise God and thank his obedient people!



Diane Meketa



Julie Miller

Children's Ministry

Under the capable leadership of Eileen Blowers and her daughter Nettie Ogg, the children looked at the theme, “How Does Your Garden Grow?” They learned about gardens of the Bible—Eden, Gethsemane, and others—and about the garden of their hearts. Special speakers for the children also included camp meeting director John Hawbaker, talking about plants at Roxbury; Earl Herr and his puppet, Grandpa; Alan Robinson with a lesson on forgiveness; Richard Kiser and his guitar, Hannab; ventriloquist James Herman; and missionaries Curtis & Leslie Book, Kim Bert, Nate & Cathy Bert, Mary Biser, and Lynn & Amy Myers.

The children enthusiastically responded to the love of Eileen, Nettie and other leaders, and to the love of God, as several of them gave their hearts to Jesus.

Junior High Ministry

Sherry Flohr and Valerie Strite directed the junior high camp. James Reeves, Youth Director at Antrim, was the main speaker for the week. In his first session with the youth, he discussed the theme, “Take the Plunge,” explaining that it means a total surrender of ourselves to Christ. Carlos Rosado, Youth Pastor at Fairview Avenue BIC, presented several Bible lessons also. Special events included an Aloha party with games and ice cream, and “Starfishing” at a talent show.

Senior High Ministry

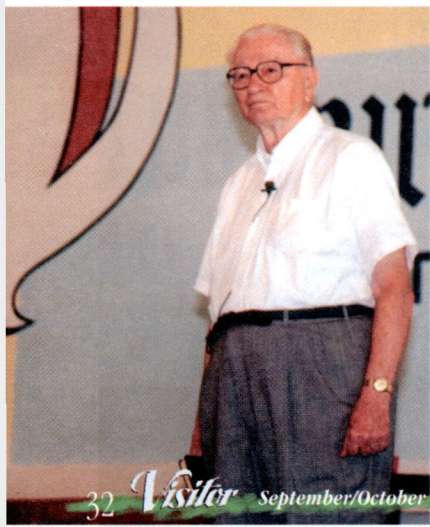
The ministry to teens was directed by Scott Garman and the New Light ministry team from Messiah College. Bruxy Cavey told the teens that to be a Christian means to be a Christ-follower. He taught them to study the Bible, pray and worship relationally. “When was the last time you asked God if He enjoyed your worship of Him?” Friday was Romans 12 Day, a day off campus, with the teens serving at six local ministries. The week closed with several messages by Amy Hess on loving God and loving others.

A Voice for Holiness

Arthur Climenhaga, retired missionary and educator, delivered a series of two sermons on Monday and Tuesday mornings at Roxbury Camp. His has been a strong voice for holiness through the years, and he continues to preach this truth. He emphasized that when the Holy Spirit fills a person, he does not change the individual’s personality – instead, he sanctifies it. He gave examples from the lives of Christ’s disciples.

Arthur was first involved at Roxbury Camp when he sang there in 1936 as a member of the Victory Quartet from Beulah College. He served as camp evangelist four years and as Bible teacher on numerous other

occasions. What he likes best about Roxbury Camp is “the warm-hearted spiritual fellowship” and “the cup-running-over feeling in so many services.” His advice for present camp leaders is, “Don’t let the holiness message ever die out!”



Diane Meketa



Things Our Children Teach Us

My Best Friend God

by Shannon Wagner

My kids have taught me many things, but right now I'd like to tell you about a reminder I got from my three-year-old niece, Alycia.

Alycia has an imaginary friend who really isn't imaginary at all. Her friend, who goes with her wherever she goes, is Jesus.

Her friend Jesus is a very real part of her life. She sits and has tea parties with Jesus. As she goes through a doorway, she'll ask her mommy to wait before closing the door as she says, "Come on Jesus" and waits for Him to come through the door with her.

Her mom told me about a conversation that Alycia had with Jesus before she went to bed one night. She lay there in bed and talked to Him for quite some time. After a while, she very nicely told Jesus that He needed to be quiet now because she was tired and they really needed to go to sleep.

We as grown-ups know that Jesus is always with us. After all, in Leviticus 26:12 God says "I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people." And in Matthew 28:20 Jesus says, "...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Most of you probably are very familiar with the words in the hymn "In the Garden" that say "and He walks with me and He talks with me." It's a very basic principle that we know in

knowledge and in our heart, but how easy it is to forget in the busyness of day to day life.

Sometimes we feel all alone, but Jesus is right there with us. Sometimes we want or need to talk with someone to sort out our thoughts. God is right there waiting for us to ask Him. How often do we seek out other people before talking to God? Don't get me wrong, processing things with other people can be a very productive and helpful thing, but not in place of God.

Why do we struggle so much to maintain our prayer lives, when He's right there with us all the time? Why do we get lonely? Why do we get so overwhelmed, frazzled and confused? (I'm including myself in all of these!) It happens because life is hard. Demands pull on us from all sides and occupy our brains, our emotions and our time.

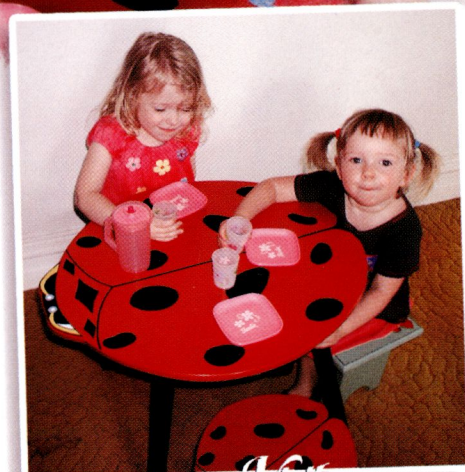
My prayer is that we, as adults, think like children and *really* remember that Jesus is *always* right there with us, all the time and no matter what we go through. *EW*

"Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven."

- Matthew 18:4

Alycia (whose "Me-Ma" calls her "Ladybug") always remembers to set a place for her special friend, even when others like cousin Rachel join the party.

Photos by the author



When praying for new people
to come to church...

Don't forget to watch for their arrival.



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