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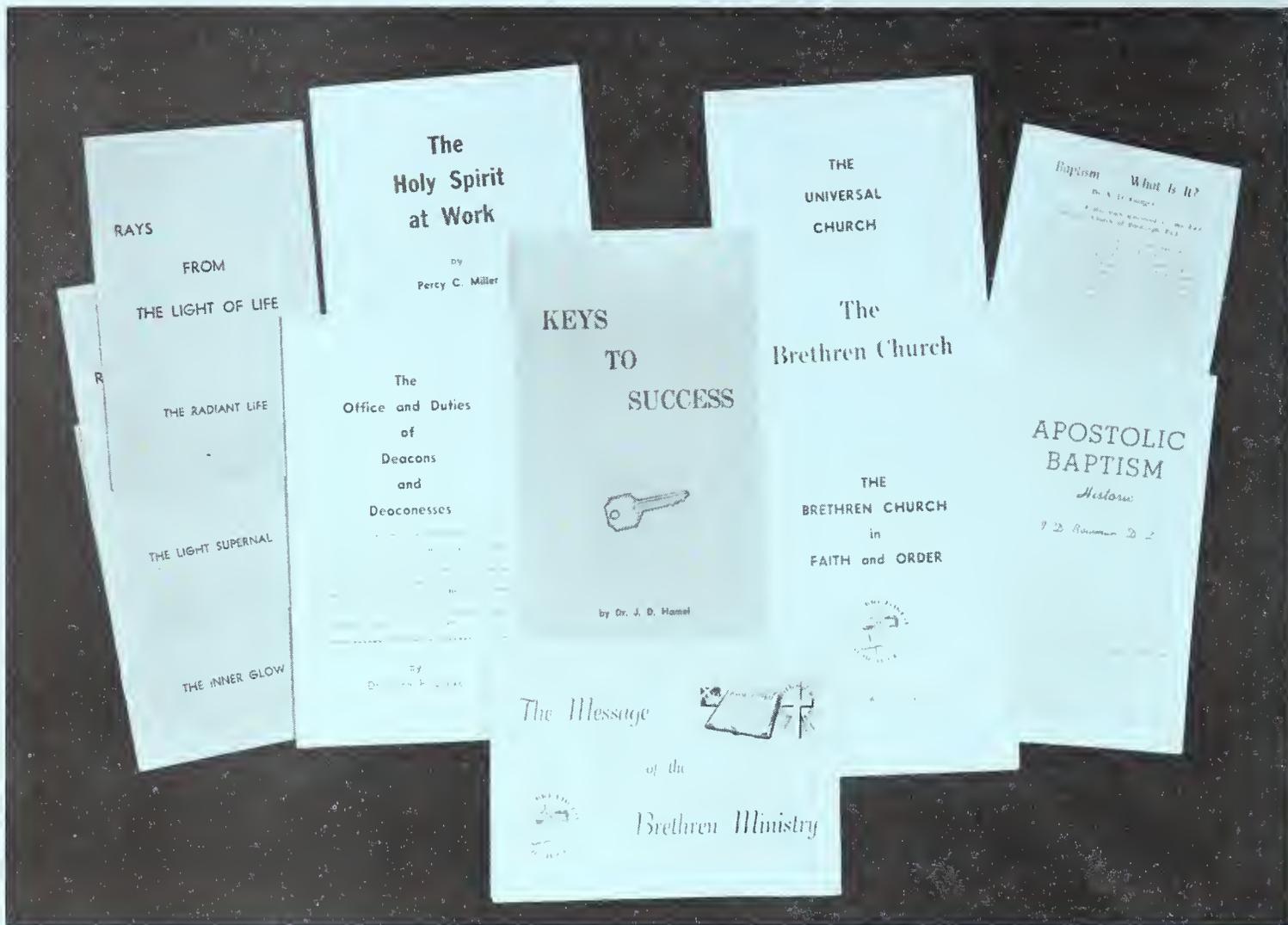




THE HECKMAN BINDERY, INC. N. MANCHESTER, INDIANA

How to Survive Shock in Church

(page 4)



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Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Cover

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Cover art by Linda Waters

Vol. 99, No. 1

January 1977

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How to Survive

SHOCK

In Church

Joseph Bayly helps both innovation freaks and diehard traditionalists in the church find a healthy Christian balance.

CHANGE is upon us. You don't have to read Alvin Toffler's **Future Shock** (although I hope you do) to realize that we are going through one of the greatest periods of change in history.

Kenneth Boulding, the eminent economist, states that we are in the great divide of human history: "The world of today . . . is as different from the world in which I was born as that was from Julius Caesar's. I was born in the middle of human history, roughly. Almost as much has happened since I was born as happened before."

And the church is not immune to these winds of change. Several years ago, Henry Horn, of University Lutheran Church, Cambridge, Mass., spoke of change in worship: "The sweep is irresistible. Few congregations can maintain their composure. If one sends youth to conferences or conventions, they come back singing the new tunes and pressing for local change. If he [the pastor] relies on the old ladies to maintain the congregation's sanity, he finds that they too dabble in

folk masses at their conventions away from home. The only people who can remain pure are those who never go anywhere and never do anything; for them to be defenders of the status quo is of small help."

Some things don't change, or are changed at the risk of destroying the organism. St. Paul speaks of the organism that is the church when he writes, "There can be no other foundation beyond that which is already laid; I mean Jesus Christ himself" (I Cor. 3:11).

In an age of drastic change, we are doubtless inclined to forget that many things do not or cannot change. But in the church we also have the opposite attitude, that change is regrettable at best, an indication of the evil nature of the times at worst.

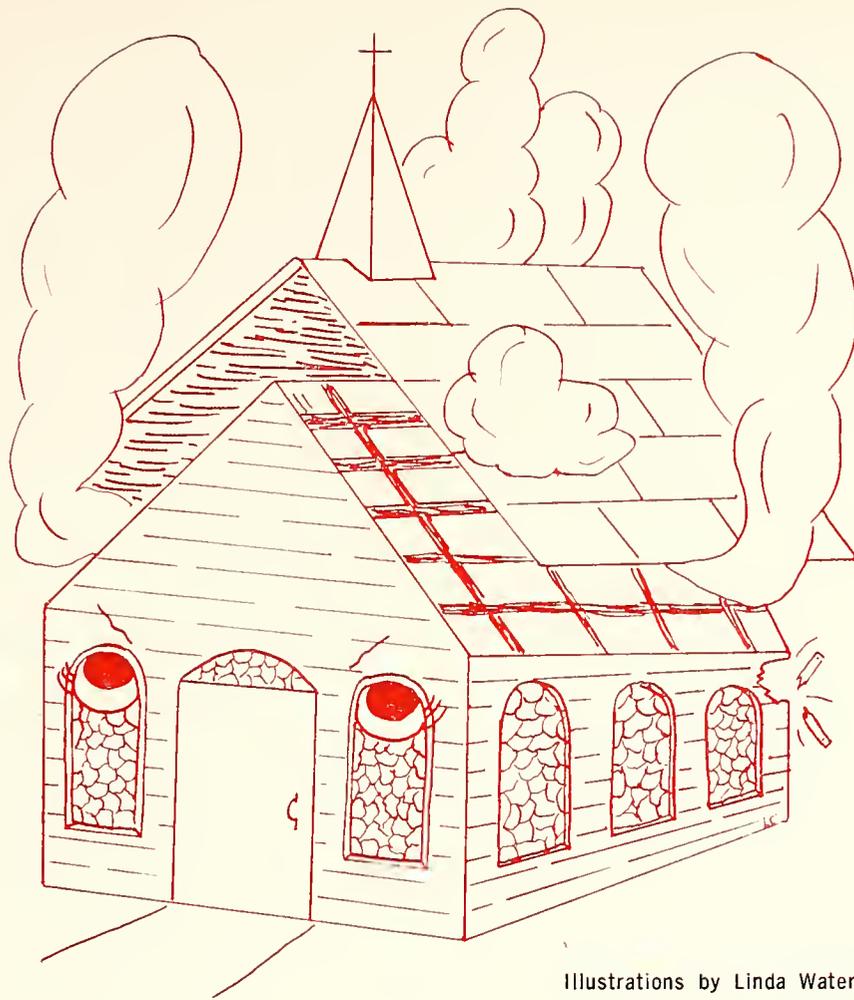
St. Paul indicates otherwise. In the passage already quoted he goes on to say: "Let each take care how he builds [on that foundation]."

All building requires change. The foundation is the same from generation to generation, but the superstructure may be quite different.

When he was 11 years old, my son David said at breakfast one morning, "I wish I didn't have any habits."

I replied, "If you didn't have any habits,

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Illustrations by Linda Waters

you couldn't live. You couldn't possibly meet all of life fresh every day unless you did most things by habit."

"O, Dad," he said, "you know what I mean. I wish I didn't have any bad habits." And I said I wished I didn't have any bad habits, too.

Tradition is group habit. Just as there are good and bad personal habits, so there are good and bad group habits. The church cannot start afresh every day. Yet it cannot always be entrenched in tradition and opposed to change. Our responsibility in the church is to continue good traditions, root out and replace bad ones.

How can we change group habits in the church? What are the principles for initiating change that is Christian, making the change most helpful and least traumatic to the institution? Here are some suggestions:

1. Change cannot deny the dignity of the individual. When we consider specific changes, we must consider all the generations, all groups in the church—not just youth, for instance, or middle-aged people.

Jesus didn't establish a teenage church. Introducing a total diet of new loud or folk music will turn off many older people.

But Jesus didn't establish a middle-age church either. We must be prepared to accept, if not thoroughly to enjoy, the

music of youth in the church as well as our own preferred music from the past.

2. Considering changes, we should recognize a hierarchy of tradition. It is usually better to start low on the scale, where change is less threatening, than high. For instance, if we are trying to introduce new patterns of worship, or a different type of music, the traditional eleven o'clock Sunday morning worship service is the worst place to start. The Sunday evening service or the early Sunday morning service has a much greater likelihood of success.

In the latter instance, we are giving people the option of choosing the traditional or the new. Some churches have found, after a period of time, that the early service attracts more people than the later one. This indicates that change can be moved into the more traditional area.

3. The implications of change should always be considered.

At a conference in California, I met five or six couples who had moved away from the traditional church and established a home church. The experience was beautiful for all the couples except one. They were a bit older than the others, they had significantly less education, and they had children who were getting into the teen-

age years, who very much needed a Christian education program related to their needs and peer-group friends. I advised this couple to move back into a traditional church.

4. We must be careful not to change too abruptly lest we destroy the group's continuity with the past. The late Emmett Browne, Progressive National Baptist pastor in Durham, N.C., expressed it to me in this way: "When I was young, and on the farm, we had a saying, 'If the wagon gets stuck in a rut, don't turn it out too suddenly or you'll break the tongue.'" Or as C. Stacey Woods said to me years ago, "Burn Rome slowly, but burn it."

The other side is presented in this anecdote by retired Bishop Schwalm of the Brethren in Christ Church: "Wagons used to have holdback straps. Their function was to keep the wagon from gaining momentum and going right over the horse on a steep downward slope. The horse could rear back against the straps, holding back the wagon.

"One pastor had a man on his official board who was negative to every new idea that came up. After about two years, he said to the pastor, 'I suppose you wonder why I vote against every proposal for change. It's because a wagon needs holdback straps.'

"'You're right,' replied the pastor, 'but not when it's standing still.'"

5. The pastor should not be expected to violate his own principles or personality for the sake of particular changes. At times he should stand back and let others initiate the change.

6. We should be careful, if we learn about something new that is working somewhere else, not to adopt it automatically for our own church. Every situation is different; some innovations at Chicago's Circle Church or Palo Alto's Peninsula Bible Church will just not work at First Baptist in Des Moines or Trinity Congregational in Brattleboro.

7. If we do adopt innovations that are working elsewhere, we should be careful to adapt them to our own church situation. Modifications are almost always necessary.

8. A tentative attitude is another

important element in introducing many changes. Toffler speaks of the new "adhocracy," the growing practice of temporary rather than permanent committees, procedures, etc. Applied to change in the church, we will suggest changes for three months or a year, and thus be prepared to back away from them if they do not work out. This provides a fail-safe factor.

Even changes change

Ray Stedman of Peninsula Bible Church tells about an innovation in the Sunday evening fellowship hours, that encouraged people who had a financial need that they otherwise could not meet to take money out of the offering plate when it was passed, rather than simply put money in. Later this was adjusted to a maximum sum of \$10; more recently, I understand that it has been abandoned. The point is that this change was not set in concrete, but itself could be changed.

9. When considering changes in the church, we should take a fresh look at past ideas and methods that have once worked, and then been abandoned—perhaps for years.

As an example, when I was a high school student in New York City, our church youth group held street meetings. They were exciting opportunities to evangelize those who never came into the church, but they also built us up in boldness, in ability to articulate our faith, and in skill at responding extemporaneously to questioners and hecklers.

Perhaps this is a time to consider reviving such a street-meeting ministry, which has appeared in history at various times, including the generations of Whitefield and St. Paul.

10. Many changes fail because of poor communication. The official board rejects them because the pastor comes to a meeting asking for immediate action, without laying the groundwork with the chairman in private, and the board in previous meetings. When recommending change, we should give the decisionmakers as much leadtime to become accustomed to the idea as it took us—more, if we were

"Tradition is group habit. Our responsibility in the church is to continue good traditions, root out and replace bad ones."

in a seminar or conference atmosphere when the idea came to us.

Then, when a decision has been made, our constituents—the people in the church—should be told about the coming change enough in advance to adjust their thinking to it. This may require notices in the church bulletin, posters, announcements from the pulpit, even personal consultation with leaders.

Reasons for the change and expected benefits should be stressed. An attitude of congregational expectancy should be fostered. Fears should be relieved.

11. We must always be aware of the risks involved in change.

Risk? Yes, but life without risk is life without much opportunity for the growth of faith.

A rector of the Church of England expressed his feelings in these words: "Wherever St. Paul went, there was a revolution. Wherever I go, they serve tea."

Some striking examples from secular history may provide encouragement to take risks—something that is needed in a Future Shock society.

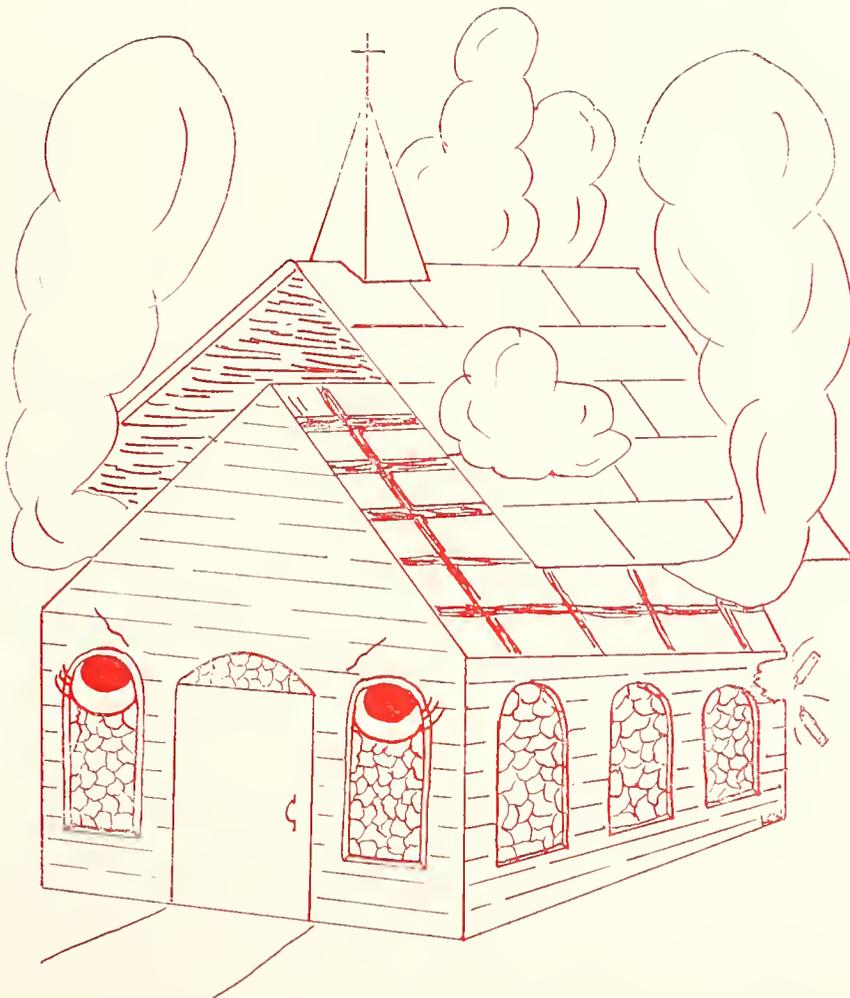
"A committee appointed by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain gave the following reasons in 1490 for believing that a voyage such as the one proposed by Columbus would be an error: 1) a voyage to Asia would require three years;

2) the Western Ocean is infinite and perhaps unnavigable; 3) if he reached the Antipodes, he could not get back; 4) there are no Antipodes because the greater part of the globe is covered with water and because St. Augustine says so; 5) of the five zones only three are habitable; and 6) so many centuries after the Creation, it is unlikely that anyone could find hitherto unknown lands of any value.

"One week before the successful flight of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, N.C., the **New York Times** had this to say about a rival plane builder: 'We hope that Professor Langley will not put his substantial greatness as a scientist in further peril by continuing to waste his time, and the money involved, in further airship experiments. Life is short, and he is capable of services to humanity incomparably greater than can be expected to result from trying to fly.'

"Vannevar Bush commented in 1945 to President Truman as follows regarding the atomic bomb: "The bomb will never go off, and I speak as an expert in explosives." (Kenneth Cauthen, in the **Journal of Pastoral Care**)

Our choice in the church is between risk and tea-serving, between initiating change and arguing over the last deck chair on the Titanic.



You Need to Make Decisions

Ed Dayton and Ted Engstrom show how making decisions can help you live a purposeful life.

MANY people go through life feeling that each major decision is traumatic. They picture themselves as procrastinators, people who just have difficulty making any decision. And yet most of them make many more decisions than they are aware of.

And probably, so do you. Which decisions did you make today? You decided what time to get up this morning. You decided what to wear. You decided what you would eat. You decided to read this book.

True, these may have been spur-of-the-moment decisions, but they were decisions, nevertheless. It is a fact that we **do** have control over most of our decisions even though, in one sense, it is impossible to make a decision about the future.

In fact, James implies that such thinking is completely presumptuous. "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain'; whereas you do not know about tomorrow.

Ed Dayton is director of the World Vision Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center. Ted Engstrom is executive vice-president of World Vision International. Both men have traveled widely helping pastors and other Christian leaders learn to manage their time.

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that' " (James 4:13-15, RSV).

If the Lord wills. Our times **are** in His hands, but to recognize that fact and to act upon it is a decision in itself. And though we may not be able to control tomorrow, the decisions that we make today will have a tremendous effect upon us. James is not telling us to make no decisions, but to recognize that we need to make decisions in light of God's sovereignty.

Be an initiator

We need to strive to be **pro-active**, to be initiators, rather than to continually be reacting as responders to the situation around us. If we wait until we are forced to a decision, too often the decision can only be yes or no, go or don't go. That is why we need to set a goal for the future, so we will open to ourselves the possibility of alternatives.

We need to look ahead to future goals. The more time we have, the more alternatives there are. It is surprising how often we fail to see this.

We are faced with a decision, perhaps an opportunity for a new job in another

“We need to strive to be initiators, rather than to continually be reacting as responders to the situation around us.”

city. The apparent question is, “Will we take the job?” This is based on some other questions: “Are we willing to leave our present job and our present home?” “Would we rather work for the new company than work for our present company?”

But as soon as we have made a decision that we would be willing to leave our present location, we open ourselves up to a whole range of other alternatives. Once we realize that there is perhaps a better situation for us in another locality, then we should consider not only the opportunity offered to us, but all the other opportunities that may lie alongside it.

The next time you are faced with a decision to substitute one goal for another (move or stay), ask yourself what other goals you might have if you are willing to give up the first one.

The decisions we make reflect on our goals. When we recognize that there is more than one possible outcome, we are in effect recognizing that we might have more than one desirable goal.

Decisions can be changed

Recognize that very few decisions are irrevocable. Most of them can be changed. Perhaps the decision we make to accept

Christ is the only permanent decision of our life.

Have you made a decision to go somewhere? Can you not just as easily make another decision not to go?

Perhaps a year ago you made a decision to set out on a certain course of action. When people questioned you about it, perhaps you responded, “But I made a **decision!**” Very good. Now make another decision to change that course!

It all adds up to experience

One of the marks of a good decision-maker is that he or she has the ability to put past “mistakes” to work. He or she recognizes that life is full of bad decisions.

“The story is told of a crusty old bank president who was about to retire. The board of directors had passed over a number of older men and had chosen a fast-rising young executive as his replacement.

“One morning the young president-to-be made an appointment with his predecessor to seek some advice. ‘Mr. Adams,’ he said, ‘as you know, I lack a great deal of the qualifications you already have for this job. You have been very successful as president of this bank. I wondered if you would care to share with me some of the

“Small decisions to move in a new direction, toward a new goal, are much easier to make when we see that they are changeable.

insights you have gained, those things which you believe have been the key to your success?”

“Adams fixed him with his bushy-browed stare and replied, ‘Young man, two words: good decisions!’

“‘Thank you very much, sir. But how does one make good decisions?’ replied the younger man.

“‘One word, young man: experience!’

“‘But how does one get experience?’

“‘Two words, young man: bad decisions!’”

If you are lost in the woods with no idea of where you are, and you see a fire lookout tower up on a hill, as a sensible person you will make a decision to start moving toward that tower. Now, it may well be that as you head for the tower, you may encounter a stream which you cannot cross. You will have to change your plans, make a new decision to move down the stream to find another place where you can cross. As you keep moving toward the tower, you may suddenly come across a well-known path leading home which will completely change your initial decision to move toward the tower.

Small decisions to move in a new direction, toward a new goal, are much easier to make when we see that they are changeable.

Decide! Make a decision! And when you have made a decision, be proud of it. “Hey, look! I just made a decision!”

And when the time comes to change that decision, be proud of that too. Making decisions about your life is the stuff that life is made of.

Summing up

In order to prioritize, in order to begin to manage our life, we have to decide to do it. We have much more control over decisions of life than most of us are aware. We can decide. Most decisions are not irrevocable. They can be changed. All of life is made up of “good decisions” and “bad decisions,” the sum total of which is **experience!**

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Something for you to do

Make a list of all of the decisions you made today. Which ones gave you difficulty? Why?

Make a list of decisions you wish you had not made. As you look them over, are they revocable?

As you look at the decisions that face you in the immediate future, which of these would have been easier to make a month ago, or a year ago?

Ashland Theological Seminary

*Church outreach
through Seminary outreach*

Through Christian Ministry

OUTREACH through Christian ministry is the primary focus of the program at A.T.S. Approximately 65 to 70 Brethren ministers at the present time have received their training at the Seminary. This ministry is literally from Maryland to California, and from Illinois to Florida. The faithfulness of local pastors among Brethren congregations is one of the most vital ministries in the world today. The "body of faith" at the grass roots is primary to Christianity.

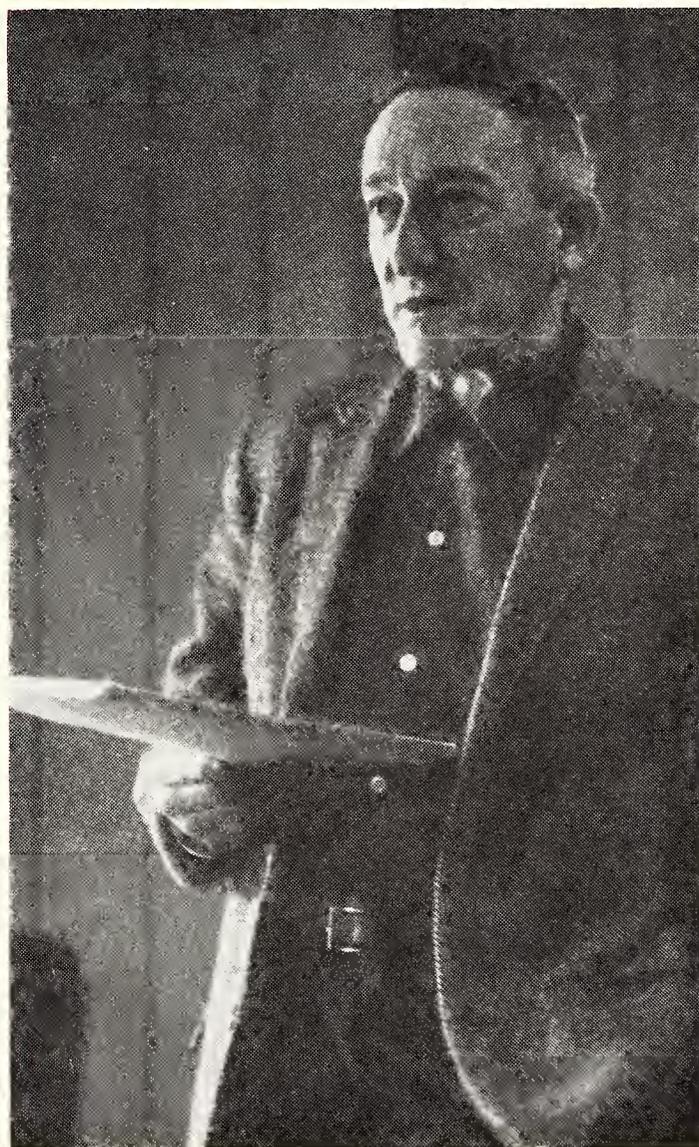
The enrollment has increased about 10 percent this year. The following is a breakdown of our enrollment: Ashland campus, 172; Cleveland Center for Theological Education, 30; Pastoral Psychology and Counseling Programs, 13 (plus 41 Ashland campus students); Human Resource and Development Program, 24; and Doctor of Ministry, 11.

Outreach through church leaders in general is also a goal of the Seminary. There are many kinds and levels of service which require distinct training. A.T.S. is a center of training not only for pastors but also church leadership. Many serious laymen, engineers, school teachers, chemists, and bank examiners are also studying the Scriptures and the faith at the highest level.

The "exegeting," interpreting, and teaching of Scriptures is the sole responsibility of the Church. Certainly it is not the responsibility of the government, the public schools, or the courts for the keeping of the revelation of God in Christ. The Seminary's primary outreach is through pastor/teachers "rightly dividing the word

of truth." The Seminary is at its best when teaching Scriptures at the highest level in the church.

Outreach of the church through the Seminary is made possible by the "Fair Share Gift" of \$5.00 per member.





Church outreach through Seminary outreach

Through World Mission

OUTREACH also takes place through graduates who are now serving in Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Germany, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Uganda, Republic of South Africa, Central America, and the Far East. In Argentina, of course, graduates are working in church planting, radio, and in training programs for national leaders. In Belgium a recent graduate is working in the area of translation of materials for youth and children. In Colombia the work is primarily in the area of evangelism and church planting. In India our graduates include a principal of a theological school, as well as those working in programs of church planting, training of national leaders, clinics, orphanages, and evangelism. Outreach in Malaysia is through classes for children, youth programs, and general door-to-door evangelism. A recent graduate of our clinical programs has been assigned to Uganda to minister to the church leaders so that they might be more effective in their work.

Outreach through new programs of

training for missionary candidates is needed. Although there are a few "schools of world mission," very little is being done in training candidates at the seminary level. Courses such as "Theories of Linguistics," "Anthropology," and "Sociology" are needed for "first degree" candidates. The world scene and nationalism are so dynamic that it is difficult to keep up; however, the basic training is still needed by thousands of missionary candidates.

A.T.S. has plans to expand its program to include "world mission." However, sources of finance are needed to develop this expanding area of theological education.

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

Outreach of the Church through the Seminary is made possible by the "Fair Share Gift" of \$5.00 per member.

Through the Teaching Ministry

OUTREACH of the Seminary—and the Church—is in the ministry of teaching in Bible colleges, liberal arts colleges, and seminaries. Higher education is a “rich harvest field” of the Lord. Humanism is in battle with Christianity for the minds of young people. Many modern terms are in vogue; however, the age-old battle for the hearts and minds of each new generation continues. The teaching ministry in colleges and seminaries is the arena of this battle.

Outreach of Seminary graduates as teachers is now realized in a number of Bible colleges. Ashland graduates are used by these schools because of our excellent academic standing and conservative Biblical position. In September 1976 a graduate was promoted to the position of dean in his school. He is thankful for his training in philosophy of education and curriculum building. As an alumnus he sends his graduates to Ashland for a seminary education. Ashland has also helped two schools receive accreditation.

Outreach of graduates as teachers in liberal arts colleges is also a ministry for the Seminary. Not only at Ashland College

but also at other colleges, Seminary graduates are teaching the Bible as God’s Word. Student response is positive and many are directed towards the Christian ministry. Sometimes through personal trial and error young men and women come to realize that the gospel is the only true answer for the problems of society and the world. In fact, some of these students become staunch defenders of the faith. The Seminary has many students coming from college campuses.

Outreach of the Seminary—and the Church—is through teaching profession at seminaries. There are seven Brethren Seminary graduates on the faculty and staff at A.T.S. This in itself is no small ministry. The influence and outreach through literally hundreds of pastors’ ministries is immeasurable. A.T.S. will always need a number of qualified Brethren teachers. Brethren outreach through the Seminary rests in its faculty and staff.

How better could the Brethren Church extend its mission in the world than through its Seminary and faculty. Outreach of the Church through the Seminary is made possible by the “Fair Share Gift” of \$5.00 per member.



Church outreach through Seminary outreach

Through Pastoral Counseling

OUTREACH of Seminary—and the Church—is extended through various programs in pastoral psychology and counseling. Mental disorders, marital problems, drug culture, juvenile delinquency, and a host of other personal and social problems are overwhelming today. The Church, as God's servant in the world, has responsibility to create healing, reconciling ministries to society in general.

Ashland Theological Seminary has three programs of pastoral psychology and counseling. One is directed through the Cleveland Psychiatric Institute. Over a period of 8 years, approximately 60 students have graduated with a very specialized training in pastoral counseling. Such courses as "Psychology of Personality," "Psychopathology," "Alcoholism," and "Geriatrics" are taught in this program. Its most significant aspect is that it is conducted in the hospital itself. Students

have direct contact with residents and patients. Following an interview with the patients, the students most discern what has been the heart of the conversation.

Outreach in a second program is conducted at Western Reserve Psychiatric Habilitation Center. This program is much like the first one. However, it has a certain emphasis on chaplaincy. This program has been the base for the training of many chaplains for the criminal and mental health institutions in Ohio.

This kind of ministry is most difficult and requires a certain kind of person, yet it is also most rewarding. The Seminary has received three ex-criminals who were converted in prison and are now faithfully ministering in churches!

A third program is conducted in Akron through the EMERGE Counseling Center. Dr. Richard Dobbins, an Assembly of God minister, holds a doctoral degree in pastoral psychology and counseling. He is a member of the American Psychological Association. Because of his own pastoral experiences over the last 20 years, he has a strong feeling toward the pastoral ministries. This new program has a total of 25 students. Again, these students get experience in hospitals, suicide prevention centers, community counseling centers, and nursing homes.

The outreach of the Seminary in this area came about not so much by direct design as by pressing need. All students in these programs get their basic Biblical and theological courses at the Ashland campus.

Outreach of the Church through the Seminary is made possible by the "Fair Share Gift" of \$5.00 per member.





Through Urban Pastors

OUTREACH in a new and vital area is through the "Cleveland Center for Theological Education." Northern Ohio and the Cleveland area is the only large metropolitan area in the United States without accredited Protestant theological education. Over 1000 churches and 1500 ministers wait to be served.

For the past three years Ashland has directed two night classes each quarter in Cleveland. Such classes as "New Testament I and II," "the Gospel of Mark," "Pastoral Counseling," and "Church Growth" are being taught in this Center. The present enrollment is approximately 30 pastors and lay people. These include 15 black students and lay persons preparing for Christian ministries.

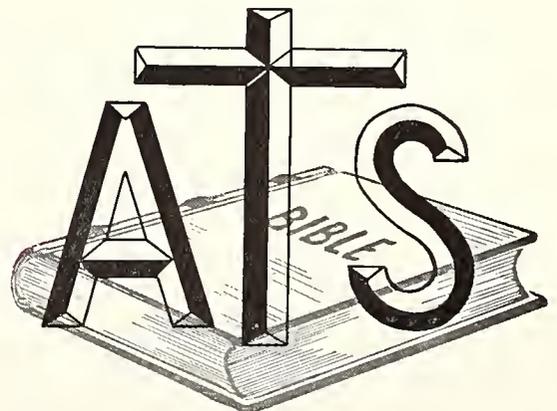
In addition to men and women who are now serving as ministers, there are students who now work for NASA, Kodak, Salvation Army, the School of Nursing, and as general laborers. Many of these students are looking forward to full-time Christian ministries. It is only through the outreach of the Seminary that these students have an opportunity to receive a theological education.

A.T.S. is also a part of a program of training inner-city pastors. Approximately

26 black pastors meet twice a week for instruction and professional training. Even though these men have been pastors, some for many years, this is the first formal instruction many have received in the Christian ministry.

Altogether, Ashland has approximately 45 black men and women in training. The outreach of the Seminary in this area is probably the largest of any seminary in the Midwest.

Outreach of the Church through the Seminary is made possible by the "Fair Share Gift" of \$5.00 per member.



Church outreach through Seminary outreach

Through the Seminary Itself

OUTREACH in the Seminary itself is also a distinct ministry of the Church. Many students who are seeking the Lord's will in their lives come to the Seminary for direction. It is in the midst of the program itself, when they are taking courses such as "the Gospel of John," "Old Testament I," "Theology," and "Hermeneutics," that they can discover what their real purpose in life is. It is not unusual that students in the Seminary come to renewed personal commitments. The chapel programs are geared to a wide variety of needs of the student body.

The outreach of the Ashland Theological Seminary is also in its witness to the other 150 Protestant seminaries across the United States. We are a witness that evangelical Christianity can have academic credibility. The Seminary budget at Ashland Theological Seminary is also a witness to good management. The average annual cost of seminaries across the United States is \$4400 per student. Ashland's average cost per student per year is approximately \$1500. Ashland is doing more for the size of its budget than any other seminary in the country!

The total Seminary budget is approximately \$300,000. Student fees account for about \$150,000. So \$150,000 must be raised through special gifts, endowment income, and church gifts. Fair share giving of \$5.00 per member is the Church's outreach through the Seminary around the world.



Why should the Brethren Church continue to give to the "\$5.00 Fair Share Giving" program? There are several strong reasons:

- 1) Ashland Theological Seminary is a center of training for Brethren leaders and pastors;
- 2) The Seminary has provided a vast number of missionary candidates for the foreign missionary program; and
- 3) The administration and the majority of faculty are Brethren.

Your gifts now and throughout 1977 will make you an active partner in the Brethren Church's outreach through Ashland Theological Seminary.



Brethren Evangelist Changes Continue

by **Ronald W. Waters**
Managing Editor

The staff of the Brethren Evangelist is happy to announce a significant change in the magazine for the coming year.

If you have been a regular reader, you will recall that in the past each denominational board prepared material for every issue. Because of space limitations, their material was often confined to one page.

Naturally, it is difficult to provide insight into a work in such limited space. Even more seriously, each board had to compete with the others for the reader's attention. What resulted was the appearance of division rather than a unified thrust to meet the spiritual needs of mankind.

Beginning with this issue we will try to correct all of that. Each month you will find only two ministries highlighted. One will be the concern normally emphasized that month across the brotherhood (this month it happens to be the Seminary—page 11). The other will be a ministry selected at random at the beginning of the year (see Missions, page 24).

Throughout 1977 you will read indepth articles about Missions (six months); Christian Education (five months); the Benevolent Board (four

months); World Relief (four months); Ashland Theological Seminary (one month); Ashland College (one month); Brethren Publications (one month); and Ministerial Student Aid (one month). In all, a total of 10 pages will be allotted each month so these concerns can be more adequately presented.

In addition, special announcements and late-breaking news from all boards, ministries, auxiliaries, and local churches will appear monthly in the "Update" news section.

We believe the overall result will be a more faithful reporting of God's work through the Brethren Church. We also believe you will be better informed because of it.

More space is also available now for feature articles of a general nature. Each month we'll carry material which we believe will help you become a more effective disciple of Jesus Christ.

As always, we do not make changes simply for the sake of change. We want to give you a product that will be both interesting and helpful in your day-to-day life.

We invite your comments and suggestions.

Gentle to host 1977 tour to Europe, Schwarzenau

Goshen, Ind.—Rev. Spencer Gentle will be hosting a tour to Europe in May of 1977 at which time an optional trip to Schwarzenau, the birthplace of the Brethren Church, will be made.

The tour is scheduled to leave New York on Monday, May 16, and return on Wednesday, June 1. Visits will be made to London, England; Amsterdam, Holland; Cologne, Heidelberg, and other points of interest in Germany; Lucerne, Lausanne, Switzerland; Innsbruck, Austria; Venice and Milano, Italy; and Paris, France. Many historic places will be visited on the tour.

Passage is limited, and the tour is beginning to fill up. If you are interested in this tour please call or write Rev. Gentle, 213 W. Clinton St., Goshen, Indiana 46526, for details. His telephone number is (219) 533-7660.

One feature of the tour is that there will be quite a bit of leisure time for shopping and possible visits to points of interest not included in the itinerary.

"Mid-Winter Institute" planned by Northeast Ohio churches

Louisville, Ohio—Four Northeast Ohio churches are conducting a "Mid-Winter Institute" during the months of January and February.

Purpose of the institute is to provide training for Christian leadership.

Leading the institute are the pastors of the Massillon, Canton, Louisville, and North Georgetown Brethren churches.

Courses offered are: "How to Teach," led by Rev. John Byler; "A Survey of the Old Testament," by Rev. Ronald L. Waters; "Sunday School Evangelism," conducted by Rev. Walter Heil; and "Studies in the Gospel of John," under the direction of Rev. Charles Lowmaster.

The first of six sessions will be held at the Louisville Brethren Church on January 17 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Succeeding sessions will be held at the other three participating churches.

A registration fee of \$1.00 will be charged, in addition to the cost of textbooks. Participants from junior high age up are welcome.

Registrations should be sent to: Rev. Charles Lowmaster, Director M.W.I., 1101 East Main Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641.

Meadow Crest Hosts Indiana Laymen, Wives

by Paul Tinkel

Ft. Wayne, Ind.—The Meadow Crest Brethren Church hosted 128 Indiana laymen and wives for a time of fellowship, a meal, and inspiration.

The occasion was the Third Annual Fall Laymen and Wives Rally for the Indiana District.

Rod and Barb Thomas, pastor and wife of the Huntington Brethren Church, presented an enriching time of special music. Not only did they sing, but the entire audience joined in for a great time.

Speakers for the evening were Rev. and Mrs. Charles Dickinson of Fort Wayne. Rev. Dickinson is the Director of the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission. Mrs. Dickinson is Director of Affairs. They shared their testimonies of how they came to know Christ at about the same time on the same night. At the time, Rev. Dickinson was in prison for murder and was led to the Lord by a Gideon. Mrs. Dickinson came to Christ through the witness of a Christian uncle.

The meal was prepared and served by the ladies of the Meadow Crest Church.

We praise the Lord that once again our new church was able to serve many of the people who helped make it possible. Our prayer is that many who attended have returned home to better serve the Lord and win souls to Him.



Photo by Marvin Ritchhart

Rod and Barb Thomas of Huntington presented special music for the Indiana laymen and wives at Meadow Crest Brethren Church.

"Pop cans" aid expansion fund

Cheyenne, Wyoming — The Cheyenne Brethren Church held an "Expansion Fund Ingathering" on November 21. A total of \$125 was received.

Theme of the project was "We Can Do It." Disposable soft drink cans were distributed to members and friends of the congregation in September. Individuals filled the cans as they would a "Love Loaf."

According to Pastor Larry Baker, "Pop cans seem to work real well. They are a daily reminder that everyone in the family can relate to."

Calendar of Events

February 5-25—Work and Worship Tour II to Colombia, Argentina, and Panama.

February 7-10—Ashland Theological Seminary Pastor's Conference, sponsored by the ATS Alumni Association. Dr. David Burnham, speaker.

February 14-20—Senior Citizen Week.

February 22-24—NAE Convention, Arlington Hts., Illinois.

March 4—World Day of Prayer (sponsored by NAE).

March 3-6—Northern California District Conference, Stockton Brethren Church.

March 12—Ohio Conference Business Meeting, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio.

Deacons, pastor host dinner

Burlington, Ind.—The deacons, deaconesses, and the pastoral family of the Burlington Brethren Church hosted a "Koinonia Dinner" for the congregation on November 21.

The dinner was given by the spiritual leaders in response to the love shown them by the congregation.

Nearly 150 attended the meal. They were served "100 pounds of turkey, along with mountains of dressing, gravy, string beans, salads, juice, and pie," according to Pastor Albert Curtright.

"This loving fellowship dinner lasted two hours, and it was a true blessing of Christian love and fellowship. We would recommend it to any congregation as a loving, sharing experience," he added.

Pastor Curtright also expressed his appreciation for the church's concern for him when his brother in Wyoming passed away recently. "The church bought our tickets that we might fly out to the funeral and back. How wonderful to see in operation the Scripture, 'See how the brethren love one another.'"

The church has shown steady growth, adding 122 members in the past six years.

"Whenever I feel like exercise I lie down until the feeling passes."

—Robert M. Hutchins

Students Speak Out on Campus Ministry

by Don Snell
Director of Campus Ministry

Recently I had opportunity to discuss the Ashland College Campus Ministry with several students. I asked them to write down some of their observations. Their response encouraged me as I saw how the Lord was bringing them spiritual growth.

Lynn Mercer, a junior from the North Georgetown, Ohio, Brethren Church, wrote, "‘Birds of a feather flock together,’ and there are all kinds of ‘birds’ at Ashland College. I’m happy to say that one ‘species’ is the Christian."

Since one of our objectives this year was to give the students an opportunity to learn to worship the Lord, I was pleased when Lynn said, "For me, the Sunday evening worship is a definite sign of life among this ‘species’ and is most needed. It’s very encouraging to see so many people gathered together from different denominations, worshipping God."

Lisa Austin, a Presbyterian from Pittsburgh, added her comments about the worship time: "It’s only been two months since I accepted the Lord and asked Him to lead my life. I’m just like a baby, and if there weren’t some kind of fellowship, it would be like a baby without parents to comfort him."

"Let’s face it—college life is full of temptations. Just like a baby, I’ve needed reassurance; that’s why it’s so important to have brothers and sisters around, people who really care. This is why the Sunday night worship is super to me."

Another aspect of the AC ministry that my staff has tried to emphasize is spending personal time with students. We purposely limit office hours so we can be with the students on campus, in the student union, and in their dormitories. We’ve found this helpful in meeting personal and immediate needs.

Don Peters, a Baptist from Hartford, Conn., said, "I’m thankful for the time you and Mike Gleason have spent with me at meetings and during the day. From you I get logical, well-thought-out,

openminded insight into knowing God. Just talking with you has made my year."

During these personal times with students we begin to see their needs and how God can minister to them through us.

In this respect, the dorm Bible studies have also been valuable. Here we have had opportunity to present God’s Word and to see immediate feedback and commitment to it.

How are things at Ashland College? Good! God is in control, putting lives back together and leading others to discover life in Jesus Christ. Continue to pray with us, that the body of believers at AC will grow into a mature likeness of our Lord Jesus.

Martha Deardurff from the Gretna Brethren Church may have summed it up best with this statement: "We are Christians at Ashland College, learning God’s plans for our lives as we laugh, cry, pray, and grow together."

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NAE Convention to include featured speakers

Wheaton, Ill. (NAE)—The 1977 NAE Convention will again feature significant evening speakers, according to Coordinator David Breese.

Evening speakers will include Don Moomaw, Luis Palau, and Charles Colson.

Dennis Kinlaw will be the Convention Bible teacher.

The Convention will be held February 22-24 at the Arlington Park Hilton Hotel in suburban Arlington Heights, Illinois.

O. B. Harding:

"Tune in next week . . ."



"Ham" O. B. Harding got together in person with missionary Bill Winter during his last furlough.

If you think it takes a long time to get a letter to someone across the country, you should try relaying important information from overseas.

Fortunately, Brethren missionaries Bill and Sharon Winter do not have to be delayed by the postal system in Argentina, the United States, or anywhere in between.

Ashland-based amateur radio operator O. B. Harding provides a link each week between the Winter family and the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church. "O. B.," a member of the Ashland Area Amateur Radio Club, has confirmed radio contacts with all 50 states and with many foreign

countries.

Once while he was attempting to contact Bill, an amateur in South Australia answered him. Another time he ended up talking to a "ham" in Antarctica.

"O. B." points out that the "ham" radio link is just one example of the many ways amateur radio is of service to others.

In addition to his hours on the airwaves and his work at Ohio Edison, "O. B." is actively involved in the Park Street Brethren Church of Ashland, where he is a deacon. He also assists the missionary program in general.

He and his wife Lucille have three children.

Miss Fish, Kridler recognized at Pleasant View

Vandergrift, Pa. — Thelma Fish and Clarence Kridler were recognized for distinguished service to the Pleasant View Brethren Church. The recognition was part of a 75th Anniversary Celebration held on November 21.

Miss Fish has served for a number of years as secretary for the church, while Mr. Kridler has been a trustee. Each was presented with a gift, and Mr. Kridler was named an honorary life trustee.

The celebration also included a baptism, dedication of babies, and the dedication of the new pastor's study and chairs.

New magazine for singles begun by Garden Grove

Garden Grove, Calif. (EP News)—Solo, a bi-monthly, 36-page magazine for singles, has been launched by Garden Grove Community Church.

The magazine is the newest effort by the sponsoring church which, says Managing Editor Bobbie Reed, seeks under the direction of Pastor Robert Schuller to fill the special needs of people in America.

Anspach published

Mt. Pleasant, Mich.—A collection of speeches given by former Ashland College President Charles L. Anspach have been published.

The book, "A Voice Speaks—Addresses and Prologues," contains speeches Anspach delivered over the years at college commencements and to various other groups.

As president of Central Michigan University from 1939 to 1959, he delivered as many as 20 to 30 commencement addresses each spring.

The book, printed in a limited edition of 1,000 copies, may be purchased at \$10.40 from the Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858.

College enrollment declines

Washington, D.C. (EP News)—A survey of 688 "representative" colleges and universities around the country shows enrollment may have declined about 1 percent this fall. If the decline holds true through the final compilation of data, it will mark the first loss in 17 years.

While college enrollments overall were declining, however, private schools (primarily church-related) reported a 7 percent increase, and theological schools were up 4.7 percent.

ATS Pastor's Conference schedule announced

Ashland, Ohio—The Ashland Theological Seminary Alumni Association has released the schedule for its Annual Pastor's Conference. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Workman Lecture Series at the Seminary, February 7 to 10.

Dr. David Burnham, pastor of the Chapel in University Park in Akron, Ohio, is the featured speaker.

In addition to speaking at the 10:30 a.m. chapel services, Dr. Burnham will address the alumni at 7:30 Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. He will share informally with them Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

Topics he will discuss are: the pastor and his study; pastoral ministry in daily role—hospital visits, funerals, calling, and sharing Christ; family relationships; and the changing role of the pastor.

Holy Communion will be celebrated Wednesday night after the lecture. Recreation is also being planned.

The conference will open with a banquet on Monday evening at the Ashland College Accent Room. It will close with lunch on Thursday.

Cost of the conference is \$37.00, which includes lodging, meals, and a registration fee. Those making arrangements for their own lodging and meals will pay \$4.00.

Missouri Lutherans to lose only 100 churches

St. Louis, Mo. (EP News)—The newly developed Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, "moderates" who have left the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, will get no more than 100 dissident congregations, according to the president of the Missouri church.

The guess is only "a barnyard figure," President J. A. O. Preus told UPI Religion Writer David E. Anderson. Preus thinks the worst of the theological and political fight in the 2.8 million member denomination is essentially over.

World Vision releases new TV program

Los Angeles, Calif. (World Vision)—The production of a new weekly television series to "help bring a renewal of missionary vision and zeal to America" has been announced by World Vision International.

Scheduled for release in mid-January, the program is called "Come Walk the World." It will be hosted by Dr. Stan Mooneyham, president. Dave Boyer, former nightclub singer who was converted in 1965, will also be a "regular" on the program.

The 30-minute program will tell the story of how the Spirit of God is using His people to bring about a spiritual awakening in every corner of the world.

The primary portions of "Come Walk the World"

are being filmed on location. Approximately half of each show will highlight the work of missionaries and national church leaders not associated with World Vision.

The Christian humanitarian agency is presently negotiating with television stations for available Sunday time slots. The agency hopes to schedule the series in approximately 10 cities next year.

Attention, Laymen!

The beginning of 1977 marks some changes in communication procedures for Brethren Laymen.

J. Perry Deeter has asked to be freed from his responsibility of writing the Laymen's Inspirational material. National Laymen President Jim Payne will be contacting others to write specific program material. This will be distributed (along with news from Jim) directly to the local Laymen's organizations, as indicated on page 31 of the December Brethren Evangelist.

A mailing list has been set up for the national organization by the Brethren Publishing Company. The list consists of Laymen contacts as given on pages 82 and 83 of the 1976 General Conference Annual (except where we have been informed of a change). All active pastors have also been added, as well as the Laymen contacts used by the Missionary Board for Growth Partner mailings.

President Payne will use this new list for a mailing in January. Included will be devotional material, news, and announcements.

Since it is very difficult to be accurate on such a list, we request your assistance. If you begin receiving the material and the contact should be someone else in your church, send me your name and the complete name and address of the person who should be receiving it.

If you have a Laymen's organization, the contact probably should be one of the officers. If you do not have an organization, a contact should still be selected to receive the mailing to share with the other men in the church.

If you are the person who is to receive Growth Partner notices but someone else is to receive the Laymen mailing, please let us know that also.

Finally, if your address is incorrect, please give us the old and new address so we can correct our plates. We want to make the list as accurate as possible, but we need your help.

Thanks for your help. If you have any questions, comments, or corrections, please write me, John Rowsey, at the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.

ed. note—The Brethren Evangelist will continue to carry Laymen's news on its Update pages. We will also carry an occasional column containing information for men from men. The writers will vary and will be selected by our editorial staff.

We expect this combined direct mail and Brethren Evangelist coverage will provide better communication.

Let us know what your organization is doing. And watch for the mailings from Jim Payne.

Rev. Fred C. Vanator

a tribute by J. D. Hamel



Rev. Fred C. Vanator

Rev. Fred C. Vanator, 91, founder and pastor emeritus of the Sarasota First Brethren Church, was promoted from this life to be with his Lord on November 1, 1976. He was born February 17, 1885, in Warsaw, Indiana. Services were held in the sanctuary of the Sarasota church with Dr. J. D. Hamel, pastor, officiating. He was assisted by Rev. Russell Gordon, pastor of the Bradenton Brethren Church.

Rev. Vanator, his wife Helen, daughter Esther, and son-in-law Carl Mohler, founded the Sarasota Brethren Church on November 7, 1954. The initial gathering of 10 people met in their home on Lime Avenue. The present membership of the church is 683.

Rev. Vanator has stood like a mighty oak in his ministry for Christ; and in the shade of his patience and faith many of us have rested and been refreshed. In his "Fellowship" Sunday School class which he organized and taught for so many years, he used keen and perceptive intellect in his lifelong search for God's truth in Scripture. He had a marvelous skill in communicating that truth to others, in the pulpit, the classroom, and in conversation.

When I reflect upon his ministry in the church and on the denominational boards, I remember that he has served so faithfully for more than half a century. I also think of the multitude of men and women, boys and girls, who have come under the influence

of his contagious faith and keen mind. His life has incarnated and exemplified fully and consistently the essential qualities of a born-again Christian.

Rev. Vanator was called to the ministry by the Warsaw, Indiana, Brethren Church in 1919. He graduated from Ashland College and Seminary in 1920 with the degrees of A.B. and Classical Divinity. He served Brethren churches in Homersville and Williamstown, Ohio, as a student pastor; and Brethren churches in Canton, Ohio; Peru, Indiana; Fremont, Ohio; and Sarasota, Florida, First Brethren. He had been a member of the National Brethren Ministerial Association since 1920.

He served on the National Christian Endeavor Board of the Brethren Church for 10 years. For 20 of his 24 years on the Benevolent Board he was president; later he served as president emeritus and life member.

He served on the Publication Board for the denomination for 5 years and was Editor of Publications for 12 years. He also served two terms as moderator of the Ohio District Conference.

In December 1970 the former sanctuary, which he dedicated with pastor Rev. Lyle Lichtenberger on January 12, 1958, was rededicated and renamed the "Vanator Fellowship." At a congregational business meeting January 4, 1972, he was unanimously elected to be our first pastor emeritus.

Rev. Vanator was married to the former Helen Robbins from Warsaw, Indiana. One of the consequences of such a Godly life in Jesus was the enduring memory of a beautiful 67 years of marriage. As the pastor of Rev. and Mrs. Fred Vanator, I will miss their friendship on earth, but I rejoice in their entry into the glory of heaven.

Rev. Vanator came to the scene of action in the Brethren Church at a time when such men were badly needed. He was well qualified by nature and grace to help do the work which needed so much to be done in building the kingdom of God in the hearts of men.

He had one dominant passion: to glorify Jesus Christ by glorifying His Word. For this he was willing to fight to the end and to sacrifice everything. Our brother was not only able to say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course," but he was honestly able to add, "I have kept the faith."

New pastor, retiring pastor honored at County Line

Lakeville, Ind.—The County Line Brethren Church welcomed their new pastor and honored their retiring pastor at separate programs last fall.

Gerald Barr was installed as the new pastor on October 24. Everett and Helen Gillis and Rev. Wilbur Thomas participated in the installation. Dan Donaldson offered special music.

Rev. Barr came to County Line after four years at the First Brethren Church of Mexico, Indiana. He and his wife Linda have two children, Gerald, Jr., and Wendy.

A "Retirement-Potluck Supper" was given November 13 in honor of Rev. Wilbur Thomas. He had served the church as pastor for six years before his retirement in October.

The supper was followed by a series of humorous skits, songs, and gifts. The evening closed with everyone taking a trip down "Memory Lane," recalling the many happy memories of Rev. Thomas's ministry.

Kindleys installed

Johnstown, Pa.—Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Kindley were installed October 17 as the new pastoral family of Third Brethren Church.

Rev. Joseph Hanna, member of the Pennsylvania Ministerial Examining Board and pastor of the Meyersdale Brethren Church, conducted the installation service.

Weddings

Lisa Doyle to William Bell, Dec. 11, at Vandergrift, Pa. Members of Pleasant View Brethren Church. William Walk, pastor, officiating.

Linda Silver to Scott Yoder, Nov. 27, at Elkhart, Ind. Members of First Brethren Church. Dale RuLon, pastor, officiating.

In Memory

Millard Leighton, 95, Nov. 28. Member of Elkhart, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Dale RuLon, pastor.

Florence E. Miller, 86, Nov. 21. Member of Ashland, Ohio, Park Street Brethren Church. Services by Eugene Beekley, pastor.

Mrs. Inez Roose, 81, Nov. 11. Member of Elkhart, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Dale RuLon, pastor.

Charley C. Curtright, 55, Nov. 9. Cheyenne, Wyoming. Services by Larry Baker, pastor.

Duane Weitz, 16, Nov. 1. Member of Vandergrift, Pa., Pleasant View Brethren Church. Services by William Walk, pastor.

Ruth Gilbert, 81, Oct. 30. Member of West Alexandria, Ohio, First Brethren Church. Services by Herbert Gilmer, pastor.

Pastoral News

St. Clair Benschoff, from Muncie to College Corner (Wabash, Ind.), mid-February.

Randy Best, from student pastorate at North Fairfield, Ohio, to Newark, Ohio, Brethren Church, in November.

Jeff Oesch, Christian and Missionary Alliance ministerial graduate from Georgia to Kokomo, Ind., Brethren Church, Nov. 28.

Fred Snyder, interim pastor at Corinth (Twelve Mile, Ind.), to become full-time pastor there March 1.

John Turley, interim pastor at College Corner from November through mid-February.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. John Holderman, 61st, Jan. 2. Members of Ardmore Brethren Church, South Bend, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Sigerfoos, 55th, Dec. 25. Members of First Brethren Church, Elkhart, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Herrell Waters, 50th, December 24. Members of Loree, Ind., Brethren Church.

Mr. & Mrs. Noble Kenaga, 54th, Dec. 24. Members of First Brethren Church, Elkhart, Ind.

Membership Growth

Loree: 11 by baptism

Sarasota: 4 by baptism

Williamstown: 3 by baptism

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Colombia

Three Years Old and Growing

ISN'T it thrilling to watch a child grow? At birth a baby is so fragile, and it can meet few of its own needs. But then it begins to grow. It learns to sit up, to crawl, to stand, and finally to walk.

Watching a church grow can be just as thrilling. The members of the Colombian church reviewed their own growth recently as part of a series of weekday studies on "The Church." We in the United States can join them in praising God for the work He has been able to do in and through them.

New believers baptized

The work was established in November of 1973 with 9 being baptized the first

year; the second year, 32; and the third year, 36 more were baptized.

Leadership was limited in the very beginning to the Solomons, who were veteran missionaries of Argentina, South America, and went to Colombia to start a Brethren mission there. The second year they had four lay helpers within the church. The third year they lost one by death. However, others are being trained to work into greater leadership roles. Kenneth Solomon continues the six hours of Bible study weekly with the "Timothy" workers. Also, the Mark Logan family arrived on the field in early August 1976 to assist in administration and program.

The first center of study and worship was at La Castellana, the barrio where



Photo by Mark Logan

These believers in Campo Valdes meet in the home of Dario Tobon. The group here includes Chantal Logan and the children (left) and the Kenneth Solomon family (right).



The Logans live downstairs in this housing unit in Medellin, Colombia.

the Solomons live. Presently the centers are: La Castellana, Campo Valdes, Aranjuez, Belen, and Itagui. Within these 5 suburbs there are 11 meetingplaces. These churches are homes of members opened to large group meetings. In these 11 centers, 23 weekly meetings are held for the evangelization of the suburbs and the education of the believers. Three couples, plus a single woman, assist the missionary couples in directing the 23 meetings per week. Two of the male workers are in a continuing study program. It is very difficult for them to find sufficient time for these leadership roles, but they are working faithfully.

Logans on the field

Mark and Chantal Logan have been settled in a home since early in August. Fortunately they were permitted into the country prior to a temporary order barring new missionaries. (Quotas and procedures are being established, and all missionaries will be cleared through the Colombian Confederation of Evangelicals.) We praise the Lord for their timely arrival.

Their work has been hampered, however, because their barrels of technical equipment and personal belongings arrived late and damaged (see related story). In the meantime, Mark has been supervising a group of teenagers in after-school activities. Chantal has two Bible studies, one

for women of the church and one with some of the neighbor ladies.

In the days, weeks, and months ahead, we can expect to see new growth as the young Colombian church matures. Please continue to pray for God's direction for our missionaries and the national workers.

Ed. note—In addition to funds received at General Conference for the Logan family, the Wayne Heights Brethren Church has pledged its faith promise for underwriting the Logans.

Equipment damaged

Mark Logan's shipment of personal effects and audio-visual equipment arrived in Colombia in damaged condition.

When the barrels of equipment (which was to be used for evangelistic campaigns) did not arrive on schedule, Mark checked with a shipping agent. He found that the barrels had arrived in September and had been delivered to storage. All but three had suffered fire and water damage.

At the present time we do not know the extent of the loss or how this will affect outfitting the anticipated mobile van.

Please make this a specific item of prayer.

OPERATION IMPACT

Is Born

by Arden Gilmer

Planting churches in Florida in 1977.

THE Missionary Board put feet and legs to the vision of growth for the Brethren Church by unanimously adopting OPERATION IMPACT at its November meeting.

OPERATION IMPACT is an exciting forward thrust in church planting. Its primary objective is to start two new churches in 1977 in the rapidly growing state of Florida.

It is also part of a larger goal to plant ten new churches in the next five years.

Florida is growing

The population of Florida has grown by 400 percent in the last 30 years. In the last five years the Tampa-St. Petersburg area has had a 25 percent population increase. The projections are for similar growth through 1980. Four Florida cities lead the list of cities with the largest anticipated percentage of increase between now and 1980. This population flow to "the Sunbelt" makes new growth possible for denominations which have not been prominent in the South. Brethren churches at Sarasota and Bradenton have demonstrated that we can reach people for Christ and grow in Florida. So, we move forward with eager anticipation.

A Spirit-led, research-based strategy will determine the selection of the areas where the two new churches will be established. General survey work was completed in December. Data gathered then will be further refined by a feasibility study in January. Hopefully, the new areas will be selected by February 1977.

The current timetable calls for the pastors to locate on the field by June 1977,

followed by a month of intensive training in preparation for their new work. They will be commissioned at a historic service at the 1977 General Conference. First services for the new churches are planned for August 28, 1977.

The total anticipated cost of OPERATION IMPACT is \$35,000 for 1977 alone. We are trusting God that the special OPERATION IMPACT offering at the 1977 General Conference will be the largest mission offering ever in the Brethren Church.

Prayer is vital to the success of OPERATION IMPACT. We are inviting Brethren from across the denomination to become "OPERATION IMPACT Prayer Partners." Send your name and complete address to "OPERATION IMPACT Prayer Partners," in care of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805. All who write will receive periodic updates as the program develops.

Begin praying now

In the meantime, begin to pray now. Ask God to guide those doing the survey work and the feasibility study. Pray for the selection of the men God wants to pastor these churches. And I ask that you especially pray for me as I supervise this forward-looking, vision-inspiring strategy of church extension.

OPERATION IMPACT is the Lord's work. It's sole purpose is to "make disciples." Thanks for your vigorous support of the exciting things the Lord is doing in and through the Brethren Church!



Dick, Kitty, and daughter Melissa have completed their ministry in Nigeria and are seeking God's leading for the future.

Winfields retire from service

THE Richard Winfields terminated their missionary service in Nigeria in mid-December 1976. Their decision was in response to the Lord's leading to open the way for greater participation by Nigerians at the Kulp Bible School.

They first went to Nigeria in 1967 as short-term missionaries. Following an orientation period at Mbororo with the Larry Bolingers they were assigned to the teaching staff of the Kulp Bible School. They returned for further service in 1971 and 1975.

Dick and Kitty have worked faithfully in teaching Nigerians, and they have assisted in writing educational materials for them. Their contribution to the rapidly growing church of Nigeria through leadership development has been invaluable.

Plans after their return included visits to Kitty's home in Berlin, Pennsylvania, and to Dick's folks in New Lebanon, Ohio. They intend to spend several months in Ashland as they seek the Lord's guidance into future employment.

The Missionary Board joins all members and friends of the Brethren Church in extending its thanks to the Winfields for their valuable years of service to Christ and His church in Nigeria.

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us" (I Thessalonians 2:8).

Missionary Board Highlights

The Missionary Board adopted the largest budget in its history at its November meeting. The budget goal is \$400,000, with \$263,373 for World Missions and \$136,627 for Home Missions. Special emphasis in 1977 will be on increasing our home base for greater world outreach in the years to come.

* * *

The Board encouraged the three Florida churches to organize into a district and possibly present their petition to General Conference in 1977.

* * *

Arden Gilmer was given the new title of Director of Home Missions. He served the Missionary Board during the past year under the title of Director of Evangelism/Church Growth. The title change was made to more adequately convey his responsibility to the Board in the forward thrust of Home Missions and Church Extension.

* * *

General Secretary Virgil Ingraham's report of his recent trip to India and Malaysia was accepted. Recommendations were made for advancement of the national church organization of India. Also, authorization was given to survey areas in Malaysia for possible missionary endeavor.

* * *

Charles Lowmaster, chairman of the Special Ministries Commission, reported on the Riverside Christian Training School's Board of Director's meeting. He noted that reorganization was accomplished and a new constitution adopted. A new furnace has been installed at a minimum expense of \$10,000. The Southeast District has assisted the Board in the amount of \$7,000.

* * *

The educational ministry at St. Petersburg and Home Mission churches have continued on a declining scale of support from the Missionary Board. Board support in these areas will be \$10,700 less than that of 1976. This releases funds for the establishment of more new churches.

* * *

The Board unanimously approved OPERATION IMPACT, which will establish two new churches in Florida in 1977. (see related article on opposite page).

Great Church Fights?

Great Church Fights by Leslie B. Flynn (Victor Books, 1976, 118 pp., \$1.95 paperback).

The title intrigued me. Could church fights really provide a suitable purpose in God's plan for His people?

Leslie Flynn believes so. In his foreword he says, "The real question is: Will disagreements divide and wound the Christian Body, or will they draw members together in deepened understanding and commitment?" (page 7).

The book is a unique New Testament Bible study. It focuses on 10 significant episodes of strife found in the Acts and the epistles. Flynn's stated purpose for studying these rifts is "in the hope that biblical insights and principles will help 20th century churches turn their internal skirmishes into training grounds for victory" (page 7).

He does not try to catalog or analyze all causes of strife. Instead, he examines these frequently found conflicts: friction in general, cultural differences, leader conflicts, defining "true" spirituality, factions, individual believers at odds, leadership errors, and the discipling of a church member.

Perhaps one of the most beneficial passages for me was one concerning the way to approach an erring brother. Flynn uses the concept of foot-washing (in a figurative, not a physical sense) as an outline of procedure. He especially emphasizes the need to "dry" the feet—to restore the brother—in order that he might not err in the same way again.

A leader's guide or group study is available for \$1.25. I am not convinced that it is deserving of extensive group study, however, except possibly in situations where conflict already exists.

I do recommend it to pastors, moderators, Sunday School superintendents, auxiliary presidents, and other church leaders. Familiarity with its contents and concepts, as they are drawn from Scripture, could prove helpful in time of unrest.

The book is easy reading. If you are an average reader, you will probably complete it in three hours or less.

This book could be disastrous in the hands of an immature person. It is conceivable that such a person could read it, seeing it from his own point of view, and use it to find proof-texts against his opponents. However, a growing Christian would find a balanced approach advocated throughout.

Flynn does not suggest that you start a conflict in order to reap the benefits of resolving them. But he does call us to make the best of disagreements so that all parties may grow toward a mature Christian life.

—Ron Waters, Ashland, Ohio

The Christian Leader

The Making of a Christian Leader by Ted W. Engstrom (Zondervan, 1976, 214 pp., \$6.95 cloth cover).

"Not another book on management!" No, this one is on leadership, and I sometimes think we don't distinguish between the two. The author states, "This book has been written to help the Christian leader get a clearer picture of what he wants to **do** and **be** in a church or organization—and how to get there." I would add that the book pertains to more than Christian organizations or churches. It would be helpful to Christian leaders in business and industry as well.

W. Stanley Mooneyham, in his forward to the book, says "Sadly . . . tragically . . . the church has been so slow to train and qualify those on whom it has thrust leadership. . . . Your instructive and motivating book may well rescue the floundering and provide thrust for those who've been just treading water."

The first chapters cover the theology of leadership from the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles. These are followed by units on boundaries, styles, personality, and price of leadership. The last half of the book deals with measurements, motivation, and developing skills, with the last two chapters being "Guidelines for Excellent Leadership" and "Marks of a Christian Leader." A bibliography and subject index terminate the work.

I found the book filled with good ideas, including some new ideas. (One of these was the concept of setting "posteriorities"—deciding what tasks **not** to tackle, and sticking to the decision.)

I would recommend the book to pastors, lay leaders in the church, and Christian business men—any Christian person working with other people.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

ABS Releases "Good News Bible"

New York, N.Y. (ABS)—The American Bible Society's long awaited "Good News Bible" was released December 1. The new Bible, "as readable as the daily newspaper," is expected to break previous records in the publishing industry. The first press order totaled 1.2 million copies.

One reason for the optimism is the unprecedented success of "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament portion published 10 years ago.

The "Good News Bible" claims distinction as a common-language, dynamic-equivalent translation. It avoids both slang and "church" language, aiming instead at a level of written English readily understood in common by the 600 million English-speaking people in the world.

The text is supplemented by nearly 500 line drawings by Mlle. Annie Vallotton, the Swiss artist who illustrated "Good News for Modern Man." Her featureless pictures of Jesus have been hailed as the "Jesus of a thousand faces." because they leap across cultural barriers.

The "Good News Bible" is published in three editions: a gold hardcover edition, a black hardcover edition, and a flexible-plastic cover edition. The hardcover editions sell for \$2.50 per copy, while the softcover editions are \$1.90. Prices include postage and handling when ordered from: The American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, New York 10023. Full payment should accompany orders.

Afterglow

Afterglow by Sherwood E. Wirt (Zondervan, 1975, 132 pp., \$2.95 in paperback).

Dr. Sherwood E. Wirt, recently retired editor of "Decision" magazine, has worked with the Billy Graham evangelistic team on six continents, recording the moving of the Holy Spirit in the evangelistic campaigns. This book is not a record of these campaigns. Rather it is an account of God's work in Dr. Wirt's own life.

Beginning with his personal encounter with the Canadian revival that began in Saskatchewan in 1971, the author tells of the new relationships within his family and outside of it since he experienced anew the joy of living in the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Kenneth Chafin, pastor of the South Main Baptist Church in Houston, states in the foreword, "Afterglow" is one of the most helpful books I've read in years. . . . It is a book with integrity and authenticity mainly because it is written out of a personal experience that is dealt with honestly."

I found the book easy reading, with the author's experiences speaking to me about many of my own thoughts and feelings. His emphasis on love is needed in our relationships today. You'll find the book both challenging and encouraging.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

New Titles

From Fleming H. Revell Company:

How Should We Then Live? by Francis A. Schaeffer (1976, 288 pp., \$12.95; introductory price through Jan. 31, 1977—\$10.95). The noted evangelical thinker now presents his most important work—a unique overview of the history, thought, and culture of Western society. Also subject of an extensive film/television documentary series.

From Tyndale House:

Alone: A Widow's Search for Joy by Katie Wiebe (1976, 302 pp., \$4.95 paperback). Mrs. Wiebe tells first-hand the realities of widowhood. Her practical suggestions for facing the problems common to most single women make this an inspiring book to all those left alone.

From Victor Books:

The Way Juniors Are by Joyce Gibson and Eleanor Hance (1976, 48 pp., \$.95). Another in the series of Christian education departmental how-to-teach titles. The authors believe in motivating juniors to search the Word of God for answers to their questions. They emphasize the importance of learning how to teach for response by observing the methods and approaches Jesus used.

Ban Graham Sunday Meetings?

Sydney, Australia (EP News)—Joke or not, a resolution placed before the Anglican Synod of Sydney asked that organizers planning a 1979 Billy Graham Crusade ban crusade meetings on Sunday "as a witness to the sanctity of the Lord's Day."

The motion went down to overwhelming defeat.

One delegate described the "don't preach on Sunday" resolution as the "silliest" motion ever to come before the Synod. Another disputed that claim. No. 1, he said, was the resolution offered in 1975 which asked delegates to endorse the idea that "synods are a waste of time."

How Many Came to Dinner?

Recently during daily devotions I was reading Mark 6:32-44. As I read I became aware of how many times specific numbers were used in this short passage. (I was reading from the New International Version, so my comments are based on it.)

I read about:

8 months of wages
5 loaves and 2 fish
groups of hundreds and fifties
12 basketfuls
5,000 men

I began to wonder: Why all of these specific numbers? Instead, why didn't the Bible just talk about "several" months of a man's wages, "some" loaves and "some" fish, groups of "various" sizes, a "lot of" basketfuls, and a "large" crowd of people?

If Mark had written in such general terms, he would have robbed us of the impact of this miracle. Its greatness is emphasized by the use of these specific numbers. The miracle would not have

"Some churches fear what numbers will reveal about their condition."

been nearly as astounding if there had been 500 loaves and 200 fish. If the food supply had been 5,000 loaves and 2,000 fish, there would have been no miracle at all. (Even I could have handled that.) Twelve basketfuls of leftovers indicates a greater miracle than if only one basketful had remained.

And why did Mark record that 5,000 men came to dinner that day? Can you imagine all of the hermeneutical problems we'd still be hassling about if Mark had simply said that a "large" crowd came to dinner that day? To the country preacher "large" means 150-200 people. To Billy Graham "large" means 40,000-50,000. To the manager of the Rose Bowl, "large" means 100,000. I'm really glad that Mark settled that potential problem for us!

The point of this brief commentary is this: Specific statistics and numbers are necessary. They play a very vital role in helping us get a clear picture of what is actually happening. With-

out them we cannot do adequate interpretation and diagnosis.

Specific statistics are necessary for a church. Without them the leaders of the church are thrown into the land of "maybe" and "I'm trying to remember. . . ." Without specific statistics and well kept records, no fruitful diagnosis can be made of the health of the church. Perhaps, that's why some churches fear numbers—they fear what the numbers will reveal about their condition. Can you imagine a doctor taking your temperature with a thermometer that had no numbers! It wouldn't be a very effective tool to help him know whether you were healthy or sick.

Numbers are simply a shorthand for people. We're interested in people, and numbers help us determine just how many people we are interested in and ministering to. Numbers make possible comparisons from year-to-year, and month-to-month so we know what kind of progress we are making. They indicate movement and reveal "something is happening" or "nothing is happening."

Numbers make it possible for us to talk in specifics. Without them we are forced to work with meaningless generalities. Generalities may not be very threatening. They certainly are not fruitful for the overall health and growth of the church.

Medford Jones says, "Records must be current, accurate, comprehensive, and structured to activate needed attention with full reporting. . . . There is no way the church can grow without being concerned for numbers of precious people. The shepherd who went after the one sheep had to count to miss it."

Does your church know "how many are coming to dinner?" Are the leaders knowledgeable about what is taking place? Do you do a quarterly diagnosis of the health of your church? How many people in your church are sharing the "food" with the crowd? What's happening to the leftovers? Are they being allowed to rot on the ground or are they being incorporated into the life and ministry of the church?

Keeping specific records in these categories will be a tremendous tool for your use in evaluating the overall health of your church.

You can share with other readers of this column what's happening in your church by writing to Arden E. Gilmer, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805.

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sisterhood

General Secretary's Notes

Dear Girls,

I hope that you've all had a good vacation and holiday and are now back in school or at work, serving the Lord. For me the holiday season is a time for concentrating on God's gift of love, relaxing, communicating with loved ones, and doing a few things I'm too busy to do during school. I enjoy vacations, but I'm always ready to get back to school, even the studying! Praise the Lord for the close of another year with Him and the beginning of one more!

I have just realized that some of you don't know me as well as you should. We communicate but just on business.

I'm in my third year at Ashland College, and I really like school. My major is Speech and Hearing, which means I can be a public school speech therapist when I graduate, or I could go to graduate school in either speech pathology or audiology (hearing). I would like to be a school therapist for a while, then get my master's degree later.

The part I like best about my education is that I've already begun working with children in therapy at the AC speech clinic and in a school for the mentally retarded. It is like having a job already, but I don't get paid. Instead, I have a teacher supervising me to help me do better each time. It's really great to be able to make my own plans on what the children need and how to help them.

Before I graduated from high school and during my first year of college, I was trying to decide what field I wanted to study in college. I wanted to do something to help people, and be a Christian witness at the same time. I finally found what I wanted in speech therapy. I know that when a child has a problem with his speech, it can be a very real problem in everything he does. I want to help that child learn to communicate and be at peace with himself. Right now I'm working with seven children in speech sessions, and I love every one of them. I pray for them and am really concerned about helping them have a "normal" life.

I know I can't help everyone in the world who needs help, but I **can** help a few people. I hope that my life can be a witness to the children I work with and their parents. I pray that God will use me to bring Christ into some homes.

This new year is going to be a busy and exciting one for me. I am engaged to Jeff Lentz, and we plan to be married in November or December. He is an AC sophomore from Nappanee, Indiana. I want this year to go fast, but I don't want to just pass over all the days that I should be enjoying. I think it will be a great year!

I'd also like to share some of my favorite Bible verses with you. I have mentioned before II Corinthians 12:9, but it's so special to me. The Lord says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." That is the verse I depend on when I'm really bogged down or depressed. When I'm so emotionally or physically weak that I can't get anything done, God gives me His power and together we can do wonders!

Isaiah 40:31 has been a great help to me also. It reads, "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Sometimes I try to make God's plans or hurry Him, but then I remember that I must wait for Him and trust His decisions. He will give me strength to wait and keep going.

I John 4:4 encourages me to conquer the Devil, when it says, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." I have God's power, which is greater than Satan's.

A bond of unity is pictured in I Thessalonians 5:11. "Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up. . . ." This is what we should be doing as brothers and sisters in Christ.

And I Corinthians 12:7, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." **Each** person has a gift which is to be used for the benefit of the body of Christ, not just for himself.

These verses are a part of my life which I wanted to share with you. I would like to get to know you girls as individuals, so write if you can. My address again is: 227 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

God bless you.

—Nancy Ronk

P.S. If your SMM group has not returned the survey and registration, please do it this week!

People and Places

Acts 6—12

“But the word of God grew and multiplied.”
Acts 12:24

Acts chapter 5 closes telling us that the apostles were beaten by order of the religious leaders but they did not quit preaching and teaching about Jesus. Chapter 6 begins with the increase in numbers of disciples. Some were called Hellenists because they had been born outside of Palestine and spoke Greek instead of Hebrew as the native born Jews did.

There were widows in that first church group just as there are in our churches today. Widows are mentioned in the Old Testament and seem to be special receivers of God's concern.

Here in our study we find it was taking the apostles' time to distribute the necessities of life to the widows, so much so that they did not have enough time to preach and teach about Jesus. So seven men were selected to care for the widows, and perhaps other duties, so that the apostles could do their work. The men who were selected we call “deacons.” They have also been known as the first church “committee.” (Read Acts 6:7.)

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen as “deacons.” (Read 6:8) He was a gifted speaker and preached in the Synagogue of the Freedmen.

A synagogue is a place where Jews worship. In Jerusalem, at the time of our story, there were many synagogues of different groups of people, just as we have different churches today. The Synagogue of Freedmen was where people who had been slaves and were now free worshipped.

Stephen got into trouble for preaching about

Jesus and was taken to the religious court of the Jews. There, as he made his defense, “his face was like that of an angel” (6:15). The longer he spoke the madder the religious leaders and the people got until finally they dragged him outside the city walls and stoned him to death. (It was against the law to do such a thing inside the city walls.)

He asked God to forgive those who were stoning him. What is your reaction when someone speaks wrongly about you? Does your face shine as an angel at such times? Do you forgive?

Acts 8:1 says there was great persecution against the people of the church in Jerusalem, so they fled from the city.

In verse 5 we meet another one of the “deacons,” Philip. He went to a city of Samaria, a province about 30 miles north of Jerusalem.

Note that in Bible stories we see the phrases “up to Jerusalem” and “down from Jerusalem,” no matter what the direction. Jerusalem sits on a hill. Being the center of worship, it was and still is a sacred city. So when you leave Jerusalem for any part of the country you go “down,” no matter what direction you are going.

We do not know to which city in Samaria Philip went but he was preaching Jesus and salvation through Him when an angel told him to go down on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza (southwest from Jerusalem on the Mediterranean coast). That was some distance, but Philip went even as he may have wondered what such an order meant. If it was summer his journey from Samaria in the north country to the Gaza road in the south would have been hot and dirty. (Gaza has been in our news during the Middle East wars.)

There Philip met a government official from Ethiopia. He was riding in a chariot and reading the scroll of the book of Isaiah. Philip took that place in the Scripture and explained that it told about Jesus.

The chariot was more of a carriage than a war chariot. It would have been driven by a servant, for the official could not drive and handle a scroll at the same time.

(continued on page 34)

Planning the Meeting

Bring Bibles to the monthly meetings.

Read Acts 5:40-42 as an introduction to this month's study of Acts chapters 6 through 12.

Since there are a number of characters in the present study, have each paragraph given by a different girl, if possible.

Locate the places mentioned in the Scripture on a map of Palestine of New Testament times.

For the March meeting read Acts 13:1—15:35.

signal lights

written by
Alberta Holsinger

Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus

On the Sea of Galilee

Let's go across the lake," said Jesus to His friends one evening.

Since early morning He had been teaching and healing all the people who came to Him. Now He was very tired. His friends were glad that they had a boat in which He could ride and rest.

Jesus stepped into the boat. He sat down and rested His head on a pillow. The men rowed the boat softly over the quiet water. In a few minutes Jesus was fast asleep.

But soon the wind began to blow harder and then harder. Clouds covered the moon and the stars. The night became very black. Waves splashed against the boat. They grew higher and higher. The boat went up and down.

Splash, splash, splash went the waves.

"O-o-o-oh," howled the wind.

Waves swept over the side of the boat. Rain was falling. The fishermen rowed as hard as they could to try to reach land, but the wind blew them back.

"O-o-o-oh," the wind continued to roar.

These men had been on the lake in a storm before, but they had never seen such a bad storm.

They were frightened. Waves were coming faster and faster into the boat. The fishermen knew that water would soon fill the boat and then it would sink.

Jesus was still fast asleep. Even the noisy wind and waves hadn't wakened Him.

"Jesus! Jesus!" cried His frightened friends. "We are going to sink. Our boat is filling with water in this terrible storm. We can't row to land."

Jesus quickly stood up. He saw His friends' frightened faces. He looked at the tossing waves going up and down, up and down, higher and higher.

Then Jesus stretched out His arm and said, "Peace, be still!"

At once the wind stopped blowing. The high waves dropped down. The lake became smooth and quiet. The boat stopped tossing. The moon and stars came out. The clouds were gone. The storm was over!

"How strong is God's Son, Jesus!" whispered His friends. "Why, even the wind and the sea obey Him."

—Based on Mark 4:35-41

Memory Time: Be not afraid, only believe. Mark 5:36b

Project: Sunday School in Malaysia

Sunday School Begins

"Jenny," said David, "we have a house at last!"

"Where did you find one?" asked Jenny.

"In the fishing village of Thean Teik Garden," he replied. "We will be very comfortable in the house and there's a large enclosed yard where we can hold meetings."

For over a year David and Jenny had been looking for a house. How happy they were to have one at last!

Soon they were moved from the room they had been living in to their house.

A few days after they moved they invited their neighbors and others to come to their yard to

see a Christian film. About 100 people came to that first meeting one year ago on February 5.

Some stayed after the meeting to find out more about Jesus.

"We never heard about your God," said one.

"How do we know what you say is true?" asked another.

"If Jesus is really the Savior I want to learn more about Him," said still another. "Will you teach us?"

"Yes, we will," said David. "That's the reason we are here. Besides helping you learn more about

(continued on next page)

Signal Lights Program

(continued from page 33)

Jesus we want to help your children, too. Jenny and I would like to have your children come to our yard every Thursday to learn more about the Savior. May they come?"

"What will you do at the meetings?" asked a father.

"We will tell them stories about Jesus," said David. "We will teach them songs and Bible verses. We will play games with them and make things. May they come?"

The parents nodded.

The next Thursday 50 Chinese boys and girls gathered in the Loi yard to begin learning about Jesus.

That was the beginning of the Brethren "Sunday School" in Malaysia.

Each day of the week David has a "Sunday School" in a different fishing village. The children do many of the things you do in your Sunday school.

On Sundays there are meetings for adults.

These Chinese people might never learn of Jesus if David and Jenny Loi didn't tell them.

Our project offering this year will help buy the materials needed for the "Sunday School" in Malaysia.

Sisterhood Program

(continued from page 32)

Do you know your Bible well enough to tell others about Jesus?

Philip was taken away by God and went north until he came to Caesarea where we will meet him later. The official went on his way. The country of Ethiopia has had Christians down through the centuries since then. There are some very unusual and very old churches there which have been carved right out of the solid rock.

Chapter 9 begins, "But Saul." Read Acts 7:58 and 8:1, 2. In these verses we are introduced to Saul the persecutor, who later became Paul the missionary. Saul, like others since his time, thought he should do away with both the teaching about Jesus and the people who had transformed lives because of that teaching. But God's Word lives, and Saul met the Savior of the Word on the Damascus road. God had a plan for Saul's life (read 9:15, 16).

God has a purpose for each of our lives and He speaks to us through people who try to show us His will. God does not strike us blind to make His will known today.

The church continued to grow (read 9:31). We'll look at Saul again later in our study.

Acts 9:32 tells us what Peter was doing at this time. Coming to Lydda, west and north of Jerusalem, he healed a man who had been ill for eight years. What would it be like if you had been bed-fast for that long and suddenly could get up and walk? The people of the town took notice of the miracle.

Peter was sent forth to go to Joppa, a seaport 10 miles northwest of Lydda. There a lady named Dorcas, "full of good works and acts of charity," had died. Peter prayed, and Dorcas was restored to life. These acts of healing and raising of the dead were God's means of showing His power to the people of that day.

The New Testament had not been written yet, so God spoke in various ways to tell people that Jesus Christ had paid the price of their salvation. Peter stayed in Joppa for "many days."

Joppa is a beautiful place on the shore of the very blue Mediterranean Sea. As I stood on that shore I wondered where the "house of Simon the Tanner" was.

While in Joppa Peter had the vision of a sheet filled with creatures of every kind. Peter was hungry, but when told to eat he was not that hungry. Jews had very strict laws about food and this must have been very shocking to Peter, a Jew. God had a great message for Peter—the good news of Jesus was for **all** people.

So Peter made a trip to Caesarea, north on the coast, and there preached in the home of Cornelius to a house full of people. Caesarea lies in ruins today but the archaeologists are uncovering the remains of great buildings which must have been very beautiful, judging by carvings on the stones. The city was right on the shore of the Sea. The heart of Peter's sermon is found in 10:39-43.

Acts 11:19 tells where some of the Christians from Jerusalem went at the time of the persecution. Those traveling the farthest went to Antioch of Syria, and there they told the Greek speaking people about Jesus (as well as telling the Jews). A church was established there and grew. Barnabas (a new character in our story) was sent to Antioch to help the church.

About this time in Jerusalem Herod the king (grandson of the Herod who killed the boy babies in Bethlehem) killed James, the brother of John. He also arrested Peter and put him in prison. Peter's escape in chapter 12 is quite a story. We sometimes criticize Rhoda for not opening the gate when she recognized Peter's voice. What would you and I have done in Rhoda's place?

This section of Acts comes to a close with these words in 12:24—"But the word of God grew and multiplied."

From a recent letter of Rev. Prasantha Kumar of the Brethren Mission in India: "We organized a gospel team with Brethren young men to evangelize the villages. The way in which we conducted our march was to enter into a village and start singing and playing music in the streets, and stop in the street corners and preach the gospel with the help of a P.A. system. . . . Tracts were distributed at every home in the village. Fifteen villages were reached and 12,550 Gospels, tracts, and booklets were distributed during the months of May and June 1976."

RESULTS

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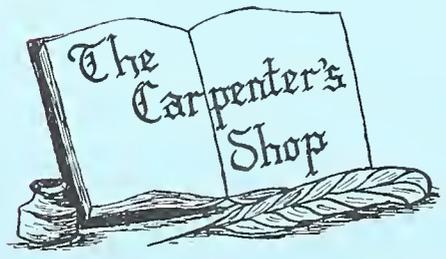
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The staff of the Carpenter's Shop and their families wish everyone prosperity in the New Year.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

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The Brethren
EVANGELIST

February 1977

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First Brethren Church
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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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for 99 years

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524 College Ave.

Ashland, Ohio 44805

Phone: (419) 289-2611

Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Cover

Several Brethren churches joined the nationwide "Here's Life, America" campaign in November. This cover story report begins on page 4.

Cover photo by John Rowsey

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February 1977

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What Are Your Children Learning?

"I found it!"

A report on how Brethren churches participated in "Here's Life, America," as compiled by Ron Waters.

WHAT? "A new life of purpose and meaning in Jesus Christ."

Over 100 Brethren in at least 13 communities spent part of November and December explaining what they had found. They were joined by several hundred thousand other Christians around the country in the "Here's Life, America" campaign. The outreach venture was sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. (See related item on page 6.)

There were problems

Nationwide, the campaign was hampered in a number of ways. Many television and radio stations refused to carry "paid religion"—the special spot announcements prepared for the campaign. (Some, however, did carry lengthy news reports on local campaign activities.) And in some instances, local coordinating committees failed to contact churches in their communities that might otherwise have participated.

But "Here's Life" was noted for its

innovations, especially when faced with adversity. For instance, a newspaper strike in Stark County, Ohio, threatened to destroy the local media campaign. So quick thinking local leaders had "door-hangers" printed and distributed. According to Pastor Ronald L. Waters of Massillon, most of the media responses came as a result of the "door-hangers."

Overall, the pastors who reported to the Brethren Evangelist were pleased with the results. Rev. Marlin McCann of Bryan, Ohio, said, "It was very good. We had people participating who said, 'I could never do anything like that.' But they were surprised and excited as they did share their faith in Christ."

Brethren leaders

A number of Brethren filled leadership positions in their local programs. Gene Geaslen served as city and phone center coordinator for the Flora, Indiana, campaign. Pastor Russ Gordon in Bradenton, Florida, was the regional pastoral coor-

Workers in telephone centers called residents of their community. The purpose: to seek an opening for sharing their faith.

Photo by Roger Waters



“The laity of the churches had their eyes opened to what could be done Mennonites, Methodists, and Brethren had a ball working together.”

dinator for his area. In Ashland, Arden Gilmer served as training coordinator, and Pastor Eugene Beekley coordinated the county pastors.

Gene Geaslen sent a glowing report from Flora. He reported, “The results . . . in Flora surpassed our goals in every area. First, our budget was met, with extra funds used to retain permanently the training equipment leased by our group. There were at least 1,200 homes contacted, and the gospel was shared with 575 people. The work yielded 150 decisions to accept Christ.”

Gene went on to say that First Brethren Church of Flora provided 13 of the town’s 60 trained workers. The church also served as the site of the Neighborhood Telephone Center, according to Flora Pastor Al Grumbling.

Of the reporting churches, Ashland’s Park Street Brethren had the most participants. According to Leroy Solomon, 35 members took part in the outreach, while 40 others joined in a 24 hour prayer vigil.

Bradenton Brethren Church was a close second. They had 27 manning phones and 41 as part of a special prayer chain.

In most communities, each church worked somewhat independently of the others. But in Smithville, Ohio, Pastor Larry Bolinger says, “All worked together. We had two telephone centers where people alternated back and forth. Mennonites, Methodist, and Brethren had a ball working together.”

He went on to say that only one other pastor in Smithville helped with the program. But he added, “The laity of the churches had their eyes opened to what could be done. It was great!”

John Brownsberger, pastor of the Hillcrest Brethren Church, Dayton, Ohio, added some new twists to his campaign. First, he adapted the telephone questionnaire to tactfully offer information about the church.

He also mailed a special piece introducing the church to hundreds of homes in the area. Two families visited the church

(continued on next page)



Highway billboards were just part of the media campaign. Other elements were radio and television spots, newspaper ads, bumper stickers, and lapel pins.

“The biggest blessing was learning a simple method of sharing our faith . . . on a one-to-one basis.”

the next Sunday as a result of the mailing.

But what of the long term results of “Here’s Life” for Brethren churches? Will there be any significant growth as a result?

Russ Gordon felt confident about the long-range effects for Bradenton. Shortly after the media campaign ended, his church was conducting three home Bible study groups. The first week 25 attended the studies. Each was under the leadership of laymen from his congregation.

But others reported difficulty in enrolling converts in the studies.

Perhaps the greater effect of “Here’s Life” will be the change in the lives of the participants.

Gene Geaslen observed, “The biggest blessing was learning a simple method of sharing our faith. This is where church growth has to begin—in learning how to share our faith on a one-to-one basis.”

And his challenge was: “Let’s make sharing Christ a way of life!”

“Door-hangers” were used in one community when a newspaper strike threatened.



What is "Here's Life, America"?

As we reported in the November 1976 issue (page 23), “Here’s Life, America” is a worldwide campaign to reach people for Jesus Christ. The program is sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ and is directed in major metropolitan areas by local coordinating committees.

During the first week of the four week campaign, “I found it!” slogans are displayed throughout an area on bumper stickers, billboards, newspaper ads, television and radio spots, and lapel pins.

The “reveal” portion of the campaign begins the second week. A phone number where “you can find it too” is added to the announcements.

Workers are trained before the campaign to share their faith.

People interested in inquiring what the campaign is about call a Media Response Center. Neighborhood Telephone Centers are sites where workers systematically call every household in an area to gauge awareness of the campaign and to share the “Four Spiritual Laws.”

So far, most areas of the United States have been covered, with other areas scheduled for saturation by mid-1977. Campus Crusade hopes to reach 60 million households in this country through local churches which participate in the campaign.

What I Found

Evan Bridenstine shares his experience as a "Here's Life, America" worker.

THE first day I wore the "I found it!" button, I went to the bank. As I finished and stepped outside, a car pulled around the bank. It passed me, but stopped 10 or 15 yards away.

The driver leaned out and asked, "What did you find?"

I ran over to him and found out he was a bank courier, short on time. But he listened intently as I briefly shared my testimony.

When I finished, he said, "Thanks! I needed that! It's made my day." He said he was a church member but had not been very active.

I gave him the "I found it!" booklet and thought my day had been made, too. But in the next 15 minutes I was stopped 3 more times about the button.

God uses the simple things to get people's attention.

The nervous worker

In my dealing with "Here's Life" workers, one man particularly stands out in my mind. He was not a member of our church. In fact, he was the only one from his church participating. He said he wanted to learn how to share his faith.

He was a bundle of nerves on the first night of telephoning. The words bothered him; he skipped all over the page; and he made a lot of errors. But no one ever hung up on him!

As a result of his first four calls that night, three accepted Christ. The other asked him to send the literature and thanked him for calling.

I believe God was telling this man and those of us who knew what was happen-

ing that He would bless our efforts. Needless to say, that man is convinced that he can continue to share Christ.

One night during the final week of telephoning, I had had three refusals to

"When I asked her if she would like someone to visit her, she said, "Not yet. I can't talk this out face to face."

talk. Then I reached a lady who was willing to listen to the presentation. She had told me she was a church member.

After reading the prayer, I asked if it expressed the thoughts of her heart. There was no response. I knew she had not hung up, but I couldn't make out the sounds I was hearing.

I waited a little longer, then I asked if she had heard the question. She explained that a torrent of emotion had been released in hearing that prayer. Six months before she had lost her husband of 35 years. She had been unable to cry or otherwise release her pent up hurt, frustration, and loneliness.

When I asked if she would like someone to visit her, she said, "Not yet. I can't talk this out face to face."

But she asked me to keep talking on the phone. So I read from Romans 8 about God's abiding love. Then, using the "Beginning your new life" booklet, I read from John 14 about God's eternal plan.

I believe God is a master of timing. She needed that call, and I needed to know it was worthwhile to bother calling people I didn't know.

I am convinced that God uses telephones, buttons, and people to touch lives. He sure did use them to touch mine!

Evan Bridenstine is a high school junior and a member of the Smithville, Ohio, Brethren Church.

“There’s not enough time!”

The revised Sunday School material for children sparked a new learning approach for one class, as told to John Rowsey.

HAVE you ever heard a teacher moan, “I can’t do it. There’s just not enough time to complete the whole lesson.”

Many teachers who use Gospel Light Sunday School material have voiced this concern in the past. And since G/L has incorporated more learning activities into the lesson plans, the cry has been louder than ever.

Is it possible to use all four parts of the lesson plan (see related material on the next page) and still be effective? We decided to find out.

Karen Weidenhamer’s first and second grade department has used G/L material for many years. She and her fellow teachers have been pleased with the newly revised material for primary children. “I’ve found it really holds their attention,” she says. I also like the way it is set up; it’s easy for the teacher to follow.”

Rex McConahay, another teacher in the department, concurs. “I have found it really great for this age group because it is activity-oriented. It is easy to use . . . it has so many things you can do.”

But that is the problem—how to use so much material and still be effective.

Karen, Rex, and Marilyn Burkey faced the dilemma. According to Karen, “At first we were trying to follow the plan just as it was set up in the material, but we just didn’t have time.

“We started an activity when the first child walked in the room . . . usually about 9:15. We tried to have two or three readiness activities, which lasted until 9:40.

Not enough time

“Then we broke into groups for our Bible story and to do our workbook pages together. That took until about 10:00. The sharing time lasted about 15 minutes, and then we were ready for the Bible Learning Activities. But the bell would always ring just as we got started.

“We tried cutting back in all the different areas, but we didn’t feel we could do that and do justice to anything. We were just in a frenzy every Sunday morning.”



Bible memorization can be an effective readiness activity. Rex McConahay listens as pupils recite their verses.

Photos by Dorman Ronk

“Then we were ready for our Bible Learning Activities. But the bell would always ring just as we got started.”

The three teachers discussed the problem at their monthly planning meeting and came up with a solution. Rex and his wife Bobbi were leading the Sunday evening youth program for the same children. So they decided to use both sessions, morning and evening, as a coordinated unit of study.

“What we did was eliminate the Bible Learning Activities on Sunday morning,” Karen noted. Rex and Bobbi use them in the Sunday evening session.”

Rex expressed his satisfaction with the arrangement. “When we had the Sunday night youth program eight or nine years ago, we had no material and no idea what the kids were doing on Sunday morning. So we did something that we threw together on our own.

“Now we are reinforcing something the kids have learned on Sunday morning. It’s a learning time that ties in. This way, too, the Sunday School teachers and the youth leaders meet together for planning the lessons, parties, and special activities.

(continued on page 11)

Bible readiness is essential to preparing the children for the lesson. Here Karen Weidenhamer assists students with a readiness activity.



Gospel Light's Lesson Plan

The editors of G/L's Sunday School curriculum for children suggest a four-part plan for each week's session:

Bible Readiness—as pupils arrive, they are given learning activities to prepare them for the Bible Study. Activities may include a simple craft, research, game, or Bible memorization. Attendance is taken during this time.

Bible Study—breaking into small groups, the pupils listen to the Bible story. The teacher directs pupils in thinking through ways of applying the Bible truths to their own lives.

Bible Sharing—a large group time when children come back together for worship and sharing what they have learned.

Bible Learning Activities—children divide into small groups to work on an activity that will reinforce the Bible story. Students choose the activity they wish.

He Loves Books

Earleen Ulery tells about Bill Cole and his collection of old books.

REV. C. WILLIAM COLE'S love for books goes back to his childhood on the farm.

Today he has a collection of approximately 5,000 books, many of them rare and antique. Included are 110 Bibles and 60 hymnals in many sizes and origins.

"My stepfather collected books as a farmer," Pastor Cole said. "He had an uncanny ability to judge good books." Gleaning farm sales, he picked up religious and historical books. (He is now a retired Missionary Church minister living in Muncie, Indiana.)

"He stimulated an interest in books for me and my brother, who is a United Methodist minister in Monroe, Virginia," Pastor Cole said.

Pastor Cole's interest grew as he went to Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts. He started combing Boston bookstores while he was preparing for the ministry.

The "best" books

He began collecting the best books rather than the oldest books. To develop a broad interest in reading, Pastor Cole said, a person should read the best in each field because he will spend less time doing so. Because Eastern Nazarene College is in the shadow of Harvard University, the stress was on source materials rather than beginning study or reading books about a subject.

For example, if a person is going to study the Bible, he or she should know the Bible itself rather than books about the Bible.

"With that educational philosophy I found there are many old books that are classics in their insights," he said.

Earleen Ulery is a reporter for the Wabash, Ind., PLAIN DEALER. Rev. Cole is pastor of the First Brethren Church of Wabash.

His interest in collecting hymnbooks and Bibles came after being in the pastorate several years.

"Every so often someone would give me a Bible, and then I began to request hymnbooks. So when we came to South Bend in 1958, I began to look for the oldest hymnbooks I could find," Pastor Cole said.

A rare book dealer there, Harriett Barnette, told Pastor Cole about a very old Brethren hymnbook which was published by Samuel Saur, grandson of Christopher Saur, in 1797. In the German language, it was published in Baltimore, Maryland, and was covered with leather on wood. The elder Saur was the first publisher of Bibles in America. Eventually Pastor Cole became a book scout for Mrs. Barnette, and they would cross trade their finds.

Few of the early hymnbooks have musical scores. It was the custom for the song leader to read a line and the congregation to repeat the line. In those days, it was a matter of economy and the fact many people could not read.

The tiniest hymnbook in his collection is two by three inches and slightly over an inch thick. It is an 1846 Methodist hymnbook with 1,129 hymns, including many Christmas hymns sung today.

Bibles

Pastor Cole's oldest Bible is one volume of a three-part Bible published in 1769. The volume he has is Genesis through Proverbs and was printed in English.

Pastor Cole said the United States depended upon Bibles printed in England up to 1782 when Robert Aitken published the first American Bible in English, approved and recommended by the U.S. Congress. An original of this Bible would be worth \$1,000, Pastor Cole said. He has a reproduction.

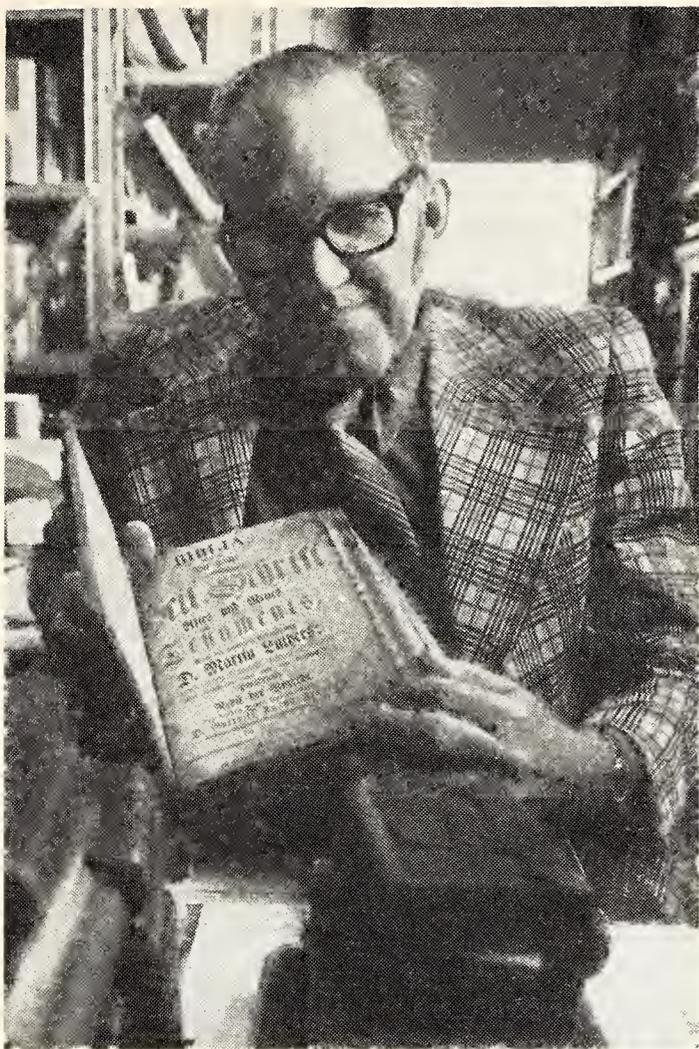


Photo by Harold Chatlosh

Rev. Cole displays one of the rare Bibles from his collection.

A Martin Luther translation by Dr. August Francke, published in Halle, Germany, in 1771, is the last Bible Pastor Cole acquired. An antique dealer in Duncansville, Pennsylvania, sold it to him at cost because of his interest in old Bibles.

Of considerable value, Pastor Cole said, is a German New Testament published in Somerset, Pennsylvania, by Friedrich Goeb in 1814.

Pastor Cole's interest in these books is for their cultural value and to convey to others the past's richness. His greatest desire, however, is to get a Christopher Saur Bible, but he hasn't been able to acquire one.

"What is most interesting about collecting both song books and Bibles is that there is far more agreement among the churches in songs and reading of the Word than it appears from the outside. There are so many different song books, yet there are the same hymns," he said.

Reprinted from the December 5, 1976, issue of the Wabash, Ind., Plain Dealer. Used by permission.

"There's not enough time!"

(continued from page 9)

Karen has been happy with the arrangement. "I think we as teachers do a better job because we don't feel the pressure to hurry." Rex added, "This gives us more time for singing, for memory work, for helping the children use their Bibles . . . really, more time for individual attention."

The plan is not without its problems. The department averages 10-12 on Sunday mornings, but they have only 5 or 6 on Sunday evenings. With the limited number of children on Sunday evening, the McConahays have been offering only one Bible Learning Activity each week. "If we could get a few more children, we could offer them a choice between two activities."

According to Rex, the problem is not so much that the children do not want to come Sunday nights. "If no one else in the family comes, the children don't come either."

Other group activities

They have tried to compensate for the problem in several ways. Karen observed, "We always share the activity from the Sunday night time on the next Sunday morning. This way all students have at least some exposure to the learning activity." They also frequently adapt some of the Bible Learning Activities for use during the readiness time.

They also try to plan at least one whole group activity each month, to include the kids who do not come Sunday evening. These have included a birthday party for Jesus; a special meal, where each teacher took several of the children home with them for Sunday dinner; and collecting mittens and canned goods for the needy as part of a total church project. This month, since their study focuses on "helping people who need it," they will visit Brethren Care retirement/nursing home.

Is it possible to effectively use all four parts of the Gospel Light lesson plan? Yes, but it will require teachers and superintendents who are willing to take time to plan and look at all the possibilities.

Perhaps the coordinated Sunday School/youth program idea will not work for you. How about coordinating it with children's church? Or maybe something else would work better in your situation. Take some time soon to see how you can use the total teaching plan to help your students apply the Bible to daily life.

*the benevolent board
celebrates . . .*



OUR HERITAGE OF HOPE

Hope out of the Past

It Pays to Serve Jesus

by Jurisa Garwood

“O taste and see that the Lord is good.”
Psalms 34:8

WHEN God calls, He wants obedience; so when tasks seemed great, I trusted for help. As David said, “My help comes from the Lord.” Jesus said, “My grace is sufficient for thee,” and He also assured that “as our day, so shall our strength be.” With all this assurance, how could I be afraid to serve Him?

Early in life came a time of food rationing, which was a trial, for the sugar

allowed our family of five (including my afflicted mother) was not sufficient. As I was addicted to singing in my daily work, I found comfort in the hymns “God Will Take Care of You” and “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” My courage was renewed and daily cares were made lighter.

When asked to do some tasks, fears struck me for lack of education and experience, but I would feel a song coming on . . . “It Is No Secret What God Can Do.” My prayer would be “O Make Me Pure.”

Many were the mistakes I made in my efforts to serve my Maker, and I felt like “clay in the potter’s hands,” being molded and shaped as God willed. Who am I to say “no” to my Lord? Whom do I obey? God or self? Down through the years I was afraid to say “no,” for I love my Jesus who loves me.

During the Great Depression of the thirties again our struggles were almost beyond endurance. With the help of a kind sister of my husband, we were able to financially keep our home, and we could say “Thank You Lord.” Our days were occupied with doing service for others and thus forgetting our own plight.

Once I vowed, “As long as I have a dress good enough to wear on the street, I will not refuse to go to church,” and
(continued on next page)



Jurisa Garwood is a member of the South Bend, Ind., First Brethren Church. She was honored in August 1976 as one of the “Senior Citizens of the Year.”

Living the Life

a testimony by DeMain Warner

THE Senior Citizens awards program of our denomination in 1976 has brought to our attention the many activities and helpfulness of our older members. I am certain that all are valued very highly by other members as these have served in their various places of honor and trust in the community.



DeMain Warner is a member of the Goshen, Ind., First Brethren Church. He was also selected as a "Senior Citizen of the Year" in 1976.

It would seem that perhaps the greatest good to come from this program would be the encouragement it could give our youth in serving God and man through the church and other avenues open to them throughout their lives.

The Brethren Evangelist of September 1976 contained a rather detailed story of my activities in the church and community down through the years. I have been asked to give some general thoughts, incidents, and experiences out of the past that might be helpful to others.

I became a Christian and a member of the Brethren Church in 1907, but did not really attend much or become active in the work of the church until 1910.

My father passed away in 1906, leaving my mother with four sons; I was the oldest. My school work was limited to the eighth grade, as I needed to help support the family. Through our church I took part in the Sunday School and young people's work (Christian Endeavor in those days). I have often said, and I fully believe it, that if I have been of value to my church and community, it is because

(continued on page 17)

miracles do happen. A fine lady in our church had a good dress she could not wear or alter for her daughter. Again God works mysteriously, for she gave the dress to me, another lady altered it, and we were made to sing "How Great Thou Art."

Finally we were able to purchase a new car (our first), and we dedicated our car to the Lord. Our new car helped us serve in our church obligations, making calls on the sick and ministering in prayer. We had no time to get lonely . . . "There Is Joy in Serving Jesus."

I have always thanked my Lord for giving me Christian parents and a Christian husband. They provided a good foundation for my life and establishment of a Christian home to be a blessing to others. The poem "Others" has been a revelation to me, for Christ gave Himself for others.

The death of Mr. Garwood came suddenly, and decisions concerning my life had to be made promptly. I can truly say that without the wisdom and inspiration of God my courage would have ended. The aid of Mr. Garwood's near kin helped me to conclude that I should make my home with Miss Garwood. Her home and love are adding more graces to the extension of my years. I can truly say, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity, and our disappointments are God's sweetest appointments."

My closing prayer is:

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me
All His wonderful passion and purity
O thou spirit divine
All my nature refine
Till the beauty of Jesus is seen in me.

OUR HERITAGE OF HOPE



Hope in the Present

Benevolent Ministries Today

The Benevolent Board, through satellite corporations, is providing varied services in three locations. Two more will be in operation soon.

The Brethren's Home

An 86-bed health care unit provides 24 hour skilled nursing care. Social activities, religious services, beauty and barber shop, and therapy round out the program of care.

"Brethren Village" consists of 24 retirement apartments of one- and two-bedroom size giving opportunity for independent living. Apartments are carpeted (except for bath and kitchen), have complete kitchens, TV connections, and call system. You may obtain an apartment either through the Life Use Plan or monthly rental.

For information write or call: **Mrs. Rosemary Eddy, Administrator, The Brethren's Home, Rt. 2, Box 97, Flora, Indiana 46929; phone: (219) 967-4571.**



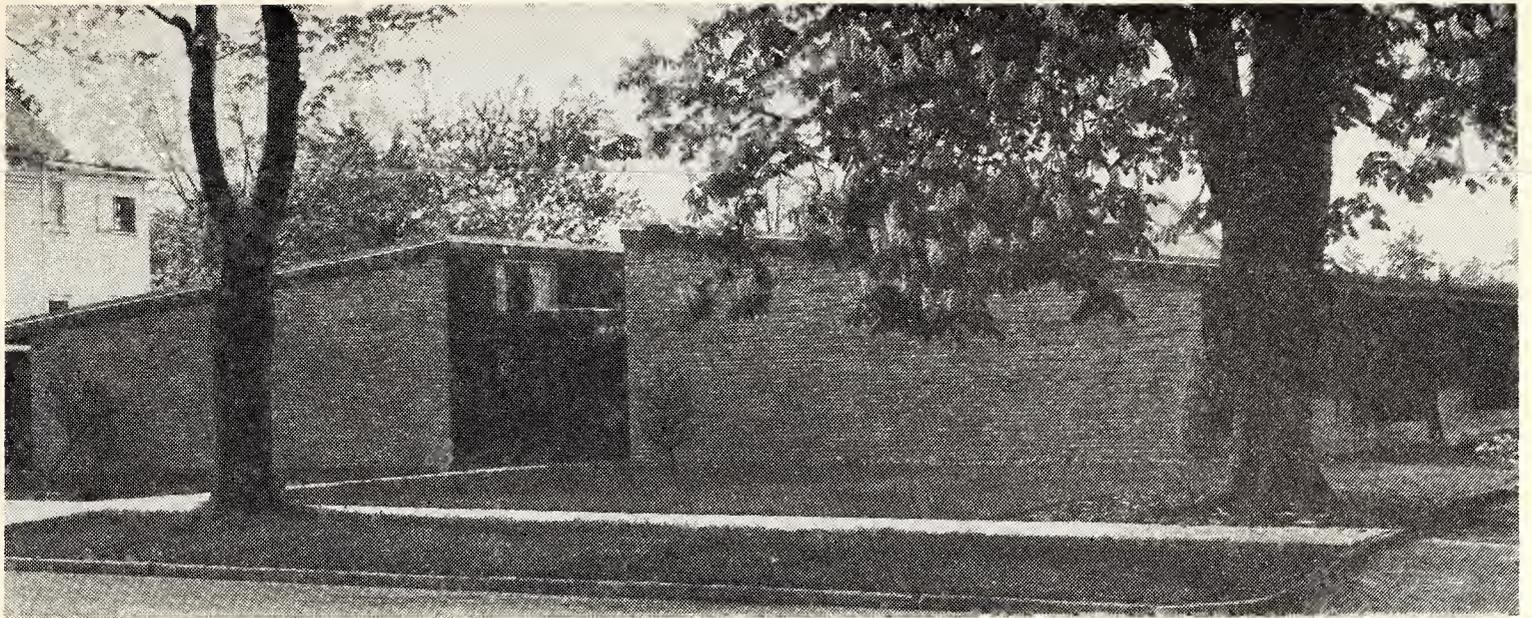
Brethren Care

A 100-bed health care unit provides 24 hour skilled nursing care, social activities, religious services, beauty and barber shop, and therapy for a full range of services.

Three apartments (two one-bedroom; one two-bedroom) are carpeted, air conditioned, and have complete kitchens and TV connections for independent retirement living.

Approximately 115 apartments of efficiency, one-, and two-bedroom size will be added in 1977. Either the Life Use Plan or monthly rental will make the apartments available to retirees.

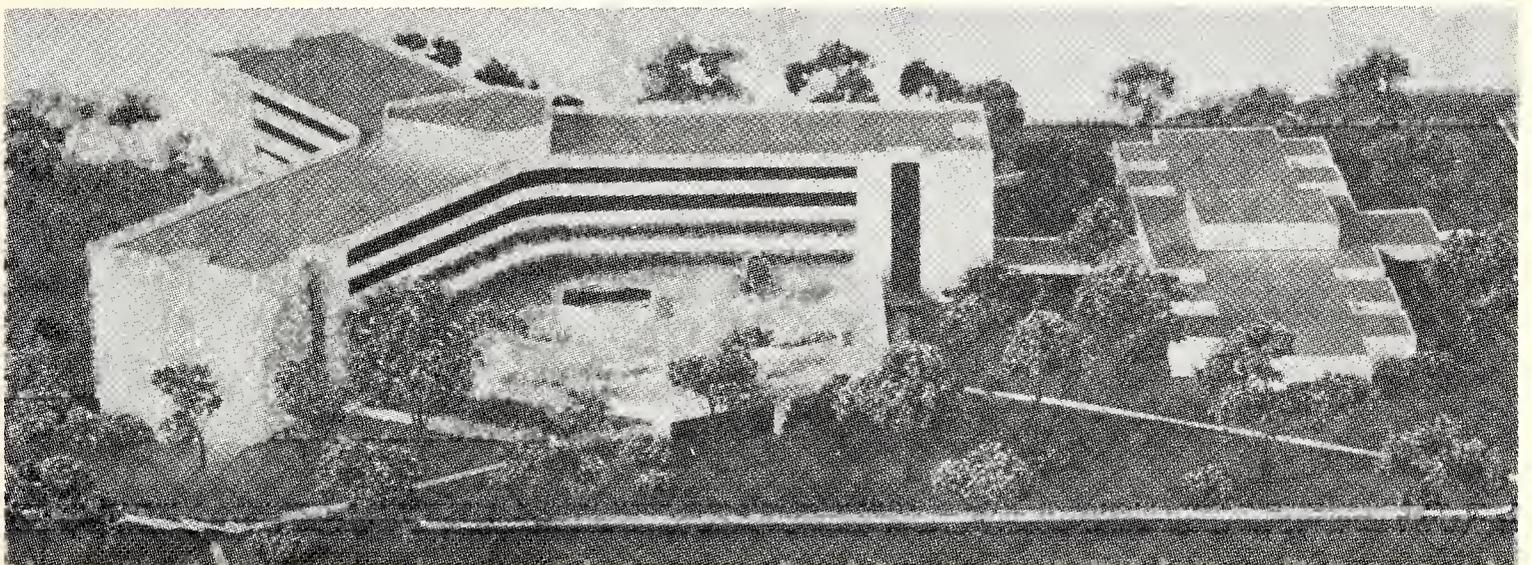
For information write or call. **Mr. L. E. Seaman, Administrator, Brethren Care, Inc., 2000 Center Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805; phone: (419) 289-1585.**



Buckeye Apartments

A nine apartment unit operated by the Benevolent Board. Five one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments are available on the Life Use Plan or monthly rental. Each apartment is carpeted, air conditioned, has complete kitchen, TV connection, and ample storage. The garden atmosphere created by the center walkway provides pleasant retirement living.

For information write or call: **The Benevolent Board, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805; phone: (419) 289-2202.**

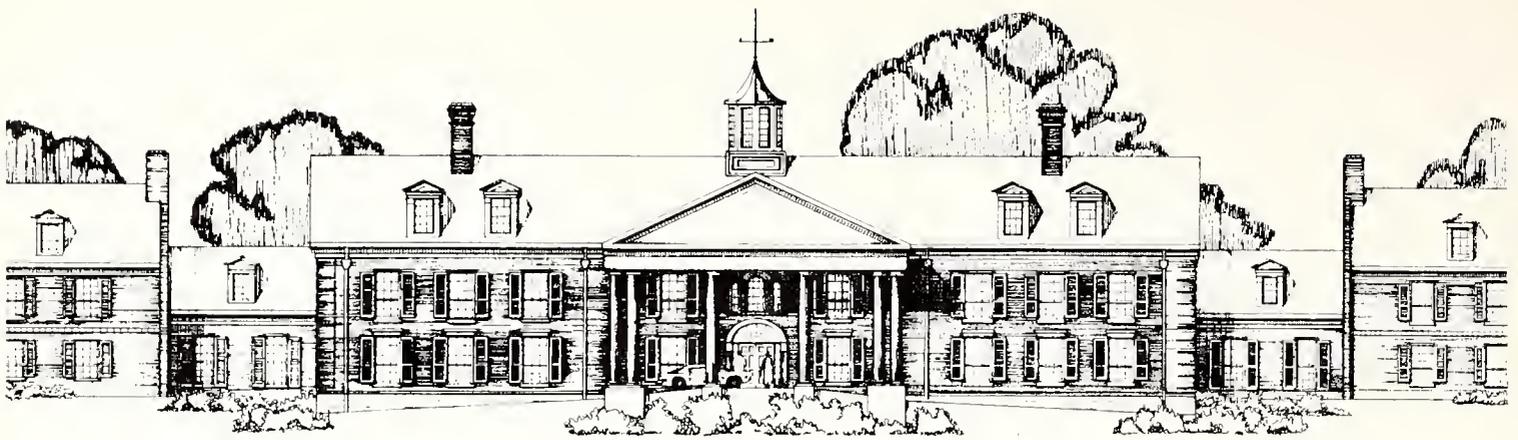


Brethren Laurel Manor

An 82-bed health care unit will provide 24 hour skilled nursing care and a full range of services.

Approximately 150 apartments for independent living will be included. Efficiency, one-, and two-bedroom apartments will feature wall-to-wall carpeting, fully equipped electric kitchens, and safety features. Apartments will be offered under the Life Use Plan or monthly rental.

For information write or call: **Brethren Laurel Manor, R.D. 1, Box 370A, Conemaugh, Pennsylvania 15909; phone: (814) 322-4181.**



Topsfield Terrace

A 100-bed health care unit with 24 hour skilled nursing care and a full range of services will be provided.

Approximately 150 apartments for independent living will feature wall-to-wall carpeting, drapery rods and liners, air conditioning, extra storage, and call system. Efficiency, one-, and two-bedroom apartments will be available under Life Membership Plan.

For information write or call: **Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, Topsfield Terrace, Suite 306, Lafayette Building, 115 S. Lafayette Blvd., South Bend, Indiana 46601; phone: (219) 287-1096.**

Benevolent Care

Benevolent care for the elderly is given each year at the Brethren's Home, Flora, Indiana, and Brethren Care, Ashland, Ohio. Individuals who cannot pay the full daily costs are cared for and subsidized by each facility through gifts, offerings, and funds.

Last year the amount of benevolent care given was:

The Brethren's Home	\$38,000.00
Brethren Care	10,465.26
	\$48,465.26

Residents receiving support have expressed their gratitude, and the Benevolent Board also wants to take this opportunity to thank donors.

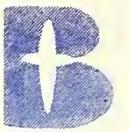
Your continuing support of our ministry to the elderly is urged to make benevolent care a reality for a number of residents in our health care facilities.

BENEVOLENT BOARD OFFERING

The Benevolent Board Offering is gathered in the month of February. All churches who are not on a budget system participate in the February ingathering. Other congregations, operating on a budget, send quarterly offerings.

The standard for giving to the Benevolent Board has been established through the National Church Goals. They require a \$3.00 per member offering for benevolent work. Individuals and churches should keep this in mind as they give for the ministry of the Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church.

OUR HERITAGE OF HOPE



Hope for the Future

New Programs for the Future

The Benevolent Board, in accordance with recommendations by authorities in the field of gerontology, is hoping to include outreach and mobile services from its retirement facilities. In addition to health care and apartment living in our centers, we hope to develop such programs as:

Day Care Centers for Senior Citizens—where the elderly can visit during the day for fellowship, activities, and a balanced meal.

Transportation—provided by vehicles at each center for residents and elderly remaining in their homes.

Homemaker Aides—individuals going to homes of the elderly to provide light housekeeping duties and small repairs.

Meals-on-Wheels—one meal a day delivered to homes of the elderly.

Telephone Reassurance—calls made to elderly in their homes to check on their needs and provide regular outside contact.

Living the Life

(continued from page 13)

of the early training received in the work with the church youth.

Among the abilities you need to have, or develop, is the ability to get along with others. This is necessary if you want to be successful in helping to work with others. You need not always agree, but you need to be kind and honest with others who do not agree with you. We surely cannot be helpful by becoming inconsiderate or angry. You must have a sincere respect for others and their opinions.

Another ability needed is steadfastness. Be consistent in your interest and support, even when things do not go as you would like. If you must, use your influence to make changes you believe are needed, but do not discontinue your support and interest.

You also need to be grateful to others for their efforts to be helpful. Express your thanks for any kindness and help extended to you.

We must not compromise Christian principles and beliefs. We need to watch our language and what we say. We must let people know where we stand on Christian and moral issues. We will be respected and admired for it. I have never felt discriminated against in any way because I did not belong to any fraternal or lodge group, partake of intoxicating beverages, or use tobacco.

There are those who believe that a call from or by the church to some definite service is a call from God. I tend to agree and suggest that long and very careful consideration be given before refusing to serve.

If you want to be helpful in solving the many problems surrounding you, you need to continually study and learn all you can about the problems and the people involved.

I have been honored beyond measure by my church, community, and others, as evidenced by the fine plaques above my desk and the many letters of thanks and commendation received for helpful work done in many places.

1977 Men's Congress

A Call for Fellowship and Learning



Dr. John C. Broger will speak at the 1977 Men's Congress.

by John D. Rowsey

For the past several years laymen from the Brethren Church, along with men from the Christian Union Church, the Evangelical Congregational Church, the Primitive Methodist Church, and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, have jointly sponsored the annual Men's Congress.

The 1977 Men's Congress will be held at Camp Calvary, Angola, Indiana, on April 15 through 17. Each congress has been a very meaningful and blessed experience and well worth the time. And 1977 looks like a year not to miss. The leader will be Dr. John C. Broger, director of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces.

Dr. Broger is founder and past president of the Far East Broadcasting Company, active in many Christian organizations, and presently the chairman of the National Capital Area Association of Evangelicals. His concern for the Washington area led him to invite Dr. Jay Adams, author of **Competent to Counsel**, to hold a seminar for chaplains at Ft. Belvoir. From recordings of these sessions and additional material, the NAE's cassette training program "Competent to Counsel" was developed.

Dr. Broger has tested this program extensively with Christians in the Washington area. He will share his experience at the 1977 Men's Congress. Harold Wust, chairman of the steering committee, says, "We are convinced that there is a desperate need for Christian laymen who are competent to counsel—men who, with Bible in hand, are able to show their fellowmen that the Word of God contains the answers to their problems."

The Brethren Church is represented on the steering committee by Virgil Barnhart. Last year 15 men from 6 Brethren churches attended.

Undoubtedly laymen contacts in Brethren churches have, or will be receiving, brochures and additional information in their mailings from the National Laymen President Jim Payne. Additional registration blanks may be obtained from the Central Council Office, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805, or from me. A \$12.50 transferable (but not refundable) registration fee is required (\$15.00 after March 15th) with registration. An additional \$25.00 will be received on arrival for board and room. Included are six meals, beginning with Friday's supper. Adjustments will be made for those who can not attend the entire conference. Why not plan now to attend?

Banquet introduces students to Brethren Church

Ashland, Ohio—Seventeen seminary and pre-seminary students and their wives attended a special banquet December 17. Purpose of the gathering was to acquaint the prospective pastors with the Brethren Church and its ministries.

The Brethren Ministerial Student Aid Fund Committee and the National Ministerial Association hosted the banquet.

Following the meal, denominational executives highlighted the various aspects of their ministries. Afterward, students posed questions to gain further insight.

In addition to Brethren students studying at Ashland College and Seminary, a number of non-Brethren students were invited so they could become better acquainted with the denomination.

Pleasant View youth support hospital memorial fund

Vandergrift, Pa.—The Pleasant View Brethren Youth held a benefit here December 20th for Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

The benefit was called the "Wendy Crytzer-Jimmy Swenk Memorial Benefit," in memory of two children from the church who died there. The benefit itself, according to Pastor Bill Walk, was "an evening of entertainment and inspiration."

The overall campaign for the hospital is sponsored by KDKA and the Pittsburgh Press. The hospital refuses treatment to no one because of inability to pay. The annual drive raises money to help defray the costs.

This year the youth raised funds by door-to-door solicitation and an offering at the benefit. Their 1976 goal was \$1,750, and they raised \$2,000. In 1975 they received \$1,145. Rev. Walk said, "Last year, in listening to the broadcasts about other groups bringing in money, some of our youth thought it would be a good project for them, too."

He went on to say, "We are very proud of our youth and challenge other youth groups to get involved in benevolent work in their communities."

Dean Dalton resigns, former G/L V.P.

Glendale, Calif.—Dean A. Dalton, vice president and director of denominational services for Gospel Light Publications, has resigned that position due to ill health.

Mr. Dalton had been with Gospel Light since 1958, serving first as director of educational services. He established a broad national field services program for the betterment of Christian education in churches in the United States and Canada.

He later served as G/L's first marketing director and in 1972 was named vice president.

Fred Burkey, director of Christian education for the Brethren Church, commented, "Over the years, Mr. Dalton's thoughtful and prompt attention to the literature needs of the Brethren Church has been deeply appreciated. He was always anxious to improve both the effectiveness of Gospel Light's Sunday School literature and the quality of services to our church."

Dalton's illness followed a five month world-wide tour in the interest of Christian education. The trip was sponsored by GLINT, Gospel Literature International. His doctors urged that he not resume his responsibilities at Gospel Light.

Dr. Burkey continued, "While he will be missed, we pray that God will return him to good health and active ministry."

"The world is moving so fast these days that the man who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it."

—Elbert Hubbard

Youth programs offered by Board of Christian Ed.

Ashland, Ohio—The National Board of Christian Education of the Brethren Church has recently developed a new program aid for local BYC groups.

"BYC Program Guidelines" are being distributed free of charge to the sponsors of all registered senior BYC groups (or combined groups with several senior high members). The "Guidelines" offer outlines for weekly programs, along with correlated visual aid suggestions, discussion starters, a list of additional resources, recreation ideas, and fund-raising project suggestions.

"BYC Program Guidelines" are being produced for each month from January through May 1977. January's topic was on making goals and plans for the future; February's suggestions deal with how to have an effective prayer life.

If your church's senior BYC group is registered and not receiving the "Guidelines," or if you want to register your group now, contact the BCE Office, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Membership Growth

Bradenton: 6 by baptism, 1 by letter

Flora: 2 by baptism, 2 by letter

North Manchester: 2 by letter

Sarasota: 2 by baptism, 1 by letter

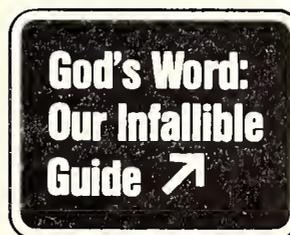
Vandergrift: 5 by baptism, 1 by letter

You are invited

35th Annual NAE Convention February 22-24, 1977 Chicago

ARLINGTON PARK HILTON
ARLINGTON HTS., ILL.

A focal gathering of 1000 evangelical leaders from across the country for: practical workshop sessions led by national authorities on a wide variety of topics, times of inspiration and prayer, strategic planning and interaction, special music and exhibits of the latest evangelical materials and services.

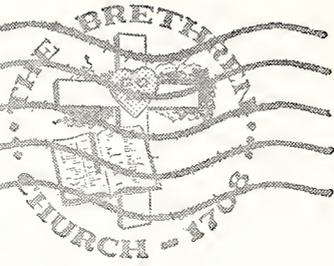


SPEAKERS include Charles Colson, Dave Howard, Dennis Kinlaw, William Leslie, Donn Moomaw, Luis Palau and Bernard Ramm. Laypeople are especially invited to share in this vital time for God's guidance.

Join us through your prayer and participation. Write or phone:

NAE National Association of Evangelicals
Box 28, Wheaton, Ill 60187 (312) 665-0500

Letters



Santa and Christmas

Dear Editor,

Hallelujah for Roger Herman's article (December, p. 16)! I have the same thoughts about Santa (Satan), and when I've expressed them to others—guess what? They were rejected by many! But so was Christ rejected many times.

The views expressed (small print at end of article) should be the views of all real true Christians.

Exposing Santa is just the beginning. How about the idol of the Christmas tree (Jeremiah 10:2-5). And if any thinks it not an idol, just try one Christmas without the tree.

—Ruth DeLozier, Ashland, Ohio

Weddings

Bonnie Rice to **John Massingale**, Nov. 27, at North Manchester, Ind. Members of First Brethren Church. Ken Van Duyne, officiating.

Barbara Lee to **Cecil Smith**, Nov. 27, at Bradenton, Fla. Members of Bradenton Brethren Church. Russell Gordon, pastor, officiating.

Laura Piper to **Dan Beachler**, Nov. 25, at North Manchester, Ind. Member of First Brethren Church. Arthur Cook, pastor, officiating.

Gay Lack to **Kenneth Walker**, Sept. 25, at Mineral Point, Pa. Members of Vinco Brethren Church. Carl Phillips, pastor, officiating.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Kuns, 60th, Jan. 16. Members of First Brethren Church, Flora, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Wilkin, 62nd, Dec. 23. Members of First Brethren Church, Lanark, Ill.

Mr. & Mrs. Elton Metzger, 51st, Nov. 6. Members of Vinco Brethren Church, Mineral Point, Pa.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Brower, 56th, Oct. 20. Members of First Brethren Church, Flora, Ind.

In Memory

Fred Allbaugh, 84, Dec. 28. Member of Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Alvin Grumbling, pastor.

Miss Sydney Lenhart, 85, Dec. 27. Member of Meyersdale, Pa., Main St. Brethren Church. Services by Joseph Hanna, pastor.

Dora Sausaman, 78, Dec. 24. Member of South Bend, Ind., Ardmore Brethren Church. Services by Stephen Cole, pastor.

William S. Porte, 85, Dec. 15. Member of Washington, D.C., Brethren Church. Services by Robert Keplinger, pastor.

Mrs. Grace M. Hornig, 79, Dec. 11. Member of Meyersdale, Pa., Main St. Brethren Church. Services by Joseph Hanna, pastor.

Mrs. Carrie Diffenderfer, 79, Nov. 30. Member of Lanark, Ill., First Brethren Church. Services by David Cooksey, pastor.

George L. Fitzwater, 77, Nov. 22. Member of Mathias, W.V., First Brethren Church. Services by C. Y. Gilmer, pastor and John Mills.

“The dwarf sees farther than the giant, when he has the giant's shoulders to mount on.”

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

1977 Brethren Church Directory

Directories are now being prepared. A supply will be sent to each pastor or congregation.

If you are unable to secure one, complete this label (or a facsimile) and mail it with 50¢ to: Central Council Office, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Please write clearly, as this form becomes our mailing label.

From: Central Council Office
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Book—Special 4th Class Rate

To: Name _____
Street _____
Route _____ Box _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Richard Austin ordained at Peru

Peru, Ind.—Rev. Richard A. Austin was set apart as a Brethren elder on January 2 at the First Brethren Church here. He had been called as pastor of the church in October 1975.

Rev. Claude Stogsdill, pastor of the Warsaw First Brethren Church, gave the ordination message. Rev. Wilbur Thomas read the scripture and offered prayer.

Peru Moderator Amos Combs read the action of the church calling for ordination. Rev. Albert Curtright set Rev. Austin apart as an elder.

Rev. Austin's wife, Corine, was consecrated as the wife of an elder by Rev. Austin Gable.

Special music was offered by Rev. and Mrs. Rodney Thomas and by P. J. Finster of the Peru congregation.

Prior to moving to Peru, Rev. Austin had been an industrial electrician in the Warsaw area. While there, he and his family joined the First Brethren Church of Warsaw.

He previously had served as pastor of three other churches.

Richard and Corine Austin have one son, James Allen, who is 11.



Pastor Oesch installed at Kokomo

Kokomo, Ind.—The First Brethren Church here welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Oesch as their new pastoral family recently.

Both were baptized on December 19 by Rev. Albert Curtright of Burlington. He and Rev. W. E. Thomas of Loree then received them into the church's membership.

Rev. Rodney Thomas of Huntington then installed Rev. and Mrs. Oesch as the pastoral family.

Both Jeff and Ruth received bachelor of science degrees in foreign missions from Toccoa Falls College in Georgia, according to Elizabeth Surbey, church secretary.

They have one son who is three.

World Day of Prayer guide available to churches

Wheaton, Ill. (NAE)—"God's Word: Our Infallible Guide" is the theme of NAE materials for the 1977 World Day of Prayer observance. Because the issue of biblical authority has recently come to the forefront of evangelical circles, NAE felt it vital to focus on that area for the March 4th event.

Each year NAE provides some 100,000 Bible-centered worship guides to church and community groups across the country. The guide, in booklet format for audience participation, was prepared by author Jill Briscoe. It is divided into three parts: the Word diffused—a cause for praise; the Word abused—a cause for repentance; and the Word used—a cause for prayer.

Calendar of Events

February 5-25—Work and Worship Tour II to Colombia, Argentina, and Panama.

February 7-10—Ashland Theological Seminary Pastor's Conference, sponsored by the ATS Alumni Association. Dr. David Burnham, speaker.

February 14-20—Senior Citizen Week.

February 22-24—NAE Convention, Arlington Hts., Illinois.

March 4—World Day of Prayer (sponsored by NAE).

March 3-6—Northern California District Conference, Stockton Brethren Church.

March 12—Ohio Conference Business Meeting, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio.

April 15-17—1977 Men's Congress, Camp Calvary, Angola, Ind.

April 15-17—Southwest Dist. Conf., Papago Park/ Tempe, Ariz.

April 18-22—NAE Washington Leadership Briefing.

Breakfast at the City Dump

Brethren World Relief Board Chairman Phil Lersch describes a unique feeding program in Calcutta.

I missed this experience by about 4 hours . . . in Calcutta, India, last January.

But fortunately one member of our group, Clifford Bjorkland of the Evangelical Covenant Church, arrived in Calcutta a few days earlier and was able to observe firsthand the

Dump Feeding Program.

Cliff was up at 4:00 a.m. and over to the Assembly of God mission complex by 4:30 to catch a jeep for the 10-mile ride to the Calcutta City Dump. When the driver was late in coming, Cliff joined the 5:00 a.m. prayer meeting for a half hour. (Our plane didn't arrive until 8:00.)



Finally they got going in the jeep, with a trailer in tow loaded with stacks of wheat cakes and a huge tub of instant cocoa prepared for distribution. Now I'd like to have you tune-in to Cliff Bjorkland's tape-recorded comments about his morning. . . .

"After a bumpy ride over broken, junk-filled streets, we came out to the places where we were to feed the mothers and children. It was just beginning to dawn, and while we were standing there the sun came up like a huge, rose-colored ball.

"A few children arrived and sat down quietly. One of the men said that if I looked off in the distance—north, east, south, or west—I'd be seeing children and mothers coming. And they came and they came and they kept coming with their little cups, pots . . . whatever. Finally when the feeding began, there were over 600.

"Each received a cup of cold cocoa and one or two of the wheat cakes. They looked like big pancakes.

"The mothers carrying their babies—many were very young—14, 16 years of age. . . . They marry very young here.

"After the feeding at that place . . . we drove



Photos by Clifford Bjorkland

Daily, except Sunday, thousands of children who have no home but the Calcutta City Dump are fed their only meal—a cup of cocoa and a pancake.

“The last stop was the city dump. We must have fed over a thousand children this morning.”

back towards the city and stopped at various points where the children had collected, to distribute more of the same. This is done every day except Sunday.

“But the last stop was the city dump. Huge piles of refuse, mangy-looking dogs. Dust. Filth. Dirt. Smell. The stench filled one’s nostrils and stayed with me even when I got back into the city of Calcutta.

“From over the hills of dirt and dung and debris of the dump, the children came running with their baskets on their heads. They rummage through the debris to find bits of unburned coal and little scraps of wire and metal which they might sell. These children are so pathetic-looking, you cannot believe it. Rags—terrible rags—and yet smiling through it all. Unbelievable. Very dusty—but there in the filth and the dirt we fed another large number of children. In all, we must have fed over a thousand this morning.

“As I saw all these children lined up, I asked

my friend, ‘How do you make sure that each one gets something and some don’t get double or triple?’

“‘Oh,’ he said, ‘we come to know them. We have to watch very carefully because they change their facade as quickly as they can. First they’ll have a shirt on, then they’ll run down the line and they won’t have a shirt on. They’ll tuck the food under their belt or hide it in their wrap-around or whatever.’”

Cliff concludes: “Everybody wants a little more. And I suppose when it comes right down to it, that isn’t at all different from people in America. We all want a little more.”

This dump-feeding program in Calcutta is a World Relief Commission supported program. Another example of how our Brethren World Relief dollars are used effectively to express love and concern for those with little food and meager opportunity. The over \$25,000 given by Brethren annually to WRC is put to excellent use.

"It's Time for Stealing"

Picture a Brethren pastor preaching an evening evangelistic sermon, when suddenly someone in the congregation stands up and announces, “You must stop preaching now. **It’s our time for stealing tonight and we must go.**”

That’s exactly what happened unexpectedly to Paul Munshi (an outstanding Bengali Christian leader, with whom I traveled and ate in Bangladesh last February).

Paul objected to the thieves’ going, but they said it was their only means for survival. It was their opportunity to take revenge on the so-called civilized society which they felt had treated them like animals.

There was nothing else Paul Munshi could do—at the moment. But as head of the Christian Service Society (the World Relief Commission counterpart agency in Bangladesh), he kept in close touch with these 73 families of notorious thieves and murderers in an area called Kotalipara.

He told them that because God had made all people, they were all brothers and sisters; that because he was a Christian and Jesus had died for them all, he didn’t hate them like others might. Paul assured them that they would receive respect and honor like any other human being, would be able to support themselves with a dignified profession, and would become loyal and good citizens of Bangladesh—if only they would follow his instructions.

They accepted this challenge of love and immediately organized an agricultural cooperative under the direction of Paul Munshi and friendly Christian field workers who live right with the people. Munshi writes, “We help them to cultivate their land and I advise our fieldworkers to stay at their home, eat with them, work with them, and be friendly. This has had a tremendous effect on these people. They became conscious of their growing
(continued on page 33)

Give with Confidence

"The brooding despair of homeless refugees stares at you from the TV set. Pictures of little living skeletons with pleading eyes remind you that in this country we have too much to eat while many in the rest of the world have too little. Your heart is touched. From deep inside you groan: 'I wish I could do something!' You reach for your checkbook.

"Then you have second thoughts. You want to be sure your dollars will get to the people who need help and not to support topheavy overhead or revolutionaries in a Third World country. You also want to invest it where there will be eternal dividends, where the whole man is ministered to.

"The World Relief Commission is one of the evangelical caring agencies that will use your money the way you want. . . . By co-operating with evangelicals on the field, a high degree of integrity, efficiency, and economy is assured, **with about 90 percent of a dollar going overseas in the form of funds, food, equipment, material, or personnel.**"

These preceding words by Mrs. Everett (Lillian) Graffam—along with the accompanying reports on these pages—remind us that we have effective channels through which we can aid areas hit by disasters around the world.

When the newspapers and television report a disaster, you may help by earmarking your gift for that certain need and sending it to our treasurer, George Kerlin (1318 E. Douglas, Goshen, Indiana, 46526).

You don't need to wait until a special appeal or report appears in the Evangelist or is mailed to pastors. Because of what you know about WRC, you can "give with confidence."

Phil Lersch, Chairman of the
Brethren World Relief Board

Ethiopia

May 1976—Famine still stalks Ethiopia, the result of serious lack of water in one part of the country—and too much in other parts.

Kallafo, a farming town located on a riverbank, dug out silt and mud left by a raging flood caused by torrential rains in the mountains. Their grain, crops, and total means of livelihood were destroyed.

Three Sudan Interior Mission personnel located in the town took refuge on top of a hill. They spent four days and nights waiting for the water to subside. **The World Relief Commission allocated \$10,000 to assist SIM missionaries in bringing emergency aid.**

This emergency aid became part of an ongoing program. Too little water has brought starvation in Asmara where SIM/WRC relief feeding programs care for **400 to 600 people daily** (except Sunday). **Two-thirds are children.** Many parents send their children, but will not come themselves because it is against their custom to accept a free meal. "Injerra," a flat bread made from millet and other grains, has a spiced sauce of ground peas poured over it. It is eaten with the fingers. A drink of milk makes this a balanced meal, probably the only one they receive.

Before the meal is served the children sing, have a Bible story, and a prayer of thanksgiving.

October 1976—The World Relief Commission utilized disaster relief funds in responding immediately to a telephone contact from the World Radio Missionary Fellowship in Quito, Ecuador.

Up to 8,000 people were adversely affected by the extensive damage caused by 200 earthquake tremors in Cotopaxi Province. The people were in great need of blankets, food, and medical help.

WRMF personnel purchased needed supplies in Quito and delivered them by Rimmer Memorial Hospital medical caravans (part of WRMF's service to Ecuadorians).

WRMF is staffed by missionaries from many evangelical denominations. Their best-known outreach is radio station HCJB which broadcasts the gospel worldwide in many different languages. **Our Brethren radio work in Argentina has had a long-time association with HCJB.**

Philippines

June 1976—Typhoon water and winds brought widespread flooding over much of the Philippine Islands, putting some areas under 9 or 11 or 17 feet of water.

The Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) reported that in the area between Manila and their transmitter at Iba, Zambales, North Luzon, one of the large dams broke. The people had to be rescued from treetops and rooftops.

The World Relief Commission forwarded an initial \$10,000 from their disaster emergency fund. FEBC, in turn, prepared packets containing rice and other food stuffs, as well as Christian literature and Scripture portions. These were then distributed, each package containing five days' ration for a single person.

WRC Headquarters in Valley Forge, Pa.—For over 30 years, the World Relief Commission has served as the overseas relief agency of the National Association of Evangelicals. WRC is a legally chartered, non-profit, tax-exempt, non-endowed, Christian, State Department-registered voluntary agency for foreign service.

WRC is also an official overseas relief arm of the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association (EFMA) and the Interdenominational Foreign Missions Association (IFMA). **Together they have a total of 15,826 missionaries, some of which are our Brethren missionaries.** Also included is the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF), a service organization designed to develop greater understanding among evangelical nationals around the world. It is comprised of 19 national or regional groups.

WRC is not a mission agency but acts as a channel of Christian help and hope in desperately needy parts of the world. Wherever possible, it utilizes personnel and programs related to these missionary and national agencies. This insures a high degree of efficiency and economy, because all these agencies are spiritually (not politically) motivated to provide "food for the body and food for the soul."

WRC, of course, is the channel through which all Brethren World Relief gifts are sent by our treasurer, George Kerlin.

Indonesia

July 1976—A previous disaster agreement between the World Relief Commission and Mission Aviation Fellowship enabled MAF **to get a dozen planes into the air immediately** following an earthquake in Irian Jaya, Indonesia, on June 29, 1976.

The MAF president received short-wave information from Djakarta that a quake in the Eastern Highlands of Irian Jaya had a 7.1 Richter rating and caused over 300 deaths. Fifteen villages, two airstrips, and the sweet potato crop were wiped out.

He relayed the news to Dr. Everett Graffam, WRC's Executive Vice President. The WRC/MAF crisis plan was initiated whereby **WRC funded the aerial survey operation and emergency food distribution** by MAF and local missionaries to meet the immediate needs of survivors.

Textbooks on Trial

a review by Fred Burkey

Textbooks on Trial by James C. Hefley (Victor Books, 1976, 212 pp., \$6.95).

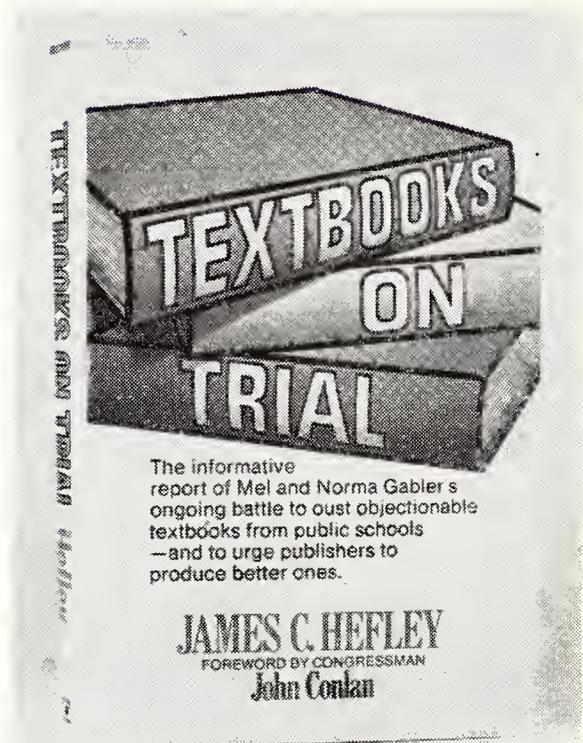
Every parent who wonders what his children are being taught in school should read **Textbooks on Trial**. Author James C. Hefley has highlighted Mel and Norma Gabler's battle to insure the selection of sound textbooks for use in the Texas public schools. The narrative of one "ordinary" family's fight for integrity in education sounds a warning for us all.

Most parents, themselves the products of the public schools, are unaware of the sweeping changes which have permeated the public schools. According to Hefley, the aim of education is no longer to impart facts and knowledge. Instead, "the aim of the educational establishment now is to change the social values that have traditionally been considered fundamental, fixed, permanent, or absolute" (p. 30). Social, economic, and biological theories are taught as fact. In short, the schools of today are not the schools we knew!

Most of us tend to trust the local public schools in educational matters. (After all, they're the professionals . . . they know more about it than I do!) Few of us take the time to check out our children's textbooks. For that very reason, many texts which advocate situation ethics, premarital sex, the use of vulgar four-letter words ("reality in literature"), and socialism have slipped into general use. Is it any wonder that children's values clash with parental values?

Believing their own children's texts were robbing them of their heritage of family, church, and country, the Gablers launched a vigorous battle for decency and truth in their own state of Texas in 1961. The effort has been long, hard, and at times dirty! It continues today. Advocating a return to the basics, the Gablers argue

Dr. Fred Burkey is director of Christian education for the Brethren Church.



that ". . . our schools must not be turned into mass experimental centers to develop humanistic citizens of the future, students indoctrinated with predetermined behavioral conclusions."

Citing distortions of history, economics, and science in current texts, the Gablers have shown that facts are twisted to fit left-leaning social theories. The result is a changed goal of education. Whereas the traditional goal of education has been to raise the level of society, these books aim to level society to the lowest common denominator.

It should be emphasized that not all textbooks are bad. Many are not. The problem is that texts are often adopted without being thoroughly evaluated. I hope that parents will investigate and evaluate the contents of their children's texts. As parents, voters, and taxpayers, we have the right to be heard in the matter of textbook selection.

Norma Zimmer

Norma by Norma Zimmer (Tyndale House, 1976, 368 pp., \$7.95 cloth).

This book is the autobiography of Norma Zimmer, beautiful, talented servant of the Lord. She appears regularly on Robert Schuller's "Hour of Power" and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusades, as well as the Lawrence Welk TV program.

The cruelty and superstition of her parents is revealed as she tells of her childhood during the Great Depression of the thirties. It is no wonder that she developed into a shy, self-conscious teenager. When she became a Christian, she was aided by vocal teachers, her church choir director, her own determination and hard work, and faith in God. All helped her along the way to success.

This is a well-written book—decent and most enjoyable reading for any age, young teen to age 93. (Grandma Zimmerman loved the book too.)

—Marceal Zimmerman

20th Century Slavery

The Emancipation of Robert Sadler by Robert Sadler and Marie Chapien (Bethany Fellowship Press, 1976, 254 pp., \$6.95 cloth/\$2.95 paper).

Robert Sadler was sold as a slave when he was 5 years old, along with his 2 sisters who were 13 and 14. His story will bring not only a lump in your throat but tears to your eyes. He could not talk very well but otherwise was very useful to the family who owned him. They treated him cruelly, until he escaped at the age of 14. What makes this story different than most of the books about slavery, is that Robert was sold into slavery by his father in the state of South Carolina in the year 1916.

Robert's mother and some of the slave women were Christians, and he learned to know Christ

when he was a young boy. Life was never easy for him, even after he was free, because he was uneducated and colored.

After many years and many adventures (during which time he did learn to read and decided to spend his life as a minister), Mr. Sadler settled in Bucyrus, Ohio, which is now his home. In Anderson, South Carolina, he established a mission named "Compassion House," where he shows the world his love for all mankind in this town where he was born.

This book is easily read and is hard to put down once started. I do not recommend it for children.

—Marceal Zimmerman

Marceal Zimmerman is bookkeeper for the Brethren Publishing Company.

Winning Over Depression

How To Win Over Depression by Tim LaHaye (Zondervan, 1974, 241 pp., \$5.95).

Everyone, whether they admit it or not, will sooner or later experience some degree of depression. It seems to be an epidemic in our society today.

Dr. LaHaye, who admits to falling into depression a few times himself, points out that it is usually the result of one's attitude toward a situation rather than the situation itself.

One chapter gives parents guidance in helping their children to avoid this malady. The author is convinced that no one needs to be depressed. He leads the reader to Christ who gives the cure and brings pardon, peace, power, joy, purpose, and confidence.

Dr. LaHaye is a Christian counselor in California. He has written four national bestsellers. One of them is his **Spirit-Controlled Temperament**, which has 250,000 copies in print.

—Julie Flora

For Younger Readers

Ivan and the Daring Escape by Myrna Grant (Tyndale, 1976, 167 pp., \$1.95 paperback).

This book is one of a series written by Myrna Grant. Mrs. Grant is keenly interested in the plight of Christians in Russia and has done extensive research and writing on the subject. Other books in the "Ivan" series are **Ivan and the Informer**, **Ivan and the Secret in the Suitcase**, and **Ivan and the Hidden Bible**.

The story takes place in Russia. Excitement begins when Pastor Kachenko (the pastor of Ivan's secret church) gets carted off to jail on false charges. At the same time the pastor's son Pyotr is sent to a children's home while the authorities try to get his mother to denounce Pastor Kachenko.

Ivan seeks a new adventure by trying to help his friends and outwit the Moscow Secret Police. He works, armed only with his ingenuity, courage, and Christian faith.

This series has large print and the books are easy to read. I would recommend them especially for elementary-age children.

Peace, Love by Janet Lynn with Dean Merrill (Spire Books, 1973, 156 pp., \$1.50 paperback).

This book is the personal story of ice skater Janet Lynn—of her childhood and her belief in a supernatural power.

The life of a glamorous skater was not always the best. Many times as she grew up she thought she could not go on with those seven-hour training sessions, the tension-fraught competition, and her own heartbreaks. All she wanted was the life of a normal teenager. But that supernatural power, Jesus Christ, knew what was best for her and continued to give her strength.

God has used Janet Lynn to show many people that Jesus can bring happiness into your life, if you will just let him.

This book would be enjoyed especially by teenagers. It made a great impact on me.

—Valerie Rowsey

Valerie Rowsey is a freshman at Ashland Junior High School.

"Passover Plot" condemned; new Anderson film released

The "Passover Plot," a movie portraying Jesus as a dedicated man who plotted his own crucifixion, received comment from Roman Catholic Joseph Pollard.

He said, "It is beautifully photographed. It is well-cast. It has relatively little violence. And no sex. But it is a lie."

The Rev. Pollard is communications director of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. His comments appeared in *Twin Circle*, a national Catholic weekly.

* * *

"Held for Ransom" is a new Ken Anderson Films release. It is the story of the 1974 kidnapping of Eunice Kronholm, wife of a St. Paul banker.

According to Bruce Lood, the film's director, the film makers avoided the usual fictionizing characteristic of films of this nature. "We wanted to come as near as possible to the events as they actually happened," he said.

The 90-minute film is available from Ken Anderson Films, Winona Lake, Ind., for a \$46 rental fee.

* * *

The nation of Israel will not allow Danish film maker Jens Joergen Thorsen to produce a pornographic movie on Jesus in that country.

Mr. Thorsen has already been refused permission to film his controversial "Love Life of Jesus" in Denmark, Sweden, France, and Italy.

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Investments

Glenn Grumbling shares his thoughts on II Peter 3:10-11.

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be . . . ?" II Peter 3:11

In II Peter 3:10 Peter prophesied the complete destruction of all of man's great achievements in science, education, and industry. Then in verse 11 he posed the question, "What manner of persons ought you to be?"

He may well have put the question this way—"In what would you be investing?" No one wants to invest in something that is going to be a loser. We infer from Peter's statement and question (vv. 10 and 11) that it would be a lost cause to invest in the things of this earth which are destined to be destroyed.

The Apostle Paul also showed the importance of investing in eternal projects. He exhorts us to "set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. . . . When Christ, who is our life, shall appear then shall ye also appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:2 and 4).

In the parable of the rich man in Luke 12:15-21, our Lord likewise warned us not to center our lives on the things of this earth. Again the reason is because the earth and its things are doomed.

Christ contrasted the Christian attitude with the world attitude in Luke 12:30 and 31: "For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." As the Christian seeks God's kingdom, he devotes himself to God's means of grace; that is, prayer, study, tithing, and so forth.

We Brethren strongly profess to believe the Bible and to know, love, and serve God. We should measure our belief by our stewardship. Where are we going that is more important than the service of prayer and Bible study in our church? What are we doing that is more important than being a positive witness for our Lord and His church? What is so essential in our lives that we must use God's tithe to buy it?

Brethren, what significance will the things that we do, the things that we say, the activities and places where we spend our time, and the things that we buy have when Christ comes again?

Glenn Grumbling is pastor of the First Brethren Church of Waterloo, Iowa, and a member of the General Conference Stewardship Committee.

Seasonal Responsiveness

What should be our attitude toward the "Christmas and Easter Christian"? Arden Gilmer offers an answer.

We've all heard the stale jokes about people who are very "regular" in their church attendance. They come regularly every year on Christmas and Easter. Sometimes we even hear of a pastor on Easter Sunday morning wishing the congregation a "Merry Christmas" with the explanation that he doesn't expect to see some of them back in church until next Christmas. He doesn't know that most of the time what you expect is what you get. And in the process he has abused Easter.

Wouldn't it be better to use Easter for the glory of the Lord? This can be done by setting a positive emphasis for the whole Lenten season which will encourage church attendance by both the Christian and the non-Christian.

During the Easter season non-Christian people are probably more responsive to invitations to attend church than during any other time of the year. We Christians should make wise use of this responsiveness by doing everything in our power to attract them. High quality, attractive programming which gives birth to positive feelings is absolutely essential during this time. The people of the church should be constantly encouraged to invite their friends, neighbors, relatives, and working companions to the services.

Attendance goals should be set! They should be well publicized every Sunday during the four to six weeks leading up to Easter. Every available instrument of communication should be used to inform the entire congregation of the goals. Newsletters, bulletin announcements, bulletin inserts, pulpit announcements, Sunday School class announcements, and special mailings should be used to build a sense of expectancy about reaching the goals and to enlist members to actively invite others to attend. A special mass mailing especially designed to communicate to non-Christians where they are is also an excellent means of community outreach during the special Easter season.

Here's what happened in one church which was challenged to use Easter to attract people to Jesus Christ and His church. They set special attendance

goals for Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and the Sunday after Easter. The previous year their attendances had been 185 on Palm Sunday, 245 on Easter and 180 the Sunday after Easter. Their goals for this year were 220 for Palm Sunday, 270 for Easter, and 220 for the Sunday after Easter. The goals were well publicized for the entire month prior to Palm Sunday. Everyone was encouraged to invite non-Christians to the services. Inactive members were contacted and invited to participate.

Are people responsive to Jesus Christ during the Easter season? The results in this church reveal that they are. On Palm Sunday their attendance was 267—82 more than the year before. The Easter Sunday attendance was 301—56 more

"God uses the Easter season to create responsiveness in people's hearts."

than the year before. The Sunday after Easter attendance was 229—49 more than the year before. The average attendance for those three Sundays increased 31 percent over the average for the same three Sundays the year before.

God has given us the greatest of all miracles in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a miracle which attracts people, because it is full of life. We Christians must not fall into the trap of putting people down because they attend church during the Easter season. Instead, we need to be faithful to our Lord to encourage their attendance, to reach them with the gospel at that time, and to pray for their conversion and growth in a new life in Christ.

Your church still has time to set some goals for this year's Easter season. Set them with confidence, knowing that God uses this special season to create responsiveness in the hearts of people. Develop concrete plans and programs to reach the goals. Actively use this season to reach people for Jesus Christ.

Arden Gilmer is director of home missions for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

auxiliary programs for march

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signal lights

written by
Alberta Holsinger

Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus

In Samaria

One day Jesus and His disciples were traveling from Jerusalem to Cana. They had been walking a long time in the hot sun.

They came to a well near the village of Sychar in Samaria.

"Let's stop here to rest," said Jesus.

"First let's go into Sychar to buy some food," suggested one of the disciples.

"That's a good idea," agreed the others.

"I'll wait for you here," said Jesus.

As Jesus rested by the well a woman came from the village. She was carrying a clay water jar on her head. She stopped at the well to fill the jar with water.

"Please give me a drink of water," said Jesus.

The woman was surprised when Jesus spoke. In that country men did not usually speak to women outside the home. Besides that, Jewish people were not friendly to Samaritans.

"Why are you, a Jew, asking me, a woman of Samaria, for a drink of water?" said the woman.

"If you knew who I was you would ask me for living water," Jesus replied.

"Oh," laughed the woman, "you don't have a bucket or a rope. This well is very deep. How are you going to get water?"

"Whoever drinks this water," said Jesus, "will get thirsty again. But the water I give is like a spring of water inside forever."

"I want that kind of water," said the woman. "Then I won't have to come to this well anymore."

"I'm not talking about this kind of water,"

explained Jesus. "I'm talking about faith in God which will be with you and help you everyday."

Jesus and the woman talked awhile longer. Then the woman ran back to the village.

"Come to the well," she said to everyone she met. "A man is there who told me everything I ever did. He must be the Savior."

People hurried from Sychar to the well. They listened to Jesus.

"He is the Savior," many said. "We believe because we have heard Him ourselves."

—Based on John 4:3-42

Project: Sunday School in Malaysia

No Answer

Eight-year-old Mai Dee placed flowers in the vase by the idol. Then she knelt down and prayed, "Please make my father well."

After her prayer Mai Dee took a bowl of rice and broth to her father. He had been sick for a long, long time.

Mother worked in a factory to earn money to buy their food and the other things they needed.

(continued on next page)

Memory Time: "Whoever drinks of the water I shall give him shall never thirst."

—John 4:14a

Introducing Our President

Dear Girls,

Greetings and love through Jesus Christ. I am so glad to have this opportunity to write to you. For those of you that do not know me, my name is Linda Zerbe and I'm serving as the National Sisterhood of Mary and Martha President for this year.

I live in a small north central Indiana town, Peru, which is known as the "Circus Capital of the World." I'm a member of the Loree First Brethren Church, and I've been active in Sisterhood since I was nine years old.

In 1973 I graduated from Maconaquah High School with a major in business. During the summer after my graduation I served as a Summer Crusader on the Mission Action Team I.

After General Conference in August, 1973, I started on the greatest adventure of my life. I traveled to our home mission field at Lost Creek, Kentucky. For two years I worked in the business office at the Riverside Christian Training School. The Lord truly does bless us when we are in the center of His will.

Upon the completion of my second school year at Lost Creek, I returned home and enrolled in the Indiana Business College with a major in bookkeeping. I graduated from college in May, 1976, just in time to start planning for my second year as a Summer Crusader.

Our team spent seven weeks at Camp Bethany working with the camp kids from all over the

state of Ohio. In September I started my new job as a secretary for a new and used car dealer. Now that should bring us up to the present.

From what I have written so far you may get the impression that things have always been rosey for me, but I've had many trials along the road of life. I just praise the Lord for every trial that comes my way. It says in James 1:2-3, "Be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow." I get so excited when I think about what James is saying here, so each day I try to help my patience to grow.

This past year at General Conference I was elected National S.M.M. President, and I'm glad I can serve God and my church in this way. I hope through this letter you have gotten to know me better. I only wish it were possible for me to visit each Sisterhood group, but I know this is humanly impossible. We can only be close to each other through our prayers for one another.

I would surely like to hear from you. If you have any suggestions on how to make Sisterhood better, or if you have any ideas for the 1977 General Conference Sisterhood program, I would like to hear about them. My address is 254½ East Canal, Peru, Indiana 46970, and I'll be waiting to hear from some of you.

Please pray for me and the other national officers as we work together to make Sisterhood a better organization.

Love to all of you through Jesus Christ.

—Linda Zerbe

Signal Lights Program

(continued from page 30)

Mai Dee could not go to school. She had to stay home with Father. She could not play with the other children after school. She needed to do the housework. Mother was very tired when she came home after her long day at the factory. She depended on Mai Dee to have most of the work at home done. Mother would bathe Father and fix their evening meal.

Mother knew Mai Dee wanted to go to school. "When Father is better, you will go to school again," she promised.

She was sorry her young daughter had little time to play. "When Father is better and I no longer need to work in the factory, you will play with your friends every day," she told Mai Dee.

So each day Mai Dee prayed to the idol that could not see nor hear. Each day she prayed to the idol that could not answer her prayer.

One day she heard her friends calling, "Mai Dee, a storyteller is here! Come and listen to him!"

Mai Dee looked at Mother, who had just gotten home from work.

Mother nodded, "Run along, Mai Dee. When you come back you can tell the story to Father and me."

"Jesus is God's Son," the storyteller was saying when Mai Dee joined the group. "He can do wonderful things."

Mai Dee heard how Jesus healed the sick when He was on earth. She heard that He loves us and wants to help us. She heard that He answers prayer.

That evening after Mai Dee told Father and Mother about Jesus she asked, "Will our idol be angry if I pray to Jesus?"

"We are told he will be," said Father.

"But he hasn't answered my prayer," reminded Mai Dee.

"Maybe we should find out more about Jesus," suggested Mother. Father nodded.

"The storyteller will be back tomorrow," said Mai Dee. "I will ask him to come to the house. Then he can tell us how to pray to Jesus."

(continued next month)

prepared by
Romaine Flora

“We believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus . . .” Acts 15:11 (RSV)

Saul of Tarsus

In the February study of Acts 9, we came to the story of the conversion of Saul, the persecutor, into Saul, the missionary. Who was this man Saul (Paul)? We do not have too many details about his early life, but from his letters in the New Testament and the account of him in Acts we learn some things. The history of that period of time almost 2,000 years ago also sheds light on his life story.

Saul was born in Tarsus, in Cilicia, one of the prominent cities of the world of that day. Today, it is just a little Turkish town with some of the old thick walls still there but crumbled. Grass and flowers grow from the cracks.

The city won its fame because the enthusiasm of the people for learning was so great that schools attracted some of the greatest teachers of that day. There was a university there. It was a great city of trade, for a large river from the city went 12 miles down to the Mediterranean Sea. There were people from other nations coming and going by ship. Cargoes of all kinds of goods went through the city's port.

Tarsus was also known for its great athletic games. Both the Greeks and Romans were very fond of such contests and the winners were great heroes. The race course was a huge, open place

like a theater with seats built up stadium fashion. East of the city a great building, the gymnasium, was where young men 16 to 18 years of age were taught nothing but athletics. Other parts of their education came later. We have reason to believe that Saul did not have this kind of training. There was also a great open-air theater built to accommodate thousands of people. Row upon row of limestone seats were filled for plays, music, and poetry readings. So you see, Paul did not come from a small, secluded village.

However, we must suppose that Saul did not participate in these Greek and Roman activities because his parents were devout Jews and he was raised in a very religious home. Until five years of age he was taught by his mother, who probably told him over and over the stories of the heroes of past Jewish history—the stories we find in the Old Testament. At five years Saul would have been taken to the synagogue school where he was taught Hebrew (the religious language) and Greek (the everyday language).

At age 13 he went through the Jewish ceremony of manhood. Until this time he had sat in the balcony of the synagogue for worship services with his mother and other women and children. After he was declared a “man,” he sat with his father down on the main floor of the synagogue.

During these young years Saul learned the trade of a tentmaker. It was required of every Jewish boy that he learn a trade. The tent cloth was a heavy felt-like cloth woven from goat's hair. It made good, sturdy tents and is still used by some of the wandering tribes of people of the Middle East.

When Saul had completed the training in the synagogue school where the textbook was the Old Testament, he was ready for “higher learning.” The method of teaching then was by class repetition. This method is still used in Arab schools in Israel and Jordan, where the children repeat the lesson aloud over and over until it is learned. Saul was sent to Jerusalem to the school of a great rabbi (teacher), Gamaliel. There he spent several years in intensive study and finally became a rabbi himself.

And so it is in Jerusalem that we first meet him at the stoning of Stephen. As we move through the book of Acts, we will learn more and more about him, as a man and as a missionary.

Planning the Meeting

1. Locate the places Paul and Barnabas visited on the maps in your Bibles, or use a larger map that all can see.
2. For April, read Acts 15:36—21:14.
3. Take your Bible to your meetings each month.

Ed. note concerning February program — *Rather than assigning each paragraph to a separate girl (as suggested in “Planning the Meeting”), divide the study into parts according to the individuals discussed. Use the following as a guide: the widows and deacons; Stephen; Philip; Saul; Peter; Barnabas; and James. We regret that subtitles were not included and apologize for any confusion this may have caused.*

The First Missionary Journey

Acts 13:1—15:35

In our study for this month we should begin with Acts 12:25. (Read). Reread Acts 11:27-30 to find the reason for the trip to Jerusalem by Barnabas and Saul. In 12:25 we are introduced to John Mark, a relative of Barnabas.

Chapter 13 begins with the names of leaders of the church at Antioch. One of them, Manaen, had been a member of the court of Herod Antipas. (It was that Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded.) Those men were called "prophets and teachers." "Prophets" were wandering preachers who devoted their lives to listening for God's word and then took that word to people. "Teachers" were men in the local church whose duty it was to instruct the converts in the faith.

In Acts 13:9 "Saul, who is called Paul" deals with a "magician." Not a magician as we know them today, but a false prophet. Saul was Paul's Jewish name and Paul his Roman name. From this time on through the Acts Paul preaches a great deal to Gentiles and so from here on he is called Paul.

Follow Paul and Barnabas and John Mark on their trip to Cyprus and into Galatia by finding the places on the map. Perga—did Paul preach there when they landed? What did John Mark do at Perga? People since that time have tried to find out why John Mark made the decision to return home. Luke chose not to tell us.

Antioch of Pisidia gave the missionaries quite a reception. But Jews who did not like the teaching about Jesus made trouble, so Paul and Barnabas moved on to Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. Read Acts 14:8-18. The oxen would have been white with gold-painted horns and garlands of flowers about their necks. Sacrifice to "gods" is still practiced among heathen tribes who have not heard of Jesus. Something else happened at Lystra. Read Acts 14:19, 20. What a man Paul was since he had given his life to Jesus Christ! Stoning could not stop him so on his way back to Antioch he and Barnabas returned to visit the cities where they had preached.

Troublemakers from Jerusalem had come to Antioch and were teaching that a person had to obey a lot of rules and "do things" in order to be saved. Christ had taught, and Paul was preaching, that salvation came through belief in Jesus Christ and his death.

So Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem. The leaders of the church there said it was not necessary to "do things" in order to be saved. But a saved person will try to do the things Christ taught because of love for Him. They wrote a letter to the church in Antioch telling them their decision and sent it by Judas (not the one who betrayed Jesus) and Silas. These men went with Paul and

Barnabas back to Antioch. (Silas will be in further stories of Acts.) Acts 15:35 says that the two missionaries stayed in Antioch for a time and taught and preached.

"It's Time for Stealing"

(continued from page 23)

self-respect, decided not to steal, and assured us of our security in that area, even guarding us when we carry some cash."

Such attitudes and patterns of living are the results of great change. Paul reports that many had been charged for over 40 murder cases; others are blind because their eyes were plucked out as a punishment for theft. But that is different now because they have been affected by the gospel—as expressed by the World Relief program of WRC . . . **food for the body and food for the soul.** They are taking great pride in becoming independent instead of demanding.

Last summer Paul Munshi went to Kotalipara to find out how he could help the affected people. When he came near the village of these former thieves, his speed boat was stopped by water-hyacinth and couldn't move an inch. The people came running from the village and six of them jumped into the river and pulled the boat about a quarter mile. It was a herculean task; they were half-dead; but they didn't give up. One of them was a blind man!

Sitting in the boat with his wife and two sons, Paul couldn't hold back his tears. And he prayed (according to his written report), "O Lord, bring me more close to Thy bleeding heart and nearer to Thy cross that I may fully and totally identify myself with the suffering and rejected humanity for whom you have given your all."

Unfortunately, hailstorms more recently have caused serious crop damage to these people, as well as at WRC's large agricultural programs in Dacope and another newer project at Kotalipara. But in all three areas WRC offered a ration of 2 pounds of rice per day per family through food-for-work programs. Distribution of emergency food and drinking water continued through the summer months and on into the fall.

We can be thankful for the significant ministry our money, concern, and prayers assist through the World Relief Commission. Without their contact with a meaningful expression of the gospel of Christ, the thieves would still be reaping the results of their "time for stealing" . . . and all of the degradation that produces.

What Are Your Children Learning?

Editor-in-chief John Rowsey asks a vital question for parents.

IS the public school system a lost cause? In a recent meeting I heard Norma Gabler speak about textbooks in our public schools today. Mrs. Gabler and her husband Mel have been deeply involved in the battle to oust objectionable textbooks from the Texas schools. She is the subject of a new book **Textbooks on Trial** (reviewed elsewhere in this magazine).

Recent newsstories have reported the fight to ban certain textbooks in West Virginia. Mrs. Gabler tells about these confrontations also. I understand one newspaper ad which was used in West Virginia containing excerpts from textbooks for elementary children was refused for publication in another state as being unfit for a family newspaper. Situation ethics, premartial sex, violence, and distorted history all seem to be a part of books from grade school through high school.

A newspaper article that just crossed my desk tells of a high school history text that omits the Pilgrims from "The First Americans" but contains minority group emphasis. Lest we think the problem is only in America, another article told of a Toronto mother discovering four-letter words among her 15 year old son's list of words to make into sentences.

Good texts lacking

Evidently good school texts are just not available. Dr. Paul A. Kienel, executive director of the California Association of Christian Schools, says one of the great needs in the schools he represents are good texts, especially in the area of social science. (Interestingly, I just read that McGuffey readers are still published and used in some schools in 31 states.)

What seems to be the problem? Are most parents "too busy" to check out their children's textbooks? Do we accept the school text as authoritative without ques-

tioning? Have we left the field, without resistance, to the special interest groups to mold the moral standards of our children?

Some feel the answer is to establish the network of privately-owned Christian schools. The teaching and texts used can be more easily controlled in such schools. Children in the Christian school don't have to be in the "front line" in the battle for the minds of future generations.

But what happens when the product of the Christian school confronts the product of the public school? What is our responsibility as Christians to society as a whole? Do we lose our right to speak on what is taught in the public schools if we remove our children from these schools? Or does it matter?

Since our return to the United States, my children have attended the same school system from which I graduated. I have to admit that I know very little about what is being taught in this system today, outside of occasional contact while helping with homework.

We now have a Christian elementary school here in Ashland and a Christian high school in Mansfield. Perhaps others have been more aware of problems in our local schools than I.

I personally know that there are Christian teachers in the public schools and that they do have opportunities to witness to their Christian faith. And I did listen to the eighth and ninth grade musical groups from the public schools sing repeatedly of Christ during their Christmas concert . . . and to a full auditorium.

What has been your experience with your local schools? I really would like to hear from you. Do you feel the Christian school is the answer? Or should we stay in the public school and fight for what is right?

Write me: John Rowsey, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

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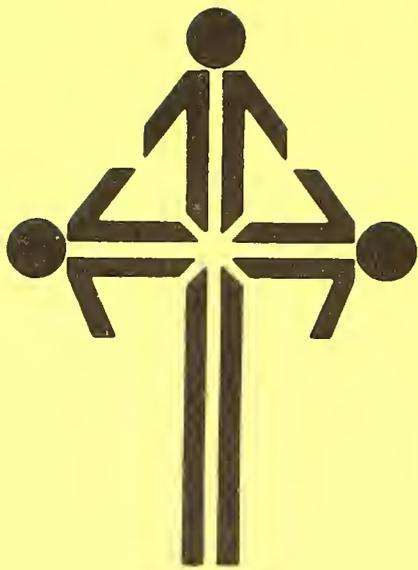
EVANGELIST

March 1977



**Would You Buy a Used Car
from This Man?**

(see page 4)



1977 MEN'S CONGRESS

Camp Calvary, near Angola, Ind.

April 15-17, 1977

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Director of the Office of Information
of the U.S. Armed Forces

Topic - - "Competent to Counsel"

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The Brethren EVANGELIST

Serving Christ and the Brethren Church
for 99 years

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Published monthly for the Brethren Church
by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524
College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for
100% church lists \$5.25 for church lists
of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual
subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at
least three weeks in advance, using the
form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those
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Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be ad-
dressed to the managing editor. A writer's
packet with query tips is available upon
written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome.
However, the publisher assumes no
responsibility for return of unsolicited
material not accompanied by a stamped,
self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland,
Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to
the Brethren Publishing Company, 524
College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Cover

Members of the Winding Waters Brethren Church are seeking new ways to reach out and to maintain close relationships within. Turn to page 4 for their story.

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False Alarms!

At Winding Waters they're asking

Would You Buy A Used Car from This Man?



No, Pastor Finks is not in the used car business. But he and his congregation are using innovative approaches to contacting their neighbors.

by Fred Finks

THAT is precisely what we asked over 400 families by mail. The letter went on to say, "We sure hope not! Because for one thing, he doesn't sell used cars, and another, he's our pastor."

No, I haven't gone into the used car business. This is an example of how we've been using creative advertising to get the attention of people in the community surrounding our church. Our main concern is reaching people for Christ and busting the seams in our church walls. We want to be recognized as a church with open doors and open hearts.

That openness factor has worked wonders. In the past four years church attendance has increased over 100 percent. We have grown from a struggling congregation of 70 to a vibrant, exciting family of 160, with no plans to stop growing.

We are reaching people who have never before set foot in a church and also "lost sheep." "Lost sheep" is my way of defining people who have given up on a church and stopped going. I see myself as a shepherd.

Rev. Fred Finks is pastor of the Winding Waters Brethren Church in Elkhart, Indiana.

My business is to care for my sheep and rescue any that are lost or hurt. We do not steal sheep. If someone is attending another church, our prayers are with them. But if they are not attending, we open our hands to reveal our concern.

Our shepherding ministry has taken in many "lost sheep"—Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, all alike. They are real people with real needs. We just happen to care enough to feed them. We have all benefited from this rescue. They, in their new relationship with Christ. And we, in our fulfillment of God's call.

Who we are

Some people on the outside have raised questions as to how it all works. I invite them to come inside and see. We have had no major problems, nor do I see any arising in the future. Why? Because we know who we are. In discovering our identity here is what we found.

First, we are **the family of God**. Our primary reason for existence is to worship the living God and fulfill his call to be His followers. We are excited about worship because we serve an exciting God who



The members of the Winding Waters Brethren Church see themselves as the family of God. Here, the children of the congregation gather on the platform to listen to Pastor Finks. They, too, as part of the family, participate in worship.

keeps our lives filled with surprises. Life is never stagnant, but alive and dynamic. Thus we are filled with joy in our worship. We often change our style and our mode, to add variety. Being the family of God is, in itself, reason for existence, for through this experience our lives are given new hope and new life to be what God has called us to be.

Second, we are **the body of Christ**. This, to us, means we are responsible to one another. We laugh when others laugh. We weep when others weep. We rejoice when others rejoice. We are a family.

We have probably discovered this area in our process of opening up ourselves to others. For in our growing, we have had to give more of ourselves to others. Let me explain what I mean. In a small church, everyone soon learns all there is about everyone else. Thus friendliness is easily come by. But in a growing church, both the newcomers and the present membership must open up and share, or else the church becomes cold and unfamiliar.

We, at Winding Waters, have dedicated ourselves to be a growing church with a small church attitude. To accomplish this, all of us must be willing to openly reveal

ourselves to others. It is a process of becoming. It will never be completed. It must always occur and be spontaneous. And it is happening.

Visitors welcomed

Visiting families are being received with open arms and genuine concern. Recently, a new family visited our church. Before I had a chance to meet them, they had been welcomed by over four different families! My heart rejoiced. It is taking place because people really care.

Yes, we are the body of Christ—healing, loving, reaching to one another, and growing deeper in love all the time.

Third, we are **the great commission**. After having rooted ourselves by getting to know our God in worship, and after having discovered our strength as the body of Christ, we are now ready to reach out to others.

I think some people program their goals backwards and plan to fail before they even get started. They attempt the great commission before they have a base of worship and strength to receive the new

(continued on next page)

"We dare not let up one little bit. For one slip could mean a family lost and forgotten."

growth. You must get first things first. Build your base in God, and then you will have something to offer your new people.

How do we approach this great commission? First, by realizing the pastor does not stand alone. It is the responsibility of every person, every family, to do his part in the great commission. Kids can bring other kids they know in school. Men can bring co-workers of their jobs. Women can invite neighbors. Everyone can invite family and friends. Last year our "Win A Family" campaign brought in dozens of new families.

Presently, our Women's Fellowship has embarked on a ministry to take baked goods to each new family who moves into our community, welcoming them and inviting them to church.

Also, we have compiled a list of over one thousand names of persons in our immediate area who will receive a series of personal mailings.

Door to door surveys and interviews are likewise a part of our responsibility to the great commission.

This, then, has led us to keep on our toes. We dare not let up one little bit. For one slip or one mistake could mean a family lost and forgotten.

Now, we know who we are and what we must do. We have set goals for this year and the next five—goals that will help us measure our success and keep us stretching out.

Exciting things are happening, the greatest being our love for one another. In this past year, there has been no back-biting, no arguments, no hatred, no power struggles, no selfishness—just love for the brethren. Now let me tell you that's exciting!

Also, plans are getting underway for the building of a new and larger sanctuary. Projected goals show a need for such a sanctuary in 1978. So to be prepared, a new advance committee, **Project 78**, was formed. They are presently meeting with an architect and drawing up plans for this new sanctuary, with construction to begin in 1978.

That's the picture of the Winding Waters Brethren Church. "People Caring for People," our new motto for 1978, sums up our concern. And by God's grace and through the strength of Jesus Christ we will succeed.



Visitors at the Winding Waters Brethren Church are welcomed with open arms and genuine concern.

Good News for Everyone!

Are new translations heretical? Eugene Nida describes how translators provide the Good News in modern terms without sacrificing accuracy.

A translation of the New Testament selling more than 50,000,000 copies in less than 10 years—a blind man attacked and robbed for distributing it—denounced by some people as the “masterpiece of the devil” yet praised by a newspaper editor as “the most readable of existing English translations”! All that is news. Most importantly it is Good News.

Both praised and denounced, understood and misunderstood, Good News for Modern Man, the New Testament title for Today’s English Version, has simply experienced the treatment accorded almost all widely distributed translations. Three hundred and fifty years ago the translators of the King James Version were roundly denounced by many as having capitulated to the theological whims of their patron, King James the First of England. Some 50 years elapsed after its publication before this version was generally accepted by the English-speaking world. Such reactions to new translations of the Bible are typical because people so often resist change, especially in matters of religion. For many persons, to change the words of the Bible is tantamount to heresy. They do not realize that what is really changing is their own language, and that in order to preserve the meaning of the original message, the form of language

must be altered from time to time so as to adjust the content of the message to the constantly changing forms of expression.

The familiar can be misleading

Even such a familiar passage as the opening verse of Psalm 1 in the King James Version can be quite misleading for many present-day readers: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” “Walketh not in the counsel” sounds to many persons today like “walketh not in the council,” since in present-day English “to walk in the counsel of the ungodly” is not understood in the sense of “following the advice of ungodly persons.” “Standeth in the way of sinners” seems equally strange, since to many people “to stand in

For many persons, to change the words of the Bible is tantamount to heresy. They don't realize what is really changing is their own language.

Dr. Eugene A. Nida is executive secretary for translations for the American Bible Society.

One girl, after reading some of
Good News for Modern Man,
exclaimed: "Mommy,
it must not be the Bible—
I can understand it!"

the way of someone" can only mean "to block their path" or "to prevent them from going somewhere." And "to sit in the seat of the scornful" is a real puzzle. It can't, of course, have anything to do with musical chairs. If it means joining up with scornful people, what are these people scorning? This passage becomes so much clearer in the Good News Bible:

"Happy are those
who reject the advice of evil men,
who do not follow the example of
sinners or join those who have no
use for God."

It is no wonder that one girl, after reading some of Good News for Modern Man, exclaimed: "Mommy, it must not be the Bible—I can understand it!"

Translators always persecuted

Violence against Bible translators and distributors is nothing new in history. Tyndale, whose translation contributed so much to what later became the King James Version, was arrested, strangled, and burned at the stake for daring to render the message of God's Word into English. Before his day the Lollards, who so effectively distributed Wycliffe's translation in England, were systematically persecuted, beaten, and often killed. Yet it does seem strange that in our day some people should have reacted so strongly against Good News for Modern Man that they would threaten to kill a blind man for distributing this message of salvation. That, however, is precisely what happened to Mr. J. C. Broom of Gulfport, Miss. After hurricane Camille struck that area in 1970, Mr. Broom began a special effort to distribute thousands of copies of the New Testament. Although he received some threatening phone calls, he continued his dedicated efforts to put the Scriptures into the hands of more and more people. Then one morning, when he answered a knock at his front door, he was attacked by a man with a knife. The

man cut Broom's shirt, broke his cane, tied his hands to his feet, and put a pillowcase over his head. After scattering his stock of Scriptures, robbing him of what money he had, and mutilating some copies of the Good News, he departed with this warning: "You were told not to give away any more!" Later the same man phoned, saying, "Sooner or later we'll get you."

Most distributors of Today's English Version, however, have had much more pleasant experiences. One of them exclaimed: "Sharing the Good News there at the shopping plaza last Saturday has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I would not have missed it for anything, especially when that lady returned to tell me, 'Those words are so wonderful.'"

A "common-language" translation

One of the principal reasons why "those words are so wonderful" is that they are so understandable, for the translation is produced in what is known as "the common language." This is the kind of language common to both the professor and the janitor, the business executive and the gardener, the socialite and the waiter. It may also be described as "the overlap language" because it is that level of language which constitutes the overlapping of the literary level and the ordinary day-to-day usage. It is essentially the same level of language in which the New Testament was first written, the so-called Koine Greek. The term "koiné" itself means "common" and it was precisely this type of "common language" which the Gospel writers employed to communicate their unique and priceless message.

In producing a translation of the Bible into common language, the translators of the Good News Bible have employed a written, not a spoken style; but they have kept in mind the fact that far more people hear the Scriptures read than ever read

One of the reasons "those words
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it for themselves. Hence the translators have constantly tried to be alert to how the words would sound to listeners. They felt that they could not afford to fall into the kind of mistake that, for example, occurs in the Revised Standard Version, "prophesy with lyres" (I Chronicles 25:1), which to the average listener would sound like "prophesy with liars."

Finding equivalent meaning

In producing the Good News Bible in common language the "first and central aim" (as stated in the principles adopted by the committee) has been accuracy; that is, faithfulness to the meaning found in the original Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic texts of the Scriptures. To achieve such accuracy it is essential that the translation reflect the principles of "dynamic equivalence" in meaning, for only thus can the translation communicate faithfully the message of the original writing. The principle of dynamic equivalence is by no means a new one. It was, in fact, stated most effectively by Martin Luther when he said: "Whoever would speak German must not use Hebrew style. Rather, he must see to it—once he understands the Hebrew author—that he concentrates on the sense of the text, asking himself, Pray tell, what do the Germans say in such a situation? Once he has the German words to serve the purpose, let him drop the Hebrew words and express the meaning freely in the best German he knows."

The principle of dynamic equivalence implies that the quality of a translation is in proportion to the reader's unawareness that he is reading a translation at all. This principle means, furthermore, that the translation should stimulate in the new reader essentially the same reaction to the text as the original author wished to produce in his first and immediate readers. The application of this principle of dynamic equivalence leads to far greater faithfulness in translating, since accuracy in translation cannot be reckoned merely in terms of corresponding words but on the basis of what the new readers actually understand. Many traditional expressions in English translations of the Scriptures are either meaningless or misleading. How many present-day readers would know, for example, the "children of the bridechamber" (Matthew 9:15) really means "the guests at a wedding party" or that the "bowels of mercies" (Colossians 3:12) is better rendered as "compassion"?

Some people have the idea that a dynamic equivalent rendering of the Scriptures is

merely a paraphrase rather than a translation. However, Professor J. Ramsey Michaels, Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, writing in *Eternity Magazine* concerning Today's English Version, declared: "But it is a real translation, in distinction from a paraphrase on the one hand and mere word-for-word transposition on the other." As a translation the Good News Bible aims at the "closest natural equivalence," and this may very well result in certain significant changes in the formal arrangements of words. For example, there is a well-known tendency in the Hebrew of the Old Testament and in the Semitic-influenced Greek of the New Testament to avoid direct mention of God. As a consequence, a literal translation such as "Judge not that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1) leads most people to assume that one should not criticize others in order not to be criticized in turn. The context, however, indicates clearly

A dynamic equivalent translation should stimulate in the reader essentially the same reaction as the original author wished to produce.

that it is God who does the judging. Hence, by taking into consideration the Semitic tendency to avoid direct references to God by means of passive constructions, the Good News Bible has rendered Matthew 7:1-2 as "Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you—because God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others."

In order to understand what a common-language and dynamic-equivalence translation really is, one should also realize what it is not. In the first place, it is not a translation made up simply of short sentences and simple words; this would make it seem childish. If a common-language translation is to live up to its name, it must be common to both young and old alike, to the well-educated and to those with only limited education. However, a dynamic-equivalence translation must not be a "cultural translation," one which transposes

(continued on page 28)

With the energy crisis, I must be

Responsible in My Corner

Marion Mellinger reassesses her use of natural resources and urges us to do likewise.

RECENTLY a poll was taken to assess the happiness, ambitions, worries, and problems of the world's inhabitants and to probe their attitudes toward issues of global concern. I was overlooked when this global public-opinion poll was taken. Anyway, my thoughts would only be an infinitesimal part of attitudes and would likely not affect any living patterns but my own.

Now the present peculiar threats of nature this winter have brought new worries about world problems, and I have some new concerns for my children and grandchildren and peoples of the world. Don't you?

The "Winter of '77"

When Ohio first showed evidence of this cold, record-breaking year, I was not at all sympathetic to cries of discomfort. I retorted, "Now you know what kind of winters we suffered in upper New York State." But when low temperatures and high winds gave us a chill factor of 45 to 50 degrees below zero, our lives became miserable.

The shortage of natural gas in eastern states created a state of conservation. Large industries, commercial users, and schools were put on maintenance level gas supplies, and there was a possibility of a gas shut-

off to homes. Hundreds of schools closed, and industries shut down.

Snow and blizzard winds limited road clearance, and farmers suffered \$20,000 in loss of cattle and destroyed milk in our county alone. Abandoned freight on highways created delays and shortages, and isolated people in these blizzard conditions suffered or died.

A new trend?

Across our great country we face new problems and greater threat to our well-being. In addition to the unprecedented cold in the east, there is drought in the west, crop loss in the south, and, in the east, the threat of floods to come. This is very sobering.

Is this a trend toward worse times and shortages in the United States, or a reminder of our luxuries, waste, and lack of compassion for other peoples of the earth? What about the great economic gulf that separates the "have" from the "have-not" nations? Economic privation exists in some areas here in America, too!

I feel newly awakened to the stress factors commonly and regularly experienced by others. I am more sensitive to "needs" and more aware of suffering. I have had more time to think and pray. The Lord does sustain, and we are thankful for our faith and trust.

Friends our age recall worse existences in the past and our being more conserva-

Mickey Mellinger is administrative assistant for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.



tive in those gone-by days. Having grown up during the “really big depression,” I know that my life styles and habits were influenced by those experiences. There were so many ingredients to bring me to my present attitudes. Also, today, I feel that my acceptance of a responsible Christian stewardship greatly influences my daily disciplined life. I may naturally be a conservative, but I must practice denying myself in order to help others in my world.

Being responsible

During our emergency in the community we made special effort to watch over the elderly and sick. We curtailed use of stove, water, and electrical facilities. Why can't I continue some of this? I hear my grandmother's voice saying, “Waste not; want not.”

When asked to conserve natural gas, we went the second mile and turned our thermostat five degrees lower than requested for the whole weekend and enjoyed a “long winter's nap” as part of it. We figured others needed heat worse than we did. Other years we could plastic-wrap north areas of the house, pad cellar windows, and fill in chinks and cracks more thoroughly. We're enjoying soft candlelight occasionally and regulating window cover to derive more benefits from sunshine.

We've heard families say they've enjoyed their children more and are enjoying playing games and doing things together. Are these changes in weather and supply a

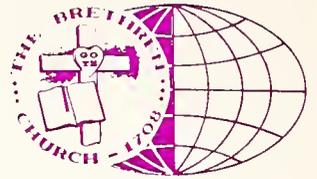
blessing in disguise? Some have said we're being punished in our highly “disposable” world.

We've been off the fast American merry-go-round life for a while, but we'll have to face up to life and plan for a better future. How are we going to face the damage to local schools and higher places of education? Already they have suffered from previously limited budgets, and they have no assurance of funds to carry on.

Do we realize the extent of damage to wildlife, highways, and good crops? How do we handle shortages and damage? Who is going to solve our problem of fuel limitation and shortages? Are we going to be taken in by the Atomic Energy Commission decisions and threatened by the waste from atomic fuel systems?

Does my awareness of drought, shortage of food and fuel, and economic strife make me more sympathetic to others in the world? Am I going to do my part in producing and refraining from being wasteful? Do I realize anew how dependent we are on each other—am I concerned about my brother?

They say happiness correlates closely to the amount of sunshine received. I'll become happier, I'm certain, as summer heat penetrates my “ice house,” but will happiness erase my concern and eventually eliminate my doing my share? You can't bottle sunshine!! I must determine to help in my corner and extend myself as much as possible to help others in the world.



“By All Means Save Some”

Are the means for reaching the lost unlimited today? Ken Solomon examines this question for Brethren today.

THESE words of the Apostle Paul are recorded in I Corinthians 9:22. They refer to his great life effort to identify with all men of all races and of all social classes—to be one with them—with the noble, motivating purpose of winning them for the kingdom of his Lord.

The Brethren missionaries of India, Africa, Malaysia, Argentina, Colombia, North America, and the other areas of the world where God has “planted” them are no doubt following in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus and of Paul in this same missionary practice.

The words “all means” grip my attention and cause me to go back in my thinking. Just what were the means at the disposal of the Lord Jesus, his disciples, Stephen, those that were “scattered abroad” because of the persecution mentioned in Acts 8, the evangelist Phillip, and the great missionary Paul. Just what were the means they used that “some” might be saved?

Means were limited

As we search the Scriptures on this subject and compare the “means” available in those days with the “means” available today, we might consider them to have been at a considerable disadvantage because of their limited means. Just what were some of the means they used?

Well, there was the public forum, where an audience was always available to listen. And some were like the Athenians, who “spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing” (Acts 17:21). This was a decided advantage for the itinerant type of missionary activity carried on by Jesus and those who followed His example in those days.

This means for reaching large multitudes of the public is not so readily available to the modern missionary in the heavily populated cities of our lands. In some cities it may still be a way of life and a means of reaching the masses through public preaching.

Then there was the “means” of being heard without a public address system. Even in public places there existed so much less noise pollution than in our modern cities. Oh, that doesn’t mean they didn’t have some noise—the braying of the donkeys instead of the horns of automobiles, the loud voices of the street vendors instead of the barroom juke boxes of our large cities. But much of the public preaching was done in a quieter atmosphere in those days than would be possible in our modern cities of today.

It would seem that it was even common to have large crowds gathered (uninvited guests) within listening distance of special banquets, and so what was spoken by Jesus at these was heard by a much larger number than would be true today at a similar private banquet.

The means of traveling from place to place were certainly limited. And what about the means of financing their evangelistic missionary tours? Did it ever occur to you to question just how Jesus could have an evangelistic team of at least twelve hardy men—each, no doubt, with a hardy man’s appetite—touring the country for months without working to earn money toward defraying their expenses? I’m sure they didn’t always have an invitation to dinner or to free lodging. And just what money did Judas the treasurer handle? What did the disciples’ families live on after the disciples left their professions

to follow the Master? Some fat bank account due to years of frugal savings? I doubt it.

I believe this is one means that is the same today as it was in those days. We read in the little remembered verses of Luke 8:2-3 the following revelation: "Mary called Magdalene . . . And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others **which ministered unto him of their substance.**"

Possibly the reader will recall another reference to just how the ministry of Jesus was supported. I don't. But this is sufficient to reveal to us that it is the same "means" that we have at our disposal today. It is by the "substance" of all those grateful souls who have been marvelously liberated from slavery to sin in order to walk in the glorious freedom of the sons of God; the "substance" of all those called out of darkness to walk in His marvelous light; of all those who, after having tasted the horrible consequences of sin, have since then gratefully experienced the delicious taste of the "heavenly gift." Yes, the financial "substance" of all grateful, God-fearing, saved followers of the Christ is the means for the continuing support of the on-going ministry of the Lord to this very day, in this year of 1977.

But in this respect we, today, can speak of **unlimited** means of financial support. Or can we??? We certainly can say that the average follower of Christ today makes a lot more money than the early followers did. And so our tithe should be much larger, shouldn't it?

Unlimited means today

We can speak of nearly **unlimited** means—advantageous means—at our disposal as modern missionaries to a modern world. At least in the area of communications we have far superior means due to the invention of the telephone, telegraph, modern postal services, radio, TV (even by satellite), amplification systems, and so on.

In the area of personnel there are so many, many more followers of the Christ today than existed even at the close of the Bible era. Oh, I know that the ratio of followers to non-followers is a significant factor to take into consideration. But this difference disappears when faced with the increased numbers to which each individual Christian may witness by using all the superior means at his disposal, as compared with the early Christians.

Then we should mention the means of transportation, which make it possible for **one** missionary to travel more miles to

contact more people in his life-time than was possible for **all** the followers of Jesus to do in a lifetime in Bible times.

As we bring to a close this brief consideration of the subject of "means" we are impressed with the superior means that are available to us today (those mentioned, and those not mentioned but known by the reader). And so the disconcerting and uncomfortable question haunts us: **Are we doing a better job of world evangelizing today with our superior means than they did in Bible times with their "limited" means? If not, why not? Could it be that there exists something "inferior" that hinders us today?**

Where your heart is . . .

Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). I sincerely believe that this is one of the sayings of Jesus that we can turn around without doing violence to the inspired Word of God. I believe it is also scriptural to say: **"Where your heart is, there will your treasure be also."**

Does this make you examine your spending habits to see what your first love really is? It does me. Does it make you question whether your **first** love is the same as Jesus' **first** love? It does me. And, since this love of God has been shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5), I wonder how many times I have thwarted its expression. Are the missionaries and pastors struggling with **limited** instead of **unlimited** means because you have not been as faithful in your stewardship expression of gratitude to Jesus as were Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna? Will our missionary effort continue to be supported mainly by the female followers of the Christ (the Woman's Missionary Society groups)? Or will we men awaken to our responsibility and opportunity in this new year with its new challenge that demands "all means" available?

Rev. Kenneth Solomon is a Brethren missionary to Colombia. He and his family began the work there in 1973.





Malaysia and India

Obstacles and Opportunities

Missionary Board General Secretary M. Virgil Ingraham looks at the possibilities for outreach in Asia.

THE Chinese people represent the largest group of people unreached for Christ. Although Malaysia is an Islamic state, there are large concentrations of Chinese people in that country. Malaysia offers a great, but difficult, challenge for evangelizing the Chinese through a Malaysian of Chinese parentage, Brethren Missionary David Loi.

David and his wife, Jenny, are located on Penang Island. They are using various means to lead responsive Chinese to Christ. Literacy classes in Mandarin Chinese, a Christian kindergarten, home visitation evangelism, youth meetings, gospel film presentations, and Sunday School and Church services are some of the means which they employ.

The state religion in Malaysia is Islam, which imposes certain restrictions upon evangelization through public means. Even so, the work has been continued by the Loises with dedication and determination.



This young Indian believer emerges to a new life in Christ. A water buffalo looks on as Vijaya Kumar baptizes others.

When suitable meeting places could not be found, enclosed yards (and living rooms when raining) were secured in order to accommodate these groups which meet regularly in various parts of Penang Island. This has required moving all necessary equipment and supplies from place to place for the services. This has been inconvenient at times, but the response of children and young people, especially, has been encouraging.

Many means must be employed to reach the unreached with the message of Jesus Christ and His salvation. This is especially true in a society where the state religion limits conventional methods of evangelization, as it does in Malaysia. We are thankful that the gospel witness continues to go out through our missionaries, David and Jenny.

There is a great need to sustain and expand our ministry to the Chinese people. Our missionaries are working to evangelize Chinese people in Malaysia, in order that they too might share in the eternal, abundant life which is in Jesus Christ alone. Let us join together with the Loises and with each other in this great work of faith.

THE door is still open in India for sharing the Christian life. This vast nation of more than 600 million people is undergoing considerable change. There is a great need to give out the Good News while there is opportunity.

The number of foreign missionaries is declining in India. Government restrictions have limited the operation of mission societies. Therefore, we are thankful for the Lord's leading which resulted in the organization of a national structure. This

(continued on page 28)

Just the Beginning

"Plan Rosario" set the stage for growth in Argentina, as reported by Brethren missionary Ray Aspinall.

MORE than 5,000 persons responded to the invitation to accept Jesus Christ during the Greater Rosario Crusade with Luis Palau, held in Rosario, Argentina, October 30 to November 14. The sixteen day crusade was a part of "Plan Rosario," a program designed to make mass evangelism more effective in terms of church growth.

The Brethren Church in Argentina played an important part in "Plan Rosario" during the past two years. One of the first meetings with local pastors and leaders was organized at Eden Bible Institute. Pastor Hector Labanca of the Amenabar Brethren Church aided Coordinator Edgardo Silvoso in setting up two luncheon meetings at which Luis Palau and other members of his team spoke to several hundred church leaders. When definite plans were made to hold the crusade, Pastor Labanca was elected president of the executive committee. Juan Carlos Miranda and Ray Aspinall were also elected to the committee.

A Church Growth workshop, organized by Silvoso, Miranda, and Aspinall at Eden Bible Institute in September, 1975, launched the plan, which included a goal of opening 50 new churches and preaching points during the year before the crusade. When the count was made one week before the crusade began, 45 new churches and annexes had been started by Baptists, Nazarenes, Pentecostals, and Brethren. Most of these churches met in homes.

These "house churches" were really the backbone of "Plan Rosario." They made it possible to channel new converts into Christian congregations near their homes and gave an opportunity for small group Bible study and personal attention.

Eight new annexes were opened by Brethren in Rosario and surrounding communities. The Amenabar Church began three new house churches in various parts of the city under the direction of lay leaders. This church received a total of 138 decision cards during the crusade. A

combined effort by Eden Bible Institute, the Argentine Missionary Council, and Missionary Board of the Brethren Church reopened a long closed location in Rosario, now under the direction of Victor Allesandroni, a recent graduate of I.B.E.

Three more annexes were opened in Villa Constitucion. The Central Brethren Church hosted the satellite crusade in Villa and, as a result, was assigned 90 persons for follow-up. During the year they opened one new house church and are now preparing 20 for baptism. Church of the Redeemer, a small mission church, became missionary in outreach, opening two house churches. There are 16 new persons congregating now as a result of the crusade.

The remaining new church is one begun in Canada de Gomez. The pastor, Oscar Vena, worked closely with Silvoso during the year and received help in launching the new church, now in a building program to finish its sanctuary.

The effects of the Rosario Crusade can be seen in churches awakened, pastors and leaders excited, and the community stirred. And the most wonderful part of Plan Rosario is that it's not yet over.



Victor and Mabel Allesandroni helped reopen a closed church as part of "Plan Rosario."



Nigeria

Growth toward Independence

Just as children grow to adulthood, mission churches also grow toward maturity. Former missionary Richard Winfield portrays the growth in Nigeria.

IN many ways the growth of the Church on a mission field can be compared to the growth of a child. When a child is born he is unable to do anything for himself. He cannot feed, bathe, or dress himself. Others must do these things for him. He cannot walk, so someone must carry him about. Gradually, however, the child grows and develops. He learns to walk, to feed himself, to talk, and, as time passes, he is more and more able to look after himself. It is many years, however, before he is full grown, independent of his parents, and completely on his own.

Mission church like child

So it is with the Church on a mission field. The first missionaries go and begin to witness and preach. In time some people accept the message and become Christians. A Church is born. At first the Church is able to do almost nothing for itself. It must be looked after by its parents, the missionaries. In time, however, the Church grows

and develops. And it begins doing many things for itself. But, like the human child, it is often many years before this Church is full grown and independent of its "parents" (the missionaries or the mission).

It has been many years since the infancy of the Church in northeastern Nigeria—the Church which is now known as Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria. This church has long since passed through its infancy and childhood. Over the years it has assumed most of the responsibilities once performed for it by missionaries. We might say that this Church is now at the young-adult stage. We might compare it to a young person who is ready to establish himself in the world, but who, in order to do so, still needs counsel and financial help from his parents. The EYN Church does not need missionaries to do its work for it. However, missionaries can give advice and guidance, and the missions provide financial help so that the Church can carry on its work.

During the years in which we worked with the EYN Church in Nigeria, we had the opportunity to witness an important period in this transition from dependence to independence. During the time we were in Nigeria, for example, the EYN Church hired its first full-time Nigerian general secretary, and the position of church treasurer passed from a missionary to a Nigerian as did the position of director of evangelism. Missionary influence in the executive committee and other boards and committees greatly diminished, as did their part in the ministers' conferences.

The Nigerian Church leadership also showed its ability to make important and hard decisions about the future of the

Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria

Church of the Brethren in Nigeria

Headquarters—Kulp Bible School

General Secretary—Rev. Wasinda B. Mshelia

Chairman—Rev. Ngamariju K. Mamza

Treasurer—Rev. Karagama A. Gadzama

Number of Congregations—57

Total Membership—24,258

Number of Preaching Points—352



The Nigerian church has moved from dependence to independence as national leaders have been trained.

Church. During this time, the missionary staff on the field decreased drastically. This is as it should be. The goal of mission work in Nigeria, as in any place, is the establishment of an indigenous church which has its own leaders, makes its own decisions, and carries on its own work.

Our decision to terminate our service in Nigeria was a part of this Nigerianization process. During the seven and a half years we were in Nigeria we spent seven years at Kulp Bible School. At the Bible school Kitty and I served as teachers, and I served a year and a half as principal. Later, I again served another year and a half as acting-principal during the absence of the Nigerian principal, who was on a study leave. I also served as school treasurer for a time.

During this seven-year period we saw an increase not only in the number of Nigerian staff at the school, but also in the educational level of that staff. At the present time both the principal of Kulp and the treasurer of the school are Nigerians. With our departure from the school we made way for the hiring of another Nigerian staff family, another step on the way to total Nigerianization of the staff.

New role for Brethren

Our departure from the Nigerian mission field means that the Brethren Church no longer has a missionary in Nigeria (the Church of the Brethren does have a few missionaries still working with the EYN Church, however). Does this mean the end of our denomination's participation in Nigeria? No, it doesn't.

Earlier in this article I mentioned that

the Church still needs financial help and counsel. As the EYN Church has taken over more and more of the responsibility and program formerly carried by the mission, they have been able to provide the man-power, but not the finances, to carry on this program. Hopefully, in time, as the Church grows stronger, living standards for Nigerians go up, and stewardship improves, they will be able to provide these finances as well. But during this time of transition, they still look to the missions for help.

Looking ahead

During the year ahead, our Brethren Missionary Board will be providing the support for two Nigerian church workers. One of those supported by our Church will be Rev. John Guli, who is well known to Brethren people, and who will be working in the eastern area of the Church with the Higi churches. The other support will go for a Nigerian staff family at Kulp Bible School. Support money will also go toward the program of the Church and for scholarships for two student families at Kulp.

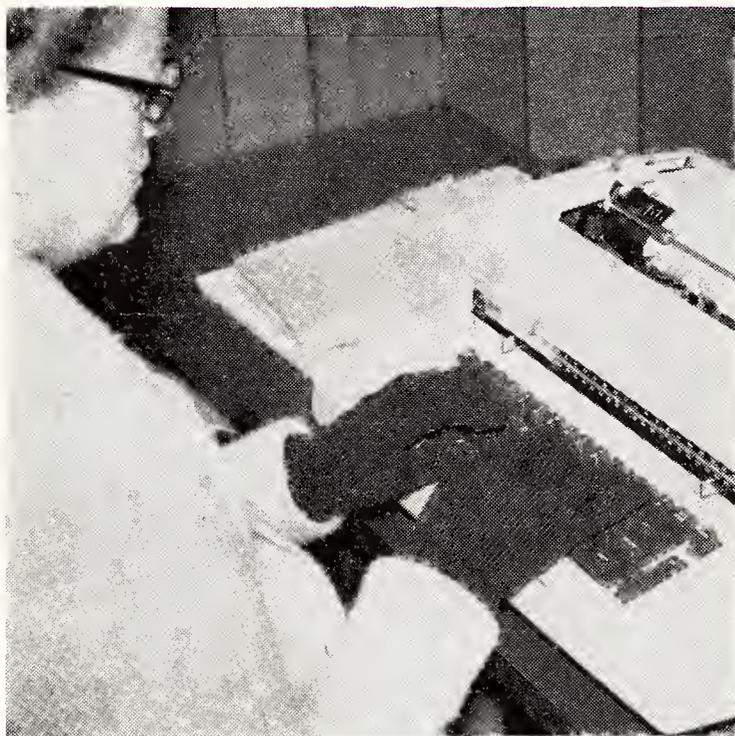
The Brethren participation in the work of the EYN Church in Nigeria has not ended. It is our hope that Brethren people will continue to give to the support of the work there as it is carried on by our Nigerian Brethren. During this period they also need our prayer support just as much as they needed it in the past.

Therefore, let us continue to give and to pray for God's work in Nigeria. In this way we will help the Nigerian Church to "grow" forward on the way towards total independence.

UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church
and the Evangelical Press Association

Gas shortage affects national offices



Staff Photo

Ever try to type with gloves on? Benevolent Board secretary Beverly Sunny found it necessary with the natural gas curtailments.

Creation texts approved by Dallas school district

Dallas, Tex. (EP News)—Trustees of the Dallas Independent School District have approved, for use as a source book, a high school biology textbook containing the biblical concept of creation and the origin of man.

"The point in this book is that it recognizes that both evolution and creation are philosophical concepts or theories, and that science needs to present the facts and let the people make their own conclusions," said Bill Hunter, school board president.

The textbook, **A Search for Order in Complexity** (Zondervan Corp., Grand Rapids, Mich.), was approved by a vote of 6-to-3, following an emotional debate that was split along racial lines. (White members favored the book, blacks were opposed, according to a New York Times report.)

The newly approved source book was written by a 20-member textbook committee of the Creation Research Committee. This committee included a number of academicians from U.S. universities.

Ashland, Ohio—The current gas shortage effective in many parts of the country has been felt in the national offices of the Brethren Church.

The Brethren Publishing Company has been placed under a 30% curtailment of natural gas consumption. All offices in the building and the print shop have had the thermostats turned down during the week, and on the weekend only maintenance levels are used. This has led to the use of electric space heaters in many of the offices and some personnel working with coats on.

In the print shop a major difficulty has been encountered with the presses. At the current temperatures, the ink does not flow properly. Heat lamps are used in some cases to provide localized heat where needed. Difficulties have also been experienced in the dark room, where temperatures are more critical.

Although the Carpenter's Shop is heated electrically, it too has had its problems due to the severe and prolonged sub-zero weather. One heat pump has been out of commission for several weeks, and the sewer line is frozen. Repair must wait the natural thawing in the spring.

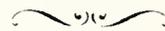
Many have been laid off in the area as industries have run out of the gas allotted to them, but our offices and shop have been able to continue operations under these restricted conditions.

Urbana 76 draws student response to foreign missions

Urbana, Ill. (EPA)—More than 17,000 college and high school students attended Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship's triennial missionary convention, held December 27-31 at Urbana, Ill.

Dr. Billy Graham, Evangelist Luis Palau of Argentina, Bishop Festo Kivengere of Uganda, and author Elisabeth Elliot Leitch were among the seventeen church leaders who spoke on the convention theme, "Declare His Glory among the Nations."

Student response to the convention included donations of more than \$250,000 to further the work of evangelical student groups overseas. Some students signed cards indicating they were considering missionary work. Fifteen thousand of them skipped lunch on the second day, and the \$15,000 saved was sent for world relief.



"Egotism is the anesthetic which nature gives us to deaden the pain of being a fool."

—Herbert Shofield

"Pie in the eye" at Falls City

by David Manning, Sr.

Falls City, Nebr.—My family and I left the Udell, Iowa, Brethren Church the first of June 1976 for Falls City, Nebraska. Since we came here, the Lord has been very good to us and keeps blessing our congregation.

We believed that Falls City was ripe for the gospel of Jesus Christ. So in September, we started a 15 minute radio ministry aired each Saturday morning. We began reaching people 20 miles from Falls City, and our attendance increased.

We started with around 50 in attendance for worship service and 35 for Sunday School. By November, our attendance had reached over 70.

On November 14 I challenged the church to a pie contest—we would try to reach an attendance of 100 by the end of 1976. If we did, two men from our church (Clay Peck and James Rieger) would get a pie in the face; if we did not reach our goal, the pastor would receive the pie.

The congregation really worked hard to achieve this goal. We saw increases each Sunday. By the first Sunday in December we had 100 in attendance. The next Sunday 114 were present, and we ended the month with an average of 99.

At the same time our Sunday school increased to 72. And in a 30 day period we received into membership 10 new people.

The day of reckoning came on Sunday evening, January 9. During a fellowship time after a show-



Pastor Manning (right) did the honors when his church reached its goal of 100.

ing of the film "The Enemy," the two men received their pies.

Now the church is looking forward to the challenge of a new year. We praise the Lord for the blessings he has sent our way.

Woman's Outlook mailed with new addressing system

Ashland, Ohio—The Brethren Publishing Company reports that the March-April issue of the Woman's Outlook is the first issue addressed with the new equipment. The multi-list addressing equipment was purchased in November, 1975, and has been used for addressing the Brethren Evangelist and the various newsletters published by the Brethren national offices. Now the Woman's Outlook uses this same master system.

Mrs. Howard Mack, business manager for the Woman's Outlook, has reported that approximately 30 societies have not yet turned in their 1977 subscription list, which was a prerequisite for the establishing of the new system. Those not receiving the March-April issue should have the person responsible in their local society notify Mrs. Mack.

Some groups did not include both husband's and wife's first names, which probably allowed some duplicate plates to slip into the system. If at some later date duplicate mailings are received from one of the national offices, notify the Brethren Publishing Company with the exact names on the various pieces received, indicating your preference.

Ohio Conference of Brethren Churches

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

March 12, 1977

Memorial Union Building
Ohio Wesleyan University
Delaware, Ohio

Business items:

- Set district goals and strategies
- Elect new officers and committees
- Approve budget proposals
- Hear district board reports

Gil Dodds, "flying parson," dead at 58

Rev. Gilbert Dodds, former Brethren minister and famed mile runner, passed from this life on February 3rd, 1977. Rev. Dodds, 58, died from complications of a brain tumor at Delnor Hospital in St. Charles, Illinois.

"Gil" Dodds was born June 23, 1918, in Reiger, Kansas, son of Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Dodds. He grew up in Falls City, Nebraska, where he became a member of the Falls City Brethren Church.

After graduation from Falls City High School, Dodds attended Ashland College where he established himself as a star distance runner. At Ashland Gil won numerous races and championships, including the National Collegiate cross country championship in East Lansing, Michigan, in 1940. He was named to the 1941 All-America track team and was also inducted into the Ashland College All Sports Hall of Fame in 1968.

After completing Ashland College in 1941, Dodds continued to participate in track, competing for the Boston Athletic Club. In 1948, "the flying parson," as he came to be called, established a world record for the indoor mile run at the Millrose Games with a time of 4:05.3. That same year he qualified for the final Olympic trials and was considered the United States best hope for the 1,500 meter run, until an injury forced him out of the trials.

Dodds rose to world fame as one of the first runners of his time to discard the idea that it was beyond human ability to run a four-minute mile. His style of "sprinting" the mile—attempting to run four 60-second quarters—caught the imagination of others and led to the ultimate breaking of the four minute barrier by Roger Bannister in 1954.

Calendar of Events

March 3-6—Northern California District Conference, Stockton Brethren Church.

March 4—World Day of Prayer (sponsored by NAE).

March 12—Ohio Conference Business Meeting, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio.

April 15-17—1977 Men's Congress, Camp Calvary, Angola, Ind.

April 15-17—Southwest Dist. Conf., Papago Park/Tempe, Ariz.

April 18-22—NAE Washington Leadership Briefing.

May 3-5—Pastors' Conference at Indiana Camp Shipshewana.

May 8-15—Brethren Youth Week.

In August of 1948, Rev. Dodds retired from track competition to become head track coach at Wheaton College, where he served for more than a decade. From 1964 to 1965, he served as pastor of the Roanoke, Indiana, Brethren Church, and in recent years he has served as a counselor at Naperville Central High School.

Over the years Rev. Dodds has had many opportunities to present his testimony for Christ. He often spoke in churches, schools, to young people's gatherings and civic organizations. He once told a reporter that he felt he could make his biggest contribution by working with young people.

In the mid-1940's, he was instrumental in convincing General Conference of the need for an organization for Brethren young people. The result was the formation of the National Brethren Youth program.

Rev. Gilbert Dodds was preceded in death by his father, Rev. J. G. Dodds, and his brother, Rev. Myron Dodds, both Brethren pastors. He is survived by his wife, Irma; three sons, John, Michael, and Joel; a daughter, Jann; his mother, Mrs. Edna Dodds; and three sisters.

In Memory

Mrs. Florence B. Miller, 69, Jan. 24. Member of Vinco Brethren Church. Services by Carl Phillips, pastor.

Richard Schutz, 56, Jan. 11. Member of North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Woodrow A. Immel, pastor.

Mrs. Gladys F. Gillin, 77, Jan. 7. Member of Vinco Brethren Church. Services by Carl Phillips, pastor.

Mrs. Ethel M. Mishler, 77, funeral Dec. 31. Member of North Canton, Ohio, Trinity Brethren Church. Services by John T. Byler, pastor, and Edwin Petry.

Mrs. E. Lucille Scritchfield, 72, funeral Dec. 23. Member of North Canton, Ohio, Trinity Brethren Church. Services by John T. Byler, pastor.

Mrs. Gladys Imhoff, 80, Dec. 4. Member of Denver, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by George Hapner, pastor, and Austin Gable.

Mrs. Ella Bertha Ullery, 82, Sept. 23. Member of Cumberland, Md., First Brethren Church. Services by Fenton Platter, pastor, Living Stone Church of the Brethren.

Carl Vernon Maus, 79, Sept. 18. Charter member and deacon for many years of Denver, Ind., First Brethren Church. Mr. Maus was the last charter member of the church. Services by George Hapner, pastor.

Sledding

Henry Bates describes a lesson he learned on the hillside.

During the past couple of days a number of youngsters have been sledding down the hill behind our house. It brought back a lot of memories.

I can remember when I was a boy, and even a few years ago when we were living in the mountains, how much we enjoyed sledding. It was a great sport.

The ride down the long hills was always a real thrill. But then, at the bottom of the hill, we suddenly rediscovered an ancient truth: **you can only coast downhill!** When you reach the bottom, there is no more riding until you have climbed up again to the starting point.

There is a great deal of truth to ponder in that discovery. It is true of our work. It is easy to let things go for a while, putting them off to a later date. The coasting is delightful.

But we eventually come to the place where we find that we must now climb a long way to regain our starting place.

This law also applies in our spiritual life. People who have missed services several Sundays notice it is harder to get back again. The same is true for the person who neglects his personal witness for Christ. He learns that the more he coasts, the harder it is for him to begin again to fulfill the Lord's commandment to "go . . . and preach the gospel."

Brethren, **coasting is always downhill**, but the Master calls upon us to "come up higher." Make this a year of climbing rather than coasting.

Henry Bates is pastor of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church, Waynesboro, Pa.

Minister organizes TV boycott

Memphis, Tenn. (EP News)—A United Methodist minister has called for a nationwide "turn the television off week" in order to dramatize citizen protest against violence and poor program quality.

The Rev. Donald E. Wildmon announced his program in an open letter to his constituency. He called the industry's "Family Viewing" hour a "sham."

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth R. Jones, 54th, Feb. 23. Members of First Brethren Church, Kokomo, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Sherman Provines, 60th, Feb. 10. Members of First Brethren Church, Roann, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul LaDow, 61st, Feb. 7. Members of the Brethren Church, Elkhart, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Weaver, 50th, Jan. 29. Members of the Brethren Church, Elkhart, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Van Vactor, 55th, Jan. 17. Members of the Brethren Church, Elkhart, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry A. Leidy, 54th, Jan. 3. Members of the Vinco Brethren Church, Mineral Point, Pa.

Weddings

Susan Hauptert to Rodney Warren, Feb. 26 at North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church. Rev. Woodrow Immel, pastor, officiating.

Patricia Smith to John Steiner, Dec. 26 at Ashland, Ohio, Park Street Brethren Church. Rev. Donald Rinehart and Rev. Eugene Beekley, officiating. Members of First Brethren Church, Smithville, Ohio.

Pamela Brown to Wade Snyder, Dec. 23 at North Canton, Ohio, Trinity Brethren Church. Rev. John T. Byler, pastor, officiating.

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C-60	\$1.10
C-65	\$1.20
C-70	\$1.27
C-75	\$1.43
C-90	\$1.50
C-94	\$1.57

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Ashland, Ohio 44805



Missionary Interns Selected

a report by Fred Burkey

FOUR Brethren young people have been selected for Missionary Internships in Colombia, South America. We are proud to announce that Mark Baker, Joan McKinney, Rebecca Grumbling, and Thomas Keplinger will represent Brethren Youth on this foreign field. Following extensive language, cultural, and program preparation, they will leave the U.S.A. for Medellin about June 22, 1977.

During their six weeks in Colombia, the interns will assist the Solomons and Logans in a number of evangelistic and educational activities. Rev. Ken Solomon has suggested participation in two camping programs, one English-speaking and the other Spanish-speaking; literature distribution; musical presentations, testimonies and sharing in outdoor evangelistic meetings; and prayer and sharing times with missionary families.

In preparation for their field service, the interns are meeting weekly for language and cultural instruction from Mrs. Eugene (Peggy) Beekley, who is quite knowledgeable about the Colombian work. Peggy is an advanced student of the Spanish language and has visited the Brethren mission in Colombia several times. In addition she has collected many of the familiar Spanish choruses and songs on tape. The interns have also secured some music from Spanish publishers for use this summer.

Before introducing the interns further, it should be emphasized that all are or have been students of the Spanish language; all have had some experience abroad; and all have served well in team ministry situations previously. Now, something about each one:

Mark Baker is team leader, organizer, and photographer. Mark is 21 years old and is a senior at Ashland College, preparing for a pastoral ministry. He is from North Manchester, Indiana, and has served as assistant to the Director of Christian Education for two years. In 1974 and 1975, Mark served as a Summer Crusader with ONE (East) and NEW CREATION.

Rebecca Grumbling hopes to become a missionary to South America. She is 19 years old and is from Waterloo, Iowa. Becky is a sophomore at Ashland College, majoring in elementary education with a Spanish minor. Among her talents are piano and accordion, speech and drama. She has participated in a number of teacher training and evangelistic courses. Becky was a Summer Crusader in 1975 with NEW CREATION and visited the Colombian field in 1975.

Joan McKinney is a 22-year-old native of Tucson, Arizona. She is a junior at Ashland College, majoring in religion and business administration with a music minor. She, too, has had considerable experience in music, evangelism, and teaching. In addition to her other responsibilities, Joan is guitarist for the group. Prior to this experience, Joan worked as a member of the UP WITH PEOPLE, served as a Summer Crusader (THE TWELVE and NEW CREATION), and worked as a church intern at Manteca, California (1976).

Thomas Keplinger is from Washington, D.C. He is 20 years old and a sophomore at Ashland College, preparing for a career in elementary education or missions. Tom has had a variety of teacher training courses, camp and college choir experiences, and is the team athlete. He visited the Colombian mission in 1975. He worked with NEW CREATION and SONLIFE as a Summer Crusader.

We are confident that, with the prayer and financial support of the Brethren, this missionary venture will bear much good fruit. Progress reports will appear in the Brethren Evangelist and special updates will be mailed to interested persons. Inquiries and contributions may be directed to:

Colombian Missionary Internship Project
c/o Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805



Staff Photo

Missionary Interns to Colombia this summer will be (left to right) Becky Grumbling, Joan McKinney, Mark Baker, and Tom Keplinger.

Youth Week 1977

May 8-15, 1977, has been designated as Brethren Youth Week. The theme **Equipping Youth for Ministry** is a modification of the 1977 General Conference theme. It is anticipated that the Youth Week activities will lead naturally into the 1977 General Conference and National Brethren Youth Convention.

Suggestions for a special week-long series of events will be featured in the April issue of "Senior BYC Program Guidelines." Similar information will be mailed to all active pastors in late March.

Now is the time to really work at equipping our young people. For if we are faithful to our beliefs, we will be in the mainstream of our times. George Gallup recently described 1976 as "the year of the Evangelicals." Ours is currently the "hot movement in America," according to Gallup. People, especially the young, are willing to espouse a faith that is consistent with practice.

The Board of Christian Education challenges every local Brethren church to evaluate and strengthen the ministry to youth. Together we bear the responsibility for equipping youth for meaningful ministry.

Youth Week

May 8-15, 1977

*Equipping Youth
for Ministry*

1977 NATIONAL BYC PROJECT:



EME*

*Evangelistic Mobile Equipment!

BRETHREN Youth groups across the **B**land are attempting to raise funds for a **s**ound truck for evangelistic outreach in Colombia, S.A. The urgency of this project is underscored by Rev. Kenneth Solomon's belief that "... we are in a time of sowing here in soil that has never received the 'seed' even once. We must saturate this city (Medellin) with the Gospel. It is hoped that we might have the Evangelistic Van by then (summer—when the interns are in Colombia) so we can use their musical talent and testimony in nightly meetings in different parts of the city."

National Brethren Youth, through their Convention budget, are pledged to raise at least \$2500.00 toward purchase of the

Evangelistic Van by August 1977. Hopefully we can surpass that figure!

Included in every issue of our "Senior BYC Program Guidelines" are ideas for fund-raising for this important project. (By the way, the "Guidelines" are being sent free of charge to the advisors of Senior BYC groups registered with the BYC office, January through May 1977.) We urge adults to support the money-raising efforts of BYC groups for this worthy cause.

God has entrusted us with the "seed." Let us be faithful in providing every needed tool for those who have been called to "sow." The people seem willing—even anxious—to hear the Gospel. Our extra effort may make an eternal difference for many Colombians!

Educational Resources for Your Church

"My Faith in Action" is a program a church can use to increase attendance and membership in its Sunday School and other organizations. In brief, the program involves setting goals for attendance and new members; getting commitments to attend; recognizing achievement and progress; and enlisting new members. For further information and brochures, contact: Arthur Davenport Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 18545, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118.

Target-Group Evangelism, Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr. & Cal Thomas, Broadman Press, hardcover, \$3.95. Shows how Christians can "touch" all kinds of persons for Christ. For those who want to get involved.

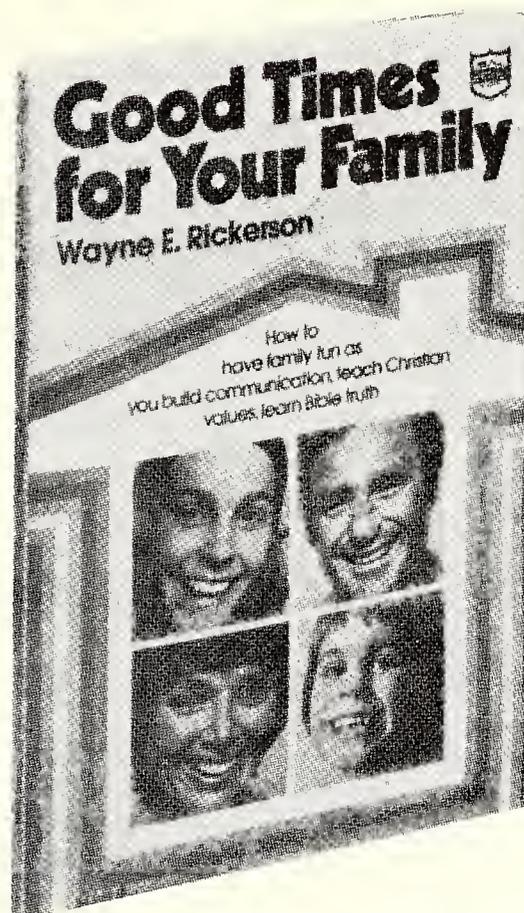
God's Church in Action, Joe Ragout & James Eckhardt, Scripture Press, 8½ x 11, paperback, \$6.95. Contains twelve overhead transparencies, duplicating masters, additional transparency suggestions, and instructions for teaching twelve sessions on the Book of Acts.

Creation: Evidence from Scripture and Science, Roy B. Zuck, Jr., Scripture Press, 8½ x 11, \$6.95. Twelve overhead transparencies, four duplicating masters, and instructions for five sessions on creation.

Hands on Learning and Inside-Out Learning are publications of Brethren House, 6301 56th Avenue, N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33709. Do-it-yourself ideas for the expressive involvement of children in Christian education. Useful for Sunday School teachers, VBS, and Sunday evening children's programs.

"Church & Family Forum" is a professionally-led seminar for persons who feel Christian families are important. For information, write: Church & Family Forum, P.O. Box 14249, Omaha, Nebraska 68114.

Teaching Over My Head is a valuable transparency set for the overhead projector. It describes many ways to use the overhead projector in teaching adults and children. From David C. Cook, \$19.95.



Good Times for your Family, Wayne E. Rickerson, Regal Books, paperback, \$2.95. A collection of over 100 practical fun times for Christian families. Includes suggestions for teaching Christian values.

Solo is ". . . an excitingly contemporary new magazine for singles (never married, divorced, or widowed)." Feature articles focus on building positive relationships, accepting one's self and others, growing as a person, becoming an effective parent, and many other real and special problems of today's singles. Subscription rate: \$6.00/year (6 issues); from RHS Institute, P.O. Box 369, Orange, CA 92640.

Games to Grow On is a Victor Book by Stan & Donna Leonard containing games and activities for children ages 4-12. Excellent for Sunday School teachers and children's church workers. A good resource at \$1.50.

Dynamics of Evangelism

a review by Arden Gilmer

Dynamics of Evangelism by Gerald L. Borchert (Word Books, 1976, 146 pp., \$5.95).

In the author's own words, "This book is intended for Christian lay people and ministers who genuinely desire to be more effective disciples of Jesus and who long to accept the Lord's summons on their lives for the task of evangelism."

But the book does not deal explicitly with evangelistic methods. Instead, believing that the Bible is the sourcebook for evangelism, Dr. Borchert proceeds to give an overview of the Scriptures from the perspective of evangelism. In the process he points out those items which deal with the message of evangelism, the methods of evangelism, and the men doing the evangelism. The result is an intermingling of the theological and the practical.

Beginning with the Old Testament, Dr. Borchert gives "Ancient Clues for Modern Evangelists" by selecting seven of its men and highlighting the aspects of their lives which deal with evangelism.

The Gospels, written by the four "Evangelists," are presented as evangelistic tracts designed to tell the world about the coming of Jesus Christ and the significance of his life, teaching, miracles, death, and resurrection. The author gives a synopsis of both the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of John to illustrate this point.

Dr. Borchert believes that almost every incident in Acts has implications for the person interested in evangelism. He sees Acts as "history written with a purpose of elucidating how the preaching of the gospel brings about the transformation of people through the power of the Holy Spirit." Looking at those first disciples, he writes, "Clearly, God does not use his people because they are strong or perfect. Instead, he uses them in spite of their weaknesses and inspires them to confidence in the midst of doubts."

Because Paul was one of the most dynamic evangelistic figures in all Christian history, Dr. Borchert uses four of his epistles as the framework for his chapter on "Advice for Struggling Evangelists." Another chapter shows how the book of Revelation serves as a sourcebook for evangelism.

I wholeheartedly agree with the author's statement that "Even though some believers have a special gift, nevertheless evangelism is the captivating task of **every Christian** in the church. For this task the Bible is and must be the Christian's sourcebook."

Arden Gilmer is director of home missions for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

New Titles

From Brethren House:

Inside-Out Learning by Phil and Jean Lersch and Bonnie Munson (1976, 50 pp., \$4.00) contains "expressive activities for Christian education." It is the second title in their "Three-Ring Bible Learning" series. (First book was **Hands On Learning**—reinforcement activities for Christian education.)

The manual is divided into two sections: open-ended tasks and writing. Descriptions of each activity include examples (how they have been used at Brethren House), values (rationale for using a particular form of expression), and a "how to" section (specific hints from authors' experiences).

An introduction precedes each section with general suggestions.

The authors prepared the manual because "we feel it can prompt some interesting and rewarding learning activities in the church school and youth groups."

Mail orders should be directed to: Brethren House, 6301 56th Avenue, North, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33709. Brethren House will pay postage when payment accompanies order.

From Lawrence W. Shultz:

Schwarzenau—1708-1976 by L. W. Shultz (1977, \$3.00) is an updated version of the author's 1953 work, **Schwarzenau, Where the Brethren Began in Europe**. Includes numerous photos.

Available from the Carpenter's Shop, 709 Claremont, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

From Word Books:

Colossians Speaks to the Sickness of Our Times by David Hubbard (1976, 96 pp., \$2.25 paperback). The president of Fuller Theological Seminary shares meditations on how the Bible brings us "the diagnosis of our sickness and the prescription for our wholeness."

Trustees Respond to Crisis

by Joan Ronk

Through a series of unfortunate circumstances for others, I was asked to attend the meeting of the trustees at Ashland College and to record the minutes. Sorrow for one became joy for me. This was a special experience, for which I am grateful.

Knowing most of the board members made it a pleasure. With several, I had talked on the phone. The very few others were strangers.

The board is a composite of 49 men and 5 women, several denominations (34 Brethren), and many professions (ministers, teachers, farmers, a dentist, physicians, a toolmaker, bankers, realtors, an architect, insurance men, a secretary, manufacturers, independent business owners, chemists, engineers, attorneys, a state representative, and a state senator). Some are retirees, most are actives.

The trustees are a group of devoted people, who serve without pay and attend the board meetings without remuneration for travel. They participate by discussing with insight, based on their experience and knowledge. They contribute financially. Because they have an interest in Ashland College and know the value of higher education in a church-related school, they give personally, encourage support from their churches, solicit gifts from their businesses or corporations, and serve as contact persons for prospective students and friends.

The trustees established a special Challenge Fund of \$25,000, which will be matched with a goal of \$25,000 from alumni, parents, and friends of Ashland College. In the past three years, alumni participation has increased from 7% to an expected 22% this year. The ultimate would be 100%—a gift from every alumnus/a!

Caught in the midst of the worst winter on record, the trustees were primarily concerned with the energy crisis. They felt the cold rooms, since the thermostats had been set back weeks before. Then a call from the Columbia Gas Company

interrupted the trustees cool comfort to say that all class buildings would be shut down over the week-end. The cold was paralyzing!

The budget was proposed, accepted, and balanced. Then came the energy crisis. The trustees authorized an Energy Conversion Campaign, which is necessitated by the extreme gas curtailment and severe winter temperatures. Every effort is being put forth now to keep the college open and to maintain its quality program. Converting to alternate heat systems, re-assigning classes, and using lounges in residence halls are measures currently in effect. The long-range plan must be alternate heating systems to prevent such problems in the future.

The cost of the Energy Conversion Campaign (ECC) is estimated to be \$100,000, and the conversion must be completed and paid for by fall, 1977. The trustees know the importance, to current and prospective students, of having a campus in A-1 condition, from heating facilities to dormitory furnishings (those were talked about, too).

It is apparent that each individual board member is highly important. Action on a motion requiring 30 affirmative votes was taken; then one member started his 500-mile ride home with a cheery "If you need me, I monitor Channel 19!"

The Presidential Search Committee has narrowed the field of applicants from 248 to 30. As their work continues, your prayerful support is invited.

The meeting was soon over. All departed, except Milford Brinegar. He had come via plane, Tuesday, from Carleton, Nebraska. The Cleveland airport and I-71 were closed Friday and Saturday. Finally, Sunday, Mr. Brinegar was on his way. What an experience!

As I see it, the trustees have the opportunity to participate fully in the program of the college. Some do not use the opportunity. Each trustee is a member of a standing committee and can voice his opinion upon every issue.

The 34 Brethren members represent us, but we are also important. We can pray, correspond, encourage, and contribute students and money. Unrestricted gifts can be used for student aid, salaries, library additions, equipment, etc. This is a vitally important area.

The Ashland College trustees meeting was a good place for me to be!

Views expressed in "As I See It" are strictly those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Joan Ronk is secretary to the vice president of student and resource development at Ashland College.

"As I See It" provides opportunity for our readers to express opinions that may or may not be held by the majority. The Brethren Evangelist welcomes submissions for this column and responses to articles appearing here. All contributions to this column should be written with the intent of edifying and enlightening the body of Christ.

Obstacles and Opportunities

(continued from page 14)

structure allows us to continue to work with the Brethren in India in our joint task of proclaiming the gospel in that country.

Growth continues in the Rajahmundry area under the leadership of Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar, growth both in the number of believers and in the number of additional churches in outlying villages. The many pastors and evangelists trained at the Brethren Bible Institute are at work fostering spiritual growth among new Christians. A new work among the women, led by Mrs. Nirmala Kumar, also opens doors to homes.

Both the physical and spiritual needs of the people are served. Literacy classes and medical services, used to serve physical needs, are followed by the proclamation of the gospel to provide for their even greater spiritual need.

The hospital in Rajahmundry provides free medical services daily to several hundred people, and the mobile clinics go—as funds and medicines permit—to remote villages where there are no medical facilities. Disaster victims are also helped.

Progress can be seen in the Visakhapatnam area too, under supervision of Rev. K. Vijaya Kumar, Area Director. A good congregation has been established in that

city, and a number of additional churches are in various stages of organization in outlying villages. Evangelistic work continues to be an important thrust of this area.

Other services include a Christian literature center and a youth center. The new medical clinic, under the supervision of Dr. Sujatha Kumar, wife of the Area Director, and the mobile clinics, which give medical services to the sick in out-lying villages, are also noteworthy.

The needs confronting our Brethren in India are infinitely greater than our abilities to provide. Yet, Christ would have us proclaim His message of faith and hope, provide spiritual nurture to responsive disciples, and practice the ministry of service to the poor, the widows, and the orphans.

Good News for Everyone!

(continued from page 9)

the historical events of the original writers into another time-space context. The Cotton Patch Version of the New Testament, brilliantly produced by Clarence Jordan, represents precisely such a cultural transposition. It substitutes "Washington, D.C." for "Rome" and gives the name of "Rock Johnson" to "Cephas, son of John." But Today's English Version attempts no such time-space transpositions, for the historical context of the Scriptures is an integral part of the unique message of the Bible.

A dynamic-equivalence translation also avoids adding to the text explanations which are not implicit in the text itself. For example, to qualify "the Law" (John 1:17) with the phrase "with its rigid demands and merciless justice" is to introduce something quite foreign to either the text at this place or even the Scriptures as a whole.

In a letter to a newspaper editor one teen-ager wrote, "I find that I can understand what I have read in Good News for Modern Man instead of being confused." The editor himself wrote, "I would imagine a great percentage of the residents of this country do not understand the Bible and its terminology any more than we understand legal documents," and he concluded by speaking of Today's English Version as "the only thing that has come through in our lifetime to let us read and understand the Bible in our own language."

Condensed from the forthcoming book *Good News for Everyone* by Dr. Eugene A. Nida, to be published by Word Books in 1977. Used by permission of the American Bible Society.

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Brethren Publishing Company
524 College Avenue
Ashland, OH 44805

church growth forum

Where Are We Going?

Arden Gilmer takes us on a "secret visit" to one church's official board meeting.

Welcome to the monthly meeting of the official board of the Brethren Church of Summertown. Let's turn into invisible men so that we can visit the meeting unnoticed.

By the time we enter, the meeting is already an hour and a half old. So far the board has politely listened to the reports of various committees.

The next item on the agenda is "new business." The pastor is eagerly waiting to present an exciting new idea. He had hoped to present it before everyone got tired and ready to go home. But, alas, the time was eaten up by a host of "housekeeping" items. As the pastor begins to speak, a few people look at their watches and yawn. Two ladies struggle to get their coats from the back of their chairs.

The pastor begins: "We have an exciting opportunity to begin a new outreach ministry." (The ladies are now trying to get that second arm into their coats.) "The youth superintendent and I have talked several times about a possible ministry to the young people who hang out on the downtown streets in the evenings. The youth say they congregate on the streets because there's nothing in town for them to do. The downtown merchants have complained that having all the young people on the sidewalks hurts their business. The newspaper has carried a couple of articles about the problem. The challenge to us: could we meet this need by giving the young people a place to meet, and also minister to them in the name of Christ, perhaps in a coffeehouse setting.

"We've done some investigating and found that we can rent a vacant storefront building near downtown for \$200 a month. The place is large enough to accommodate 80-90 people. We could set up a coffeehouse, sell soft drinks, provide entertainment, and have our church young people there to interact with the community youth. There would be many opportunities to give a positive witness for Christ."

Mr. Shoestring, the treasurer, says, "Pastor, that's a nice idea, but we're barely meeting our budget. Now you want us to take on an extra \$2400.00 per year. That's a lot of money to spend on a bunch of kids."

"Twenty-four hundred dollars—that's about how much it would take to repaint our sanctuary," says Mr. Trustee. "Why don't we do that instead."

The choir director, Mr. Melody, chimes in, "Two thousand four hundred dollars is a lot more than it would take to buy new choir robes. Just two months ago the board refused my request for new robes, saying we didn't have the money."

"I think our pastor ought to spend more time visiting our members of long standing rather than spending his time with youth who may never join our church," says Miss Little Vision. "After all, we pay his salary, and he should spend his time and energy ministering to members."

Other comments follow: "Who will pay for remodeling the storefront and decorate it? That will cost more money." "Who's going to supervise all this extra activity? It will take a lot of time and effort to organize everything. Everyone is already overburdened." "Do we want our kids mixing with those kids?"

The discussion goes on and on. Finally, because it is getting late, a motion is made to table the matter until a later meeting.

The need for direction

As invisible visitors we leave the meeting wondering, "What is the purpose of this church?" "Why didn't they ask, 'What does God want us to do? How does meeting this need relate to the mission of our church in this community?'"

All churches need a written **specific statement of purpose**. Such a statement would have unified this official board in movement toward a commonly shared goal. It would have clarified their discussion.

Tension often arises in a church because members fail to have a common understanding of the purpose or reasons for the existence of their church. Without this understanding, it is impossible for a church to develop a strategy, or even agree on how the pastor should spend his time.

Developing a specific statement of purpose is an experience which church leaders should undertake. In doing so they need to examine what the Bible says about the mission of the church. They must also look at the community to which their church ministers, discern its needs, and determine how they can meet those needs in the name of Christ.

Next month we will take a closer look at the ingredients of a specific statement of purpose, its values, and some examples written by other churches.

auxiliary programs for april

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signal lights

written by
Alberta Holsinger

Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus

Zaccheus Meets Jesus

Zaccheus lived in Jericho. He was a very rich man. He worked for the Roman government. He collected taxes from the people. The government told Zaccheus how much the people of his area should pay. He collected more than that amount so he would have some money for himself. That's how he got rich—by charging the people too much for taxes.

Zaccheus was very rich, but he was also very lonely. Nobody liked him because they had to pay so much money to him for their taxes. He would smile at people and say, "Good morning." But the people just turned away. "That's Zaccheus, the tax collector," they would grumble.

One day Zaccheus heard that Jesus was in Jericho. "Jesus helps people. I wonder if He could help me make friends," thought Zaccheus.

Then Zaccheus heard the people shouting, "Jesus! Here comes Jesus!"

Zaccheus ran outside. People were standing along the road. Everyone wanted to see Jesus. But Zaccheus couldn't see! He was too short. He stood on tiptoes. He couldn't see. He stretched his neck. Still he couldn't see.

"May I get through? Excuse me, please," he said to those standing nearby. No one moved for Zaccheus. He leaned against a sycamore tree. "What will I do?" he wondered. "How can I see Jesus over all these people?"

Then he had an idea. "I'll climb this tree!" He scrambled up the tree as fast as he could. "Now I can see!" he said.

Just then Jesus passed under the tree. He stopped. He looked up at Zaccheus. "Come down, Zaccheus," Jesus said. "I want to go to your house."

"To my house?" asked Zaccheus. He came down the tree even faster than he had gone up! "Oh yes, Jesus, come this way. I'll be glad for you to have supper with me," said Zaccheus.

Jesus and Zaccheus visited as they ate. Zaccheus knew Jesus was his friend.

"I'm sorry I've been so selfish," said Zaccheus. "I'll give half of everything I have to the poor. And I know I've taken too much money from many people. I'll give them back four times more than I took from them."

Jesus smiled at him. "God is pleased. You are one of those He sent me to save."

—Based on Luke 19:1-10

Memory Time: The Son of Man is come to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

Project: Sunday School in Malaysia

A Decision

Mai Dee had joined the group around the storyteller. When the storyteller finished the story about Jesus and the little children, Mai Dee went up to him.

"Will you please come to my house?" she asked. "Father and Mother want to hear about Jesus."

"Yes, I'll go with you," he answered.

"Mother! Father!" called Mai Dee. "The storyteller's here!"

"We are happy you came," said Father. "Mai Dee told us you said Jesus will answer our prayers."

"We have prayed a long time to our idol," added Mai Dee. "He doesn't answer our prayer."

"Will Jesus make my husband well?" asked Mother.

(continued on page 32)

Paul's Travels

Acts 15:36—18:22

“Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. . . .”
Acts 16:31 (RSV)

Antioch of Syria has been in our Acts study several times. It was from the church in this city that Paul and Barnabas had been sent out as missionaries. What kind of a city was it in Paul's time, about A.D. 45?

Antioch

The city was quite large, about a half million population, and people from many countries lived there, much like our big cities. There was a large Jewish population. Antioch was a great trading center: caravans came from the east, shipping trade came up the river, and the city controlled the north-south road.

Antioch was built so that the fresh breeze from the sea would blow up the streets, thus making summers there very pleasant. The main street was four and one half miles long. Streets were lighted at night by torches, the only city in that time to be so modern.

Paul and Barnabas worked here for some years, and many people believed. It was in Antioch that believers were first called “Christians.” From this church Paul and Barnabas were sent out on the first missionary journey, which we studied last month.

Second journey

This month's study begins with Acts 15:36. What happened in Acts 15:36-41? (Read) It is hard to imagine two missionaries quarreling, but verse 39 says there was a “sharp contention” (RSV) between Paul and Barnabas. The Bible tells the whole truth about people. God wants us to know his “chosen ones” are human beings with likes and dislikes. This division resulted in two missionary teams. It is also the last we hear of Barnabas. In revisiting the churches Paul came to

Lystra

What two things happened to Paul in this town in last month's study?

Here Paul met a young man, perhaps sixteen or seventeen, named Timothy, who became his traveling companion until Paul was killed. Do you suppose Timothy saw Paul beaten and left for dead five years before?

Troas

Paul, Silas, and Timothy came to Troas in their travels. What happened there? Read Acts 9:10. Notice the change from “he” to “we” and “us.” From this passage in Acts we assume that Luke joined Paul, Silas, and Timothy. Follow the “we” in your Bibles and see what part Luke had in Paul's travels.

Paul's obedience to the vision led the missionary party on to

Philippi

What two events happened here? Have the stories told.

In June 1964 my husband and I went to Greece to visit some of the places where Paul traveled. We flew to Neapolis (Kavalla today) where Paul landed.

We went by car to Philippi over the modern road which is on top of parts of the old one Paul and his party used. The town was about four hundred years old when Paul was there.

Much of the town has been excavated, showing the remains of buildings of all kinds. The base of the judgment seat is there. I had some inner emotions as I thought of Paul and Silas being beaten at that place.

There is also a theater built into a hill one thousand feet high. It is estimated that it could seat about five thousand people. I had a magnificent view of the plains and mountains as I sat high up on the stone seats.

After the release from prison, Paul, Silas, and
(continued on next page)

Planning the Meeting

1. Use the Easter meditation for the beginning of your meeting. Read Matthew 28:1-10 before sharing the meditation. (See page 32.)
 2. Follow Paul on Bible lands maps.
 3. Read Acts 18:23 through chapter 24.
 4. Take Bibles to monthly meetings.
-

Timothy moved on. It would seem from Acts 16:40 that Luke stayed in Philippi, for "we" changes to "they." The missionaries continued west, probably on the Via Egnatia, passed through a couple towns, and came to the city of

Thessalonica

We, too, went west by car and again traveled over part of the old road, now modern. At Amphipolis there is a landmark which Paul, Silas, and Timothy may have seen. Our driver stopped so that we could get pictures. It is a large stone lion on a high base. The broken pieces of it were found some years ago and put together again. There he sits, in all his majesty, guarding the

Signal Lights

(continued from page 30)

"Jesus is the Son of the true God," explained the storyteller. "He can see you. He can hear you. He answers prayers in the way that is best."

"Will our idol be angry if we pray to Jesus?" asked Mai Dee.

"What is your idol made of?" asked the storyteller.

"Stone," replied Mai Dee.

"Can he see or hear?" asked the storyteller. Mai Dee shook her head.

"Then he can't answer your prayer," said the storyteller. "He isn't real. Jesus is real. Jesus can help if you believe Him."

"What you say is true," said Father. "Our idol is not real. He cannot help us."

"Will you show us how to pray to Jesus?" asked Mother.

"First you need to know who Jesus is so you can believe He will answer your prayers. If I may I'll come everyday after the story time to teach you about Him."

"Yes," said Father. "We want you to come. We want to learn about Jesus."

The storyteller visited Mai Dee's home everyday for a month. Then Father said, "We know what you are telling us is true. We believe Jesus is the Son of the true God. We want Him to be our Savior. Will you baptize us?"

"You know many of your friends will no longer come to see you if you become Christians," said the storyteller.

"We know," answered Mother.

"Some of your relatives may not speak to you when you stop worshiping the idol," reminded the storyteller.

"That's true," said Father, "but we want to be followers of the true God."

"Then I will baptize you Sunday," said the storyteller.

Mai Dee helped Mother carry the idol out of their house. In its place they put the Bible the storyteller had given them. "When Father is well and I go back to school, I'll learn to read the Bible," said Mai Dee.

"You are going back to school tomorrow," said Mother. "The storyteller's friend will stay with Father."

"Tomorrow!" said Mai Dee. "Jesus is answering some of my prayers already!"

road. He was built in the early part of the fourth century B.C., making it about four hundred twenty-five years old when Paul went that way.

Our driver stopped at the little town which is thought to be where Appollonia was. It was a rest stop, and a gasoline stop for the car. It is just a small Greek village on the main highway.

On to Thessalonica, which today is a large city. Our hotel was on the water front, and the sea was beautiful. In Paul's day the city may have had a population of about two hundred thousand. There are many churches in Thessalonica today, some of them very old—a tribute to the preaching of Paul and his helpers, and a testimony to God's saving power through Christ.

Athens

Paul then went to Beroea where the "learners" were eager to know the right way. They "searched the scriptures (Old Testament) daily" to find out if Paul was speaking the truth.

From Beroea Paul was taken to Athens by friends, and for some time he was alone in that great city. He saw it in all its beauty and longing for the true God. We saw it in ruins, which are still beautiful. One temple which Paul saw, undoubtedly, is still standing complete. Words cannot describe its beauty.

After Paul preached the sermon in Acts 17, he left Athens and went to

Corinth

At Corinth Paul lived with fellow tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla, who had recently arrived from Rome. After Silas and Timothy came to Corinth and joined Paul, the ministry increased and many believed.

As we walked the streets of Corinth and saw the remains of shops and other buildings that Paul had seen, we felt a renewed admiration for him. Standing in front of the judgment place (Bema seat), we were reminded of some of the hardships he endured to preach the Good News.

Paul left Corinth and made his way back to Antioch once again. Read Acts 18:18-22.

Easter

Read Matthew 28:1-10

"Christ is risen," is the Easter greeting, and the reply comes, "He is risen indeed!" This was the salutation of the Christians in the early church. Today it is still the Easter greeting of Christians in Jerusalem and other towns of the Holy Land.

The angel told the women to "go and tell" that Jesus was not in the tomb, but had been raised from the dead as He had told the disciples he would be. What joy must have been theirs as they ran to spread the good news that Jesus was alive. Be thankful you are a young woman, for, as a Christian, you are a special messenger of news of great joy.

May this Easter be a time of joy for each of you in your personal lives as you "go and tell" the Good News: "Christ is risen." "He is risen indeed!"

Remember back on December 31 and January 1, when you made those New Year's resolutions? Can you remember what they were? Not much of the year has gone by, but I'll bet most of those good ideas of January 1 are forgotten.

I did something a little different this year. After thinking about it a few days, I made two general **goals** for the year. (I didn't call them resolutions because that gives the idea that I'll forget about them quickly.) Then I wrote them down, including the things I was going to do to accomplish the goals, and put them with my Bible and my daily prayer list. That way I would be conscious of them nearly every day.

Another change has been the beginning of a journal. It's not a diary, where I write all the activities of the day, but just a place where I can keep my feelings. Whenever I'm very upset or happy, or just feel like talking to God, or looking at myself in writing, I jot down what I want to say. I've learned that I can sometimes know how I feel easier by taking the time to write it, usually in the form of a letter to God. And if I'm upset, it almost always makes me feel much better. I've noticed that almost every journal entry has ended in a "Thank you, God" or "Praise the Lord," or a similar phrase. It really is uplifting. This shows me how valuable it is to **take time** to talk with God!

One other purpose of my journey is to keep track of myself, mainly how well I'm accomplishing my New Year's goals. It's been interesting, so far, to see how I'm working at the goals and how often I fail. I know, even in this short time, I have made progress, and I praise God for helping me.

My goals are in the area of relationships: my relationship with God and my relationships with other people.

My relationship with God is probably the farthest from being perfect. I don't spend enough time with Him, I don't keep Him first in my mind enough, and I don't read His Word as much as I should. These are the areas I'm working on, and, I will add, I've seen improvement already! It's hard sometimes to make myself do it, but I know the benefits.

My relationships with other people need some improvement, too. I don't keep in touch with my faraway friends very regularly; I don't spend enough time talking to my friends who are near; and with a group of friends, I don't let others talk enough! My friends are so special to me I don't want our relationships to be imperfect (although I know between humans nothing could ever be perfect).

By the time this is published, it will be time for me to make an evaluation of the first quarter of the year concerning my goals. I hope you can remember your goals or resolutions now and think about improving yourself through them this year, even if you need to begin now. God wants us to be the best we can be, and I know He will help us, as we strive to improve ourselves.

Nancy

1977 SMM Scholarship

This year the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha of the Brethren Church will award a scholarship in the amount of \$200 to an active Sisterhood girl for her freshman year at the college of her choice.

To receive an application for the scholarship, please fill out the form below and return it to Nancy Ronk, 227 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805. We will also need the names and addresses of your Sisterhood patroness, pastor, and high school guidance counselor.

SMM Scholarship

I would like to receive an application for the 1977 SMM Scholarship.

My name is:

address

city, state, zip

My SMM Patroness is:

address

city, state, zip

My pastor is:

address

city, state, zip

My high school guidance counselor is:

school address

city, state, zip

Return this form to:

Nancy Ronk
227 College Ave.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Be sure to include all information.

False Alarms!

Ron Waters wonders how often we can cry "Wolf!"

IT usually happened about 2:30 Saturday mornings. The girls had to be in their dormitories by that time. And the guys returning to their own rooms had to find some new form of entertainment.

So they presented their sleeping buddies with a little present: a fire alarm.

I can still vividly remember those weekend nights in college housing. The fire alarm buzzer was outside my door, so my roommate and I received its full fury.

The first few times an alarm sounded, we scrambled out of bed, threw on some clothes, and hurried down seven flights of stairs. Then we stood outside in the cold while waiting for the fire department to arrive. After a clearance check was completed, we returned to the warmth of our rooms, wondering why anyone would cause so much inconvenience for so many people.

Recently Brethren have joined other evangelicals in sounding some false alarms to the "sleeping giant"—our federal govern-

"Before long we learned to sleep right through the alarms without waking."

ment. Cards and letters by the thousands have flooded the Federal Communications Commission office concerning a long-settled petition.

Unfortunately, a rumor continues to spread across the country and from church to church. It states that Madalyn Murray O'Hair has been granted a hearing on a petition that would "eliminate the proclamation of the gospel via the airwaves of America."

The petition number usually cited is R.M. 2493, one assigned to the Milam-Lansman petition, which was denied in August 1975. (The intent of that petition was **not** to remove all religious programs from the air. Rather, it raised a technical question concerning the licensing of educational stations.)

Though the rumor is false and the petition was settled in 1975, requests for

"fast action" continue to find their way into church bulletins and monthly mailers. The notices are often accompanied by requests for one million letters to the FCC.

Naturally, this has caused the FCC great consternation and untold paperwork. According to a recent news item in Christianity Today, the commission has received nearly four million pieces of mail **since** the petition was denied.

AFTER a year or so of false alarms, I found that I was bounding out of bed much more slowly. In fact, before long several of us learned to sleep right through the alarms without waking—as hard as that seems, considering the racket the thing makes.

Sounding false alarms always raises the question of credibility. If evangelical response to R.M. 2493 had been the only false alarm sounded, it might be excusable.

But a year ago congressional proponents of the controversial Child and Family Services Act were also inundated with mail. Again, rather than addressing the issues of the act, countless misinformed writers focused on subjects not even included in the bill. One of the sponsors noted, "I am only pleading for an honest dialogue."

Certainly we must remain aware of actions that will destroy or restrict our freedoms. But the proverbial story of the boy who cried "Wolf" once too often could become a reality for us if we are not more astute about our actions. The alarm that has lost credibility is easily ignored, even in the face of imminent danger.

When asked to write a letter of protest, **please** be certain the "facts" you have are really facts. If you have any doubt, call the Central Council Office or the Brethren Evangelist. We will be happy to check with NAE's public affairs office in Washington. If there is a bona fide need for action, we will add our support.

But if it is merely another false alarm, maybe we can save you and the church another black eye . . . as well as keep the possibility open for a listening ear when the alarm is justified.

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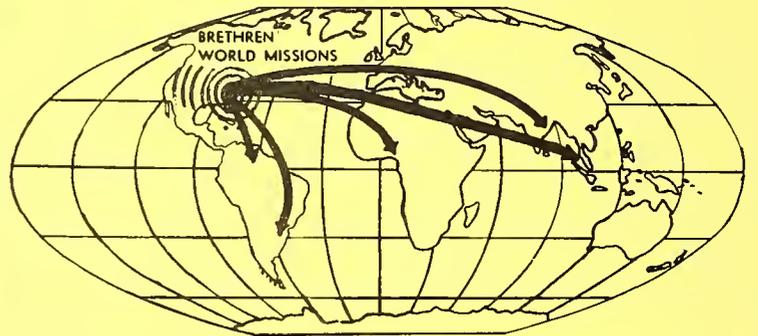
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EVANGELIST

April 1977



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World Relief Under-5 Clinics in Bangladesh

Abdul, one of many children under 5 years of age to receive medicine and food, is responding very well. Though still undersized (weighing only 17 pounds at age 5), he now has hope of growing strong.

This child will live! That warm, maternal glow expresses joy, for this, her fourth son, has a chance of growing up to full maturity. Three previous sons had died of malnutrition.

For more about Brethren World Relief, see pages 10-14 and the inside back cover.

APRIL IS WORLD RELIEF MONTH

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524 College Ave.

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Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Cover

"This do in remembrance of me." The bread and cup are symbols of Christ's sacrifice for mankind. (Photo, by John Rowsey, taken in Ronk Memorial Chapel.)

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Enough to Eat.

Do you seek a sign?

The people asked, "Lord, what will you do for a sign, that we may see it and believe in you?"

And did Jesus perform a miracle before their eyes? Did He turn the water into wine? Did He make the blind to see, or the deaf hear? Did He make the dead live, the lame walk, the infirm whole?

No!

Granted, He performed many miracles. The record is clear on that point.

But when the request came as a basis of belief, He offered no sign.

Only the sign of Jonah . . . three days and three nights, entombed.

And that was hard to believe.

And Jesus appeared in the midst of the twelve and said, "Peace . . ." But Thomas was not with them. And he said, "Unless I see the nailpoints and touch the wounded side, I will not believe."

But Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe."

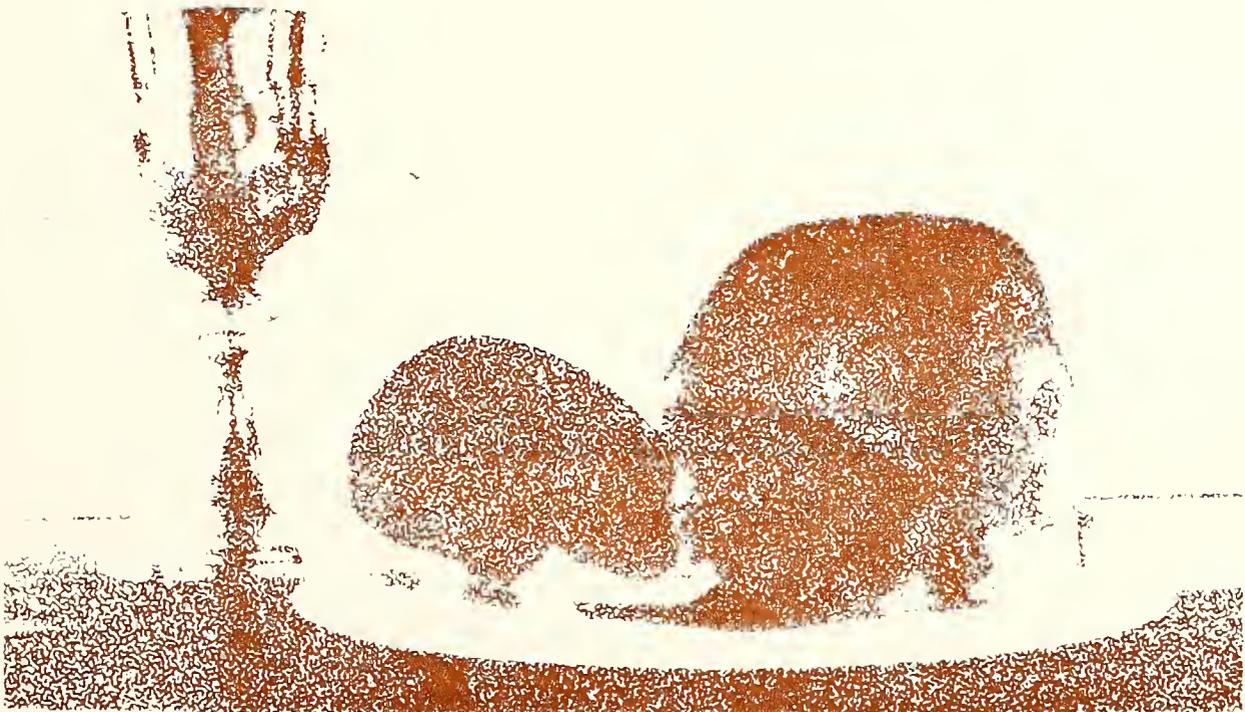
How often we say, "Lord, I believe. But give me some sign to know for sure . . . some special gift . . . some uncanny understanding . . . and unique ability. Prove yourself to me, without a doubt."

But He is silent. For we have a sign, the sign of Jonah. Entombed three days and returned to life. What more can we ask?

During this season believers around the world will gather. There will be towels and basins, meat and cheese, broken bread and the cup . . . symbols of the Servant, the Brother, the Life-Giver. What more sign can we seek?

Lord, give us eyes to see. Keep us from continually seeking proof. What more sign can we seek than what has been given . . . the broken body, the shed blood, the glorious renewal of life."

Do you seek a sign? "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe."



10 REASONS

Paul Kienel tells why you should send your child to a Christian school.

THE Christian school movement is the fastest growing educational movement in America today. **The U.S. News and World Report** and **Christian Life** magazines have referred to the rapid proliferation of Christian elementary and secondary schools as the "Boom in Protestant Schools" and "The Christian School Explosion." Christian schools are currently being established across the United States at the rate of two new schools a day. In California we average one new Christian school each week.

During the 10 years I have served as the Executive Director of the Western Association of Christian Schools, our association has grown from 68 to 500 member schools and colleges. Enrollment in our schools has jumped from 11,388 to 63,131 students. Obviously parents by the thousands have opted to send their youngsters to Christian schools as opposed to secular public schools. As a parent who sends my children to Christian schools and speaks to thousands of parents on the radio and on tour, permit me to share ten reasons why you should send your children to Christian schools:

Accountable to God

You are accountable to God for what your children are taught in school. Proverbs 22:6 is a direct command to parents. It

Dr. Paul A. Kienel is the author of THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: WHY IT IS RIGHT FOR YOUR CHILD, and AMERICA NEEDS BIBLE CENTERED FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS. He is the executive director of the Western Association of Christian Schools.

His organization publishes a periodical entitled "Christian School Comment" which is available free of charge by writing to W.A.C.S., P.O. Box 4097, Whittier, Calif. 90607.

says, "Train up a child in the way he should go. . . ." What your children are taught in school should be a direct extension of your parental views. The teachers under whom your children are taught should be the kind of teachers you would personally hire if your children were being educated in your home.

Christian schools offer a better level of instruction. There is no question about it. The test scores over a long period of years are conclusive. The annual Stanford Achievement Test administered to first through eighth grade Christian school students in the western states shows them to be six to sixteen months ahead of the national norm in reading and five to nine months ahead of the national norm in all general subject areas.

No person neutral

The Bible does not teach that children should be exposed to all kinds of sin. We are to train "up" a child, not point him downward. Children do not grow spiritually stronger in a negative non-Christian environment. Students do not become stronger Christians by being taught non-Christian thinking, but by being taught Christian thinking, and there is no such person as a "neutral" school teacher who neither advances nor inhibits religion. School represents 16% of your child's time. It is prime time, a training time, and Christian school education represents a positive Bible-centered form of instruction that will build a child up in the faith—not tear him down. Proverbs 19:27 says, "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge."

The Christian school is right for your child because the Christian school has not

“The teachers under whom your children are taught should be the kind of teachers you would personally hire if your children were being educated in your home.”

cut itself off from the most important book in the world—the Bible, important in that it enables us to see the light we need in education. Without the Bible, education is nothing more than the blind leading the blind. Standards for morality must be taken from Scripture alone, not from situations as often taught in secular schools. As Theodore Roosevelt stated, “To train a man in mind and not in morals is to train a menace in society.”

Opportunity to witness

The Christian school provides an opportunity for your child to witness for Christ. This surprises some people because they assume all students in a Christian school are Christians. In most cases a majority are Christian; however, in every Christian school there are always some students who need the Savior. Christian students are trained and encouraged to reach these youngsters for Jesus Christ. Witnessing in a Christian school has the support of parents, students, teachers, administration and the school board. Presenting Christ as Savior is not illegal in a Christian school.

The Christian school educators teach all subject matter from a Christian context. They put the Bible at the center of the curriculum and ask the student to evaluate all they see in the world through the eyes of God. To quote Dr. Roy Zuck, a Christian educator,

The secular vs. Christian school issue is really a question of whether a child will learn to view life from man's perspective or God's perspective. From man's viewpoint, history is purposeless; from God's viewpoint, history has meaning. From man's viewpoint, science is the laws of “nature” at work; from God's viewpoint, science is the outworking of His laws.

In a Christian school, a student is exposed to the centrality of God in all of life. In public education, a student is legally

“sheltered” from this important dimension of education.

Christian schools support the family as the number one institution of society. Christian school educators train students to respect their parents. These educators agree with the early American patriot, Noah Webster, who said, “All government originates in families, and if neglected there, it will hardly exist in society.”

“The atheists have, for all practical purposes, taken over public education in this country.” Shocking words, yes, but they were spoken by a prominent public school educator, Dr. W. P. Schofstell, Arizona State Superintendent of Schools. Paradoxically, many public school personnel openly support Christian school education. As a matter of fact, the largest group among the parents who send their children to Christian schools are public school teachers and principals. I conducted a nationwide survey among these public school educators. The following statement is typical of the responses I received:

I prefer to send my children to a Christian school because Christ is central to all information taught and caught. The public school is basically humanistic and materialistic in its approach to life and the fundamental questions of human existence and purpose. The Christian school holds a unique position with the home and the church.

Christian school educators maintain discipline in the classroom and on the playground. Without a reasonable standard of discipline, the process of education is severely hampered. “For whom the Lord loves, He disciplines. . . .” the Bible teaches. And it is within that context of love that discipline is carried out in a Christian school. This important feature of education is rapidly disappearing from public school education. According to the recent **Gallup Poll of Public Attitudes Toward Education**,

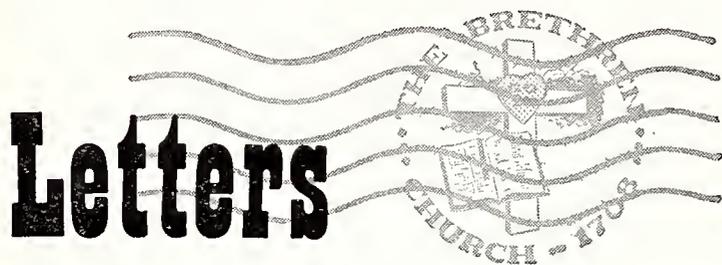
Lack of discipline in the public schools again heads the list of problems cited

most often by survey respondents. Discipline has, in fact, been named the number one problem of the schools in five of the last six years. New evidence of its importance comes from the special survey of high school juniors and seniors. An even higher percentage of this group names discipline as the leading problem faced by the local public school.

“We believe that our children are gifts of the Lord. We are responsible as parents to train them according to His Word not

only at home and in church, but in school as well.” This statement was made by a parent in response to a question on an application form for enrollment of his children in a Christian school.

More and more parents, especially Christian parents, are coming to the conclusion that secular public education and most of its teachers and principals no longer represent their personal parental views. These parents are exercising their freedom of choice and sending their children to Christian schools and colleges.



On Christian and Public Schools

Responses to “What Are Your Children Learning,” an editorial appearing in the February issue (page 34).

Dear Editor,

I read your editorial about our public schools.

If we withdraw from the public school system to have Christian schools, we forfeit our right to say what shall be taught in the public school. We also help build a barrier between the children who attend the public and private schools. The fighting in Ireland is an extreme example of fear and distrust.

If people will work through their parent-teacher associations and are willing to serve on committees to read textbooks before they are ordered, they could influence the textbooks that the school buys. The publishing companies will print anything that will sell.

If we believe that a well-informed citizenry is essential to the welfare of our country, then it is our duty to support a good school system for all of our children.

I have donated my time for over twenty years, serving on the local school board, and nine years as a trustee of Ashland College.

Milford K. Brinegar
Carleton, Nebraska

Dear Editor,

This is a first for me! I have never written to a paper or a magazine before, but I had such feelings well up as I read your editorial in the February issue of the Evangelist that I felt led to reply.

This past year we removed our second grader from public schools and placed her in a Christian school. I would like to tell you why.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us as parents to “train up a child in the way he should go. . . .” This is a matter of **living**. Every moment of the child’s life he is being trained—either for good or bad. We take our children to Sunday School, but we cannot

expect that hour of training to be the basis for living if that is the only time they hear about living a Christian life. Just how many hours a day are we, as parents, able to spend with our children as examples, as teachers, as counselors? Not many I am afraid. As a result the child spends most of his day with a stranger. (How much do you know about your child’s teacher?)

As Christian parents we feel the Bible is the basis for all of our life. Every time our children are disciplined we try to use what the Bible says about their behavior or the way it should be. We cannot do this in the few hours a day we are with the children. We need help! We need Christian educators to reinforce the ideals and beliefs we wish to instill in our children. This cannot be done in a society that has such disregard for authority and the rules of proper conduct as we see evidenced in our public schools. We want our children to have healthy, Christ-centered views, particularly in regard to sex and the development of mankind (evolution). I think it was Paul Harvey who said in essence, we win, not by isolation, but by infiltration, **provided** we are insulated! We cannot expect our children to infiltrate our present society without first being insulated.

With the help of dedicated Christian educators and the standards of conduct, dress, and academics of the Christian school our daughter attends, we pray that she will grow up to be able to live a consistent, dedicated, Spirit-filled life, and will be better able to cope with society.

Can we afford it? We can’t afford not to—and still fulfill our responsibility given in Ephesians 6:4 to raise our children in Christian discipline and instruction. We feel we are giving her a **better** education than the public school system offers.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Coleman
Waterloo, Iowa

While there is certainly danger in overemphasizing church membership, I firmly believe it is important and should be a part of every Christian's experience. If a church is worth worshipping in on a regular basis, it is worth identifying with beyond mere physical presence.

Still, some people hesitate to join a church. Some do not see the importance of uniting with other Christians. Others are afraid to get their roots down deep for fear of being coerced to serve, give, etc.

A third "reason" some give is that the Bible says nothing about church membership. True; but the Bible also says nothing about Sunday school, youth

Belonging

groups or Sunday evening services—would you want therefore to do without these?

Still another reason some fail to unite with a church is their own spiritual instability, which manifests itself in their becoming either "church hoppers" (drifters) who enjoy spiritual buffets but who never stop long enough to analyze their own instability and change the pattern, or "fence sitters," those who prefer to spend their lives resting upon indecision.

But why join a church? It will not buy your ticket to heaven. It will not give you more "brownie points" with God. It will not even guarantee that you will be a stronger Christian.

Basically the Church of Jesus Christ is a living organism, not an organization. That is what distinguishes it from the PTA. However, the larger an organism becomes, the more essential organization becomes. A single-celled amoeba needs no organization. As cells multiply, however, organization becomes imperative for the health of the organism and the cells. Our human bodies have an enormous amount of organization to function properly.

One reason for church membership is that the Body of

The case for church membership

by Thomas D. Fraser

is Beneficial

Christ needs to function in a healthy, unified, organized manner for the spiritual health of both the whole and individual members.

A second reason for membership is that the church needs safeguards. It needs those who can protect its spiritual integrity and promote its spiritual growth. The primary requirement for membership in our church is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior. This is of paramount importance if the church is to be what its name signifies: the **ekklesia**, "the called-out-ones," those that belong to the Lord.

A pastor can serve most effectively if he knows that his congregation is fully committed not only to the Lord but also

to the goals and objectives of the church. Membership signifies to the pastor: "I'm with you. I believe in what this church is trying to do and become."

Becoming a member enables the Christian to identify fully with God's people within that fellowship. A member never feels on the "fringe" of church life.

A bewildered world needs churches willing to declare what

they believe. It needs Christians who will commit themselves to a fellowship that can be recognized by the world as having found real faith.

Finally, becoming a member will enable the Christian to serve the Lord most freely and effectively. Jesus said, "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

If you attend a Bible-centered church that is committed to faithfully teaching and preaching the whole gospel but have not officially joined that fellowship, can you give one good reason why you should not?

The church needs you. You need the church.

From the October 6, 1976, issue of THE ALLIANCE WITNESS. Used by permission.



A letter to say

Brethren, You Are There!



Dear Concerned Ones:

Through the years your continuing compassion for suffering humanity around the world, as spearheaded by the creative presentations of Rev. Phil Lersch, has been of great encouragement to the World Relief Commission.

My introduction to your sensitivity to God's concern for those in need was in 1968, when my husband brought back an enthusiastic report of your General Conference. A "Soup Supper" comprised of soup, crackers, and beverage cost you the price of a full dinner. The difference was given to WRC "to help a starving child live another day."

At that time WRC was helping thousands of children to stay alive another day during the **Nigeria/Biafra** war. And through your gifts, **you were there**. Sacrificing one meal brought eternal results, as you will see by the following experience.

Only occasionally does WRC hear directly from those who have been helped, because most are illiterate. But recently we received a letter from a Nigerian who was probably a teen-ager during the war. "Through your relief I and my family were able to survive the 30-months civil war," he wrote. They had fled out into the bush, and someone had head-packed food to them.

And, as often happens, food for the body is blessed by God and becomes food for the soul. The Nigerian goes on: "My happiness is not only that God provided food, but that he saved me from my sins. I now want to become a preacher of the gospel."

At the present time **you are there** in **Haiti**, where 7,000 children receive a breakfast in thirty-four feeding programs in schools and nutrition centers. Dr. Claude Noel, director of the Council of Evangelical Churches, said that the children wanted to learn, but were sick and apathetic from malnutrition. "I have a feeling for children," he said, "and initiated breakfast before school." The children are now alert and bright. "The meal they get is the only one many will have for the day." Haiti's poverty has been aggravated by recent severe drought.

You are there in **Bangladesh**, where one of WRC's projects is the Under-Five Clinic near Chittagong, where food and medical care are dispensed. Three years ago, when I saw pictures of these starving, sick children, I had to force myself to look at them so I could write about their need. What a difference, in recent photos of children, after three years of loving care. The little skeletons have fleshed out. Arms, legs and rib cage are no longer pitiable skin and bones. Faces are round. Eyes, shining and alert.

One mother, holding her infant son close, exulted: "This child will live!" She had lost three previous sons from malnutrition. It isn't only that the children will live, but that they will enjoy a quality of life which gives them a head start for the future.

Through your generosity, **you are there** in **over twenty countries** where WRC sends immediate disaster aid or supports long-range self-help programs.

Blessings on you all!
Lillian H. Graffam

Mrs. Graffam has been WRC's staff writer for nine years.

"Christian" is two-thirds "Christ"

A World Relief message by Dr. L. E. Lindower.

FOR whatever reason the name Christian has been applied to believers—derision, accusation, or respect—it has indicated association with Jesus Christ. Six of the nine letters spelling that appellation represent the One who lived and died on the earth to help, heal, and save people.

What image of our Lord Christ do we Christians reflect in the world? How can we project a true Christ picture? What are some of His likenesses preserved for us in the Bible?

Prominent are pictures of Jesus' compassion. His teachings attracted great multitudes to the desert where He sought rest. But His compassion required that He heal their sick. "And when the people heard, they followed Him on foot out of the cities, and Jesus went forth and saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion toward them, and He healed their sick" (Matthew 14:13, 14).

Likewise, when they remained with Him without food, compassion provided their food. "And Jesus called His disciples and said, 'I have compassion on the multitude because they continue with me now three days and have nothing to eat, and I will not send them away fasting lest they faint in the way' . . . and they did all eat and were filled" (Matthew 15:32, 37).

As He taught and healed, Jesus saw the multitudes as a scattered and confused flock of sheep. "But when He saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion on them because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). He presented Himself as the Shepherd who would give His life for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep."

He applied the commandment, "Love thy neighbor," to the stranger needing help, whose need was met personally and sacrificially. "But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'"

And Jesus answering said, 'A certain man . . . fell among thieves which stripped him of his raiment and wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead . . . but a certain Samaritan . . . had compassion on him'" (Luke 10:29, 30, 33).

He taught that to provide food, shelter, clothing, healing, and comfort for the needy was a ministry to Him. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

Showing His compassion

How can we be Christian in the world? How can we exemplify and present that Person whose name is two-thirds of our title? We must continue His compassion, His love, His sacrificial giving around the world. Jesus' reply to the lawyer who asked, "Who is my neighbor?" applies to all who claim his name: "Go and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37).

The Apostle John needles our consciences with his searching question: "But whoso hath this world's good and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in Him?" (I John 3:17).

Of course, we can't have compassion without the "agape" of God operating. Christians claim to receive it by the new birth. And we Brethren have a means of letting "agape" work out from us through our World Relief giving. Let's allow Christ's compassion to have control again this year.

Dr. L. E. Lindower, retired dean of Ashland College, is a member of the Brethren World Relief Board and deeply involved in the Park Street Church and Brethren Care in Ashland, Ohio





World Relief and Missions

A first-person report by Bob Bischof.

IN the middle of May, 1957, the Mbororo Mission station was opened in Nigeria. Bea and I moved there and lived in what was to be the dispensary building until our house was finished. It was our thought not to begin medical work immediately, since we did not have a building to use as a dispensary. We just wanted to move there, continue to supervise the building program, and work with the out-village evangelists in the outreach work of the church.

It was late in the day when we arrived at Mbororo. The rains had already begun, the road was very muddy, and the river crossing had taken longer than expected.

As the dawn began to break on our first day at Mbororo, we heard voices outside. Getting up, we went to the door and looked out. To our surprise there were more than 25 people standing around under the big tree in front of the house. We quickly got dressed and went out to see why these folks were there. They had come for medical treatment! Bea said, "We are not prepared to give you medicine and to care for your physical needs yet. We do not have medicine with us, we do not have a hut to house the medical supplies, and I do not have anyone to help me in this work."

But the answer was, "You are missionaries, aren't you?"

"Yes," Bea replied.

Then they said, "We have heard that where the missionary is there is medicine, there is education, together with word about God."

What do you answer under such circumstances? We looked at the people standing there. A number of them had eye diseases and flies hovering over the matted eyes; women were holding malnourished and sick children; one man had a leg about the size

of a small tree trunk; and a mother was holding a baby that had rolled into the fire during the cold night and was badly burned. We could not say, "We have just brought you the word that God loves you; in fact, that he loved you so much that he sent his son to die for you; so go away with these wonderful words and live in the love of God."

No, we thought of Jesus and how he looked on the multitude with compassion, how he fed them when they were hungry, and how he healed them when they were sick. So that very day we sent a messenger off to Lassa for medicine and wrote a letter to the doctor asking that a trained dispenser be sent to help Bea. That morning I took the masons off the work on the house and put them to work building a round hut to use as a dispensary.

Physical and spiritual

Jesus' ministry dealt with the physical aches and pains of a person as well as his spiritual needs. Thus it is that every missionary—though he goes to the mission field with the express purpose of teaching God's Word and bringing the people to a saving knowledge of God—when he sees people hungry, is compelled to help them with food; when he sees them physically ill, is compelled to help them with medicine; when he sees them unable to read and write, is compelled to bring them schools. For he recalls the words of Jesus, "For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was lonely and you made me welcome, I was naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you came and looked after me. I was in prison and you came to see me there" (Matthew 25:31-46).

We could not say, "We have just brought you the word that God loves you." So we built a dispensary.

One of my greatest thrills has been to see the Brethren Church become active in a world relief ministry. World relief agencies have been of great help to the missionary in helping him show the compassionate concern of Christians for those in need.

During the time we were at Mbororo, there was a surplus of milk here in the States. We were supplied with powdered milk at the Mbororo dispensary through relief agencies. This milk saved the lives of many young babies and children.

One woman walked 5 miles over the mountain from the village of Lidle to Mbororo. In her arms she carried her baby, several days old. This was the sixth child she had brought into the world. The other five had died in the first week after birth because the mother was unable to nurse them. Her pitiful question was, "Can you help me? Is there any help that you can give so that this baby might live?"

Fortunately, we had powdered milk. Bea taught this woman how to mix it up, gave her some baby bottles, and taught her how to wash and sterilize them. The look of despair on the woman's face changed to a look of hope. The baby lived and brought much joy to her parents. The baby was a constant reminder to the family and all of us at Mbororo that people in America had shared, and the sharing had met the need and saved a life—bringing joy to a Higi family. As we left Nigeria in 1965, the woman, hearing we were leaving, came with this little girl to say good-bye and to express, once more, their thanks.

World Relief is not only working in the area of sharing food commodities. One of the greatest areas of service is in supplying materials to help people of the world get a start. Jesus said, "I was thirsty and you gave me drink." Water supply is at a premium in many parts of Africa. World relief agencies (including the World Relief Commission) have helped in providing materials so that wells could be dug and a water supply brought to a village.

Supplying fertilizer to farmers so that

they might have better crops is another service. The African wants to move ahead, and when it is demonstrated that something works, he is all for it. Such was the case in the use of fertilizer.

At Mbororo one of the farmers put out two patches of peanuts in his farm along the main road to market. On one patch he added some fertilizer. People walking by saw both patches. When they saw the one growing so well, they would look and shake their heads. Then they quizzed the farmer about it. He told them that he had gotten a bag of fertilizer at the mission station. Fertilizer was at the mission station because a world relief agency had seen the need and sent a truckload to that area. This in answer to the words of Jesus, "I was hungry and you fed me." The Nigerian was hungry. His land did not produce enough food. The world relief agency showed him how to raise more food and to stave off hunger.

Great joy came to me recently when letters from Vijay Kumar and Prasantha Kumar noted that medicine supplied by the Loree Brethren Church and funds received from the World Relief Commission enabled them to show the love of Christ through the orphanage, relief center, and hospital.

Praise the Lord that we are now helping Jesus in his ministry of compassion and concern, not only for the spiritual condition of people, but also for their physical needs as well. "I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was lonely and you made me welcome. I was naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you came and looked after me."

*Rev. Bob Bischof,
former missionary to
Nigeria, is pastor of the
New Paris, Ind.,
Brethren Church and a
new member of the
Brethren World Relief
Board.*



world relief



Financial response

"We dropped a bit in 1976, but . . ."

World Relief Board Chairman Phil Lersch reports on giving.

. . . our track record was still commendable in sharing what we "have" with those who "haven't." The net decrease from the 1975 total was \$1,435.

1966 to 1970	\$19,855
1971	\$ 7,725
1972	\$ 9,499
1973	\$13,502
1974	\$16,223
1975	\$27,799
1976	\$26,363
<hr/>	
11-year total	\$120,966
1977	????

A closer look at what happened in 1976 (below) indicates that the \$236 increase in the Conference Fasting Banquet profits compensated for the \$205 decrease in church offerings. Most of the \$1,435 total decrease resulted from the \$1,466 less received from individual donors.

	1975	1976
Total Church Offerings	\$24,517	\$24,312
Conf. Fasting Banquet	293	529
Individuals' Gifts	2,989	1,523
<hr/>		
Totals	\$27,799	\$26,364

Waterloo (Iowa) led the way in our 1976 giving with \$1,104, followed by these churches who gave \$500 or more:

North Liberty, Indiana
Sarasota, Florida
Jefferson, Indiana
Louisville, Ohio
Smithville, Ohio
Maurertown, Virginia
Ashland (Park St.), Ohio
Pleasant Hill, Ohio
Bryan, Ohio
Milledgeville, Illinois
Goshen, Indiana
Brush Valley, Pennsylvania
Johnstown III, Pennsylvania
South Bend, Indiana
Elkhart, Indiana
Vinco, Pennsylvania
New Lebanon, Ohio
West Alexandria, Ohio

(A complete listing of our 1976 giving through

our Brethren World Relief treasury appears on the inside back cover.)

What will 1977 hold—not for us, but for those with needs, whom we have an opportunity to help through World Relief giving and praying?



Special note to **church treasurers** and **individual donors**: Please send all contributions for **World Relief** to:

Mr. George Kerlin, Treasurer
1318 East Douglas
Goshen, Indiana 46526

Resource Materials

In addition to the information in this issue of the Brethren Evangelist, the World Relief Board has supplied the following to every church:

1) **World Relief REPORTERS** for distribution as bulletin inserts or with the April church mailing. This brochure is full of pictures and reports of what our World Relief monies are helping to accomplish around the world. Although produced by the World Relief Commission, this special issue was printed for distribution in Brethren churches, with a message from Phil Lersch on the back page.

2) **Packet to Pastors**. Every Brethren pastor was sent a collection of 7 brochures about various World Relief projects. Included was information about these 16mm, sound, color films which can be ordered free of charge from WRC for showing anytime during the year:

BANGLADESH—Darkness Into Light

AFRICA—Dry Edge of Disaster

HONDURAS—Aftermath of Hurricane Fifi

3) **Filmstrip Information**. "A WORLD HUNGRY" is a set of 5 color filmstrips with cassette narrations. It is excellent for information and discussion. Pastors have received details about titles, content, and how to rent them from the Brethren Board of Christian Education in Ashland. Plan to use all five in a series.

Planning, presentations highlight BYC Council Meeting

by Mark Baker

Ashland, Ohio—Saturday, February 5, 1977, despite cold, snow, and ice, 21 National BYC Council members and seven guests met at Ashland, Ohio, for their annual mid-year meeting. Moderator Wayne Grumbling presided over the session.

Agenda for the meeting included new district communication report forms, junior BYC member activities, BYC Convention and council evaluation, and discussion of planning a new BYC Manual.

The BCE staff also made presentations on the Summer Crusader program, BYC Convention, the national BYC project, Youth Week, and Program Guidelines.

A banquet catered by Fern Smith was enjoyed by the council members, guests, and Brethren Ashland College students on Saturday evening.

A total of 45 were present for the banquet and to hear Mr. John Rowsey, executive director of the Brethren Publishing Company, speak on the problems and joys brought about by the current fuel and energy crisis. Roller-skating followed and proved to be a great finish to the day.

The group was brought together again Sunday morning at Park Street Brethren Church for morning worship before returning home.

The National BYC Council is the executive body of National BYC and is composed of the national BYC officers, outgoing officers, district presidents and representatives, and six at-large representatives. The purpose of the council is to serve as an evaluative and suggestive body of the National



Staff Photo

Board of Christian Education assistant Mark Baker discusses youth plans with BYC officers Elaine Hensley and Wayne Grumbling.

BYC Convention and to serve as a medium of communication between National BYC and the Board of Christian Education, the sponsoring organization.

The council will be meeting again on August 15 and throughout the National BYC Convention.

Boys, girls clubs formed by Wabash church

Wabash, Ind.—The Brethren church here is finding boys and girls clubs to be effective “feeder” programs for their church.

The boys club averages 3 to 9 boys each week, while the Thursday girls club averages 8 to 16 girls.

“We are teaching the boys to unsolder radios and reassemble them,” reports Bill Cole, pastor of the church. In the future they also hope to teach such skills as photography, bicycle repair and maintenance, two-cycle engine repair, knife sharpening, and harmonica.

“The boys club starts at 10 a.m. Saturday morning. We meet in a fine athletic facility left here by the Honeywell Corp. to be used by youth free-of-charge.

“We begin with devotions and sentence prayers. Then we have about an hour of handcrafts before going to the gym.”

Pastor Cole is enthused about the program because of its success in previous churches he has served. “Two boys we had in Maine are now in radio and mechanical work because of a boys club we had in 1952. One is head of Western Electric repair in Massachusetts. And he is also a Christian layman.

“How can we fail to reach boys and girls for Christ?”



Photo by Dave Greene

Bradley Weidenhamer and Leroy Solomon lead the Park Street congregation in singing. The church was one of many that resorted to worshipping in their fellowship halls because of the cold and fuel shortages.

Winter blizzard a blessing for Park Street Church

The "Winter of '77" took its toll on Brethren churches in the Midwest during the months of January and February.

Heavy snow closed most churches on January 30. Natural gas curtailments caused others to limit programs held in their facilities to a minimum.

Eugene Beekley, pastor of the Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland, noted that "snow, cold, and reduced heat caused us to make some immediate adjustments.

"One Sunday the cold and deep snow forced us

to close the church. However, some members gathered in homes for worship and study."

On Sunday, February 6, the church began meeting in the fellowship hall. Rev. Beekley reported, "We had a special worship program presented by our junior high youth, led by Joanne Brelsford and Leroy Solomon. We had wall-to-wall people in the fellowship hall, plus a spirit of togetherness. Most people enjoyed the change."

"Rev. Smith Rose taught the combined adult Sunday school classes in the fellowship hall. Other classes met in various locations. For instance, the college 'Tentmakers' class met at the Dorman Ronk home and were joined by the high school and visiting (National) Brethren Youth Council guest. Dr. Joe Shultz taught this combined class of 54 in the living room."

But the crowded conditions provided a new dimension to the worship, study, and fellowship. "Out of the inconvenience came sharing, caring, and praying, and a thankfulness to God for one another. It was difficult but worthwhile," Beekley said.

"It was cold outside, but we were all warmed inside by the Spirit in this worship experience."

Undoubtedly, the "Winter of '77" will be one many will not soon forget.

Class Lives up to Name

George Schuster reported that on one of the coldest Sunday mornings of the winter, one class at the Canton, Ohio, Trinity Brethren Church recorded perfect attendance.

According to George, the class consists of a number of faithful 70 to 75 year old ladies of the church.

And the name of the class? The "Loyal Women's Class."

New directions in Christian education result from special gathering

report by Fred Burkey

The setting of challenging goals and priorities for joint action climaxed the first Christian Education Conference, held in Ashland, February 18 and 19, 1977. Sponsored by the Executive Committee of the denominational Board of Christian Education, the Conference brought together the presidents and/or representatives of five district Boards of Christian Education (Ohio, Indiana, Midwest, Southwest, and Pennsylvania).

Both district and denominational groups shared current programs, problems, and proposals. Following extensive discussion of the educational and youth ministry needs of the Brethren Church, three major areas were identified, priorities established, and tentative completion dates adopted.

Priority Number 1: Definition, composition, and relationship of denominational, district, and local Boards of Christian Education.

To deal with this concern, a task force composed of denominational and district BCE members will be appointed to: 1) define the work of the BCE at each level; 2) prepare job descriptions for workers at each level; 3) outline qualifications for board members at each level; and 4) describe the relationship and means of communication between the three levels (drafts are to be ready by August 1977).



Staff Photo

Fred Finks and Donna Stoffer ponder a point of discussion at the first Christian Education Conference in February.

As a first step in maintaining good communication, one member of the BCE Executive Committee has been appointed to attend the meetings of district boards in Southeast, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. The Director of Christian Education will try to meet at least annually with Midwest, Southwest, and Northern California. It was further agreed that an exchange of district and denominational board minutes would be helpful.

In the future, it is proposed that annual meetings be held with denominational and district board representatives to evaluate progress and identify emerging needs. Organizationally, it seemed advisable to arrange for district presidents to be members of the denominational BCE.

Special task forces were suggested to generate ideas in areas such as teacher training and camping. These will be activated as need arises.

Priority Number 2: Development of instructional materials.

Suggestions in this area included:

1) Compilation of a list of Sunday School materials for new adult believers to supplement **The Brethren: Growth in Life and Thought**. Topics will include: a) the Bible and how to study it; b) basic Christian doctrines; and c) application and spiritual growth. This project is to be completed by August 1977.

2) Set up a task force to evaluate and suggest new adult Sunday School materials for a unified, progressive study pattern (task force to be set up by August 1977).

3) Produce a filmstrip on Brethren distinctives by January 1978.

4) Produce a pastor's class manual by August 1978.

5) Develop a discipleship program for junior and senior high youth by August 1978.

Priority Number 3: Assistance in training of local leaders.

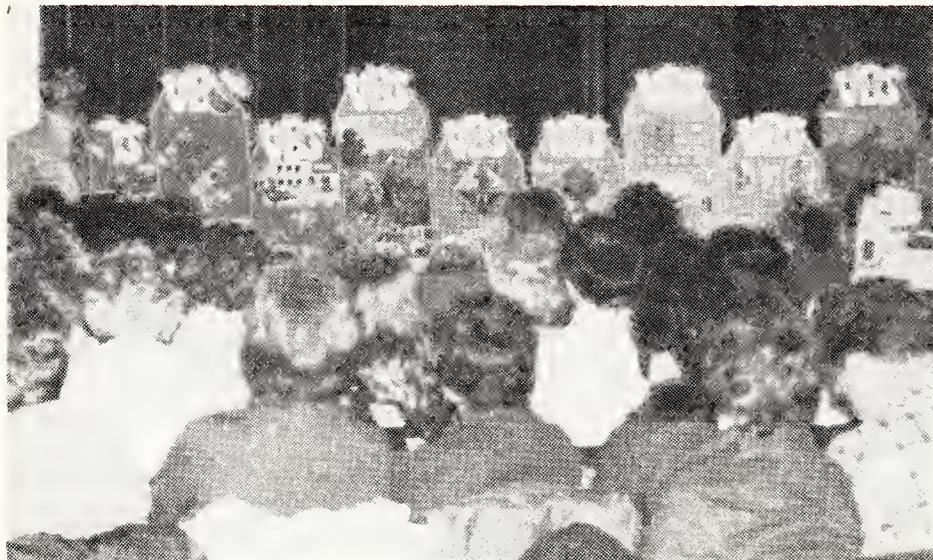
1) The establishment of an Association of Brethren Church Teachers was endorsed as scheduled for August 1977.

2) Work will begin on a series of continuing education seminars for lay leaders—fall 1977.

3) A task force will be appointed to develop a comprehensive BYC Policy Manual in August 1977, with the project to be completed by August 1978.

This is an ambitious series of projects which must be fit into an already heavy schedule. Nevertheless, progress has been made. The ministry of Christian education in the Brethren Church will be improved because of the input of these Christian education leaders.

Carpenter's Shop hosts VBS Seminar



The Carpenter's Shop sponsored a one-day Vacation Bible School seminar on March 5 at the Ronk Memorial Chapel of Ashland Theological Seminary.

Purpose of the seminar was to acquaint area VBS directors and teachers with materials available for 1977.

Representing the various publishers and demonstrating their materials were Bullah Chapdu and Donna Allbrich (Standard), John Rowsey (Gospel Light), and Dan DeVeney (Scripture Press—pictured at right).

In all, 78 people attended the seminar representing 37 churches.

Writer's packet released

Ashland, Ohio—Ever wonder if you have a gift for writing?

The Brethren Evangelist has just released a packet of materials for people who are interested in writing for the magazine.

Included in the writer's packet are manuscript slants for the Evangelist, tips for producing saleable articles, and a guide for writing query letters. It also contains suggestions for writing a personality sketch and for taking good photographs.

"We are interested in discovering people with a gift for writing," says Ron Waters, managing editor. "We think our readers are a good source for articles."

He went on to say that the staff is considering ways to provide training for those who would like to acquire the tools of writing.

Readers who are interested in receiving one of the free writer's packets should write to the Brethren Evangelist, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Calendar of Events

April 15-17—1977 Men's Congress, Camp Calvary, Angola, Ind.

April 15-17—Southwest Dist. Conf., Papago Park/Tempe, Ariz.

April 18-22—NAE Washington Leadership Briefing.

May 3-5—Pastors' Conference at Indiana Camp Shishewana.

May 8-15—Brethren Youth Week.

Evangelist index available

Ashland, Ohio—An index to Volume 98 (1976) of the Brethren Evangelist is now available to subscribers.

The index was prepared by Bradley E. Weidenhamer, librarian of the Ashland Theological Seminary.

Included are listings by author and by subject. The index is free upon written request before April 30, 1977.

Bicentennial ignored religion, Congressman charges

Washington, D.C. (EP News) — A member of Congress has decried what he called the relative insignificant role religion played in the official Bicentennial observances last year, asserting that it was "simply ignored."

"To be blunt about it," said Rep. Micky Edwards (R-Okla.), an Episcopalian, "America piddled away its Bicentennial year on inconsequential trivia and commercial carnivals, while we should have been concentrating on those traditional values which underlie the unique greatness of this very uncommon society."

"America was built on two foundation stones: a political base of individual dignity and freedom, and a religious base which, through faith in the Christian message, underscored the same theme—that man, that great creation of God, was a being of individual worth and entitled to exist serving no master but Him who is Master of us all," the freshman lawmaker stated.

Rev. Long named head of Ohio hospital

Dennison, Ohio—Dale J. Long, administrator of the 55-bed Pomerene Hospital at Millersburg, Ohio, will become Twin City Hospital administrator April 1.

Rev. Long is both an accountant and an ordained minister. He attended Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary. He was pastor of the Smithville, Ohio, Brethren Church from 1969-1973.

Attorney Jim Carrothers, hospital board president, said Rev. Long "has excelled in his present position both in meeting Joint Commission hospital standards and establishing financial solidarity."

Long was selected for the Twin City position after evaluation and review of more than 200 applicants.

Membership Growth

Sarasota: 4 by baptism, 1 by letter

Marion: 3 by baptism

Weddings

Ethel DeLanghe to **Rev. Wilbur Thomas**, Feb. 19 at County Line, Ind., Brethren Church. Rev. Gerald Barr, pastor, officiating.

Candy House to **Dean Waters**, Feb. 11, at Loree, Ind., Brethren Church. Rev. W. E. Thomas, pastor, officiating.

Nancy Waters to **Jeffrey Garber**, Feb. 5 at Loree Brethren Church. Rev. W. E. Thomas, pastor, officiating.

Susan Wagner to **Stephen Steel**, Jan. 22 at Loree Brethren Church. Rev. W. E. Thomas, pastor, officiating.

In Memory

Mrs. Edith Brown, 91, Mar. 2. Member of Elkhart, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Dale RuLon, pastor.

Mrs. Hattie B. Minor, 83, Feb. 15. Member of North Canton, Ohio, Trinity Brethren Church. Services by John T. Byler, pastor.

David E. Watkins, 88, Feb. 13. Member of North Canton, Ohio, Trinity Brethren Church. Services by John T. Byler, pastor.

Della Laughlin, 98, Feb. 11. Charter member of Wayne Heights, Pa., Brethren Church. Services by Henry Bates, pastor.

Kenneth Seiler, 66, Feb. 5. Charter member and deacon of Tucson, Ariz., First Brethren Church. Services by Clarence Stogsdill, pastor. Mr. Seiler moved to Tucson from Lanark, Illinois.

Mission enterprise flourishing, says new MARC handbook

Monrovia, Calif. (EP News)—The global outreach of Protestant missionary endeavor from North America is prospering, according to the 11th edition of Mission Handbook, published by World Vision's Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center (MARC).

Of the estimated world Protestant mission force of 55,000, some 37,000 come from the United States and Canada, a larger number than ever previously reported, according to MARC Director Edward R. Dayton. Missions giving in North America is up from \$393 million in 1972 to \$656 million in 1975. And while giving to all forms of church work in the U.S. and Canada has not kept pace with inflation, giving for missions outstripped inflation by 29 per cent.

The new Mission Handbook, published triennially by MARC, has information on 620 Protestant agencies working in 182 countries outside the U.S. and Canada.

Young people appear to be more "turned on" and excited about missions, Dayton observed. Mission agencies have responded to this interest. Sixty per cent of the agencies reported that they have developed summer youth programs. The agencies are pleased with the results—25 per cent of those who serve for short terms become career missionaries.

Zaire returns schools to churches; 3 million students involved

New York (EP News)—Churches in Zaire are being allowed to resume operating primary and secondary schools that were taken over by the government in 1974.

Reports indicate that the transfer involves more than three million students and 80,000 teachers. Even when the government nationalized the primary and secondary schools, 80 per cent of the public schools continued to be administered by various church groups.

According to the Rev. Juel Nordby, executive secretary in the Africa office of the United Methodist Church's World Division, the Zairian churches have agreed to take back the schools with the understanding that religion can be taught and that the government will continue regular subsidies for teachers' salaries and maintenance.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Smith, 52nd, March 25. Members of First Brethren Church, Elkhart, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Hanna, 64th, March 19. Members of First Brethren Church, Kokomo, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. William Nice, 50th, Jan. 21. Members of First Brethren Church, Warsaw, Ind.

"God's Word" theme for 35th Annual NAE Convention

"God's Word: Our Infallible Guide" was the theme of the 35th Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals held in Chicago's Arlington Park Hilton February 22-24, 1977.

Thirteen Brethren people attended the convention in Chicago. Those attending were: Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Aspinall, Rev. Eugene Beekley, Rev. James Black, Rev. Gene Eckerley, Rev. & Mrs. Spencer Gentle, Rev. Arden Gilmer, Rev. M. Virgil Ingraham, Rev. Marlin McCann, Rev. Smith Rose, and Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Shultz.

Rev. Don Moomaw, pastor of Bel Air Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, spoke to this theme at the opening evening session of the convention. "My premise," Moomaw stated, "is that the Word of God, written and living, is the Christian's infallible authority for guidance toward an effective, purposeful, happy, serviceable, God-honoring life.

However, my question is: How many of us are really open to be guided by the Word? We have often trivialized the Word by making it relate to relatively safe issues such as Sunday worship observance, drinking, adultery, divorce—issues which are black and white to most of us. We evangelicals have been negligent in following the Word in areas of ethics and social practice."

Moomaw continued, "We talk about winning the world for Christ, while we judge, criticize and ignore the poor, destitute, socially scarred individuals who live next door, down the street or across town. We follow the Word in condemning divorce and disintegration of the home, while at the same time our own homes reek with abusive legalism and dehumanizing lovelessness. We follow the Word in preaching the 'good news to the poor' while we ignore the forces of injustice which keep the poor poor.

"We need today to grasp the radical, life-judging, spirit-lifting Word of God," Moomaw concluded, "with all its demands and difficulties, its power and provision for all our lives and the lives of all humanity."

Moomaw was one of three evening speakers featured at the convention. Rev. Luis Palau, South American evangelist and president of Overseas Crusades, spoke the second night of the convention. Then the closing message of the convention was delivered by Mr. Charles Colson, author of the best selling book **Born Again**.

The two morning Bible study and prayer sessions at the convention were lead by Dr. Dennis Kinlaw, president of Asbury College. Nearly 700 people attended each of these two sessions.

"The secular world would like to keep Jesus



NAE photo

Evangelist Luis Palau spoke before a thousand evangelical leaders at NAE's 35th Annual Convention in Chicago. Palau told the audience that evangelicals must ask themselves if they have given out the Word of God as purely as they know how.

Christ in the past, safely dead," stated Dr. Kinlaw during the Wednesday morning session. "Christians have no right to let them live in such ignorance."

Kinlaw's address, based on the first and last chapters of Revelation, brought home the fact that **Jesus Christ** is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Said Kinlaw: "We all have a date with destiny. That destiny resides in God's Son."

Authorities led workshops

In addition to the three featured evening speakers and the Bible session leader, there were numerous other luncheon and workshop speakers at the convention. Those leading these luncheons and workshops included top authorities in such fields as missions, world relief, social concerns, broadcasting, and education.

Evangelist Luis Palau, in his address to the plenary session on Wednesday night of the convention, spoke of Christ's ability to change lives. Said Palau:

"The Christ who can use an illiterate Christian man to lead doctors to Christ; who can change the heart of a persecuting South American leader enough so he opens his country to an evangelistic crusade; who can work in a president's life through the New Testament so he supplies every student with a Bible, can change lives." Palau's sense of humor and enthusiasm delighted the crowd which packed the Arlington Park ballroom.

There were two NAE business sessions held at the convention. During one of these a position paper on biblical authority was adopted. This paper, in quoting Hebrews 1:1-2 and II Timothy 3:16-17, affirmed three facts: 1) God has spoken by the prophets—a revelation through the spoken word of men inspired by His Spirit. 2) God has spoken by the Son—a revelation through Jesus Christ the incarnate Word. 3) God has spoken by the Scriptures—a revelation through the living Word which is the powerful, sharp, piercing, discerning and wholly trustworthy written Word.

The paper concluded: "Having affirmed our confidence in the Word of God, we now dedicate ourselves to be doers of the Word and not hearers only, living in obedience to all that Scripture teaches."

Resolutions passed

During the business session on Feb. 24th, three resolutions were passed by the convention delegates. The first of these called upon Christians everywhere to unite in prayer and protest on behalf of Christians and all others who suffer from the actions of President Amin and his government in Uganda. It called upon our government, the United Nations, and all people to join in worldwide protest.

A second resolution was a call to nationwide repentance, dealing with a number of critical social problems. The third resolution related specifically to the use of force in society. "While we represent a wide constituency in our views of the place and type of military preparation for defense to protect the welfare and provide for



NAE photo

BORN AGAIN author Charles Colson reminded NAE delegates that Christians "should draw up our own agenda, not letting the world shape it for us."

our domestic tranquility, we unite in deploring the mind-set that assumes the only way to solve problems is by might and power (Zechariah 4:6). We should never forget that we are to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48) and overcome evil with good (Romans 12:14-21)."

Another important event at the convention was the dedication of a National Association of Evangelicals building site. On Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 22, a service of dedication was held at the site in Carol Stream, Illinois, where the new Evangelical Center will be built by the NAE.

"The Evangelical Center comes at a strategic time," said Edward J. Hales, building campaign chairman, in his comments to the audience. "Evangelicals have never had the visibility we have right now. This building can serve as a concrete expression of where evangelicals are today.

Colson calls for action

The convention was brought to a close by the address of Mr. Charles Colson on Thursday night, Feb. 24. In his address Colson said, "There can be no doubt. We have the capacity through the power of the risen Christ to do that which billions of dollars and dozens of new concrete fortresses can never do—to begin to attack the cause of crime, to reduce the recidivism rate, and, at the same time, alleviate the vicious inhumanity which society now visits upon our brothers and sisters behind bars."

(continued on page 33)



Senior Citizen of the Year and Senior Citizen Church Award

Local Senior Citizens are being honored while plans are underway for national recognition.

THE 1977 Senior Citizen of the Year program, sponsored by the Benevolent Board, will culminate in the national awards presentation during General Conference.

Local nominees have already been selected in some churches, but others are planning their Senior Citizen Week for the alternate date of June 13-19.

The Benevolent Board urges all congregations to participate in this program by selecting a local nominee and submitting his or her name for national consideration. Be sure to give full and complete information on the application, especially why the individual was selected. This will greatly aid the committee in its difficult task of selecting the national Senior Citizen of the Year.

A new feature added this year is the Senior Citizen Church Award. Our purpose for this program is:

1. To encourage group activities in the local church for/by Senior Citizens.
2. To recognize a local church for its participation in a program for/by Senior Citizens.

Recognition for the church with the most unique or active program for/by Senior Citizens will be given along with the Senior Citizen of the Year award at a special banquet during General Conference.

Nomination forms for both programs were included in the Senior Citizen of the Year brochure sent to all churches. More brochures are available from the Benevolent

Board office if needed. All nominations for both programs must be submitted no later than July 15, 1977 to:

THE BENEVOLENT BOARD
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805.



The Senior Citizen of the Year program was very successful last year, as all ages had the opportunity to honor our Senior Citizens. One of the highlights of the 1976 Bicentennial Conference in Ashland was the testimony of Mrs. Bessie Grove, a Senior Citizen of the Brighton Chapel, Indiana, Brethren Church. Now we want to present Bessie's testimony to all our readers.



Bessie Grove is a member of the Brighton Chapel congregation in Brighton, Ind.

Let's Just Praise the Lord

Bessie Grove, Senior Citizen from Brighton, shares the testimony of her life as a Christian.

OUR theme this year is "Heritage of Hope," with one of the subtitles being "Hope out of the Past." If it were not for our great forefathers, there may never have been a Brethren Church. We have had a great heritage passed on to us. What are we going to do with it? Let's keep it and press on in His holy name. I'm so proud of our Brethren heritage.

I was born in St. James, Maryland, where my father, Rev. I. D. Bowman, was pastor. This was one of the 22 churches he helped build. My father was a good pastor and a great evangelist, preaching from two to eight weeks at a time and winning approximately 6,000 souls to Christ through his ministry.

When I was two years old, we moved to Ashland, Ohio. We lived a short time in J. Allen Miller Dorm and then in a big house where the folks roomed and boarded students. Father visited churches, raising funds to save the college. His efforts were successful. He held the deed for six years and then turned it over to Ashland College.

At the age of six we moved to Philadelphia. Father pastored and built several churches there while our family grew to nine children. Early Sunday evenings a group of us would take our folding organ and trumpets, go to Broad Street, and hold outdoor services. We drew quite a crowd!

I was a bashful child, but you can get over it; I did. When I was 12 years old, I was asked to play for Christian Endeavor. Father said, "Bessie, you play," and I played. I still play, sing in the choir when needed, and do solos when asked. I am corresponding secretary for WMS. Every Tuesday for five years we have been going to one of our nursing homes. The dear folks there love the good old hymns, and it is such a joy to help them sing for an hour.

I am so proud of our dear young folks, as they will be the future of our church. Being a Christian is no bed of roses, so

no matter what trial or sorrow comes, just lean harder on the Lord.

When I was a young mother and minister's wife, I'd get blue and discouraged. We had an old pump organ, and I would sing and play a favorite hymn with tears rolling down my cheeks. As I played and sang the four verses, I felt so much better, so I'll share the first verse and chorus with you:

Never be sad or despondent,
If thou hast faith to believe,
Grace for the duties before you,
Ask of thy God and receive.

Never give up, never give up,
Never give up to thy sorrows,
Jesus will bid them depart.

Trust in the Lord, trust in the Lord
Sing when your trials are greatest,
Trust in the Lord and take heart.

It is wonderful to be a Christian! There is joy in serving Jesus.

I went through many trials and sorrows. In 1918 we were struck with the terrible Spanish Influenza. My dear husband died and 14 in our family were ill. I wanted to die too, but we had three lovely children for whom I had to live. As I learned more and more to trust the Lord, it became easier to go on. The way was rough, but I had Jesus by my side. I went to work to support my family. I have many friends and dear children; I love people!

When Father was pastor, he always reminded us to shake hands and speak to everyone. It gets to be a habit and at 89 I still do it.

I am counting on you dear young people to be very friendly, happy, loving members of our church. We have so much for which to praise and thank the Lord. I was near death's door twice but, through prayer, I was raised up and will live for our dear Lord and Savior as long as He gives me breath.

"Let's Just Praise The Lord." God bless you!



Seniors in Your Community

CONGREGATIONS have inquired about what they might do for/with their senior citizens. One of the steps in formulating a program for seniors is to determine the needs of that group in the community. Once this is done, the church's older citizens can plan action to meet these needs.

The Benevolent Board has designed a survey to be utilized in determining your community's needs. Use this to begin sig-

nificant planning and programing.

This survey could be conducted several ways: in the church, door-to-door contact with the elderly in the community, at a senior citizen center, if one is in operation. Results of the survey will have to be tabulated to locate the area of greatest need. Then the group can organize a program or programs to meet the apparent needs of the community.

Community Survey

Check those below that apply to your church and community:

- A city-wide or area-wide information and referral center.
- An area agency on aging, local council, or advocate agency.
- Transportation and/or escort services for the elderly. (FISH, Council on Aging, etc.)
- A senior center or centers, offering social activities, recreation, education, and a setting for community services.
- Health care services, including:
 - health clinic
 - health maintenance organization
 - health screening program.
- In-home services, including:
 - visiting nurse service
 - home-health service
 - homemaker service
 - handyman service
 - telephone reassurance
 - friendly visiting
 - meals-on-wheels.
- Nursing home or homes with high standards and a wide range of fees.
- Day Care Center for elderly, possibly with weekend or vacation care available.
- Group meals program, providing a social setting for improved nutrition for older persons.
- Recreation activities for seniors.
- Library, museum, art gallery, and performing arts programs for older people.
- Adult education opportunities.
- Senior Citizen discounts at stores, restaurants, etc.
- Job opportunities.
- Volunteer opportunities.
- Senior talent pool.
- Senior citizens employment service or job registry.
- Legal aid and general counseling.
- Obtaining large print books for church members and the church library.
- Taping sermons for elderly shut-ins.
- Low-rent public housing for the elderly.
- Obtaining sound equipment for church use, possibly earphones for elderly.
- A range of moderate-income housing, for sale and rent.
- Repair and renovation program for existing "elderly housing."
- Property tax relief for older Americans.
- Utility rate reductions for older Americans.
- Craft center where elderly can teach their crafts to others.
- Government sponsored programs such as Foster Grandparents, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) advising businesses, Senior Companion Program, etc.

Action for Seniors

Gray Panthers continue to take action on behalf of Senior Citizens.

MARGARET (MAGGIE) KUHN, a social worker, and five friends set out seven years ago in Philadelphia to do something about improving the quality of life for older Americans. This movement has grown into the Gray Panther organization, which lives up to its militant connotations and efforts on behalf of seniors.

Maggie's own views are reflected in such statements as:

—“I do not regard wrinkles as hazards but as badges of distinction.”

—“Our outrage is properly directed against agencies that purport to serve our needs: nursing homes without nurses, medicare without a dollar for prevention of illness, retirement homes with admission fees of \$10,000 minimum and no say about how our life's savings will be spent.”

—“Sex doesn't end when you reach your seniority.”

—“Some of us consider the standard-brand golden-age clubs as little more than glorified play pens.”

Some older Americans might choose to deal with one or more of the many issues that affect both the aged and the young: housing, transportation, health, safety, pension and social security reform, home management, education, recreation and social needs.

The Gray Panthers emphasize direct action on such problems, as shown by the following examples:

—The Panthers took part in picketing the White House recently. There were shouts of “Food for people, not for profit!” in protest against proposed cuts in the food-stamp program.

—The Panthers staged a rally at a shopping mall in New Jersey to dramatize their demand that merchants who accept credit cards be required to give 5 per cent discounts to customers paying cash.

—Fifty Panthers in Portland, Oregon, marched on State medicare headquarters to protest alleged shortcomings in the program. Panthers carrying lighted candles visited 30 State legislators in an appeal for lower electricity rates.

—Panthers have picketed businesses that discriminate against the elderly in hiring policies and are planning more such activities. They have formed national task forces on housing, health, hunger, and “a new economic system” to further their goals.

An organization of old people and young people working together militantly for social change, the Gray Panthers insist that “no one should die before his life is over.” Maggie Kuhn offers numerous suggestions as to the services which elders may render. They might be observers in many places: in hospital emergency rooms (to assure adequate treatment of all persons) or in courtrooms and legislative chambers (to encourage equal justice). Persons skilled in some trade could teach that trade to young people. Retired clergy might serve as ethical consultants to business corporations facing important decisions. Again, in a rapidly changing society, many of whose members suffer severe emotional stress, senior citizens are eminently equipped to be of aid. After all, they have lived through unprecedented rapid change, have adjusted to it, and have become masters of the art of survival.

The church must act! It must make the aged conscious of their enslavement to the idle trivialities to which they have been consigned by a society that has set them aside as no longer needed. The aged **are** needed—how badly, they themselves can discover as they work with the churches, as well as with industry, labor organizations, schools, government and community groups, to identify the terrible shortcomings of our society and seek remedies.

A ministry of elders prepared for their task can work wonders. Of course, such a ministry must be flexible to allow for the varying capabilities of the seniors and to provide ample opportunity for recreation, travel, study and relaxation. Retirement can become a liberating, joyful experience that all of us might look forward to eagerly. Remember the Gray Panthers admonition: “No one should die before his life is over.”

Women, We Can Do It

a review by Nancy Van Meter

Women, We Can Do It by Irene Conlan (Regal Books, 1976, 128 pp., \$2.95 paperback).

If you are an American who loves your country—woman or man—you should read this book. It doesn't take long to read the 128 pages, but the contents will really shake you up!

Irene Conlan is the wife of Arizona Congressman John Conlan. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and family and is personally active in organizing and maintaining Bible study groups among other Congressional wives. A first-hand glimpse of her personal life is gained from this book.

Mrs. Conlan's purpose in writing the book, however, is to make the reader aware of certain goings-on in our government that are eating away at our freedoms. Very slowly, subtly, and surely our freedoms are being eaten away—unless, of course, we do our part to make things right.

Specific targets she discusses include: our educational system, the family unit and moral standards, crime, and inflation.

Mrs. Conlan warns us that if we just sit around and don't get involved in the political picture—from community to country—we will wake up some day to a society completely controlled by the government. The freedoms we have enjoyed will be lost.

Mrs. Conlan gives some good basic guidelines as to how you can become involved and do your part to preserve what we have. Her specific examples are true and shocking.

But as Christians, we can make changes. She says, "Working together as one body, using our gifts tirelessly for the cause of Christ in our nation, we can keep the doors of freedom open for the proclamation of the gospel. We can keep our country 'One Nation Under God.'"

Women, We Can Do It! is a book that every concerned Christian should read.

Nancy Van Meter, of Ashland, Ohio, is active in community affairs. Her husband, Tom, is an Ohio State senator.



Being Physically Fit

A Time For Fitness, by Fran Carlton (Word Books, 1976, 95 pp., \$4.95 cloth).

This book talks about the subject of being fit. The author says that we are God's temple and must keep our bodies holy. The book contains a daily exercise guide for the Christian, plus additional exercises for special figure problems.

Fran Carlton conducts television programs and urges everybody to exercise. "My platform is Romans 12:1," affirms Fran. "I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy—the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?" (Living Bible).

Fran also encourages exercising with a group of friends, so you can keep an eye on each other and not let one another get discouraged.

After you exercise and become fit, you'll not only feel better and look better, you'll even like yourself more. And you'll be returning a better and improved gift of yourself to God.

I enjoyed this book very much. Because of this book I now have a fun exercise program, and I am beginning to enjoy life at its fullest.

—Val Rowsey

Val Rowsey is a high school freshman from Ashland, Ohio.

Learning from Others

All Originality Makes a Dull Church by Dan Baumann (Vision House Publishers, 1976, 141 pp., \$2.50).

Dan Baumann's first sentence reveals the tone of his book: "I love the church; always have!" This affirmative declaration grabbed my attention and whetted my appetite for the tasty morsels to follow. The book's title expresses Dr. Baumann's belief that a church does not have to learn everything from experience. "Lessons learned by any local fellowship of believers ought to be the common property of the entire body of Christ," he says.

Writing from this conviction, the author proceeds to look at nine churches which have pioneered with certain successful methods and structures. Using these churches, he illustrates five categories: The soul-winning church, the classroom church, the life-situation church, the social action church, and the general practitioner church. Each church is presented through informative material regarding the community in which the church is located, the history and characteristics of the church, and the program of the church. The discussion of each church concludes by highlighting the principles utilized by that church which are transferable to other churches. This is one of the most helpful features of the book.

Dr. Baumann is well aware of the fact that methods and programs are not necessarily transferable, but principles are. **Be a gleaner, be an optimist, be an innovator, provide options within your church, be as diversified as your community, interesting expository preaching is universally appreciated, go where the people are, equip for ministry and aggressive leadership** are some of the twenty-six transferable principles illustrated throughout the book.

Pastor Baumann writes from the conviction that a static church is unhealthy because it is unbiblical. But he presents his conviction in positive and instructive language, which speaks equally well to both laity and clergy. His desire to speak to both groups comes through in the major divisions of his last chapter: "A Personal Word for Lay People" and "A Personal Word for Pastors."

If you and your church are asking, "How can we be more effective? What do we do? Where do we begin? Which model do we follow? What are the answers for our church?" you will find this book full of practical, useable ideas. Reading it will inspire you to begin thinking creatively under the guidance of the Holy Spirit about methods you and your church can use to reach your community for Christ.

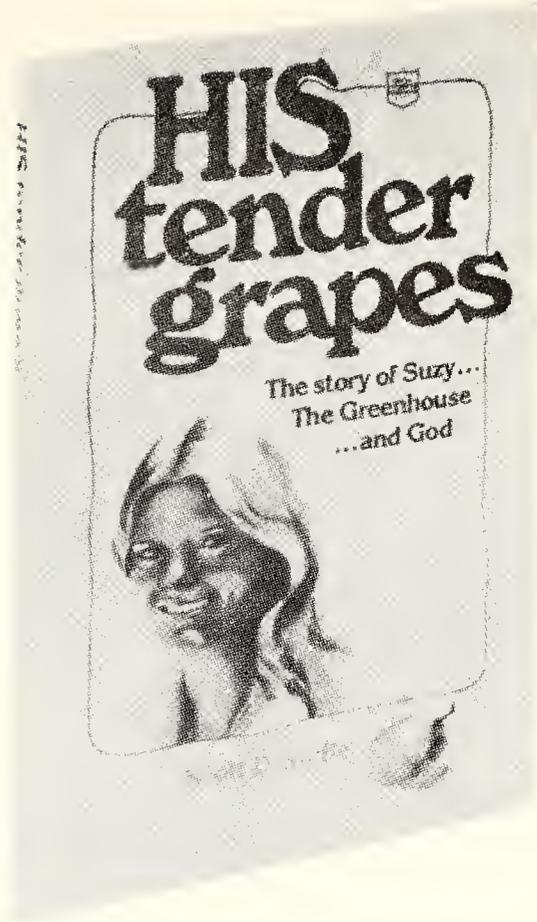
—Arden E. Gilmer

Arden Gilmer is director of home missions for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.



Some books are to be tasted; others swallowed; and some few to be chewed and digested.

—Bacon



His Tender Grapes

His Tender Grapes by Scott D. Waffle (Regal Books, 1976, 159 pp., \$2.95).

Scott Waffle is a former newsman and military press officer. The tale of how he and the story came together, as told in the introduction, could make a book in itself.

This book reads like a novel. The author weaves together the account of Suzy, a young career girl who had everything but was ready to commit suicide, and the growth of "The Greenhouse," an outreach of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

"The Greenhouse" began as "The Tuesday Night Thing" in the home of Rene and Virginia Schmidt, members of the Coral Ridge Church. Its growth forced a move by the Schmidts and a later purchase of an additional building and more land for parking next to their house. The Tuesday night meeting expanded to six nights and some mornings, with some of its own staff as well as help from the church.

This has been one of those exciting books I found hard to put down. It is well written and has an exciting theme of how God is working today. Several times I stopped reading just to praise God for the way he worked in the lives of the Schmidts and in the lives of those working with them and reached through them.

I recommend this as light but inspiring reading for those interested in Church Growth. I also recommend it for young people beginning their careers, as they examine their relationship with the Lord.

—John Rowsey

Maximum Marriage

Maximum Marriage by Tim Timmons (Revell, 1976, 128 pp., \$4.95).

A "maximum marriage" can be the description of any marriage as long as we have the correct biblical understanding of God's intention for our lives and make this application to our lives. Dr. Tim Timmons' book, **Maximum Marriage**, is a great handbook and guide for any marriage whether that marriage is minimum or even average. Why not experience the maximum?

This book reveals common pitfalls and covers such topics as biblical love, blessings (and how to give them), spiritual communication, biblical lovemaking, God's design for the family, and much more. Biblical roles of headship and submission are described, along with misconceptions of each role. These insights are refreshing, as the true model of headship, Jesus, is shared with the reader.

Speaking from the personal level, along with in-depth study in the area of dynamics of marriage, Dr. Timmons points out biblical commands and practical remedies for general marital problems. The suggested solutions may not be specific, since each marriage is an individual situation.

I suggest that all couples considering marriage or presently married read this book. It is never too late to have a "maximum marriage."

—Donna Simmons

Donna Simmons is a seminary student's wife employed by A. L. Garber Co. in Ashland.

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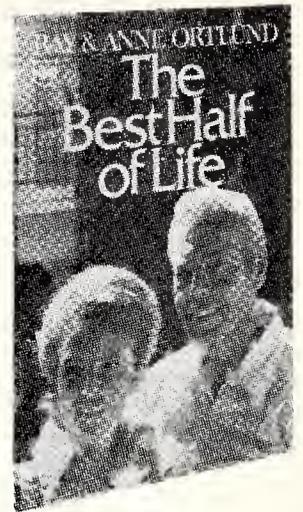
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524 College Avenue
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The Best Half of Life

The Best Half of Life by Ray and Anne Ortlund (Regal Books, 1976, 127 pp., \$2.95).

I picked this one up mainly because I was familiar with other writings by Ray Ortlund, in particular **Lord, Make My Life a Miracle**. I was also enticed by the first page: "If you're between 35 and 50 how would you describe yourself . . . Getting better or just getting older . . . Yes, today is the first day of the best half of your life. . . ."

The Ortlunds discuss the source of vitality—enthusiasm. They make a major emphasis of the use of time—making the most of now and anticipating the future by planning. The book is personal, including a chapter written on Ray's fiftieth birthday, but also includes ideas on living this "best half of life."

There is an exciting chapter "About Your Money" which is challenging for any age group. "What is your money for? It's a way God directs and leads you . . . It's to unite in a wonderful way the family of God. . . ." Another thought provoking chapter is based on the thought "Invest yourself in those who will invest themselves in others! Extend your life!"

The final paragraph of the epilogue says it well: "Put down your book and glasses. The one coming toward you is no enemy, no ghost, no person to be dreaded or feared. Praise God, and put out your hand in sincere eagerness to the Future You."

—John Rowsey

Book on Ark sells million copies

Salt Lake City (EP News)—The book **In Search of Noah's Ark**, written by Dave Balsiger and film producer Charles E. Sellier, Jr., has sold one million copies in eight months, according to Alan Burks, director of the book division of Schick Sun Classic Productions.

Also riding high on the popularity scales is the motion picture of the same title, which has been playing throughout the U.S.



That is a good book which is opened with expectation, and closed with delight and profit.

—A. B. Alcott

"Raison d'etre"

Defining your church's "reason for existing" is essential to effective ministry.

Last month we visited an official board which was limited in its vision and floundering in its decision making because it was either unsure or unaware of its mission. Developing a specific statement of purpose would be a thought-provoking, inspiring, and beneficial experience for that church. Your church would also profit greatly by having a written statement of purpose.

A statement of purpose is based on the universal purposes of the church as revealed in Scripture. We often assume that all members of the church are aware of these purposes. In many cases, that is an incorrect assumption. The statement of purpose also relates the purpose of the church to the community in which it is located. Therefore, a statement of purpose should express how that particular Brethren church believes it should conduct itself, so that it is both a truly biblical church and the most relevant possible church for its specific community.

Lyle Schaller, in his book, **The Local Church Looks to the Future**, suggests a three point outline for writing a statement of purpose: 1) **Congregational Care** covers items which are entirely or largely oriented to members of the church, such as corporate worship, pastoral care, fellowship, education, nurture, etc. 2) **Outreach and Evangelism** focuses on people outside the church and the imperative placed upon the church to go out and reach people in their own community with the good news of Jesus Christ. 3) **Witness and Mission** deals with the church's responsibility to take the gospel to all the world.

In **Lord, Make My Life a Miracle**, Dr. Ray Ortlund describes how his church developed a philosophy of ministry. Members of the church were asked to sign their names if they would make these three personal commitments: "Number one: At whatever stage you are spiritually, commit your heart anew to the Person of God Himself in Jesus Christ. Number two: Commit yourself to the Body of Christ, to be in a regular small group of believers, small enough so that you can be personally accountable to them for your growth, and personally responsible for their growth. Number three: Commit yourself to the world, to your work in this world, and to your witness to it. Make it specific enough to vow to love one person to Jesus and into the fellowship of the church by next Easter."

These three personal commitments became the foundation of the philosophy of ministry for his church expressed as first, commitment to God and Christ; second, commitment to the Body of Christ,

His Church; and third, commitment to the work of Christ in the world, the task God gives us to do.

The Fellowship Bible Church of Dallas, Texas, has developed a philosophy of ministry committed to a balance between instruction, fellowship, and witnessing. To become mature believers they emphasize the need for: 1) having vital learning experiences with the Word of God; 2) having vital relational experiences with God and other believers; and 3) having vital witnessing experiences with the unsaved world.

There must be balance

Pastor Gene Getz asserts that an emphasis on any one, or even two, of these three norms for church life creates an unhealthy, carnal congregation. A mature church will discover a balance of all three. Church program and structure is developed on the basis of these three objectives. The result is program with a purpose instead of a random assortment of unrelated activities which have no unified thrust. Everything done in the church and by the church is geared to meeting these three objectives.

Several distinct benefits are derived from a good statement of purpose. It becomes the foundation for establishing meaningful goals and building worthwhile programs. Such a statement is a tremendous tool for communicating to the church members so that they come to a common understanding of the purpose of their church. Greater unity will result in a church which knows its reason for existence, because members will be channeling their energies in the same direction. The statement of purpose makes it possible to evaluate objectively the various programs of the church and to determine what new programs to initiate, which current programs to maintain, which ones to revamp and strengthen, and which ones to eliminate. Those programs which are not fulfilling any facet of the statement of purpose are not worthy of the investment of time and energy needed to maintain them.

Do your official board, congregation, and pastor make their decisions on the basis of a biblically based and balanced statement of purpose to which they are wholeheartedly committed? If not, now is the time to prayerfully develop a statement of purpose which will enable your church to be everything that God wants it to be and to do those things which God wants it to do.

auxiliary programs for may

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signal lights

written by
Alberta Holsinger

Project: Sunday School in Malaysia

A Meeting Place

Too May stopped at the entrance of her home and took off her shoes. Then she opened the door and went inside.

"Mother," she called.

"Here I am," answered Mother. "In the kitchen."

Too May went through the living room to the kitchen.

"Look at this paper," she said. "Mr. Loi gave it to me. He gave one to all the children. See, it has a picture of a man with children. There's a story about the man. He's called Jesus."

Mother took the paper and looked at it. "This is a Christian paper," she said. "We are not Christians."

"I know, Mother," replied Too May. "But Mr. Loi talks about such interesting things. He will come to our neighborhood again if he has a place to meet the children. Please, Mother, may he teach in our yard?"

"No," answered Mother firmly.

Chinese children are taught never to argue with their parents. So Too May went silently from the room.

Father had listened to the conversation. "Do you suppose it might be best to invite Mr. Loi to use our yard?" he suggested.

"He teaches a foreign religion," said Mother.

"Yes," Father agreed, "but if he is here we will know what he is telling Too May and her friends."

"That's true," said Mother. "Then we can tell her where we disagree with Mr. Loi."

Later that evening, as Too May was helping prepare the evening meal, Mother said, "I've been thinking about that Christian teacher. If you want him to use our yard it will be all right."

"Oh, thank you!" said Too May.

The next day she told Mr. Loi the good news. He went to see her parents that afternoon.

"Good afternoon," said Mr. Loi with a slight bow.

"Good afternoon," replied Father and Mother. "I am David Loi."

"Too May has told us about you. Please come in," said Father.

Mr. Loi took off his shoes and went into the house.

"Too May told me you have given permission for us to have a children's class in your yard," he said.

"Yes," said Mother. "As long as your group does not destroy anything, or make a mess, you may meet here."

"I like to meet my classes once a week," said Mr. Loi. "Will Thursday afternoons be all right?"

"Yes, Thursday after school will be fine," agreed Mother.

For many weeks Too May hurried home on Thursday after school. Her friends went with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Loi came, too. They sang songs with the children. They showed them pictures. They told them stories about Jesus. They told how He loves all children. They told about His fishermen friends. The children liked the fishermen stories. Many of their fathers were fishermen.

Mr. Loi told them how important it is to accept Jesus as Savior and to be part of God's family.

Every Thursday Too May's mother listened from inside the house.

One evening she said to her husband. "I don't like it. Too May is beginning to believe Mr. Loi. Soon she may give up our religion and become a Christian."

"I will come home from work early next Thursday," said Father. "I will listen to what he says. Then we will decide what to do."

(continued next month)

Memory Time: "A man that has friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

Greetings!

Easter. It is such a special time of the year for us as Christians. Christ's resurrection! This is what has made our religion a **personal relationship**, not **just** the worship of a god. He is alive right now and can be found in people who allow Him to live in their hearts.

I know Christ is alive in me because I sense His presence and His power. I knew He entered my heart when I asked Him years ago because of His promise to do so. He has been there ever since (sometimes covered by my selfish desires), speaking to me, listening to my praises and my cries for help, and being the closest and best friend there could be.

I have also seen Christ in the lives of other Christians. His love flows out through people who are controlled by Him. A special smile or kindness when I feel down, a listening ear when I am upset, or a word of encouragement when I have

Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus

In Bethany

Jesus liked to visit three friends who lived in the small village of Bethany. He stopped at their home whenever He went through their town.

Mary and Martha and their brother, Lazarus, were always glad to see Him. When they knew He was coming they talked and planned for days.

Martha was a good housekeeper. "We must clean the house before Jesus comes," she would say. Mary and Lazarus would help her. They would dust and sweep and scrub until everything was shining clean.

Then at last they would see their Friend coming down the road.

"It is Jesus!" Mary would say, excitedly, as she ran to meet Him.

Mary liked to talk with Jesus. She forgot all about the work. She wanted to hear everything Jesus had to say. During His visit she was always close to Him.

Martha continued to work hard while He was there. She went to the market early each morning to find the freshest fruits and vegetables. She baked good bread for each meal. She fixed His favorite foods. She wanted her Friend to be comfortable and happy during His visit.

Lazarus would tell Jesus of the many things he was doing. He would show Him the garden. He would tell Him of the people in the village who needed Him. He would take Jesus to visit them.

Jesus spent many happy days with His friends in Bethany.

—Based on Luke 10:38-42

a problem are some ways that I see Jesus in others. Jesus comes to me in the people who come to me.

God meant for it to be this way. He wants us to depend on others for the Christ they share. Christ's life in us is not separate from our life with each other. We should share with Christ at the same time as we share with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Of course, we also need time alone with God, but fellowship with other believers is an essential ingredient of the Christian life.

This fellowship isn't just "Christians being together," but your "being together as Christians." Ice cream socials and volleyball games may involve Christians being together, but listening to and sharing concerns, sharing Christ and His Word is fellowship, or "being together as Christians."

I have experienced a close fellowship in the Brethren students' Bible study led by Charles Munson, here in Ashland. We share our concerns and joys, pray for each other, share Scriptures and words of help, and enjoy close relationships to carry each other through. I feel so much a part of this group that I miss being together from one week to the next. And when I can't go to one meeting, I miss seeing "the family."

We share with God and with each other in one continuous line (it's not one line up to God and one line out to others, but one curved continuous line between us), for we are part of God, and He is part of us. It's exciting!

Along with this goes an idea I shared with you a few months ago. By loving and caring for each other, we show our love to God. (Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40) The best way for us to show our love to God is by showing it to other people—those we live with every day, our friends, and strangers. It has to be a deliberate, conscious effort to show this love. God remembers that we love Him. We don't have to continue telling Him every minute of the day. That time should be used to express acts of love to others, and God will feel our love, too.

I hope your own experiences help you understand these concepts. Each Christian needs to have fellowship with others and learn more about loving others. If you want to read more about these and other ideas on the Christian life, I encourage you to read Reuben Welch's short but dynamic book, **We Really Do Need Each Other** (Impact Books). He explains things in a simple, conversational style, and the book has really helped me grow. I think you would enjoy it, too. It would even be a good discussion starter for various group get-togethers. I pray that you will be blessed by it, as I have been.

As we observe Easter, let's concentrate on **our** love in response to the love God showed in the sacrifice of His only Son. May God bless you.

Yours through Christ's love,
Nancy

Paul's Third Journey

“So the word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily.”
Acts 19:20 (RSV)

In last month's study we left Paul at Antioch again (Acts 18:22). Read Acts 18:23. Paul was very concerned about the Christians in the churches he had founded, so once more he set out to visit them. From Acts it would seem that he made this journey alone; there is no mention of anyone going with him. Paul was not a young man anymore, and such a journey through the mountains was a hazardous one at any age or at any time of the year.

Acts 18:24 introduces us to a new character in our story, Apollos. He was from Alexandria, Egypt, where about one million Jews lived. He was well taught in the Old Testament and was a gifted speaker. By the teaching of Aquila and Priscilla, he learned of Jesus as the Savior of men. Apollos knew of the task Jesus gave to men, but he did not yet fully know of the help Jesus gave men to do it. After some time Apollos went to Corinth and worked with the Christians there.

Chapter 19 is filled with events in Ephesus after Paul arrived there from his tour of the churches, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and perhaps others not recorded. Read Acts 19:11. “God did” things through Paul to testify that he was teaching people about the true God. The handkerchief was the band workers tied around their heads to keep sweat from running into their eyes. The apron would have been worn by Paul while working at his tentmaking. Remember, the New Testament was not yet written, so God worked in special ways that could be seen to show that Paul was his messenger.

Ephesus

Ephesus was one of the great pagan cities of the world in the time of Paul. Pagan, because all kinds of gods were worshiped. There were charms

Planning the Meeting

1. Use your Bible Lands maps to follow Paul.
 2. For next month, the final study in Acts, read chapters 24-28.
 3. Use “Spreading the Gospel” in your program.
 4. Don't forget to bring your Bibles to the meeting.
-

to wear and books to read telling what god or gods were supposed to do certain things.

One of the seven wonders of the world was there in Ephesus—the great marble temple of Diana (the Roman name) or Artemis (the Greek name), a goddess. The temple was 425 feet long (a football field is 300 feet long), 220 feet wide (a gridiron is 150 feet wide), and 60 feet high (about as high as a 6 story building). Inside this temple was a huge statue of the goddess which was worshiped, especially in March-April, by thousands from different parts of the world of that day. The temple was several hundred years old when Paul was there.

Paul in Ephesus

Paul, as usual, began teaching in the synagogue, but after three months taught in a school. Here he taught during the vacant period of the school day. It was the custom to close school and businesses from noon until late afternoon because of the heat in those lands. Paul stayed in Ephesus about three years, the longest he stayed in any one place.

Tell the story found in Acts 19:13-20. “Jesus” means Savior, and before we can use His name we must ask Him to be our Savior.

Acts 19:23-41 tells about a riot. What happened?

The “silver shrines” were small models of the great temple—a souvenir for the pilgrims to take home. We buy souvenirs when we go on vacations, and people were no different then.

Ephesus today

In 1963 my husband and I visited the ruins of ancient Ephesus. Archaeologists have been digging there for many years to uncover the buildings of the city, which have been destroyed through wars and earthquakes. Marble pillars and beautifully carved stones of buildings are everywhere. The main street was paved with huge slabs of white marble, and we walked that street.

One of the most interesting places there is the theater where the riot took place. In 1963 very little work had been done to uncover it. But in 1974 we returned to Ephesus, and all the dirt had been removed. It is a beautiful theatre, shaped like a half-round stadium cut into a hillside. It seated twenty-four thousand people. It is being used now for plays and concerts.

Paul goes to Jerusalem

After the riot in Ephesus, Paul left there and started on a journey to Jerusalem. Representatives of the churches joined him for the Jerusalem trip. Luke evidently joined Paul again at Philippi and was with him the rest of his life. Notice the "us" and "we" beginning in Acts 20:5, 6.

A stop was made at Troas. Acts 20:7-12 tells about a young man, Eutychus, who was in the service one night when Paul was preaching and teaching. What happened to him? The Christians could only attend services very early in the morning, before they went to work, or at night, after they had worked all day and were dead tired. At that time there was no day of rest for worship.

Read Acts 21:8. Here is Philip again. Do you

Spreading the Gospel

The Gospel (Good News) was told by Paul and his helpers wherever they went. It has been estimated that Paul traveled 12,000 miles to tell the Jews and Gentiles about Jesus Christ. Nine thousand miles of the 12,000 were on foot, by donkey, or perhaps, sometimes in a cart of a caravan.

If Paul rode a donkey, he would have gone about the same speed as if he had been walking. Donkeys are mentioned several times in the Bible. They are small beasts and are still used in countries of the Middle East as pack animals. They can carry heavy loads and just plod along in their little short steps.

Remember the donkey Jesus used on Palm Sunday to ride into Jerusalem? There have been poems and stories written about that donkey. He had a glorious hour that day as he carried the Savior of the world. Today, donkeys are often beaten to make them trot faster, but when one brays, maybe he is saying, "I have had my day."

Several years ago a missionary from the Holy Land, who was on furlough here in the States, told of the need for a donkey so he could go to outlying villages to preach the Gospel and give out tracts and New Testaments. A missionary group soon raised the \$70 needed for the donkey.

Did you know that the first mission project of the Sisterhood was to purchase a horse for the mission work in Kentucky? The year was 1914.

NAE Convention Report

(continued from page 21)

Colson went on to challenge evangelicals to immediate Christian social action in the communities where they live. He said that we should look around, begin right in our own communities to see injustice, inhumanity and the neglect of human needs.

Said Colson: "If we evangelicals can demonstrate to a disbelieving world the power of social action firmly rooted in Biblical truth, we will once again be directing the mainstream of the Church, and the Church will truly reflect the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

remember him preaching Christ to the Ethiopian official?

Jerusalem

Paul, Luke, and the seven representatives of the churches (Acts 20:4) arrived in Jerusalem and reported to the Church there what God had done among the Gentiles.

It was the time of one of the great feasts, and Jewish pilgrims from all over the world were there. Someone said that Paul had taken a Gentile into the Temple, and with that untrue statement a riot was started. Tell what happened to Paul.

Our study leaves Paul in prison at Caesarea (Acts 23:33), the capital of Roman government for the Jerusalem area.

SMM Scholarship

I would like to receive an application for the 1977 SMM Scholarship.

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Return this form to:

Nancy Ronk
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Ashland, Ohio 44805

Be sure to include all information.

finally, brethren

. . . some thoughts to take with you!

Enough to Eat

A man had six
children
sitting at his
table
ready to eat.

He spread for
them
their daily food.

The three biggest
children
grabbed first—
leaving one
nothing
and two with
crumbs.

The first three
became full,
began dessert,
and said:

"Dear loving
father,
won't you
please feed
these hungry
children?"

The father angrily
replied:
"I gave enough
food for all
at the table.
Where has it
gone?"

Part of the answer
to our prayer on
hunger:
There is enough
if we care
enough.

by Stephen J. Miller

Reprinted from the November 21, 1976, issue of
THE DISCIPLE by permission of the Christian Board
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Southeast District

Bethlehem	\$233.50
Chandon	25.00
Cumberland	27.00
Dunraven	
Gatewood	
Haddix	
Hagerstown	187.50
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Ashland (Park Street)	818.55
Canton	477.62
Columbus	50.00
Dayton	353.47
Fremont	20.00

'unto one of the least . . .

Illustration by Rev. Joseph Hanna
Brethren World Relief Board member
Pastor, Meyersdale, Pa.



Garber (Ashland)		Oakville	50.00
Glenford		Peru	
Gratis	168.75	Roann	285.62
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Loree		Tucson	160.47
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Matteson		Bradenton	\$175.42
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Milford	137.00	St. Petersburg	104.26
Mishawaka	5.00		
Muncie	3.74	Total Church Offerings	\$24,311.74
Nappanee	200.00	Individuals' Gifts	1,522.79
New Paris	188.41	Fasting Supper Profit	528.76
North Liberty	954.00		
North Manchester	51.00		\$26,363.29



Photo by Jerry Sandoz

Phil Lersch replays his recording of these children's voices in a Korean Leper Village.

BRETHREN, May Our Caring And Giving Increase

"It's an explosion!"

"By the tens of thousands, U.S. youngsters are shifting from public into private classrooms," reports U.S. News & World Report. "The main reason parents are switching, sponsors contend, is that they are dissatisfied with the kind of education provided in public schools today. . . . They . . . want a total education where Christ is in the classroom."

Says a seventh-grade public school teacher in Virginia, who sends his son to a Christian school: "As I observe the operations of the public schools, I notice that parents and teachers are much of the time at opposite poles of opinion about life, morals, and/or philosophy.

"I want my son to get the same information about life from school as he gets from home. I can trust the Christian school to get biblical principles to him as a normal part of growing up."

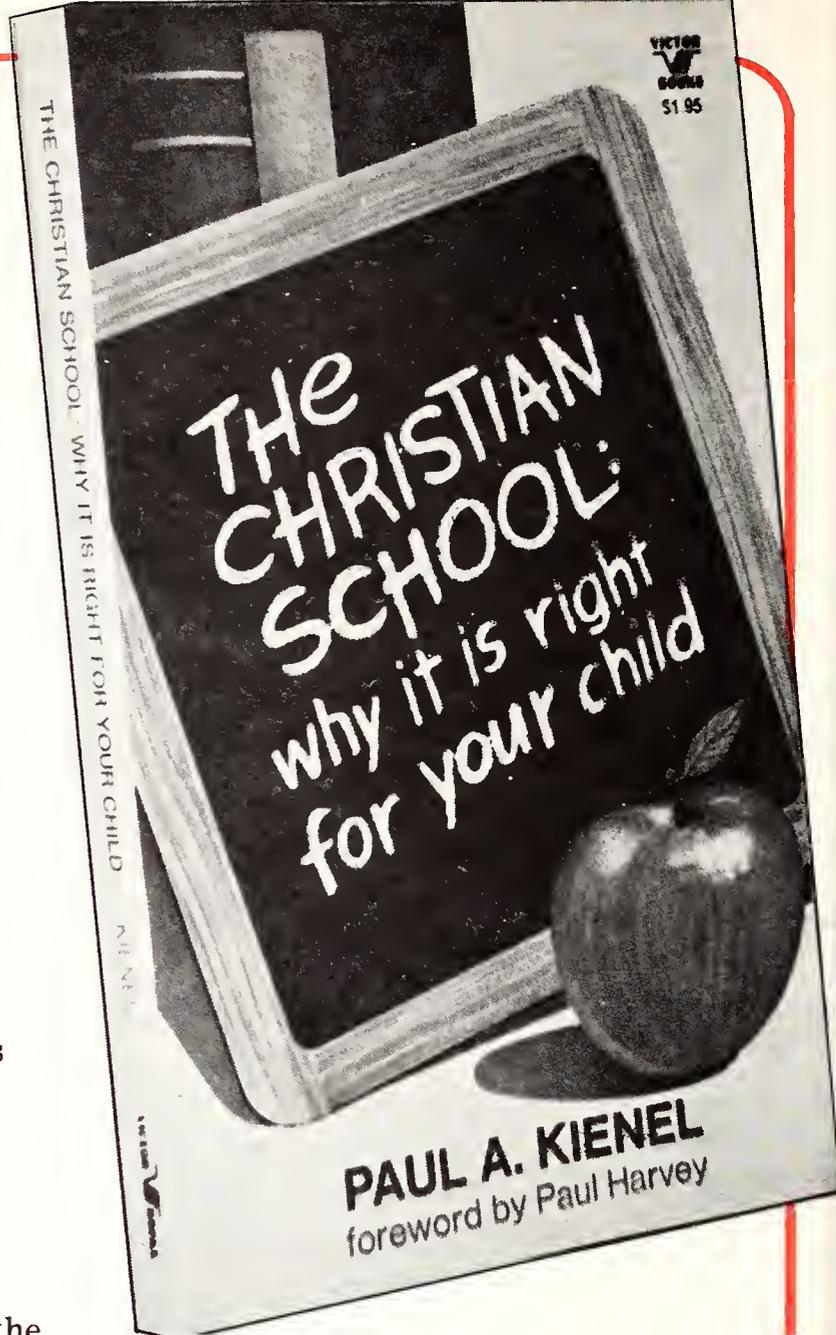
Dr. Paul A. Kienel (executive director of the Western Association of Christian Schools) says: "It is time for the Christian community to declare an educational emergency and support an educational program that will not kick the spiritual stuffings out of the next generation!"

Dare to read the author's case for the Christian school. It could make a world of difference to your child.

\$1.95

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The Brethren

EVANGELIST

May 1977

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Look to Florida
see pages 6-8



**Second Thoughts
on Church Growth**

page 4

Brethren Publishing Company

Winfield new editorial assistant

The Brethren Publishing Company has announced the appointment of Richard Winfield as editorial assistant, effective April 1.

Mr. Winfield will provide general assistance to the managing editor, especially with regard to the Brethren Evangelist and the Brethren Bible Class Quarterly. In addition, he will oversee all Evangelist subscription orders and renewals.

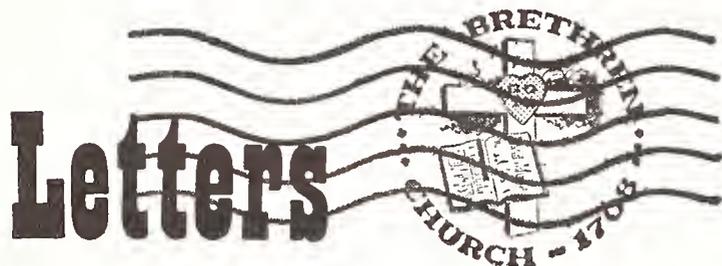
Dick is a graduate of Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary. He has also taken further graduate work at Michigan State University in linguistics.

He, his wife Kitty, and daughter Melissa retired from missionary service in December 1976. They had served for nine years in Nigeria on the teaching staff of the Kulp Bible School.

Although we are sorry to see them leave missionary service, we are happy to have Dick join the editorial staff. We are confident his particular gifts and training will complement our present staff.



Richard Winfield



Dear Editor,

We would like to compliment you on the beautiful cover on the April Evangelist. We think it is the nicest one so far. It proves we can place our church magazine along side any other one with pride.

Let us also thank you for your choice of subject—depicting one of the most beautiful of the services in the Brethren Church—our communion service.

We have appreciated the many new ideas. We just hope you will continue with some of the old ones as well. We enjoy the church news, weddings, etc. This helps us to remain one happy family in the Lord.

Thank you for a lovely Christian magazine.

—Rev. and Mrs. Duane Dickson
Mansfield, Ohio

The Brethren Evangelist staff welcomes your signed letters of compliment, criticism, or suggestion. Address them to "Letters," The Brethren Evangelist, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Mrs. Hubler resigns

Mrs. Janet Hubler resigned from the Brethren Publishing Company staff on April 1. Her resignation was in anticipation of her family's move out-of-town.

Mrs. Hubler had served since August as a part-time office secretary and subscription clerk in the editorial office.

Ron Waters said, "Janet came to us at an important time. Her careful work was a definite asset to the growth of the Creative Arts Department of the company."

She will continue as secretary-treasurer of the board of trustees of the company.

Student subscriptions provided

From November through April, the Brethren Publishing Company sent complimentary copies of the Brethren Evangelist to Brethren college students across the country.

The free copies were sent primarily to help undergraduate students maintain contact with the church while away from home.

A long-range goal of the program was to help conserve these students for service in the Brethren Church.

Names and addresses were supplied by the Board of Christian Education from lists sent to them by Brethren churches.

Churches have been encouraged to extend the subscriptions through the summer.

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Phone: (419) 289-2611

Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

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Cover

Brian Moore looks at the concept of "church growth" and makes recommendations, beginning on page 4. (Cover and pages 5, 9, and 26 by Jon Barber.)

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May 1977

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Third Thoughts on Church Growth.

Second Thoughts on Church Growth

Is church growth just another passing fad?
Brian Moore takes a hard look at this question.

WHEN a man thinks his thoughts in solitude, he may eventually find himself far afield. But having been one of the fortunate ones to receive training at Fuller, do extensive required reading, and conduct seminars for the American Institute of Church Growth, I feel impelled to suggest some second thoughts. My "church growth eyes" are nowhere near 20/20 vision by any means, but I hope that what I have to say is not overly beset by astigmatism or myopia. There is little doubt that farsightedness would be my problem.

There is some opinion circulating that church growth emphases in the Brethren Church have run their course. The feeling of "That was nice; what's next?" may characterize some of our thinking. But I believe that we tend to drift toward this attitude because we have come to the subject of church growth with a subtle hope that **this** would be the panacea we were all looking for. Most of us have found no such thing in church growth.

We have found that creating a task force on church growth after a seminar was no panacea either. To use possibility thinking in our sessions was (and is) tremendously helpful (though I wonder how much actual possibility thinking we have actually done). But that alone does not seem to solve our problems. For some, the alternatives seem to be to cry "help!" or to settle back and

make friends with old "status quo," or both.

If that is your temptation (and it is mine), let us think together of another course of action. Let me reinforce this course with a paraphrased adaptation of Hebrews 6:1-3 based on the New English translation:

Let us then stop discussing the rudiments of church growth. We ought not to be laying over again the foundations of proven church growth principles, of charts and graphs, of Class I and Class II leaders, and the deadness of a "terminal illness." Instead, let us advance towards maturity; and so we shall, if God permits.

The whole point of what I want to say can be summarized this way: **let us advance toward maturity in church growth!** I still see in this approach more of the essential points of what the church is all about than I see in any other alternative. We do not disown our children because they do not grow up more quickly! We know, more or less, what to expect in the growth stages of children; let us be patient with the growth stages, if you please, of church growth.

The numbers game

What will maturity in church growth look like? First, as we mature in this we will become less numbers-conscious and begin to see growth in all three vital areas—quantitative, qualitative, organizational.

In our childish stage, we fear that church growth is just a numbers game. It was never, never, never intended to be that, but some have so interpreted it. That, however, is the easiest temptation to which we fall prey. It is the most readily observable. The success stories we read **all** relate how the church has grown from 75 to 2000 in ten years, for example! We think that **that**

Brian Moore is pastor of the Ardnore Brethren Church in South Bend, Ind. He is also a Church Growth Seminar One leader.

Brian's article replaces Church Growth Forum this month. Watch for Arden Gilmer's column next month. You may address your own thoughts to Rev. Gilmer at 530 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

"We have come to the subject with a subtle hope that this would be the panacea we were all looking for. Most of us have found no such thing in church growth."

is what it is all about. And when our graph is nosing its way toward the floor, we panic and conclude that we have a terminal illness and, like two lepers who sat near the gate of Samaria, almost decide to "sit here until we die"!

As we mature, however, we will begin to look at numbers in the proper way: not as **the** goal or **the** sign of God's blessing or **the** proof that all is well in our church as well as in heaven! Maturity will begin to see us move away from a numbers-fixation into something deeper, more viable, and solid.

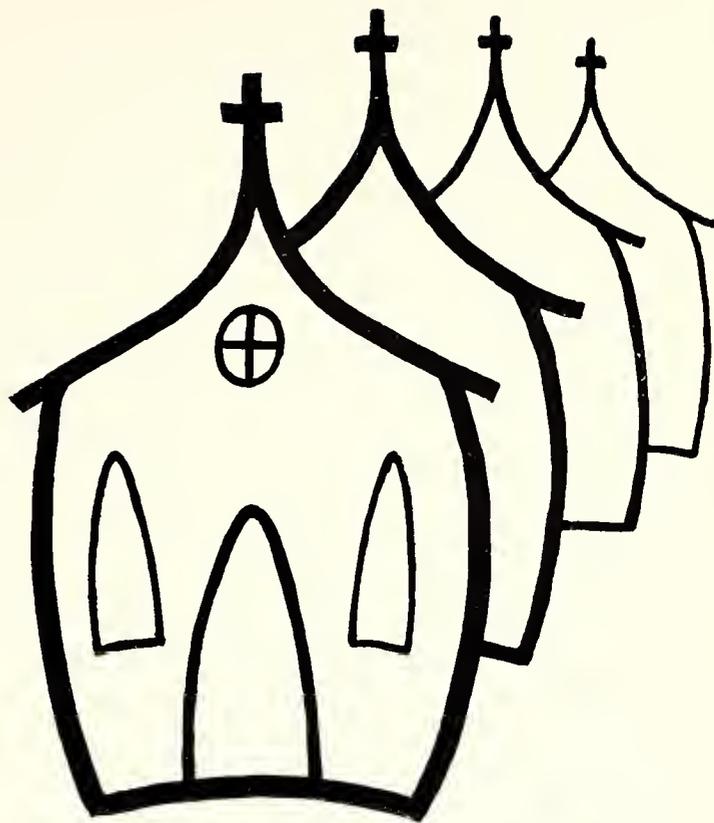
Think what the Empire State Building would look like if it were built on the "mucklands" of Celeryville, Ohio! Being the "tallest" is not the goal. It is an unworthy goal. Let us mature, relying upon statistics for the proper reason.

Secondly, advancing toward maturity in church growth will see us move beyond just talking about the subject to the "nuts and bolts"—really doing something about what we have said.

For example, having analyzed our churches and having discovered that we have only 1 Class II worker for every 50 Class I workers, what have we done about the situation? Wrung our hands, decided that that was terrible, concluded that there simply wasn't anything we could do about that, and dismissed the subject.

Or, for another example, we know now that we must know not only ourselves, but also our community. "Find a need and fill it" is one of the slogans for growth. So we have said to each other, "Our community needs to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior." By that sweeping statement (however much it is true), we think we have covered that point!

But mature church growth thinking believes that your community is unique in many ways. We must discover its **unique** needs and begin to work on those. Every community needs to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; no survey or research is necessary to discover that. As we advance



toward maturity, let us not just **talk** about what we **think** our community needs. Instead, let's get in touch and find out!

Until we have done something about developing Class II workers and until we have really worked to uncover the needs of our communities, for example, we cannot honestly say that church growth has run its course in the Brethren Church!

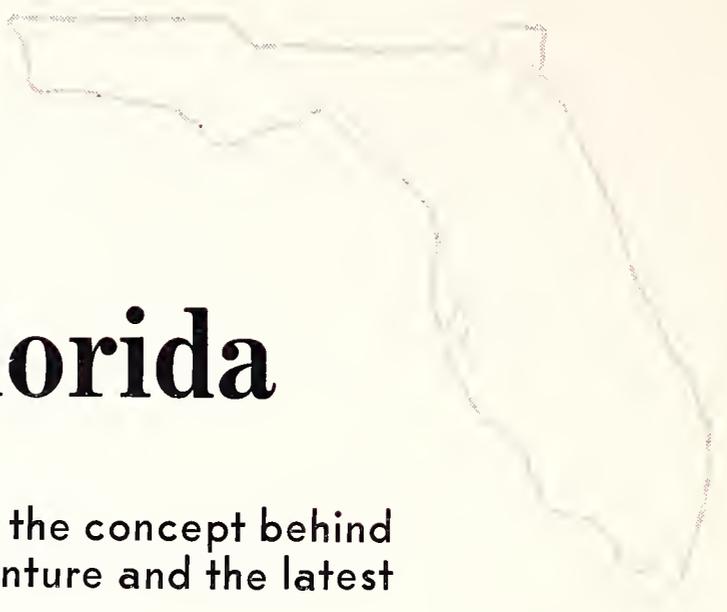
Less conscious

Thirdly, I believe that advancing toward maturity in church growth will find us less conscious of the subject itself. When we were learning to walk, every step was a conscious effort. All our energies were concentrated on walking; now we walk along without thinking about it at all!

As church growth matures, the term itself may be heard less, but its ideas and principles will be a part of our total church experience. I believe that our 1977 General Conference theme, "Equipping for Ministry," reflects a maturing of the church growth subject. We are glad to be able to refocus on something that is closer to the Lord's main priority for His Church: making disciples. It was getting uncomfortable spending so much time and energy on emphasizing growth, something I consider to be an **effect**, not a **cause**.

Have you been ready to bury church growth? If I might misuse something Jesus said, "Let the dead bury the dead"! Church growth is dead only to those who are dead to it. "Let us," however, "advance towards maturity; and so we shall, if God permits."

Brethren Look to Florida



Arden Gilmer explains the concept behind this church planting venture and the latest developments.

THE United States needs more Brethren churches! The population of the U.S. is not only growing, it is also on the move. As populations move, churches die. But at the same time, whole new communities are being formed in large areas which have few churches. In 1900, 13% of the world's population lived in urban areas. Current estimates are that by the year 2000, 87% of the world's population will be urban.

While this population movement is taking place, our Brethren churches remain rural. Of the 120 Brethren churches, only 16 (13%) are in cities with a population of 50,000 or more. Can we be faithful to the Great Commission of our Lord and not establish churches in the new communities being formed around our major population centers?

In the last few years much emphasis has been put on church growth in the Brethren Church. This emphasis has centered on enlarging present congregations by winning new converts and integrating them into these churches.

But this is only one facet of our task. It is not enough for churches to reach "the

harvest" where they are. We must follow the harvest fields. In order to do this, there must be a strategic multiplication of new congregations. Evangelistic harvest is not only concerned with increasing the size of present churches. It also makes the building of new churches both imperative and intrinsic to the harvesting process. New churches must be started.

This pattern is amply illustrated in the New Testament, particularly in the work of the Apostle Paul. Paul didn't just travel around preaching the gospel. He understood his mission to include establishing new churches. These churches would then continue the task of evangelism which he had begun.

The Missionary Board has been created by the Brethren denomination for the purpose of "extending the Gospel beyond the borders of The Brethren Church, both around the world and at home, by planting churches and fostering their growth." Desiring to be faithful to this mandate, the Missionary Board, in November of 1975, established a goal of planting **ten new churches in the next five years.**

Operation Impact Timetable

June 30—Church planters located in target areas in Florida: Dale RuLon in Town and Country, and Keith Bennett in Brandon.

July 11 - August 12—Intensive training for church planters.

August 18—Church planters commissioned at an historic General Conference service.

August 18—General Conference offering for Operation Impact. Goal: \$10,000.00.

September 11—First services in new areas of Florida.

Research-based strategy

Operation Impact, adopted by the Missionary Board in August 1976, is one effort toward reaching this goal. The specific objective of Operation Impact is to establish two new churches in Florida in 1977. Since the Brethren have no organized district in Florida, this project is one which can be supported by Brethren all over the United States.

The Operation Impact plan called for a Spirit-led, research-based strategy. In a constant attitude of prayer, and experienc-

ing the leading of the Holy Spirit, researchers began gathering information about a six-county area on the Gulf of Florida. The area stretches from Pinellas County on the north to Lee County on the south. Material was gathered regarding population flow, economic trends, population mix, planning commission projections, etc. Interpretation of this data indicated that Hillsborough County had experienced a 43.9% population growth in the period from 1965 to 1975. The median age for the county was 28.5 years, much lower than the other counties surveyed. Prayerful consideration of these facts pointed to the possibility of establishing new churches in this county.

Further research was completed in February as a team of workers, including people from the Sarasota and Bradenton Brethren Churches, did house-to-house surveys in sample areas of two of the fastest growing areas of Hillsborough County. The survey consisted of 65 questions which sought to determine people's attitudes regarding: 1) their current lifestyles, 2) their religious beliefs, 3) their degree of satisfaction with their lives, and 4) their "felt needs." (There were also questions dealing with length of residence, age, marital status, educational achievement, and economic status.) The information gathered will be beneficial for developing programming in the new churches.

Reaching the Goal

The goal: ten new churches in five years

How will the goal be accomplished? Through the following efforts (coordinated nationally by the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church according to adopted church planting guidelines):

1. Through existing districts establishing new churches
 2. Through the national Missionary Board working in areas outside existing district (ventures such as Operation Impact—the planting of two new churches in Florida in 1977)
 3. Through mother-daughter church planting (like Northwest Brethren Chapel, started by the Tucson, Ariz., Brethren Church; and the St. Charles City, Md., work started by the Washington, D.C., congregation)
 4. Through "tentmakers"
 5. Through strategic location of "seed families"
 6. Through faithful prayer and financial support of Brethren with a vision
 7. Through Growth Partners Club
-

As a result of the survey work, the Brandon, Florida, area and the Town and Country section of the Greater Tampa area were selected as places to attempt to establish new congregations. Both of these areas are in Hillsborough County. Brandon is about ten miles east of Tampa, and Town and Country is about six miles northwest of Tampa. They are also within easy driving distance of our churches in Sarasota, Bradenton, and St. Petersburg.

New churches can be established in a variety of ways. The method selected for Operation Impact was the placing of "church planters" in these areas. Several men were prayerfully interviewed about the possibility of functioning as church planters.

Pastors selected

We are happy that the Reverend Dale RuLon and the Reverend Keith Bennett have responded affirmatively to the call to serve as church planters in Hillsborough County, Florida. Church planters must be men of God, motivated by the Holy Spirit and by a passion for souls, inspired by a vision of the harvest, patient but persistent in the face of adversity and discouragement, self-disciplined, and willing to try new methods which will result in people coming to Christ. In addition to meeting these



Photo by Fred Burkey

Jane Hendricks and Janet and Tim Solomon receive instructions from Arden Gilmer before beginning survey work in Brandon.



Dale RuLon (left) will plant the Town and Country congregation. Dale is presently pastor of the Elkhart, Ind., First Brethren Church. He and his wife Donna have two children.



Keith Bennett (right) will pastor the new Brandon church. Keith is currently pastor of the South Bend, Ind., First Brethren Church. He and his wife Marjorie have two children.

qualifications, both of these men have demonstrated their willingness to be visible for Christ in their communities.

In responding to God's call upon their lives, they are taking a real leap of faith. In their new ministries they will be faced with many unknowns and uncertainties. Much hard work and sanctified sweat will be required. But they have seen God's vision of the harvest and are responding as laborers in the harvest. Let's support them in every way. Since these men are serving not only the Lord, but also the Brethren Church, we must be faithful to support them with our prayers and with our finances.

The Operation Impact timetable calls for these men and their families to be located in rented housing in their respective areas by June 30—Rev. RuLon in Town and Country and Rev. Bennett in Brandon. After a time of "settling in," they will return to Ashland for a month-long period of intensive training geared to their new work. They will be formally commissioned as church planters at an historic, forward-looking service on Thursday night of General Conference, then return to begin their ministries the week after General Conference.

Tentmakers vital

Another vital part of Operation Impact strategy involves the use of **tentmakers**. Tentmakers are lay men and women who will voluntarily and deliberately move to one of these new ministry areas in Florida. They will provide their own income and housing through secular employment. They will be completely self-supporting, but will

provide ministry through the new church and become a part of a nucleus from which to build the new church. Some young-married couples make excellent candidates for tentmakers. Retired people who are still in good health should also consider a tentmaking ministry. They can provide exceptional ministry and leadership based on their years of Christian experience.

If you are interested in a tentmaking ministry, or if you know someone who is suited for a tentmaking ministry in Florida, please contact Arden E. Gilmer, Director of Home Missions, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805, or phone (419) 289-2195.

Needs full support

Since Operation Impact is a forward thrust of the Brethren Church, every member of the Brethren Church should respond with wholehearted support for this new mission effort. Your support is essential in several areas: First, pray faithfully for the new church planters. Secondly, support Operation Impact through regular Home Mission giving and through special giving.

The General Conference offering this August is designated for Operation Impact. The goal for this offering is \$10,000.00. This goal can be reached if we begin planning now. Plan to attend General Conference and bring your offering with you. If you are not able to attend, send a special offering along with the representative from your church. Brethren, **we can do it**. The goal of \$10,000.00 can be reached if we all participate in giving. This project is worthy of sacrificial giving because it is **directly** related to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Am I a Monkey's Uncle?



Alvin Shifflett examines the "evidence" for evolution.

A LITTLE girl came home from school and asked, "Mom, do you believe we are descended from the monkeys?" "I don't know," said the mother. "I haven't met your father's people."

Ever since Mr. Charles Darwin proffered his theory of evolution, we've had jokes about monkeys. In moments of bewilderment you and I have said, "Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle." In expressing ourselves, we've sort of adopted the language of the evolutionists.

In Genesis we are told of the birth of man. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). This is a brief summary of what really happened in the first chapter, only it is in more detail.

In sharp contrast archeologists and anthropologists have traced modern man back to over fifty thousand years B.C. Many believe that lower paleolithic creatures probably roamed the earth over a million years ago. Were Adam and Eve our first parents, or should we look deeper into time to find paleolithic creatures "streaking" on the early great planet earth?

Al Shifflett is pastor of the Nappanee, Ind., First Brethren Church. His article on "Hamburgers and Seminarians" appeared in the June 1976 issue.

In the Hebrew language there are two words for create. One of these is "asah," which means to make or form from something else, or to assemble. The other is "bara," which means to create or bring forth from nothing.

Was there a gap?

We read: "In the beginning God created (bara) the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). This means, using the word "bara," that God literally created out of nothing. Many good scholars believe there is a vast period of time between verse one and two. They suggest that judgment followed the creative act of verse one, and verse two describes the results of that judgment: "The earth was without form and void . . ." (1:2). This is the so-called "gap theory."

If this theory is correct, one might possibly conclude: "Ah, here is where we can place Java man, Neanderthal man, Cro-maggon man, and the whole gang." Carbon and fluorine analysis tests on fossil remains point out that some of these bones are hundreds of thousands of years old. A lot of Bible scholars claim, on the other hand, that the earth is only about six thousand years old.

The whole thing is downright embarrassing.
(continued on next page)

"In the years following the Scopes Trial, the 'six million dollar' tooth of Nebraska Man was found to belong to a species of an extinct pig . . ."

ing. Did the Lord forget to tell Moses something? Can we hide these skeletons in our closets until the Lord returns with answers? Unfortunately, the anthropologists keep dragging them out and rattling their bones before the Church. Subscribers to the "gap theory" might possibly shove these dry bones between verses one and two of chapter one. However, the whole scheme seems to lack flesh.

Another theory, which I can briefly mention, surrounds the Hebrew word "yom." "Yom" means day. The problem lies with the length of the day. Some say it means a long period of time, like a millennium (a thousand years). There were six days (yom) of creation, and God rested on the seventh. Was each day a millennium, or a solar day of twenty-four hours? Now if "yom" did mean a long period of time to Moses, then a Christian seeking a solution to cave men fossils could easily place them in one of these "yoms" (days) of time and plead for theistic evolution.

But I think Moses meant for "yom" to represent a twenty-four hour solar day. Whenever "yom" is used in the Hebrew, it is always preceded or followed by a numeral indicating one solar day. Otherwise it is a period of time, such as a millennium. In every case here (Genesis 1), we have the language dictating a solar day. "And the evening and the morning were the first day (yom) . . . the second day (yom) . . ." etc.

If God created (bara) out of nothing, why is there a problem with this same God creating the whole universe in six days? God spoke and it was so—"Let there be light: and there was light" (1:3).

On the sixth day, with a fecund earth, God said: "Let us make (bara) man in our image. . . . So God created (bara) man in his own image, in the image of God created he him . . ." (1:26). You will note the continued use of "bara," which means a creation out of nothing. The writer wanted

us to know that this is Genesis Man, or first man, and not a theistic—evolutionary man. There had never been anything like this in all of God's unique creative acts. He created man in His own image.

Now compare Moses' descriptive account of the act: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (2:7).

In this verse Moses elaborates on the dramatic event with more detail. But the Hebrew word used here is "asah"—to form or assemble from some substance. How then could Adam have been created (bara) from nothing? Moses could not say God formed the body from nothing, for he knew full well that man's body came from the earth. Adam means red clay. A careful analysis of the composition of a human body will reveal a similarity to the earth. The body of Adam was formed (asah) from the ground, but God brought it to life with a definite creative (bara) act. Of no other creature was it said that it became a living soul. This is Genesis Man—something brand new.

According to this, man could not have evolved from anything; he was created and became Adam and conversed with God his Maker—all in a few hours. Perhaps even in minutes.

Evolution is a theory

Let us remember that Darwin's theory of evolution is just that—a theory. The evolutionist believes that man started as a little primordial cell and has been coming up ever since. This theory should never be presented as scientific fact until proven as such. A definition of science shows that something is scientific only if it can be observed and verified (neither is true of evolution or creation). Most evolutionary philosophy is built upon assumptions that presuppose evolution to be fact. Thus the results of this reasoning can only tend to "prove" the initial assumptions. This is a clear violation of the rules of logic.

David D'Armond, a geologist, has recently pointed out that radioactive dating is very unreliable. Much of it is guesstimation based on time and chance. It is the same type of theory as the one which is used to explain the existence of the universe (the "big bang" theory). What do you think your jaw bone would look like if it lay in the ground for 3000 years?

Henry Morris, Ph.D. (editor, *Scientific Creationism*, 1974), claims that "all the

(continued on page 31)



Equipping Youth for Ministry

The church offers meaning and purpose to young people when it prepares them for service, according to Fred Burkey.

THE time—May 1977. The occasion—Youth Month in the Brethren Church. An exciting time to be alive! A series of provocative programs based on the study of Ephesians 4:1-16 promises new insights into God's purpose for Brethren Youth—individually and collectively.

For instance, "We are all parts of one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future" (Ephesians 4:4, TLB). What a provocative thought: we have a mutual calling . . . an assured future! Christian youth have so much to live for; so much to give.

A ministry for everyone

Scripture affirms that "Christ has given each of us special abilities—whatever he wants us to have out of his rich storehouse of gifts" (4:7, TLB). Youth is a time of trying out one's abilities, testing the water to find one's identity and role in the home, school, church, and society at large. It is a time of seeking and evaluating.

For many living without God's promise, this may also be a time of deep despair and self-doubt. Lacking self-confidence and purpose, an alarming number of American youth consider suicide. According to the March 1977 "Youth Letter," in recent years "suicide among the general population has increased 20 percent; among adolescents, 200 percent." What a tragic misuse of life.

On the other hand, the church has the privilege of offering meaning and purpose

to young people. It can offer challenges and opportunities far beyond our normal expectations. To be sure, there is risk even in Christian service. Sometimes our best efforts fall short. Sometimes we wonder if our gifts are really equal to the task. We need encouragement and reassurance.

We believe that every Christian has a ministry to fulfill and that God provides gifts equal to every need. Brethren youth are challenged to equip themselves to become ministers of the church. There are diversities of personalities, diversities of gifts, and diversities of ministries. God has prepared a place in the body for each and every one.

The purpose of Youth Sunday, Youth Week, and Youth Month is to highlight the importance of helping youth to hear God's

Equipping *Youth* for Ministry

Week

May 8-15, 1977

call, to help them identify their gifts, and to involve them in meaningful Christian ministry.

We believe that the basic work of equipping youth for ministry is done in two settings: the home and the local church. The denominational Board of Christian

(continued on page 17)

1977 Summer Crusaders

The Board of Christian Education is proud to introduce the 1977 Summer Crusaders. Five Crusader teams have been formed to provide a wide variety of services for Brethren churches. For 12 of the 26 Crusaders pictured, this will be a new experience. We are fortunate to have a good blend of youth and experience on our teams.

Three units will be doing primarily instructional and survey work during the eight weeks from June 19 to August 14. They will provide leadership and assistance in vacation Bible schools and help out in community surveys and religious censuses. In addition, they will present special inspirational programs and participate in worship services.

The camp unit will be used extensively at Camp Shipshe-wana, Camp Wyandotte, and at the Cheyenne, Wyoming, camp.

An effort is being made to develop fresh approaches to church camping which may be shared through the BCE with all districts.

Lay involvement in the production of innovative worship services will be a major objective of the music/drama team. Special activities are being planned for persons from age six up!

We urge you to enlist as a Prayer Warrior on behalf of the

Crusaders (and Interns). Your support is essential to their success! Complete the form on page 17 and return it by May 30, 1977.

Education



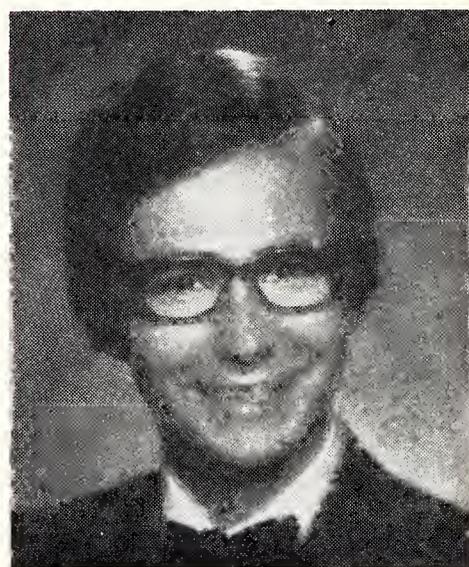
*John Black, captain
Milledgeville, Ill.*



*Carol French
Eldorado, Ohio*



*Jean Troup
Meadow Crest, Ind.*



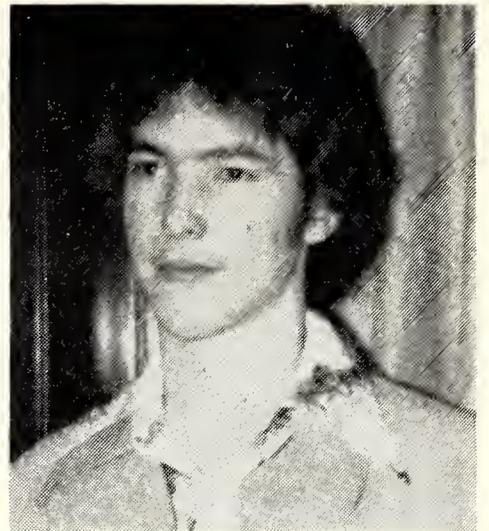
*John Mills
Hagerstown, Md.*



*Mary Ellen Bates
Wayne Heights, Pa.*



*Fred Miller
Brush Valley, Pa.*



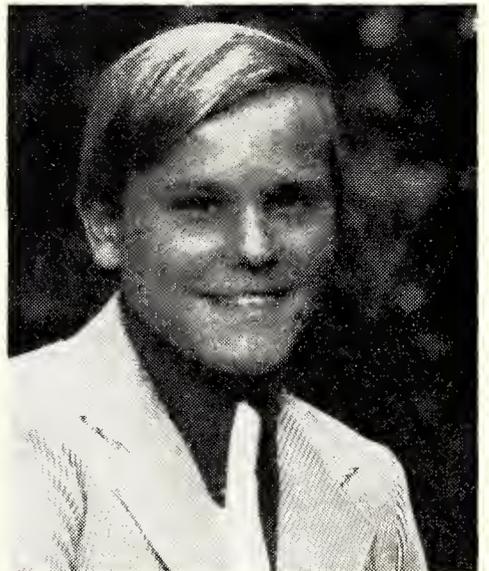
*Charles Bowers
St. James, Md.*



*Deb Munson, captain
Park Street, Ohio*

Education

Education



*Dave Kerner, captain
Roann, Ind.*



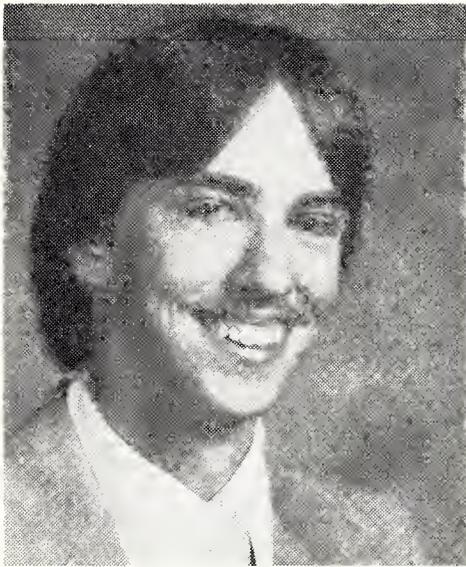
*Julie Slabaugh
Goshen, Ind.*



*Russell King
County Line, Ind.*



*Jane Drexler
Louisville, Ohio*



*Mark Britton
Derby, Kans.*



*Jean Slee
Roann, Ind.*

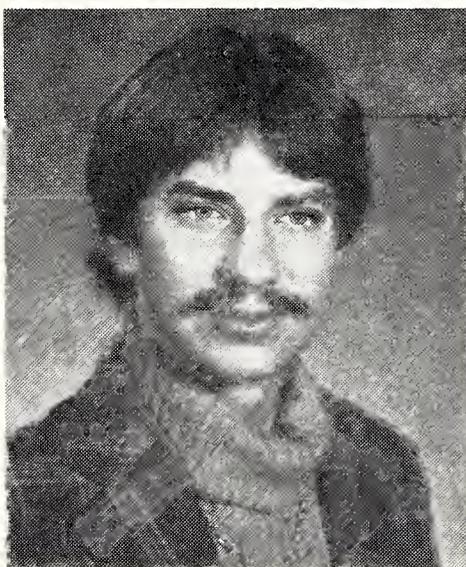


*Bill Shafer
Cedar Falls, Iowa*



*Jeff Lentz, captain
Nappanee, Ind.*

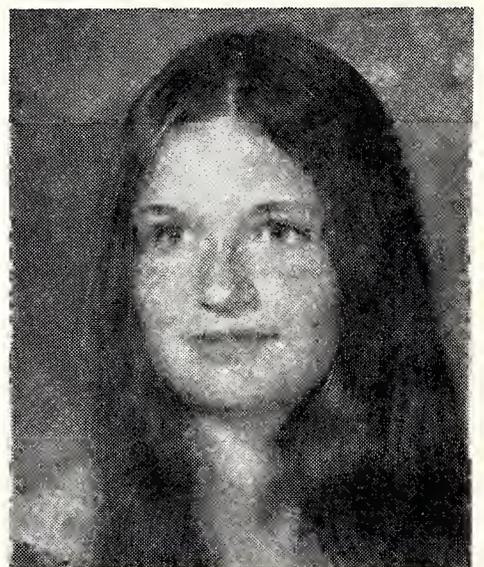
**Music/
Drama**



*Wayne Grumbling
Waterloo, Iowa*



*Lee Ann Zimmerman
Meadow Crest, Ind.*



*Betsy Saylor
Linwood, Md.*



*Jayne Hartong
Roann, Ind.*



*John Allison
Jefferson, Ind.*



*Becky Scott
Warsaw, Ind.*



*Nancy Dreyer
Tucson, Ariz.*



*Rob Grumbling
Johnstown III, Pa.*



*Kalah Spencer
Milledgeville, Ill.*

Camp



*James Miller, captain
Johnstown II, Pa.*

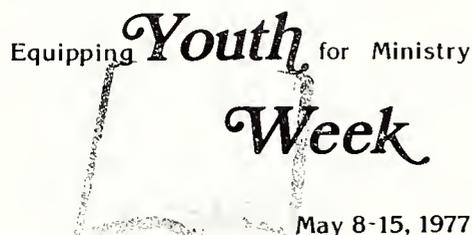
"Emmy"

Brethren Youth's "special gal" will bring hope for Colombians without Christ.

EMMY is our special gal! She is the object of our affection and a great deal of effort. She really is the National BYC fund-raising project: Evangelistic Mobile Equipment (EME—"Emmy" for short).

Perhaps you have seen the green posters describing the project on your church bulletin board. If so, you know that Brethren Youth hope to raise **at least \$2,500.00** toward the purchase of recording and public address equipment for installation in a van for use by our missionaries in Colombia, South America.

Colombia is a beautiful and diverse nation in which one may experience everything from the steaming heat of tropical river



valleys to precipitous mountain trails. Colombia's growing population ranks 4th in Latin America and 25th in the world.

It is in this land that the Ken Solomon and Mark Logan families are serving as missionaries of the Brethren Church. The city of Medellin, with a great predominance of young people, was chosen as the location for opening the Brethren work with an evangelistic, church-planting ministry.

From the heights of the Nutibara Hotel in Medellin one can look across the large city cradled in the Valley of Aburra, which extends for approximately 40 miles in a north-south direction at an altitude of 4,757 feet above sea level. This city is endowed with a perpetual greenhouse climate and is often advertised as the "City of Eternal Spring."

Many of the sights are similar to those in any large city of the world—the Coca-Cola signs, the modern bus lines, and neon signs. Medellin is the only major city in Colombia that has sufficient electric power. This makes possible the industrial activity

which puts Medellin in first place of economic importance among Colombian cities.

As a consequence of rapid population increase, the median age shown by the 1964 census was only 16.7 years, lowest in South America. The large proportion of dependent young people burdens Colombia's educational and health facilities. Moreover, movement from rural to urban areas has been heavy, and the trend continues. The housing conditions foster crime, child desertion, and general instability.

Colombia, unlike many Latin American countries, early established a solid tradition of civilian government and regular free elections to decide between competing parties. Despite Colombia's commitment to democratic institutions, its history has not been free from periods of violent conflict.

The most recent civil war, growing out of bitter rivalry between the Conservative and Liberal parties, was particularly tragic. During La Violencia ("the violence") of 1948-58, between 100,000 and 200,000 people were killed. In the same period, the Protestants of Colombia suffered persecution at the hands of the Roman Catholic Church. During that time, no new missionaries were permitted to enter.

Protestant work grows

In spite of persecution, the worst in the history of the Protestant work in Latin America, Protestant church membership increased by 400% from 1948-60. The total Protestant community is probably three times the communicant membership and in 1970 numbered nearly 300,000. Even so, it represents only 1.3 percent of the population.

National Brethren Youth cares about the nearly 1.2 million residents of Medellin, Colombia. We challenge every church—whether it has an active youth group or not—to bring or send a contribution to the Project Ingathering during the National BYC Convention, August 15-19, 1977.

Background material adapted from February-March 1977 issue of MORNING STAR, the National BYC magazine.

Equipping Youth

(continued from page 11)

Education provides resources, special programs, and personnel to assist and improve the work done in both areas.

Further, special on-the-job training is designed and administered by the BCE through the Summer Crusader Program. During the summer of 1977, 26 Brethren youth (pictured on pages 12 through 15) will be working as Crusaders in churches, camps, and institutions across the nation.

Eight other persons will work under the auspices of the BCE as church staff interns. They will spend 8 to 12 weeks in a church working with an experienced pastor, observing and doing the work of ministry.

And four missionary interns will join the Solomon and Logan families for six weeks'

work in Colombia, South America—another aspect of the BCE's equipping ministry.

Since 1970, 108 young people have spent at least one summer in practical service to their church. Of that number, 49 are either actively involved in or are preparing for Christian service in some capacity.

In a sense, there may be no higher calling than equipping persons (youth and adults) for ministry. "Under his direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in it's own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love" (Ephesians 4:16, TLB). That is the goal of "equipping youth for ministry!"

The Brethren Youth Offering taken annually in the month of May helps underwrite the cost of this equipping ministry. We invite you to consider the needs of the Brethren Church and to give as God leads.

1977 National BYC Convention

Preparations are underway for the 1977 National BYC Convention, scheduled for August 16-19 in Ashland, Ohio.

A unique feature of this year's convention will be the continuation of the Youth Week theme, "Equipping Youth for Ministry." A series of Bible studies and discussions on discovering and using your spiritual gifts will be led by Rev. Dale Stoffer, a doctoral candidate at Fuller Seminary.

Several district BYC organizations have been asked to share in the Convention by presenting hour-long programs. BYC Communion will return

to the 1977 program, and we anticipate other inspirational input from a variety of fine speakers and films.

The Crusader Review (Wednesday, 9:15-10:15 p.m.) will have a new look. In fact, the program promises to be as refreshing as a breath of cool mountain air. Don't miss it.

Plan now to attend the 1977 National BYC Convention. Participate in the business of BYC . . . get new ideas . . . share your interests and concerns. **Note:** Only registered members of National BYC are granted delegate status. Deadline for group registration is May 30, 1977).

SUMMER CRUSADER PRAYER WARRIORS

I would personally like to join the Prayer Warrior Program for 1977. I pledge to pray daily for the Crusader or Intern who is assigned to me.

PLEASE PRINT!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Church _____

I was a Prayer Warrior last year: Yes _____ No _____

Return by May 30, 1977, to: Board of Christian Education, Prayer Warrior Program, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church
and the Evangelical Press Association

Brethren Youth

Brethren Youth present project check to Bradenton church

Bradenton, Fla.—A check for \$2,500 was presented to the Bradenton Brethren Church February 13 by Dr. Fred Burkey. The presentation was made on behalf of National Brethren Youth.

The contribution was part of the 1975-76 National BYC Project, raised by Brethren Youth groups from across the United States.

After receiving the check for the church, Moderator Paul Yoder said, "We certainly appreciate this, and I know we can put it to good use here." The gift was designated for the purchase of sanctuary furnishings for the growing congregation.

According to Bradenton Pastor Russ Gordon, 1977 worship attendances have increased by 33 percent over 1976. Evening service attendance has increased by 60 percent. The church also has a newly-formed 10-member youth group.

Dr. Burkey said, "Brethren Youth are pleased to have had a small part in the Bradenton story."



Staff Photo

Christian Education Director Fred Burkey presents a check to Bradenton Moderator Paul Yoder on behalf of National Brethren Youth. Morning Star Editor Mark Baker (left) and Bradenton Pastor Russ Gordon (right) look on.

Deacons ordained, new program begins at Ardmore

South Bend, Ind.—On Sunday evening, January 16, two new deacon couples were ordained into service in the **Ardmore Brethren Church**. The couples are Mr. and Mrs. James Woods and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bourdon.

Rev. Brian Moore, pastor, officiated at the service, with Rev. Robert Bischof of New Paris assisting.

The ordination of these two couples brings the total number of deacons and deaconesses in the Ardmore Brethren Church to ten.

With the increase in the deacon board, a new program has been put into affect. Each deacon couple selected approximately ten church families that they will work with. During the year the deacon couples will seek to help any of this group who have special needs and to be always available to provide them encouragement.

The deacon couples have also opened their homes for Bible study and prayer meetings, and they are encouraging their groups to attend.

Good results are anticipated from this new program.

Pleasant View youth sponsor two rice suppers

Vandergrift, Pa.—The Senior Brethren Youth Crusaders of the Pleasant View Brethren Church sponsored a rice supper for World Relief on Saturday, January 15.

At this supper the film "Bangladesh: Darkness Into Light" was shown, and Love Loaves were distributed to each person present. (Loaves were also distributed in the church services the next day.)

Saturday, March 19, another rice supper was held, at which the film "Africa: Dry Edge of Disaster" was shown. At this supper the Love Loaves were collected and broken.

Over \$400 was collected from the Love Loaves. This money will be divided evenly between World Vision International and the World Relief Commission.

Pastor Walk of the Pleasant View church says, "Hats off to our youth for such involvement!"

Ohio District adopts long-range goals

Delaware, Ohio—The Ohio Conference of Brethren Churches accepted four long-range goals at its spring business meeting March 12.

The goals deal with ministerial recruitment, new churches, church growth, and youth ministry in the district.

A total of 124 attended the Saturday business meeting here on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University. Of that number 77 were lay delegates and 30 were ministerial delegates.

In addition to approving the district goals, delegates participated in discussions of strategies to reach the goals. Preliminary strategies had been prepared by the conference executive committee based on small group discussions at the October 1976 business meeting.

District Moderator John Brownsberger asked conference delegates to present the goals to their local church official boards. He also asked that each church consider definite plans at the local level to help carry out the goals and suggested strategies. A report of what each church is doing in this regard is to be sent to Rev. Gene Hollinger by August 30.

An election of officers for the coming year resulted as follows: Larry Bolinger, moderator-elect; Charles Beekley, secretary; Betty Deardurff, assistant secretary; Tom Stoffer, treasurer; Wanda Eck, assistant treasurer; and Ronald L.

Waters, statistician. Gene Hollinger, moderator-elect in 1976, became the new moderator.

The next Ohio Conference business meeting is scheduled for September 17 at Delaware.

Ohio Goals

The following goals were accepted by the Ohio Conference of Brethren Churches at its business meeting March 12:

Ministerial Recruitment: "God providing, each Ohio District church will call one or more new ministerial student(s) by 1980 and will encourage, guide, and support his or her training."

New Churches: "The Ohio District will establish two new Brethren Churches within the district by March 1982."

Church Growth: "The Ohio District will assist local churches in spiritual and numerical growth—an increase in the church growth index of 5 percent should be accompanied by an increase of spiritual awareness to be evaluated and encouraged by the Board of Evangelists."

Youth: "District Conference will form a Youth Committee comprised of representatives from Northeast Ohio and Miami Valley youth groups, and members from the Ohio District Board of Christian Education, to develop a stronger youth program in our district."

Garber completes projects

Ashland, Ohio—Members of the **Garber Brethren Church** completed two important work projects in recent months.

Late last fall, before the snow arrived, the men of the church joined together in spirit and body to paint the parsonage. Paint was provided by a neighbor, who had planned to provide both labor and paint until he broke his leg.

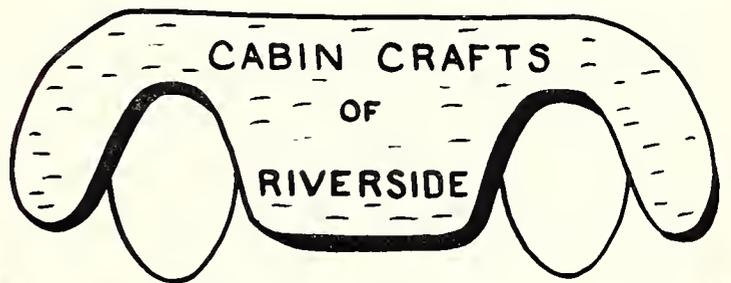
A second project, a **new nursery**, was completed in February of this year. One of the classrooms was converted into a nursery by adding paneling and carpet.

WRC reconstruction funds go to Rumania

St. Petersburg, Fla.—When the recent earthquake (7.6 on Richter Scale) hit Bucharest, capital of Rumania, the World Relief Commission responded by sending rehabilitation and reconstruction funds to Assembly of God personnel there.

The earthquake was one of the strongest ever recorded in Europe. Result: 1,000 killed, 10,000 injured, and 143,000 homeless.

WRC has also sent additional funds to assist in the emergency child feeding program in four areas of earthquake-ravaged Turkey.



Wanted: Handcrafts

Sell your fine handcrafted items to Cabin Crafts of Riverside, Lost Creek, Kentucky.

Sample items required for approval by Cabin Crafts of Riverside Commission.

No consignment.

Contact:

Mrs. Paul Richey
Business Manager
Cabin Crafts of Riverside
Lost Creek, Ky. 41348

General Conference

Housing information announced

Ashland, Ohio—A special committee to arrange a pre-registration process for delegate housing at the 1977 General Conference of the Brethren Church had its organizational meeting last month. The purpose of the committee is to formulate and administer a program of pre-paid, pre-registration for those delegates to Conference who desire accommodations in the dormitory facilities at Ashland College.

The committee has been formed as a result of responses to a questionnaire completed by delegates at the 1976 General Conference. In the questionnaire a number of delegates expressed frustration with the long waiting periods and apparent disorganization of the housing registration process.

At this time the committee is composed only of members of the Park Street Brethren Church, who have accepted the challenge presented to them by Rev. Jim Black, Secretary of the Conference Executive Committee. Members of the committee are Mrs. Charles Munson, Mrs. Honor Smith, Mrs. Royce Gates, Miss Nancy Ronk, and Charles Beekley, Chairman. According to Beekley, others throughout the denomination will be asked to help publicize and coordinate the pre-registration process.

As plans are developed for pre-registration, they will be announced in the Brethren Evangelist and through correspondence with pastors and moderators. As a first step, a registration form is being developed, which will be distributed early in the summer. Although last minute registrations will be taken at the time of Conference, August 1 has tentatively been set as the deadline for pre-registration.

Snyder is new pastor at Corinth

Corinth, Ind.—Rev. Fred Snyder was installed into the pastorate of the Corinth Brethren Church on Sunday afternoon, March 13. The installation service followed a carry-in dinner held for Rev. and Mrs. Snyder by the members of the Corinth Brethren Church.

Rev. Rodney Thomas, pastor of the Huntington Brethren Church, was in charge of the installation service. Roger Strasser, moderator of the church, gave the welcome, and special music was provided by Shirley Easter, Cathy Gunter, the One Way Life Singers, and Rev. and Mrs. Rodney Thomas.

On March 27, two weeks after the installation service, Rev. and Mrs. Snyder hosted an open house at the parsonage. Approximately 65 members and guests took this opportunity to visit the new pastor and his wife.

Questions or suggestions for the pre-registration procedure are welcomed by the committee.

Amstutz Hall will be open at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, August 14, and Kem Hall will open at 8:30 a.m. Monday, August 15. The top two floors of Amstutz Hall will be reserved for adults only (over 21) until the lower floors are full. The halls will close at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 20.

Room rates are \$4.00 per person per night for double occupancy (\$4.50 for single occupancy). Children under 11 sharing a room with both parents will pay 35¢ times their age. Included in the fee are sheets, pillow case, and towels, but not blankets.

Flags to fly again at Conference

by Rodney Thomas

Churches will once again have the opportunity to express themselves with **flags** this year at General Conference.

There will be an introductory grand march for the opening of Conference, including a presentation of flags from each church in the brotherhood. These flags will be on display throughout Conference week.

Each church is responsible for designing and making its own flag, keeping in mind the Conference theme and the regulations set forth by the Executive Committee.

The Conference theme is "Equipping for Ministry," based on the Conference text—Ephesians 4:1-16.

These are the regulations for flags, as prepared by the Executive Committee:

1. For the sake of uniformity, we are asking for a flag and not a banner this year.
2. The flag should be of cloth, 3 feet by 5 feet.
3. It should be mounted on a pole six feet long and one inch in diameter.
4. The three-foot side of the flag should be attached to the pole.
5. Each church should have a flag bearer to carry the flag in the opening march.

If your church made a flag (not a banner) for last year's Conference, you may wish to modify it and use it again this year. We are asking those churches which made banners to make a flag this year.

Now don't forget! Get a group started on your congregation's flag as soon as possible. Bring it to Conference and get ready for the exciting opening march on Monday evening, August 15th.

Put your creative people to work. Show your faith and your church by displaying a "faith-lifting flag"!



These 20 Brethren participated in the 1977 Laymen's Work and Worship Tour, which visited Colombia and Argentina during February. Laymen's President Jim Payne has announced that they would be happy to share their experiences in Brethren churches.

Laymen

Laymen's tour members available to speak, according to Jim Payne

Russiaville, Ind.—The 20 members of the Laymen's Work and Worship Tour would be happy to share their experiences with any church, according to Jim Payne, tour director.

Mr. Payne said the tour members are located in various parts of the country. He is encouraging churches to invite someone from the tour to describe what they saw at Brethren mission points.

The February tour visited Brethren missions in Colombia and Argentina in South America. They also stopped in Panama on their return trip.

Tour members (with their home church and

state of residence) were: Jim Payne (Burlington, Ind.); LaVergne Stone and Walter Davis (Sarasota, Fla.); Edna Logan (Bethlehem, Va.); Bill Musser (Bryan, Ohio); Mr. and Mrs. John Randall (Warsaw, Ind.); Mr. and Mrs. Jay Finster (Peru, Ind.); Rev. and Mrs. Fred Snyder (Corinth, Ind.); Rev. and Mrs. Rodney Thomas (Huntington, Ind.); Corina Hurd and children (Ardmore, Ind.); Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hawley (Warsaw, Ind.); and Richard Armantrout (Huntington, Ind.).

Gretna men organize

Gretna, Ohio—On January 1, 1977, the men of the Gretna Brethren Church formed themselves into a Laymen's Organization. Officers were also elected to head the group.

Officers are John Deardurff, president; Robert McPherson, vice president; Floyd Brenner, secretary; and Ralph Hurley, treasurer.

The group's plans for the future include a father-and-son supper in June and hosting the Miami Valley Laymen's rally in July.

Calendar of Events

May 3-5—Pastors' Conference at Indiana Camp Shippshewana.

May 8-15—Brethren Youth Week.

Membership Growth

Burlington: 9 by baptism

New Paris: 3 by baptism

Pleasant View (Vandergrift): 2 by baptism

Sarasota: 10 by baptism, 1 by letter

Brethren Bond of Prayer

by Charles Munson

Our Brethren Church is slowly turning around in its attitudes about its ability to grow. We are beginning to believe that God wants us to find the lost.

To do this, we are going to need many trained leaders. Jesus states one way to get them: **pray for them.**

The Brethren Bond of Prayer includes people from all over the denomination who have united in a pledge to pray regularly for men and women to enter full-time Christian ministry and prepare for leadership.

Would you like to join the Brethren Bond of Prayer? Just begin to pray regularly for full-time Christian leaders. If you want to declare this decision, write to me:

Charles Munson
Ashland Theological Seminary
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Morrow, 56th, April 21. Members and deacon and deaconess of First Brethren Church, Corinth, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Dillman, 51st, April 4. Members of First Brethren Church, Corinth, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Craig, 50th, March 9. Members of Walcrest Brethren Church, Mansfield, Ohio.

BEFORE YOU MOVE

... please let us know.

1. Give old address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2. Fill in new address below:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date new address in effect _____

3. Mail this form to:

Address Correction
Brethren Publishing Company
524 College Avenue
Ashland, OH 44805

Weddings

Marisue Joy to **Stanley L. Bammerlin**, March 19, at Roann, Ind., First Brethren Church. Bride member of Roann First Brethren Church; groom member of Mexico Brethren Church. William H. Kerner, pastor, officiating.

Patricia Hooker to **John E. Hammons**, March 12, at Roann, Ind., First Brethren Church. Bride member of Roann First Brethren Church. William H. Kerner, pastor, officiating.

In Memory

Olive M. Kelly, 78, March 30. Member and deaconess for 33 years of Vandergrift, Pa., Pleasant View Brethren Church. Services by William Walk, pastor.

Mable V. Needham, 86, March 26. Member for 72 years of Roann, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by William H. Kerner, pastor.

Claude E. Miller, 76, March 25. Member of Burlington, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Albert O. Curtright, pastor.

Edgar J. Broad, 69, March 24. Member of Vinco, Pa., Brethren Church. Services by Rev. Carl Phillips, pastor.

Esther L. Abrams, 81, March 21. Member of Ashland, Ohio, Park Street Brethren Church. Services by Eugene J. Beekley, pastor.

Clunon Luntz, 71, March 17. Member of Pittsburgh, Pa., First Brethren Church. Services by Norman Long, pastor.

Bessie (Hooks) Bowser, 87, Mar. 14. The first resident of Brethren Care of Ashland, Ohio, when it opened Aug. 21, 1972. Also served at Riverside Christian Training School at Lost Creek, in the late fifties. Member of the Brush Valley Brethren Church, Adrian, Pa. Services by Thomas Kidder, pastor.

Mary Limbert Pouden, 82, March 12. Member of Elkhart, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Dale Ru Lon, pastor.

Guy H. Tamkin, 79, March 11. Member and senior deacon of Washington, D.C., Brethren Church. Mr. Tamkin was the Washington, D.C., Brethren Senior Citizen of the Year in 1976. Services by Robert L. Keplinger, pastor.

Cleva Corner, 79, March 6. Oldest member of Fremont, Ohio, Brethren Church. Services by Rev. Lowell Reider.

Raymond F. Powell, 62, March 6. Member of Mt. Olive, Va., Brethren Church. Services by Stephen Abe, pastor.

Nora Royer Gibson, 81, March 6. Member of Mt. Olive, Va., Brethren Church. Services by Stephen Abe, pastor.

County Line, Vinco churches honor senior citizens

Senior citizens were honored in February at the County Line, Indiana, Brethren Church and at the Brethren Church in Vinco, Pennsylvania.

On Sunday, February 13, the congregation of the **County Line Brethren Church** honored three of their senior citizens. The theme of the honor was service to the Lord.

In a ceremony following the morning worship service, the names of all senior citizens of the church were read, and each senior was escorted to the front of the church.

Certificates were then presented to all the seniors, and special recognition was given to those chosen as Senior Citizens of the Year.

The first-place certificate for Senior Citizen of 1977 was given to Mr. Everett Gillis in recognition of his many years of service as a deacon, moderator, and Sunday School superintendent. He has also served as a Sunday School teacher, president of Christian Endeavor, Indiana District trustee, active district layman, and delegate to district and national conferences.

The first runner-up certificate was awarded to Mrs. Marion Richard for her many years of service as a Sunday School teacher, deaconess, VBS worker, and pianist for the church.

The second runner-up certificate was presented to Mrs. James Harness for her many years of church attendance and for her service as a Sunday School teacher and Christian witness.

The Senior BYC of County Line did all the work and planning for this special program and kept the winners secret until the service.

The recognition service for senior citizens of the **Vinco Brethren Church** was held on February 20, at a fellowship time following the evening gospel service.

This service was to honor all members of the church 80 years old or older. Six of the eight persons honored were present for the service. They were Verna Lenhart, Nellie Simmons, Mary Varner, Ralph Patch, Frank Giles, and Gundar Swanson. Each of these seniors was presented with a gift.

The remaining seniors who were honored but who could not attend were Elsie Leidy and Eva Walk.

India's new leader a Hindu

New Delhi (EP News)—India's new Prime Minister, 81-year old Morarji Ranchhodji Desai, is a devout Hindu, a staunch anti-Communist, and a firm believer in the ideals of Mohandas K. (Mahatma) Gandhi, the Hindu religious and political leader and social reformer who organized non-violent, passive resistance campaigns against British rule.

Mr. Desai, the leader of the Janata (Peoples) Party, who helped lead the election battle that unseated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has said that "religion means more to me than anything."

New Haiti film now available from World Relief Commission

St. Petersburg, Fla.—"Haiti: Mountains Beyond Mountains" is the title of the World Relief Commission's newest sound/color movie. Shot on location, this 23-minute, 16mm documentary shows the many ways evangelicals are helping poverty-stricken Haitians through the leadership of the Council of Evangelical Churches of Haiti (CEEH).

According to Phil Lersch, chairman of the Brethren World Relief Board, arrangements are being made to show this new film (to be released in May) at General Conference. It can also be scheduled at no charge to local Brethren churches by writing: World Relief Commission, Box 44, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481.

Study finds religious awakening among American women

New York (EP News)—A new survey by Redbook magazine reveals that an "impressive number of American women have embarked on a religious awakening" in the last five years and have felt themselves "in the presence of God."

Furthermore, a new positive image of the "religious" woman is emerging, according to the survey based on the responses of 65,000 American women to a Redbook questionnaire.

"The religious woman has never been a popular heroine in this country," Redbook said. "In movies and books 'churchgoing' is often a code word, preparing us to meet a woman who is tight-lipped, narrow-minded, stern and prudish. That image can now be discarded."

Redbook's new survey shows that religious women are "optimistic, openhearted, generous, forgiving and independent. . . . Women of faith say that God is loving, merciful and forgiving, rather than angry and punishing."

"The more religious a woman is, according to our survey, the happier she is," Redbook said.

Russia's "need" for religious symbols noted by American newsman

Cleveland, Ohio (EP News)—The Soviet Union may profess to be an atheistic nation, but its need for religious symbols is clearly apparent, according to a Cleveland writer who recently visited the USSR.

Darrell Holland, religion editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, said he saw manifestations of this need in the proliferation of religious art which still remains—and in the worship of Lenin as a national "savior."

Mr. Holland also noted that, despite the government's anti-religious campaign, "religion is far from dead in Russia." One tourist guide said that the 45 Orthodox churches remaining in Moscow are filled each Sunday and that she herself is a member.



India

The Needs Grow, the Work Grows

Meeting a wide range of human needs has caused the India mission work to continue to grow.

THE Brethren Church, through its missionaries, is meeting a wide range of human needs in India. The Kumars, our Brethren missionaries in India, are providing both spiritual and physical help to many people in their native land.

The work continues to grow in India. At the end of 1976 there were 920 baptized members in the Rajahmundry area and 69 in the new Visakhapatnam area. Brethren Missions in India is reaching out into 40 villages.

The funds previously provided for purchasing land for the Brethren Mission have now been used to buy an area of 1190 square yards in Rajahmundry.

First, a compound wall was built around the new land. Then it was necessary to plan



These workers paused from their work long enough for a photo. The wall they are building surrounds the new property in Rajahmundry.

a layout for the various buildings to be constructed there. A twenty-by-fifty-foot, semi-permanent building has now been constructed on the site for use as a Bible institute. The new building has a sheet-metal roof instead of palm leaves, making it much more durable.

In the future an orphanage and a church building will also be put on the new property. The area is also being used at present for a service center, with food and clothing items being distributed to the poor.

The medical program is highly successful. In addition to the medical center in Rajahmundry, a free clinic was opened in Vizag (Visakhapatnam). Sujatha, Vijay's wife, is offering medical service there as well as out in the villages.

In support of the Prime Minister's twenty-point formula for national development, the medical center started a family planning unit. The center offers free medical treatment to nearly 300 out-patients daily. It is staffed by people motivated to serve humanity. A woman doctor was appointed for part-time service at the center, and this has encouraged a greater number of women to come for help.

The mobile clinic of the Brethren Mission medical center continues to be used in the interior villages. Medical aid is offered, medicines are distributed, and milk is provided to those suffering from malnutrition. In villages such as Ramayagudem, 400 patients have been reached. Neighboring village people also come for help. Some villages have never known any medical



This twenty-by-fifty foot building was constructed on the new property for a prayer house and Bible institute assembly hall.

assistance except for services performed by witch doctors.

The work in the villages presents great challenges. Our workers go out into the villages with the gospel and organize prayer meetings. In due time they establish churches, and then evangelists continue the work.

Traveling to these villages becomes quite eventful when roads become impassible with knee deep mud. Car breakdowns are common and enough to try the patience of any man. It often takes 13 hours for a 150-mile trip into the interior. It is necessary to use a jeep with four-wheel drive or, at times, an ox cart to make these trips.

Near the end of 1976 a calamity struck the mission area. Three cyclones hit the State of Andhra, and around Rajahmundry crops were destroyed, fields flooded, and homes smashed. As a result of this catastrophe, there was a threat of severe sicknesses and famine. Part of the funds sent from the World Relief Commission were used at this time to offer assistance to the afflicted.

W.R.C. funds were also used to help the village of Samistragudem, which was destroyed by fire. The Brethren Mission promised to help, but didn't have the means until the World Relief Commission donated \$1500 to the Brethren Mission relief work. Services continue to be held in this village, and in November, 15 people were baptized in one day.

There continue to be 25 boys in the

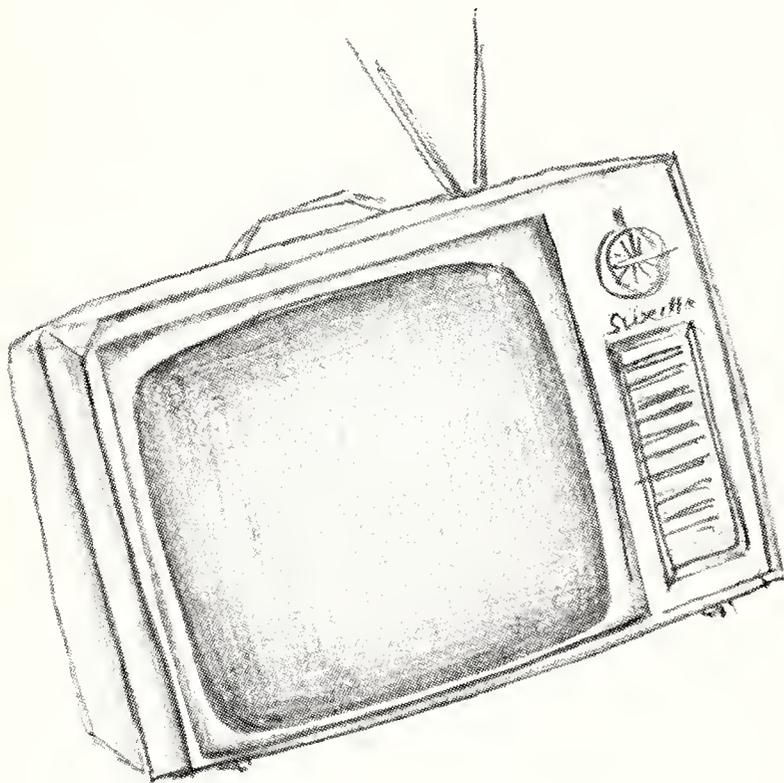
orphanage, although not the original 25 boys. From time to time some boys leave upon graduation from school. Other boys are removed by their families, who need them at home.

Nirmala Kumar oversees the orphanage, and a warden manages and directs the daily activities of these young men. The boys receive a good education at the local school, and the mission tries to mold their lives in a Christian pattern. The boys are very good in tract distribution, singing, and playing music.

Our missionaries in India continue to attend workshops and meetings for updating and evangelization efforts. Recently, Prasantha Kumar attended the All India Congress on Mission and Evangelization (AICOME) held in Devlali. This congress was sponsored by the Evangelical Fellowship in India.

The workers in India continue to be grateful to the Brethren for their assistance in sending supplies of clothing, medicines, and other items. They continue to have a need for multi-vitamins and antibiotics, and they also encourage your sending rolled bandages.

Pray for the two Kumar families as they carry heavy schedules and face important decisions. Pray for the new leadership among the villages and for their responsibilities. Praise the Lord for the new converts and for the tremendous progress made to date in India. Search your hearts to know what the Lord would have you do for this mission work overseas in 1977.



Brethren House

TV News

This vacation report reveals a line-up of exciting "programs."

THE bitterly cold weather of January was enough to convince any Northerner to head south. We were no exception. In mid-January we decided to take a vacation in Florida. Actually, our reason for going was two-fold. In addition to escaping the blizzards of Ohio, we would be holding the fort, so to speak, at Brethren House while Phil, Jean, and Bonnie were on a workshop tour back up north.

As a result, I am filing this report on some of the "programs" we observed on our TV (Take a Vacation).

"Fantastic Journey"

On the way down the weather was "unusual." As we emerged from a motel in Knoxville, Tennessee, the 4-below zero temperature shattered all of our illusions about the "warm, sunny South." Farther along, the big, fat icicles drooping from palmetto bushes in Gainesville, Florida, convinced us that we had really brought Ohio weather with us.

We missed, by a few hours, the icy bridge

Mrs. Lindower is a retired college professor and former editor of the WOMAN'S OUTLOOK.

between Tampa and St. Pete, which brought traffic to a complete standstill. Then the most amusing spectacle to us was the small children here at Brethren House who saw a few snowflakes. After the five-foot drifts along the road out of Ashland, these few flakes didn't impress us. The small fry, however, who were dismissed from school for the day because of the 30-degree temperature, practically went into orbit over the phenomenon. But so much for the elements. Being a confirmed Northerner, cold doesn't bother me—it's better than too much hot.

"Candid Camera"

After adjusting to the climatic eccentricities, we first explored Brethren House, where we viewed, seemingly, resources unlimited. Although the Brethren House team took a great amount of the equipment with them, there remained countless, original, eye-catching, almost mind-boggling materials with which to captivate children and give them Christian teaching. In fact, the entire establishment is uniquely Bible oriented.

Catching my inexperienced eye particularly were: the prayer garden; the book-nook; a newspaper written by some children as if reporting the resurrection of Jesus; cassettes of Bible stories; and countless other project possibilities. Indeed, this appealing spot appeared as a haven for **All My Children.**

True, Brethren House is officially closed while the team is on tour; yet, countless little gremlins "hang around," skating, playing tag, etc. It's obvious that they love the place.

Taking a few minutes from my household activities one sunny afternoon, and armed with pencil and pad, I sat with several youngsters and asked them why they liked Brethren House. Mike, grinning mischievously, claimed he was Bonnie's "guinea pig." I'm not sure what that indicated, but he doubtless has been helping her. Greg maintained the kids there played fair and "didn't swear." "Besides," he added, "I like Mrs. Lersch." Ronnie proudly declared, "The kids here don't push and shove." Joey, age 8, likes the games and tapes (of stories), and he likes to draw. (They draw Bible scenes.) Tracy, who is new in the area, shrugged off the "why" of my question with "I just like to be here"—sort of like a woman's "because."

Taking liberties with a TV show title, I would characterize the place thus: **The Place (Price) Is Right**, for it ministers to so many needs of so many young lives.

"Meet the Pros"

Of course, all of this ingenuity directed toward teaching and learning proceeds from three committed Christians. Interestingly enough, each one provides a distinct service. We might classify them thus:

Jean—**inspiration**: new ideas, learning devices, methods from her teaching experience.

Bonnie—**organization**: order out of possible chaos, where to put what, practicality.

Phil—**implementation**: how to do it, assembling, logistics.

One example of the individual skills of these people was impressed upon me when I helped the team pack for their workshop tour. As I picked up a stack of books, with an inquiring glance at Bonnie, she announced, "That goes in Box 17." Seeing some games on the table she directed, "Those go in Number 9 and the headsets in number 21." She had every item classified and sorted in her head—and there were some 20 large cartons of materials, besides numerous signs, boards, and so on. They are surely a complete team.

"Great Performances"

This is the term many acquaintances and new contacts are using to characterize the team's work. Judging by the calls com-

ing into Brethren House during the team's absence, I realize that this ministry is spreading in ever-widening circles. Yesterday a minister (United Methodist Church) from Palm Beach called for a workshop date; today a pastor from Canada telephoned for some information; the pastor of the Grace Brethren Church stopped to select materials for his church school; and numerous people have written-in, ordering the team's books, **Hands on Learning** and **Inside-Out Learning**, or other supplies.

Most heart-warming of all, though, is the gratitude expressed by one and all for the help received from the teaching and learning materials from Brethren House. When I discovered in the files that there have been inquiries, orders, and commendation from 49 states and 5 foreign countries, the scope of this ministry amazed me. A few of our Brethren churches have availed themselves of these helps, but not nearly so many as the Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and others. I trust the Brethren will become aware of the "Acres of Diamonds" in their own back yards.

"The Mickey Mouse Club"

A few humorous incidents have occurred to delight us during our sojourn here in the "warm, sunny South." One day, as the nice man who accompanied me on this trip was doing some carpentering for Brethren House, a small girl was "helping" him by handing him nails and sawed-off blocks. After a bit of this routine, she eyed him speculatively and announced, "I didn't think you'd be so nice." (What did she expect from Ohio—Simon Lagree?)

On another day, as I was preparing supper, six-year-old Amy, who often comes in for me to read to her, offered to help; so I handed her a dish of food for our feline quadrupeds. As she set it on the floor, I heard her admonish Baggh and O. C. (the cats), "Now say your prayers."

The Brethren House children have a list of places where the team is holding workshops during these weeks, and these modern counterparts of Aaron and Hur are holding up their hands with prayer.

Now that our term of service here—keeping house for a granddaughter, two cats, and a hamster; answering telephones; opening mail—is almost completed, we are sure we will be happy to open the door and exclaim, "**Welcome Home, Daughter** (Kotter)—also Phil and Bonnie. This has been an enlightening and fulfilling experience. May the Lord continue to bless you as your ministry is blessing others!"

Author Publishes First Book

an introduction by Ron Waters

Scripture Press Publications has just released a new Bible study resource written by Stephen D. Swihart of Ashland, Ohio

According to the publisher, **The Victor Bible Source Book** "offers a number of methods of personal Bible study, along with well-organized outlines of all the major Bible doctrines. The book attempts to get at what the Bible teaches rather than where it teaches it."

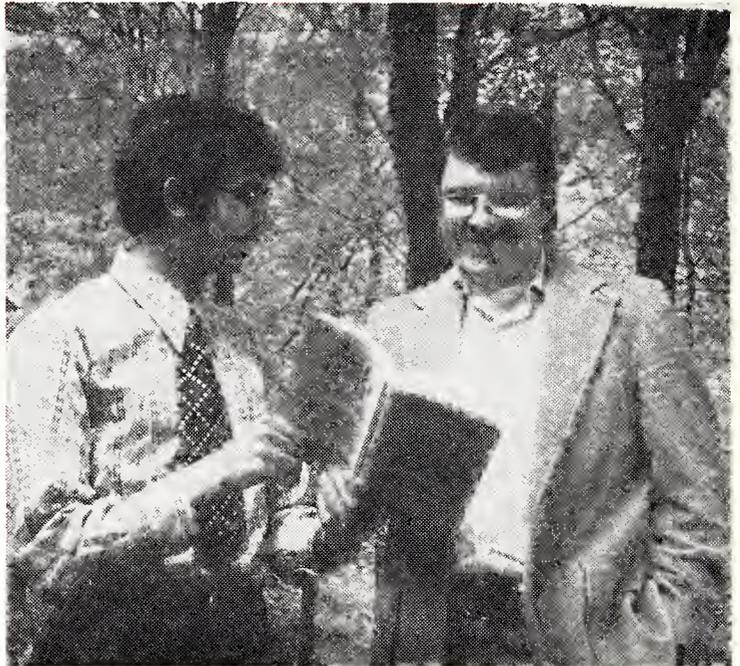
Steve was pastor of the Garber Brethren Church in Ashland for two and a half years while he attended Ashland College. In June 1975 he graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Currently he is director of Christian development at the First Assembly of God in Mansfield, Ohio.

He is also the founder of Discipleship Publications and editor of the Handbook of Christian Discipleship.

Steve is an intense Bible student and has been since he came to know Christ as Lord in 1968 in Sarasota, Fla. So, naturally, the manuscript resulted from extensive personal study. "The bulk of the book was developed during a six-month period when I devoted eight hours a day to study and writing."

Research for other parts was completed over a number of years and resulted from leading numerous Bible studies, his pastoral ministry, and course work in Seminary.

When Steve had completed most of the work on the book, Fred Burkey and John Rowsey encouraged him to contact a couple of Christian



Staff Photo

Author Steve Swihart (right) discusses his first book with Ron Waters.

publishers. Scripture Press was one that responded with interest in seeing the text. Now, a year later, the published work is ready for sale.

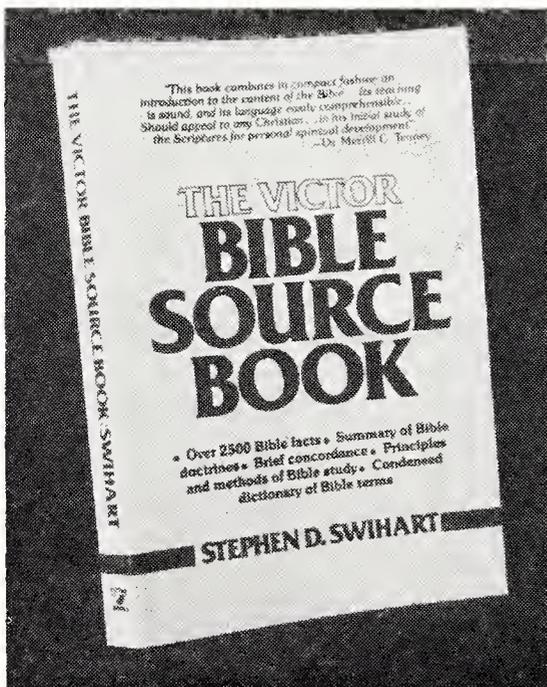
The Victor Bible Source Book is divided into three parts. Part 1 is entitled "How to Use the Bible" and includes chapters on the importance of tools, various methods of Bible study, and how to buy a new Bible.

"Basic Bible Doctrine," the second part, forms the major portion of the work. It covers foundational material for the Christian life, including the doctrines of the Scriptures, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, man, sin, salvation, Christian growth and maturity, prayer, faith, fasting, the church, angels, and prophecy.

Part 3 contains a concise Bible dictionary which "quickly defines many of the words Bible students stumble over." An abbreviated topical concordance completes the book.

In reviewing the book Dr. Merrill C. Tenney says, "This book combines in compact fashion an introduction to the content of the Bible. Its teaching is sound, and its language is easily comprehensible. It should appeal to any Christian . . . in his initial study of the Scriptures for personal spiritual development."

The 240 page book retails for \$3.50 and is available from the Carpenter's Shop and other Christian bookstores.



School Bible Curriculum Unveiled

Scripture Press Publications, Inc., has announced the **Lifeway Bible Series**, a Bible curriculum written specifically for Christian schools.

The **LifeWay Bible Series** is a cooperative effort of the Association for Bible Curriculum Development, Pasadena, Calif., and Scripture Press Publications, Inc., Wheaton, Ill. It is a Christian school Bible curriculum written by professionals for professionals. Suggestions and recommendations from Christian school administrators and teachers who have used the material since 1967 have been carefully considered in the preparation of the series.

Who Has the Answers?—a two-unit survey of the entire Bible—will be ready for grades six through eight and junior high school for the

1977-78 school year. Unit 1 is a survey of the Old Testament, and Unit 2 is a survey of the New Testament.

As these first two units are being released, curriculum for the remaining elementary grades is in preparation. Dr. Phyllis Roberts of the Association for Bible Curriculum Development is the writer of the **Lifeway Bible Series**. Miss Joyce Gibson of Scripture Press is in charge of editing the materials and of promoting their wider use in Christian schools.

More information on the new **LifeWay Bible Series** is available from the Association for Bible Curriculum Development, 1515 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California 91104.

Attention, Moms

I Am a Mother by Ella May Miller (Fleming H. Revell Co., 1976, 156 pp., \$1.50 paper).

This is a paperback book that I will not just read then put on a shelf. I plan on referring to it often for help in dealing with my life, which is surrounded by preschoolers.

Mrs. Miller has put together one of the most informative and Scripture-laden books on how to deal with preschoolers that I have ever had the joy of reading.

I found myself in many of her chapters, such as those on playtime, discipline, death, and the joys of motherhood.

As I went to God in prayer for help with my faults and in thankfulness for my good points, I also thanked Him for guiding Mrs. Miller to write this book.

This book would be a thoughtful gift for an expectant mother. It would be helpful to her for many years to come.

—Kris Long

Kris Long is a housewife from Ashland, Ohio.

Hospitality a Gift

Open Heart Open Home by Karen Burton Mains (David C. Cook, 1976, 199 pp., \$5.95).

Have you ever considered hospitality a gift? Have you ever felt the desire to express your love for brothers and sisters by opening the doors of your heart and home? Have you experienced joy by sharing your home with others? Whether your answer to the above questions is yes or no, you should read **Open Heart Open Home** by Karen Burton Mains.

This book is beautifully written from first-hand accounts. What a thrill to find that this area of our lives is a gift and ministry. We can exemplify

Christ's love if we dedicate ourselves and our homes to His service.

Mrs. Mains shares personal family traditions along with such areas as entertaining (hospitality before pride). We are exhorted to be stewards of time and to search within ourselves for the true motivation of hospitality. Each chapter has down to earth principles which make **Open Heart Open Home** applicable to our lives!

Biblical truths are revealed as we gain an understanding that we do have a ministry, whatever walk of life we lead. New light dawns as we begin to put into action the lessons we learn from **Open Heart Open Home**.

—Donna Simmons

Donna Simmons is a seminary student's wife employed by A. L. Garber Co. in Ashland.

The Old Brethren

The Old Brethren by James H. Lehman (The Brethren Press, 1976, 384 pp., \$2.45 paperback).

Did you know that an ex-slave from Virginia became a Brethren pastor in the last century? His name was Samuel Weir, and his story, as well as those of many other leaders of the church in the 19th century, is told in this new book from the Brethren Press.

The author has gone to personal accounts, be it diaries or other writings, to tell the story of the Brethren circa 1840. Included with the accounts are numerous photographs and drawings. I found these illustrations helpful, even though they were not of the best quality.

I believe James Lehman has given all Brethren a much-needed look at the frontier days of the church. His book will not only be enjoyed by Church of the Brethren people, but by many in the Brethren Church as well.

—Robert Dillard

Bob Dillard is a student at Ashland Theological Seminary.

auxiliary programs for june

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signal lights

written by
Alberta Holsinger

Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus

Jesus and the Children

Jesus was traveling from Capernaum to Jerusalem. He crossed the Jordan River. Many people followed Him as He walked through the state of Perea.

"That's Jesus!" said a child who saw the crowd of people pass by.

"Mother! Mother!" he shouted as he ran into the house. "Jesus just went down the road. People are following Him. Can we go, too? Can we, please?"

"Yes," said Mother as she lifted the baby from the cradle.

Outside Mother waved to her neighbor. "Bring the children," she called. "Jesus is down the road."

Other mothers and their children joined the group. The older children ran ahead. "I've heard about Jesus," said one.

"Yes," said another. "My father says He's a great prophet."

"My father says He's the Messiah," added a third.

The mothers were talking about Jesus, too. "Do you suppose Jesus will bless our children?" wondered one.

"They say He's a great story-teller," said another.

"Story! Story!" shouted a tiny child. "Tell story!"

"Yes, perhaps Jesus will tell you a story," said her mother.

The older children came back to the mothers. "There He is," they said. "See. He's sitting over there with His disciples."

The disciples saw the group coming. They walked down the road to meet them. "Jesus is resting," said a disciple.

"We've brought our children for Him to bless," explained a mother.

"Not today. He's tired," said the disciple.

Sadly the mothers turned around. "Come, children, we'll go home," they said.

"Story! Story!" cried the tiny one.

"Don't send the children away!" called Jesus. "I want to see them!"

Quickly the children ran to Jesus. He put His hands on their heads and blessed them. He held the little ones on His lap.

"Story! Story!" begged the tiny one.

Jesus laughed and told them a story.

—Based on Mark 10:1-16

Memory Time: Let the little children come to me and forbid them not.

—Mark 10:14b

A Rainy Day Decision

"It's raining," said Mrs. Loi when she looked out the window Thursday morning.

"We have the neighborhood meeting at Too May's this afternoon," said Mr. Loi. "Perhaps the rain will stop before then."

But it didn't. It was a slow, steady rain that lasted all day.

When it was time to go, Mr. Loi said, "Let's take lots of cloths. If we have the children wipe their feet carefully and sit on the floor on cloths, Too May's mother might let us meet in the house."

Now this was the Thursday Father planned to be home early so that he, too, could hear what Too May and her friends were being taught.

"Do you think they will come on such a rainy day?" he asked Mother.

"Too May said, before she went to school, that in some neighborhoods they meet in the house when the weather is bad," answered Mother. "She asked if they could come in if it's raining this afternoon."

"What did you tell her?" asked Father.

"Well, I knew you were going to be home and wanted to hear what they talked about," said Mother. "So I told her it would be all right this time if they didn't get the furniture wet and dirty."

"Good," said Father.

Mr. and Mrs. Loi waited outside the house until the children came.

"I'm glad you're here," said Too May when she and her friends came from school. "Mother said we may meet inside if we don't get things wet and dirty."

"We will be very careful," said Mr. Loi. "Now,

children, after you take off your shoes, wipe your feet with one of these cloths. Take another one to sit on on the floor."

The children paused at the door to remove their shoes and wipe their feet. Then they entered the house. They all sat on the floor except the two biggest ones.

"May we sit on chairs?" asked Lu Ming. The floor is so crowded."

"I think it will be all right, if you put a clean cloth on the chair before you sit down," Mr. Loi said.

Soon the children were all settled, and they began singing "Jesus Loves Me."

Father and Mother were seated inside the kitchen door where they could see and hear everything that was going on.

They heard Mr. Loi tell the story about the lost sheep and the shepherd who searched to find it. They heard him say, "God loves you that much. He wants you to be part of His family. He wants you to accept Jesus as your Savior."

Too May had tears in her eyes when she heard about the lost sheep. But a smile spread quickly across her face when the shepherd found the sheep.

Now she said softly, "Mr. Loi, I want Jesus to be my Savior."

"We can't let her do that," said Mother. "She must worship our family gods."

"It would not be polite to interrupt the meeting," said Father. "Just wait. We'll find a way to change her mind."

(continued next month)

Monkey's Uncle

(continued from page 10)

so-called links between man and ape have now been recognized as completely either man or ape (or fraud)."

The famous Scopes "Monkey Trial" was once heralded as a triumph for Darwin's theory. A bevy of scientific authorities were launched against William Jennings Bryan in that trial. Prof. Newton of the University of Chicago introduced the "Nebraska Man"—a man reported to have dwelt on our continent one million years ago. Bryan had no way to defend against such "evidence." What was the evidence introduced? It was a tooth. A tooth had been extracted from the earth and ingeniously used to construct a male and female.

It had to be the world's most fertile tooth!

In the years following the Scopes Trial, the "six million dollar" tooth of Nebraska Man was found to belong to a species of an extinct pig. This pig was once found all over the North American continent.

"Give us a tooth," cried the experts, "(and) we'll create a whole race of fossilized humanity." Unfortunately, the exposure of this mistake did not make the headlines as the original discovery of the tooth and its introduction into the trial had.

If only William Jennings Bryan had known, he might have required the professor with the dental evidence to restrict his testimony to: "The tooth, the whole tooth, and nothing but the tooth, so help us God!"

Paul Goes to Rome

Acts 24—28

“You shall receive power . . . you shall be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8 RSV

This section of Acts concludes our study of the great book telling of the expansion of Christianity through the Good News of Jesus Christ. Last month our story left Paul in prison at Caesarea.

When the leaders of the Jews learned that Paul was at Caesarea, they got a lawyer, Tertullus, and made a quick trip there in order to bring charges against Paul. Read Acts 24:2-9. The charges the lawyer made were all lies.

Paul, in his defense before Felix, the governor, said that he was a follower of “the Way.” This was a term given by Christians to Christianity at that time. Felix did not want to commit himself to freeing Paul, so he sent him back to prison guarded by a Roman officer.

After two years Felix was replaced by a new governor, Festus. Festus reviewed Paul’s case, and during this review Paul appealed to Caesar, the emperor (Acts 24:11). And so to Rome Paul must go.

Before Paul left Caesarea, King Agrippa and his sister, Bernice, came to visit Festus. Agrippa was higher in authority than Festus. Paul had given his defense before Festus (Acts 25:8-11), and Festus was anxious for Agrippa to hear Paul’s story. So on a given day Paul appeared before Agrippa and Bernice. It must have been quite a show. Read Acts 25:23. Chapter 26 is the account of Paul speaking to Agrippa. Notice verses 3, 8, 17, 18, 23, and 32.

Chapter 27 begins the story of the trip to Rome. Luke includes himself (“we” in verse 1). A member of the church in Thessalonica, Aristarchus, was also a traveling companion. The account of the voyage, place to place, is recorded

by Luke in Acts 27:1—28:13. Tell two things that happened on this historic voyage.

“We came to Puteoli” (Acts 28:13). Puteoli was one of the seaports of Rome. The Appian Way led straight to Rome from here. Along the way the party met Christians who had come to meet Paul. Read Acts 28:15, 16.

In Rome

“And when we came to Rome” (Acts 28:16). Paul was allowed to live in a rented house, but was probably chained to a Roman soldier at all times. Think how many soldiers heard about Jesus Christ during the two years Paul was in custody.

One of the first things Paul did was to call for the leaders of the Jews. A short while later he spent a day talking with the Jews. He spoke from the Old Testament to show that Jesus was the Savior. Some believed, but many rejected Christ. Read Acts 28:23, 24. Paul’s final word to them is in Acts 28:28.

Read Acts 28:30, 31. Luke ends the book suddenly. Or does he? Read Acts 1:8. Paul and the other people we have read about in Acts had completed the witnessing from Jerusalem to Rome. That seems to have been Luke’s purpose in writing, so when the circle was complete, he closed his book.

What happened to Paul? While in custody he wrote several books of our New Testament: Philipians, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon. Some early church historians tell us that Paul was released from custody and that he did some more traveling, possibly going west to Spain and then returning to the east. He was arrested again for preaching Christ and once again taken to Rome where he was sentenced to death. Tradition says he was beheaded. A beautiful church stands where it is thought he was buried. All over the world there are churches built in his memory.

It cost Paul a great deal to tell of Jesus Christ and His saving power. Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28. All of these things happened to Paul before he was imprisoned at Caesarea and made the voyage to Rome.

What has it cost you to witness for Jesus Christ?

Planning the Meeting

1. Use a large map and trace Paul’s journey to Rome. Patronesses, use your knowledge to aid the girls in this task.
 2. The study for next month, July, will be in the Old Testament. Read the book of Esther.
-

What Do You Think of Paul?

The following quotations are answers to that question from some students in a class on "The Life of Paul" at the Mansfield Christian Institute, Mansfield, Ohio (used with permission).

"Paul was a person who did exist and whose life story is most fascinating. He was the one who did more than any other Christian to establish churches and spread the teachings of Jesus throughout the world. He was so very human and was living proof that there is hope for anyone to follow the teachings of Jesus and to understand them."

"The man, Paul, was the model Christian."

"He was not one of the original twelve disciples, but certainly Christianity would not have grown to the now existent religion of today, had it not been for Paul. It is amazing to comprehend how the words of two thousand years ago have survived the ages. It must be God's will that all be brought to Christ, when one stops to consider all the trials and tribulations the Word and its missionaries have suffered, only to be so alive today."

"Paul was a very determined apostle. At the

end of his first missionary journey it would have been so easy to go on down the road from Derbe to his home in Tarsus. The love of Jesus and for the souls of mankind drove him right back to the churches he had established and through places where great physical torture had been inflicted on him. His persistence even after being stoned and beaten helps to remind me that a few sharp words is the most my witness for Jesus has cost me."

What do you think?

The No-Good Image

One day a missionary knocked on the door of a home just across the border in Mexico. A little boy from the home had been attending gospel meetings and the missionary was anxious to meet the family. The mother, with dark-eyed children around her, invited the man into her home.

"Come in," she said, and quickly added, "We are of another faith." Most of the homes in the village were, and so the missionary understood.

The mother continued, saying, "But notice we have no saints (images)." The Christian worker looked around and saw some chickens in the room and an egg lying in one corner, but there were no images, which was most unusual.

The mother explained that she had had "saints" but was in great trouble one time and had made a big promise to one of the "saints" if he would help her. She said she prayed and waited.

"Nothing happened. He did not do one thing to help me, so after some time I didn't pay any attention to him. I just let him sit there."

"One day one of the chickens jumped up on the image. The image fell down and broke into many pieces. I thought, if he could not hold up a chicken, he surely could not be of any help to me. I picked up the pieces and threw them outside on the dump."

Do you have a "saint" in your heart that should be broken and cast on the dump? Is there something keeping you from full service for the Lord Jesus Christ? Paul and his co-workers preached the only Good News which had ever been heard: "Surrender your life to Christ and live daily in His Way."

SMM Scholarship

I would like to receive an application for the 1977 SMM Scholarship.

My name is:

address

city, state, zip

My SMM Patroness is:

address

city, state, zip

My pastor is:

address

city, state, zip

My high school guidance counselor is:

school address

city, state, zip

Return this form to:

Nancy Ronk
227 College Ave.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Be sure to include all information.

1977 General Conference

Dear Sisterhood Girls and Friends,

Isn't spring a beautiful time of the year? I guess it's most people's favorite season. (I can't decide—I enjoy them all!) Spring makes me happy and excited. The warm weather feels so good to breathe. It makes me want to run and jump and tumble in the grass. I forget about my assignments and problems for a while and go crazy in the sunshine. I like the warm, bright sun shining on my face and even in my eyes. On the first day of warm weather, I would like to just bask in the sunshine all afternoon, since I haven't had the great weather to enjoy for such a long time. But, of course, there are always "inside" things to be done on that day, so I enjoy little bits of the weather each day instead. I guess that keeps me from tiring of spring. (Actually, I'm not sure I ever could.)

Well, summer is almost here, and it brings one of my favorite weeks of the year. That's National Conference. I really do look forward to it; I'm not just saying that! I miss seeing my family—all the Brethren. It's so exciting to get together again.

The SMM Conference program is shaping up pretty well. I'll give you a few plans we have. One of our days is a program on Christian dating and marriage. A panel of young, married, former Sisterhood girls will share with us and answer our questions. Think about that topic, and discuss it in your group before Conference. Another day Kitty Winfield will share some thoughts and experiences from her life and the Nigerian mission field.

We will have a session to share our problems and concerns or successes in Sisterhood across the country. We'd like to hear what your group did with the two Bible-reading books (Acts and Esther) this year. Come prepared to tell what you gained from the Evangelist programs and your own study of these books.

Special music for our meetings will be provided by some of your local groups (Warsaw, I hope, and Linwood) and the Columbia Mission Intern team.

Letters are being sent to some of the district WMS presidents to find some women who might accept the nomination for SMM patroness or assistant. The Board would like to receive many nominations this year. The district presidents are to announce this at the district WMS meetings and get a list of volunteers or suggestions from the women. You girls and WMS women who read this may also make suggestions. Send the women's names and addresses to me (227 College Avenue,

Ashland, Ohio 44805), and I will write to ask their consent to be placed on the ballot.

There will be one big change in the organization of the SMM Conference this year. It will be organized! Each **registered** group with **dues** paid will be allotted one delegate per every five members. Credentials will be sent to the patronesses during the summer. Delegate fee will be \$1.00. The delegates who present their credentials at the SMM (not BYC) registration time (preceding the meeting) will be seated in a certain area of the room during the business meetings. Girls who are not delegates with credentials will be allowed to take part in all but the voting. We still welcome these girls. The problem we are trying to stop is the many "delegates" we have had in the past whose churches do not have SMM societies! When June or July arrives, make sure you know where the credentials for your group are, and have them ready for the first SMM meeting.

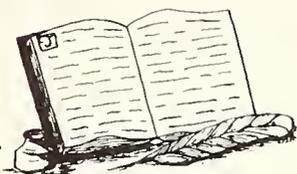
Following is a list of the registered and paid societies, which will be allowed to have voting delegates. If your group is not listed here, quickly **send me** the name, address, and age of each member and patroness of your group, plus dues—\$1.50 for seniors and \$1.00 for juniors. **Dues go to Debbie Munson** at 616 Park St., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Brush Valley
County Line
Loree
New Lebanon Jr. and Sr.
Sarasota Jr. and Sr.
Vincio Jr. and Sr.
Burlington
Hagerstown
Milledgeville Jr.
Pleasant View
Valley
Wayne Heights Jr.

That's all the dues Debbie has received to this date, but there are 17 more groups registered which haven't paid. Dues are late, but if you want to be represented at Conference, we will still accept them. No delegates will be accepted from non-paying societies.

I hope I have gotten you more excited about coming to Conference this year. The more participation we have from you, the better our meetings will be. So, start getting ready now, and join in the discussions when you get here. The dates are August 15-19, 1977. I'll keep you posted about Conference till then.

In His Service,
Nancy Ronk



The Brethren Publishing Company

Rev. Brian Moore
Ardmore Brethren Church
South Bend, Indiana 46628

Dear Brian,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the church growth emphasis. I found your penetrating insights encouraging. As statistician for the Ohio District, I recently had the unpleasant task of reporting on growth in our district. I say unpleasant because we recorded losses in every major category--membership, attendances, and family units.

My first reaction was to "throw in the towel"--to say the growth emphasis had peaked out. But I pinpointed what appears to be the cause of our decline. In Ohio, we are simply not winning enough non-Christians to faith in Christ (nor are we retaining our present members). In fact, we added only one formerly non-churched convert in 1976 for every 56 members!

I wish I knew how we could motivate each other to share our faith. Neither pointed sermons nor high-powered seminars have rocked me from my complacency. In keeping with this year's theme, perhaps Conference should form a task force to thoroughly research and implement effective models for preparing and motivating Class II workers--people who engage in outreach.

George Gallup reported recently that there are people open to the Christian faith. He noted three groups of people who do not attend church: 1) those who refuse to go due to anti-church reasons; 2) those unable to go due to personal or family illness; and 3) those who probably could attend but do not for such reasons as being on vacation, traveling, sleeping late, working around the house, and so forth.

Disregarding the first two groups, he contends that we could still increase church attendance and involvement by about one-half from the latter group alone. Of course, we have to stop saying "They are simply indifferent." Instead, we must begin to meet their real needs. Then they'll flock to our doors for answers.

As we mature in church growth, we will become less conscious of the subject itself. The key is that we must mature, making growth principles part of our way of life.

Again, thank you, Brian, for stimulating my thinking. I hope other readers will think further and share their insights, too.

Sincerely,

Ron Waters



a ministry of the Brethren Church

524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805

419/289-2611

Equipping *Youth* for Ministry *Week*

May 8-15, 1977

Ephesians 4:1-16

For nearly thirty years, BYC groups across the nation have evangelized, encouraged, and equipped youth for lay and professional ministries.

Today the Board of Christian Education leads the way in "Equipping Youth for Ministry" in the Brethren Church. Current programs and services include:

- Administration of Summer Crusaders and Internships
- National Brethren Youth Convention
- Quality youth publications, such as Morning Star and More Mail
- Weekly program Guidelines for high school BYC groups (January-May 1977)
- Leadership development through National Brethren Youth Council

Your contribution to the Brethren Youth Offering will assist in "Equipping Youth for Ministry." Give through your church envelope system or (if no such system exists) mail directly to:

Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Are There Missionaries

Manchester College
North Manchester, IN 46962

Hiding in Your Church?



The Brethren

EVANGELIST

June 1977

Brethren Publishing Company

Company purchases new presses

The Brethren Publishing Company purchased two pre-owned offset presses last month for use by its printing department.

Included in the purchase were an 8½ by 14 inch Multilith press and a 17 by 22 inch Harris press. The acquisitions will double the previous size capability for offset lithography.

According to Richard DeVeny, print shop superintendent, the Harris press will also allow the company to improve the quality of its offset printing.

The printing department currently produces printed materials for most denominational ministries and many Brethren churches, in addition to Publishing Company products. The new presses are expected to benefit the church as a whole through improved communications.

Marceal Zimmerman retires

Marceal Zimmerman retired May 5 after completing nearly 18 years with the Brethren Publishing Company.

Mrs. Zimmerman began her employment on the first day of General Conference in 1959. After a period of part-time employment, she served full-time as bookkeeper and assistant manager of the Brethren Bookstore.

She was honored by the Publishing Company and denominational employees at a carry-in dinner on her last day of work. She received a letter of commendation from St. Clair Benschhoff, president of the Publishing Board. She was also presented a potted plant from the company and staff members.

Individual subscribers are being offered a special opportunity for early renewal. If you are an individual subscriber, watch your mail for details.

The Indiana District Conference distributed copies of their conference program to nearly 3,000 members and friends by way of the Brethren Publishing Company addressing service. Other districts are encouraged to inquire how they can benefit from a similar promotional approach. Contact John Rowsey for details.

Reprints of Al Shifflett's "Am I a Monkey's Uncle?" from the May Brethren Evangelist are now available. Prices are: 30¢ each; \$3.00/dozen; \$10.00/50; \$18.00/100. Send check or money order to the Brethren Publishing Company.



Richard DeVeny, print shop superintendent, demonstrates to a kindergarten class how a booklet is assembled. Two classes from the Ashland Christian School visited the printing department on May 5 as part of the Ashland City Schools' Career Day.

Brethren Church Bulletin Service begins July 1

The Brethren Publishing Company initiates its new Brethren Church Bulletin Service with the first Sunday in July, according to Ron Waters.

"A number of pastors and local churches had asked for a bulletin service especially adapted for the Brethren Church. After consultation with a number of publishers, we entered into an agreement with Cathedral Press of Minnesota."

The color covers of the "every-Sunday" series are the same as those provided all Cathedral customers. However, the message on the back cover of one bulletin per month is prepared especially for Brethren churches.

Currently, 20 Brethren churches have signed up for the service. Others are considering participation, beginning with the fall quarter.

"As more churches begin using the service, we expect to add more messages related to the church," Mr. Waters commented. "And there is no additional charge for using the special bulletins other than the regular bulletin cost."

Orders are being received until July 1 for the fall quarter. The bulletins sell for \$2.10 per hundred for the "every-Sunday" service. Contact Ron Waters at the Brethren Publishing Company for more information.

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524 College Ave.

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Published monthly for the Brethren Church
by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524
College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for
100% church lists \$5.25 for church lists
of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual
subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at
least three weeks in advance, using the
form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those
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Publishing Company.

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packet with query tips is available upon
written request.

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Ohio.

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James Weber describes a Bib-
lical way to find those hiding
missionaries in your church on
page 5. (Illustration by Cathy
Stolz)

Vol. 99, No. 6

June 1977

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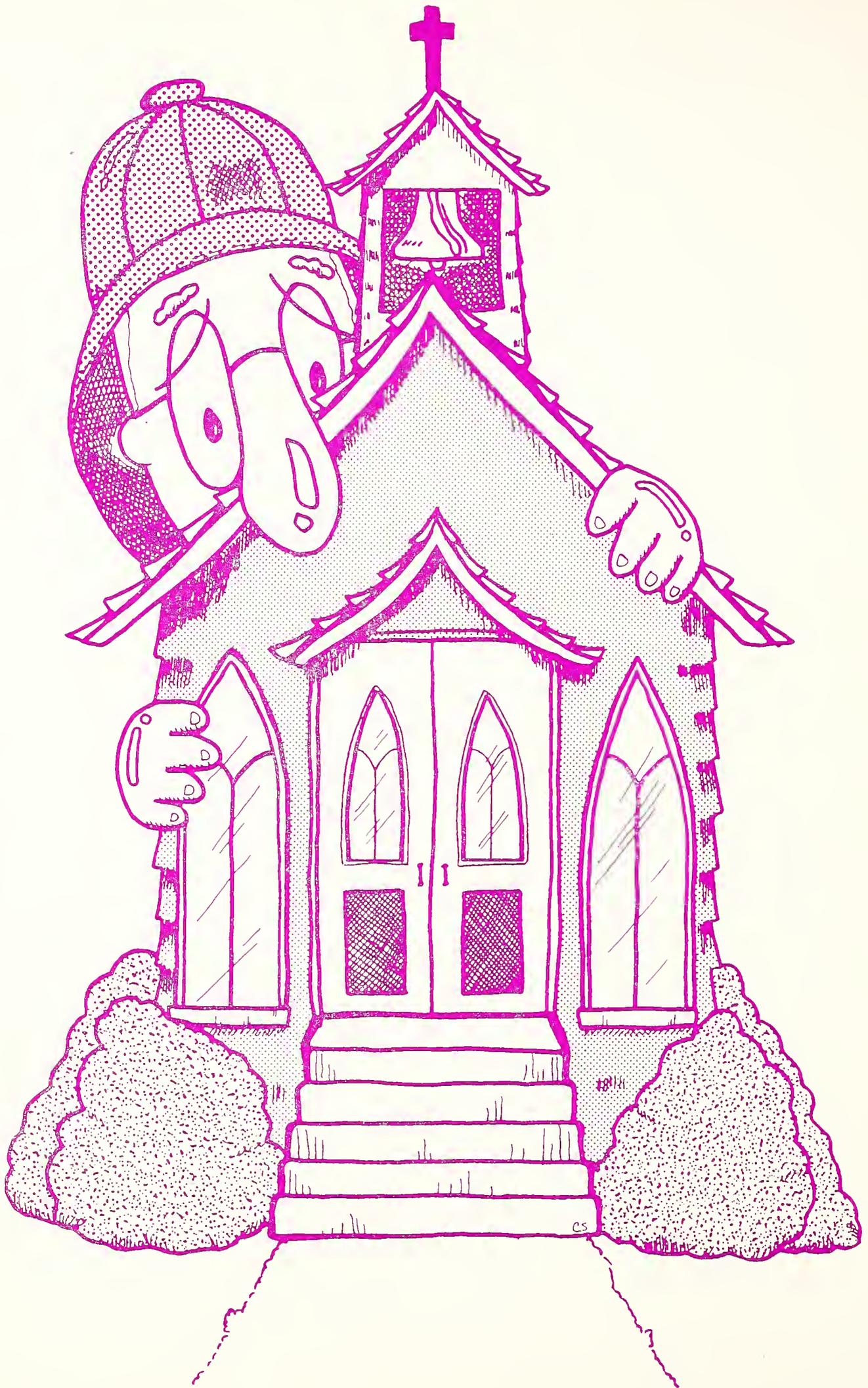
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Are There Missionaries Hiding in Your Church?

James Weber maintains that today's missionary shortage hinges on the church's superficial approach to finding them.

TODAY we frequently hear reports of how the worldwide Christian church is growing far more rapidly, percentage wise, than the population. Present trends indicate that parts of South America and possibly all of Africa will be more than 50 percent Christian by the end of this century. The worldwide outlook for Christian missions today is brighter than at any other time since the beginning of the church.

However, we must continually remind ourselves that though the harvest is far greater today, the need for laborers is also far greater today than at any other time in history. We can and should rejoice in the thrilling reports of progress, but God forbid that we become so elated over these advances that we become blind to the existing problems.

When Christ issued the Great Commission, the entire world population was nearly 300 million—equal to today's U.S. population. If Christ said that laborers were few then, how would He express it today with a world population of over four billion?

Dr. Vincent Brushwyler has pointed out

James Weber is a Conservative Baptist missionary in Japan.

(Illustration by Cathy Stolz.)

various possible reasons for the scarcity of laborers: wrong human relationships, love of the world, failure to discern between time and eternity, and misunderstanding of what is involved in the missionary call.

I suggest there is another contribution to the scarcity of laborers—that is, our stereotyped methods of seeking volunteers for missionary service. A challenging speaker brings a stirring message on the needs around the world. Scriptures are quoted, pointing out the responsibility of the church, and then an invitation is presented for volunteers to step forward.

I am wondering if this is the biblical method. Is this the way the early church faced the challenge of a dying world? Acts 13:1-4 records a radically different approach.

First, there were several men described as leaders in the church at Antioch. These were prophets and teachers such as Barnabas, Symeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul.

Second, the church was in fellowship—they were ministering and fasting. We see very little of the latter today!

Third, the Holy Spirit spoke to the church, not to the individual this time, and said, "Separate Barnabas and Saul for the

(continued on next page)

work which I have called them." The basic truth expressed in these verses is reinforced in Timothy's case. His church recognized his gifts and, through the laying on of hands, ordained him.

My major question is this—could it possibly be that part of the reason for the scarcity of missionary laborers today is the failure of the corporate church body to be alert to the spiritual gifts in its individual members? Add to this its failure to direct the exercise of such gifts not simply in the local church, but in a global context. To push this a step further, I suggest that the church is overlooking a great source of sendable ones within its circle of leaders.

We aim all our promotional gimmicks and gadgets at young people hoping to challenge them with the worldwide needs and opportunities. However, when the New Testament church was in fellowship, the Holy Spirit worked through the church to select His men. And whom did He choose—the new convert? The new seminary graduate? No. He called church leaders, the men with experience.

I wonder what might take place on mission fields around the world if our churches in the homeland applied Acts 13:1-4 and followed the example of that church in Antioch.

They fasted and prayed. This was serious business, and the church met God's conditions for spiritual guidance. A personal cost was involved, and at this point many will tune out. The world and the worldly Christian prefer feasting and parades to fasting and prayer, but the latter course produced a highly successful missionary program in that early church.

They laid their hands on them. Here we have identification. The senders were one with those sent. The emphasis was not on the volunteers, but on those who appointed and ordained. It was their responsibility to choose and send out the best-equipped, and these were part of that church's very leadership.

Is that our position today? Experience tells me it is not. I remember the sharp fellow who was considering the mission field, but a fine evangelical seminary in the States desired his services. We were told how much more effective he could be at home. "Why waste that talent in the jungles?" The Christians at Antioch could have used the same approach, but praise the Lord they did not!

"When the New Testament church was in fellowship, the Holy Spirit worked through the church to select His men . . . church leaders, the men with experience."

I am not in any sense trying to indicate that every church leader should be sent to the mission field. All do not have the missionary gift, just as all do not have the gift of prophecy or evangelism or teaching.

What I am setting forth is that the early church considered its missionary outreach to be of such importance that the members looked among their leaders for those who possessed the apostolic or missionary gift. Then the church sent them.

My years of experience on the mission field have convinced me that today's churches are not always following the methods of the early church when it comes to the laying on of hands, for it is evident that some missionaries have been sent out who should not have been; the fact that the laborers are few is proof enough that many who should be sent are still at home!

They sent them away. Here was a growing church with a worldwide vision. In Acts 11 they responded to a famine in Judea by taking a special offering and sending relief. However, in Acts 13 they went far beyond that—they sent some of their own leaders!

A number of years ago I spoke in a stateside church which had a large pastoral staff. Afterwards, the congregation was surprised to see one of the pastors step forward. He said, "I can't stand it any longer. I have to go to the mission field." Many rejoiced, but, sadly enough, there were many who opposed sending this man out. They felt his successful ministry among the church youth was too important for him to leave. Some said that since this man had a large family he should not be considered for the mission field. Other arguments were presented as well, but the Lord overruled, and today this man and

(continued on page 21)

When her husband died,
Jeanette Lockerbie discovered
how you can find

The Freedom to Be Yourself

IS there really a light at the end of the tunnel of grief?

It would be hard to convince a person who is in this tunnel. In fact, at some points it would be almost cruel to suggest such a possibility, because grief, whatever the cause of it, must run its course in order to do its work in our lives. Recycling, moving into a new future, is the **last** thing a person wants to hear about while the hurt is fresh and raw.

Nevertheless, as hundreds of men and women will testify, as they look back they can discern that it was the very crisis itself, the loss of a significant person in their lives, that gave them the chance to be themselves. For some people this is the very first chance—no, not the first: in infancy we all have that opportunity—the freedom to be who we are. It is a short-lived state, to be sure, for life's necessary inhibitions soon take over. Parental "Do's and Don't's" begin to mold even the tiny baby. Maybe earlier than we think, a baby can be picking up the vibrations—perhaps through a look or a tone of voice—of what is expected of him or her. The young child catches on to what is acceptable and can keep life relatively smooth. As we know, some conform; some never do.

Every stage of life imposes other people's expectations upon us, and to a greater or lesser degree we recognize this and try to fit the image. There is the teacher with her image of what the pupil should be, the peer-group image that teenagers live by, employer/employee expectations to be attained—and so it goes all through life. Even the husband and wife in more cases than not (as studies show) are rarely themselves. Always there is the "right" image, the "should" to be adhered to. Until—and for most people this is a tragic "until"—there is not a someone to whom it is genuinely meaningful **how** or **if** you fit the image.

(continued on next page)

Mrs. Lockerbie is the editor of Psychology for Living magazine and staff writer for the Narramore Christian Foundation of Rosemead, California.

This article is from her new book, FIFTY PLUS, published by Revell.

And it is then hard to feel that there is anything left to live for.

Yet the time does come for most people (unless they had other deep disturbances in addition to the loss of the person dear to them) when they can catch at least a glimmer of light in the distance. Even a flickering candle spells hope.

When this moment arrives, two questions are usually uppermost in the awakened consciousness: **Where am I going?** and **What am I going to do?** But underlying each of these is the bigger, philosophical question: **Who am I?**

These feelings are not always expressed, even in our thoughts. More often we tend to push them down. As Christians, we seem to have a sense that it is unspiritual to question, that this is not acceptable to God. Yet God is the Giver of our power to question, as He is of every other faculty we possess. He even bids us to "come and reason together" (see Isaiah 1:18).

Who am I? Where am I going? Why am I here?

At the risk of being considered simplistic, let me share with you my own unalterable belief that God has a plan for my life. He has a plan for your life, for the life of everyone who has trusted Jesus Christ and received Him as Lord and Saviour. So that is the answer to why I am here. This may be hard for you to accept at a particular time, if your life is being channeled in other directions than those which check out with your own plans for your life.

A young woman told me recently as we were talking along these lines, "I'm mad at God these days." Why was she angry at God? Because of certain things that had happened in her life, and she was not seeing God immediately clear up the whole thing and let her get on with what she really wanted to do with her life. Most of us are not all that honest and quick to admit it, but I suspect that, like myself, many Christians have such moments at particular junctures in life.

What does all this have to do with the recycling of our potential when life has



Bruce Long: I Believe in Music

What happens when a young man combines a love for contemporary Christian music with a desire to serve the Lord?

For Bruce Long, member of Smithville Brethren Church, the result was sponsorship of a Christian music concert on May 7. Featured were the Second Chapter of Acts and Mike and Kathy Deasy.

According to Bruce, "It all got started a couple of years ago when some friends and I sponsored a concert. We had a group from Ashland and held the concert in our junior high school auditorium. Only about 50 people showed up, but we had a good time doing it.

"I began to write to some groups on my own, just to see who was available. The agent for the Second Chapter of Acts wrote back and said the group was planning to go on tour. They were interested in talking with us."

So Bruce and his friends formed Harmony Productions, which sponsored the May 7 concert. "Harmony Productions is, essentially, a group of Chris-

tians dedicated to the presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ through contemporary music," he said.

Bruce called the Second Chapter of Acts one of the top contemporary Christian groups in the country. "They have worked with many of the finest Christian musicians around, making four albums of their own and appearing on numerous other albums as back-up singers.

"Their style is light and refreshing. The voices of two sisters and a brother blend into a single, indescribable sound. And on top of their musical skills, they minister in a great way through personal testimonies and sharing."

Also appearing were Mike and Kathy Deasy. "Mike has appeared as a back-up musician on over 1,700 albums. Before he was a Christian, he played for Buffalo Springfield, the Byrds, Elvis Presley, and many others." Now he and his wife travel together, singing and playing.

As coordinator of Harmony

Productions, Bruce spent months working out the endless details of hosting a concert. He first had to find a concert hall large enough to accommodate the gathering. ("They asked us for an auditorium seating no less than 1,000. Fisher Auditorium in Wooster seats 1,002.") And he had to develop and direct the publicity campaign for the concert. All of this was in addition to working a full-time job and taking a special night course in recording engineering.

Before the concert, Bruce asked for the prayers of other believers. "If Christians will support us in prayer and God's will continues to be done, this one concert will turn into a whole series of concerts in the Wooster area."

Christians must have prayed, for the entire operation ran very smoothly! And they bought tickets—over 850 attended the two and one-half hour concert.

Which means residents of northcentral Ohio can probably expect more concerts sponsored by Harmony Productions and Bruce Long.

completely changed our course? Actually, the questioning period can be the quickening of new life after years of what has been merely existing, getting through the days rather than living them. If I had never come to such a crossroads, I would not know what **does, does not, and can** happen to a person. I am just an average woman, so what happened to me could well be the experience of others who are themselves at one of life's "wits' end" corners.

How true the Bible is, in my experience. I had often read and even memorized the verse: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for me" (see 2 Corinthians 4:17). But I well remember the day I stopped at the word **work**. Who ever heard of trials and troubles working for anybody! But that is what the Bible says. And since, with God's always-available help, I have been proving this in my own life, some people have even said to me, "You know, you're much more of a person than you used to be. I always used to see you as a kind of mousy preacher's wife just shaking hands with people at the church door—not much else, just a shadowy person."

This frank appraisal did not disturb me one bit, for I had been content and happy to be in the shadow of an extremely personable preacher husband. He was impressive enough for both of us. But I think I understand what these people were saying. I had not been, as we hear a lot these days, "my own person"—myself.

It took me quite a long time to face up to the change in my life status with my husband's going, since a whole lot of other things went out of my life. No longer was there the parsonage with its security, with the **belonging**, or the interest and concern of a whole congregation, the feeling of being special to them that loving parishioners had given me for so many years. Apart from the emotional tearing up that such a loss brings, there is the very real matter of physical survival and how to earn a living with—as was true in my own case—few marketable skills in a highly competitive world.

I can never fully express how good the Lord has been—and is—to me. When I needed it most, He caused to surface a latent ability with which He had gifted me. In a true and deep sense it is in this work, professional writing, that I have found answers to who I am. And because of this I have learned to **be** who I am. How liberating, how freeing to the human spirit this is! **Freeing**, in that I am not trying to fit an image. I have found and I keep on

"It took me quite a long time to face up to the change in my life status with my husband's going, since a whole lot of other things went out of my life."

discovering that once this compulsion to be what "they" think you should be is erased, you do not need the props of pretense.

Before any of this can occur, before recycling can begin to be a positive experience, there has to be this total recognition that the life you have been used to is no more. Linger at the gate of the home that once was yours can only perpetuate unhappiness. Regretful looking back just impedes your progress, though admittedly it is hard not to fall prey to what-might-have-been or what-once-was sighing.

You have to say—and ask God to help you grasp the significance of what you are saying: "I am **not** the preacher's wife"—"I am **not** the woman waiting for her husband to come home for dinner"—"I am **not** the mother with my children still depending on me." Or, for the retiree: "I am **not** in charge of a department (a classroom, a business office, or whatever filled your life prior to retirement)."

There is a great plus for the person who can then begin to be himself. I even toy with the concept that it is at such a point in one's maturity that God can reactivate and work out His Plan A in a life. When we can appropriate sufficient grace (always there for the taking), when we can summon the will to even **thank** God for our circumstances, we are on the road to enjoying the good things His plan includes. How can we be sure they are good? God has said so.

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

(Jeremiah 29:11 TLB)

A **future** and a **hope**? If this were a singing commercial making its exaggerated promises, I wouldn't blame you for some cynical response. But this is God. He has plans for you, good plans—and for your good. I had good reason to believe this even before I found the verse in Jeremiah. This is the kind of God we have.

Student Aid —

Meeting New Challenges

an analysis by J. R. Shultz

THE Ministerial Student Aid Fund has been a tremendous help to many students since it began many years ago. There are a number of men faithfully serving the Lord in Brethren pastorates and Brethren mission fields because of it. The Ministerial Student Aid Fund has helped in their education so they could be sufficiently prepared to serve efficiently. We thank God for the blessings in the past.

Now the Ministerial Student Aid Fund is doing more than ever before:

- 1) Financial aid has been given to three pre-seminary students attending colleges in Indiana and Pennsylvania. These students meet the requirements and are looking forward to attending Ashland Theological Seminary. The Brethren Church needs all of its young men, regardless of where they are living and attending school. Therefore, the Ministerial Student Aid Fund needs additional funds to help extend its outreach in this way.
- 2) The Brethren Church will continually have an acute need for more ministers. Retirements, church extension, and new church ministries all create a need for more persons in training for the ministry. These students need financial support from the church

at the time of their life when they have little income and a lot of expense as students.

- 3) Tuition costs increase each year. All higher education is affected by inflation and finds it necessary to increase costs almost annually. The graphs on page 11 tell a story. And consider these facts:
 - Living costs increase about 10 percent per year (according to the Federal Reserve Bulletin).
 - Book costs for students have increased approximately 12 to 15 percent per year.
 - All of these inflationary costs affect the student more than others because they are not working in positions where they receive proportionate increases in wages. Ministerial Student Aid is the difference.

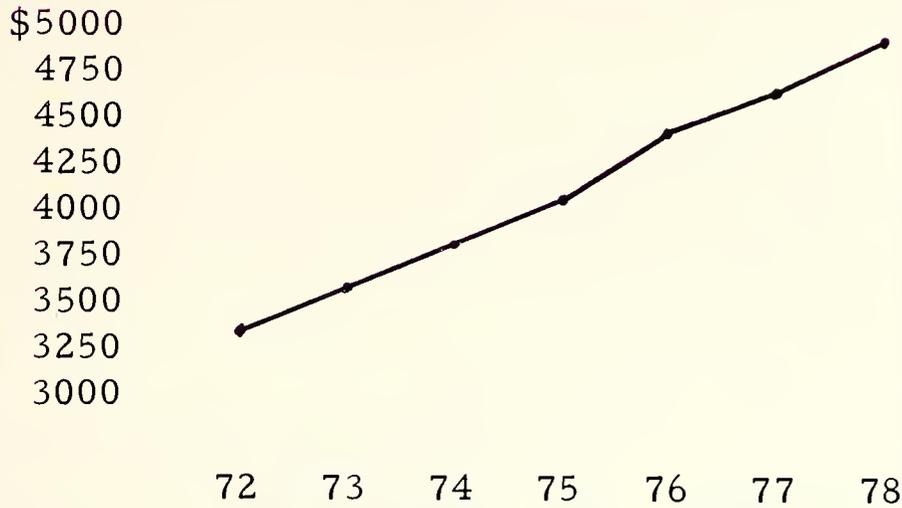
“Thanksgiving” is expressed by all students, past and present, for Ministerial Student Aid. All Brethren students receive some financial assistance, for which they are grateful.

The story of the graphs impresses upon the church the need for increasing gifts to the Ministerial Student Aid Fund. The imperative of the gospel is the same as the imperative of the Ministerial Student Aid Fund in training students for the gospel ministry.

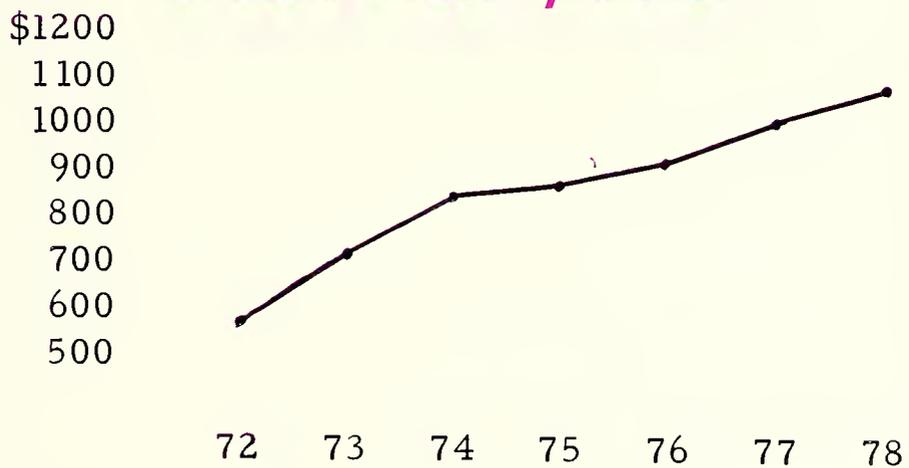
Thank you for your support.

Private College Tuition

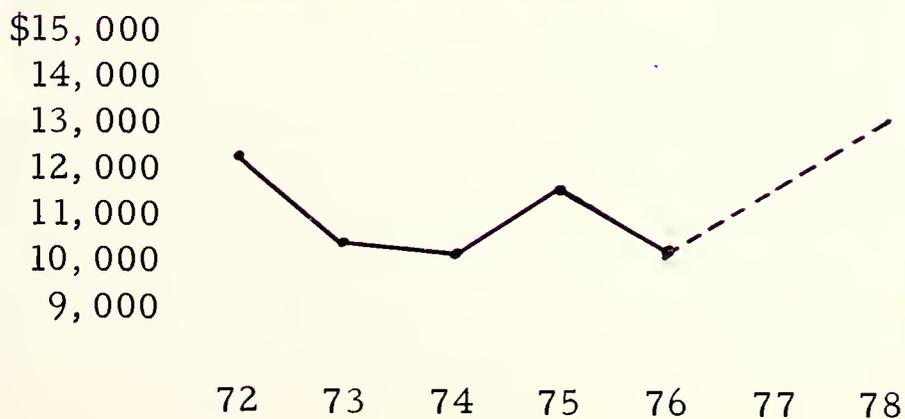
(approximately 8 to 10 percent annual increase)



Ashland Seminary Tuition



Ministerial Student Aid



Recruitment –

New Function of the Ministerial Student Aid Committee

RECRUITING men (and women) for ministry is a relatively new function of the Brethren Ministerial Student Aid Fund Committee.

Acting in accord with the mandate of the 1976 General Conference, the committee sponsored a banquet for Brethren seminary and pre-seminary students and unaffiliated students who had expressed an interest in Brethren church ministries.

Forty-three persons (including students, wives, the committee, and denominational representatives) met at the Claremont House in Ashland on December 17, 1976. Following the meal, the present and projected ministries of the Brethren Church were outlined by the denominational executives and Dr. Shultz.

The students' questions, observations, and impressions were discussed at length. The committee's guests expressed an appreciation for the church's interest in them and for the new insights they had gained.

We hope that some of the unaffiliated will consider ministry in the Brethren Church.

report by Fred Burkey



Dorman Ronk was one of the denominational executives sharing information on the ministries of the Brethren Church.



Forty-three students, wives, committee members, and denominational leaders participated in the December banquet.

ministerial student aid

Brethren Ministerial Student Aid

1976 Financial Report

RECEIPTS

Church gifts	\$10,180.52	
Individual gifts	289.00	
Loan repayments	25.00	
	<hr/>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$10,494.52

DISBURSEMENTS

Grants		
College students, Spring 1976	\$ 1,100.00	
College students, Fall 1976	3,550.00	
Seminary students, Winter 1976	1,350.00	
Seminary students, Spring 1976	2,631.08	
Seminary students, Fall 1976	1,500.00	
	<hr/>	
Total grants	\$10,131.08	
Loans to students	480.00	
Promotional expenses	326.53	
	<hr/>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$10,937.61

We gave 9 college students 12 grants during the year, and we gave 14 seminary students 30 grants. Sixty-four churches contributed funds to the Ministerial Student Aid Committee in 1976.

Thank You —



If I had not received Ministerial Student Aid, I would not be graduating from college this spring. It also has reduced the amount of money that I would have had to borrow to stay in school. For this I am sincerely grateful.

I will be entering Ashland Theological Seminary this fall. After finishing there, I plan to enter into full-time pastoral work in the Brethren Church. I will again need Student Aid while in Seminary.

It is because of these funds that I am able to accomplish God's will in preparing to serve Him in the Brethren Church.

—Jim Vandermark, South Bend, Ind.



Praise the Lord for the Ministerial Student Aid Fund!

My goals are set for Ashland Theological Seminary and the Brethren ministry. Sometimes those goals are hard to reach, especially when the money supply has run out.

There is no way I could make it without Student Aid. It has been a beautiful answer to prayer.

I thank God continually for my support through the Ministerial Student Aid Fund.

—Ken Hunn, Mishawaka, Ind.

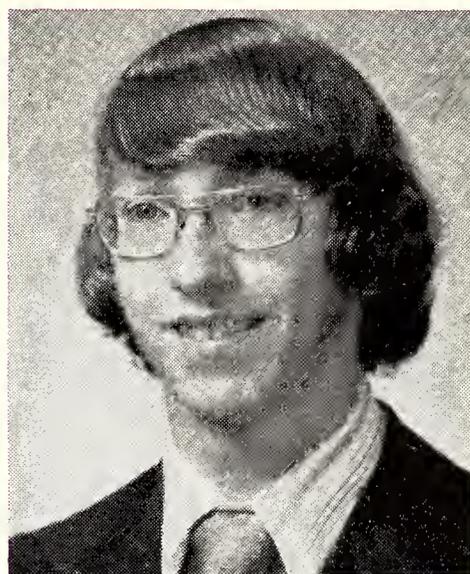
Aid Recipients Respond

Last year the church took a giant step toward increasing the number of young people training for ministry. That was by giving financial aid to students in any college who are preparing to attend Ashland Theological Seminary.

The Ministerial Student Aid Fund Committee has been most gracious in easing the strain for me to attend a private Christian liberal arts college.

May the Brethren be blessed for their willingness to support this fund. And many thanks from one who has experienced its help.

—Jim Miller, Johnstown, Pa.



Your contribution to the Ministerial Student Aid Fund will help men and women prepare for ministry in the Brethren Church.

Rising costs require increased aid. Your generous gift during the month of June will encourage these men and women in their preparation.

Thank you for your support during the past year and in the months ahead.

Eugene Beekley, Chairman

Ashland College

A. L. Schultz named new president

Ashland, Ohio—The Ashland College Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Arthur L. Schultz as the College's 24th president.

Dr. Schultz, 48, president of Albright College (Pa.) for the last 12 years, will assume his new duties on July 1. He replaces Dr. Glenn L. Clayton, who announced last August that he would retire in June after 29 years as president of Ashland College.

In accepting his selection, Dr. Schultz sent a telegram to Elton Whitted, chairman of the Ashland College Board of Trustees, saying: "To the Board of Trustees at Ashland College: I humbly accept your election to serve as president of Ashland College, effective July 1, 1977. Ashland College has enjoyed distinguished leadership under Dr. Glenn L. Clayton. I hope that we might build on the strong foundations he has laid. I have complete faith in the future of Ashland College."

In announcing the Board's decision, Chairman Whitted said, "The Ashland College Board of Trustees is happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Arthur L. Schultz as president of Ashland College."

"Dr. Schultz' experience in management, development, and public relations, and his endorsement by all segments of the College community make him an ideal leader for Ashland College as it faces the challenges of these times."

He added, "We look forward to welcoming Dr. Schultz and his wife, Louise, to our campus and community when he assumes his new position in July."

Albright, under the direction of Dr. Schultz, grew from 957 full-time students in 1965 to 1,234 this year. The College, located in Reading, Pa., about 55 miles northwest of Philadelphia, is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. It was founded in 1856.

Prior to his presidency at Albright, Dr. Schultz held administrative positions at Otterbein College from 1956-1965. He served as director of public relations; assistant to the president; director of admissions, alumni relations, and church relations; and assistant in development.

Before going to Otterbein, Dr. Schultz served as minister of the Albright United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh. He served at this church from 1952 to 1956.

A native of Johnstown, Pa., Dr. Schultz was graduated from Connellsville High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from



Dr. Arthur Schultz

Otterbein College in 1949, his Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in 1952, his Master of Education in 1955 and his Doctor of Philosophy in 1963 from University of Pittsburgh. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathy in 1966, and from Otterbein in 1970.

In March 1971 Dr. Schultz served with 34 college and university administrators from the United States and Canada on an education study team which visited institutions of higher learning in Russia, Poland, Hungary, and Romania.

Dr. Schultz was listed in the 1965 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America" of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce. His biographical material appears in "Who's Who in American Education," "Who's Who in the East," and "Who's Who in America."

Dr. Schultz is joining Ashland College in its 99th year. The College has 1,700 full-time students.

Looking forward to his new challenge at Ashland, Dr. Schultz stated, "I was impressed with the excellent facilities and the caliber of people on the Ashland College campus. I feel the institution has a strong administrative staff and faculty, and students who are concerned about procuring a good education."

"I am looking forward to returning to the Buckeye State."

AC grads include Brethren students

by Joan Ronk

Ashland College honored 346 graduates at its 99th commencement on May 15, 1977. Included in that number were the following eight graduates who are members of the Brethren Church.

Cathryn Harding Spreng majored in biology and minored in chemistry and received the Bachelor of Science degree. Cathryn excelled as a student and was graduated Summa Cum Laude. She completed her academic work in December, and during the second semester she was employed in the Ashland College Library and Research Center. In July she will begin a one-year internship at Mansfield General Hospital in preparation for becoming a certified medical technologist. Cathy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Harding, Jr. She and her husband, David Spreng, live in Ashland.

Adriana Miranda Wilkinson is known by many Brethren people. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Juan Carlos Miranda, former missionaries in Argentina. Adriana received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio/TV. In 1976 Adriana was named by Glamour Magazine as one of the top ten college women in the USA. She also received scholarships from Script Howard Foundation for her achievements at Ashland.

Adriana is married to Jeff Wilkinson. After completing her academic work at Ashland in December of 1976, she became the advertising consultant at KKHJ 94 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Adriana plans to pursue her career in broadcast sales, TV production and direction.

Darlene Swenk received the two-year Associate of Arts degree with a major in secretarial science. Dar was a student helper in the Physical Education office and also a varsity cheerleader. She is the daughter of Paul Swenk and the late Mrs. Swenk of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. Darlene is a member of the Ashland Park Street Brethren Church.

Sara Kiefer is the daughter of Mrs. Donald Kiefer and the late Mr. Kiefer of Warsaw, Indiana. Sara belonged to Alpha Theta (Christian fellowship), participated in intramurals, and worked in the AC bookstore. Her future plans include a June wedding and a career teaching social studies or being an accountant in the Cleveland area. She received the Bachelor of Science in Education degree.

Mark Baker is probably known by everyone in the Brethren Church! He has been a Summer Crusader, and this summer he is one of the four Interns who will serve in Medellin, Colombia. During his time at Ashland Mark sang with the AC choir and belonged to the college Republicans. Mark majored in religion and received the Bachelor of Arts degree. He was graduated Cum Laude.

Mark plans to enter Ashland Theological Seminary in the fall in preparation for a pastoral ministry. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baker of North Manchester, Ind., and a member of the North Manchester congregation. Mark works in the Christian Education office, assisting Dr. Fred Burkey, the director.

Keith Heist is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Heist of Canton and a member of the Canton Trinity Brethren Church. He majored in economics and received the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree. Keith was frequently listed on the Academic Honors list. He was president of the Logos Society and treasurer of the Math Club. Keith anticipates a career teaching high school economics and coaching basketball.

Tim Watkins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Watkins of Louisville, Ohio, and a member of the Canton Trinity Brethren Church. Tim majored in political science and marketing and received the Bachelor of Arts degree. During his time at Ashland Tim was president of his sophomore class, a member of the Student Senate, secretary and alumni secretary of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and a participant in the Faculty Honors Program. Tim plans to attend the American Graduate School of International Management at Glendale, Arizona.

Tracy Wilt, Jr., from Washington, D.C., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Wilt. He majored in drama and music and received the Bachelor of Arts degree. Tracy was a member of the Ashland College choir and had leading roles in many theatre and musical performances. During the summers he has been a Crusader.

Tracy has an assistantship at the University of Akron for next year. He will work toward a Master of Fine Arts degree, concentrating on dramatic performance.

These eight young people have been outstanding students at Ashland College. The Brethren Church can be proud to have them among its 1977 college graduates.

Calendar of Events

June 9-11—Indiana District Conference, Camp Shishewana.

June 24-25—Ohio District Inspirational Retreat, Ashland, Ohio.

July 15-16—Central District Conference, Lanark, Illinois.

July 21-23—Pennsylvania District Conference, Vinco, Pennsylvania.

August 15-19—General Conference, Ashland, Ohio.

Northwest Chapel congregation meets on new church site

Tucson, Arizona—On Easter Sunday morning 80 Brethren gathered for a sunrise service on the newly purchased property of Northwest Brethren Chapel. The new land is in the northwest section of Tucson, at the corner of two major streets and near the base of the beautiful Cantalina Mountains. The sunrise service was held just a few days after transactions for the purchase of the land were completed.

Red Ellis, a charter member of the church, writes about the service: "It was such a beautiful service, with scripture and prayer and a series of short sermons. As we were singing "Christ Arose," the sun just seemed to jump from behind the mountain. We then had coffee, hot chocolate, juice, and doughnuts and ended our service with prayer."

Mr. Ellis also reports that two beautiful four-by-eight foot signs have been placed on the land, "telling the world that the Northwest Brethren Chapel will be built on this spot."

You can sense the excitement and enthusiasm of these people as they work for the growth of their church. They are actively reaching out to others, and new people are being won to the Lord and incorporated into the church. This daughter of the First Brethren Church of Tucson is continuing to grow.

The response of the Growth Partners Club members totaled \$10,316 and helped make up part of the downpayment on the new property.

Juan Miranda assists Venezuelan crusade

Venezuela, S.A. (O.C. News)—Latin American Evangelist Francisco Fiorenza of the Overseas Crusades' Colombia Team led a Family Crusade in Puerto de la Cruz, Barcelona, and Maturin, three large and important cities of Eastern Venezuela, from May 1-29.

Francisco Fiorenza, an experienced evangelist and participant in many of the Luis Palau Evangelistic Team Crusades, challenged families to look at Christ as the real answer to life's needs.

Crusade activities started in March with a Church Growth Workshop conducted by **Juan Carlos Miranda**. Miranda is Director of the Spanish Church Growth Department at the Fuller Evangelistic Association, and is sponsored by the Brethren Church of Ashland, Ohio. Daryl Platt, also from Overseas Crusades' Colombia Team, was another resource person for the Venezuelan Workshop.

Sarasota missions conference features Ken Solomons

Sarasota, Fla.—Rev. Kenneth Solomon, Brethren Missionary to Colombia, was the featured speaker for a pre-Easter missionary conference held at the Sarasota, Fla., First Brethren Church April 3-8, 1977.

The theme song for the services was "The King's Business," and Rev. Solomon presented messages about "King Jesus" during each service.

Special guest nights were included during the conference. On "Spanish Night" members of the Bay Haven Baptist Spanish Mission in Sarasota attended the service, along with their pastor, Rev. Obel Guzman. For this service Pastor Hamel preached in English and Rev. Solomon interpreted the message into Spanish.

Thursday night was Bradenton Brethren Church night. On this night Rev. Russell Gordon, pastor of the Bradenton Church, participated in the service.

A missionary prayer coffee hour was also held as a part of the conference. Speakers for this hour were Mrs. Harry Lui of Pocket Testament League and Mrs. Jeanette Solomon.

A faith promise was taken during the week, and a final announcement was made at the close of the Easter morning service. At that time promises of \$12,500 were received, with more to come later.

During the meeting several people rededicated their lives to Christ, and two people came forward to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

A part of the Easter offering of the Sarasota Brethren Church was used for the transportation of Rev. and Mrs. Solomon and their children to Sarasota from Colombia. The remainder will go toward the two new Brethren churches to be built in Florida.

Forman "born again"

Garden Grove, Calif. (EP News)—George Forman, the world's former heavyweight boxing champion, has shared his "born again" Christian experience with Dr. Robert H. Schuller's "Hour of Power" television program. Mr. Forman joined Dr. Schuller again at the Miami Marine Stadium for the Easter Sunrise Service and repeated his testimony. The minister asked Mr. Forman to work with him at a new Development Center in southern California to serve youths of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

Ohio District Mission Board plans new churches

Ashland, Ohio—The Ohio District Mission Board has begun preliminary study for the planting of two new Brethren churches by 1981.

Rev. Larry Bolinger, chairman of the board, recently spent three days with various city and county planning departments in Medina County.

Actual population figures for 1970 and 1975 and projections for 1980 suggest the northeastern Ohio county will continue to show steady growth. The information also points to Medina County as an area to be considered seriously for a new Brethren Church.

Preliminary studies into other counties will begin soon.

The board has also contracted with the national Board of Christian Education for the services of a Summer Crusader team this summer. Tentative plans call for the team to do survey work in Medina County during the week of July 17. The following week they will work in Delaware County.

Volunteer help from Ohio churches will be required to complete sufficient samples in each area. Details will be released at a later date.

International dinner held by Pleasant View church

Vandergrift, Pa.—The Pleasant View Brethren Church tried a new twist with their annual missionary conference. An **international dinner** was held to begin the conference.

What is an international dinner? The church families who attended brought a dish whose recipe was to have originated from another country. There were various meats, salads, desserts, and casseroles representing many countries of the world.

The attendance for the dinner and opening service of the missionary conference was the largest many could remember for an evening of this type. Praise the Lord for this response from the Brethren. The Brethren were also joined by some people from other local churches who came and shared in the evening.

Following the dinner, brother Dick Winfield told of the ministry of the church in Nigeria. His slide presentation was very interesting and challenging.

Pastor William Walk comments about the evening: "None of us had ever been to an international dinner before, but (we) are looking forward to doing it again. We suggest this to you for a good challenge for missions."

Study examines reasons for becoming Christians

Costra Rica (Missionary Mandate)—What is really effective in winning a person to Christ on the mission field?

The Institute for In-Depth Evangelism here decided to find out by interviewing 217 people who had become Christians. Results showed that 41 percent of them had paid attention to tracts before they were converted, 32 percent had read a Christian magazine (this figure includes Scripture portion publications), and 26 percent had listened to Christian radio programs.

When it came to the influence most responsible for conversion, 28 percent said it was Bible reading; 25 percent, the church itself; 25 percent, home visits; 18 percent, Sunday school; 15 percent, evangelistic services; 13 percent, radio broadcasts.

Asked about the circumstances surrounding their conversion, 26 percent mentioned difficulties and trials and 26 percent said "frustration in life." Fellowship with Christians and the conversion of others were mentioned by 42 percent.

Paul Pretiz of the Institute explained: "A survey of this type does not tell the whole story. We cannot assume that the patterns that have led these people to Christ are necessarily the best patterns for reaching others. . . . We are examining the kind of influences that have brought in the kind of people who are now in our churches, and it may well be that there are other kinds of people who will only respond to other kinds of radio programs, literature, Sunday schools, and so forth."

Teachers needed in Nigeria; contact Mission Bd.

Nigeria, West Africa—The acute need for Christian teachers in Nigeria continues, according to "The Church Around the World." Two years ago the Nigerian government decided to give all Nigerian children a primary-school education, thus creating a tremendous need for teachers.

Six hundred American Christian teachers have applied to go, but the **Nigerian government is calling for 40,000!** Bible teachers are especially needed.

If you are interested in serving in Nigeria, contact the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

Weddings

Lynn Duncil to Bruce Sauer, April 16, at Gratis, Ohio, First Brethren Church; Gene Hollinger, pastor, officiating. Members of Gratis First Brethren Church.

Janet Sue Hamel to Timothy Lee Solomon, April 10, at Sarasota, Fla., First Brethren Church; Dr. J. D. Hamel, pastor, and Kenneth L. Solomon officiating. Members of Sarasota First Brethren Church.

Sarita Jean Hensley to Roland Lee Munger, April 2, at Peru, Ind., First Brethren Church; Richard A. Austin, pastor, officiating. Members of Peru First Brethren Church.

April Marie Kennedy to Roger Lee Stephens, February 19, at Peru, Ind., First Brethren Church; Richard A. Austin, pastor, officiating. Members of Peru First Brethren Church.

Elizabeth Suzanne Marks to Daniel Howard Myers, January 14, at Peru, Ind., First Brethren Church; Richard A. Austin, pastor, officiating. Members of Peru First Brethren Church.

Membership Growth

Main Street (Meyersdale): 1 by baptism
 Gratis: 1 by baptism, 4 by letter
 Linwood: 3 by baptism
 Roann: 4 by baptism, 1 by letter
 New Lebanon: 13 by baptism, 3 by letter

BEFORE YOU MOVE

... please let us know.

1. Give old address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2. Fill in new address below:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date new address in effect _____

3. Mail this form to:

Address Correction
 Brethren Publishing Company
 524 College Avenue
 Ashland, OH 44805

In Memory

Mrs. Jessie L. Varner, 63, April 21. Member of Vinco, Pa., Brethren Church. Services by Carl Phillips, pastor.

Russell Weaver, 75, April 20. Member of Elkhart, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Dale P. Ru Lon, pastor.

Mrs. Harriet Welsch, 88, April 16. Member and deaconess of Washington, D.C., Brethren Church. Services by Robert L. Keplinger, pastor, and Dr. Dale Crowley, radio evangelist.

Mrs. Alice McDowell, 68, April 9. Member of Vinco, Pa., Brethren Church. Services by Carl Phillips, pastor.

Mabel Fraker, 87, April 8. Member since 1920 of Bryan, Ohio, First Brethren Church. Services by Marlin L. McCann, pastor.

Mrs. Orpha L. Cory, 76, April 4. Member of Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Alvin Grumbling, pastor, and Albert O. Curtright.

Peter F. Housel, Sr., 69, March 15. Member and deacon of Meyersdale, Pa., Main Street Brethren Church. Services by Joseph Hanna, pastor.

Katie Werner, 85, February 19. Member of Meyersdale, Pa., Main Street Brethren Church. Services by Joseph Hanna, pastor.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. Chester Wingard, 65th, May 4. Members of First Brethren Church, Flora, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Burley Bracken, 67th, May 2. Members of the Brethren Church, Vinco, Pa.

Mr. & Mrs. Simon McKenzie, 65th, April 12. Members of Main Street Brethren Church, Meyersdale, Pa.

Mr. & Mrs. Tunis Decker, 50th, April 2. Members of First Brethren Church, New Lebanon, Ohio.

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Kingery, 60th, March 16. Members of First Brethren Church, Flora, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Kiracofe, 55th, March 15. Members of First Brethren Church, Gratis, Ohio.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lantz, 64th, March 9. Members of First Brethren Church, Flora, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Blacksten, 50th, February 2. Members of the Brethren Church, Linwood, Md.

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Douglass, 52nd, January 25. Mrs. Douglass member of First Brethren Church, Flora, Ind. Mr. Douglass member of Church of the Brethren.

Up and Coming . . .

... in the Brethren Evangelist

In July:

—Billy Melvin describes "The Scandal of Evangelical Giving."

—Special Section: a preview of the 1977 General Conference.

Benevolent Board

Ronk attends national conference on spiritual well-being of elderly

Atlanta, Ga.—Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., was the keynote speaker for the National Intra-Decade Conference on Spiritual Well-Being of the Elderly. Margaret (Maggie) Kuhn, a leader of the Gray Panther organization, was also a featured speaker at the conference, sponsored by the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging in cooperation with the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons and the University of Georgia. The conference was held April 12-14, 1977, in Atlanta.

Mr. Dorman Ronk, Executive Director of the Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church, attended the conference and served as moderator for one of the conference work-sessions. The Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church is a member organization of the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging.

The conference subject, "spiritual well-being," was defined as "the affirmation of life in a relationship with God, self, community, and environment that nurtures and celebrates wholeness." Speakers, panels, and participant presentations developed applications of and variations on this touchstone definition as it relates to older adults and aging.

Scholarly papers, sermons, essays, presentations of original research, reports on innovative pro-

grams, and discoveries in services to the elderly were featured at the conference. These presentations dealt with living alone, dependency, illness and health, grief, death and dying, mental and emotional problems, economic stress, cross-generational relationships, the problems of minority aging persons, and other issues as they relate to spiritual well-being. In all, approximately 80 scholarly papers were presented at the convention. Plans call for the selection of 30 of these for publication in a book.

In commenting on the conference, Dorman Ronk noted that the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging is seeking to find out what is being done for the aging and to discover how it can be done better. He indicated that this conference was a work session to come up with programing for the aged. He praised the quality of presentations made at the gathering and the spirit of cooperation of the participants.

Gratis opens meeting place for community youth

Gratis, Ohio—Each Thursday night from seven to ten o'clock is youth night at the Gratis First Brethren Church. The church has opened its basement as a meeting place for community youth in the sixth to the twelfth grades.

The youth in the Gratis community had no place to congregate except on the streets or in undesirable places. The church saw this need and is trying to meet it by providing a place with proper supervision. Games and refreshments are made available to the young people.

Mrs. Harry Wikle noted that "It is our desire that the young people will become acquainted with the church and its people and will then want to attend our Sunday school or church."

Wood not from Ark, scientists report

Los Angeles (EP News)—The wood found on Turkey's Mount Ararat some 22 years ago and reputed to be from Noah's Ark was found by scientists at the University of California in Los Angeles to be just a "few thousand" years too young.

Dr. Ranier Berger, a UCLA archaeologist, said new studies confirm earlier studies made in England and in California in 1970 that the wood is about 1,200 years old and comes from a tree cut down about A.D. 700. Dr. Berger said that the tests were so thorough that any speculation about the age of the wood should be ended.

Are There Missionaries Hiding?

(continued from page 6)

his family have a productive ministry reaching people who have never heard the gospel.

How many similar stories can be told of those who are gifted, qualified, and willing but who will never actually go because the local church failed? It failed either through deliberate selfishness, total unconcern, or lack of proper instruction.

What would happen in Asia, South America, Europe, and Africa if our American churches would lay their hands on some of those successful pastors and church planters, on some experienced mission board members, on some highly qualified church deacons or elders, on some of the assistant pastors or Christian education leaders and send them away? Is this reasoning too far out? Apparently Paul did not think so. Until the church returns to the methods of Acts 13, I believe the scarcity of laborers will continue to plague the missionary outreach of the Church of Jesus Christ for years to come!

Reprinted from the February 1976 issue of IMPACT, published by the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society. Used by permission.



1977 Church Staff Interns

an introduction by Fred Burkey

The Board of Christian Education is pleased to announce the 1977 Church Staff Interns. For the last several years we have been placing young people in settings where they could receive on-the-job training in church-related ministries. This summer the nine people pictured will be serving eight to ten weeks in a total of seven Brethren churches.

Elaine Hensley has completed her sophomore year at Eastern Mennonite College where she is an English education major. She is a member of the Mt. Olive, Va., Church. She will be working in Bryan, Ohio, assisting with the learning center, BYC program, VBS, youth music ministry, and Sunday school.

Gene and Sue McConahay are considering a "tentmaking" ministry as part of the Missionary Board's "Operation Impact." Gene is graduating from Akron University with a major in mathe-

matics and minors in chemistry and biology. Sue has earned a two-year Associates Degree in library science and is certified as an elementary school teacher's aide. The McConahays will be working at Derby, Kans., where they may benefit from the experience of David and Deanne Benschhoff. Their work will include nearly every aspect of the church's ministry.

Joan Holsinger and Roberta Miller will be working together at Herndon, Va., under the direction of Rev. Robert Keplinger. Joan is a graduate student in school psychology at Akron University and is a member of the Park Street Brethren Church, Ashland, Ohio. Roberta will be a sophomore at Goshen College where she is studying English and psychology. These young ladies will assist the congregation in the areas of Sunday school, VBS, and youth ministries.

Debra Sue Michael, from Lanark, Ill., is graduating this spring from Anderson College with a major in Christian education. She will be working in the new church at Bradenton, Fla., where her duties will include teacher training, VBS, summer BYC activities, and some music ministries.

Jon Barber is studying religion and psychology at Ashland College and is considering several possible areas of Christian service. He will be involved in BYC activities, Bible teaching, and visitation work at Pleasant View Brethren Church, Vandergrift, Pa. Jon is a member at Herndon, Va.

Donna Shank, a member of the Gretna Brethren Church, is a nursing major at Eastern Mennonite College. She will do her Internship at First Brethren Church, Goshen, Ind. Donna will work with the learning center, a youth visitation program, VBS, and a variety of other things.

Catherine Comfort is a senior choral music major at Indiana University and a member of the Mishawaka, Ind., Brethren Church. This summer Cathy will be serving on the church staff at Manteca, Calif. She will be working primarily with the music and youth ministries.

You are encouraged to volunteer as a "Prayer Warrior" for our Summer Crusaders and Interns (forms have been sent to every church). In this way, you may have an active part in this vital ministry.

Flora graduates honored at annual breakfast

Flora, Ind.—High school graduates **Teresa Kingery** and **Joel Voorhees** of the Flora First Brethren Church were the special guests at a breakfast held in their honor on Sunday morning, April 24th. The breakfast was given by the deacons and deaconesses of the church and was held in the church parlors.

The guests of honor at the breakfast were accompanied by their parents and by another invited guest. Other special guests were Rev. and Mrs. Alvin Grumbling and their son Gary.

The graduates were welcomed to the breakfast by Freda Eller, who read a poem she had composed. Teresa Kingery gave the response to this welcome. Devotions were presented by Mrs. Grumbling, and Pastor Grumbling gave a short talk. Bibles were presented to the graduates by Devon Humbarger on behalf of the Sunday School.

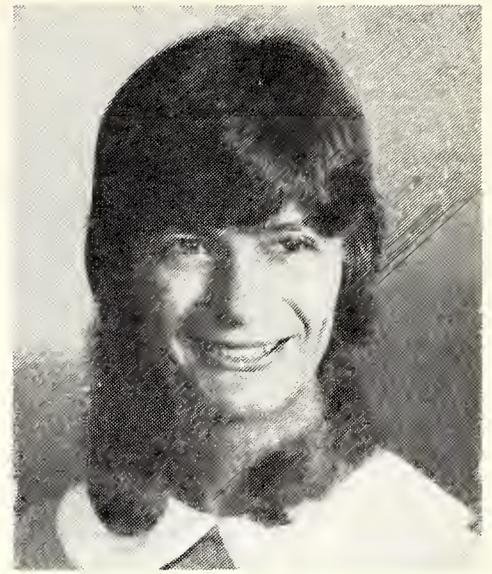
Doris Duff, corresponding secretary for the church, reports that this breakfast is held annually for high school graduates who are members of the Flora First Brethren Church.



*Elaine Hensley
Mt. Olive, Va.*



*Gene McConahay
Smithville, Ohio*



*Sue McConahay
Smithville, Ohio*



*Joan Holsinger
Park Street, Ohio*



*Roberta Miller
Goshen, Ind.*



*Debra Michael
Lanark, Ill.*



*Jon Barber
Chandon, Va.*



*Donna Shank
Gretna, Ohio*



*Catherine Comfort
Mishawaka, Ind.*



New Windsor --

Hub of Relief Operations

Edna Logan describes the ministry of the Brethren Service Center and how you, too, can have a part.

Question: Have you ever been hungry? Really hungry? Not the kind of hunger that you experience as meal time approaches or when you have worked or played hard and you forgot to eat your lunch. Have you ever been hungry—like you can hardly remember your last meal of some dry bread or watery rice, and you don't know where your next food is coming from? You only know it won't come from a friendly neighbor, because he is hungry too.

Question: When you got up this morning, how long did it take you to decide what to wear? You had to consider the weather

and where you were going and what you would do. Of course, you couldn't wear the same thing you wore yesterday—to say nothing of the clothes in the wash! But many people in the world awake in the morning wearing the only clothing they own. It may be inadequate, and it probably isn't too clean.

Question: Are you a new mother? Remember the joy of assembling a layette—diapers, sweaters, booties, and all the lovely things a baby needs? Think of the many new mothers who have nothing for their new babies. Think of the parents whose

The Author

Edna, member of the Brethren World Relief Board and member of the Bethlehem Brethren Church in Harrisonburg, Va., served as a volunteer at the Brethren Service Center twice (for a total of 2 years).

From March 1972 to March 1973 she was Supervisor of Clothing Processing, working with both paid employees and volunteer groups.

From January to December 1974 she was Hostess of Windsor Hall (used for conferences). She made beds, answered the phone, helped serve cafeteria food, led visitors on tours of the Center.

One of her children is Mark Logan, Brethren missionary to Colombia.

She adds, "I guess one of the most rewarding things was getting to see so many people from all over and the fellow workers I learned to know and love."



Edna Logan

children are too weak to run and play and who can do nothing about it.

Because of war, floods, earthquakes, and drought, millions of people are left homeless and hungry—making the conditions described above a reality to them. All their earthly belongings are swept away or left behind.

As we read the headlines and view TV newscasts, we often feel so helpless. Sure, we want to help. But how can we get what we have from “here” to “there”? And because we don’t know, we often do nothing. In time we forget . . . or at least put it in the back of our minds.

But there is much we can do. Many in our Brethren Church are giving faithfully to World Relief offerings. And this is an important link in supporting those working at the grassroots to alleviate suffering. It is something we can all do and never leave home.

But I want to tell you about another kind of world relief involvement—one which is much more exciting and rewarding. **You can volunteer to work for a time at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland.** Relief work is their business.

The Center itself

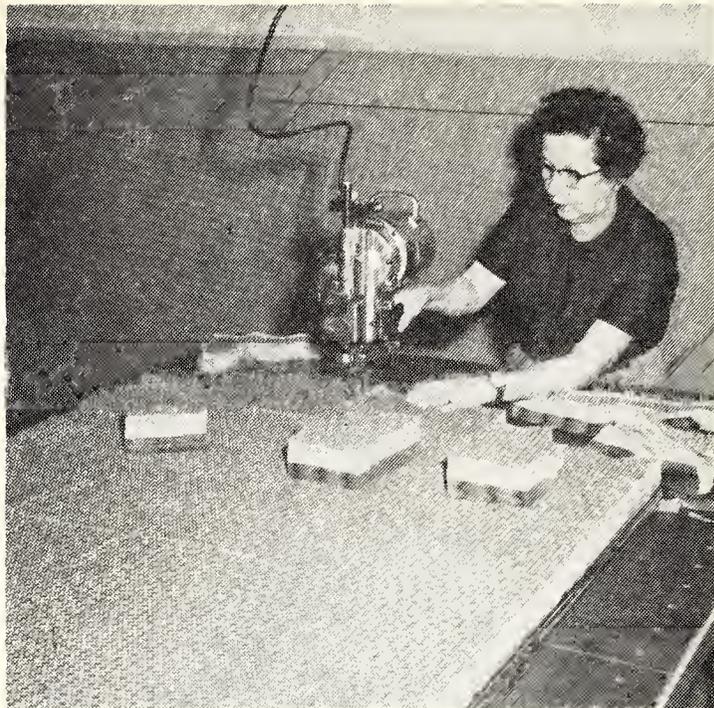
In the hills of Maryland (40 miles from Baltimore; 50 from Washington) is a town that is known far and near. The Brethren Service Center has made New Windsor one of the best known small towns in the world—like Bethlehem.

The Center is located on 26 acres which were originally a college campus. The Church of the Brethren bought it in 1944 and began collecting and sending used clothing to the war-torn countries of Europe. Since that time the Center has grown and become ecumenical, serving most of the Protestant denominations (including the World Relief Commission of NAE).

New buildings have been added to the original four. Old buildings have been remodeled or expanded. But it’s the programs that go on in these buildings that are important.

Four major areas

(1) Processing of Clothing: The gymnasium of the college has become a modern assembly-line-type operation where new and used clothing are sorted, packed, and baled. Blankets, soap, and kits for health, school, and sewing are received and packed. Under the same roof layettes and children’s clothing are cut (factory style) for people to sew for shipment around the world.



This volunteer is cutting material for children’s garments at the Brethren Service Center. Later it will be sewn for shipment around the world.

Where does the clothing come from? Who does the sewing? You and I! Center trucks, commercial trucks, railroad cars, parcel post, and UPS bring what you have donated to the Center. Or if you are traveling that way, you can deliver it personally and see what really goes on there.

After processing, materials are taken by truck to the Baltimore docks for shipment overseas, or delivered directly to disaster areas in the U.S. Approximately 800,000 pounds of clothing were being sent to 250,000 persons in dire circumstances in Lebanon near the end of 1976. This amount filled 22 trailers.

(2) Interchurch Medical Assistance (I.M.A.): This program started in 1961 when drug companies found they could receive tax benefits by giving away medicines. Rather than deal with individual church groups, the companies give their medicines to this organization. It serves any Protestant denomination which wants to join.

About 45 drug companies have given medical supplies that have gone to over 600 mission hospitals. Millions of dollars’ worth of medical supplies have gone through this program (over 69 million in 1974).

Besides medicines, I.M.A. has sent out complete hospital equipment (everything from beds and surgical equipment to face masks and thermometers). Retiring doctors and dentists donate their equipment to be used in mission areas.

(3) The SERRV Program (Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation Voca-

tions): When you visit the Brethren Service Center, you can shop in the beautiful International Gift Shop. Handicrafts from all over the world are sold there. Items come from 50 different countries and are as varied as the places from which they come. One thing is the same. Everything comes from people or groups that have no other way of marketing their products.

Missionaries, social workers, peace corpsmen, etc. find these people who have special talent or who can be trained to make useful articles. When you buy something at the International Gift Shop, you are providing much needed income for someone and helping him to have a better life. He is

working for a living in his homeland instead of getting a handout.

You do not need to go to New Windsor to help. Many of their items are sold throughout the country in shops that individuals have opened for that purpose. You may also order by mail. Remember, it is all non-profit. You profit by helping.

(4) **Conference Center:** Because of the dormitory-type buildings, B.S.C. provides a service to the local area in many ways. Groups from the vicinity go there for retreats, meetings, and conferences. There are conference rooms, a gym for recreation, good beds, and delicious cafeteria meals. In the kitchen meals are prepared for

Another View of World Relief

For over 10 years we have told the story of Brethren World Relief (through the World Relief Commission) in a variety of ways:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| —human interest stories | —suppers |
| —pictures | —brochures |
| —posters | —sandwich boards |
| —movies | —news releases |
| —first person accounts | —factual accounts |
| —slogans | —word of mouth |
| —special mailings | —and more |

But I don't recall having a complete tally like the one below available before. **Notice that it names the 27 countries aided by WRC in 1976**—and the amounts sent to each.

I hope this information will help us understand the vastness and variety of WRC's ministry in the name of Christ. **Along with the self-help rehabilitation programs, WRC is "there" with aid very soon after disasters hit.**

We help make this kind of meaningful outreach possible, Brethren. Thanks for your reliable support.

Phil Lersch, Chairman
Brethren World Relief Board

Countries	Total Cash & Commodities	Countries	Total Cash & Commodities
Alaska	\$ 1,200	Korea	\$ 86,152
Bali	4,000	Lebanon	5,000
Bangladesh	190,110	Liberia	5,000
Bolivia	1,000	Nepal	5,000
Chile	5,188	Peru	6,150
Ecuador	89,130	Philippines	47,500
Ethiopia	206,000	Sub-Sahara	62,265
Guatemala	425,750	Thailand	50,916
Haiti	53,687	Turkey	5,000
India	89,388	Vietnam Resettlement	43,108
Irian Jaya	30,000	West Pakistan	950
Italy	5,000	Yemen Arab Republic	330
Japan	1,500	Zaire	80,118
Kenya	30,650		
		TOTAL	\$1,530,092

Meals on Wheels and senior citizens groups.

The Center is involved with disaster relief in the United States. Personnel there are prepared to supervise relief programs whenever the need arises. Refugees are often housed at the Center en route to their permanent resettlement homes. Dr. M. R. Zigler, instrumental for years in relief and peace programs, has his headquarters there.

So you see, many and varied interesting activities go on in this small town in Maryland.

What can we do?

Most of these programs could not go on without the help of people who are willing to give of their selves and material wealth. Specifically, you can:

(1) **Send your good, used clothing.** Look in your closet. What is there that you haven't worn recently? Maybe its too big, too little, or just a little out of style. Someone with nothing can use it. Be sure it's clean and in good repair.

(2) **Sew.** Blankets or homemade quilts or comforts are in great demand. Get out those scrap bags and go to work. Make children's clothing and layettes. They don't need to be fancy. You can buy redi-cut kits from New Windsor if you like.

(3) **Assemble health, school, or sewing kits.** Soap is also needed.

(4) **Give money.** For example, three dollars will still buy a blanket when sent to the World Relief Commission. It is also

necessary for you to send 15¢ per pound for the clothing sent—to help with the shipping. Designate these monies for "clothing shipment" and send to World Relief Commission, Box 44, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481.

(5) **Go to New Windsor and work.** If you live in the Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, or Washington, D.C., areas, you can go to New Windsor and spend the day sorting and packing clothes.

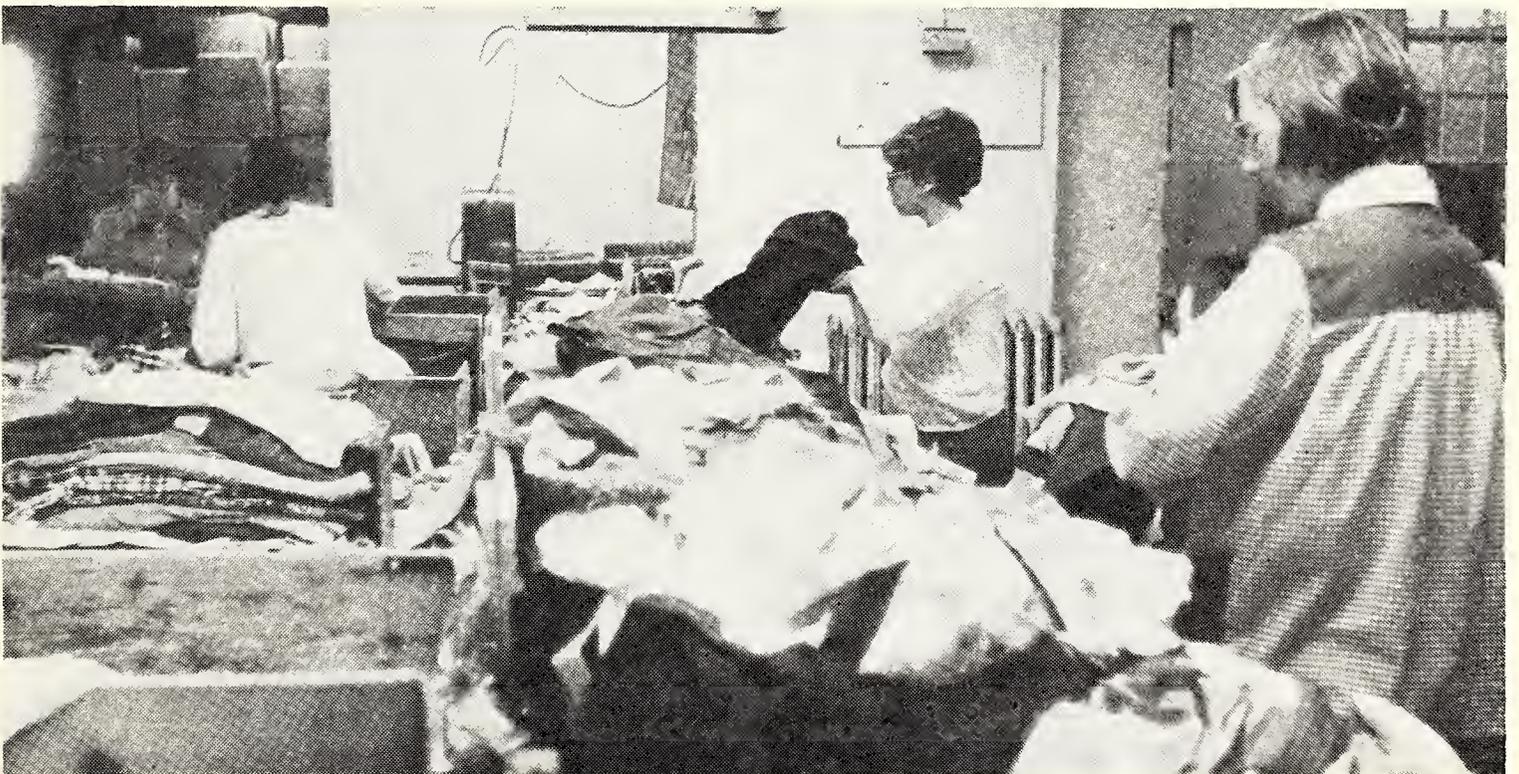
If you live farther away you can spend the night. Groups go to New Windsor from Detroit, New Jersey, Ohio, etc. They make a week of it. They may also spend a day or so sightseeing in Washington. They pay reduced rates for food and lodging at the Center because of their work. It could be a working vacation.

Or you might, as I did, volunteer for a year or two. Many retired people (men and women) go to BSC to work for a month, 6 months, or any length of time. One lady just finished 10 years of volunteer work in the kitchen. Another works as a secretary. Young people come during vacations or between jobs. At the Brethren Service Center there is something for everybody.

Jesus said that to do it unto one of the least of these my brethren is to do it unto him. These are things we can do!

For further information about working or materials, write:

*Brethren Service Center
New Windsor, Md. 21776*



Processing the good, used clothing donated to the Center is a major operation. After these volunteers sort the clothing, it is packed and baled for shipment overseas.

On being alone, the occult, families

Alone

Alone, A Widow's Search for Joy by Katie F. Wiebe (Tyndale, 1976, 303 pp., \$4.95 paperback).

Katie F. Wiebe is a graduate of Mennonite Brethren Bible College and of Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas. For several years she was an editorial assistant at the Mennonite Brethren Publishing House. Since 1967 she has served as assistant professor of English and journalism at Tabor College.

Widowed with four children in 1962 when her husband died of a rare disease, Katie Wiebe began a new profession with an assurance that God wanted her to make a contribution to life. The story of her struggle to attain that assurance provides encouragement for any single today.

The writer's ability to speak from experience and her skill at writing add up to an unbeatable combination. I found the book so helpful and so full of insight that I have already started sharing it with friends.

There are ten million widows in the United States. Because women tend to live longer than men, every wife must face the possibility of becoming a widow. This book could provide some practical help.

—John Rowsey

John Rowsey is executive director of the Brethren Publishing Co.

The Occult

East Meets West in the Occult Explosion by Clifford Wilson (Master Books, 1976, 176 pp., \$1.95).

This book is an elementary book on the subject of the occult. It concerns itself with the works of Satan on this earth through various techniques termed the "occult." There is very little new material or information in the book. It is useful, however, for those Christians unaware of how Satan is working in the world today.

The book is divided into five parts. The first part is about Satan and his work through black magic, witchcraft, etc. This is what many people think of as Satan's work. Part two is probably the most valuable. It deals with the gurus, transcen-

dental meditation, Hinduism, etc. The author exposes many false and subtle teachings. He points out the dangers of dabbling in these practices. He provides helpful information for those Christians exposed to these influences.

Part three deals with astrology, a practice which is neither scientific nor of God. There are no new concepts brought out, but what the author presents is valid. Part four is about psychic phenomena and para-psychology. He discusses ESP, demonic imitation, fortune telling, fraudulent mediums, and hypnotism. There may be room for some disagreement in this chapter. The final section is concerned, primarily, with the subject of demonology. It is biblical and sound.

This book attempts to enlighten Christians concerning the progress of Satan. Christians certainly need to be aware of our foe and his activities. Satan is a fallen angel full of deception. Fortunately, his deception does not seem to prosper where there is enlightenment.

—Steve Barber

Steve Barber is a student at Ashland Theological Seminary.

The Family

Security Blankets Family Size by Irene Harrell (Word Books, 1973, 139 pp., \$3.95).

As you read this book you may smile, swallow hard, wipe away a tear, become more tolerant of others and yourself, and know that all of it will work together for good to draw you closer to God, your real security.

The author has six children, one of which was adopted and of a different race. Another child was handicapped by deafness.

At the beginning of each short chapter is a passage of Scripture relating to it.

Irene Harrell has written in an honest way of her own family experiences. Her husband is a judge and has written **Splinters from My Gavel: Confessions of a Judge**. Beside Mrs. Harrell's eight other books, she and her husband have written one together: **The Opposite Sex**.

—Julie Flora

Julie Flora is a housewife from Ashland, Ohio.

Baptism -- Big Deal?

When did you last have a baptism in your church?

How was it handled?

What kind of impression did it make on the new members—the people being baptized? First impressions are often lasting impressions—remembered for a long, long time, either for good or for bad. How we handle a person's baptism may speak non-verbally, yet loudly, about how the congregation feels about him as a person and about how they are accepting him as a new member.

If baptism is a dull routine carried through with little or no instruction to either the candidate for baptism or the congregation, the person may likely conclude that it really wasn't very important and that he, as a person, is not viewed as being very important either. If the members of the congregation fail to attend a person's baptism, the person may get the impression that the existing members of the church really don't care very much about him. He may conclude that all this talk about Christians supporting each other and rejoicing with each other is nothing more than empty chatter.

But if the person's baptism is viewed as important by the congregation, the person's impression will be that he is important. Proper instruction prior to baptism increases the importance of baptism. A good attendance by church members at baptism increases the importance of baptism. When a baptism is conducted with positive expressions of joy and celebration, its importance is enhanced. All of these things say to the person: Baptism is important! I am important! God has accepted me! These people have accepted me! They really are glad that I now know Christ and am a part of their number. I really want to get involved in serving the Lord with these joyful people!

Pastor Jim Gilmer of the Teegarden, Indiana, Brethren Church shares how they make baptism a "big deal":

"Baptism is no private affair! It is a birthday celebration for the entire family of God's People. By virtue of their new birth, persons are entering the family, and the family quite naturally rejoices that they are growing. In Luke 15 Jesus tells a

You can share with other readers of this column what's happening in your church by writing to Arden E. Gilmer, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805.

series of three parables each dealing with something lost and then found. One lost and found item was a coin, one was a sheep, and one was a son. In each case, when the lost was found, the community gathered around to join in the resulting celebration. There was a party thrown! The stories were all told to Pharisees and scribes as a reprimand to them. They were not like the celebrating community. Rather, they were like the older brother of the lost son who resented the fact that so much was being done to celebrate the return of his renegade brother. He wondered, 'So what's the big deal?'

Big deal at Teegarden

"Baptism is a big deal at Teegarden. At baptism time we are a celebrating community, gathering around the lost who have been found. We will typically have three-fourths of a worship attendance present at a baptism service. One time we had 130 attend a baptism. The morning of that day I preached on the biblical meaning of baptism. Then at 3:00 that afternoon we met for recreation which was designed for people of all ages. There was softball and volleyball, horseshoes, checkers, foursquare, and a lot of chit-chat. At 5:00 we ate a picnic meal featuring a hog that had been roasting over a charcoal fire for 13 hours. Then we baptized 13 people and dedicated 11 children. The evening was capped by a vespers worship service. I am confident that those who were baptized that day will always remember their baptism. I am equally sure that the event left an indelible mark on the personality of the entire congregation.

"Each baptism we conduct includes at least a carry-in meal which functions as a kind of reception honoring the newly-baptized members. We believe baptism is more than just an event for those who are baptized. It is an event for all of us."

How we say "welcome aboard" to a person involves much more than words. How we handle baptism is an important part of really incorporating the new member into the church so that he really feels like he belongs. The disciple-making process is not completed until those who have accepted Christ also become responsible members of the church. They probably will not become responsible members unless we take the initiative to incorporate them into the fellowship circles of the church. Baptism and how we handle it are very important parts of this total process.

auxiliary programs for july

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- 32 Sisterhood Program

signal lights

*written by
Alberta Holsinger*

Project: Sunday School in Malaysia

Mother and Father Say "No!"

"Goodby, Mr. and Mrs. Loi. Goodby, Too May," said the children as they left the neighborhood meeting.

"Goodby. See you next Thursday," said Mr. Loi.

"Goodby," said Too May. "I'm glad you came."

Mrs. Loi began picking up the cloths the children had been sitting on, while Mr. Loi talked with Too May.

"I'm glad you accepted Jesus," he said.

"I'm glad, too," said Too May. "I know He is the Son of the true God and will be with me all the time."

"Before I go, I'll talk with your parents and explain why you will not be praying to the idols any more," said Mr. Loi.

"No," replied Too May. "Let me tell them. You may talk with them later."

"Fine," said Mr. Loi. "I have a Bible I want to bring you. Do you think it will be all right if I come Saturday and talk with your parents then?"

"Yes," said Too May. "I know we will be here."

Mrs. Loi folded the last cloth. "There," she said, as she looked around the room. "I see no harm done from the children being in this room."

"Tell your mother we are very thankful she let us use your home on this rainy day," said Mr. Loi as they left.

"Mother," called Too May as she went to the kitchen, "I have great news."

Then she saw both her parents sitting inside the kitchen door.

"Father, you're home early," she said.

"Yes," he answered. "I wanted to hear what Mr. Loi is teaching you. Mother has been telling me how he is making you turn against our family gods."

"He isn't making me," said Too May. "He is telling us about the true God and His Son Jesus."

"Did I not hear you with my own ears say you wanted to accept this Jesus?" asked Father.

"Yes, Father," answered Too May. "You heard me, and you know Mr. Loi did not make me accept Jesus. I decided."

"You do not understand how such things happen," said Father. "We will not allow our only child to be a Christian."

"Mr. Loi will come Saturday," said Too May. "He will explain what it means to be a Christian."

"No," Mother said. "I do not want that man in my house again. He cannot visit us. He cannot have his neighborhood meetings in our yard."

"The children are all planning to come again next Thursday," said Too May.

"Well, you just tell them not to come," said Mother. "I'll not have a foreign religion taught at my house. Besides, I saw two of the children sitting on my good chairs. They probably got them dirty."

Too May shook her head. "No, Mother. We were very careful. I did tell Mr. Loi he could come to see us Saturday."

"I will go to see him after work tomorrow," Father told her. "I will tell him he cannot have the neighborhood meetings here anymore, and I will tell him you do not want his Bible because you are not a Christian."

"But, I . . .," began Too May.

"Please go to your room and do your homework," said Mother. "I will call you when it is time to help me prepare the evening meal."

Too May went to her room and opened her book, but she didn't begin reading. Instead she closed her eyes.

"Please, Jesus," she prayed. "What can I do? I know You are my Savior. I know I'm part of Your family. But I must obey my parents. How can I follow Your teachings when they forbid me. Show me the way."

(to be concluded next month)

Dear Sisters:

Now that you're out of school for another summer with nothing to do, I know you'll have time to sit down to read this letter! (Even if you are busy, I hope you will read on.)

I know many of you have exciting summers planned—going to camp, vacationing, crusading, working, or just staying at home enjoying the summer weather and flexible schedule. I'm looking forward to my summer—I'll be at home with an exciting job. I'm going to be the summer speech therapist in the college speech clinic. This is what I'm learning to do in college, and I really enjoy it. I'll be working with lots of children, helping them to improve their speech. I know it will take a lot of planning and patience on my part, but it will be worth it. The experience will be good

Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus

Gethsemane to Golgotha

Jesus and His disciples had finished supper. "Come," said Jesus. "I'm going to the garden to pray."

As they walked to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told His friends, "The time has come when everything the prophets said about Me will happen. I will be arrested and put to death."

"No, not You, Jesus," said the disciples.

"It is true," He replied.

When they entered the garden, He said to eight of the disciples, "Wait here and pray."

To Peter, James, and John He said, "Come a little farther with Me." They walked on a ways. Then Jesus said, "Now, right here, wait and pray."

Jesus went a few steps farther and knelt down to pray. "Father, if You are willing, take this terrible thing from Me. But I want Your will, not Mine, to be done."

As Jesus rose from His knees, soldiers entered the garden. "There He is," said Judas, and he went to Jesus and kissed Him.

"Are You Jesus of Nazareth?" asked a soldier.

"I am," replied Jesus. Then they arrested Him and took Him away to prison.

The next day His enemies told the governor that Jesus was trying to take over the government and make Himself king. "Take Him away and crucify Him!" ordered the governor.

Surrounded by soldiers Jesus walked from the place in Jerusalem to a hill called Golgotha outside the city wall. There He was nailed to a cross. While Jesus was on the cross, the sky turned dark—as dark as night.

He died on that cross for the sins of all people. He never did anything wrong, but He died for all the wrong we do. Jesus, God's Son, died that we might be forgiven of our sins and live in Heaven with Him.

—Based on Luke 22:37—23:46

Memory Time: Not my will, but thine, be done.
Luke 22:42

for me before I do my student teaching in the fall. I also might take one or two college classes this summer. Then I'll really be busy!

It seems that whatever my recent summers have been, they've all been exciting just because of a new schedule, new people, and new lives to influence. We all have some effect on each person we meet everyday. It's important to be careful how we interact with others because we may be helping them to make important decisions about their lives. They may be thinking, "Do I want to act like she does? Do I want to belong to a group she belongs to?"

We are representatives for each group of which we are members. I represent my family, Ashland College, the Brethren Church, the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha, the USA, and many other organizations. But most important, I represent God's family. That is the one group I could not give up. I should be a good representative for God's family, if nothing else. I try to do my best. Of course, I fail often, but God expects that. He just wants me to keep trying. Someday I will see the effect that my life has had on someone else.

Try to remember whom you are representing this summer. When you meet someone new or get to know someone better, let her (or him) know, by your speech and actions at least, that you are a member of God's family and that you care about her. Let God's love shine on her through you. You'll feel better for doing it.

I hope your Sisterhood groups plan to get together a few times this summer. Keep up with Mrs. Flora's program. These last two are especially good. Read what she has included about our Sisterhood organization. She is truly dedicated to helping us grow and serve. I hope you have appreciated her writing this year.

While you meet this summer, remember to try to make plans to come to conference. If you are unable to come, we'd like to hear from you. At our Friday meeting we will be sharing problems and suggestions, and if you have any—or just want to send greetings to the groups at conference—write me (227 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805), and I'll share it with them. Also, if you cannot come, make sure you send your group's project, public service, and thank offerings to Debbie Munson (616 Park Street, Ashland) or to me before conference. And don't forget your credentials. Refer to last month's letter for details.

Some of you probably have been or will be contacted by a member of the nominating committee to run for an office. If so, I hope you will accept the privilege. You would not have been asked if you were not capable. Any group is much more fun when you have a job to do. If you know of a WMS lady whom you would like to have as national patroness, please send me her name and address, and I will write to her.

I guess that is all I wanted to remind you of for now, so have a good summer! May God be close to you. Until next month. . . .

Your Sister,
Nancy Ronk

Esther -- Queen Who Saved Her People

"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 5:14b (RSV)

Esther, the Jewess, was only a little girl when both her parents died and she went to live in the home of her uncle, Mordecai. Her new home was in the great city of Shushan, where the King of Persia lived. Her uncle, Mordecai, had an office in the household of the king. He was very kind to Esther and loved her as his own child.

When Esther was a young lady, the king, Ahasuerus, sent for the young women of the kingdom. They lived at the palace and were taught the ways of the court. At the end of a year the king would choose one of them to be his wife, the queen. Mordecai knew that Esther was a beautiful young woman, and he believed she would make a beautiful queen. So he sent her to the palace with the other young women. He told her not to let the fact become known that her people were the Jews.

The time came for the young ladies to be presented to the king, and they dressed themselves in the best that the king's wardrobe could provide. For once in their lives they had all the jewels and beautiful clothes that their hearts could desire.

Esther did not make use of the things that were provided by the king, but went before him in her simple beauty. It would seem that she knew she was being sent on a Divine mission, and so she was not bent upon decking herself with gaudy jewels. She let her beauty tell its own thrilling story and work in its own magical way. The goodness of her soul shone right through her physical form and rendered her more attractive than if she had worn the most costly garments. She was one of those wondrous beings who make an impression upon all. She carried sunshine everywhere. When the king saw Esther, he was so pleased with her that he made her queen at once.

Mordecai could no longer see this young woman,

whom he had cared for as tenderly as his own daughter. But every day he passed by the palace where she lived, and she could see him from her window. She would send messages to him by her faithful servants, and they would bring back the messages Mordecai wished her to receive.

One time Mordecai overheard two servants of the king plotting to kill the king, and he sent the word to Esther who told the king. The king promptly took care of the plotters. A record was made in the king's book of chronicles that Mordecai had saved his life.

Mordecai had an enemy in the palace—a proud, selfish man named Haman. He was so vain that he wanted all the people about the palace to bow to him, but Mordecai never would do it. Haman decided to punish Mordecai and all the other Jews as well. He obtained permission from the king to destroy all the Jews, and the decree was sent forth. Mordecai sent a message to Esther telling her of the decree and asking her to use her influence with the king to save their lives. Then Esther was afraid, for if anyone went to the king without being called, he would lose his life unless the king held out his golden sceptre. But she was a Jewess, and she knew that she must help her people.

Esther commanded Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Shushan into one place, and there to fast and pray for three days that God would give her favor in the eyes of the king. She and her servants would also fast during that time. Then, on the third day, she dressed in her most beautiful queenly robes and ornaments. And now, with life or death depending on every step, and with a timidity that must have made her look more beautiful than ever, she came within reach of the king's glance. He knew some urgent matter had brought her there, and because he loved her he held out to her the golden sceptre.

He asked, "Why have you come, Queen Esther? What do you want? It shall be given you, even though it be half of my kingdom." Esther answered that she only wanted the king to come to a feast which she was preparing for him, and she wanted Haman to come too.

During the feast the king again asked Esther what she would like to have, and she answered, "Please save the lives of my people, for it is ordered that all the Jews shall die. And I, too, must die, since I am one of the Jews."

The king was surprised and asked who had ordered it done. The queen pointed to Haman, who sat at the table with them. Haman was hanged on

Planning the Meeting

July is the birthday month of our country. It is timely that our study for this month is the book of Esther.

Use the topics as follows:

1. Esther—the Queen Who Saved Her People
 2. Thoughts on Esther
 3. My Part in Sisterhood
 4. "My Country 'Tis of Thee"
-

the gallows he had built for Mordecai, while Mordecai was given a place of great honor in the palace. So a nation was saved by the courage of a queen. The Jews celebrated the day with a great feast, called the Feast of Purim. Even today the Jews keep this feast, and they always tell the story of Esther, the beautiful queen, who saved the lives of her people.

Thoughts on Esther

The book of Esther is a historical novel. It tells of the love which the king of a great, wealthy nation had for his queen, and the part played by that queen, Esther, in the deliverance of another nation, the Jews. From that nation came our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God's name does not appear in the entire book. The king is mentioned one hundred ninety times. But the hand and providence of God can be found throughout the story.

The year Esther spent in the palace before becoming queen was a time of learning court customs and manners. Also, it was the custom then for women of nobility to saturate their hair, skin, and pores with fumes from cosmetic burners.

Esther, in Hebrew, is Hadassah. The Jewish women of the world today have an organization called "Hadassah." Through money raising they have built the Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem. It is one of the largest and finest hospitals in the world.

God has plans for the world, the United States, the Brethren Church, and you and me. To work out His plans He uses people. God always has His certain man or woman who is willing to be used.

Mordecai would bow only to God. Sometimes, as Christians, we have to take the same stand today. Saying "no" may get us called "a square" or something similar. Any person who will dare to be different is certain to be called in question.

There is something that only **you** can do.

"My Country 'Tis of Thee"

Rev. Samuel Francis Smith, the author of the words of our National Hymn "America," was born in Boston on October 21, 1808. After college graduation he entered Andover Seminary, and while there he wrote the poem.

In 1831 a Mr. Woodbridge, an educator, went to Germany to study the system of German schools. He was impressed that much attention was given to children's music, and he brought home a large number of music books. These were all in German, and he could not read German.

All of these German books were given to Rev. Smith, a seminary student, to translate. "One dismal day in February 1832, about half an hour before sunset, I was turning over the leaves of one of the music books, when my eye rested on the tune which is now known as 'America.' I liked the spirited movement of it, not knowing it at that time to be 'God Save the King,' the national hymn of England. I glanced at the German words and saw they were patriotic, and instantly felt the impulse to write a patriotic hymn of my own, adapted to the tune. Picking up a scrap of waste paper which lay near me, I wrote at once, probably within half an hour, the hymn 'America' as it is now known everywhere. The whole hymn stands today as it stood on the bit of waste paper, five or six inches long and two and a half wide."

The origin of the tune is unknown. Henry Carey, an English composer (1685-1743), was the first man to write it down.

The real master stroke in the hymn is in the last stanza. If more of the citizens of America would pray for our country, we would have more freedom and blessing than all the guns and war equipment of the world can bring. War never brings real freedom, and it can never save the souls of men.

My Part in Sisterhood

Did you ever stop to consider how important your place is in Sisterhood? You may say that they could get along just as well without you, but you are quite mistaken. Your part well played may be more important than the patroness, and we could not do without her.

When you have a part on the program, make it an example of your best work. Your effort and interest may encourage another, and that one another until the whole society is on fire with enthusiasm. In giving your topic or singing your song you may light the spark of faith in the heart of another which may result in the transforming of dozens of lives. Would you make light of such a privilege of service?

The part of the listener is quite as important as

that of the speaker. Your attention and interest in the program will encourage better programs. Compliment your leader and program committee when they have an interesting program. Always be a sympathetic and courteous hearer. Save the discussion of your school news and social affairs until after the program.

Are you on a committee? What have you done? You say that your chairman hasn't told you to do anything. Well, suppose you ask what you may do, or suggest to her that you do something. Lack of activity is a pretty sure sign of death, and decay is the next step. If your part has fallen that far, then the challenge comes to you, "Maid arise!"

Reprinted from the May 1931 WOMAN'S OUTLOOK.

THE other night, after an especially tiring day at the office, I sat down to relax. Our May issue of Decision magazine had come and was lying on the coffee table. So I picked it up to browse through.

(I must confess that that is unusual for me. Too often I take a quick glance at Decision and lay it aside for another month, to my loss, I'm afraid.)

After reading several articles, however, I was stopped by a bold headline:

Ron Waters looks at the role of prayer in the life of the church.

The Prayer Meeting That Lasted 100 Years

In this article Leslie Tarr describes a round-the-clock "prayer watch" that began in 1727 in the Moravian community of Herrnhut.

I'll not recount the whole story because it would be better for you to read it for yourself. (In fact, it may still be on your coffee table if magazines accumulate at your house like they do at mine.)

But the essence of the story is this: On August 27, 1727, 24 men and 24 women covenanted to spend one hour each day in "scheduled prayer." Their purpose was that "all might be reminded of its excellency and be induced by the promises annexed to fervent, persevering prayer to pour out their hearts before the Lord."

Later, others joined the "hourly intercession," and the vigil continued for over 100 years.

WHY did this article capture my attention? Perhaps it was the result of this devotion to prayer: By 1792, 65 years after the prayer vigil began, they had sent out over 300 missionaries. That is amazing, since the village had only 300 residents in 1727.

It is not so much that I see some kind of magic in 24-hour prayer vigils that I call

this article to your attention. Frankly, what we need in the Brethren Church today is not magic anyway.

But we do need to discover the kind of relationship with our Father these Moravian brethren sought and found.

WE have heard a lot recently about the lack of ministerial and missionary candidates. Certainly, we should be seeing more men and women, younger and older, hearing a call to ministry.

Charles Munson recognized the first priority three years ago when he first called us to join a "bond of prayer." Several responded and, hopefully, are continuing their own daily vigil.

But if we as a church are to grow, and if we are to see new candidates for ministry, you and I and thousands of other Brethren must release God's power among us through concerted and "scheduled" prayer.

How easily we say we believe God hears our petitions. And how seldom we really approach Him with our deepest needs and grateful praise.

James wrote, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Brethren, let us pray.



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1 month to
General
Conference
(see page 10)



THE SCANDAL of Evangelical Giving

(see page 4)

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July 21-23, 1977

**Vinco Brethren Church
Vinco, Pa.**

Theme: Equipping for Ministry

Text: Ephesians 4:11-16

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All-Conference Mission Dinner

Dick & Kitty Winfield
Saturday, 12:00 noon

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Rev. Thomas Kidder
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Moderator's Address

Rev. Norman Long
Friday, 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study

Friday, 4:30 p.m.

Mini-devotions by Jerry Radcliff

Friday and Saturday

Also: Youth Conference

See you at Vinco!

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524 College Ave.

Ashland, Ohio 44805

Phone: (419) 289-2611

Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Cover

How can you tell which "hands" are deserving of your support? See Billy Melvin's article on page 4 for some helpful advice. (Photo by John Rowsey.)

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by Billy Melvin

THE SCANDAL

of Evangelical Giving

SOME of the poorest stewardship in all the world is practiced by well-meaning evangelical Christians. Bombarded by numerous appeals via radio, television, phone calls, direct mail, and magazines, they give and give and give with the false assumption that every appeal made in Christ's name is legitimate and worthy of support. I wish such were the case, but it just isn't true and it's time for someone to say so!

Most evangelicals desire to be good stewards. They are highly motivated and wish to share generously in the Lord's work. But what is good stewardship? It is my conviction that good stewardship does not stop with just the giving. The giver has the responsibility of making sure the gift is given to a worthy and responsible organ-

Billy Melvin has been executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals since 1967 and has served as a pastor and denominational executive.

ization. At times when I have suggested this, some have responded by insisting, "My responsibility ends with the giving. What the organization does with my gift is between them and God."

I can't agree. Such a position is a cop-out. Good stewardship requires giving only to worthy organizations which are fulfilling their announced objectives. If this is not done, there will be an ever increasing flow of funds to unworthy organizations siphoning off millions of dollars every year which could be going to legitimate causes.

Let me illustrate. Recently in the public press, a child-support agency was reported to have spent \$2.4 million of funds it raised for charity in advertising to raise still more money. The same agency, in receiving \$34 to be used as a special gift for a child, delivered only \$4.28 and retained the rest.

In another case, a mission in this country put pressure on an employee overseas to falsify the amount of money sent from the USA to the overseas office. When the em-

**Cautions and
guidelines for giving
to organizations outside
the local church.**

ployee's Christian convictions would not permit him to issue a receipt for several thousand dollars more than he had received, he had no option but to resign.

On a trip overseas this summer I was asked about a certain organization in America which makes numerous appeals via radio, direct mail and a magazine. A concerned Christian brother was troubled because a good friend, who was an employee of the organization, was being pressured to misrepresent facts, even to the point of taking pictures of public buildings and claiming they were orphanages supported by the group.

Space does not permit me to share the experiences of scores more who have written to share their frustration and disappointment when they have discovered that their contributions—many of them sacrificial—were misused.

Good stewardship, then, requires an intelligent scrutiny of any organization before giving or responding to a special appeal. And—let's face it—there are no easy answers. It will take some effort. If you choose to give beyond your local church and denomination, here are some suggestions which may be helpful:

1. Be sure the organization represents your personal doctrinal convictions. I never cease to be amazed at the number of evangelical Christians who remain unaware that they are sending gifts every month to organizations which are totally incompatible with their doctrinal convictions. They give in response to slick copy prepared by skillful writers and not upon an investigation into the doctrines of the organization.

For example, some evangelicals apparently are not aware that the Pallottine Mission, operated by the Pallottine Fathers, is a Roman Catholic missionary order, having commercial and religious holdings in Maryland, Florida, New Jersey and New York worth at least \$10 million, according to an article in the Baltimore Sun.

The mission's direct mail campaign operates from a \$1.4 million warehouse in Baltimore and raised an estimated \$8 million to \$15 million last year, ostensibly for

the order's overseas missions. By the Pallottines' own reckoning, however, less than \$265,000 was disbursed last year to its missions in 22 countries.

How can you know the doctrinal position of an organization? Write and ask them. Request a copy of their "statement of faith"—if they don't have one or don't send one, forget them.

2. If a mission, check on membership affiliation. Holding membership in a responsible missions association indicates the mission has met certain criteria, including verification of reasonable overhead and supervision of work overseas.

There are two such organizations which serve a large cross-section of evangelical missions. They are the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association (EFMA) and the Interdenominational Foreign Missions Association (IFMA).

3. Be sure the organization is fulfilling a ministry of special concern to you. What is the Lord directing you to support? What personal burden has He given you? Is it evangelism, education, radio, relief, child-care, church planting, literature, medical work or any one of a dozen more possibilities?

If an organization is working in the area of your concern, how effective is its ministry? If it conducts work overseas, is it properly supervised? What is its track record at home? Are major purposes firmly established or are current interests just things of the moment because they happen to be "hot" items for fund raising? Have past programs been announced with much fanfare, attracting generous contributions of support, only to fade into oblivion with few of the original goals being realized? If this seems to be a pattern of their operation, I suggest you avoid the organization like the proverbial plague. Search for others which are doing the job consistently and effectively.

4. Insist on seeing an audited financial statement of the organization. Any reputable organization will be happy to provide this for you. If there is hedging or refusal, forget it. Obviously, the organization does

**Good stewardship
does not stop
simply
with the giving.**



not want you to know its overall financial state of affairs, the amount of total income or the manner in which funds have been disbursed.

I recall a time when a friend wrote to secure an audit of a Christian organization. The first response was that the audit for the previous calendar year had not been completed. (This was in September.) Assurance was given that a copy of the audit would be sent just as soon as it was ready. My friend waited, and when the audit did not arrive by December, she wrote again. The response was most interesting. Because so much time had lapsed, it was decided not to have an audit for the year in question.

If an audit is provided, study it carefully. There are several things which can be learned about an organization from its financial statement. For example, notice the amount spent for overhead. One organization I know of operates with an overhead of close to 90 percent. Only 10 percent is getting to the place of service or ministry—hardly an effective organization. Generally speaking, an overhead exceeding 25 percent is considered excessive.

5. Review the organization's board of directors. Be sure not to confuse this board with what is usually called a "board of reference." Although a board of reference may serve some purpose, all too often I have found that individuals allow their names to be used with very little working

knowledge of the organization and its ministry. Therefore, it is best to focus on the organization's board of directors. In doing so, try to determine the following:

a. Is the board made up of a cross-section of responsible evangelicals? Is a majority on the board from one family? (Remember, relatives do not necessarily have the same last name.) If the board is small and dominated by one family, be careful.

b. How are board members selected? I am not suggesting that a self-perpetuating board is necessarily suspect, but I do believe it requires careful examination. Such a board is responsible to no one but itself.

c. Is there a constant change of board members? This may mean little, but then again, it may indicate unrest and dissension or even an unscrupulous leader with whom men of conviction and principle will not work.

d. Is the board determining policy? A board that has become simply a rubber stamp for a strong personality or aggressive staff is not fulfilling its responsibility. Control has shifted to the leader or staff, and the board has been reduced to an advisory capacity, unable to initiate policy.

These suggestions will help you practice responsible stewardship. You will think of other possibilities, and I urge you to follow through on them. Once you have determined in your own mind and heart those organizations which are responsible and doing a

work you wish to support, do so on the following basis:

1. Concentrate your giving. Do not give small gifts to many different organizations. I know many well-meaning Christians who send one dollar a month to ten different organizations. They think in terms of "spreading their money around." What is not realized, however, is that by the time such a gift is receipted and necessary record keeping completed, not much of the dollar is left to be put to work.

If a person wishes to give \$10 a month beyond his tithe, it would be far better to single out one or two organizations and contribute to them. Concentrated giving often represents a better stewardship.

This is not, of course, to depreciate the "widow's mite" gift. Every reputable organization will receive such gifts with thanksgiving and a deep sense of stewardship responsibility.

2. Insist on current reports. Initial giving may have been prompted by a particular need or ministry which has been completed or suspended months or even years ago. Not long ago a man wrote to inquire about a certain organization. His letter was prompted by the fact that his aged mother had been sending sizeable sums of money for several years in support of a specific project. His investigation revealed the project had long since been completed, but the organization was still requesting the monthly contributions.

It is vital to know how your gift will be used and to insist on current reports. Backing up your gifts with prayer is also im-

portant, and current reports will help you pray specifically. Someone has suggested we should never support something financially without a commitment to pray as well. This is good advice!

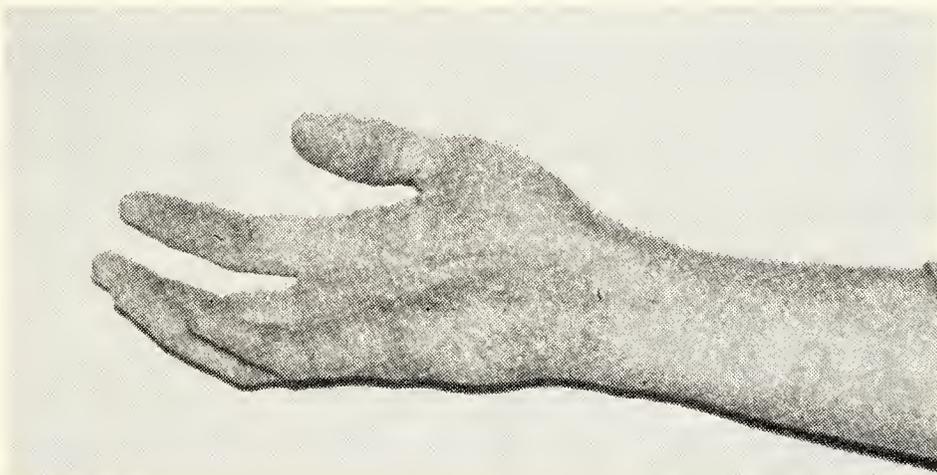
3. Make periodic checks. Organizations, like people, have a way of changing. Just because an organization was responsible and represented an area of concern to you at one time, does not mean the same is true today. What is its current program and reputation? What about present leadership? Has there been theological compromise?

This type of check is especially important if you should choose to remember an organization in your will. Unwise evangelical Christians have left thousands of dollars to undeserving organizations simply because they wrote them into their will, but failed to make the periodic check suggested above. Organizations do change and the good steward will be alert to this fact.

As I warned in the beginning, it takes effort to be a good steward. Such effort, however, should never discourage evangelicals from giving to the Lord's work as freely and generously as possible. Hundreds of organizations are responsible and effective, making significant contributions to the Kingdom's work. They need and should have financial support. But responsible stewardship requires discernment. Without it the scandal of evangelical giving will continue. □

Reprinted with permission from ACTION (Winter 1976), the official publication of the National Association of Evangelicals.

See page 9 for more on this subject.



**Just because an
organization was responsible
at one time does not
mean the same is true today.**

Park Street Church is making reusable investments.

TODAY, the No. 1 thought in most American households is getting the bills paid—meeting the payment before the interest rate goes up another day. Shoppers read ads and hit specials in many stores to take advantage of the bargains. “Getting the most for your money” is the name of the game!

Money so spent is gone—what remains is the paid receipt or the product on the shelf. Not too bad, you say? True, but it could be better!

The Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland, Ohio, has a unique method of spending. They recycle money! They spend so it can come back and be spent again!

The fund is a Student Loan Fund, which had its beginning in a deacon meeting. We all realize the deacons are overseers of the spiritual growth of the church, so I’m not sure how this money subject began. However, the facts are that the Park Street Church received a sizable bequest in 1972. Not wanting to spend all of it on the parking lot and driveway, the tithe of the bequest was set aside and eventually became the Student Loan Fund. Since its inception, the Fund has increased several times, as other bequests were received.

The Fund was established when costs of a college education were increasing. The deacons realized that some worthy students could not meet the costs. **The deacons saw a need in our congregation, and they helped to meet the need!** The Fund was made available to college-bound students.

Guidelines were set up for the use of this money. The guidelines did not require attendance at a specific school or any particular program. They required church membership, regular attendance, and repayment.

In our congregation the loan is interest-free until six months after the completion of the educational program. Then the loan is repayed at 6% interest, and another student can be assisted.

Several people have used this revolving fund. Let me cite a few examples. One student wanted to attend secretarial school in Cincinnati. The loan made it possible for her to attend their two-year program. Upon graduation she returned home and was quickly employed as an executive secretary in an Ashland industry.

The wife of a seminary student needed some additional summer work at the OSU branch in Mansfield. While her husband continued at the seminary on his part-time income, her extended education was an impossibility. However, the Student Loan Fund at Park Street turned the impossible into possible!

When two college educations came at the same time in one family, the younger student asked the church for help. The loan was arranged for two years. Following her graduation at Ashland College, this student was hired as a kindergarten teacher. She and her brother are grateful that both are educated, and their parents did not suffer a great financial crisis for them.

Recycled Money

by Joan Ronk

Brethren Church Ministries

Another young lady used the loan for licensed-practical-nurse training in Mansfield. Since graduation she has been employed at Brethren Care in Ashland. She is happy to be of service to the aged, and thankful for the church which assisted her.

Students do not feel burdened about repaying the loan. When their income begins, it is evident that some of it regularly goes back to the church's Student Loan Fund to replenish the account. Being grateful for the help they received makes them anxious and happy to repay, so the money can be used again.

Recycled money? Of course! Your church can set up a similar loan fund for worthy students. Perhaps an amount as small as \$100 will make it possible for a student to continue his education instead of settling for a lesser goal.

The amount is not the important factor, of course. What is important is that the church is showing its love by helping someone in need. That's what it's all about! □

Joan Ronk is church school superintendent and organist at the Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland.

The General Conference of the Brethren Church has authorized seven cooperating boards to conduct the ministries of the church. The Central Council helps to coordinate their work, as well as that of the auxiliaries and Ashland College and Seminary.

As creatures of the Conference, each of the boards is responsible to it and its directives.

As part of the business sessions of Conference each year, the boards present a report of their work. Verbal and financial reports are printed in the Conference program booklet and are retained for a permanent record in the annual minutes.

The boards also issue updated information on their work periodically through the Brethren Evangelist, district conference reports, direct mail letters, newsletters, and speaking engagements in local churches.

These reporting procedures offer members of the church the opportunity to know how their contributions are being spent and to provide input into the direction taken by the church's ministries.

With the inauguration of the new addressing service by the Brethren Publishing Company, you may receive mailings from several of the boards with which you have not previously had contact. Though you may not be financially able to support all ministries of the church, you are encouraged to use the information you receive to direct you in your prayers for the Brethren Church and its ministries.

If at any time you have questions about the purpose, immediate and long-range goals, or financial statement of one of the cooperating boards, please contact the executive employee of that board (or president where there is no executive). They will be most happy to answer your questions.



Information on Other Non-profit Organizations

The Philanthropic Advisory Service, a division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc., gathers and publishes information on non-profit organizations which conduct national or international fund raising or program services.

It publishes a quarterly pamphlet called "Give But Give Wisely" that provides an evaluation of nearly 400 non-profit organizations. It is available for \$1.00 and a stamped, self-addressed business envelope.

Write to the Philanthropic Advisory Service, 1150 Seventeenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

“Equipping for Ministry”

Dr. George R. Brunk speaker for General Conference

Dr. George R. Brunk will be the featured speaker at the 1977 General Conference. He will make four presentations to the Conference on Wednesday and Thursday.

Dr. Brunk's message topics will include: "The Greatest Need in the Church"; "The Supreme Task of the Church"; and "The Dynamic Provision for the Church."

He will speak Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Thursday at 10:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

Dr. Brunk spoke at the 1975 Southeast District Conference and comes to the General Conference highly recommended.

He is president of Brunk Revivals, Inc., of Harrisonburg, Virginia. He has had 25 years of experience in evangelism, revival work, and Bible conference activity. He has also conducted crusades in 25 states and 5 provinces of Canada.

He served eight years as dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg. He also taught courses for 10 years in the seminary and Eastern Mennonite College on systematic theology, evangelism, and New Testament book studies.

An ordained minister in the Men-



Dr. George R. Brunk

nonite Church, Dr. Brunk served 10 years in the pastorate before going into evangelism and teaching.

He is a graduate of William and Mary College, with a major in sociology. He earned three degrees, the last a Th. D., from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

He and Mrs. Brunk have four sons and a daughter.

Moderator McCann highlights 1977 Conference business

I am looking forward to the 89th General Conference, to be held on the campus of Ashland College from August 15 to 19.

I also want you to be aware of several important items of business the Conference will be considering:

Concerning requirements for membership in the Brethren Church. There is a memorial coming from a local Brethren congregation to the Spiritual State of the Churches Committee, making inquiry to the General Conference about accepting into membership those who have confessed Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, have been baptized by believer's immersion, and evidence a personal faith in their lives. This is a very important matter that will need to be considered at this Conference.

Concerning the questionnaire to pastors, moderators, and deacons/deaconesses. About 42 percent were returned to me, which is a very good response. Based upon the information supplied by these church leaders, I will be making some suggestions and some recommendations to the General Conference.

Concerning the study on the re-organization of denominational work at the national level. The Polity Committee has held hearings and received some input by mail. The committee is meeting soon to evaluate the study in view of this information and will be reporting the results with recommendations to the Conference.

Concerning General Conference organization. I will be bringing recommendations to the Polity Committee for consideration relating to changes in the structure of the General Conference Executive Committee and of the Spiritual State of the Churches Committee. Hopefully, this will enable them to function in an even better way.

Concerning local congregational delegate representation. I hope that each congregation will have its full quota of delegates in attendance.

Also I would encourage other members to attend as well. I know this is going to be another great General Conference and celebration as we all seek to help "equip the church for ministry."

See you in August.

Business Sessions

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, 2:45 p.m.

Wednesday, 10:45 a.m.

Thursday, 3:45 p.m.

Friday, 10:15 a.m.

Program Highlights

Monday

7:30 p.m.—Opening Session/
Celebration

Tuesday

9:05 a.m.—Moderator's Report, by
Rev. Marlin McCann

7:30 p.m.—Laymen's Inspirational
Sharing

Wednesday

9:00 a.m.—Inspirational Hour, with
Dr. George Brunk

2:45 p.m.—WMS Public Service,
with Dr. Roy J. Johnson

3:45 p.m.—Workshops

7:30 p.m.—Inspirational Hour, with
Dr. George Brunk

Thursday

9:00 a.m.—Church Growth Models

10:15 a.m.—Inspirational Hour,
with Dr. George Brunk

12:00 noon—Fasting Banquet/
World Relief Board

2:45 p.m.—Inspirational Hour, with
Dr. George Brunk

7:30 p.m.—Tribute to the Glenn
Claytons

8:00 p.m.—Board of Christian
Education/Missionary Board
Service

Friday

9:00 a.m.—Ashland Seminary
Program

2:45 p.m.—Missionary Board
Service

AC plans Concept Weekend to follow 1977 Conference

The Ashland College Alumni Association is inviting alumni and others attending the General Conference to the first annual Alumni College Concept Weekend, August 19 to 21.

The weekend will include education, recreation, and relaxation for the entire family. It will begin Friday evening, August 19, at 7:00 p.m., with a general session with new college president Arthur Schultz. A Sunday noon brunch will conclude the weekend.

Four seminars are planned, dealing with money management and financial planning; antiques, with a panel including Richard Leidy; health, exercise, and diet; and life and living/death and dying, led by Dr. Charles Munson.

Participants will also attend a concert of the Cleveland Orchestra

at Blossom Music Center on Saturday evening.

Programs are being planned for children to allow parents to attend the seminars.

Cost of the weekend is \$75 per person, including seminars, campus housing, meals, and recreational activities.

For registration forms, contact Wanda Kerr, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Reusing SS materials focus of Brethren House display

The staff members of Brethren House in St. Petersburg, Fla., are inviting Sunday school teachers to bring old church school curriculum materials to General Conference. They will help teachers find ways of recycling the materials for use in new ways.

Phil and Jean Lersch and Bonnie Munson are encouraging teachers to bring old teachers' quarterlies, pupils' books, and take-home papers. "We will show you how we have recycled such materials. You may be inspired with other ideas to revitalize your church school program with recycled, dressed-up materials."

They also note that other teachers will be around to share their ideas as well.

"Look us up in the display area of the Convocation Center at General Conference."

Benevolent Bd. hosts banquet for senior citizens

A special banquet is being planned for senior citizens during General Conference week, according to Beverly Summy.

Sponsored by the Benevolent Board, the banquet will honor all local Senior Citizen Award nominees submitted for national consideration. Other interested senior citizens, friends, and relatives may purchase tickets for the event.

National winners of the Senior Citizen of the Year Award and the Senior Citizen Church Award will also be announced and honored.

Details of the banquet will be announced at a later date.

AC/ATS tours planned

Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary have scheduled two campus tours on Monday, August 15, for those who arrive early to General Conference.

The first hour-and-a-half tour begins at 10:00 a.m. The second tour will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Both tours will begin at the Convocation Center lobby. Following a walking tour of the college campus, tour members will drive to the seminary campus.

Dr. Roy Johnson will speak for WMS public service

Dr. Roy S. Johnson will be the speaker for the National WMS Public Service on Thursday, August 18, at 2:45 p.m.

Dr. Johnson has practiced family medicine in Shelby, Ohio, for 15 years. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the Christian Medical Society, the Ohio and National Society of Family Physicians, and the National Association of Emergency Physicians and Surgeons.

He is in great demand as a speaker for Bible conferences throughout the country. In addition to being active in his local church, he also has conducted many studies and workshops on Christian family living.

According to WMS Vice President Helen Dickson, "He has traveled worldwide, and he will be relating to us the urgency of proclaiming God's Word."

She added, "God has gifted him with a beautiful singing voice, and he will share with us in song as well as the message."

"We urge everyone not to miss this special program. We feel very fortunate to have such a busy doctor willing to be with us to share in spreading the gospel."

The Public Service, as well as all WMS sessions, will be held in the John C. Myers Convocation Center on the Ashland College campus.

Displays

Conference attenders will again have opportunity to browse through displays of Brethren ministries, according to display coordinator Dick Winfield.

Most denominational ministries, several auxiliaries, and at least two local churches have reserved space for exhibits this year.

The display area will again be located in the Convocation Center.



Dr. Roy J. Johnson

Auxiliary Sessions

(WMS, Laymen, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and Ministers)

Daily, 1:30 p.m.

Special Speakers

Laymen/Brotherhood

Wednesday—Dr. Arthur Schultz, president of Ashland College

Sisterhood

Tuesday—Kitty Winfield, former missionary to Nigeria

Thursday—"Christian Dating, Engagement, and Marriage" panel—Beth Barber, Norma Waters, Karen Weidenhamer

Ministerial Association

Tuesday—Dr. Arthur Schultz

Thursday—Rev. Richard Winfield, editorial assistant for the Brethren Publishing Company and former missionary

Friday—Paul and Donna Steiner, speaking on team ministry

Rev. Stoffer to speak to youth on their spiritual gifts

The 1977 National BYC Convention will focus on the theme "Equipping Youth for Ministry."

Featured speaker for the August 15 to 19 meeting will be the Rev. Dale R. Stoffer, a doctoral candidate at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California. Rev. Stoffer will bring a series of Bible studies on the spiritual gifts and will conduct the BYC Communion service Thursday evening, August 18.

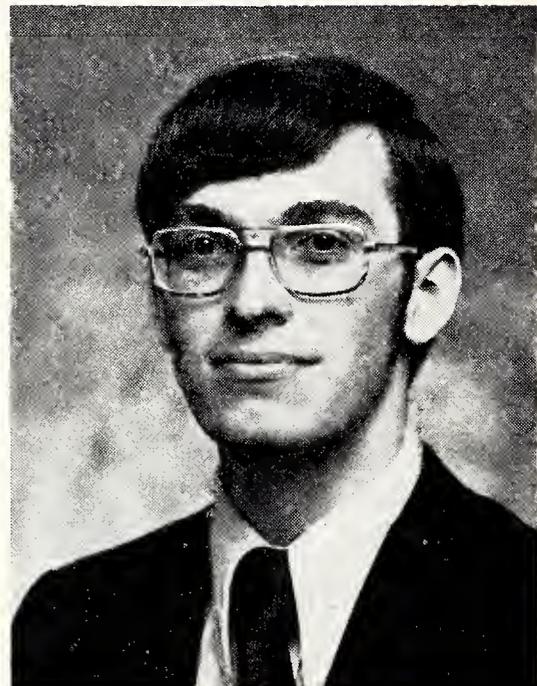
Rev. Stoffer is uniquely equipped to speak to Brethren youth. He was active in the youth programs of the Trinity Brethren Church, Northeast Ohio district, and National BYC. He served as a Summer Crusader in 1970 and 1971 and held numerous positions of responsibility in local, district, and national youth work. He is a graduate of Ashland College and Seminary and is deeply committed to the ministry of the Brethren Church.

The program also includes messages to be delivered by Dr. George Brunk (the General Conference speaker), Dr. Richard Allison, and Rev. Arden Gilmer. Two films, "Cipher in the Snow" and "Noah's Ark," have also been scheduled.

A new feature of the Convention will be the presentation of district-sponsored programs. This year, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Southeast districts are each planning hour-long programs.

The musical "Backpacker's Suite" will be presented by the 1977 Summer Crusaders and Interns as a "Crusader Review" on Wednesday evening, August 17, with a reception following.

All this and much more awaits the delegates and alternates who register for and attend the National BYC Convention. (Note: Only registered members of National BYC are eligible to serve as delegates or alternates. It is recommended that delegates be in seventh grade or older.)



Rev. Dale R. Stoffer

Housing Committee urges pre-registration

The committee on housing for the 1977 General Conference is strongly encouraging Conference attenders to pre-register for rooms.

Pre-registration forms are being enclosed in the Conference Program Book, which is being mailed to local church leaders prior to General Conference. Forms are also being made available to pastors for members of their congregation who may not receive a program book.

Deadline for pre-registration is August 1.

Housing will again be in Kem and Amstutz Halls. The cost is \$4.00 per person per night for double occupancy, \$4.50 per night for single occupancy. Children under 11 sharing a room with both parents will pay 35¢ per night times their age.

Included in the housing fee are sheets, pillows and pillow cases, and towels, but not blankets.

Workshops to equip for ministry

Are you planning to retire from something or to something?

According to Dorman Ronk, executive secretary of the Benevolent Board, people approaching retirement must answer many difficult questions. Too often they fail to see the opportunities retirement can bring.

Finding answers to these challenging questions will be the subject of one of the workshops scheduled for 3:45 Wednesday afternoon.

Other workshops, being arranged by Rev. Larry Bolinger, will be announced at General Conference.

Some of the questions Ronk expects to deal with in his workshop include: Can I begin to face the fact that I will retire? Am I still refusing to think about retirement? What do I fear most? Should I seek an alternative to complete retirement—such as staying on the job, seeking part-time employment, or changing careers? What should I do today to get ready for retirement?

Location of the workshop will be announced at General Conference.

"Banquet," sewing display planned by World Relief

The World Relief Board will again emphasize world hunger with a fasting banquet during General Conference. They will also provide a display area for relief sewing.

The fasting banquet will be held Thursday at noon at the Convocation Center cafeteria. The program will feature a preview of the World Relief Commission's latest film, "Haiti: Mountains Beyond Mountains."

The menu for the banquet will be symbolic of the daily intake of millions around the world: a bowl of seasoned rice and a glass of water.

Banquet attenders will be asked to make a donation. Money collected in excess of expenses will be used for world relief.

The sewing display will be available for individuals or church groups to show samples of their sewing completed during the year. Groups are also encouraged to bring along patterns for their favorite world relief garments to share with other groups.

Plan now to attend the

1977 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH

August 15-19, 1977

Ashland College

Ashland, Ohio

Milledgeville dedicates new ed unit, remodeled sanctuary in May

Milledgeville, Ill.—Members and friends of the Milledgeville Brethren Church gathered on Sunday, May 15, to dedicate to God and the service of our Savior their new education unit and remodeled sanctuary. Dr. Fred Burkey, Christian Education Director for the Brethren Church, was the key speaker.

The new education unit provides 12 new classrooms, a pastor's study, an office for the secretary, a nursery, and restrooms. A beautiful 32-chair chapel was also included in this building. A particularly striking feature of this chapel is the pulpit. This is the pulpit from the original church. It was refinished for use in the chapel by Stan Dennis, a member of the Milledgeville Church. An attractive, large foyer connects the education unit with the sanctuary.

The sanctuary was remodeled in such a way as

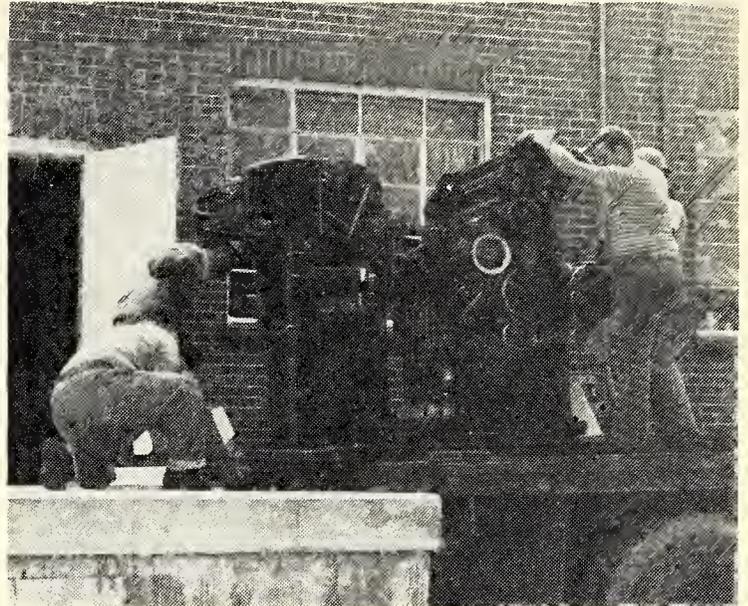
to increase seating capacity. The walls of two rooms at the back of the sanctuary were removed, adding this space to the auditorium. In this way seating was added for 70 more people. Even so, Pastor Jim Black notes that "we rejoice in the 'problem' that already we are overcrowded, and thought is being given to more efficient use of a balcony area."

The exterior of the church building also took on a new look. Hazardous steps leading into the remodeled building were removed, and the old entry was covered with a beautiful cross and shrubs, planted where the steps had been. The landscaping, cross, lights, and most of the interior furnishings were provided by memorial gifts.

A number of people from the Milledgeville Brethren Church took part in the service of dedication. These included Rev. Jim Black—pastor;



The new educational unit was added to the south (left) of the Milledgeville, Ill., Brethren Church. Remodeling of the sanctuary allowed an addition of 70 seats for worship.



Staff Photo

Workmen unload the new offset press at the Publishing Company print shop.

Mr. John Parks—church moderator; Mr. Harlan Hollewell—deacons' chairman; Mrs. Shirley Black—church school superintendent; Mr. Richard Hutchison—building chairman; and Mr. Wayne Hawkins—memorial chairman.

Special music for the service was provided by the church choir, by Lenora Blumer and Dorothy Ruth Glenn, and by the Dennis family.

The Brethren Church in Milledgeville had its beginning in 1850, when Elder Henry Meyers and several other families came to Illinois from Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Early worship services were conducted in homes and a schoolhouse. These people were of the Dunkard faith.

The Brethren Church was formed later in a community known as Dutchtown, 2½ miles west of Milledgeville. The work was organized under the direction of Elder H. R. Holsinger. The first church building was dedicated by Elder S. H. Bashor, and the church was called Bethlehem Brethren.

Soon it became necessary to erect a place of worship in the village of Milledgeville. The church was completed in 1889 and was also dedicated by S. H. Bashor. This building was destroyed by fire on November 15, 1936. On October 17, 1937, a new building was dedicated. This building has served the congregation well for many years.

In recent years the people of the church sensed a need to expand. Under the present pastor, 122 persons have been added to the church, with attendance increasing accordingly. The people knew that the church could grow, but they knew as well that the physical obstacle of limited space in the church building must be overcome. Now they are "on the go" again.

The work is not finished. Positive planning is already underway for "Brethren Manor," a housing complex for the elderly. A non-profit corporation has been approved, and soon aggressive action will be taken. The church is involved in community life, radio outreach, and evangelism. The church is also providing three young men for pre-seminary training this year.

Pastor Jim Black notes that even though the Milledgeville Brethren Church is a little church in a little town, "we have a great Lord and a positive vision. In Milledgeville 'church growth' is not a denominational term—it is a reality."

New presses arrive

Ashland, Ohio—The Brethren Publishing Company moved its two new presses into its printing department May 25.

The presses, which were purchased from a local manufacturer, will be used by the company to expand and upgrade its offset printing capabilities.

Portions of the presses had to be dismantled for moving. It is expected that both will be in full operation by early fall, following reassembly, installation, and final testing and adjustment.

Walcrest youth sponsor all-church picnic

Mansfield, Ohio—An all-church picnic sponsored by the youth was a special feature of youth month in the Walcrest Brethren Church. The picnic was held on Sunday, May 22, on the church grounds.

About 55 people attended the picnic, sharing in such activities as softball, badminton, volleyball, and just plain socializing. The afternoon began at 1:00 p.m., and a carry-in dinner with lots of great food followed at 5:00 p.m.

Following the meal the youth led the picnickers in an inspirational vesper service. The vespers were planned for the church lawn, but an evening rain made it necessary to have the service in the church sanctuary.

In reviewing the activities of youth month, Ralph and Jan Brown, sponsors of the Walcrest Brethren Youth commented: "Too often the youth are not recognized for the good they are in the church and community. I can think of no better way to show our appreciation for the many and various ways that the youth are serving their Lord than to set aside a month to recognize their special avenues of service."

Rev. Donald Rowser honored on "Pastor Appreciation Day"

This year of 1977 is a very special one for Rev. Donald Rowser, pastor of the Brethren Church of New Lebanon, Ohio. This year marks 25 years for Rev. Rowser in the Lord's service as a pastor; 25 years of marriage; and the start of his 13th year at the New Lebanon Church.

To celebrate these special occasions, the New Lebanon Brethren held a "Pastor Appreciation Day" in Pastor Don's honor on Sunday morning, March 13. The celebration began during the morning worship service when Tracy Rowser, Pastor Don's daughter, presented him a single red rose. This rose was symbolic of the unity of the entire congregation in their love and respect for their pastor.

Also during the morning worship service a short biography of Rev. Rowser was given, and members of the congregation told some of the ways in which Pastor Don has shared the Lord's love with them through his ministry.

Following the worship service, over 200 people attended a carry-in dinner held for Pastor Don and his wife, Charlene. During this dinner a special tribute was paid to Mrs. Rowser as "the Pastor's Wife." Other activities during the dinner hour included special music, addresses from past church moderators, and the presentation of 12 roses to Rev. Rowser—one for each year he has served in New Lebanon.

The highlight of "Pastor Appreciation Day" was when the church presented Pastor Don and his wife with a trip to the Holy Land. This trip has long been a dream of the Rowsers.

Donald Rowser was born in Johnstown, Pa., the son of John and Margaret Rowser. He attended elementary and high school in Johnstown. Later he attended Ashland College and Seminary.

Don married Charlene Carol Tracy on June 7, 1952. The Rowsers have two children—David, 16, and Tracy, 15.

While attending Ashland College, Pastor Don began serving the North Georgetown, Ohio, Brethren Church. He pastored that congregation from 1953 to 1958. Rev. Rowser then went to the Smithville, Ohio, Brethren Church where he served until the end of 1964. He came to New Lebanon in January of 1965.

Since Pastor Don has come to New Lebanon, church membership has grown from 397 in 1965 to 543 in 1976. Average attendance has gone from 179 in 1965 to 268 in 1976. Also since his coming, the budget has gone from \$35,000 in 1965 to \$80,000 in 1977. The growth in the size of the congregation has made it necessary to remodel the sanctuary—adding 75 more seats—and to have two morning worship services to eliminate crowded conditions in the sanctuary. The church has also hired an assistant pastor to help Rev. Rowser,



Don and Charlene Rowser were honored by the New Lebanon Church in March for their 25 years in the ministry.

particularly with youth and Christian education ministries.

Even though Pastor Don has a long and impressive list of accomplishments, he is known and loved best for his love of the Lord and his genuine concern for others.

Brethren Publishing Co. personnel to speak in churches in September

Ashland, Ohio—Brethren Publishing Company personnel will be available for speaking engagements during the month of September, according to John Rowsey.

In making the announcement, Mr. Rowsey noted that staff members are happy to speak to churches or organizations at any time of the year. "But we are especially interested in sharing during September, since that is the emphasis month for Brethren publications."

"We are excited about how God is working in the Brethren Church as a whole. And we are especially excited about His work through the Publishing Company. As we approach the 100th year of publishing the Brethren Evangelist, we are anxious to share directly with as many Brethren as possible," he said.

Several dates have already been reserved. Interested churches and organizations are encouraged to contact Mr. Rowsey now, ahead of General Conference.

Park Street men, women begin phone ministry

Ashland, Ohio—On June 1 a new telephone ministry, "the CARE Line," was begun at the Park Street Brethren Church. The CARE Line offers people of Ashland and surrounding communities a number which they can call 24 hours a day to find a listening ear, an encouraging voice, and an offer of help. The phone is manned at all hours by volunteers (men and women) from the Park Street Church.

This telephone ministry grew out of a weekly men's Bible study group which began January 25th of this year. As these men studied the Book of Acts, it became plain to them that the men of the early church were not only learners of God's word, but also doers of the word. This fact caused these men to seek a way to become active.

Dan DeVeney, a member of the group, reports that "As we prayed, the idea of a telephone ministry came to our minds. The seed was planted, nourished with prayer and work, and on June 1 the teleministry became a reality."

The code name, "the CARE Line," is significant. It indicates that the person calling this number is talking to someone who CARES about him. The telephone number, itself (289-2273), gives the message. People needing help or a listening ear simply need to dial 289-CARE.

Brush Valley dedicates baptistry

Adrian, Pa.—A new baptismal pool was dedicated at the Brush Valley Brethren Church on Sunday, April 17th. The pool was built by the men of the church.

Following the dedication service, a baptism was held in the new pool. Seven new members were baptized in this service. Two new members were received into membership by transfer of letter on the same date.

Tornadoes hit Bangladesh, WRC sends aid

Valley Forge, Pa.—The following telegram was received April 11 by Everett Graffam of the World Relief Commission.

"A series of severe tornadoes hit several districts including our Kotalapara project district. Colossal loss of property, cattle, and crops. Thousands homeless—have nothing—hundreds dead. Immediate emergency needs critical. I personally visited all areas. Help is needed now. Moving in with prayers and hope for funds. Housing a must monsoon season approaching. Help is needed now."

The telegram was sent by Paul Munshi, WRC Field Director, Kulhna, Bangladesh.

Phil Lersch reports meeting Paul Munshi and visiting WRC projects in Bangladesh last year.



Jane Solomon



Linda Geiser

Ashland women named Jennings Scholars

Ashland, Ohio—Jane Solomon and Linda Geiser have been named among the Jennings Scholars for the 1977-78 school year.

Mrs. Solomon is a third grade teacher at Jeromesville School near Ashland. Mrs. Geiser is a second grade teacher at Pleasant Street School in Ashland. Both women attend the Park Street Brethren Church.

Jennings Scholars are selected from schools all over Ohio. Teachers are chosen for this honor on the basis of their merits as classroom teachers.

Jane Solomon is a native of Ashland and attended Ashland College, graduating in 1971. She has completed her third year of teaching at Jeromesville.

Jane is an active member of the Park Street Church. She is a Sunday school teacher, member of the official board, and treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society. She has also served as an evening youth leader and as director and superintendent of vacation Bible school. She is married to Leroy Solomon—a student at Ashland Theological Seminary and assistant pastor at Park Street.

Linda Geiser is originally from Rittman, Ohio. She attended Ohio State University, from which she was graduated in 1970. She has taught four years at Pleasant Street School in Ashland. She and her husband, Robert, have attended Park Street for the past year and a half.

Jennings Scholars are selected every other year to attend lectures by educators of international standing. The lectures are held on Saturdays during the school year at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

He says that both Paul and the projects were a credit to the name of Christ.

WRC has already forwarded emergency funds to Bangladesh, but more funds are needed. Any Brethren desiring to respond to this need should mark their checks "Bangladesh" and send them—directly or through your church treasurer—to George Kerlin, 1318 E. Douglas, Goshen, Indiana 46526.

Ashland Seminary graduates 53 at annual ceremony

Ashland Theological Seminary presented degrees to 53 graduates at its annual graduate service on Saturday morning, June 11. The service was held in the Ronk Memorial Chapel on the Seminary grounds.

Dr. Louis F. Gough, retiring professor of New Testament theology at ATS, brought the message during the service. He spoke on the subject "Children of History or Catastrophes of History?"

Five different degrees were presented at the ceremonies. Nine graduates received the Doctor of Ministry degree; eleven received the Master of Arts in Religion degree with major in pastoral counseling and psychology; fifteen were presented the degree of Master of Divinity; nine received the Master of Divinity degree with major in pastoral counseling and psychology; and 11 were awarded the Master of Arts in Religion degree. Two of the graduates received two degrees each.

Included among this year's graduates were five Brethren men. They are Robert L. Keplinger, Robert Bruce Clough, Richard Paul Craver, John F. Edwards, Jr., and Robert M. Payne, Jr.

Rev. Robert L. Keplinger is a former graduate of Ashland Theological Seminary, having received his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1954. This year he was awarded the degree of Master of Divinity. Rev. Keplinger is pastor of the Washington, D.C., Brethren Church.

Robert Clough is from Highland Heights, Ohio, where he was formerly a member of the Highland Sixth United Presbyterian Church. He is presently a member of the Ashland Park Street Brethren Church. Since January of this year Robert has been serving as part-time pastor of the Fremont, Ohio, Brethren Church. Robert was presented both the Master of Divinity degree and the degree of Master of Arts in Religion with major in pastoral counseling and psychology.

Richard Craver, originally from Barnesboro, Pa., is a former member of the Pittsburgh Brethren Church. Since July 1976 Richard has served as pastor of the Highland Brethren Church of Marianna, Pa., driving to Highland on weekends during the school year. Following graduation, Richard and his family moved to Pennsylvania where he continues to serve as pastor at Highland. Richard received the Master of Divinity degree.

John Edwards, Jr., is from New Lebanon, Ohio, where he is a member of the New Lebanon Brethren Church. John received the Master of Divinity degree. He plans to take a pastorate or associate pastorate position in the Brethren Church.

Robert Payne, Jr., is from Nitro, West Virginia, where he was a member of the Sattes Community

Church. He is presently a member of the Garber Brethren Church where he served as student-pastor for the past two years. He has resigned from the Garber Church and plans to take another Brethren pastorate. He also hopes to continue his studies toward a Doctor's degree. Bob received the Master of Divinity degree from ATS.

Dr. Clayton honored at AC commencement

Retiring Ashland College president Glenn L. Clayton was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at Ashland College commencement exercises May 15th.

Dr. Clayton was also granted the honor of president emeritus, which was conferred on him by former AC president Dr. Raymond W. Bixler.

The Doctor of Humane Letters degree was bestowed upon Dr. Clayton by Calvin Rogers, professor of music. Rogers cited the president's long and many-faceted career in education saying, "This breadth of experience in education is matched only by his dedication to the youth of America and their intellectual and spiritual growth. . . . No area of the college has escaped his impact."

These honors were bestowed upon Dr. Clayton as he presided over his final graduating class at Ashland College.

After receiving his degree, Dr. Clayton addressed the graduating class on the subject of "Stations or Terminals." He compared their achievement to his retirement, using his speech to say goodbye to his AC family.

"You will have graduated after today, and I will soon have retired as president of Ashland College," Dr. Clayton said. "Neither you nor I can quit or rest secure and satisfied that we have achieved a great milestone and therefore someone owes us a place in life. If we do, we shall soon find the effect of our work to be waning in importance, and life will pass us by.

"Rather, we must look ahead, you to new efforts in graduate study or constructive work, and I to a change of interest and objectives which will challenge me to new areas of service."

After his address, Dr. Clayton conferred degrees on each of this year's 398 graduates. This brought the total number of graduates to whom Dr. Clayton has conferred degrees during his 29 years as president of Ashland College to more than 6000.



Louis Gough



J. Ray Klingensmith

Louis Gough retires

Ashland, Ohio—Dr. Louis Gough, professor of New Testament theology at Ashland Theological Seminary, retired in June. Dr. Gough joined the ATS faculty in 1968.

Prior to coming to Ashland, Dr. Gough was vice president for academic administration and dean of faculty at Salem College, Salem, West Virginia. He also taught at St. Lawrence University, Warner Pacific College, and Anderson College Theological Seminary. He was president of Warner Pacific College from 1961 to 1966.

Since retiring in June, Dr. Gough and his wife, Lucille, have moved to Springfield, Missouri. Dr. Gough plans to spend his retirement doing some writing, and he will also teach occasionally in guest lectureships. He will also continue as professor emeritus of Ashland Theological Seminary and will remain a board member of the Ashland Theological Seminary Foundation.

Crusader/Intern changes noted by BCE

Ashland, Ohio—The Board of Christian Education has announced three changes in Crusader/Intern program personnel for this summer.

Wayne Grumbling and Carol French have resigned their assignments on the Camp and Education B units. Filling the Camp position is Deborah Hill, age 22, from the Highland, Pa., Brethren Church. Bobbi Miller, 19, from the Goshen, Ind., Brethren Church will complete the Education B team.

It has become necessary to cancel the internship at Herndon, Va., involving Bobbi Miller and Joan Holsinger. Joan has been reassigned to an educational internship with Brethren House in St. Petersburg, Fla., under the direction of Rev. Phil Lersch and Bonnie Munson.

Klingensmith given honorary doctorate

Ashland, Ohio—Rev. J. Ray Klingensmith was presented the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by Ashland College at commencement ceremonies held here on May 15th. Rev. Klingensmith has been a Bible teacher at Ashland College since 1956.

Rev. Klingensmith, who is retiring from AC this year, was also given the honor of professor emeritus.

Dr. Donald Rinehart, chairman of the religion department, presented the degree to Rev. Klingensmith. In doing so, he cited Klingensmith's service to God and community first as pastor, then as denominational leader in the Brethren Church, and finally as a Bible teacher at Ashland College.

"There are few men who have the gift to make the Bible come to life as does this man," Rinehart said. "Literally hundreds of individuals have been introduced to the Christian faith through his ministry."

This is the third degree Dr. Klingensmith has received from Ashland College. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Ashland in 1931 and his Bachelor of Theology degree for his work at Ashland Theological Seminary in 1934.

This year marks Klingensmith's 50th year in the ministry. He began his full-time ministry in 1927, when he was a freshman at Ashland College. This ministry was at a mission in the northern part of Ashland. This work has now grown into two large and successful churches. He is presently serving a church in E. Homerville, Ohio, where he has been pastor for more than eleven years.

Rev. Klingensmith has held over 100 revival and evangelistic meetings in Brethren churches. Many of our younger ministers have been ordained by him, and many of our churches were dedicated through his ministry.

From 1940 to 1945, Rev. Klingensmith was General Secretary of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, during the crisis years of the church's missionary program. In 1953 he became pastor of the Washington, D.C., Brethren Church, where he served until he came to Ashland in 1956.

In his 22 years at Ashland, Klingensmith taught both at the college and at the seminary. He also served as chairman of the Bible department at AC from 1968 to 1974.

This fall, Dr. Klingensmith will begin a special ministry to some churches in Indiana, Ohio, and other areas. He will be visiting in churches pastored by some of his former college and seminary students. In these visits he will stress church renewal, Bible teaching, and evangelism. He will also work with the young pastors, helping them to program their teaching, preaching, and total church ministry. Klingensmith and his wife, Christine, plan to live in their motorhome while visiting these churches and pastors.

Royce Gates named fire chief

Ashland, Ohio—"Being retired, and having a part-time job, gives me the time to do what I've wanted to do all my life." For Royce Gates, that means helping people.

Royce was one of four Ashland County residents elected to participate in the Ohio statewide Senior Citizens' Day May 17. He served as fire chief for the day.

Also honored that day at a dinner for senior citizens over 90 years old were Park Street Church regulars Mrs. Electra Zimmerman and Mr. and Mrs. A. Glenn Carpenter.

Royce is active in the Park Street Church as a deacon, member of the stewardship committee, and scheduler for "the Care Line" telephone ministry. He is also involved in the Ashland Lions Club and often drives other senior citizens to the airport, doctors' appointments, and so forth.

Concerning senior citizens, Royce said, "We're a minority in the country. And in the church we're a minority. But I like to think there is a lot of wisdom we can share and a lot of work we can do."

"Now I know if we're going to fill the church, we're going to have to fill it with the youth," he said. "But they're gonna be senior citizens, too, someday."

When asked how the church could best make use of senior citizens, Royce said, "There's a lot of volunteer work we can do. Not just in the church building, but even helping the man next door. He might not be a member of my church. He might not be a member of any church, so if I help him, I'm witnessing to him."

He also noted that a group is working to have a nationwide Senior Citizens' Day proclaimed next year. Then added, "When I'm sitting in the President's seat next year, you better behave yourself."

July 15 is deadline for Senior Citizen nominations

Ashland, Ohio—The July 15 deadline for submitting Senior Citizen nominations is approaching rapidly. Churches should be certain their nominations are postmarked no later than midnight, July 15.

Nomination forms for "Senior Citizen of the Year" and the "Senior Citizen Church Award" should be filled out completely. Especially important are sections giving the reasons for the nomination.

All local nominees submitted for national consideration will be honored at a banquet during General Conference. Awards will be presented at that banquet.



Staff Photo

Royce Gates (left) tries out the fire chief's car while AFD Chief Bernard Johnson looks on.

Dutchess Senior Citizen of Year at Kokomo Brethren Church

Kokomo, Ind.—February 13-20 was Senior Citizens Week at the Kokomo First Brethren Church. During that week various activities were held in honor of the church's senior citizens, including a carry-in dinner on February 13 and a lunch at the International Smorgasbord in Kokomo on the 19th.

During the week the seniors also received cards and phone calls from other church people.

On Sunday morning, February 20th, Mr. William Dutchess was honored as the Senior Citizen of the Year of the Kokomo First Brethren Church. Mr. Dutchess is a deacon of the church, and he has held numerous other church offices. He is also very active in the Cass County area. He and his wife, Madge, have five children and four grandchildren.

Clarence Surbey and Kenny Jones were the runners-up for the Senior Citizen of the Year award. Each of these men was presented a bouquet. Each of the other 17 senior citizens of the church was presented a certificate in honor of this special day.

Comment

Let's welcome new AC President Schultz

by Ron Waters

Denominational leaders had their first opportunity to meet new Ashland College President Arthur L. Schultz on Friday, May 13. Dr. Schultz took time from a busy one-day visit to Ashland for a brief period of introduction and sharing with board executives and the General Conference moderator.

We were impressed by his sincere interest in the Brethren Church and its relationship to the college. He noted that while he was president of Albright College (a church-related school in Pennsylvania), he related the expectations of the church to the college. As a result, he commented, "I always had the church with me."

He also noted that he is concerned that the

teaching staff in a church-related college be sympathetic to the Christian faith.

Throughout the meeting, as leaders shared their concerns for the college and thoughts on its potential for service to the Brethren Church, Dr. Schultz listened attentively and indicated favorable agreement. He said he hoped that working together we might see "a church-related college and a college-related church."

At the close of the meeting, he shared that he and his wife Louise were happy to know they would be among people who also believe in the power of prayer and who would uphold them in their prayers. Then he led the group in closing prayer.

(Mrs. Schultz has made a rapid recovery following her recent surgery. Dr. Schultz expressed thanks for the prayers of the Brethren.)

During the past several years, there have been times when many have wondered whether Ashland College stood with the Brethren Church or against it. But now it is time to put those feelings behind us and rally to support the new president. He has many challenges before him as he begins his new ministry. Each president of a college eventually leaves his mark on the institution, but it takes patient, concerted effort, and a healthy dose of time.

So let us join together in specific prayer for Dr. Schultz. I would encourage you to write him, telling him of your personal, prayerful support and encouragement. (You may address him in care of Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio 44805.)

Dr. Schultz has also placed a high priority on being present for General Conference. He will be meeting with several auxiliaries during the week following his formal introduction to the Conference Tuesday morning. You will have opportunity to become acquainted with him then.

Sarver, Pa., site of new Brethren work

Sarver, Pa.—A new Brethren work has been started in this western Pennsylvania town. The first Sunday school and Sunday morning worship service were held on Easter Sunday morning, April 10, 1977. Thirty-three people attended these first Sunday services.

These morning services were the outgrowth of midweek meetings which started more than a year ago. These meetings began with two primary seed families—the Ken Knabb family, formerly of the Pleasant View (Vandergrift) Brethren Church and the Chet McAfoose family of the Brush Valley Brethren Church. Neighboring Brethren pastors—Rev. Norman Long, Rev. Thomas Kidder, and Rev. William Walk—took turns leading these midweek services.

Services continue to be held weekly, both on Sunday morning and at midweek. Ed Wingard, a chemical engineer for Pittsburgh Plate Glass, is serving as part-time pastor for the group. The services are being held in the basement of the Knabb home.

Survey work was done in the area on two weekends in May. This was done under the supervision of Arden E. Gilmer, Director of Home Missions. People from the Sarver group were encouraged by the help they received from people from the Pittsburgh, Brush Valley, and Pleasant View Brethren Churches. Several good contacts resulted from the survey which will be followed up by the Sarver group in their weekly visitation.

Sarver is located in the southeast corner of Butler County, Pa., about ten miles southeast of the city of Butler and about 20 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

Brethren Publishing Company Annual Corporation Meeting

The annual corporation meeting of the Brethren Publishing Company will be held Tuesday, August 16, during the 10:00 a.m. (EDT) business session of the General Conference of the Brethren Church. The meeting will be held in the John C. Myers Convocation Center, Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio.

Delegates to the General Conference constitute the membership of the corporation.

—W. St. Clair Benschoff, President



Fishing for Men in Medellin

Ken Solomon shares a "fisherman's story"
from the field in Colombia, South America.

AFTER returning from a fishing trip, the fisherman is often heard to brag about the big one that got away. Each time he repeats the story, the fish that got away seems to grow in size until, finally, it borders on the impossible.

The missionary fisherman normally does just the opposite. He only reports the "big" ones he caught. This makes for more interesting reading, provides better stimulus for giving, and makes the missionary fisherman appear more successful.

But I feel led to break with this "traditional" practice in order to give a complete and true picture of what really is taking place. Thus, I shall share with you both the failures and successes, the joys and the frustrations, of a missionary's ministry. This I do with the expressed purpose of soliciting your further prayer support on behalf of those mentioned in this report.

The fish that got away

Hernando is an example of the many young men evangelized in our neighborhood of La Castellana. He is a nice-looking Colombian youth of about 20 years of age. He is fatherless, a student, intelligent, and a good ping-pong player.

Hernando has been on our hook various times, for he is searching for something better, but he always eats off the bait and gets away. He would be a big catch because

he quite evidently has influence with the many, many youth of our barrio (neighborhood). But, as yet, we have not caught him in the net of salvation with the hook of God's love and His word.

Sunday afternoon, January 9, 1977, was the last time we had the tremendous frustration of failing to hook this big one. Jorge Dario Avendano, our first convert in Medellin, had Hernando on the hook as he witnessed to him, but Hernando finally escaped again with these words: "I probably **would** be better off and happier if I accepted what you are offering me, **but** I have chosen this life I am now living, and I am not as yet willing to give it up."

He further expressed his hope that God would be available **when** and **if** he decides to accept Him. We told him that of this he could not be certain. Even this did not cause him to change his mind. How sad! Another failure in the fishing business. **Pray for Hernando that he may soon be caught!**

Four youths—Jose, Luis, and two named Jaime—reminded me of Daniel and his three friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—when I first met them. I saw their determination "not to defile themselves," but to be different and to yield to the call of the Lord. But I was soon disillusioned once again. Even though they voluntarily accepted the bait and became hooked on



Missionary Ken Solomon baptizes 1 of the 17 new members added to the Brethren Church in Colombia at the end of 1976.

the Lord instead of on drugs, and even though they were willing to go all the way and be baptized, **they have gotten away.** We never see them in our Bible studies or prayer meetings. If we want to talk with them, we must go to them on the street where a gang is present. We just can't get them securely caught in the net of the Lord.

Possibly they are like those Jesus described in His parable of the different soils: "They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while** believe, and in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13). Be that the cause or something else, the fact remains that **they got away.**

Having temporarily caught such fine specimens of Colombian youth had raised our hopes for a tremendous catch in the future. But, to our great frustration, they got away—at least for now. **Please pray for the two Jaimes and for Jose and Luis!**

Space does not permit us to mention the long list of fish that got away and are still swimming in the sea of sin, far from the net of God's love, salvation, and grace, or of those who have died "out of grace" after having tasted of the "heavenly gift" (Hebrews 6:4). But with joy I turn to the **positive** part of this report and praise the Lord that not all is negative.

The fish that did not get away

Praise the Lord (and the glory is all His) we can report of some 100 fish which have been caught during the three years of fishing for the Lord and the Brethren Church here in Medellin, Colombia.

We recognized that we would not be following the example set by those great fishermen—Christ, Peter, Philip, Paul, and others— if we concentrated only upon catching the children and youth of our own barrio. So we continued the practice of seeking to catch fish of all ages, sexes, classes, and creeds in order to fulfill our calling to be fishers of men.

Sunday, the 12th day of the 12th month of 1976, at 12:00 noon, three Medellin businessmen were immersed in the very cold, crystal-clear waters of a mountain stream high above the city of Medellin. Manuel Pacheco, one of our lay-evangelists, had been the main fisherman used of the Lord to fish this impressive catch.

Elias Garcia, the director of a business, had made his profession of faith some time previous and was holding Bible studies in his office in the center of town. But, as he testified, "I asked the Lord for an extension of time to continue to enjoy my old life of women, parties, drink, and my old friends. But now I am convinced that my time is up, that **today**—the 12th of December—is for me the 'day of salvation.' So I want to

be baptized and go all the way with the Lord.”

His marriage was soon to be dissolved if he did not change his way of living. His wife had insisted that he see a psychiatrist. And so, because of his great love for his wife and sons, he did decide to see the very best psychiatrist in the business, the Lord Jesus Christ. God had used Manuel to introduce Elias to this Divine Physician.

Elias hired a taxi to take us (Manuel, himself, his two associates, and me) to a secluded mountain spot which, for some time, had been his place of spiritual retreat. While there, after a time of Bible study and prayer, the two associates also decided to go all the way with the Lord and be baptized. So this businessman of 30 years of age and his two associates—Francisco, 33, and Mario, 24—were confirmed in the Apostolic faith by water baptism.

After three years of fishing, accompanied by much prayer, we were richly rewarded by the conversion of two of our neighbors, Mrs. Synhar Ruiz (a young mother of three children) and her youngest daughter—16 year old Maria Cristina. Since they had never seen a baptismal service, they were invited to witness one, so as to encourage them to take the step of obedience also. But, to our surprise, they replied to the invitation: “We won’t go as witnesses but as baptismal candidates, for we, too, want to go all the way with the Lord.”

You have to know the circumstances and have worked with converted Roman Catholics to understand the importance of this decision and the possible repercussions that may come to them from family, relatives, and friends.

Mrs. Synhar Ruiz and her daughter were baptized during the last week of December along with three others. This made a total of 17 additions to the Colombian Brethren Church in this month of ministry and brought the total to 53 for the entire year. We praise the Lord for these spiritual fishing results.

We are not satisfied, however, and are expecting even greater results this year as we seek to “launch out into the deep and let down our nets” by more intensive mass evangelism through the use of a mobile evangelistic van. We trust the Lord and His people to provide this for our use.

There is also the interesting experience with a Puerto Rican businessman in the month of November. I had just spent five long and boring hours in the Cali airport awaiting a flight. The delay was caused by a “slow-down” strike of the pilots.

It wasn’t until after the flight to Medellin, and really not until after an hour of conversation with Fidel Valls in his hotel room the next morning, that I fully realized the reason for the Lord having detained me. It was in order to make possible this contact for Him.

Fidel was my seat companion, and though he has to fly often in his business, he is very frightened by flying. The palms of his hands were wet with nervous perspiration, and he admitted to “saying the rosary” and praying while listening to me witness about spiritual matters.

Fidel is a handsome young man with a great future before him. He has a lovely wife and daughter and is in partnership with his father-in-law, who treats him just like a son. He also owns two private schools and is financially secure and prospering. Nevertheless, he was quite unhappy. According to him, he had long since lost his faith. And now he was about to lose his wife to another man.

He had gone to Cali to visit a girl friend, but he found his thoughts were constantly on his wife and little daughter. God was preparing him for our meeting. And in his hotel room in the center of Medellin, shortly before he continued his trip toward his home in Puerto Rico, Fidel became a son of God. He went on his way rejoicing that he **now** had Someone who would help him solve his family problems, Someone who would give him a worthy purpose to live for and a living faith by which to live and die.

Praise the Lord with me, and pray with me for Fidel and for the many “Fidels” who as yet have not had an encounter with the living Christ. Pray that someone may reach them before it is too late. Your prayers, personnel, and pesos for missions just might make this possible for many more lost souls than you can imagine.

I could go on and on and on. I could tell you about Alonso, the young bank employee, and his brother-in-law Jorge, who are now studying the word of the Lord with us as

a result of a persistent tract ministry and followup. I could tell the very interesting story of Jairo, owner of a large farm and father of four, who requested a three-day spiritual retreat with the missionary in order to "seek more of the Lord" and to seek His help in solving his marital problems.

It is also exciting to recall the beginning of a ministry to a Colombian singer by the name of Juan Pena and to his lovely wife.

Then there is the interesting ministry to my fellow "Lions" of the Lions Club of Medellin; to the hotel personnel of the Europa-Normandie; to the check-out per-

sonnel of the supermarket each week. And there is the ministry to many in furniture stores, banks, and post offices, as well as to shoeshine boys and street vendors who have become our friends and eagerly await the tracts we take them. And we must not forget our Christian brothers in jail.

You have made possible these ventures in fishing by becoming partners with us in our ministry. And those fish that are being caught are a result of your loving concern and willingness to share. Can we depend upon you, partner, to keep this fishing business for the Lord going during the year ahead?

Miranda on Special Assignment

Juan Carlos Miranda's total experiences to date have prepared him well for his assignment as Director of Hispanic Ministries in the Department of Church Growth at Fuller Evangelistic Association. His extensive experience as a teacher and pastor both in the United States and Argentina, as a director of an institute and a publishing house, and as owner of a business have rounded out his life. He is qualified to relate to both American and Latin American cultures.

Juan just recently returned from Venezuela where he conducted a Church Growth Workshop with over sixty pastors attending. The workshop has been followed by three regional, family evangelistic crusades. This plan of linking church growth training with mass evangelism was first used in Rosario, Argentina, last year and is being employed in the Dominican Republic as well as Venezuela this year.

Earlier this spring Reverend Miranda was in Mexico City conducting the first Spanish High Intensity Church Growth Seminar held in Latin America. Over 200 participants were involved. This seminar was modeled on the type of training given annually in the Doctor of Ministries level course at Fuller Seminary and at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Florida.

When not in other countries advancing church growth techniques, our former missionary to Argentina continues his work in Hispanic ministries in California. One of his concerns is to train and develop existing Spanish churches in the Southern California area so that they can reach out to Spanish-speaking communities with the gospel.



Juan Carlos Miranda

The Miranda family has been residing in the Pasadena area since July 1976. The Brethren Church continues to underwrite the salary of Juan as he serves in this special ministry. Your constant prayers for his work and his family as he travels extensively would be appreciated.

New "Missionary"

David and Jenny Loi announce the birth of their first son, Stephen Loi, on May 17, 1977.



An Invitation to Excellence

Fred Burkey introduces the new Association
for Brethren Church Teachers.

THE Board of Christian Education of the Brethren Church is pleased to announce formation of the "Association of Brethren Church Teachers" (ABCT). ABCT is designed to directly benefit Sunday school teachers and superintendents, members of local, district, and denominational Boards of Christian Education, BYC advisors, and professional church workers.

The association will promote quality instruction in Brethren Sunday schools by providing members with selected resource materials and by sponsoring regional training seminars. Initially, the resources which will be available to all members will include: an annual subscription to a quarterly periodical (probably Standard's **Key to Christian Education**); and a quarterly newsletter featuring teaching resources, curriculum information, news of other Brethren educational and youth programs,

announcements of training opportunities, and other timely items. Occasional "bonus" mailings may also be sent.

Eventually, we hope to offer members additional benefits such as incentive discounts on selected teaching materials and reduced rates on denominationally sponsored ICL seminars and clinics.

A key feature of the association will be the attempt to bring quality teacher/leader training to your doorstep. Regional training seminars will be scheduled annually in cooperation with the district Boards of Christian Education and promoted through the available media. Skilled professionals will be employed to conduct seminars on topics reflecting the needs and interests of the membership. Tuition for the seminars will be discounted for members of the Association of Brethren Church Teachers.

We believe that the ABCT can be a useful and dynamic force in a growing Brethren Church. It will provide opportunities for comradeship and sharing among lay and professional leaders at all organizational levels. Further, through direct contacts with the people who do the day-by-day work with the Sunday schools and youth groups, needs may more readily be identified and satisfied.

Ultimately, the goal of the association is the improvement of the "disciple-making" process in Brethren churches.

Teachers, departmental and general superintendents, youth advisors, BCE members at all levels, and professional leaders are invited to an introductory ABCT luncheon Wednesday, August 17, 1977, during General Conference. The exact location and pre-registration materials will be sent to all the churches prior to Conference.

Join us for this important introductory meeting. For more information, write the BCE office. □

Special Luncheon

for

Christian Educators

Introducing the Association
of Brethren Church Teachers

August 17, 1977

Incorporating New Members into the Church

What does "belonging" to a church mean? What is involved in "belonging" to a church?

Does it "just happen" when new members are given "the right hand of Christian fellowship." Belonging involves much more than having the pastor formally shake the hand of the new member in front of the rest of the congregation.

We all know that some people go through public profession of faith, baptism, and the act of receiving the right hand of Christian fellowship, but never really become functioning members of the church. They are "paper" members—their names are on the membership role, but they do not become "real" members. We often say that they have slipped out the back door. Isn't the church responsible to ask what could have been done to assimilate these new members into the functioning congregation?

Lyle Schaller, a church planner, consultant, and insightful writer, says that every congregation is composed of two circles of people. One circle is within the other. The larger, outer circle is called the membership circle, and the inner circle is called the fellowship circle.

When new people join the church, they are welcomed into the membership circle, but when they attempt to move into the fellowship circle, they often are rebuffed or ignored. Seldom are they invited into the fellowship circle by those who are already a part of it. The fellowship circle makes the decisions about the church. If new people, with their new ideas, become a part of the fellowship circle and try to be a part of the decision making, conflict often occurs. The conflict comes about as the older members come to realize that change will take place.

For example, one minister in a resort community recently was caught in a classic conflict between established leaders of the congregation and the new people who had come in as a result of new growth. The longer-term members of the church said, "We like things the way they are," and they found reasons for the pastor to leave. It's easy to assume that the newer members also

felt unwanted. Their new ideas were viewed with skepticism and were often rejected on an emotional level without rational consideration.

New people joining the church go through a crucial process known as "socialization." How the church handles this process has a direct bearing on what role the new members will decide to take, how active they will be, and how committed they will be. It has an important effect on the subsequent attitudes and behavior of the new members.

An effective, well designed, attractively presented new members' class is an essential part of this socialization process. Through this class the new members should receive a motivating and interesting orientation to the church, which will generate excitement for and commitment to the work of the church. For new members to be incorporated into the church, they must discover where they can fit into the church's ministry and how they can contribute to the church as it fulfills its ministry goals. As a part of the class they need to begin to develop warm, personal relationships not only with the pastor and other new members, but also with the established members and groups of the church.

Who should take the initiative in this process? Obviously, the church needs to be prepared to incorporate new Christians and new members into its body, with the result that the new people feel that they belong. One church designed a program which assigned a husband and wife to a new family. They were responsible to lead the new family through basic Bible studies and to build a personal relationship with them by having them in their home and by combining family outings and social times. As a result, the new family was not only disciplined in the Word, but also incorporated into the Body through the socialization process. The process did not happen automatically, but came about because the church consciously prepared itself to build new members into the functioning Body.

How well is your church prepared to incorporate new members?

How well a church draws new members into the fabric of the church has a direct bearing on the role the new member will take in the church.

auxiliary programs for august

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signal lights

written by
Alberta Holsinger

Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus

Back to Heaven

The friends of Jesus saw Him many times after He arose from the dead. He walked with them. He visited them in their homes. He ate with them.

Then one day He met with them on a mountain near Bethany. "My work on earth is over," He said. "I'm going to heaven. I'll be there with my heavenly Father. Someday I'll come back and take all of you who believe to Heaven with me."

"But Jesus," said someone. "There's much work to be done. Many people do not yet know about You."

"That's right," agreed Jesus. "And this is the work I want you to do. I want you to tell everyone in Jerusalem, in the whole country—yes, even in the whole world—about God's love and about Me. My spirit will be with you wherever you are. And remember, someday I'll be back for you."

While Jesus was speaking, He slowly began to rise from the ground into the air. The clouds parted. He continued to rise. The clouds came together again, and Jesus was out of sight.

The people just stood there. They were amazed.

Then two angels appeared in the sky. "Don't just stand there!" they said. "Jesus told you the work He wants you to do. Go and do it. He will be back. He'll come back from the sky just as He went into it."

The people smiled. They laughed out loud. "Jesus will be back!" they said. "Come, we must tell others about Him!"

Some ran down the mountainside to share the good news. Others walked more slowly. They were thinking of the things that had happened that day. They were planning to go to many places to tell the people of God's great love.

They were all filled with joy. Jesus would be back!

—Based on Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:8-12

Memory Time: This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

—Acts 1:11b

Project: Sunday School in Malaysia

We Will Pray

After work Too May's father walked to the Loi's house and knocked on the door.

Mrs. Loi opened it.

"Hello," she said. "How nice to see you. Come in."

While Too May's father removed his shoes and entered, Mrs. Loi called, "David, Too May's father is here."

Mr. Loi came to greet him. "I'm so glad you came. Please sit down."

"We are sorry Too May has told you she will be a Christian," said Father. "We cannot allow it. She must worship our family gods."

"Since you have not heard the complete story of Jesus, I understand how you feel," said Mr.

(continued on page 32)

sisterhood

prepared by
Romaine Flora

“Every day I will bless thee.” Psalm 145:2a RSV

What Sisterhood Means to Me

As a young girl of this Twentieth Century, which holds so many glittering allurements, I stand and call forth to the Christian Church and ask of it that it give me something substantial, something fine and pure, something in which I can use my talents to the glory of God, something which will take the place of all the worthless things of the world in my life. As an answer, the Brethren Church has placed before me the opportunity to become a member of the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha, and this opportunity I gladly grasp.

In Sisterhood I am first given an example—the lives of devotion and service lived by Mary and Martha to whose home Jesus was so glad to go. So Sisterhood calls forth from me a devotion and service to be rendered to my Lord and Savior like as to theirs.

Then Sisterhood issues a challenge—to “Do God’s Will.” It requires that I be “a vessel fit for the Master’s use,” ever ready to follow at His call and to abide by His commands. His will must hold sway over mine.

By the Covenant, Sisterhood inspires in me an interest in the girls less fortunate than myself and teaches me to pray for their salvation. It brings forth from me a sense of gratitude for the blessing which I am daily enjoying. It exhorts me to live a life of prayer, to be in constant communion with my Lord.

The Benediction teaches me that I must praise my Lord, continually everyday must I praise Him. Surely His mercies are great, and my praise is also the expression of my gratitude.

Still, going beyond this, Sisterhood makes it possible for me to do a definite work. Its goals, which I may help my society in reaching, are ideals. They inspire me to greater service.

Sisterhood keeps ever before the eyes of my mind and heart the need of the mission field. Sisterhood makes known to me that truly “the harvest is white and the laborers are few”; that Christ commanded us to “go and teach all nations.” Through the mission study books I come to realize the need and also learn of the remedies which God’s great love makes possible. I have the opportunity to share in this work by rolling bandages, by giving my money to help in the support of the missionaries’ children, and also by preparing for them a home for their use when on furlough.

In the devotional meeting, the prayer meeting,

the business session, and the social part of the meetings, therefore, I am receiving instruction which will help me to live a real consecrated Christian life and to render service to my Lord and my fellow-woman. Yes, most certainly in Sisterhood I am being placed, as it were, at the feet of the Master and being taught of Him the greatness of His love and power.

So to Sisterhood, the organization of true and consecrated young women ever striving to “Do God’s Will,” I will pledge my allegiance, realizing that by doing so I will receive strength to follow Paul’s great exhortations in Romans 12:1 and 2.

What does Sisterhood mean to you?

Purpose of Sisterhood

If we are going to do the best work as Sisterhood girls, we should understand the purpose of the organization. Why do you have a Sisterhood society in your church? Why should all Christian girls of the church be held in Sisterhood work?

Let us first find what Sisterhood is not. The S.M.M. is not a social club. The Sisterhood is not a money-making organization. It is not primarily a service club. If the spirit of your Sisterhood has been ruled by any of these ideas, turn in your Bible to Luke 10:38-42 and read the incident on which our purpose is founded. Pray that God may show you the true spirit of Sisterhood.

Sisterhood is organized that Christian girls may learn more about Christ their Savior and manifest their love for him in devotion and missionary service. Our monthly meetings are held principally for a devotional program. As a missionary society, we do our bit that others may learn about our Savior too. In that way service does have a part in our work. When we roll bandages, help the poor, send help to Kentucky, we do so to honor our Savior.

The social time has its place in Sisterhood. You ought to plan to have good times together. You ought to have a few good games at each meeting. But remember! do not make that the chief attraction or reason for your meeting.

Money considerations should not be wholly excluded, but they have a secondary place. It is
(continued on next page)

fine to make gifts to the church fund, to help supply the local church needs, but do not degrade your organization into a money-making circle. It is true that you will want money to support the work of the National Sisterhood and your mission projects. Encourage your members to **tithe**, to give freely as God has given to them. It is not the amount that you give, but the spirit and sacrifice in which it is given that counts.

Reprinted from the February 1931 WOMAN'S OUTLOOK.

Why a Covenant?

We are very human, each one of us, in fact so extremely human that most of the organizations of any serious nature have taken our weaknesses into consideration and have therewith endeavored to extend a friendly hand to help us over the rapids of life and to bring us out of ourselves. The degree in which they are able to accomplish this depends on our own response to their rules, regulations and to their Covenant.

What then is a "Covenant"? It is a definite promise; an agreement between you and the organization; a solemn compact between all members of an organization to maintain its discipline and to strive to live true to the promise stated in the Covenant or document. In fact, to bind one's self by contract that you may feel more keenly the principles for which the organization stands; that you, too, may feel the oneness of the members everywhere and take your stand with them to over-rule the fragments of selfish desires and human frailties that are likely to overwhelm you and engulf you in that sea of misgivings from which emerges short words, unkind thoughts and

selfishness. Then, to open our eyes to the needs of the world over; to serve God and man, we enter into the Covenant and endeavor thereby to live more noble lives.

Need we ask, "Why a Covenant?" It becomes evident; to give that strength in union; to make it more easy for you to live enriched lives because hundreds of other girls are aligned with you in this race on life's highway; to walk united through the raging storms of life and receive that kind of inspiration that can come only through organized efforts and through our determination to be ever loyal to the terms of contract and to "My Covenant."

Reprinted from the August-September 1922 WOMAN'S OUTLOOK.

Signal Lights Program

(continued from page 30)

Loi. "Please permit me to come to your home tomorrow and explain the Christian way to you and your wife."

"No," said Father. "We have decided we do not want you to come back to our house. We do not want you to have the neighborhood meetings in our yard."

"I am sorry you will not let us come again," said Mr. Loi.

He picked up a Bible from the table by his chair. "This is the Bible I promised Too May. Please, take it to her."

Father stood up and shook his head. "She may not have a Christian Bible. Goodby."

After Father left, Mr. Loi said, "We must pray, Jenny. We must pray for Too May. We must pray for her parents. We must pray for a new place to hold the neighborhood meetings."

Mr. and Mrs. Loi knelt and began talking to God. They knew He would answer their prayers.

Mr. and Mrs. Loi are our missionaries to the Chinese people in Penang, Malaysia.

They visit different neighborhoods every day to tell the boys and girls about Jesus. The children are anxious to learn the songs and hear the stories. Some of them have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

The parents do not want the children to become Christians. Some of them forbid their children to follow Jesus as the parents in our make-believe story of Too May did.

The offerings you have been bringing to Signal Lights will be used by the Lois to buy pictures and books and other supplies for their neighborhood meetings.

They need our prayers, too. Will you pray for them everyday?

Pray for the children who are attending the neighborhood meetings. Pray that they will understand what a great Savior Jesus is, and that they will decide to become a part of God's family.

Pray for the parents. Pray that they, too, will listen to the story of Jesus and become Christians.

Pray for the Lois. Pray that they will stay well. Pray that they will know where God wants them to work in Penang.

Pray everyday!

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Living through Pressure

Dear Sisters,

As I write to you today, I feel more relaxed and at peace than I have for months. I have recently finished my third year of college. This whole school year has been so hectic and pressure-filled. I am thankful that it is all behind me now. When I began in September, I knew it would be a tough year because I was taking an extra-heavy schedule both semesters. I knew I would have to work hard and depend on the Lord to give me strength to keep pushing toward my goal. And I knew I would have to give up some activities and events to have time to study, so I was prepared for it.

My school work was very important to me, and I dedicated myself to do my best. Not necessarily for the grades, but for the satisfaction that I did my best and accomplished all that was asked of me. I often was told by friends that I studied too much, that I needed more time to relax and have fun. It's true—I did, for a normal school year. But this year I decided I was going to take more classes and get more work done and have less fun time. This was my goal, and I had to work toward it, to satisfy myself. I didn't really mind giving up the activities in which I couldn't participate. My mind was programmed to do it, so that was normal for me.

I realized that my relationships with others could not develop and grow as well because of my school work demands, and that is one thing that did bother me. (You may remember that improving my interpersonal relationships was one of my New Year's goals.) For this reason I looked for ways to draw closer to people besides some of those unnecessary activities.

For instance, I always ate lunch. That took some necessary time. I often chose to pack my lunch and eat with friends in the Union instead of going home for lunch. This way I made some new friends with other commuters and became closer to some I already knew.

Another way was to talk to people whenever I had a chance. For instance, before classes or at a meeting, instead of studying a few minutes longer and arriving just in time for it to begin, I enjoyed going a few minutes early and talking to my neighbors until class began. Those minutes became important and began some new friendships for me.

There were times when I would have liked to go to something instead of studying, and I'm sure I made some wrong decisions. There may be people I would have become closer to had I gone. To those of you reading this whom I neglected, forgive me.

To those of you I never made friends with, I'm sorry I didn't take the time. But to you whom I talked to and got to know better, thank you for being there to talk to me. Thank you for our friendships.

Some who were already close to me also suffered because of my extra work. I'm thinking of Jeff and a few other close friends whom I knew would still be close even when I didn't spend time with them, but studied instead. Forgive me. I hope I never do that again. The Lord is another one I neglected sometimes. He, of course, has stayed close to me and continued to love me, as my other friends have. He has shown me that I must continue to spend time with Him, no matter how busy my schedule is. I must take the time to work at drawing nearer to Him.

My senior year of college will be busy because of student teaching and getting married and graduating. Not as constantly busy as this year has been, I hope. I want to concentrate more on getting to know people and on loving them more dearly.

I can't say that I'm sorry this year went as it did for me. I set a big goal, and accomplished it. I knew other things would suffer—I'm just sorry some of my relationships didn't grow as much as they might have.

Do you have a goal in mind, something you want to accomplish? Don't let others talk you out of it if you think it is the right thing to do. Trust in the Lord's guidance and don't neglect Him. Then do your best and work toward your goal. You will feel proud of yourself for reaching it, or at least working diligently toward it.

I thank God for my experience this year, and I will work more on my relationships now that school is over. Thank you, girls, for reading and for letting me share my thoughts. I hope you can benefit from my experience in some way.

In Him,
Nancy Ronk

Up and Coming in the Brethren Evangelist

In August:

—Al Shifflett tells about Nappanee's "novel" ministry.

—Dave and Dee Benschoff describe the work of "tentmakers."

finally, brethren

. . . some thoughts to take with you!

Popcorn

and the Christian Church

Gene Hollinger found a parallel while watching his popcorn popper.

A popcorn popper may be the last place you would look for an illustration of the Christian life, but let me share some thoughts which came to me while watching my clear-domed popcorn popper.

The popcorn kernel (like the old life) is not very useful until it undergoes a change. By immersing it in oil and fire (Christ and the Holy Spirit), the kernel explodes with what's inside of it (new life and purpose). It is pure and white (purged and cleansed).

And notice how each kernel has its own way of opening. It flowers out, supporting and providing an umbrella for those which might bang themselves against the side of the container (fellowship, koinonia). But not one will serve its purpose unless it gets out of its high-temperature incubator and lets someone taste of the new life it has just experienced (evangelism).

Jesus was illustrating nearly the same thing when He said, "Except a kernel of grain fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it dies, it produces many others." A willingness to die, to be expendable, is essential for fruit-bearing, life-producing Christians in the church today. We must show the same willingness to die, to go through the fire, which Jesus, the Apostles, and hosts of saints before us had. Their strength and life came from dying. May we remember these things the next time we plant a seed or pop some popcorn.

How I enjoyed that bowl of popcorn! Christians should enjoy sharing the life of Christ in and out of His Church in like manner.

Rev. Gene Hollinger is pastor of the Gratis, Ohio, Brethren Church.

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Pastors Keith Bennett and Dale RuLon moved to Florida last month.

In a step of sacrificial faith, they left successful Brethren churches in Indiana for communities with no Brethren congregations at all.

But they have a dream—to start two new Brethren churches by reaching unbelievers in the Tampa Bay area. And they have committed their lives to making that dream a reality.

Now it is time for you to show your support for Keith and Dale and the outreach venture of Operation Impact.

This venture of faith needs at least \$10,000 to begin. So we have made that our goal for the 1977 General Conference Missions Offering.

That's twice as much as has ever been received in a Conference offering. But we can reach this goal if you and other Brethren are truly committed to God's task of reaching the lost.

Why not take an offering this month in your church. And plan to bring a personal contribution to Conference. Or mail your gift to the Missionary Board today, designated for Operation Impact.

Keith and Dale and their families have committed the best years of their lives to this task. Are you equally committed?

Send your gift for Operation Impact to:



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The Brethren

EVANGELIST

August 1977

Funderburg Library
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Nappanee's Novel Ministry

page 4

"We're Tentmakers!"

page 7

"Be it resolved . . ."

page 9



Looking for roomy, carefree retirement living? Consider Woodfield Terrace.

No one likes to be cramped . . . especially after years in an adequately large home.

But after the family's grown up and on their own, that old home can become a real headache: too much space, with all the extra cleaning; costly heating and tax bills; mowing and raking the lawn; and always a leaky faucet needing repair when you want to be doing something else.

The folks at Brethren Care of Ohio don't think you should have to put up with all that. So we are creating Woodfield Terrace, a community of retirement apartments next to our nursing care center in Ashland, Ohio.

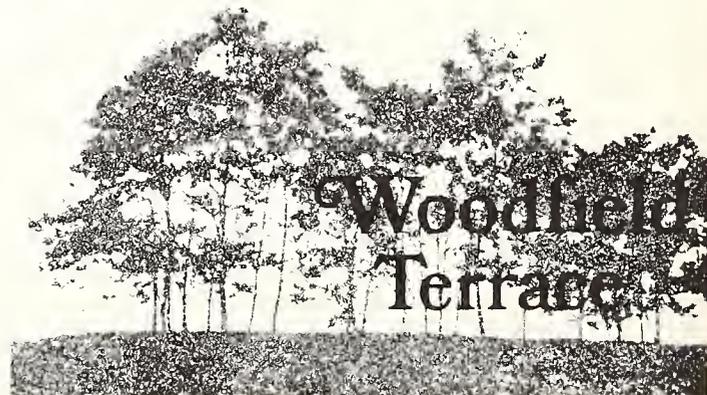
At Woodfield Terrace, we take care of the unpleasant chores so you can do more interesting things—like meeting your neighbors, working on hobbies, enjoying the walking trails, or sharing time with your family.

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If you're in Ashland for General Conference, visit our models during one of our announced open house times.

Or for more information, contact our retirement counselor, Dorman Ronk, at 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805. You can call him at (419) 289-2202 or 289-1585.



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The Brethren EVANGELIST

Serving Christ and the Brethren Church
for 99 years

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Phone: (419) 289-2611

Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Cover

Does your church library merely exist, or does it have a ministry? Al Shifflett tells about Nappanee's book ministry on page 4. (Cover photo by John Rowsey)

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It's Time for Positive Action.

Nappanee's Novel Ministry

Pastor Alvin Shifflett tells how his church's growing library is helping his congregation grow.

"A book in the hand is worth two on the shelf," according to Nappanee Brethren Church librarian Mrs. Marjorie Sechrist.

Last year the Nappanee Church consumed 1859 books. That was an average of 155 books per month, or 36 books per week. If you have a penchant for figures, that comes to five books being read every day by members and friends of the Nappanee Church.

The Nappanee Church library ministry began on Sunday, February 9, 1958. Rev. Virgil Ingraham was pastor. The Board of Christian Education recognized the need for a source of information and inspirational reading for the members of the church. It was believed that a reading church is a growing church.

A committee was appointed consisting of Mrs. Milo Mellinger, Jr., and Mrs. Dick Sechrist. Their assignment: "Establish a church library that operates just like a public library." As most of you know, this was no easy task. Church libraries are generally stuck in corners and rarely used by congregations. But Pastor Ingraham wanted this library to be different—he wanted it to be a vital part of the ministry of the church.

The beginning of the library was modest. Word went out to the congregation to

donate books, flannelgraph materials, filmstrips, and anything appropriate for a library. On Sunday, September 28, 1958, another promotional effort was made to obtain literature and teacher aids. Also, Mrs. Evelyn Hossler was added to the library staff.

The Nappanee Church library was destined to be successful. The reason was obvious: we had the right people for the right jobs. Marjorie Sechrist and Evelyn Hossler both worked in the Nappanee Public Library.

For many years Marjorie Sechrist has been chairman of the library committee. Herein lies the main reason for the success of this novel ministry. Marjorie Sechrist loves books and is radiant with enthusiasm. Without a doubt she is the best book pusher this side of heaven! No one can converse with her without soon discovering her genuine love and enthusiasm for inspirational writings.

Another factor in the library's growth and ministry has been our willingness to try new ideas—mostly ideas of promotion. In January of 1966, a Book-a-Month Club was formed. This was a special campaign to enlist members and friends of the church to read at least one book a month. A chart was placed on the wall next to the library to list the names of those who read a book



Promotion has been one key to the success of the Nappanee Brethren Church library. Above left, several ladies study a spring "Grow with Books" display in the church entry, while inside (right) Mrs. Secrist discusses a new book with a regular customer—Pastor Shifflett. The complete card file (below) is one example of the orderly administration of the library. (Photos by John D. Rowsey)

(or books). Beside each reader's name a check mark was placed for every book read.

The Book-a-Month Club was well received. Additional promotion was provided through the church newsletters and worship bulletins. Then in October 1966 a Library Open House was held. By the time 1971 rolled around, the library was alive and well in Nappanee First Brethren. A report in the April business meeting of 1971 reads: "Books circulated in our library was 336 during the first quarter of 71 against 289 for the same quarter in 1970. During this quarter 24 books were added, seven by memorial gift."

Then in January of 1972, the church library received a most unusual Christmas gift. Leona and Warren Shively gave a tape recorder and six cassettes on "The Beatitudes," with Earl Nightengale narrating.

By 1974 the library had grown to such capacity that Marjorie Sechrist began promotion in the Nappanee Advance News. The library would now be open on Wednesdays for the general public. The library is open before and after all services, and a mobile cart is used to push books out into the narthex area for promotion.

Our library ministry has now grown to such proportions that present facilities are



Al Shifflett is pastor of the Nappanee, Ind., Brethren Church, an avid reader, and a writer.



Even kids enjoy going to the church library at Nappanee.

hindering further growth. Recently, more new shelves were added. However, there is still not enough room.

Within the context of church growth, we have tentative plans for remodeling the library. We want to keep the library where the traffic flow goes. That way books can get the greatest exposure. People sometimes like to “shop” in the library, looking for a book. We plan to make a lounge area for reading and relaxation, just like in a public library.

In March, the Nappanee Brethren Church averaged 264 in Sunday morning worship. In April we averaged 270! Our library was

a factor in this increase. When new people come to worship, they are shown the library and urged to take home a book. That way they come back.

Our library also contributes to spiritual growth. Thanks to Marjorie Sechrist and her excited group of librarians, the people at Nappanee are reading good Christian books. When people read inspirational books, they receive positive input. Positive input soon produces positive output.

At Nappanee our church is growing both physically and spiritually. And the library ministry is one of the main reasons growth is taking place.

How does your church library measure up?

Use these questions to evaluate your book ministry.

Does your church have a church library ministry?

Is your church library “stuck in a corner,” or is it in a visible, accessible location?

Does your library consist of cast-off books which nobody wanted, or does it have a variety of good books, including some new religious best-sellers?

Does your library have an active, enthusiastic librarian (or librarians)?

Does your church put money in its budget annually for its church library? Considering the rising cost of books, is the amount realistic?

What ideas did you get from reading this article which your church could use to improve your church library?

“We’re Tentmakers!”

Deanna Benshoff and her husband Dave were looking for more out of their Christian lives.

DERBY, what? Derby, Kansas. We had scarcely heard of Derby, Kansas, let alone pick up and move there. But, trusting the Lord, that’s exactly what we did! And, as is always true with our Lord, our trust was not misguided.

There we were. A young couple, recently married, each enjoying our jobs, sharing an apartment that met our basic needs, and ready to settle down to a long life of happiness together. We were each pleased that we had found a Christian mate and felt certain it was right.

We went about planning our way of life. I would teach school after graduation from Ashland College, and Dave was arranging to join the Air Force. However, through a series of strange circumstances, Dave was deferred from the draft, didn’t join the Air Force, and got a job in Ashland. Little did we know at the time that it was really God working in our lives; He had other plans for us.

It’s important for us to share with you that we really felt we were doing what God wanted us to do at that time. We were active members of the Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland, Ohio, involved in church, Sunday school, youth ministry, and the choir. We were serving the Lord there in, what we felt, was a worthwhile capacity.

But then we both started feeling a little

dissatisfied. It was not mere restlessness; the Holy Spirit was beginning to prepare us for a change.

We both were Life Work Recruits from way back. But Dave had never felt led into the pulpit ministry. We shared our feelings with each other and discovered that we both wanted to do more for the Lord.

We prayed about it and then decided to offer ourselves for service in whatever capacity the Missionary Board could use us. We expressed our desire to John Rowsey, then associate secretary of the Missionary Board.

We were needed

What a surprise it was to hear we were exactly what they were looking for! The board wanted to start a new program for couples in our situation—Life Work Recruits, not feeling led into a pastoral position, active in an established Brethren church where there were many laymen to do the various necessary tasks, yet seeking a way to serve God and the church more fully.

The program would encourage couples like us to enter a tentmaking ministry. Why tentmaking? We would follow Paul’s example of serving the Lord and His church while making a living at a job outside the church. We would move to an area near a small Brethren church where workers were desperately needed.

Well, that’s quite a big step. After much prayer we told the board, “Okay, we’ll go anywhere you feel we can be of most help. If God wants us there, he’ll find us both jobs.” And that He did.

So off we went to Derby, Kansas. We did not know any of the Brethren there, but we knew God’s hand was in it, and we would fit in easily because of our oneness in Christ.

We settled into an apartment and began our new jobs. But settling in was only the

Dee and Dave Benshoff are tentmakers, serving the Derby, Kansas, Brethren Church. They have a son, Darin.

In the next few months we hope to carry other articles about unique ministries conducted by lay men and women in Brethren churches. Please send information about individuals or groups and their special ministries to Ron Waters, in care of the Brethren Evangelist.

Next month: Laymen take action against social wrongs.

beginning. We were there to work, so we began. We moved our church membership from Park Street in Ashland to Derby First Brethren and began our first task as youth directors.

One of our jobs as tentmakers in a small Brethren church was to be as supportive as possible of the pastor and all the programs of the church. It kept us busy, but this was what we had committed ourselves to—the very purpose for our being there.

As time passed and the Lord richly blessed First Brethren with church growth, there were more workers to do each job in the church. We moved from youth directors to other areas of ministry, such as Sunday school superintendent, church organist, WMS president, member of the board of Christian education, and nursery supervisor. And most importantly for church growth, we visited people in our community and shared our joy in Christ with them. What a joy to see people coming to Christ and then maturing into disciples to serve our Lord and His church!

We just can't say enough about tentmaking. We have made our home in Derby and have become a part of the Brethren here. We've been excited about working with a pastor who is laboring for church growth. It's been wonderful to see the attitudes of people change from negative to positive as

they see more and more people coming to Christ. The Lord has blessed us with new laborers as the church has grown.

Dave and I don't want to mislead you—this isn't a perfect situation. (We won't find that until we meet in Glory, anyway.) There have been tears, disappointments, depression, homesickness. But our God has been faithful and able to satisfy. He has brought us through it all, and our lives have been blessed a thousandfold for serving the Lord here in Derby. You're never disappointed when you let God have His will in your life. And we can say that from experience. Each day is a new trusting experience for us, and the Lord continually blesses us for it.

Are you seeking an opportunity to really serve our Lord, but you just can't seem to find the right field? Seriously consider a tentmaking ministry. The Lord is gracious and He will surely bless you and your family, even as He has ours.

Praise the Lord for the privilege of serving Him! □

Tentmakers are needed in several locations, including the new churches in Florida. Would you like more information about tentmaking ministries, for yourself or a friend? Write Arden Gilmer at the Missionary Board, 530 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805; or call (419) 289-2195.

Being tentmakers means getting actively involved in the work of the church. In addition to Dee playing the organ and Dave assisting with worship, they have also served the Derby Church as youth directors, Sunday school superintendent, WMS president, member of the board of Christian education, and nursery supervisor.

Photos by Arden Gilmer



“Be it resolved . . .”

Richard Winfield summarizes some of the actions of General Conferences since 1900.

“Be it resolved. . .” In a very short time, these words will ring out in the 89th General Conference of the Brethren Church.

Each year delegates from Brethren churches meet together in General Conference for fellowship, to hear reports, and to deal with the business of the denomination. As decisions are made, they are usually framed in the form of resolutions or recommendations.

These resolutions and recommendations are important, for they are an expression of the will of the Conference. They give direction to the officers of Conference, to denominational ministries, and to local churches as they attempt to carry out the work of the church.

As we prepare for another General Conference, I thought it might be beneficial to take a look backwards—to examine some of the decisions made by General Conference in its last 88 meetings.

Ashland College

The selection of a new president for Ashland College has brought this institution to the minds of many Brethren. There is a new optimism among many for a closer relationship between the college and the Brethren Church and for improvements in the spiritual atmosphere of the school.

Ashland College has often been a subject of discussion and debate at Conference.

Dick Winfield is editorial assistant for the Brethren Evangelist and a former missionary to Nigeria.

Before the division in 1939, the college was a major bone of contention. But in the Conference of 1939 we reaffirmed our belief in the importance of its continuance by resolving that “we recognize Ashland College and Seminary as the educational institution of the Brethren Church and that it is our opinion that the maintenance of this institution is vital to the future growth and spiritual life of our denomination.”

During the years since that resolution was adopted, however, there has been much concern about the secularization of the campus and its separation from the church. This caused the Brethren to adopt a recommendation in 1964 urging “that the college officials endeavor to bring on the campus more teachers and lecturers of the evangelical persuasion who adhere wholeheartedly to the inspiration and inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures. Furthermore, [we] urge that there be a stronger program on campus to create that spiritual atmosphere where faith in Christ can be fostered.”

In 1972 a more comprehensive statement was adopted, reaffirming the original principles and objectives of Ashland College. That statement asserted, “The object of this corporation shall be to establish and maintain a College or University for promoting education, morality, religion and the fine arts and to secure to its members and patrons, the advantages of approved piety and talents for the ministry of the Brethren Church.

“The training of suitable men for the ministry of the Gospel shall always be

sacredly regarded as one of the main objects of this institution.”

Noting the close relationship between the Brethren Church and Ashland College, the statement went on to “petition the Board of Trustees of Ashland College, the Executive Committee of the Board, the Administration, the Student Life Policy Council, and other responsible groups to reaffirm the Christian morals and ethics as commonly interpreted by the Brethren Church and to re-establish the practice thereof.”

The statement also called upon the Brethren churches to “support the College and Seminary through prayer, through College and Seminary enrollment, and through financial resources.”

Morals and ethics

The 1972 statement concerning Ashland College called for the college to “reaffirm the Christian morals and ethics as commonly interpreted by the Brethren Church.” What are these Christian morals and ethics?

Unfortunately, in these days of serious moral corruption and ethical decline, we Brethren have not been as explicit in making our position known as we might be. This was not true in earlier years.

In the 1900 Conference the Brethren said, “That viewing the fearful ravages of the liquor traffic in our fair land, we earnestly

urge that each and every member lift up his voice and hand against the nefarious traffic; and seeing the baneful effects of tobacco, and its filthiness, we plead every one to refrain from its use and to strive for purity of body and mind.”

The Brethren strongly favored prohibition, and in 1920 they acknowledged “the

“Sometimes resolutions are passed and then forgotten.”

untiring efforts and persistent faithfulness of all temperance forces in bringing to pass the action of January 16th, whereby national prohibition became effective. . . .” They also called upon every voter to “use his or her vote to support such candidates for offices as will keep in force the 18th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.” During the years of prohibition resolutions were passed almost annually in its support, and in 1933 the Brethren deplored “the action of the federal government in legalizing the sale of beer and the desire of the public for repeal of the 18th Amendment.”

The Brethren were not only concerned about alcohol. Note the following resolutions:

From 1928—“That we recommend a more scriptural regard for the Lord’s Day.”

Other Resolutions Worth Noting

Concerning the Brethren Evangelist. In 1972 Conference adopted the moderator’s recommendation “that each local church provide The Brethren Evangelist for all of its family units making each church a 100% church: the cost to be included in the local budget of each church.”

After this resolution was adopted, there was a rise in subscriptions to the Evangelist. At present, however, only 28 churches provide the Evangelist to all their families.

On Marriage and Divorce. “Viewing with alarm the growing laxities with regard to the marriage vows we reaffirm the Biblical position in the matter of marriage and divorce and that we urge our ministers to emphasize the teachings of the scripture in regard to divorce and that they be diligent in their teachings concerning the sanctity of the home.” (1930)

On Communism. “. . . this conference go[es] on record that it unites its voice with those who

condemn the Communist philosophy and practice, and urges our citizens to maintain a most strong stand against this philosophy, and resist in every way its inroads into our American life.” (1961)

On Minority Groups. “Whereas we recognize that God is no respecter of persons and that salvation is universally offered to all people; and Whereas the Gospel for all men has been committed to the Brethren Church, Be it resolved that our ministry shall be directed to reach all people without regard to race and color, and Be it further resolved that membership in the church not be restricted by reason of race or color.” (1964)

Concerning Violence. “. . . we as a church go on record, that we deplore all acts of violence, whether on the streets, on School and College Campuses or elsewhere and that we as a church take more positive action in working toward peaceful communities.” (1975)

From 1931—"That we deplore the un-Christian and degrading influence of all forms of worldly amusements, such as the movies and the dance, and that we urge every member of the Brethren Church to 'keep himself unspotted from the world.'"

From 1941—"We deplore the worldliness about us . . . immodest dress and conduct, dancing, theater attendance, card-playing, use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and narcotics and such things, and indifference to things Christian and spiritual. . . . We recommend that all Brethren churches be more insistent in their teaching on purity of life."

One of the more recent resolutions on morality was in 1959. That resolution says: "That we re-affirm and re-emphasize our stand on all moral issues; that as a separated, called-out group of Christian believers we urge all members to abstain from all appearance of evil." Note how general this resolution is, however, in comparison with earlier resolutions concerning the Christian's moral life. No specific "sins" are mentioned.

Membership goals

This year's Conference delegates and all Brethren should be saddened to learn that membership in the Brethren denomination has dropped below 16,000 members. It is interesting to note in this regard that over the years we have set various goals for increases in church membership.

In 1916, with a reported membership of 23,781, the Conference embraced the moderator's challenge to reach 30,000 by 1920. This became a part of the "Four-Year Program." Apparently this became a four-year fizzle, for the statistical report for 1920 showed a membership of 21,848—a loss of nearly 200 from 1916!

In 1950 the Goals Committee brought a recommendation that "every local Church, every District Conference and the General Conference shall cooperate with Spiritual zeal and devoted earnest activity in the promotion of a Program of Evangelism to the end that the Membership Roll of the Brethren Church shall exceed 25,000 members . . . in the year 1957." This figure was again not reached, with total membership in 1957 reported at 19,838.

In 1966 Central Council brought a recommendation that Conference adopt the slogan "25 by 75" (25,000 members by 1975). It goes without saying that we didn't make it! But it is, perhaps, instructive to see what happened to this goal.

In 1967 Central Council reported that the

promotion of this theme had been turned over to the Evangelism subcommittee of Central Council. This, then, seems to be the last mention of this theme in the Conference minutes. Is it any wonder the goal was not met?

Over the years there has been considerable discussion as to who should be counted as members when making statistical re-

"Conference resolutions give direction to the officers of Conference, to denominational ministries, and to local churches."

ports. Perhaps part of the reason for our decline in membership is the failure of some churches to report all members.

The action of the 1957 Conference should have clarified this matter:

"A. That it is the view of General Conference that there should be no publicly announced inferior categories of church memberships;

"B. That for local church management and spiritual endeavor there may be recognized such indicators as 'inactive' or 'reference' used privately by pastors and deacons;

"C. That for purposes of statistical reports and representation to General Conference, the total membership be reported—that is, all who have been received into the church and who have not died, transferred to another church, or been dismissed for cause after hearing."

The low state of our membership in 1977 should, perhaps, cause us to take seriously a resolution passed in 1945: "Since we by profession are evangelistic as a denomination, yet we for years have made no gains in membership to any degree, let us rethink our entire position as a church, find the causes of stagnation, eliminate them; then with much prayer and in the power of the Holy Spirit let us zealously move forward to 'possess the land' in the name of the Lord."

Requirements for church membership

A related subject is, What are the requirements for a person to become a member of the Brethren Church? One of the business items before this year's Conference is a memorial from a local Brethren congregation concerning this question. This memorial makes inquiry to the Conference

about accepting into membership those who have confessed Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, have been baptized by believer's immersion, and evidence a personal faith in their lives.

This is not a new issue by any means. The question came up as early as 1922. That year a report of the "Regularity Committee" was accepted which stated, "The mode of receiving members into the church is upon profession of faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, repentance, baptism by trine immersion and confirmation by the laying on of hands." The report went on to "strongly advise that any attempt to receive persons otherwise is irregular and that such persons who have been received into membership without having been baptized by trine immersion are **not** and cannot become members of the Brethren church until regularly received."

Most Brethren will remember that this question came before Conference again in 1969 as a memorial from the Central District Conference. That memorial asked

"The important question is, What will we **do** with the resolutions and recommendations we adopt this year?"

Conference to substitute baptism by "believer's immersion" for the earlier position of "trine immersion." After several years of intensive study, this question was presented to local churches for vote in 1974. The results, announced at the 1974 Conference, showed that slightly less than the two-thirds majority needed for passage favored the change, so the memorial was not passed.

Brethren and the Bible

One of the current debates among Evangelical Christians concerns the inspiration, authority, and inerrancy of Scripture. This was an issue in the Brethren Church in the years between 1910 and 1920. In 1914, in response to a memorial, Conference stated its position in this way: "Resolved, that this General Conference of Brethren churches reaffirms our position that the word of God, revealed in the Bible, is our only rule of faith and that we continue to reject all man-made creeds, and all declarations of faith aside from the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ."

In 1916 Conference expressed itself more

fully by passing this resolution: "That this conference of Brethren churches . . . desires to bear testimony to the belief that God's supreme revelation has been made through Jesus Christ, a complete and authentic record of which revelation is the New Testament, and to the belief that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given of God, are the infallible record of the perfect, final and authoritative revelation of God's will, altogether sufficient in themselves as a rule of faith and practice."

Forgotten resolutions

Sometimes resolutions are passed and then forgotten. Perhaps this is nowhere better demonstrated than in General Conference action on abortion. In 1971, Conference accepted as its own the official NAE stand on abortion. This stand says in part, "The National Association of Evangelicals therefore affirms its conviction that abortion on demand for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment or economic advantage is morally wrong, and expresses its firm opposition to any legislation designed to make abortion possible for these reasons."

Apparently delegates at last year's Conference forgot that this stand on abortion had been taken, for they adopted the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the Brethren Church go on public record opposing the taking of a life of one of God's children by indiscriminate abortion."

A final word

This article presents only a few of the resolutions and recommendations that the Brethren have passed during the past 88 General Conferences. There are hundreds more. We have said some very good things in the past.

What resolutions and recommendations will be passed this year? In a very short time we will know.

But the more important question is, What will we **do** with the resolutions and recommendations we adopt this year and with those already on the books. If we come to Conference, pass recommendations, adopt resolutions, and return home to continue on as we were before (as has often seemed to be the case), we fit the description of James in chapter one of his epistle. We come to Conference, look at ourselves in a mirror so to speak, and return home to forget what kind of church we really are. □

UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church
and the Evangelical Press Association

Churches build

N. Manchester Brethren break ground

North Manchester, Ind.—Ground was broken for a new fellowship hall and classroom building at the North Manchester Brethren Church on Sunday, May 8. More than 300 members and friends of the church were present for the ceremony held after the morning worship service.

When completed, the new addition will provide a fellowship hall capable of seating over 400 people, several new classrooms, a kitchen, office space for the pastor and the church secretary, restrooms, and storage space.

An ample narthex is also planned, which will provide an area for fellowship following services and space for hanging wraps. One of the classrooms will also serve as a library, and will contain a freestanding fireplace.

Plans include the remodeling of the present fellowship hall and kitchen. These will be converted into classrooms.

A single shovel walking plow was used for the ground breaking ceremony. Scripture was read by Tom Burch, chairman of the board of deacons, and Moderator Harold Baker presented the call to commitment to the congregation. Then mem-

bers of the congregation pulled together on a 50-foot rope attached to the plow as Pastor Woodrow Immel guided the plow. A 10-foot furrow was quickly overturned, symbolizing the achievement possible as God's people "pull together" when they "have a mind to work."

The new addition to the church building was made necessary by the growth of the North Manchester Brethren Church. Membership grew from 316 in 1962 to a peak of 490 ten years later. Recently, however, the growth pace has slackened due to space limitations, particularly limited classroom space. Seeing the need, the congregation began to explore the various possibilities for meeting this need. This new building is their answer.

Pastor Immel has said about the project: "The congregation is looking forward to the new facility with eagerness, and is backing it in a marvelous way." He adds, "We have seen many improvements and encouraging trends in the nearly sixteen years of service I have been privileged to share with these people. We have shared in joys, and in sorrows, in ups and downs; but now that we are committed to this undertaking, we are pleased to note that the weekly offerings designated for the building fund have been averaging over \$1,000 weekly. We praise the Lord for His guidance, care and blessing, as we share together to do His will."

Completion date for the new building is set for November 1.

Bits 'n Pieces

The **Flora, Ind., Brethren Church** had 123 children and adults enrolled in their VBS June 20-24. Average attendance was 99. The offering of \$50.17 will be used to build a bus ramp at the Brethren's Home in Flora.

The **Woman's Missionary Society** of the **Oak Hill, W. Va., Church** held their public service June 26. Cheryl Strawn presented the message on "Neighborhood Prayer Groups." Jean Fox reported on WMS activities and projects, and Amy Crouch presented special music.

The sanctuary of the **First Brethren Church of Gratis, Ohio**, was redecorated in June. The work was done by **Mr. Paul Witter**, who is 73 years old. Mr. Witter had also redecorated the Gratis church sanctuary on two previous occasions.

The **Mt. Olive Brethren Church** chose **Mrs. J. Gordon (Conjetta) Harmon** as its nominee for the national Senior Citizen of the Year award.

Senior citizens at Mt. Olive were honored with a carry-in dinner June 12.

Ground broken for new parsonage at Jones Mills, Pa.

Jones Mills, Pa.—On Sunday morning, June 26, the congregation of the Valley Brethren Church broke ground to begin the building of a new church parsonage. Seventy-five persons were in attendance for the service, held during the morning worship hour.

Members of the parsonage building committee and the pastor, Rev. Jerald Radcliff, participated in breaking the first shovelfuls of ground.

The new parsonage will be built next to the new church sanctuary and educational facility, just recently completed.

Miss LaVerne Keslar, corresponding secretary for the Valley Brethren Church wrote: "We praise the Lord and pray for God's guidance as we again launch out on faith in this new building program at Jones Mills. May it be to the glory of God and His service. We covet the prayers of the Brethren."

Rev. W. E. Thomas retires

Bunker Hill, Ind.—After 45 years in the gospel ministry, Rev. W. E. Thomas, pastor of the Loree Brethren Church, has announced his retirement.

A retirement open house in honor of Rev. Thomas and his wife, Anna, will be held at the Loree Brethren Church, Bunker Hill, Ind., on Sunday afternoon, August 28, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Rev. Thomas was licensed into the ministry in the Methodist Church in 1933. He has served as a full-time minister since that time.

In 1955 Rev. Thomas was ordained into the ministry in the Brethren Church, and he became pastor of the North Liberty Brethren Church. He served that congregation from 1955 until 1961. In 1961 he became pastor of the Loree Brethren Church, which he has served for the past 16 years.

In addition to his pastoral ministry, Rev. Thomas has been widely used in the Brethren Church in evangelistic services.

Mrs. Louise Kendall, correspondent for the Loree Brethren Church, comments concerning the Thomases: "We as a church will retain many fond memories of their years with us, and we wish them happiness in their retirement. We know he will continue to serve our wonderful Lord in whatever way he is able. We invite their friends from over the brotherhood to join with us in fellowship on the 28th."

After his retirement, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas will be moving to Bradenton, Fla.



Rev. & Mrs. W. E. Thomas

Concept Weekend changes noted

Ashland, Ohio—A slight change in the program for the Ashland College Alumni Concept Weekend has been made, according to Wanda Kerr, director of alumni and parent relations.

An ice cream social and band concert will be held on campus Saturday evening, August 20, and will be open to concept weekend participants and those who cannot be present for the entire weekend program.

A concert at the Blossom Music Center had originally been scheduled.

The weekend is the first in what is anticipated to become an annual event for alumni of the college. It is scheduled on campus August 19 to 21, following General Conference.

Calendar of Events

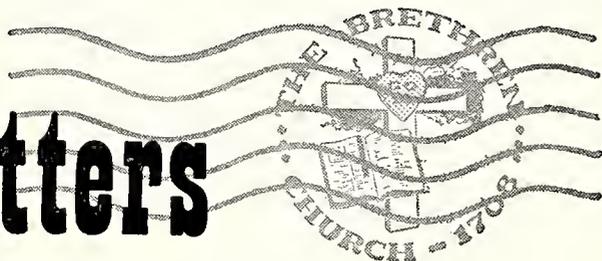
August 15-19—General Conference, Ashland, Ohio.

August 28-September 4—Revival services at Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church. Rev. James Black, evangelist.

Membership Growth

Gratis: 2 by baptism
Corinth: 2 by baptism
Loree: 10 by baptism
College Corner: 11 by baptism, 4 by letter
Brush Valley: 7 by baptism, 2 by letter
Sarasota: 4 by baptism, 1 by letter
Roanoke: 2 by baptism
County Line: 5 by baptism

Letters



Dear Ron,

I want you to know how much I appreciate the excellent article and the Christian spirit contained therein in the July issue of the Brethren Evangelist, welcoming us to Ashland College ("Let's Welcome New AC President Schultz," p. 21).

Your comments go right to the point and set the tone for the excellent relationship we hope to have with the Brethren Church. Thank you for writing this article and helping to get us started in the right direction and spirit. I am very much impressed with the monthly publication that you edit and appreciate being placed on the mailing list.

I am looking forward to a very close association with you.

—Arthur L. Schultz, President
Ashland College



The Carpenter's Shop hosts signing party

Ashland, Ohio—Mrs. Ella Jo Sadler was featured at an autograph party July 13 at the Carpenter's Shop.

Mrs. Sadler signed copies of her book, **Murder in the Afternoon**, recently released in paperback by Zondervan Publishing House.

The book describes the trials of a long recovery following an attempted murder.

About 40 people attended the two-hour party.

Mrs. Sadler signs a copy of her book at an autograph party at the Carpenter's Shop.

Wayne Heights youth praised by paper

Waynesboro, Pa.—The **Record Herald**, a local newspaper, carried an editorial praising the youth of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church on its editorial page on Wednesday, May 18, 1977. The editorial, written by Bill Curry, told of a car-wash held by the Wayne Heights Brethren Youth on Saturday, May 14.

Mr. Curry began his editorial by noting that one often hears older people criticizing young people, claiming that they are lazy and irresponsible.

He then said: "Any agreement I might have had with this point of view was dispelled last Saturday when I responded to a classified advertisement in the **Record Herald** and drove my car

out to a one-day vehicle laundry back of Hardee's in the Wayne Heights Shopping Center."

Mr. Curry went on to relate how he had found members of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church Youth Group industriously cleaning-up automobiles. He only needed to wait a few minutes until four young people began to wash his car. He noted that "In about 15 minutes it was cleaner than when I drove it out of the garage where I bought it."

In concluding his editorial, Mr. Curry said: "The Rev. Mr. Bates [pastor of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church] can be proud of this little group and the inspiring enthusiasm they demonstrated in their desire to help the church's missionary endeavors."

General Conference Annual

Conference annuals are being prepared and distributed by the Central Council office and will be sent individually. (Those receiving the General Conference Program book are on our mailing list.)

If you are not and need to receive a copy of the upcoming annual, return this form immediately and one will be mailed to you when they are completed. **Note: After September 15, a charge of 50¢ must be made. If we have to bill you, the cost will be 75¢.**

Name _____
 Street _____
 Route _____ Box _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send this form to: Central Council Office, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Weddings

Carrie Lane Birk to **Frank Daniel Hurd**, June 4, at Ardmore, Ind., First Brethren Church; Brian Moore, pastor, and Lowell Walsworth officiating. Bride member of Ardmore First Brethren Church.

Marcia Schaaf to **Brent Hollinger**, May 29, at Warsaw, Ind., First Brethren Church; Claude Stogsdill, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Warsaw First Brethren Church.

Jo Ellen Dyson to **Jerry Nelson**, May 21, at Roann, Ind., First Brethren Church; William H. Kerner, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Roann First Brethren Church.

Sharon Focht to **Robert Fellers**, May 14, at Gratis, Ohio, First Brethren Church; Gene Hollinger, pastor, officiating. Members of Gratis First Brethren Church.

Kimera Cox to **Tim Bell**, May 7, at North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church; Woodrow Immel, pastor, officiating. Bride member of North Manchester First Brethren Church.

Barb Griswold to **William Patterson**, April 23, at Warsaw, Ind., First Brethren Church; Claude Stogsdill, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Warsaw First Brethren Church.

Eldonna Clayton to **Randy Warren**, April 2, North Webster, Ind., Church of God. Groom member of North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Kathlyn Sue Springer to **David Dickerhoff**, April 2, at New Haven, Ind., Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Groom member of North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Janice Clyburn to **Rodney Morter**, March 18, at Fort Scott, Kan., Brethren Church; Buck D. Garrett, pastor, officiating.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Sollenberger, 50th, June 26. Members of the Brethren Church, New Lebanon, Ohio.

Mr. & Mrs. Don Leckey, 50th, June 21. Members of the Brethren Church, Vinco, Pa.

Mr. & Mrs. George A. Leidy, 54th, June 12. Members of the Brethren Church, Vinco, Pa.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Ford, 53rd, June 6. Members of the Brethren Church, Vinco, Pa.

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Louthain, 56th, May 28. Mrs. Louthain member of the Brethren Church, Corinth, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Myron Mackey, 50th, May 15. Members of First Brethren Church, Gratis, Ohio.

Mr. & Mrs. Vern Cummins, 50th, May 15. Members of the Brethren Church, Fort Scott, Kan.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Mishler, 50th, April 9. Members of First Brethren Church, North Manchester, Ind.

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Lockwood, 50th, March 6. Members of the Brethren Church, Fort Scott, Kan.

In Memory

Homer Haas, 72, July 5. Member and trustee of County Line, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Gerald Barr, pastor.

Clarence Taylor, 56, June 28. Friend of Warsaw, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Rev. Paul D. Tinkel.

Judson Kalp, 78, June 27. Member of Jones Mills, Pa., Valley Brethren Church. Services by Jerald D. Radcliff, pastor.

Elwood Workman, 93, June 23. Charter member of Georgetown, Del., Mt. Olivet Brethren Church. Services by William A. McDaniel, pastor.

Robert Freese, 47, June 23. Member and trustee chairman of Bryan, Ohio, First Brethren Church. Services by Marlin L. McCann, pastor.

Mrs. Ellen Morford, June 21. Member of North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Woodrow Immel, pastor.

Ralph Wise, 79, June 18. Member for 51 years of Elkhart, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Dale P. Ru Lon, pastor.

Mrs. Wilma Kaufman, 42, June 16. Member of Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Alvin Grumbling, pastor.

Mrs. Lottie Kemper, 86, June 8. Member of Morrill, Kan., First Brethren Church. Services by Dave Manning, pastor.

Blanche Ailer, 75, June 5. Member of Tiosa, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by John Shultz, pastor.

Tillie Bowser, 84, May 30. Member and deaconess of Brush Valley, Pa., Brethren Church. Services by Thomas Kidder, pastor.

Cecil T. Morrow, 79, May 22. Member and deacon of Corinth, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Fred Snyder, pastor, and Rev. G. Bright Hanna.

Galen Walters, 81, May 21. Member of Brighton, Ind., Brighton Chapel Brethren Church. Services by John Long, pastor.

Mrs. Audra Phillips Tilman, 92, May 6. Member of North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Woodrow Immel, pastor, and William Visser.

Louisa E. Souers, 77, April 30. Member of Vandergrift, Pa., Pleasant View Brethren Church. Services by William D. Walk, pastor.

Richard Hesketh, 30, April 30. Member of Pleasant View Brethren Church. Services by William D. Walk, pastor.

Fred W. Brant, 91, March 29. Faithful member of Berlin, Pa., Brethren Church and long-time member of the Pennsylvania District Mission Board. Mr. Brant was given the title, "Mr. Brotherhood," for his work with Boys' Brotherhood in the denomination. Services by Ralph E. Mills, pastor.

Frank Pyle, 77, March 18. Member of Jones Mills, Pa., Valley Brethren Church. Services by Jerald D. Radcliff, pastor.

Evangelist postage rates hiked 27 percent

Ashland, Ohio—Postage costs for the Brethren Evangelist went up 27 percent in July as a result of an increase in second class postage rates. Third class bulk rates also were raised, by 5 percent.

The Brethren Evangelist is mailed monthly at the special second class rate for non-profit publications. Third class bulk mailing is used for the Missionary Board's "Insight," BYC's "Morning Star," and many local church newsletters.

Brethren Evangelist Managing Editor Ron Waters commented, "We were thankful our increase was only 27 percent. The federal government had been asked to consider an even larger increase. Fortunately, the additional increase was rejected.

But John Rowsey, executive director of the Brethren Publishing Company, noted, "Drastic increases, like the postal hike and paper and labor costs, could seriously impair the future of non-profit publications like the Brethren Evangelist. Unfortunately, subscription price increases will have to be considered."

He added, "An increased Publications Offering in September would help alleviate the extra burden on an already tight Evangelist budget, since all income from the offering is used to subsidize the magazine."

Homosexual lifestyle study added to San Francisco curriculum

San Francisco (EP News)—San Francisco's school board has approved a resolution which includes in the education curriculum the study of homosexual lifestyles.

The resolution provides that an advisory committee be established to review and recommend revisions in the 1968 guide on family life and health education and to develop materials to reflect homosexual lifestyles and respect for human diversities and complexities.

Peter Mezey, a school board member who introduced the resolution, said the measure was aimed at "eliminating stereotypes and name-calling in schools."

EPA elects first woman president

Springfield, Mo. (EP News)—Members of the Evangelical Press Association, meeting in their 29th annual convention May 9-11, elected Eleanor Burr as the association's first woman president.

Mrs. Burr is editor of Oriental Mission Society Outreach in Greenwood, Indiana. She replaces Richard G. Champion, editor of the Pentecostal Evangel, as president of the EPA.

The Brethren Evangelist is a member publication of the Evangelical Press Association.

Robert Payne, Jr., ordained at Garber

Ashland, Ohio—Robert M. Payne, Jr., was ordained into the gospel ministry of the Brethren Church at the Garber Memorial Brethren Church on Sunday afternoon, June 12.

Elder Charles Munson presented the ordination message at the service. Elders Smith Rose, Jerry Flora, and Joseph Shultz also participated in the service of ordination.

Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Payne, Sr. He was born in South Charleston, West Virginia, on October 28, 1951. He attended public school in Nitro, West Virginia, and graduated from high school in 1969. He attended Morris Harvey College in Charleston, West Virginia, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and philosophy in May of 1973.

Robert made a commitment to Jesus Christ at the age of 12 and was actively involved in the Evangelical United Brethren Church. During his early college years he realized that God was calling him into full-time Christian service.

On September 24, 1971, Robert married Connie Inman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Inman of St. Albans, West Virginia.

Robert attended Ashland Theological Seminary, graduating this past June. He received a Master of Divinity degree with a major in pastoral



Staff Photo

Garber Brethren Church Moderator Jack Dovey (right) presented Rev. and Mrs. Payne with a gift from the church following his ordination.

counseling and psychology. During his last two years at the seminary, Robert served as student-pastor of the Garber Brethren Church.

On July 8 Rev. Payne and his wife moved to Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, where he is now serving as pastor of the Main Street Brethren Church.



Woodfield Terrace new name for retirement community

Brethren Care of Ohio is planning a community that will offer carefree retirement living.

Woodfield Terrace has been selected as the name for the 120-apartment retirement expansion of Brethren Care, Inc., of Ashland, Ohio.

The new retirement community will be constructed adjacent to the Brethren Care nursing care complex on Center Street.

Finishing touches have been put on a \$120,000, four-unit model built behind the present nursing care unit. All four model apartments have been occupied but will be open for viewing by appointment.

Nearly 400 attended a community-wide open house July 23 and 24. Over 100 requested more information, according to Dorman Ronk, executive secretary of the Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church.

When completed, Woodfield Terrace will include 120 retirement apartments designed for independent living. One-bedroom, two-bedroom, and efficiency apartments will be available in the \$5 million full-service retirement community.

The facility will provide residents with at least one meal daily, utilities, and maintenance, plus the security of living in a caring community. Health care facilities will be available as needed.

Support areas within the Woodfield Terrace complex are to include a chapel, dining rooms, recreation area, beauty shop, library, lounges, and carpools.

The location of the center suggested the new name. The area, in south Ashland, includes open fields, woods, and natural terraced areas—a perfect setting for the carefree living the center will offer.

Lenny Seaman, administrator of Brethren Care, reports that inquiries for the new apartments began last winter following a market survey. Results of the study confirmed the need for retirement housing in this area.

General Conference delegates and guests are especially invited to visit the models while in Ashland. Special open house hours will be announced throughout the week, or appointments for private showings may be made through Dorman Ronk.

Mr. Ronk, who is serving as retirement counselor for the complex, has asked that names of prospective residents (anyone over age 60) be sent to him.

He would also welcome any inquiries. Requests may be sent to him in care of the Benevolent Board, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805. He may also be reached by phone at (419) 289-2202 or 289-1585.



A Good Age

A Good Age by Dr. Alex Comfort (Crown Publishers, 1976, 218 pp., \$9.95 hardback).

Dr. Alex Comfort is a leading gerontologist who has been studying and researching the aging process for 25 years. He says, "The urgent need is for 'old' people to learn to fight back against hogwash, classification, put-downs and rip-offs which, by virtue of the passage of time alone, society writes into the roles of people who could still be young."

The format of the book is an introductory section and then topics in alphabetical order dealing with elderly problems. Some of the subjects included are: Brain, Day Centers, Fear, Hobbies, Leisure, Memory, Poverty, Retirement, Sex, Wrinkles, and the Prudent Diet at the conclusion of the book.

A Good Age examines leisure options, retirement problems, health, sexual activity, bereavement, and other questions of profound significance for those who wish to stay youthful with age. Dr. Comfort describes with clarity, honesty, and precision what really happens when we grow old, and how we can liberate ourselves from the trivialities, mis-

conceptions, and penalties with which older people are afflicted.

An added feature of the book is Michael Leonard's portraits of older people who do retain a vigor, vitality, and sense of fun.

—Beverly Summy

Elderly population up; under-5's down

Washington, D.C. (EP News)—The number of persons 65 years and older has increased markedly since 1970, while the number of children under five years of age has decreased markedly during the same period, according to new estimates reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

During the period, the number of older persons increased from 19,972,330 to 22,936,000, a gain of 2,963,670, or 14.8 percent. The number of children under five dropped from 17,162,866 to 15,338,000, or 10.6 percent.

The largest increases in the number of older persons (65 and over) were reported in the South (22.1 percent, from 6,013,590 in 1970 to 7,344,000 in 1976) and the West (20.5 percent, from 3,080,447 to 3,710,000 in the six-year period).

In the Northeast, the increase was 9.14 percent (from 5,175,626 to 5,659,000), and in the North Central region it was 9.16 percent (from 5,702,667 to 6,223,000).

update

AC prepares for winter

Ashland, Ohio—Ashland College is launching a \$100,000 Energy Conversion Campaign to ease the energy problems such as those created last winter when record-low temperatures produced an energy crisis throughout the State.

The goal of the campaign is to provide flexible use of alternate and supplemental energy sources for academic and program facilities. Funding of the campaign will enable the college to alternate energy supplies during periods of high use by residential and business customers in the Ashland area.

Thus far leadership gifts and pledges for the Campaign, which is part of the overall Centennial AC'cent Campaign, total nearly \$20,000 in contributions from members of the AC Board of Trustees and several other individuals. Funding should be completed by October 1, 1977, so that the conversion process can be completed for the 1977-78 winter.

In addition to plans for using alternate energy, Ashland College has also sought to adjust its academic calendar to energy conservation. By starting classes earlier in the fall and by shortening its spring vacation, the college has been able to provide a six-week, mid-year break in the coldest part of the winter.

Billy Melvin asks Christians to write their Congressman

Ashland, Ohio—NAE Executive Director Billy Melvin is urging Christians to write their congressman concerning a bill before the House of Representatives.

Labeled HR-41, the bill "would require financial disclosure by all organizations soliciting charitable contributions by mail," according to Melvin.

Regarding the bill, Central Council Executive Secretary Smith Rose commented, "This bill has a good motive relating to exposing and stopping abuses by those seeking charitable contributions, but it would include all such organizations, including churches."

Melvin noted in a recent letter to church leaders that "churches would be subject to all the requirements of the bill, including disclosure of internal financial information, standardized accounting procedures, and potential audit by the Postal Service."

He continued, "It imposes restrictions on those engaged in charitable solicitations based upon tacit implications that those engaged in such solicitations could be engaged in fraudulent practices."

Rev. Rose has asked pastors to read and respond to the recent NAE mailing concerning the bill.

More than a Carpenter

More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell (Tyndale, 1977, 128 pp., \$1.95 paper).

Josh McDowell begins his book with the question, "What makes Jesus so different?" What makes Jesus different from other men, or from other religious leaders like Buddha, Mohammed, and Confucius. McDowell answers: Jesus claimed to be God. The remainder of this book is a hard-headed defense of this claim.

McDowell begins by examining Jesus' own claims to divinity and the consequences of denying this claim. He concludes that we must either accept Jesus' claim, or else consider Him a lunatic or a liar.

Since the New Testament provides the primary historical source for information about Christ, McDowell also examines its reliability. He convincingly argues that there is more evidence for the reliability of the New Testament than for any other piece of classical literature.

The changed lives of the eleven disciples and of the Apostle Paul provide further evidence of the validity of Jesus' claim, says McDowell. The only logical explanation for the change in their lives is that they saw the resurrected Christ. His resurrection proved His claim to be the Son of God.

In his final chapter the author tells of his own life and the change Christ has made in him.

This book is not light reading, but it is logically and clearly written. I would recommend it for college students and other mature readers, particularly those who find their faith challenged or who are skeptical about Christianity and want to examine seriously the claims of Christ.

—Richard Winfield

Racing toward Judgment

Racing Toward Judgment by David Wilkerson (Spire Books, 1976, 160 pp., \$1.50 paper).

Based on his intensive study of the Scriptures, David Wilkerson has concluded that the United States is on the brink of terrible judgment. He sees the present situation of the United States as paralleling the condition of nations throughout the Bible to which God's prophets promised judgment.

Wilkerson believes that the Bible and history reveal that there are definite causes that precipitate divine judgment. "In other words, when a nation repeats the mistake of past generations, it is judged at the same points for the same causes." He refers to these as "flash points of judgment," and maintains that America has reached every flash point which brought destruction to past societies. He lists six of these flash points, among

them the porno plague, violence, and the astronauts landing on the moon.

On this basis (that America has reached these flash points), Wilkerson is convinced that God is going to judge America soon with three instruments of destruction: killer earthquakes, severe droughts, and bankruptcies resulting in economic chaos.

Wilkerson's message is not all negative. He believes that God has prepared a way for true believers to endure and survive the coming judgments. But they must get ready, and Wilkerson includes three chapters telling how Christians can prepare their hearts, minds, lives, and personal affairs for this coming judgment.

In spite of his predictions of impending judgment, Wilkerson says that this is a great time to be alive—for Christians. Why? "Because the beginning of sorrows for the wicked is the beginning of final deliverance for the righteous." Wilkerson claims that this is the last day. And the last day here means the beginning of eternity with Christ for the believer.

—Richard Winfield

Richard Winfield is editorial assistant for the Brethren Evangelist.

The Total Man

The Total Man by Dan Benson (Tyndale, 1977, 272 pp., \$3.95 paperback).

I expected **The Total Man** to be another paltry attempt to copy the recent guidebooks for women. It was not.

Benson wrote the book with a vision that men—both single and married—become truly fulfilled. He explains that men will be fulfilled when they are totally liberated, which he defines as "the resolute, unabashed freedom **from** society's false standards of masculinity, **to** a more relaxed, confident manhood."

In the first half of the book, he gives a biblical view of successful manhood, not in churchy terms, but in a way that would communicate favorably with the Christian and non-Christian.

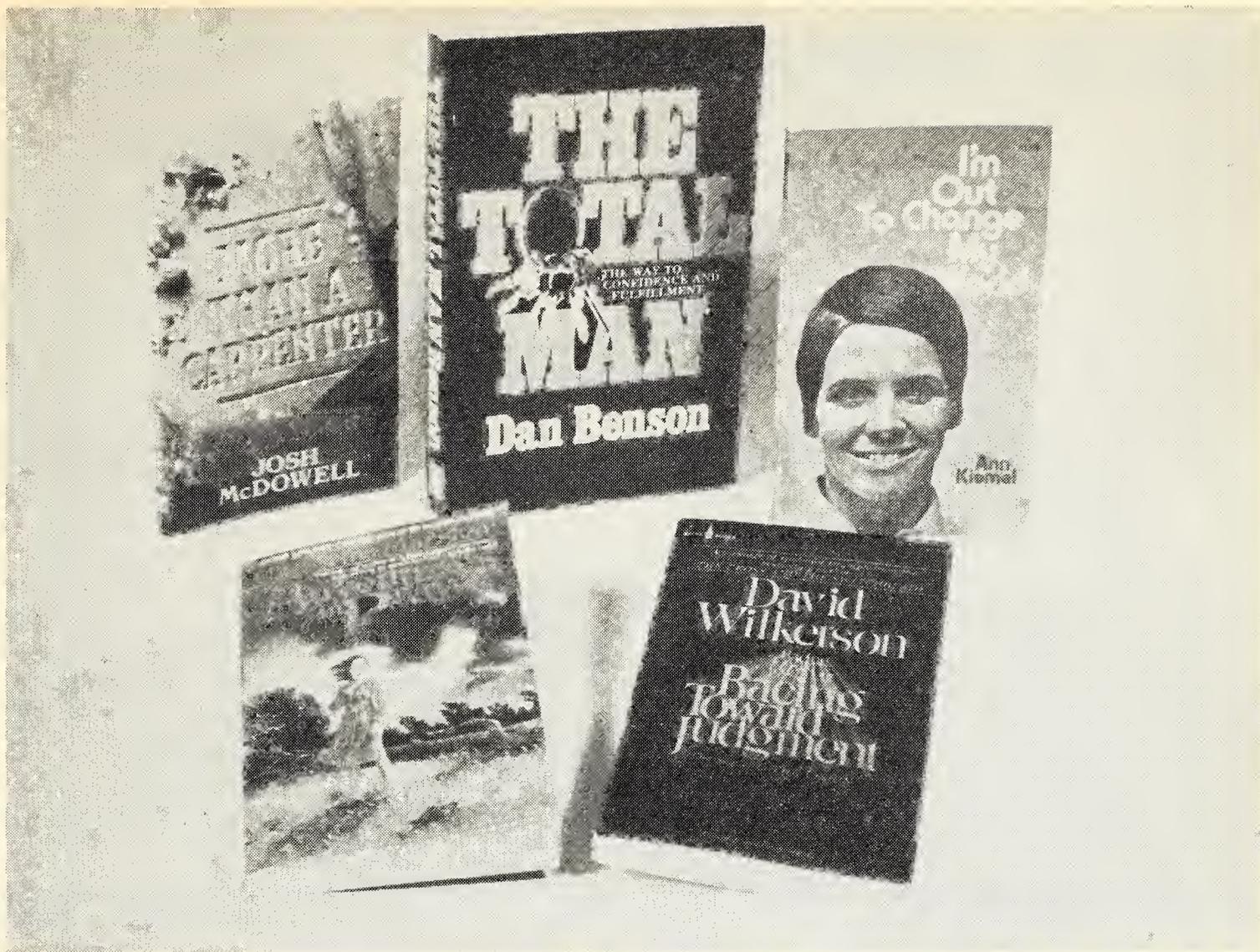
His chapters on redefining success and on the keys to effective use of time are especially excellent. And his "Ultimate New Year's Resolution List" and subsequent chapters contain one of the best presentations of the Christian faith for a contemporary man I have seen.

The second section, dealing with a man's family life, is equally sensitive and practical.

I recommend the book for all men, especially those 18 to 50, who are really interested in being all God meant them to be, both at home and at work.

—Ronald W. Waters

Ron Waters is managing editor of the Brethren Evangelist.



Adventures in Prayer

Adventures in Prayer by Catherine Marshall (Spire Books, 1976, 119 pp., \$1.75 paperback).

In her opening chapter, Catherine Marshall introduces her readers to the meaning of prayer. Then the rest of the book contains short chapters on types of prayer.

Chapters included are "the Prayer of Helplessness," "the Waiting Prayer," "the Prayer of Relinquishment," "the Prayer in Secret," "the Prayer of Joyous Blessing," "the Claiming Prayer," and "the Prayer that Helps Your Dreams Come True." Each chapter closes with a prayer written by the author to illustrate the contents of the chapter and to start the reader thinking on his own.

This is a little book, and one which is easily read. But it is full of thought provokers for each of us as we examine our own prayer lives.

It sold over 150,000 copies in hardback when originally published in 1975. Now that it is available in paperback, I'm sure it will continue to find many new readers at the paperback price.

—John Rowsey

John Rowsey is executive director of the Brethren Publishing Company.

Changing the World

I'm Out to Change My World by Ann Kiemel (Impact Books, 1974, 119 pp., \$1.75 paperback).

Ann Kiemel calls herself an ordinary girl with an extraordinary God. But there is really nothing ordinary about Ann. She has a deep faith, a zeal for Christ, and a love for people that could put us all to shame.

Ann, with her simple, child-like manner, shares her Christ with anyone who comes into her world, including cab drivers, gas station attendants, people who sit beside her on airplanes, and her neighbors.

Can anyone have a youth group grow from 85 to 400? Can anyone get somebody as famous as Pat Boone to talk in her town for free? Can anyone actually change her world a little each day? Ann can—with her buoyant, infectious faith, and her extraordinary God.

You'll find your eyes getting misty as you read of the events and happenings in the life of Ann Kiemel.

—Beth Barber

Beth Barber is in charge of Sunday School curriculum distribution for the Brethren Publishing Company.

Absorbing New Members

Is your congregation prepared to accept new Christians into its membership?

Every year our Brethren churches report a large number of membership losses by "reversion". Reversion loss refers to people who have accepted Christ and joined the local congregation, but who, over a period of months or years, have become inactive.

We need to take a discerning look at these reversion losses. Who are these people? What factors lead to their reversion? Studies might indicate that many of these reversions are people who never really became incorporated into the fellowship circles and ministry centers of the local body.

Evangelism is "proclaiming Jesus Christ as God and Savior, persuading people to become His disciples and responsible members of the local church." Five key components make up this definition.

1) **Presence**—we have to be present with non-Christians. We must get out of our Christian ghetto, mix with society, and build friendships with non-Christian people. But mere presence is not sufficient.

2) There must also be **proclamation**, the sharing of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. Many methods, both formal and informal, are available for sharing the gospel.

3) **Persuasion** is important. We share the message, not just for the sake of sharing, but in order to persuade people to accept Jesus Christ.

4) Those who respond must become **disciples**. They begin to live the Christian life, share their faith, and grow in the Christian graces and disciplines.

5) **Incorporation** means that the new Christian becomes a responsible, functioning, ministering member of the local congregation. The process of evangelism is not completed until incorporation takes place. The local church is not only the agent of evangelism, but also the goal of evangelism. The goal is to make sure that the new Christians are assimilated into the local body of Christ.

How does incorporation take place? In many ways, I'm sure, but let me suggest two important ways: personal relationships and group relationships.

Incorporation happens as new Christians build personal relationships with existing members of the church. If Christians are actively building relationships with non-Christians, these relationships will naturally become stronger when the non-Christians accept Christ. Existing members must make a conscious and deliberate effort to build relationships with new Christians.

In one church the pastor has trained several couples to handle much of the pre-marital counseling. As the engaged couple meets with the trained couple, they get to see a Christian marriage in action. But they also get to know the church couple as friends. When the engaged couple gets married, a very high percentage of them become active in the church.

Several people could make a ministry of inviting worship-service visitors to their homes for Sunday dinner. Personal relationships are often built around the dinner table.

Another key to incorporation is group relationships. Every congregation is composed of a variety of sub-groups—Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, auxiliary groups, age groups, fellowship groups, task oriented groups, and support groups. If a new member does not become meaningfully involved in a sub-group, the likelihood of his future reversion increases.

These subgroups need to function as both "attractors" and "absorbers." They should be doorways into the church. They should also be instruments for involving the new member in meaningful witness, fellowship, and ministry. Sadly, many of these sub-groups become closed societies, and a new member gets in only if he is aggressively persistent.

Many times the pastor is the only "door" through which new Christians enter the church. The pastor is the one who visits them in their homes, gets to know their family, witnesses to them, follows up, prepares them for baptism, baptizes them, and teaches their new members class. He spends a lot of time with them, but then he begins to repeat the process with someone else. The result is that the new members see him less and less. If he is their only personal contact with the church, they will often begin to fall by the wayside.

How much better if the new visitors, new converts, and new members were building a relationship at the same time with other individuals and groups within the church. The pastor, in his role as an equipper of the saints for ministry (Ephesians 4:11, 12), needs to train people to be involved in witnessing, discipling, and caring activities which help build relationships between existing members and new members. Church members must be eager to be equipped and involved in the kind of ministry which will result in new Christians becoming meaningfully incorporated into the local church. Such a church will be prepared to accept new Christians.

auxiliary programs for september

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sisterhood

General Secretary's Notes

Growing in the Spirit

Dear Sisters,

"And the child grew and became strong in spirit. . ." (Luke 1:80). This verse caught my eye today, and it made me want to insert one little word—"the." **The Spirit.** We all continue to grow physically and emotionally, but growing in **the Spirit** is not so simple. Think back over your spiritual life since one year ago. If you attended 1976 Conference, it may have been a highlight or a turning point for you. What has happened in your relationship with the Lord since last August? If you can't remember anything, maybe that's just what occurred—nothing.

I have seen a lot of changes in my spiritual life. I have grown closer to the Lord this year, mainly through my personal prayer time and devotions with Him. I still would like to feel closer to Him, but I don't worry myself over that. I am growing and continually becoming stronger in the Spirit, as Luke describes young John.

Have you grown this year? Or are you withering away? Or has it been so variable that you're not sure which way you're going? I hope that most of your year has been upward. If not, maybe Conference will revive you. And I hope it will **keep** you alive, not just elevate you to a mountain-top from which you will soon descend. Work at growing in the Spirit after Conference-time.

I am anxious to see many of you at our Conference meetings. Your church should have received schedules by this time, but to remind you, the SMM meetings will be 1:30-2:30, Tuesday through Friday. I would like to encourage you girls who are not official Sisterhood members to join us for our programs.

I've heard some girls say that they don't like Sisterhood, so they don't come. But this year's Tuesday and Thursday programs are great programs, planned for the entire hour. The topics are missions and Christian dating, both of which should interest you as a Christian young woman. You are also welcome to attend the other two meetings, which are geared more to Sisterhood activities.

You SMM girls are expected to attend all four days. I'm excited about our meetings. (We should be able to give everyone a chair this year, because we've asked for a larger room.) Delegates will need to present their credentials to the SMM

registration preceding the meeting in order to vote.

Your groups should plan on buying the reading books and other materials during Conference week. They will be sold in the Convocation display area Wednesday through Friday. Check the program or the display table for the hours. At that time you will also be purchasing a booklet containing all the coming year's devotional programs, written by Mrs. Donald Rowser, the pastor's wife at the New Lebanon, Ohio, Brethren Church. Each group will be entitled to two program packets at a minimal cost, and may purchase more if they want to. Groups requesting them after Conference will pay a higher cost (under two dollars) to cover postage.

These programs are designed to be used at your monthly meetings. They will no longer be printed in the Evangelist. We are hoping that you will be able to more easily keep track of where the appropriate program is in this way and use it more effectively. You may want the patroness to keep a copy of the programs, and pass the second copy to the various leaders.

The monthly general secretary's letter will be coming directly to the contact person in your group instead of being in this magazine. Her letters should be read by all members.

The reason for this change is because of our cost to the Brethren Publishing Company for the pages we've used. The donation we give them is not nearly enough to cover our usage, and the Evangelist does not reach all of you. The board felt that it was just not practical to continue using that method. This new format will reach every known society directly and will be a much more reasonable cost for our organization. I hope this method is acceptable to you. We would like to hear from you concerning it.

This is my last general secretary's letter to you, since I will be leaving the office after Conference. I have appreciated the opportunity to help God's church through Sisterhood and have been encouraged by you girls. Thank you for communicating with me throughout these two years. I pray that my successor will have as good an experience as I have had. May God bless you.

In His service,
Nancy Ronk

signal lights

written by
Alberta Holsinger

Missionaries of the Bible

Noah and His Neighbors



Photos courtesy Sun Classic Pictures

God commanded Noah to take two of every kind of animal into the Ark.

Long ago, when God looked at the earth He had created, He was very sad.

Oh, the earth itself was a good and beautiful place. It was the people living on the earth that made God sad. They would lie and cheat and steal and murder and do all kinds of wicked things.

"I am sorry I made people for the earth," said God. "They are all evil, and I will destroy them—all but Noah.

"Noah has not forgotten Me. He prays to Me and tries to obey Me. He has taught his three sons about Me. Yes, I will save Noah and his family when I destroy the earth."

One day God spoke to Noah. "Noah, I see how wicked the people are. I have decided to destroy them. I will flood the whole earth. You and your family only will I save.

"Make a large boat. Make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Put a window at the top and a door at the side. Divide the boat into three decks. Have your sons help you and begin building it now."

For years and years Noah and his sons worked building the boat, which they called an ark. They cut the trees and sawed the lumber and made the nails. They built the frame exactly as God had said—450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

"What are you doing, Noah?" asked one of his neighbors.

"Building a boat," answered Noah.

"A boat!" said the neighbor. "There's no place around here to sail a boat!"

"God told me to build this ark," replied Noah.

Readiness Activities

Readiness activities are designed to prepare pupils for learning. Beginning with this month's program Mrs. Holsinger is providing suggested activities. Use them to involve early arrivers or as the first part of your Signal Lights meeting.

If an idea is not suited to your situation, use the suggestions as a starting point for developing your own activities.

Parents will find the readiness activities and the Signal Lights stories offer an excellent opportunity to provide Bible teaching in the home, too.

1. Have a roll of paper (such as shelf paper) and crayons for the children who want to draw large pictures of animals. Encourage them to think of the many different kinds—wild animals, farm animals, birds, insects. Use this "parade" of animals later in telling the Bible story.

2. Some of the children may make Bible people using clothespins, chenille wires (for arms), and scraps of cloth. Have a bulletin-board display of Bible people for the children to refer to in dressing their clothespins. Use these "people" also in telling your story.

"He's going to send a flood to destroy all the wicked people on earth."

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" laughed the neighbor. "That's a good story!"

"It's true," said Noah. "Tell God you're sorry, and he'll save you, too."

"Noah, you're crazy," said the man, "and so are your three sons."

Soon everyone around heard of silly Noah and his three sons building a huge boat miles and miles away from any water. Every day people came to watch and to laugh and to joke about the ark.

Every day Noah talked to them. "God doesn't want to destroy you. He will save you if you will stop being wicked and obey Him."

But the people only laughed at Noah and continued to lie and to cheat and to steal and to murder and to do all kinds of wicked things.

One day God said, "The time has come, Noah. Take two of every kind of animal and bird and insect into the ark. Take your wife and your sons and their wives and go into the ark."

One last time Noah talked to the people. "Believe God. He is going to send the flood. Tell Him you are sorry before it is too late."

The people laughed. They laughed as they watched the parade of animals go into the ark. They laughed when Noah's sons and their wives



Noah and his family worked hard to build the huge Ark. While they worked, the people made fun of them.

went into the ark. Noah heard them laughing as he and his wife went into the ark.

Then God closed the door and He sent the flood to wash away all the evil and wickedness on the earth. Noah and his family were safe in the ark.

—Based on Genesis 6 and 7; II Peter 2:5

Memory Scripture: God saved Noah, a preacher of righteousness. II Peter 2:5

Home Missions Story

A Missionary Uncle

Susan and Jean were walking home from school. "Saturday we're going to visit my uncle," said Susan. "He's a missionary."

Jean looked at her friend in amazement. "A missionary!" she said. "And you're going to visit him?"

"Sure," replied Susan. "We usually go one weekend in the fall and again in the spring."

"You're kidding me," said Jean.

"No, I'm not," answered Susan. "There's my brother Dan. He'll tell you it's true."

"Wait up, Dan," yelled Susan.

Both girls ran to catch up with Dan.

"Dan, aren't we going to see Uncle Dick?" asked Susan.

"Saturday morning bright and early we leave," said Dan.

"Is your Uncle Dick a missionary?" asked Jean.

Dan nodded.

"Where does he live?" Jean wanted to know. "In India or Africa?"

Susan and Dan laughed.

"No," said Dan.

"He lives in Virginia," said Susan.

"I knew you were kidding me," said Jean. "Your Uncle isn't a missionary."

"Wait a minute!" said Dan. "Do you think all missionaries go to other countries?"

"Don't they?" asked Jean.

"No," Dan answered. "There are many missionaries working here in the United States."

"Why do we need missionaries?" asked Jean.

"Many people have never heard of Jesus," replied Susan. "Our church sends pastors to areas where we don't have a congregation. They tell people about Jesus. They begin a new church. That's a home mission church."

"Oh," said Jean. "Then Uncle Dick is a pastor of a home mission church. So he's a missionary."

"Right," said Dan. "When he comes to visit us, I'll invite you over."

"Don't forget," said Jean. "Here's my house. See you tomorrow."

She went into the house. Susan and Dan ran home.

This year in Signal Lights you will be hearing stories about boys and girls in some of our home mission churches. Our Signal Lights project offering will be used to help these mission churches. Begin saving your money now so you can help the mission pastors tell more boys and girls about Jesus.

It's Time for Positive Action

IT was sheer joy for me to read Dick Winfield's article (on resolutions of the General Conference this century—see page 9). His research through dozens of dusty annuals was extensive. He could have written much more.

Our inspiration for this assignment resulted from a meeting with new AC President Arthur Schultz. When he asked about the Brethren Church's stated positions on certain moral issues, we had to reply that Conference statements have been vague at best, and non-existent or forgotten at worst.

Dick found grandiose resolutions that either contained no means for implementation or were assigned to a committee for study (an easy way to thwart significant action). Some resolutions were passed and promptly forgotten or ignored. And some General Conferences were strikingly devoid of significant action . . . apart from hearing reports and electing officers.

As the editorial staff of our denomination's magazine, we feel it is imperative for Conference to take positive action when it meets. But resolutions must be carefully framed if they are to have any effect.

First, resolutions on Brethren Church concerns and needs should: 1) clearly define the problem, and state the desired solution; 2) contain biblical justification, when appropriate; 3) assign someone the responsibility for solving the problem; and 4) require accountability for completing the task (through a proposed timetable or a reporting date).

Second, resolutions on societal, spiritual, and moral issues must be more than general, pious statements of opposition. They must state clearly where we stand as a church at this point in time. They should include: 1) a statement of our position; 2) biblical justification for that position; and 3) specific steps to be taken by General Confer-

ence and/or local churches to bring about a positive solution.

Of course, we Brethren have always been hesitant of establishing a creed or statement of faith . . . and we do want to avoid any tendency toward legalism, in its worst sense.

That has not been our error in recent years. Rather, we have not given our people a firm place to stand. As a church in the modern world, we must define how we may be "in the world, but not of the world."

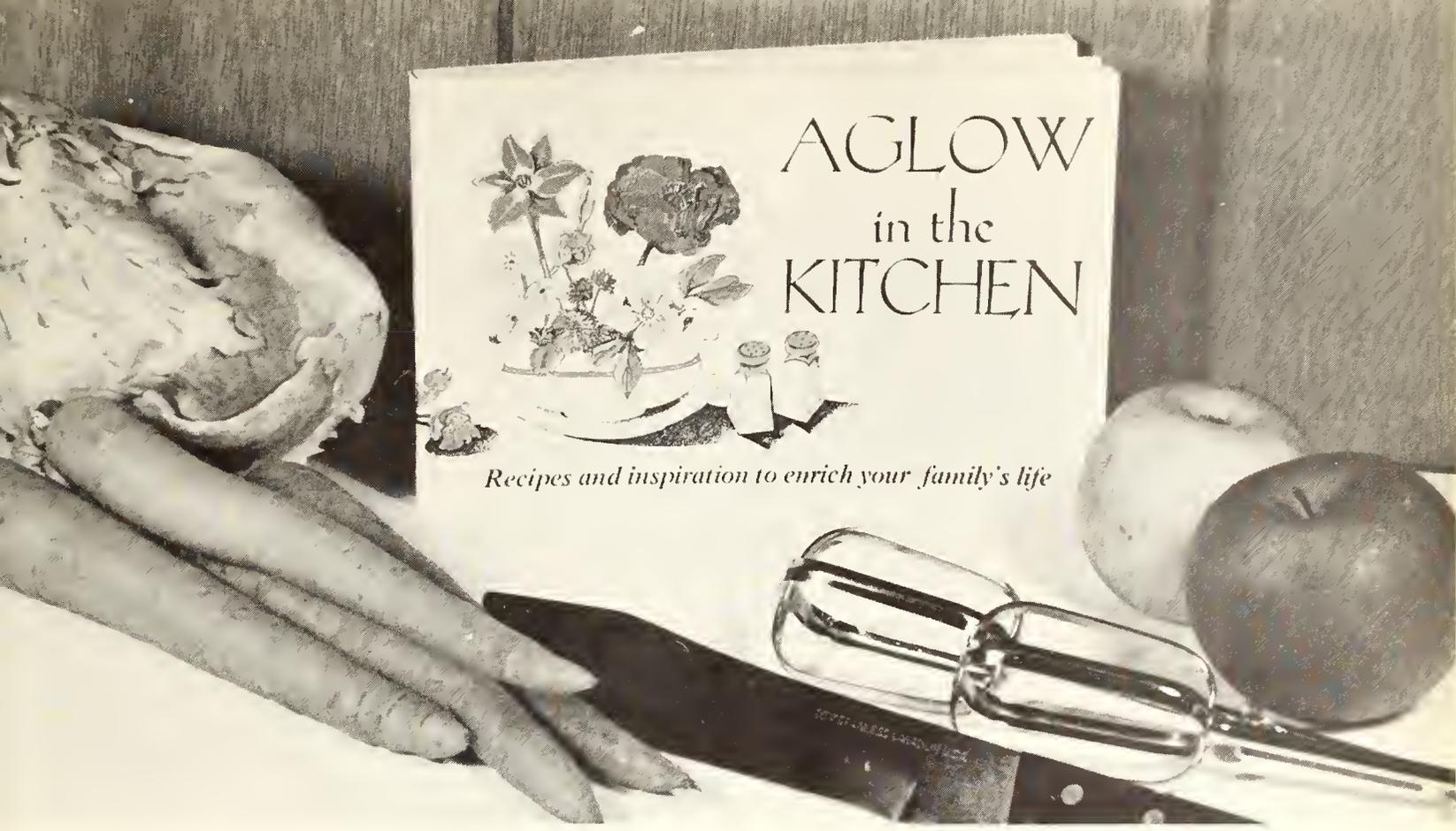
And, of course, Brethren since the early 1700's have sought to be open to new light at a future date. We don't necessarily need positions set in cement; but we do need a platform upon which to stand, grounded in God's Word.

WE have several significant issues facing us this General Conference: a memorial from a Brethren congregation, making inquiry about requirements for church membership; a proposal from the Polity Committee on church organization; and recommendations from Moderator McCann on the structure of the General Conference Executive Committee and the Spiritual State of the Churches Committee.

Other issues we feel this Conference should consider are: the growth of pornography and moral decadence in our communities and our response; the issue of reserving a minute each day for silent meditation in public school classrooms; where we stand today on the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; and positive steps Brethren churches might take in dealing with differences over the charismatic movement.

If we are going to gather 500 delegates from across the United States to conduct business, we must take significant, long-lasting action. □

Ron Waters asks, "Will this year's Conference resolutions make a significant difference for Christ and His Church?"



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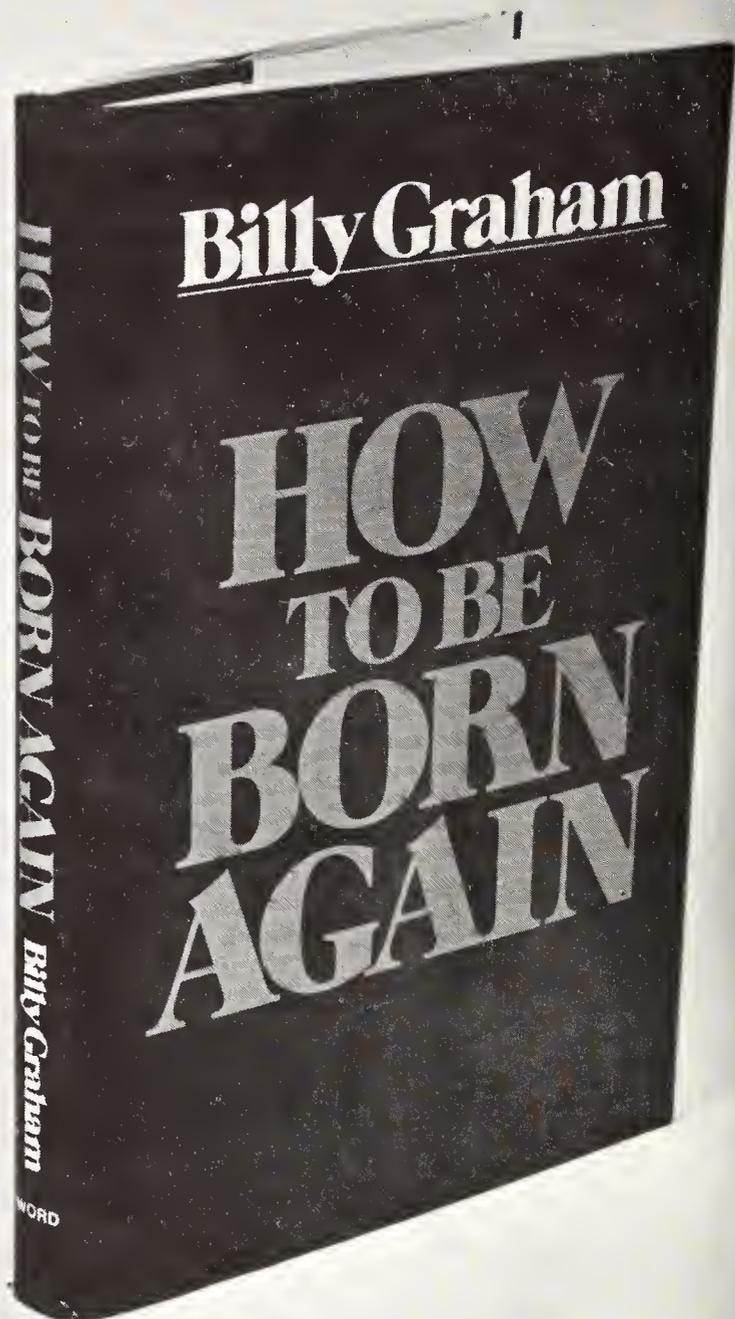
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September 1977

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Surprising, Predictable Growth

page 4



The Brethren Evangelist gave over \$4,000 to missions last year.

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So we're asking you and other Brethren to give to the ministry of the Brethren Evangelist . . . so more people can hear about Jesus Christ and be equipped for ministry. Won't you help?

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Phone: (419) 289-2611

Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists; \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Vol. 99, No. 9

September 1977

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Cover

The end of summer is a good time for churches to consider new ways of growing. Read the first in a series of articles on models of church growth on page 4.

Editor's note—Program material for local Sisterhood of Mary and Martha societies is being offered in booklet form. All programs for the year are in the booklet. These may be ordered from: Becky Grumbling, Literature Secretary, 126 Maple St., Ashland, Ohio 44805. Cost is \$2.50 plus 25¢ postage. Programs were written by Mrs. Don Rowser.

Surprising, Predictable Growth

Can a church with a low growth potential grow anyway? Yes, and Kent Bennett tells how it's happening at Maurertown.

THE Maurertown Brethren Church and Sunday School are experiencing steady, exciting, and multidimensional growth. Members and friends of the congregation sense that the Lord is building this part of His body out of obedient disciples who honor His lordship and love His will.

The reasons for this growth are many. In some respects it was predictable; in others, it is surprising.

The surprising element is that this growth is taking place in an area with low growth potential. Maurertown is located in an over-churched part of an overchurched county. The population growth of the area is steady, but not spectacular.

The predictable elements of this growth are seen in the following analysis.

A good tradition of church growth to build on. The Maurertown Church is the mother church of the Southeast District. E. B. Shaver, the founding father and inspiring leader of this church, has been called "the Moses of the Shenandoah Valley" and the "War Horse and Leader of the Progressive Movement" in the Southeast District. He earned these titles by his restless participation in planting new churches in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland. His concern, and that of other

charter members, continues on in the hearts of the current band of disciples who minister here.

The spiritual stability of the congregation. The stability of the Maurertown congregation is shown by the fact that Maurertown has been served by **only seven pastors** in her 91-year history! Pastor and people have been able to work together over long periods of time. Serious conflict between the congregation and the pastor occurred only once in 91 years.

This stability gives evidence of the strong Christian love, the continuing forbearance, and the deep relationship of ongoing forgiveness which has existed between the pastor and the people at Maurertown. This stability enhances the congregation's standing in the eyes of the community. People want to become a part of a spiritual family which lives and serves together in Christian love and peace.

Good pastoral leadership. The following men have each made a unique contribution in the past to this strong, steady stream of expanding spiritual life: E. B. Shaver, Ed Miller, Bob Hoffman, Clyde Baumgardner, Wilbur Thomas, and Doc Shank. Each man was different and each ministered with different spiritual gifts, but each contributed his individual part to the well-being and development of the whole body.

Kent Bennett is the active pastor of the Maurertown Brethren Church.

Strong, fair leadership by local laypeople. Maurertown has been blessed with some very capable leaders. The moderator is everything the name and role suggest; the Sunday school superintendent is also gifted in administration and management. Other officers and board members all function smoothly, and each person brings his or her own spiritual gift and natural talent to the service of Christ. The results are spiritual and numerical growth.

The equipping ministry of the denominational boards and executives. Maurertown's growth began before this equipping was made available to her, but the timing of the denominational emphasis on church growth could not have come at a more ideal time. Two Church Growth Seminars and the Layman Alive training have blessed Maurertown in double measure. Over 40 of our people were trained and equipped through these seminars.

Incorporation of new converts into the life and ministry of the church. This practice has contributed to a tremendous and rapid pace of spiritual growth in the lives of these new converts. Many of them have been trained to share Christ, and they do so with enthusiasm and with lasting results.

An attitude of openness to growth and new people by older members. In earlier years people now in their fifties to seventies experienced an unwillingness by their elders to give young people and new converts a part in the life and ministry of the church. This generation has worked to change that attitude, and they have done so beautifully.

A deliberate deemphasis on the pastor as the only minister in the church. A large number of people in this church see themselves as ministers and are functioning in their ministries. The New Testament concept of the priesthood and ministry of every believer is an increasing reality here. New converts and older Christians alike feel much more a part of the ministering body of Christ because of this deemphasis on a one man show.

An attempt to minister the whole gospel to the whole man. We seek to avoid the unnatural compartmentalization of human beings into body, mind, spirit, and soul. We try to see a human being as a whole person and to minister to him or her at the point of need.

This has led us to cut wood, have food showers, give money, baby sit, and work with state agencies to help get people back on their feet. One exciting result—our Lord has enabled us to work together with the state to help an ex-convict acquire a job which is enabling him to make a decent living and to stay out of crime.

A strong emphasis on fellowship. Fellowship is a sacred concept here. We guard it in our thinking and speaking, as we do the precious name of God. We have come to see that most churches leave no real time for fellowship. Each part of their program is devoted to some particular emphasis so that fellowship is incidental and not the major focus of any part. We therefore reserve weekly or biweekly meetings to share burdens, joys, struggles, and victories. The only agenda is you and me and our spiritual pilgrimage.



*Maurertown
Brethren
Church*

A strong emphasis on worship. We seek to involve as many people as possible in participatory roles in the worship service. We emphasize deliberate warmth and friendliness and have an exciting, inspiring choir ministry. We also put special emphasis on the proclamation of the Word of God as "good news" for broken mankind.

An adult elective Sunday school system. This is another way we emphasize fellowship and concern for one another. And in this atmosphere of relaxed informality, class members study the Word of God directly around tables.

Acceptance of people as they are. We value people above appearances, and our people accept others regardless of dress, hair styles, and other cultural incidentals. We seek to rise above local, regional, state, and national prejudices. We believe Jesus Christ Himself is our model for this.

An ongoing program of multifaceted visitation. Pat Velanzon, a new convert and former Catholic, is the chairman of this weekly visitation program. When we first started the program, we averaged one conversion for every team visit. This continued for about six weeks.

This program has been expanded to include (1) friendship visitation—to express Christian friendliness to prospects

This growth is taking place in an area with a low growth potential. But the growth was predictable in light of certain growth principles practiced by the church.

or members; (2) church-centered visitation—to invite others to church; and (3) evangelistic visitation—to present the claims of Jesus Christ through the use of the "Four Spiritual Laws" or some other evangelistic tool. One of the amazing side effects of this program has been that the Lord has sent us people we haven't even visited, in addition to those we do visit.

Sunday night Bible studies. These are chapter by chapter studies of books of the Bible. So far we have studied Romans, I John, and the Revelation. We have sensed the presence of the Spirit of God as He teaches us the Word, and this has led to

new understanding of salvation, Christian growth, the nature of the church, and the events of the end time.

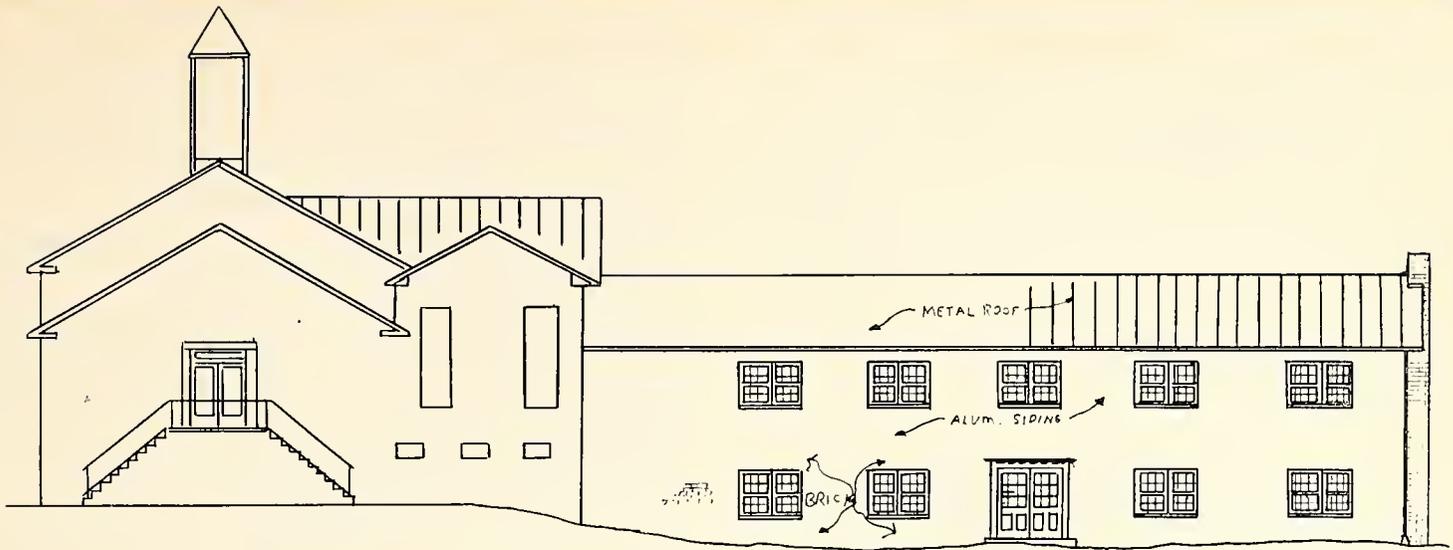
A ministry to people in their brokenness. We see ourselves as the fellowship of the forgiven and the forgiving, and we don't feel that we are above troubled people nor better than others. God has given this congregation a rare and beautiful spirit of acceptance of others as they are. Very rarely does anyone point a finger at someone who is struggling against sin and sometimes losing. This spirit of Christian compassion and acceptance is sensed and appreciated by broken people and by us all.

Submission to Christ as head. No one individual and no group or board dominates the church. We sense that it is not our church but Christ's. He is the controlling Lord and the Holy Spirit is the ruling Spirit. Again and again we have had the strong impression that what is happening here is bigger than any one of us or any group of us.

A faithfulness to our true identity. We see ourselves as a spiritual brotherhood—a family. We seek to be progressive—to dress the gospel in the clothing of today so that today's world citizen can understand it. And we seek to be open to new light. God has all the truth; the Word of God contains all of the truth; but no one man, church, or denomination knows, understands, and applies it all. We are therefore attempting to be open and teachable rather than close-minded and dogmatic. This has led some of our people to have different experiences of the Holy Spirit than others without feeling superior or more spiritual than these other genuine Christians whose experiences may be different.

This openness to the work of God in our world and in our church has blessed and enriched our congregational life and ministry. This spirit of tolerance and acceptance of different Christian experiences and expressions has led us to a deeper understanding of one another and of the body of Christ throughout the world.

We feel that many tragic divisions in the Christian church could be avoided if we would allow Christ to be the head of His church and His Spirit to work as He wills. We are glad for, enriched by, and spiritually stronger because of our expectation that other Christians will express themselves in different ways than we might. We welcome it, seek to learn from it, and seek to share our own unique understandings and experiences with those who are different from us. □



Front elevation of the present Maurertown Brethren Church (left) and the new John Locke Memorial Educational Unit.

Maurertown adds educational unit

Having more people requires more space.

Both numerical and spiritual growth are taking place at Maurertown. Numerically the Maurertown Brethren Church has grown by 55 new members in four years. Most of these new members are also Christian disciples. Many of them have grown far more quickly and much farther than many Christians who have been in churches for 30 or 40 years.

These disciples are faithful in worship and study, they have private and family devotions, and they know how to share their faith in Jesus Christ and have done so on the job and in the community. They care about and minister to each other's spiritual needs, and they give their tithe and more. Yet some of these people have only been Christians for one to three years.

The spiritual and numerical growth of this congregation is reflected in the church giving. During the past four years, weekly Sunday school and church giving has increased from \$300-\$400 per Sunday to \$1000 per week. If it is true that a man's money and his soul travel in the same direction, then the Maurertown Brethren are apparently traveling toward their heavenly Father!

In order to provide for the growth in their congregation, the Maurertown Church plans to add an addition to their building. Classrooms and sanctuary are already overcrowded and are limiting growth. Therefore the congregation has discerned that it is the will of God for them to add a new multi-purpose education unit to the existing structure.

Sunday, June 12, was designated as Faith Commitment Sunday for this new addition. A financial goal was set for that Sunday by the Building Finance Committee. The goal was \$10,000 in cash and commitments.

A special worship service was planned. Every part of the service—hymns, choir numbers, Scripture reading, and message—focused on faith commitment to the new unit. Near the conclusion of the service the gifts and commitments were counted. Astonishment and joy permeated the sanctuary when Fred Helsley, Building Fund Treasurer, announced that the total cash received was \$7,460.20 and that total faith commitments totaled \$20,170.



The Maurertown congregation has unanimously decided to dedicate their new education unit to the memory of Dr. John F. Locke. The Maurertown Brethren Church was Dr. Locke's home church. He experienced conversion, Christian growth, and the call into the Christian ministry in this congregation. The church is showing its love and appreciation for this outstanding educator, preacher, newspaper columnist, pastor, and denominational leader by naming this new addition the John Locke Memorial Unit.

Friends and admirers of Dr. Locke who wish to share in this tribute to him may do so by sending designated gifts to the Maurertown Brethren Church, Box 25, Maurertown, Va. 22644.

Freedom
to be
Yourself

You
Can Find
Your
Unique
Ministry

Jeannette Lockerbie says you, too, can discover God's purpose for your life.

IT makes sense that God has a plan for each individual. It figures that He has some special thing for you and me to do. Something that no one else is equally capable of doing. Why? Because each of us is unique; we are each **one of a kind**. When God made us He threw away the individual molds. God deals only in originals.

One day I took some friends to visit the famous Huntington Library in San Marino. At the entrance to the main art galleries I reminded one of our party that she would get to see the original Gainsborough's **The Blue Boy**. Hearing me, a uniformed attendant added, "Every one of our paintings is an original." I felt justly squelched.

In a far more significant sense, however, each human being is an original. God the Originator is the Creator of billions of people—and no two are alike. We use individual fingerprints as proof. But increasingly unique features unfold, none more meaningful than the individual thought processes. God does not make carbon copies and when, as seems likely, man will "reproduce himself" in a mechanical wonder-being, it will lack the very components that would qualify it as man. It will not be made in God's image, and will not be unique—exact copies will be possible.

It follows, then, that since God has taken such care to make us individuals, He must have a blueprint for your life and mine.

It is exciting to realize this, and I have long been impressed with the Bible verse:

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained" (Ephesians 2:10).

God-ordained work. A specific work for each one of us. That should take care of the plaintive "Why am I here?" Having a job to do that no one else in all the world is so uniquely equipped to do—shouldn't this add dignity to what we work at? Shouldn't it cause us to hold up our heads? Does it not make life worth something? Yet, so often, when life deals us what we consider at the time a knockout blow, how we are prone to cry out, "Life's just not worth living."

The antidote to such debilitating thinking, obviously, can be the recognition that God does have an assignment for us, whatever we might think of our potential. "I see people every day who have abilities I do

Mrs. Lockerbie is editor of Psychology for Living magazine. This article is from her new book, FIFTY PLUS, published by Revell. The first part of this article appeared in the June 1977 issue.

not have," writes Charles L. Allen. "But when I realize that God made me as I am for a special purpose, there is no reason for me to resent the fact that He made other people for different purposes."

This author has expressed exactly what I have discovered for myself in my recycling process. There is no more liberating concept than this, that **God made us what we are, to accomplish His design for us.** When this truth sank into my consciousness, I stopped having envious feelings about some people's ability to do things I could never even approximate. I recognized that they have their talents and I have mine; that they came from the same Source, and that with our varied abilities we have corresponding responsibilities.

"Fine," you might be parrying, "but what if I don't ever find out where my talents lie? What can I do at this crossroads where the props have fallen from under me? How do you propose I should carry out God's plan for my life?"

That is a fair and sensible question, and for each person the "how" is different. One cannot arbitrarily tell another, "This is what you should do," or, "I feel God would have you do this." God would not be what we know Him to be—the God who is Love, who is Light and who is Truth—if He played games with us. God does not tease; He does not tantalize, dangling promises before our eyes and then not keeping them. That is man's way at times, but never God's way. He has said in His Word: "Ask—and you will receive. Seek—and you will find. Knock—and it will be opened to you" (see Matthew 7:7).

It all begins with asking. When we ask, we are admitting our own insufficiency, and this puts us right in line for God's sufficiency. Sound pious or preachy? It is neither. It is God's method of directing us when we really want His direction. I believe that God delights in revealing Himself and His will to us. I have a friend who says, "You have to want God's will desperately, to get it." That

Virginia Burt: New Life at 70

by Clarence Stogsdill

Mrs. Virginia Burt of Tucson, Arizona, found new life in Jesus Christ at a later time in life than most people. But she has been making up for "lost time" by serving her Lord with more enthusiasm than many other Christians.

Virginia is an articulate person, and can express her faith with love and great preciseness. Therefore, she is a beautiful witness for the Lord. She often witnesses to groups of people at one time.

Prayer is also important to Virginia, and she spends hours daily praying for others. She does not have the means to contribute heavily to the financial needs of the needy, so she prays long hours for them, trusting the Lord to work out the details.

For the past year Virginia has served as librarian of the little corner Ellery Strunk Library at the Tucson, Arizona, First Brethren Church, where she is a member. Her enthusiasm for her job and her attention to detail have made the church library a pleasant, efficient place to check out books. The members of the Tucson First Brethren Church appreciate her conscientious work as librarian.

Virginia is a very sweet Christian who has had many trials. Her husband, Roger, was a dentist until his untimely death thirty years ago in an auto accident. Virginia has lived all these years with the memories of a once happy marriage.

According to the calendar, Virginia is in her



Virginia Burt in the Strunk Library.

seventies. But she is one of the youngest in spirit of her congregation. She is constantly searching for new ways to serve her Lord Jesus Christ. And she is a constant reminder to the members of her church that the Christian life is not to be taken for granted.

would speak of a crisis situation such as creates the need for recycling. I go along with this friend's thinking, for it is the very nature of human beings to muddle along "doing it myself" and not seeking God's will and His help until stringent circumstances drive us to it. It is then, generally, that we quit window-shopping with regard to God's will, and get serious about it.

Sometimes God answers our asking and our seeking by calling into play some natural talent. This is what happened in my case: I had always been admiring of writers, to the point of awe; and while I might have vaguely dreamed of how wonderful it would be to write a book, I had never visualized myself as capable of even beginning such a thing!

"Your natural abilities," says Dr. Clyde Narramore, "are God's suggestions for your life's work." We unquestionably do better and with greater ease the thing for which we have some natural ability. This means that we can usually realize a measure of success in this area. Big successes are built on small ones, and the fact is that even a small success is ego building (much needed in the person who has suffered a shattering blow of any kind and who may because of it feel worthless). It is then that success in one area helps our confidence to reach out and try other new things. When our work pleases and we begin to receive approbation, the message comes across not only that what we do is okay, but that "I am okay." And that is a good feeling.

For most people, acceptance of something we have created (or otherwise been responsible for) says, "I am somebody; I am worthwhile; I have value," and this leads to "I can." It helps when someone whose opinion you value comes along and underlines what a publisher (in my case) has said in response to your initial try.

This calls to mind another warm little scene. It was my birthday, and my daughter, Jeannie, was home for the weekend from her nursing school. She picked up the mail and, waving a little magazine in her hand, called airily, "Mother, a **by-line** on your **birthday!**" It was indeed. Just a back-page item, but it was the first writing I had published. My name was on it. I was on my way. I was tasting the first fruits of the freedom to be myself.

To the person whose circumstances make it mandatory for you to create a new future for yourself, I offer these suggestions for recycling:

1. **Consider** (sit down and take time for this): "What do I enjoy doing most?"

"It follows that since God has taken such care to make us individuals, He must have a blueprint for your life and mine."

2. **Probe further:** "If nothing prevented me, if I could choose my own vocation, what would I choose to spend my life doing?"

3. **Ask:** "How prepared am I for such work?" and objectively evaluate your ability in the direction of your preference.

4. **Contemplate:** "Am I willing to further my training if need be?" (I should interject here that at the very first opportunity after discovering my writing gift, I began to study the craft, and still take every opportunity to sharpen my skills.)

5. **Start each day by thanking God** for the gift He has given you, then humbly offer it back to God for Him to bless and increase. This is the most important tip one person could ever give another. It is the core secret of the success I have known. Starting the day with this good relationship with the Lord energizes my mind and frees the flow of the creativity juices. This is true whatever the area of your talent.

6. **Believe in yourself.** A woman I know has come a long way in believing in herself. She used to be so insecure and self-effacing—but she worked on this area in her life, sought God's help, and came to realize that, far from being a nobody, she was one of God's somebodies. A fine worker, she had never really reached her potential. Then one day she applied for a new position. At the end of the questionnaire given her to fill out was this question: "Why, in your opinion, should you be given this position?"

Without hesitation she wrote: "I feel you can do no better than hire me. I'm qualified and I'm dependable and my work record will prove this."

She got the job—because she believed in herself. This is one of the great plus factors when you know the freedom of being yourself.

It can make all the difference in your recycling process.

WINDING WATERS TO BUILD

Elkhart, Ind.—On Sunday, September 11, a dream will come true for the Winding Waters Brethren Church. They will break ground for a new sanctuary.

The ground breaking will be the culmination of years of faith and hope which began in 1964. That year the church was founded as a daughter congregation of the Elkhart First Brethren Church and broke ground for their first sanctuary. At that time the members had a vision for a larger worship area for the future.

Since then an educational unit has been added. In 1974 a new parsonage was constructed and has been completely paid for.

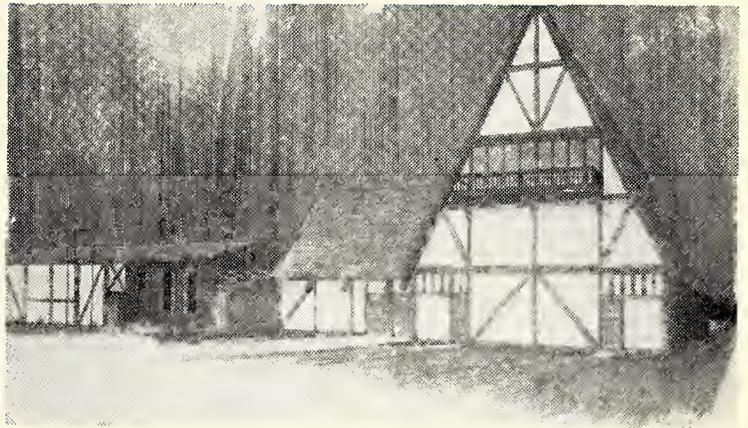
According to Pastor Fred Finks, who has served the church since 1972, "The vision for a new sanctuary will be captured in a spirit of faith and great excitement" on September 11.

"The design is unique," he said, "but that follows the pattern of the Winding Waters Brethren Church."

The structure is from the Old World, incorporating the history of the early Brethren in Schwarzenau, Germany. "It's lines lift one upward to give glory to God for His greatness. It also captures the beauty and inspiration for the worship of God," he said.

The seating will be semi-circular in design to create a mood of openness and warmth.

The new sanctuary will seat approximately 550



Artist's conception of the new sanctuary for the Winding Waters Brethren Church.

persons. The structure will also house new offices, a reception area, narthex, and a balcony.

The present sanctuary will be remodeled for a fellowship hall, recreation area, and church school rooms.

Rose completes church growth tour with Dr. Arn, McGavran

Ashland, Ohio—Rev. Smith Rose, Executive Secretary of the Central Council of the Brethren Church, took part in an Advanced Traveling Church Growth Seminar with Dr. Win Arn, Dr. Donald McGavran, and twenty-four other participants during July. The three-week seminar tour took them to Rome, Greece, Israel, Turkey, London, and Copenhagen.

The tour visited many of the sites important to biblical and early church history. The participants had the opportunity to view these places in terms of church growth—to consider what caused Christianity and the church to flourish or to fail at any particular place and time, and to reflect on the status of the church in those areas today. The group combined sightseeing with times for lectures and discussions led by Dr. McGavran and Dr. Arn.

The travel seminar, which Rev. Rose took as a personal venture, has given him insights which will be helpful in his work with the Brethren Church.

Bits 'n Pieces

Dr. Delbert Flora will be the speaker for Bible Lectures to be held at the **Burlington, Ind., First Brethren Church** September 26 through October 2, 1977.



Loree's retiring pastor **W. E. Thomas** has announced that he will continue to be available for some evangelistic work. You may contact him at 8A Retire Lane, Two Rivers Trailer Court, Bradenton, Florida 33508.

Johnstown digs out, will rebuild; Brethren help in relief effort

by Ron Waters

It happened again in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, July 19 and 20. A raging thunderstorm lodged in the Conemaugh Valley, dropping 11 inches of rain in a seven-hour period.

The result was the city's third devastating flood in 88 years. In all there were 73 dead, 15 more still missing, and an estimated \$200 million damage.

Most Brethren in the area were spared major damage to their homes or church buildings.

But two families from Third Brethren Church lost their lives in the tragedy. Dead were Allen Blough, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Blough; his wife, Jennifer, 28; their daughter, Desire, 2½; and Kenneth Weaver, 73, and his wife, Edith Fern, 55.

All five lived in Tanneryville, one of the hardest hit sections of Johnstown when an earthen dam above the area gave way.

The destruction was unbelievable and indescribable. Quiet streams raged out of their banks, lifting houses from their foundations, tearing gaping holes in others, and even lifting pavement from some highways. An estimated 50,000 people were displaced by the flood.

Brethren in the Johnstown area showed their concern by joining in relief efforts. Members of the Vinco Brethren Church gave nearly \$13,000 from their treasury and through a special offering. The Woman's Missionary Societies cooked and served two meals a day at nearby Mineral Point while other members helped with the clean-up operation there. They also furnished clothing and shelter for victims.

Third Brethren Church members cooked meals for 1200 people a day in helping the Red Cross in their area. They also offered clothing and assistance with the clean-up effort.

After the flood waters subsided, "Flood City" became "mud city." The Summer Crusader Education Unit C, originally scheduled for VBS at Second Brethren Church, spent a week assisting with clean-up. Earl Ely capably directed the efforts of Deb Munson, Fred Miller, Mary Ellen Bates, and Chuck Bowers. Pastor Harold Walton and others in the church provided housing and meals for the youth. Also, Jim Miller, a resident of Johnstown who had completed his Summer Crusader service on the Camping Unit, offered additional assistance.

The Crusaders mopped and washed walls at First Brethren Church, where the basement had been flooded. They also helped dig as much as four feet of mud out of basements in the area.

According to Pastor Walton, Second Brethren Church received \$500 from the World Relief Commission to aid in their community clean-up efforts. This money was part of an original \$5000 taken

from WRC's reserve relief funds.

The WRC also served as "custodians" for a \$25,000 grant from the Philadelphia-based Pew Memorial Trust, according to Brethren World Relief Board Chairman Phil Lersch.

(Additional or replacement funds for Johnstown may be directed through the World Relief Board. Monies should be sent to Mr. George Kerlin, Treasurer, 1318 E. Douglas, Goshen, Ind. 46526, and designated "for Johnstown.")

Is this the end for Johnstown? No. Billboards around the city proclaim, "We **will** rebuild together." And the hardy residents are rebuilding. But the memories of the "Flood of 1977" will linger on in the minds of all who experienced "the worst flood in Johnstown since 1889."

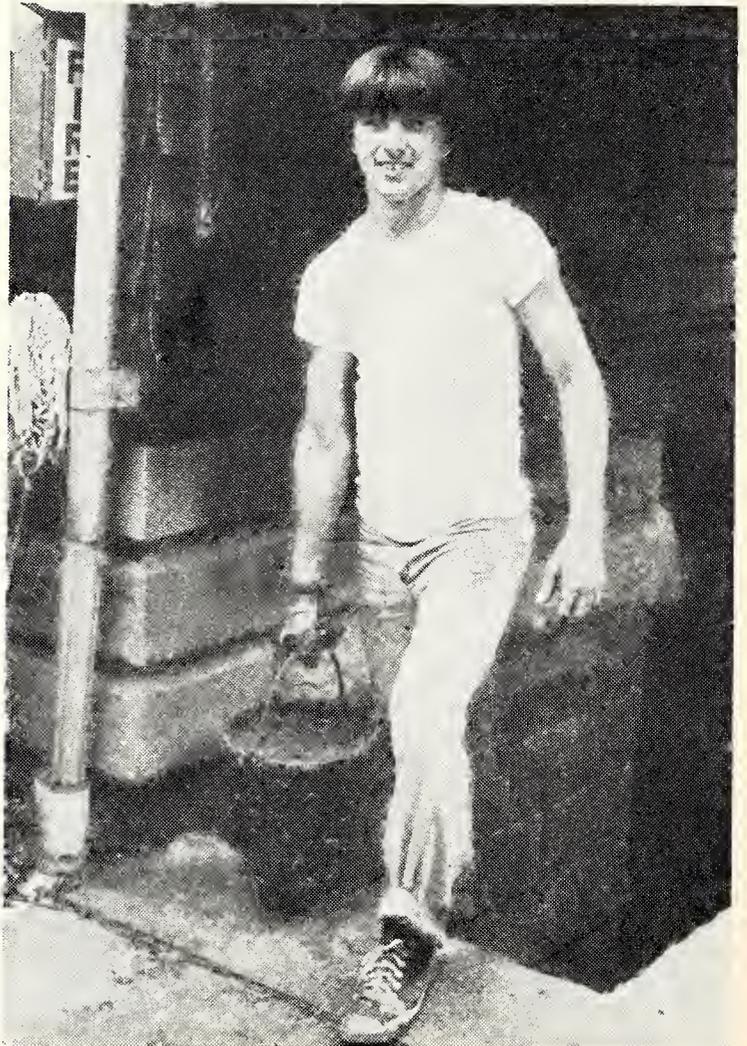


Photo by Fred Burkey

Summer Crusader Fred Miller carries mud and water from a church basement near Second Brethren in Johnstown. This basement had had four feet of mud as a result of the flood.

Youth "teeter-totter" for World Relief

Elkhart, Ind.—The youth of the Winding Waters Brethren Church held a 24-hour teeter-totter marathon for world missions on July 22 and 23. The "teeter-totter athon" was held at Maurek's IGA Supermarket, a 24-hour grocery store located near the church.

The idea for the marathon came out of a brainstorming session on youth involvement in church growth and visibility at the Winding Waters Church. The idea was readily accepted by the senior youth and put into motion under the direction of youth coordinator Jay Swinehart.

Publicity was an important part of the marathon. Posters were made and the local newspaper was contacted. A news team from the local TV station also filmed a story of the event.

Thousands of people drove or walked by the teeter-totter during the 24-hour period, and between \$600.00 and \$700.00 was raised for world missions. The money will be sent to feed hungry children in Haiti through the World Relief Commission.

The youth of the church, who supported the marathon with great enthusiasm, were tired at its conclusion. But they were very happy at what they had accomplished.



Scott Earnhart (left) and Betsy Hershberger take their turns on the teeter-totter. Jay Swinehart, youth coordinator, looks on.

Dissertation abstract published by education journal

Ashland, Ohio—The abstract from Dr. Fred Burkey's doctoral dissertation was published in the July-August 1977 issue of **Religious Education**. It was 1 of 45 abstracts selected for publication from all the doctoral dissertations written in the United States for a one-year period in 1974-75.

Dr. Burkey's dissertation was entitled "Educational Interests of Older Adult Members of the Brethren Church in Ohio."

Religious Education is the official publication of the Religious Education Association of the United States and Canada.

Dr. Burkey has been Director of Christian Education of the Brethren Church since 1967. He earned his Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 1974.

Sarasota expands radio ministry

Sarasota, Fla.—Two additional radio stations, one in Florida and one in Pennsylvania, are now broadcasting the "Brethren Hour," a radio ministry founded and directed by Dr. J. D. Hamel, pastor of the Sarasota First Brethren Church.

The "Brethren Hour" can now be heard from

coast to coast in Florida on Radio Station WLBE-AM from Leesburg, Fla. This 5,000 watt station airs the program at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings at 790 on the radio dial.

In Pennsylvania listeners in the Martinsburg area can now hear the "Brethren Hour" on WJSM-AM 1110 or WJSM-FM 92.7.

This brings to eleven the total number of stations broadcasting the "Brethren Hour" program. The program is carried by five stations in Florida, two in Indiana, two in Ohio, and one each in Texas and Pennsylvania.

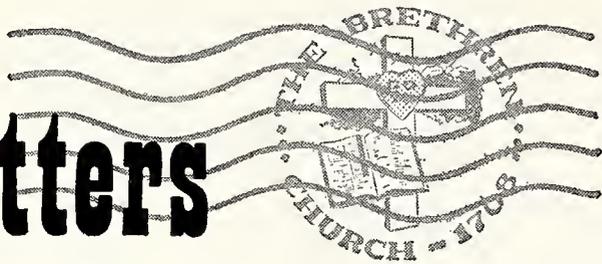
Church growth seminars scheduled

Wheaton, Ill. (NAE)—The Ohio Association of Evangelicals has announced four one-day Church Growth Seminars for the first week of November.

Seminar leader will be Rev. Peter Unruh, director of Church Growth Planners and pastor of the Lakeside Baptist Church in Oakland, California. His emphasis on church growth has been on the qualitative aspects, and his presentations evidence his experience in this area.

Seminars are scheduled for November 1 at the Grace Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Cleveland; November 2 at Bluffton College, Bluffton; November 3 at the Karl Road Baptist Church in Columbus; and November 4 at Covenant First Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati.

Letters



Dear Ron,

Just want to say a big "Amen" to your editorial, "It's Time for Positive Action" (August 1977 issue). Thanks for taking the time to write it.

And a big "Thanks" to Dick Winfield for his research into resolutions and recommendations made by General Conference in the past years.

It is time for definite statements and actions by Brethren people if we have a message of hope for the world.

Marjorie Long
Dennison, Ohio

Dear Mr. Rowsey,

The Carpenter's Shop slide set arrived and was very much enjoyed at the evening meeting of the Meoma Circle of the First Brethren Church in Lanark.

We all sincerely thank you.

May God bless you and your ministry.

Mrs. Lloyd A. Kloepping
Mt. Carroll, Ill.

Ed. note—The slide and sound program on the Carpenter's Shop was offered to WMS societies through the Woman's Outlook. Other groups wishing to view and hear the ministry of this Christian bookstore may request the program by writing: John Rowsey, The Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805. There is no charge for use of the program.

Calendar of Events

September 15-17—Southeast District Conference, Massanetta Springs, Virginia.

September 17—Ohio Conference Business Meeting, Delaware, Ohio.

September 22-24—Pennsylvania District Conference (rescheduled due to Johnstown flood), Vinco, Pennsylvania.

September 26 - October 2—Bible Lectures, Burlington, Indiana, First Brethren Church. Delbert Flora, speaker.

October 6-8—Midwest District Conference, Morrill, Kansas.

November 1-4—One-day Church Growth Seminars, sponsored by the Ohio Association of Evangelicals at Cleveland, Bluffton, Columbus, and Cincinnati. Seminar leader, Rev. Peter Unruh.

Senior campers publish book; history of Indiana churches

Shipshewana, Ind.—Senior high campers at Shipshewana this year produced a book on the history of Indiana Brethren churches, in honor of the district's 90th anniversary.

Entitled "The Brethren Church of Indiana," the book contains a history of each current congregation, a list of the pastors who have served each church, and photographs of buildings and present pastors. It also contains a brief history of the district as a whole.

According to Camp Coordinator Ken Van Duyne, campers did the writing, layout and graphics, photography, proofreading, final typing, and advertising of the book.

Copies are available for \$2.00 (plus 50¢ postage) by writing to Ken Van Duyne, Rt. 2, Box 130, Shipshewana, Ind. 46565. Quantity prices are available upon request.

Bryan Brethren fight hunger, break "Love Loaves"

Bryan, Ohio—On Sunday, June 12, families of the First Brethren Church of Bryan, Ohio, broke open 59 "Love Loaves," spilling out hundreds of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters they had saved. The breaking ceremony yielded \$714.19.

This breaking ceremony was the culminating event of a three-month long project to combat world hunger. The project was initiated by the church as a means to help starving people in the world's disaster areas.

The Bryan Church will send 60% of the money received to the World Relief Commission. The remaining 40% will be sent to World Vision International, originator of the Love Loaf program. Both organizations will use the money for the physical and spiritual relief of needy people around the world.

Rev. Marlin McCann, pastor of the Bryan Brethren Church, commented: "We believe the program is a success. It gave our church families a new awareness of world need as well as opportunity to do something about it."

Special Conference Report

A special General Conference report is being produced and will be mailed shortly.

Included in this special edition of the Brethren Evangelist will be descriptions of Conference programs, highlights of Conference actions, and photographs of various events.

Also included in the special edition will be the annual report of the Brethren Publishing Company.

Watch your mail for its arrival.

Walcrest honors Dicksons on anniversary

by Mrs. Helen Dickson

The surprise was complete—the Walcrest Brethren Church of Mansfield, Ohio, found it possible to keep a secret from its pastor.

On July 10 they honored Duane and me on the occasion of our 30th wedding anniversary.

We thought we were to attend a fellowship for the Crusader Team that was starting its work that week at Walcrest. But it seems that the four Crusaders (Dave Kerner, Russ King, Jane Drexler, and Julie Slabaugh)—as well as many friends from the Indiana District—were in on the surprise.

It was the duty of Rev. Gerald Barr, who was visiting his home church that week, to see that we arrived late. (This is the second unpardonable sin as far as Duane is concerned.)

When we did arrive, we were greeted by a large group of friends and loved ones. The hostesses were ready to serve from the lovely refreshment table, centered by a beautiful wedding cake made by Mrs. E. D. Nelson. The color scheme was pink and blue (our wedding colors).

A huge bulletin board made by Mrs. John Brown was centered with a large picture of us and the children. It had been taken 20 years ago at County Line and was provided through the "courtesy" of Rev. Barr and several other conspirators.

Richard Yarman, church moderator, presented us with a beautiful silver tray from the church. We also received a love gift and a card shower. All was recorded in a guest book presented by the Nelsons.

Rev. Barr also presented us with a large card signed by friends of the County Line Brethren Church, our home congregation.

Rev. and Mrs. Arden Gilmer were among the friends present. Arden had been a member of my first junior Sunday school class at County Line.

Also present were Ron and Norma Waters, who have been quietly performing a valuable tent-making ministry in the Walcrest Church for the past year.

The love and warmth shown us by this congregation will remain a lovely highlight in our book of happy memories. We are so thankful for this special church and praise the Lord for giving us the opportunity to serve Him together in this growing "church on the hill."



Photo by E. D. Nelson

Helen and Duane Dickson were honored by the Walcrest Church on their 30th wedding anniversary.

Graham going to Hungary

Minneapolis, Minn.—Evangelist Billy Graham and the Rt. Rev. Sandor Palotay, representing the Council of Free Churches of Hungary, have announced that Dr. Graham and his Team have accepted an invitation to hold a series of religious meetings in Hungary.

Dr. Walter H. Smyth, a Vice President of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Director of BGEA's International Ministries, said, "It is hoped that such a visit shall take place in the foreseeable future, possibly this fall."

The invitation to Dr. Graham came from a Hungarian delegation that included Palotay; the Rt. Rev. Janos Laczkovszki, President of the Baptist Church of Hungary and a former Vice President of the Baptist World Alliance; Dr. Joseph Nagy, Dean of the Baptist Seminary of Budapest and a member of the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance; and Dr. Alexander S. Haraszti, Secretary of the Hungarian Baptist Union of America and a medical missionary volunteer under the Southern Baptist Foreign Missions Board.

The Hungarian invitation to Dr. Graham and his Team is "to pay a visit to Hungary, to hold religious services, and to meet with ministers of the Gospel, church members, nonreligious citizens, church leaders, representatives of secular organizations and state officials."

Membership Growth

Ardmore: 6 by baptism, 1 by letter
 Loree: 3 by baptism
 Mathias: 3 by baptism
 Oakville: 3 by baptism
 Sarasota: 19 by baptism, 7 by letter

U.S. religious life on the rise

New York (EP News)—After slipping downward for ten years, religious life in America seems to be on the rise according to scholars interviewed by AP Religion Writer George W. Cornell.

“A new national mood of receptivity to spiritual truth is prevalent,” he says, quoting C. Peter Wagner of the Fuller Evangelistic Association.

To the Rev. Colman Barry, dean of the school of religious studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., the U.S. religious resurgence is “the primary sign of the times.”

What is causing the upturn? Cornell sees the following as factors in the change:

Salvation Army fastest growing religious body in U.S.

New York (EP News)—The Salvation Army was the fastest growing U.S. religious body in 1975, according to the new **Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches**.

For 1975 the Salvation Army reported a 5 percent increase in membership, to reach a total of 384,317. U.S. population grew an estimated 0.8 percent during that year.

The 1977 **Yearbook**, which is published by Abingdon Press for the National Council of Churches, places U.S. church membership at 131,012,953, based on reports from 223 religious bodies. Although that figure is down by more than 850,000 from the total reported for the previous year, the decline is attributed to a change in the method of reporting by the National Primitive Baptist Convention, Inc. Without that change, the total would show a gain of more than 500,000.

In addition to the Salvation Army, other rapidly growing religious groups include the Church of God of Prophecy (up 4.9 percent to 65,801); Church of God of Cleveland, Tennessee (up 4.4 percent to 343,249); Jehovah's Witnesses (up 4 percent to 560,897); Baptist General Conference (up 3.8 percent to 115,340); Seventh-day Adventists (up 3.3 percent to 495,699); and Church of God of Anderson, Indiana (up 3 percent to 166,259).

A membership of nearly 49 million was reported for the Roman Catholic Church, the nation's largest religious group. That figure constituted an increase of 0.4 percent. The Southern Baptist Convention, largest U.S. Protestant body, has nearly 13 million members and reported a growth rate of 1.8 percent.

—Mainline denominations, which experienced declines in membership since the mid-1960's, report the shrinkage has slowed or stopped and, in some cases, turned upward.

—A greater emphasis on evangelism, a lack of which had been blamed widely for the decline, is swelling through the churches, often involving special growth programs and membership drives by local congregations.

—Seminary enrollment is at a record high of 43,023, according to the American Association of Theological Schools. In 193 Protestant and Catholic institutions the growth quickened in the last three years. Catholic seminaries last year had their first increase in 10 years.

—A moderating of social-action tactics in broad-based denominations, which are giving more attention to spiritual nature, and an increasing interest in social action by evangelical churches, which had previously largely shunned social concern, make for more balance of efforts in both categories of Christianity.

—Sales of religious books have soared in the last five years, increasing a third faster than general book sales.

—The rate of growth in religious affiliation edged ahead of population growth last year, with overall religious affiliation rising from 61.9 to 62.3 percent of the population. In previous recent years, church growth has not kept pace with population growth.

—Weekly church attendance, which had gradually fallen from a 1958 peak of 49 percent of the population to a low of 40 percent for the early 1970's, last year turned upward again. A Gallup survey found it at 42 percent.

George Gallup, head of the American Institute of Public Opinion, says that various other statistical findings suggest America is in the beginnings of religious revival. He says the proportion of Americans who believe religion is increasing its influence has tripled since 1970. Some 19 million Americans, he added, are involved in various techniques for deepening their inner or spiritual awareness.

Former G/L head dies

Glendale, Calif.—William T. Greig, Sr., Chairman Emeritus of Gospel Light Publications, died July 20, 1977, at his Glendale home. He was 85.

Mr. Greig had assisted Dr. Henrietta Mears from the time she began the company in 1934. He and others acquired it from her in 1950.

Today Gospel Light distributes English language Christian education materials and Regal books to more than 85 countries.

Graham answers critics

Minneapolis, Minn.—In a lengthy statement released for newspaper publication on Monday, August 15, Dr. Billy Graham outlined the financial practices of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The statement was prompted by recent misunderstanding of the World Evangelism and Christian Education Fund, a foundation formed by the Graham Association in 1970 to undergird evangelical ministries throughout the world.

Dr. Graham explained that all funds received for his work are handled by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), a non-profit religious organization formed in 1950. All finances of the BGEA are under the supervision of a 26-member board of directors headed by a seven-member executive committee. All of the Billy

Graham staff, including Graham himself, are on fixed salaries paid by the Association, and no staff member is on the executive committee of the board of directors.

Graham went on to maintain that the highest possible standards of financial ethics, business procedures, and spiritual principles have been followed in the business affairs of the Evangelistic Association.

In the latter part of the article Graham went on to tell about the World Evangelism and Christian Education Fund (WECEF). This fund, Graham explained, is a legally incorporated non-profit foundation formed to support projects in missions, evangelism, and Christian education. It is administered by a board of trustees, none of whom receives any financial benefit from the fund, and it has no full-time employees.

At present WECEF is undertaking two major projects. First, they are helping to build a training center for missions and evangelism at Wheaton College in Illinois. When completed, the institution will be owned, operated, and directed by the Board of Trustees of Wheaton College. The second project is a Bible training center specifically designed to train laymen in the Bible. A location in western North Carolina has been purchased for this project.

Church of the Brethren men honored by Poland

Warsaw, Poland—On July 11 three Church of the Brethren clergymen were conferred silver medals of the Order of Merit by the State Council of the Polish People's Republic. They were H. Lamar Gible, Paul W. Kinsel, and John H. Eberly.

The three men were honored in recognition of their part in an exchange program in which the Church of the Brethren has hosted 500 Polish agricultural scientists in the United States for research and study. Gible serves as the current director of the program, Kinsel served as former director, and Eberly was the initial director of the exchange program.

Two other Church of the Brethren men, Dale Ott, director of Brethren Service in Europe, and J. Russell Heminger, Wenatchee, Wash., fruit grower, were among 17 recipients of the Badge of Merit for their part in this program.

This exchange program, in which Polish agricultural scientists come to the United States for research and study, began in 1947. It was through the delivery of cattle and horses by Brethren to the devastated rural areas of Poland soon after the end of World War II that the door for the exchange was opened.

The program has had a broad impact in Poland, not only in agriculture, but also in education and government. By wedding Polish theory and United States practice, the program has contributed significantly to the remarkable recovery of Poland's agricultural base, which 30 years ago was practically wiped out.

Basic to the whole exchange program has been two-way sharing, however, that has brought benefits to the United States as well as Poland through the research of Polish scientists at land-grant universities.

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Date new address in effect _____

3. Mail this form to:

Address Correction
Brethren Publishing Company
524 College Avenue
Ashland, OH 44805

Weddings

Janice Spohn to **Jon Alan Werner**, August 6, at Parkview United Methodist Church, Peru, Ind. Bride member of Loree, Ind., Brethren Church.

Teresa Shirar to **Terry Voorhees**, August 6, at Burlington, Ind., First Brethren Church; Albert O. Curtright, pastor, officiating. Members of Burlington First Brethren Church.

Barbara Stoneburner to **Richard Van Duynes**, July 23, at Argos Christian Church. Groom member of Tiosa, Ind., Brethren Church.

Donna Jean Geiger to **Kenneth James Madison**, July 23, at New Paris, Ind., First Brethren Church; Robert P. Bischof, pastor, and Rev. Gerald Geiger, uncle of the bride, officiating. Members of New Paris First Brethren Church.

Linda Garrison to **Mark Johnson**, July 17, at Burlington, Ind., First Brethren Church; Albert O. Curtright, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Burlington First Brethren Church.

Bonnie Sue Lantz to **Chester DeWayne Lawson**, July 17, at College Corner, Ind., Brethren Church; St. Clair Benschhoff, pastor, officiating. Members of College Corner Brethren Church.

Karen Rosendaul to **Mark Peugeot**, July 16, at Bryan, Ohio, First Brethren Church; Marlin L. McCann, pastor, officiating. Groom member of Bryan First Brethren Church.

Evelyn King to **Darrell Smiley**, July 9, at County Line, Ind., Brethren Church; Gerald Barr, pastor, and Rev. Wilbur Thomas officiating. Bride member of County Line Brethren Church.

Monica Humphrey to **Dennis Blevins**, July 9, at New Lebanon, Ohio, Brethren Church; Donald E. Rowser, pastor, and Charles A. Wiltrout, assistant pastor, officiating. Members of New Lebanon Brethren Church.

Peggy Sue Brosovich to **Daniel Paul Murphy**, July 8, at Cameron, W. Va., Brethren Church; Cecil Bolton, pastor, officiating.

Rhonda Jean Allman to **Wilbert Gene Marshall, Jr.**, June 25, at Quiet Dell, Pa., Brethren Church; Cecil Bolton, pastor, officiating.

Kathie Jo Horn to **David Perry Graham**, June 25, at Ardmore, Ind., First Brethren Church; Brian Moore, pastor, officiating. Members of Ardmore First Brethren Church.

Cara Gale Payne to **Stephen Bowen**, June 25, at Oak Hill, W. Va., First Brethren Church; Paul D. Tinkel, uncle of the bride, and William Skeldon, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Oak Hill First Brethren Church.

Esther Armitage to **Ray Humphries**, June 25, at New Lebanon, Ohio, Brethren Church; Donald E. Rowser, pastor, officiating. Members of New Lebanon Brethren Church.

Caryl L. Miller to **Sam J. Richmond**, June 25, at Ashland Park Street Brethren Church; Eugene J. Beekley, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Park Street Brethren Church.

Kimberly Kay Marlowe to **Michael Eugene Long**, June 18, at Ardmore, Ind., First Brethren Church;

Brian Moore, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Ardmore First Brethren Church.

Sandy Davis to **Lester Quimby**, June 18, at Bryan, Ohio, First Brethren Church; Marlin L. McCann, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Bryan First Brethren Church.

Sharon Jane Stoffer to **George Herbert Matyas**, June 18, at Canton, Ohio, Trinity Brethren Church; John T. Byler, pastor, and Dale R. Stoffer, brother of the bride, officiating. Bride member of Trinity Brethren Church.

Nancy Garner to **Kenneth D. Hunn**, June 18, at Elkhart, Ind., First Brethren Church; Dale P. Ru Lon, pastor, officiating. Members of Elkhart First Brethren Church.

Gerri Bunner to **Randy Shewmaker**, June 17, at Oakville, Ind., Brethren Church; Wes Ellis, pastor, officiating.

Linda Sue Metzger to **Robert Dennis Lamantia**, June 11, at Vinco, Pa., Brethren Church; Carl Phillips, pastor, officiating. Members of Vinco Brethren Church.

Lisa Schue to **Bob Hudson**, June 10, at Burket, Ind., United Methodist Church. Bride member of Warsaw, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Dennie Kaye Woodruff to **Donald Ray Neely**, June 10, at Cameron, W. Va., Brethren Church; Cecil Bolton, pastor, officiating.

Cathy Kunkle to **Robert Szelong**, June 4, at Jones Mills, Pa., Valley Brethren Church; Jerald D. Radcliff, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Valley Brethren Church.

Sara Kiefer to **Stephen Richter**, June 4, at Warsaw, Ind., First Brethren Church; Claude Stogsdill, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Warsaw First Brethren Church.

Lola Keezer to **Rod Yoder**, June 4, at Beaver City, Nebr., Grace Brethren Church. Groom member of Warsaw, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Margreta McBride to **Dennis Miller**, June 4, at North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church; Woodrow Immel, pastor, officiating. Members of North Manchester First Brethren Church.

In Memory

Henry Bailey, 89, August 6. Member of Burlington, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Albert O. Curtright, pastor, and Arthur A. Schenck.

Jerry Holsinger, 35, July 23. Member of Oakville, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Wes Ellis, pastor.

Maud E. Yarian, 75, July 8. Member of Roann, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by William H. Kerner, pastor.

Mrs. Mabel Sweet, 80, June 27. Member for 68 years of College Corner, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by St. Clair Benschhoff, pastor.

Harry L. Berkshire, 90, February 14. Member of Masontown, Pa., Brethren Church. Services by Rev. Carl Phillips. Mr. Berkshire was the father of four ordained ministers in the Brethren Church.

Murder in the Afternoon

Murder in the Afternoon by Ella Jo Sadler (Zondervan, 1975, 169 pp., \$1.95 paperback).

It was on a hot July afternoon that I heard Ella Jo Sadler speak to a Christian Women's Club. It was also on a hot July afternoon in 1959, at an isolated rural farm house, that two members of her family were murdered and two beaten.

The story of this event makes for suspense-packed reading. Mrs. Sadler describes in detail the gruesome experience before, during, and after the crime. She also portrays a victorious record of faith in God that can rise above pain, death, and despair. God's power turned her life situation from a deep misfortune into a life of true meaning and forgiveness.

Ella Jo Sadler attended Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and seminars at the Decision School of Christian Writing and the Christian Writers' Institute. She is an outstanding musician and a member of the American Guild of Organists. She and her husband Jerry have three children.

After personally meeting Ella Jo, I was happy to attend her autograph party at the Carpenter's Shop on July 13. In my book, after writing her name, she wrote the Scripture reference Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

—Julie Flora

Julie Flora is an Ashland, Ohio, housewife and regular book reviewer.

I Know You!

Joyce, I Feel Like I Know You by Joyce Landorf (Victor Books, 1976, 143 pp., \$1.75 paperback).

Indeed, Joyce is easy to get to know. She gives practical, Christian advice for everyone.

This particular book by Joyce Landorf gives the kind of advice that you can apply to your life today and also advice which will be useful in the future. Some of the chapters are: "Being Lonely," "Single," "Divorced," "Being Fourteen and Feeling Awful," and a particularly good one, "Dinner Hour, Disaster or Delight."

Joyce has written nine books, including "The Fragrance of Beauty" and "For These Fragile Times." She has also made three record albums. She is not only a talented writer, but also a wife and the mother of two grown children.

This book is designed so that it can be used in group study. A leader's guide is available for use with it.

If you enjoy reading books that give advice about life's pressures, **Joyce, I Feel Like I Know You** is for you. The first time I read it, I enjoyed it immensely. And I still enjoy it every time I reread it.

—Val Rowsey

Val Rowsey is a student at Ashland High School.

TV Guide

Television: A Guide for Christians by Edward N. McNulty (Abingdon, 1976, 96 pp., \$3.50 paperback).

I'm sure we Christians have complained many times about television. Programs are too violent, have too much sex, are too demeaning, do not picture life realistically, are too childish. Sound familiar? But how many of us turn that box off?

How about watching TV critically and also having some fun while doing it? You will need a Bible study group, a Sunday school class, or a youth group. Add to that group these basic tools: a TV set, Bibles, TV Guide magazines, a cassette tape recorder, pencils, paper, and one copy of **Television: A Guide for Christians** for each participant.

Using this **Guide**, you will be led through a creative and objective look at some of your favorite and not-so-favorite programs. You will study the soap operas, adventure shows, the commercials, children's shows, situation comedies, and news programs. Each channel (chapter) in the book will guide you through a different type program or subject.

This book is not a collection of essays about TV. It is a series of probes, questions, and exercises designed to get you into TV and the gospel.

So the next time your group is looking for a new subject to study, why not try that old standby—television? Your eyes will be opened to a whole new dimension of television viewing and its relation to your Christian life.

—Carol Geaslen

Carol Geaslen is a housewife and mother of two, living near Ohio Camp Bethany.

Anita Bryant to publish book on homosexual problem

Old Tappan, N.J.—Anita Bryant has signed a contract with the Fleming H. Revell Company to publish her book **Save Our Children**. The book is scheduled for publication in September.

Subtitled **The Survival of Our Nation's Families and the Threat of Militant Homosexuality**, the book will deal with the homosexual problem in general and its threat to the American family and society. The book will include an account of the "Save Our Children" campaign in Dade County, Florida, which was widely publicized in recent months.

Ed. note—Since this release was prepared, Miss Bryant has lost a law suit, preventing her from using "Save Our Children" for the title of her book or the name of her national organization. The action was filed by Save the Children, Inc., because of fear of confusion of the two groups.



India

Free Clinic --

**ministering to the whole man
and making the man whole**

**Sujata Kumar describes her medical ministry
at the Brethren Mission in Visakhapatnam.**

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am very happy to share with you some of the detail concerning the work we are doing here in Visakhapatnam (Vizag). I really enjoy working for the Lord, and God is blessing our ministry and showing that His presence is with us in our medical ministry in India.

The Brethren Mission Free Clinic was inaugurated September 30, 1976, in Visakhapatnam, and we have much to tell you about our many activities at this clinic. Patients come to the clinic and register for examination and treatment. Our pastor then gives a message and prays for the patients. Prior to our beginning our daily work with the patients, my two helpers and I pray to God to be with us and guide us in treating these individuals. I examine each case and give necessary medicine. I also tell them how wonderful our Lord is and how He can heal if we believe in Him.

We notice that many cases treated elsewhere come to our clinic and are cured completely. The patients then become good witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Praise the Lord! I really feel happy when I see them attend our church regularly. Certainly you will be happy to know this because you are the ones

who enable us to work for the Lord. I give the same medication other doctors give, but the results are different here. This is just because of His grace.

The average number of patients we get per week is one hundred and twenty. Most of them are women and children. I think you will be interested to know about some of the common diseases we come across in this clinic. The disease most prevalent is anemia due to malnutrition and worm infestation; second to this is scabies. We also handle fevers of all types, diarrhea, bassillary dysentery, polyneuritis, respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, bronchial asthma, whooping cough, etc. We treat peptic ulcers, intestinal amoebiasis, amoebic colitis, filariasis, arthritis, pyoderma, eczema, chronic ostiomyelitis, tonsillitis, pharyngitis, glossitis, angular stomatitis, caris teeth, minor burns and injuries, conjunctivitis, otitis media, infective hepatitis, and gynecological diseases.

Obstetric cases also come to me, but I am referring them to other hospitals for their confinement because we do not have facilities to conduct the deliveries. I do the post-natal check-ups and advise family planning methods.

Our cases are all out-patients, since we do not have any beds at present. If the case requires hospitalization, I refer the person to the government hospital. Some testing can be done here, but, due to lack of equipment, extensive testing must be done at a local clinical laboratory in Vizag. Vijay presently helps in the administration of the clinic and orders the drugs, and he also helps otherwise when he finds time.

Sujata and Vijaya Kumar serve at the Brethren Mission in Visakhapatnam, India. Sujata is a medical doctor.

I will share some of my medical experiences in which our Lord was truly with us. An old Hindu named Subbarao came to our clinic with advanced pulmonary tuberculosis. He was treated at the local T. B. hospital, but there was no improvement. Being very poor, he could not afford to eat the required diet. His wife Bhaskaramma was being treated by me for arthritis, and I talked to her about her husband and invited her to attend our church and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

She started coming to church with Subbarao, who was very weak and very unsteady in walking. We gave her a Horlicks bottle, a glucose packet, and B-complex tonic for him. We all prayed for him, and he started recovering day by day. One Sunday he came to me after church was over and said that he was feeling better now and believed that prayer was helping him. Now he is able to move about, and we can see a change in his face. His wife is also very happy, and both of them want to be baptized. Praise the Lord!

(continued on page 24)



Dr. Sujata Vijaya Kumar administers a shot to a patient at the inauguration of the Brethren Mission Free Clinic in Vizag. Looking on are Rev. Kumar (right) and government officials.

Prasantha Kumar attends All India Congress on Mission and Evangelization

The All India Congress on Mission and Evangelization (AICOME) was held in Davlali, India, January 12-19, 1977. About 400 top Christian leaders representing different Protestant denominations, missions, and evangelistic bodies attended the Congress. They came from all over India and represented various walks of life.

The Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar, Director of Brethren Missions in India, attended the Congress. He reports that he could see the tremendous outpouring of God's blessing upon the participants.

The Congress theme was "Go forth and tell—Jesus Christ Savior, Lord and King," and the speakers emphasized the urgency of working together to practice this theme. The speakers also repeatedly emphasized the importance of love, which found expression in a new love among the participants themselves and a new understanding of the urgency to love their fellowmen, especially those in need.

During the six months before the Congress, participants received over 150 pages of study materials. They interacted with these materials and sent their responses to the speakers. From these responses the planning committee identified five priority areas: cross-cultural evangelization and planting of new churches everywhere, concern and action for the social well-being of the masses in India, greater sensitivity to cultural patterns, affirmation of the role of the local church in mission and evangelization, and more effective cooperation between the local churches and others engaged in evangelization.

One result of the congress was the "Davlali Letter." This letter is addressed to all Christians across India, and sums up the participants' understanding of the biblical concept of mission and evangelization in the Indian context. It includes actions to be carried out by the participants, and is being released throughout the country for discussion and action by church and para-church bodies.

During the Davlali Congress 16 regional groups met in order to identify priorities for their own regions and to initiate plans for follow-up conferences. The Andhra Pradesh group was attended by 31 top leaders of that region. They reaffirmed the objectives of the Congress, with emphasis on strengthening fellowship among those involved in mission and evangelization and on training believers for evangelization with a view to church planting and growth.

The Andhra Pradesh group also decided to organize a congress in their region. This congress will be held at Hyderabad from October 12-15, 1977. Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar was chosen to be the co-ordinator of this congress. Kumar is presently on the executive committee, the special committee, and the planning committee of this congress.

This is a major responsibility which has been given to Kumar. Therefore, we request your prayers for him as he works with his countrymen and as he looks to God for guidance in this task.



Brethren House

Some Times at Brethren House

Jean Lersch reflects on some special experiences she and the team had this summer.

Sometimes we cross paths with others who spotlight the gifts we have to share. Such was the case in Nashville, Tennessee, over the July 4th weekend. Sally Murrey, a young mother of five children, stood on the auditorium platform at the close of the general conference of the Grace Fellowship Church and said, "Those of us with children have a deep concern about nurturing them in the ways of the Lord. Sometimes we are at a loss to know how to do that effectively." Then she proceeded to explain her involvement with Brethren House.

It started in February of this year when Mary Ellen Drushal, children's director of the First

Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee, had arranged for us to come to that church and conduct a program. While the church's adults were attending a missionary conference, we led the children in Bible study and worship. At that time Sally, who lived nearby, learned of our being there and came for a visit. Standing on the auditorium platform on July 4th, she told what had happened.

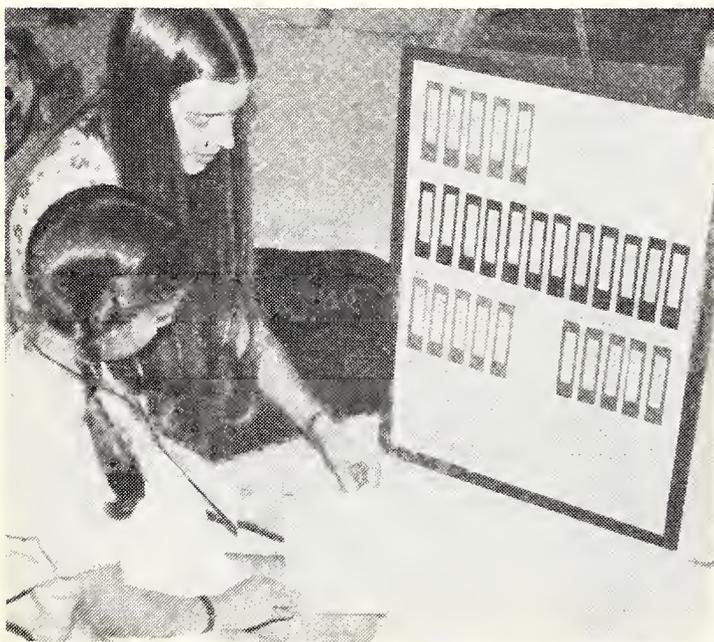
"That night I was so excited about what I saw. I went home and called several other people in our church and asked them to go see what Brethren House had for children."

Out of that first meeting with Sally Murrey grew this second appointment in Nashville. Over the July 4th weekend, with the Grace Fellowship's general conference, again we were in charge of the children's program. Some of their adults met for Bible study, worship, prayer, and business; others served with us as enablers with the fifty to sixty children present. And at the close of the conference Sally requested the group to sing with her "I am eternally grateful."

"You've been such a blessing to us," she said. "We've learned so much about teaching our children."

We are eternally grateful too. Grateful for Sally's affirmation of our gifts (sometimes we minimize their value until we are affirmed), grateful for the opportunity to share the gifts, and grateful for our Brethren heritage. This heritage has grounded us firmly on a Biblical foundation and granted us the freedom to let God lead us in unexplored territory in any church.

Jean Lersch is a member of the team working at Brethren House in St. Petersburg, Fla. Her articles on their ministry have appeared in numerous periodicals.



Joan Holsinger, Summer Crusader Intern, explains the Bible Books Library to a young girl in Nashville.

Wherever God is at work, there are
some times of
affirmation
assistance
sharing
faith
joy.

The four days in Nashville were not easy. We led a workshop for area teachers as well as activities to prompt the children's involvement in events in the Book of Acts. And three of us got the summer flu (titled "Nashville Revenge" by the conference committee, since many people became ill). Bonnie led the whole thing by herself on Sunday morning. The other three of us were too weak to get up.

Sometimes God arranges for our care and assistance in special ways. This summer He sent us Joan Holsinger, a Summer Crusader intern. How would we have managed without her? When Bonnie was sick with another virus before we went to Nashville, Joan acted the part of Florence Nightingale—tending, serving, and comforting. And then for both the packing of the 32 boxes and the implementing of the program in those boxes, she was truly an assisting angel.

And before we went to Nashville, Joan helped plan, prepare, and direct a puppet show of the Book of Esther with a group of apathetic-acting middle-schoolers. They were just "acting," however, for we found out from one of the mothers that the puppet show was all her girl had talked about. Thanks to Joan.

Sometimes God inspires us with ideas to share right here in our own neighborhood. For six weeks this summer we concentrated on two projects. With the children we explored the Book of Esther. Sunday-by-Sunday activities opened new vistas for them. Many knew nothing beforehand of this book and its teaching about God's guidance and providence. Then on the final Sunday together the parents came to see the projects made by the children: the puppet show, bulletin board, a mural, a visual presentation, and many mementos of the lessons for us in this great Old Testament book. A few parents had been studying their Bibles at home because of the enthusiasm they caught from their children.

The other project was a weekly morning Bible study Bonnie and I led. Several neighborhood women joined us each Tuesday morning for an hour of prayer and study in Philippians. We hope to continue this group after school begins again.

And of course we held outdoor recreation for

young children and teens two nights a week. On the last night of this time together one teen said, "What are we going to do with ourselves when Brethren House isn't open?" They did enjoy coming. One interesting development this summer was the children who accompanied their teen parents. These toddlers played on the sidelines of the volleyball games.

Sometimes God encourages us to take inventory of the services we have to offer. Since many parents and teachers have told us how much they need to learn about nurturing children, we have taken stock. And we have listed fourteen titles of training sessions we can offer church school teachers in the area. In addition, we have on hand samples of curriculum materials from nineteen publishing houses so teachers and committees can come to Brethren House to examine and select those materials that best meet their needs. We are now in the process of printing a brochure to announce these varied services Brethren House can offer. And we're thankful.

Sometimes God prompts us to exercise our faith. In order for us to reach more churches with the announcement of Brethren House services, we had to change mailing systems. This meant purchasing an expensive Scriptomatic machine and assuming another printing bill. The funds are low, but we believe God is encouraging us to do this. So, giving thanks, we're doing both.

And sometimes God gives us the joy of creating something new. Such was the case with a new book Brethren House published this year, **Here Comes the Sun.** The book is for children. We hope, by hearing the text of the book, they will notice God's handiwork in a sunrise. Then they can draw pictures to go with the words. Thus, they are prompted to **observe** what God has made and **express** it from their point of view. That's joy!

Wherever God is at work, there are some times of affirmation, some times of assistance, some times of sharing, some times of offering, some times of exercising faith, and some times of joy. Yes, for everything there is a season. And we at Brethren House are thankful for these times with Him.

Free Clinic

(continued from page 21)

Subba Reddi, a Hindu aged sixty-five, is another witness to our Lord's miraculous healing. He came to me with severe anemia and hypoproteinaemia. His legs were swollen below the knees, and he had no sensation in his feet. There were cracks all over the swollen legs, and he was experiencing a continuous watery discharge from them. He had no appetite and could not attend his work.

He was treated at the government hospital for one month, but realized no improvement. I gave almost the same medicines given at the hospital, and he began to recover. I noticed some psychic changes in him as well, so I talked to him about our Lord and asked him to attend the church. He has taken treatment for about two months, has been attending church regularly, and is now completely healed and is back at work. He gave his testimony in writing.

Many are brought for clinical treatment, but in addition to sutures, shots, and medication, they receive the peace and healing of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can be a cold abscess, incised and infected, or maresmus. Treatment is given and healing comes rapidly. Even a Hindu priest brought his son and said his god didn't have power to heal.

In India there are many villages where the gospel has not reached and where medical aid is not available. We try to reach such places to spread the Good News and to help them by rendering medical services. After the preaching, Vijay helps me in dispensing the drugs and bandaging the wounds. In villages I usually come across anemia due to malnutrition and worm infestation, tuberculosis, and oral cancer. Oral cancer is widespread in this part of the country because people smoke the cigar with the burnt end inside the mouth. Whenever I see a case, I tell everybody the hazards of smoking like that.

As we cannot go to every village regularly, we cannot give antibiotic injections because a series of injections would be necessary to be effective. Therefore, antibiotic capsules are very useful in such cases, and we can give the drug for one week or ten days, depending upon the need of the patient.

We thank the Brethren for the drugs you have sent because of your great concern. The aspirin for arthritis and tetracycline capsules worked wonderfully. I use mainly sulphadiazine tablets for children and then the other powerful antibiotics. The bandages you have sent have also been of great help.

So friends, I have given you a detailed account of the medical work done here. I trust that you have a better knowledge now of our work. We are preparing now to make the clinic a one or two bed hospital so that we can take some emergency cases. Please pray for us and the work being done here. Thank you for all your prayers, love and concern, and the support you are extending for the work.

Church pledges million dollars plus for mission projects this year

Toronto, Can. (EP News)—The Peoples Church, Canada's largest evangelical congregation, has pledged \$1,129,788 for world missions this year, according to Pastor Paul B. Smith.

The 2,000 adults (and another 2,000 in Sunday school) support 470 missionaries overseas, of which some 350 are Canadians and the rest nationals of the various countries.

At home the mission funds are also used to support such ministries as the Peoples Christian School, Peoples Christian Ranch, Peoples TV Ministry, Yonge St. Mission, Richmond College, and the Ontario Bible College.

This year's pledged amount is the largest in the church's 49-year history.

**God's Word:
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NAE SUNDAY, OCT. 30, 1977

MAIL TO: National Association of Evangelicals, Box 28, Wheaton, IL 60187 by Oct. 1.

In these days of growing opportunity and responsibility, evangelicals must do together those things which cannot be done by one church alone. Join us!

- YES, we would like to observe NAE Sunday, Oct. 30. Please send the following free materials in the quantities listed:
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church growth forum

Satan's Master Plan:

Paralysis

Howard Ball says, "Satan has a diabolical plan for your church!"

Church leaders, whose master plan are you following for your church?

God has a wonderful plan for your church! God's plan is "the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry."

Satan has a diabolical plan for your church! The object of his plan is to prevent you from following God's plan.

Satan begins with you, the leaders. He attempts to create in your minds a distorted concept of a successful local church ministry. He wants to convince you that success will happen only when you get **everyone in the church** moving in the **same direction**, at the **same time**, with the **same enthusiasm**. This is CONVOY MENTALITY.

If you accept this convoy mentality, Satan has set the stage for paralysis in your church. All he needs to do is slip into your convoy a few people who don't want to do God's will . . . or a few people who just want a little attention . . . or a few people who love progress but hate change . . . or a few people who simply don't want to be bothered . . . or a few people who want it their way or not at all. When this is done, Satan has paralyzed your church.

If you operate on a convoy mentality, you believe the only obstacle to success is the people who

aren't yet moving. You will spend a disproportionate amount of your time and energy on the unresponsive. While you are doing this, the responsive people (the movers) must tread water because you don't have enough time left for them.

If you allow this to happen, you will have a tragedy. The lifestyle of your church will be determined by the disobedient members.

The focus of the Growing by Discipling concept and Churches Alive's consulting services for your church is aimed at helping you **avoid paralysis, identify the "movers" and equip them through discipling**. You do this without communicating rejection to those unwilling or unable to participate initially.

How great it is to see more and more "non-movers" begin moving because of what is happening in and through the "movers" lives.

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Mr. Howard Ball is the president of Churches Alive, a consulting service for local churches in the area of discipleship and evangelism. Information about this ministry may be obtained by writing Churches Alive, Box 3800, San Bernardino, Calif. 92413.

Commitment to Evangelism Essential

by Arden Gilmer

God blesses churches that have a commitment to evangelism! The Bammel Road Church of Christ in Houston, Texas, began five years ago with a part-time pastor holding its services in an elementary school. Now its Sunday attendance reaches into the 900's. Why?

Several factors contribute, but the primary one is this church's commitment to evangelism. They believe that the prime mission of the church is evangelism, and, as a result, they are unashamedly aggressive in their efforts to disciple non-Christians to faith in Christ. Their many-faceted

evangelistic program has resulted in at least one new convert every single week for over a year.

Every visitor to their worship services is visited in his home the same week. A number of **evangelistic** group Bible studies meet each day of the week in various homes. These are purposely designed to reach and win non-Christians. Over 100 of the church's members have been trained to conduct this type of Bible study and to lead people to Christ. The results—seventy baptized in 1976!

God will bless Brethren churches in a similar way when they seek to reach and disciple non-Christians!

Missionaries of the Bible

Message from the King

When Hezekiah became king, he had some important changes to make.

Many wicked kings had ruled in Jerusalem. They burned incense to the idol gods of the neighboring countries. They gave offerings to these gods, too.

One king, King Ahaz, took all the golden candlesticks and basins from God's Temple for the idols. He closed and sealed the Temple doors. He built altars to the false gods in Jerusalem and in all the cities of Judah.

"Come," King Ahaz told the people. "Come and worship at these altars. These are for your gods."

Prince Hezekiah, son of King Ahaz, read the scrolls of Scripture. He knew how God had helped and guided King David and King Solomon. He talked with the priests who had served in God's Temple before his father closed it.

Then one day he was no longer Prince Hezekiah. He was King Hezekiah. His father, the wicked King Ahaz, had died. Prince Hezekiah had been crowned king and given the golden scepter, and he now sat on the throne in Jerusalem.

One day soon after he had been crowned, King Hezekiah sent a message to the priests and Levites. "Meet me at the Temple tomorrow," the message said.

The next day the king stood before them. "Look at this Temple," he said. "It is the place where we are to worship the true God. I want the doors

opened and the entire Temple cleaned. Repair it so that once again it is our place of worship. "Then I want you to prepare to conduct once more all the services. Our people will return to the God of Heaven."

How the priests and Levites worked! They cleaned and polished. They scrubbed and waxed. They painted and repaired. They found the golden candlesticks and basins and brought them back to the Temple.

After sixteen days of hard work the job was done. The Temple was ready. The priests went to the palace. "We are finished," they said. "The Temple is ready."

"Good," replied King Hezekiah. "Tomorrow morning I will come to pray and to worship."

King Hezekiah and his people were happy as once again they entered the Temple of God.

Soon the king began thinking about the people in other parts of the country. "They, too, should be worshiping God," he thought. "I will invite them to come to the Temple."

King Hezekiah wrote letters. He told about the cleaning of the Temple. He told of the services held there. Then he wrote, "On the first day of May we will celebrate the Passover. Turn again to the Lord God. Come to the Passover service."

"Take these letters," King Hezekiah told his messengers. "Take them to all parts of Israel, Judah, Ephraim, and Manasseh. Invite all the people to come to the Temple at Jerusalem."

The messengers went. They delivered the king's letters. They invited the people.

So it was on the first day of May a very large crowd gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Not since the days of King Solomon had there been so much joy.

The priests stood and blessed the people and the Lord heard their prayers.

—Based on II Chronicles 29-30

Readiness Activities

1. Some of the children may make small scrolls with the memory verse printed on it. Have ready strips of paper about 2½ inches by 5 inches, 4 inch dowel or craft sticks, flair pens, and glue. On a blackboard have printed the memory verse. Use some of these scrolls in telling the Bible story.
2. On large sheets of paper one group of children might like to draw pictures of all the supplies and tools needed to clean and repair a neglected house.

Memory Scripture: Turn again unto the Lord God. —II Chronicles 30:6b

A Note to the Pastor

"There's not enough room in our church for all the Sunday school classes," said the pastor.

"We know," agreed the people. "Many new families are coming to our church. Most of them have three or four children. We're glad God is sending all these people to us. Now what can we do to make room for the Sunday school departments?"

"Well, we could . . ." began one man. "No, I guess that wouldn't work."

"Why don't we . . ." another started to say. "No, that doesn't sound like a good idea either."

So the people talked. Many suggestions were given, but none seemed just right.

At the close of the meeting the pastor said, "God knows the best way to obtain extra room for our church. Let's each pray every day asking Him to guide our thoughts and show us what to do."

At the next meeting the pastor said, "Have you been praying about our need?"

"Yes," answered the people.

And God did guide their thoughts. He showed them the best plan would be to build a new parsonage for the pastor's family. Then the old parsonage right next door to the church could be used for Sunday school rooms. A great idea!

The planning and building of the new parsonage began. Then the old parsonage was remodeled into Sunday school classrooms.

The people were happy. Soon there would be room for many more to come to their church—people who would learn of God, people who would serve God.

Perhaps the happiest of all were the children. Some of them had never heard of Jesus before coming to church. Now they were learning of Him and His house was an important place to them.

One Sunday after church a little girl handed the pastor a blue card with a smiling jack-o'-lantern on it. He turned it over. Very neatly she had printed: "I really enjoy going to this church. I hope you like having me. I also hope you like the picture I made for the church. (I traced it.) Happy Halloween!"

With the card was a picture of the church which she had traced and carefully colored.

As the pastor thumbtacked the picture to the bulletin board in the vestibule, he remembered her sentence, "I hope you like having me."

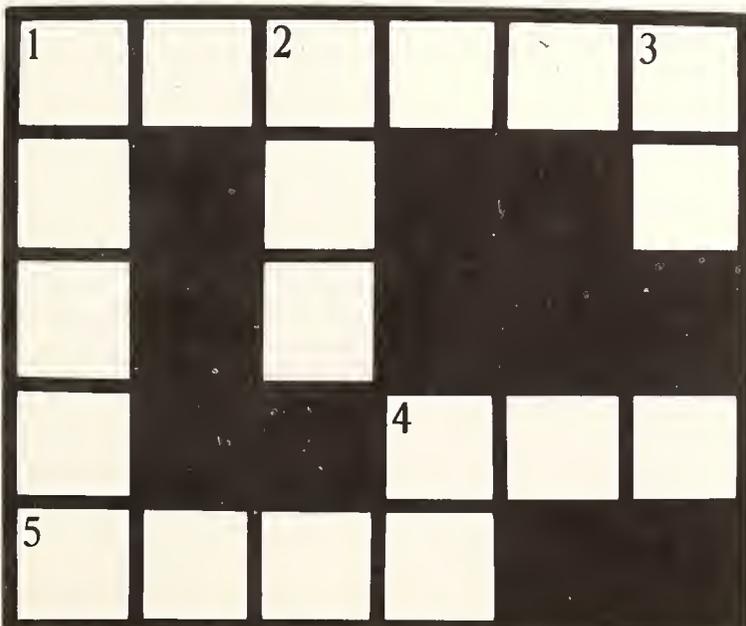
Like having her? Of course he did! That's the reason the church was there—to help girls and boys and grown-ups, too, learn of Jesus and His love.

"Thank you, Lord, for these precious little ones," prayed the pastor as he walked home for dinner.

(Based on a true incident told to the Signal Lights editor by Pastor George Solomon, Derby, Kansas.)

Cross Word Puzzle

What word is missing in these Bible verses? (Check the King James Version for answers.)



Across

- O give _____ unto the Lord. (Psalm 105:1)
- Thy word have I _____ in mine heart. (Psalm 119:11)
- What _____ I am afraid, I will trust in thee. (Psalm 56:3)

Down

- I will _____, and not be afraid. (Isaiah 12:2)
- Noah opened the window of the _____. (Genesis 8:6)
- For God _____ loved the world he gave his only begotten son. (John 3:16)
- _____ is risen. (Mark 16:6)



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The Brethren

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524 College Ave.

Ashland, Ohio 44805

Phone: (419) 289-2611

Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists; \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

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How is the Brethren Church distinctive, other than in form of baptism and communion? See Jerry Flora's answer, beginning on page 4. (Cover photo by John Rowsey)

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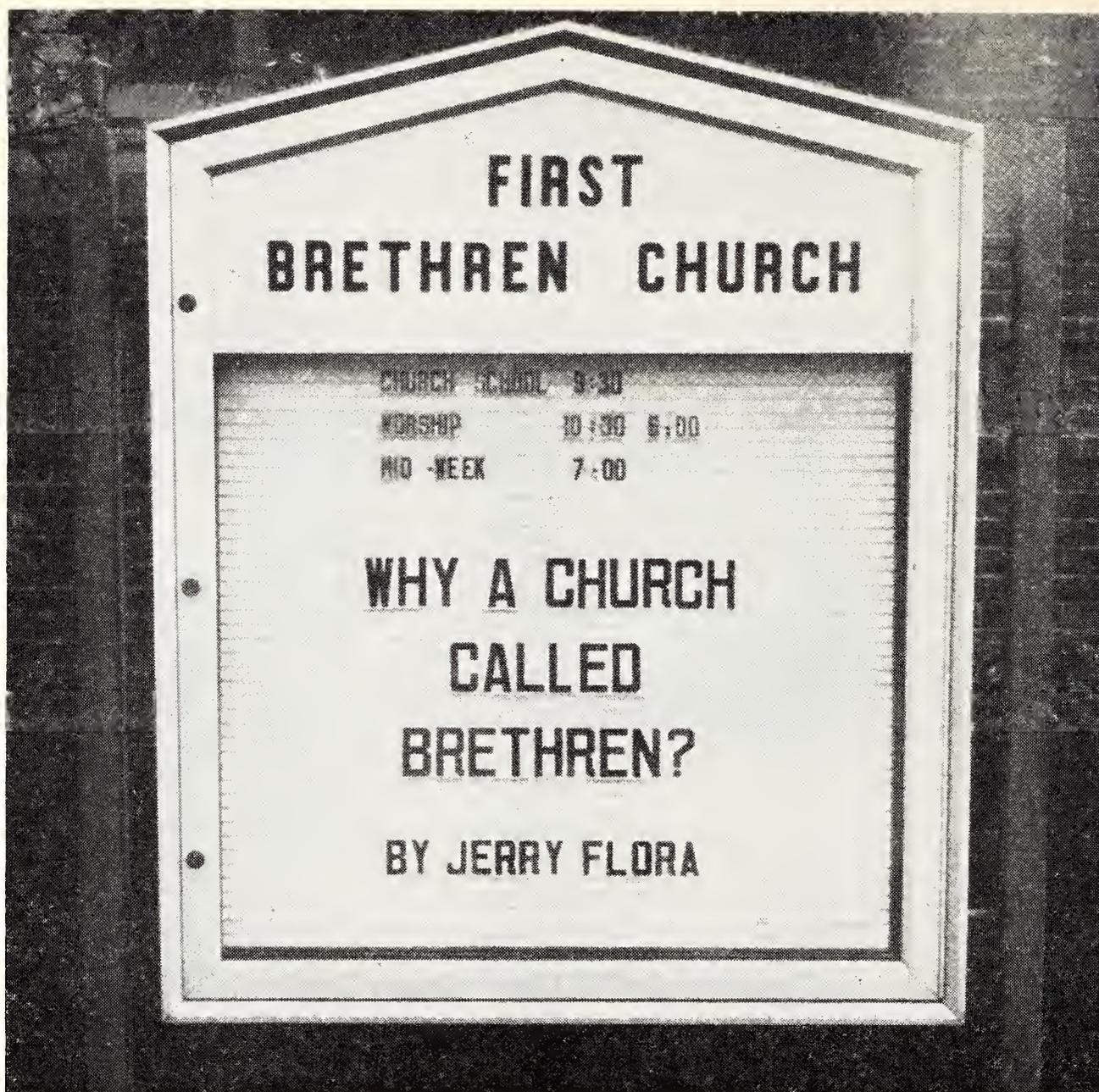
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Here's a "both-and" answer for Brethren searching for a distinctive identity.

SOME days you can't do anything right. If some joker asks, "Have you stopped beating your wife?" you're stumped. No matter which way you reply, he will charge you with cruelty to your spouse.

Some questions can't be answered, it seems, because they are improperly formed. Other questions should receive a clear, specific answer. Either it is Monday or it's not. Either you live as though there is a God, or you don't.

Still other questions deserve a response of both-and. Life on planet earth, for example, demands both centrifugal force and gravity. Scripture teaches divine sovereignty and human responsibility.

Once Jesus was asked which of the 613 commands in the law of Moses is the great-

est. "I'll tell you which is the great commandment," he replied, "but it doesn't stand alone. There is a second that goes with it, and **on these two** depend all the law and the prophets: love the Lord your God completely, and love your neighbor personally."

If we apply that kind of both-and approach to life in the Brethren Church, it may help us. Why does this denomination exist? Why should there be a church called "Brethren"? The Brethren Church exists to express our allegiance to the Lord Jesus in a family style out of loyalty to the gospel and love for the world. We have here both the "what" and the "why" of our existence.

Dr. Jerry Flora is assistant professor of New Testament theology at Ashland Theological Seminary.

“The Brethren Church exists to express our allegiance to the Lord Jesus in a family style out of loyalty to the gospel and love for the world.”

The identity, the “what,” of the Brethren Church is our faith in God through Jesus Christ our Lord and the family style in which we express it.

Allegiance to Jesus as Lord

Jesus said in reply to that question, “You shall love the Lord your God.” Now, “Lord” is the Hebrews’ name for the God who gets involved with people. “God” is the general term for the Infinite One who created the universe and keeps it going. But “Lord” or “Yahweh”—this is that same God in his personal relationships with sinful humanity. It was he who reached down and called an Abram, sustained an Isaac, transformed a Jacob, and freed a whole nation from slavery. Jesus said, “The Lord, this God who acts on behalf of such people—love him! Answer his love with all that you are: heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your Rescuer completely, utterly, always, and love only him.”

The apostles never forgot what he said. And the central thrust of their writings is not “accept Jesus as your personal Savior.” That is both true and necessary, but the basic confession of the New Testament declares, “Jesus Christ is Lord!” Jesus the Jew is God Almighty come to earth for us sinners and for our salvation. Jesus is “Lord,” the God who gets involved with people.

The early Brethren knew what that lordship meant and were prepared to accept it. They took as basic a passage in Luke’s Gospel where Jesus taught, “If a person is going to come after me, let that person count the cost and not be like the fellow who begins to build but cannot finish, or the king who goes to war but cannot fight. Neither of them has estimated the cost.” Alexander Mack, founder of the German Baptist Brethren, wrote much of obedience and sacrifice in following Christ. There is

a price tag on loving this Lord completely, and a would-be disciple must count the cost.

We in a republic don’t understand lordship. We elect our mayors, we elect our commissioners, we elect our senators, we elect our presidents. We don’t know how it feels to have someone over us, before whom we fall prostrate and whisper, “Master!”—someone whose every utterance carries the force of law, whose very glance signs life or death.

The Brethren who first braved the Atlantic to reach Philadelphia knew the meaning of lordship. They talked much about the cost of discipleship. They recalled the story of John Naas, that giant of a man among them. So large in stature was he that the king asked him to join his elite personal bodyguard. But Naas refused to be recruited. They tortured him to no avail, hanging him at last from a tree by one thumb and one big toe. Fearing that he was going to die, they cut him down and dragged him before the monarch. Simply Naas explained that he could not join the king’s elite corps because already he was in the army of King Jesus. He had pledged his allegiance to Christ as Lord.

A family style

One unique feature of the kingdom of God is that all its citizens are adopted children in the royal family. The King is their Father, the Crown Prince their Elder Brother. This, too, is part of the “what” of the Brethren Church—this family style.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If the neighbor is an outsider, that outsider must become an insider and insiders must become family. The old Brethren used to talk about our denomination as “the brotherhood.” We experience that brotherhood each year at General Conference. The Brethren are a family, and General Conference is the annual reunion.

(continued on page 28)



“I Will Build My Church!”

AT First Brethren Church of Pittsburgh we have no “gimmicks” for church growth. But the Lord has given us some basic principles under which we operate.

Be open to the Holy Spirit! Acts 1:8 reminds us that it’s in His power we move and grow. “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

I believe that the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is power for service. I do not limit it to one or more of the spiritual gifts such as tongues. Staying open to the Holy Spirit means following Him, not any “movement.” I believe He has already moved **beyond** the charismatic renewal movement. Let the only movement we are caught up in be the movement of His Spirit. This is stating it positively. Let us also heed the warning of Paul in I Thessalonians 5:19: “Do not quench the Spirit.”

Be flexible—flow with the Spirit! Don’t get in a rut; be willing to change. Just because we’ve always done it this way doesn’t mean we have to do it that way now. Be

Rev. Norman Long is pastor of the First Brethren Church of Pittsburgh, Pa.

willing to move with the Spirit. Have a certain sense of pragmatism: “Do what works.” If it doesn’t work, don’t do it any more!

We must have the courage to fail. Not everything we try is going to be successful. A batting champ in baseball rarely bats over .400, and that’s only “success” four out of ten tries! We can’t be afraid to step out and try new things.

Present the whole gospel, not just part of it! Paul, in his farewell sermon to the Ephesians, said, “I did not shrink from declaring to you the **whole** purpose of God.” The Brethren motto begins, “The **whole** Bible. . . .”

People are hungry for all God has for them, and if we will feed His sheep, they’ll come. This is how we’re reaching Catholics and blacks in our community.

We are in a Catholic neighborhood. Right now in my membership class of 13, 9 are Catholics who will be joining the church in a few weeks, as soon as they finish their membership training.

I never tell any of the Catholics to leave their church. And there aren’t many evangelical churches in our area. So we just tell them, “Go where you’ll get fed,” and they keep coming!

Celebration and worship! Every gather-

Church growth at Pittsburgh

Over the past five years the Pittsburgh First Brethren Church has experienced significant growth in five different areas.

The most spectacular growth has taken place in Sunday morning worship attendance. Average attendance has gone from 46 to 115 in the past five years, an increase of 150%.

Over this same period, membership grew from 63 to 73, a 16% increase.

There has been a 100% rise in both Sunday school and mid-week attendance. Sunday school average attendance has gone from 32 to 63, and mid-week attendance has climbed from 12 to 25.

Along with the increase in members and attendance has come an increase in congregational giving. During the last five years giving has risen by 75%.

Norman Long tells how
the "Master Church-Builder"
is building His church
in Pittsburgh, Pa.,
through His people.

ing of the Body of Christ for worship should be a celebration of what He has done and is doing. Worship should be exciting and fun, as well as reverent and holy. I consciously plan to make every service one that absentees will be sorry they've missed! Get people saying, "Wasn't the worship great last Sunday?"

Go for disciples, not just members! God is looking for disciples, not just nominal members of the church. I went that route once. I was pastor of a home mission church, and our goal was one hundred members. We reached our goal. We got the members, but we didn't have disciples!

We do not make it easy to become a

member at First Brethren. To qualify for membership, a person must: a) be born again through a personal faith in Jesus Christ, b) receive believers baptism by trine immersion, and c) attend the Pastor's Membership Class—a four to six-months study of **Our Faith**.

Go for men! The Lord loves the women, children, and men equally, but He builds His Church on the **men**. If we get the men first, then we'll also get the women and children.

We attempt to build men and let the Lord build the church. We follow the 2 Timothy 2:2 principle: "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of

People to people

Rev. Long commented at Conference, "One of the things that, I guess, has brought more people than anything else is just simply word of mouth—people sharing the Lord Jesus Christ. And this is nothing we've programmed. The Lord is doing it."

Effa Grace Bruggeman is one of those who has been sharing the Lord Jesus Christ with others. She is a beautician at a Christian beauty

parlor, where she has many opportunities to share her faith.

She commented, "Well, through my witnessing at the shop, I have asked some of the people to come in to the church for the prayer and praise service during the week, and a lot of them have come back for morning worship on Sunday with us and have stayed in the church."



A church must seek men if it is to grow . . . and the men will bring their families with them.

many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." Last year I taught a class for my men for their discipleship training entitled "For Men Only," using the book by J. Allen Petersen of the same title.

Minister to families! One of the things the Lord is doing in this day is strengthening families. Be careful your church program is not dividing families rather than strengthening them and building them up. Here at First Brethren, Monday night is Family Night. We plan no church activities on Monday nights. We encourage families to be together at least that one night a week.

Much of the material in my "For Men Only" class dealt with successful Christian family living. The counterpart course my wife, Kay, taught for the women entitled "The Christian Answer to Women's Lib!" also emphasized successful family living.

Set goals! Leaving what lies behind, we need to stretch forward to the goals that

lie ahead. But we won't know we've met them if we don't set them. Too often we're like the archer who always hits the bulls-eye. It was discovered that he merely shot his arrow, then drew a circle around wherever it landed.

We believe in challenging, realistic goals. This past Easter we set attendance goals that were way beyond anything we had ever experienced. But because of the people's enthusiasm and the Holy Spirit's moving, we reached and surpassed each one. Palm Sunday our goal was 150; we had 171. Easter Sunday our goal was 175, and we had 180. And April 17th our goal was 125, and we had 154!

These are the principles we've seen work here in Pittsburgh. Yours may be different, but the same Lord Jesus Christ who reigns over us in the power of His Spirit also reigns over you. I thank God for His promise to all of us: "... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it" (Matthew 16:18). It's His Church, and He has promised to build it. Let's let Him do it! □

Bus ministry

In telling about the work of the Pittsburgh Church at General Conference, Rev. Long said, "Really the greatest part of church growth has come through the bus ministry."

John Lynch, a member at Pittsburgh and one of the bus captains, had these comments about the bus ministry: "... weekly bus dependability is essential. Also, weekly visitation in most

families on our route is important because there are many needs and much opportunity for ministering."

John added, "We know there has been growth in the church attendance since the bus ministry was started, but we are not certain as to what percentage is credited to it. But one thing we know, if the people have a mind to work, the Lord will supply the increase."

Salt and Light

That's the responsibility to the world Christians share. Keith Bennett tells how South Bend First Brethren is carrying it out.

DURING the past year and a half, the Social Action Committee of the First Brethren Church of South Bend, Indiana, has:

- aroused opposition to adult bookstores and adult theaters in the church neighborhood;
- opposed the granting of a liquor license to an establishment near the church;
- encouraged members of the church to vote their Christian convictions without party labels;
- made the church more aware of its need to be involved in local community action.

As a result of the work of this committee, lay men and women of the South Bend Brethren Church are actively involved in dealing with social issues and community needs.

Surprisingly, this Social Action Committee was born out of a church growth seminar. A few years back a number of us at South Bend realized that our church wasn't growing. That scared us. In order to do something about it, we hooked into a church growth seminar at Nappanee led by Win Arn. Between 15 and 18 of our people attended the various sessions.

We drew the charts and took the questionnaire to our congregation. One of the questions on the questionnaire was, "Where does your congregation need to do more?" The question was followed by several possible choices — evangelism, Bible study, social action, and so on. Close to 30 of our people said that we needed to do more in the area of social action.

Keith Bennett is former pastor of the South Bend, Ind., First Brethren Church. He is currently pastoring the new Brethren Church in Brandon, Fla.

Much of what might be considered social action was already taking place in our church. As pastor of First Brethren, I served on the board of directors of Broadway Christian Parish, which has a strong social and educational ministry in the southeast side of South Bend. Our church and deacon board had spent much money in assisting transients and neighborhood people with food, clothing, utilities, rent, transportation, and so on. For two years our church took neighborhood black children to our camp—some 20 teenagers those

(continued on next page)

A word about

First Brethren Church South Bend, Indiana

The First Brethren Church of South Bend has been in existence for more than 90 years, in just about the same location. This places it in the midst of one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city. The housing is older, and much of it has deteriorated. Consequently, the area is populated by the elderly who don't want or can't afford to move, and by people with low incomes or on welfare who live in the area because the housing is inexpensive. The population consists of elderly whites, blacks, Mexican Americans, and some younger, middle-aged whites who either live in the area by conviction or because they can't afford other housing.

The racial mix of the area is about 55 to 60 percent white, and 40 to 45 percent black. There are many decent people from various backgrounds. But there are also many on drugs or alcohol or involved in prostitution, and many who steal for a living. The crime and illiteracy rates are high, and the income level is low.

two years. And for years more than half the children attending our VBS were black.

It is obvious that we were already involved in social action. But still our people felt that we needed to do more. So about a year and a half ago, I asked several members of the congregation to meet with our moderator (Ray Smith) and me to consider this need. The meeting was very fruitful.

At this first meeting we talked over our purpose and set some goals. Two of our goals were: (1) that every member would bring one new member to our committee within three months; (2) that the committee would publicize its work with articles every month in our church mailing. Both of these goals were met. The committee now consists of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lightfoot,

"Close to 30 of our people said we needed to do more in the area of social action."

Mr. and Mrs. Harold VanKosky, Mr. Paul Place, and Mrs. Helen Sriver. They meet the third Tuesday of every month at the home of Mrs. Sriver.

The committee has struggled with various issues since its inception. One of its first actions was an attempt to do something about adult theaters and adult bookstores in our community. We began by publicizing our concern in our local church mailing.

When South Bend Mayor Nemeth proposed a zoning ordinance to control this kind of establishments, we made public announcements encouraging our people to attend a public hearing at the County-City Building concerning the ordinance. Thirteen of our people attended the meeting.

At the first meeting the proposed ordinance was tabled, requiring us to come back four weeks later. Twelve of us attended this second meeting. I was appointed spokesman for our church by our moderator, and I addressed the council in support of the Mayor's ordinance. I also spoke of our concern. Prostitutes had been soliciting business in our area, sometimes even from the steps of the educational building!

The Mayor had his proposal well prepared, and the ordinance passed. Recently the city of Mishawaka has put into effect a similar ordinance. We feel that the action

at South Bend was an encouragement to their action.

A few weeks after the zoning ordinance was passed in South Bend, an adult establishment in our area tried to get a liquor license—which would have been a violation of the new ordinance. Once again we showed our opposition. Our people, along with other groups of concerned individuals, signed a petition of protest. Paul Place and I went to a hearing along with 50 to 60 neighborhood people. The lady withdrew her application.

The committee has also tried to encourage our people to vote their Christian conviction without party labels. On one occasion we arranged for David Walenga, an area leader in promoting political involvement by Christians, to make a presentation to our church school concerning the Christian's duty as citizen and voter.

On another occasion, our committee heard a presentation by Mark Argosh concerning Citizen's Action Coalition (CAC). This is a group seeking to sensitize citizens to the issues of the day and to encourage them to do something about these concerns at the grass-roots level. CAC surveyed the entire South Bend area seeking to discern what the issues of concern of the various neighborhoods are. The survey showed that neighborhood deterioration, housing, and crime were the major issues. As a result of our Social Action Committee's recommendation, the church voted to support CAC with \$450 this year—in order that they might hire three staff people to organize the community for effective action.

The most recent action of our committee was a barrage of support for Anita Bryant in her courageous stand against legalized homosexuality, and for Peter Rodino and

"Social action is not a substitute for evangelism and missions; it is their companion."

others in their opposition to child pornography. Our action took the form of two petitions with 100 signatures on each and personal letters of support and encouragement.

Under the leadership of the Social Action Committee, the South Bend Brethren Church is involved in social concerns. This
(continued on page 31)

What? No Converts?

Why do some churches have so few converts?

Last month we Brethren convened our General Conference of the Brethren Church for the 89th time. Conference provided many inspirational moments. Many people made life-changing decisions regarding meaningful service to their Lord and His church. Brethren shared generously in the Conference Missionary Offering for **Operation Impact** in exuberant support for establishing new Brethren churches indicating that a climate conducive to dynamic growth does exist in our denomination.

But a look at our statistics indicates that growth is not happening. Why? In looking at our latest reports (1976), I discovered a few pertinent items.

Of the 106 churches reporting, 32 (30%) had **no** conversion growth in the year. Of these 32 churches, 13 are small congregations served by part-time pastors. Four of the 32 experienced a pastoral change during the year. But 15 have full-time pastors who have been in their church a year or more.

Is there any legitimate reason for a church with a full-time pastor to have **no** converts in an entire year? Are we right to ask what that pastor is doing with his time? Shouldn't that pastor evaluate his own life, witness, and activities? A full-time pastor should himself lead several people to Christ in one year. If he is active in personal evangelism, he will. If he relies only on pulpit ministry, he won't.

The pastor is not the hired evangelist to do all the witnessing for the church. But as shepherd-leader and as an obedient Christian, he must set the example in personal evangelism. He must add to his example by training lay people to enter into their ministries of personal evangelism.

A further look at the report reveals that 43 Brethren churches (41%) had five or less converts in 1976. Actually only four churches had five converts, so 39 had four converts or less. Three of these are churches with part-time pastors, and three had a change of pastors in 1976. Thirty-eight of these churches have full-time pastors who have been at that church for a year or more.

I have selected conversion growth as the basis of this analysis. Why? Because it is the best kind of growth, and because it is the best indicator of our evangelistic effectiveness. Figures show that 71% of our churches had five or less converts in 1976. Even a casual observer can quickly interpret what this says about the effectiveness of our evangelism.

Rev. Marlin McCann performed an extremely useful function in his moderator's address, which was based in part on his survey of our pastors

and local church leaders. Those responding to this survey indicated that evangelism ranked third highest in all the gifts regularly emphasized in the teaching and preaching of our churches. If that's the case, why didn't we have more converts in 1976? Has the gospel lost its power? Has the Holy Spirit deserted us? Do we live in an unreceptive nation? The answer to these questions is an emphatic "no."

There must be another reason. A clue comes from the same survey. Replying to another question, the respondents stated that their church did not have a well-organized plan of evangelism. Evidently we do a lot of talking about evangelism in our sermons, Sunday school classes, and Bible studies, but we do little more than talk. We give lip service to evangelism, but fail to develop effective ministries for sowing, cultivating, watering, and harvesting.

Why did the Brethren have so many churches with so few converts in 1976? Again, survey responses give another clue. Sixty-six percent of those responding said that their local church budget designated 5% or less for evangelistic outreach (not home or foreign missions). The point is clear. Small investments in evangelism result in small evangelistic returns. A church with a maintenance mentality will hoard money for self instead of giving freely to reach their friends and neighbors for Christ.

Why did 71% of the Brethren churches have so few converts last year? Maybe we are using a good strategy for the wrong purpose. Those responding to the moderator's survey rated the weekly sermon as the most effective evangelistic strategy in their church. But, according to statistical reports, that strategy is not very effective. The major reason: evangelism is to focus on non-Christians. But non-Christians do not even hear the weekly sermon.

The arena for evangelism is not the church building, but the world. All Christians, both clergy and laity, must be involved as salt and light **in the world**. Would better results come from using the weekly sermon for edification, nurture, spiritual teaching, and instruction in preparation for witness in the world?

One group of believers in Africa has a worship service for three Sundays. But on the fourth Sunday they **all** spend their worship time visiting in homes and sharing the gospel on the street. Result—converts! Why? They are taking the gospel message to non-Christians where they are. We must begin to apply that principle in our culture too!

The Mission of a Church-Related College

Ashland College President Arthur Schultz shares his philosophy for Christian higher education.

ASHLAND COLLEGE was founded one hundred years ago primarily to perpetuate a conception of religious faith. Today, higher education must have as one of its purposes to foster a program built around the stated purpose of the Christian ethic.



This article by President Schultz is excerpted from addresses he presented at General Conference to the laymen and the pastors of the Brethren Church.

What is the mission of the church-related college today? Such a college has a particular and worthy function to perform in our society. It is a special mission, rather than an attempt to simply imitate or deliberately compete with the secular schools.

A church-related college, such as Ashland College, is committed to a system of reasoned values which give direction to life. Ashland College is concerned with the elements that develop and nurture an ordered and stable life. In pursuit of this end, academic excellence must be sought, not only in terms of the nature of the faculty, but through the curricular offerings.

Specifically, we should seek at Ashland an act of involvement with life, an understanding of the nature and foundation of Christianity, and each student should be viewed as a person.

Religion should provide a center of direction for the total program, with the pre-occupying idea to develop in each individual spiritual, intellectual, and moral values.

Religion cannot be worn on one's sleeve as a badge, it cannot be acted out as a kind of pantomime, it cannot consist of glib and meaningless phrases. Religion demands a degree of dedication based upon deep conviction and positive belief. It is at once supremely personal and completely social. It commands the full attention of the individual even as it restrains him from imposing judgment upon others. Instead, it leads him to rejoice when he sees a fellow-man moving in the same direction, although possibly by a different path.



"Education must be Christian . . . and Christians must be educated."

If at Ashland we can even in part accomplish these specifics, we will, I believe, provide for all the college community an interpretation of life illuminated by a faith which will give us guidelines for the important realms of life and living.

Education must be Christian and Christians must be educated. If the church is to lead, we need young people to see the importance of college. For better or worse, the world is changing and there is no going back, no matter how comfortable the past may look in retrospect. For better or worse, the processes and structures of education are changing and will continue to change with ever increasing rapidity.

We have no greater treasure than our sons and daughters. Let us strive to serve them well.

The church-related college seeks to help a young person:

- to think clearly and purposefully,
- to have something to live for,
- to have something to live by,
- to sense what is most important in life,
- to accept and apply Christian moral and spiritual values,
- to do the will of God,
- to use the Bible as the guide book for living,
- to grow as a Christian.

We must work to make Ashland College even better. To chart the course of a church-related college these days calls for great courage, vision, sound judgment, and faith in God.

We must continue to work hard if we

are to make of Ashland one of the very best colleges in Ohio and one of the very best Christian colleges of our nation.

For this rewarding task, I would like to see the church accept a growing share of responsibility so that the benefits of Ashland to young people and to the church may be multiplied.

If we are to have a free tomorrow, we must work for the strengthening of our free institutions today.

If we are to build a Christian world order, we must invest now in the preparation of those young people who can and will be the leaders of such a church and such a world. We must provide the opportunities for growth and learning which they so willingly pursue.

We seek your understanding, loyalty, assistance, interest, participation, and prayers. May Ashland College continue to grow in influence and further great accomplishments in Christian Higher Education because of the Brethren Church.

A Blueprint for Tomorrow

President Schultz officially opened the Centennial Year of Ashland College by addressing the autumn convocation.

I COUNT it a privilege to speak at this particular Convocation, at which are assembled the students of Ashland College. I can assure you that I feel very humble in the capacity which I am asked to fulfill today, and somewhat awed by the task before me—the task of contributing a mes-

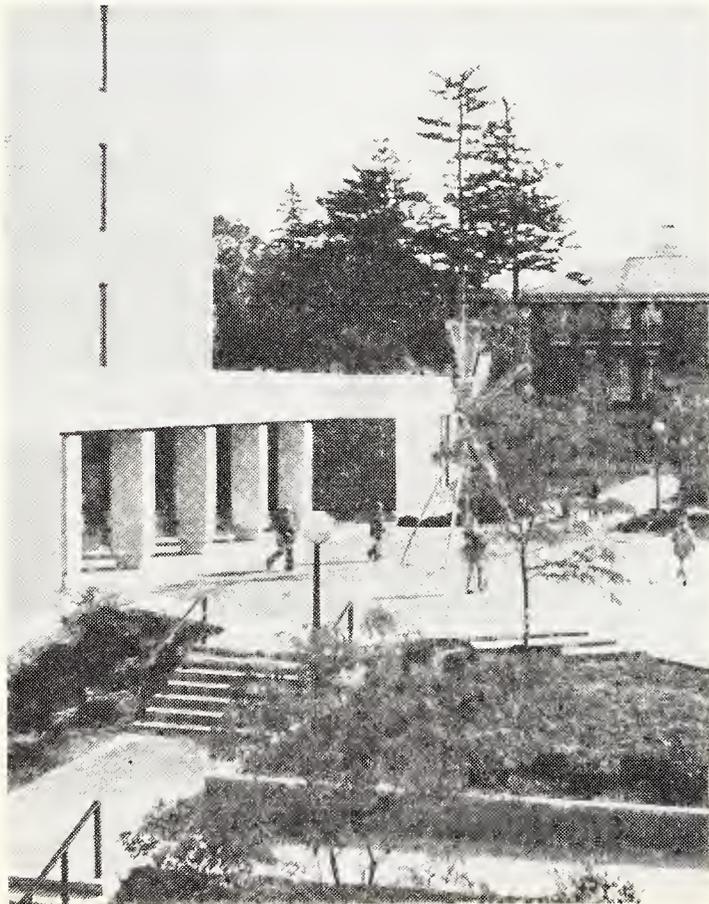
sage that will in some meaningful way direct the busy and tumultuous lives of students at the beginning of an academic year, and will, at the same time, reveal my personal relationship with Ashland College.

The word 'student,' if we think of its true meaning, is a great leveler, which transcends all ranks, all titles, all ages, and all classes. For a student is a person who is truly devoted to learning. And I take it that all of us here are truly devoted to learning.

For the first time in 29 years, one—Dr. Glenn L. Clayton—is not here to begin another year at Ashland. Dr. Clayton has left a tradition at Ashland—a tradition of excellence. He has always strived to create higher goals, to rise to new standards, to take what was good and make it even better. What he leaves behind is for the betterment of all who have attended Ashland and for all those who will attend in the future. He will continue to be with us as President Emeritus, and I am personally appreciative that he will be a consultant and friend.

And now, allow me to direct your thinking toward a blueprint for tomorrow.

"To every man there comes in his lifetime that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique for him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy for society if that moment finds him unprepared or unqual-



ified for the work which would be his finest hour." You are aware, I am sure, that I have borrowed this phrase from one of the greatest Englishmen of our time, Sir Winston Churchill. Though the phrase refers to a great and determined stand made against impossible odds by a noble people, it is nonetheless true of the individual. This week, as we begin a new college year at Ashland, I commend to you the vision of a special task, which you will some day be called upon to perform. If you are prepared for it, that day will be your finest hour.

What can higher education say in shaping a blueprint for tomorrow in a world of insecurity? Dr. Robert Hutchins, when he was Chancellor of the University of Chicago, stated the challenge: "Civilization can be saved only by a moral, intellectual, and spiritual revolution in which we are now living. If education can contribute to a moral, intellectual, and spiritual revolution, then it offers a real hope of salvation to suffering humanity everywhere. If it can not, or will not, contribute to this revolution, then it is irrelevant and its fate is immaterial." A college must produce people who are able and free to scrutinize society's values and ready to attempt their modification, if necessary. In other words, we must educate or disintegrate.

One cannot visit the Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, without experiencing a welter of conflicting emotions. Predominant is gratitude for the sense of security which those enormously complicated defense systems can generate, and a more tolerant attitude even toward taxes. There is, of course, a feeling of awe, mixed with a tinge of doubt as to whether man actually can master such technological refinements. And there is also an overpowering tug of regret that so much money must be spent for such expensive gadgets which may never be used. A still greater foreboding is that they may be used, and expanded.

All of this adds up to a stronger-than-

ever belief in the famous aphorism—"We are in a race between education and extinction." First of all, it is essential that our scientists continue to carry on the research and do the experimenting which will keep us in the forefront of technical development. Ashland College must do its part in producing the scientists and technicians of the future. We dare not stint the flow of dollars which will keep our laboratories equipped with the best scientific instruments, and our classrooms provided with the most able teachers we can find. But even more important, perhaps, is the absolute necessity of educating for positions of leadership in a society which must find a better way of solving universal problems than by destroying one another. There has never been a time in history when brain power was more sorely needed in politics, in journalism, in the pulpit, in business, and in the home. There has never been a time when education was more vital to our survival.

In this era of increasing secularization and specialization, the Ashland College Board of Trustees is convinced that this College has the potential to become a landmark institution upon the national scene of church-related, liberal arts colleges. I believe this also, or I wouldn't be here. And I further believe that we have a faculty at Ashland who will help us achieve these greater accomplishments.

To walk around the Ashland campus and to read the inscriptions on its buildings—this is to sense, at least in part, the history



"We are convinced that Ashland College has the potential to become a landmark institution among church-related, liberal arts colleges."

of the College and the generosity of many friends and alumni in the past. By recording certain names, such as Myers, Kettering, Clark, Conard, Hoffman, Kates, and Young, Ashland expresses its deep gratitude to these benefactors. With other names, such as Miller, Jacobs, Bixler, Clayton, Andrews, Kem, and Amstutz, great service is recognized. Not every person can be memorialized in the naming of a building, but many men and women can provide some part of an institution in which they believe.

The entire purpose of the liberal arts experience is to develop citizens who will participate intelligently in the life of the home, community, and state. And the extra dimension of the church-related college, by Ashland's standards and definition, is to create a sensitivity to social relations and obligations.

Moving Ashland even further into the front ranks of America's proud and responsible liberal arts colleges is a challenge which must be met, and I am happy to be a part of it. Now, what does all of this have to do with you, the present students of Ashland?

Specifically, you should seek by your college experience, and what is offered here, to have an involvement with life. In the church-related college, religion should provide a center of direction for the total program of liberal arts with the preoccupying ideal of developing in each individual social, spiritual, moral, and intellectual values.

These concerns may seem to have no direct bearing on whether you will receive a degree at graduation or not, or even whether you will secure a high-salary job. Yet, I believe they provide a blueprint for tomorrow, and spell the difference between a life of mediocrity and one of genuine productivity. Assuredly, they will provide satis-

faction and a sense of understanding not otherwise likely. They will help you to assess the world as it is, and give you some idea of what to do about it.

1. The first broad area of concern is our attitude toward society. What kind of society do you want for America? This is a popular subject today. Yet, in all the excitement about reforms, civil rights, relief for the underprivileged and the many more, it is possible to fail to see the woods for the trees.

For instance, there is something pathetically wrong when the Fifth Amendment is invoked, not to guarantee the rights of man, but actually to thwart or to impede justice. There is something pathetic about the resignation of so many to practices which they profess to deplore, but which they say are "inevitable." Many businessmen who should know better will dismiss the whole subject of economics by stating that socialism is inevitable for America, though they want no part of it.

2. The second broad area of concern which I commend to you as essential in a blueprint for tomorrow is religion. Religion cannot be worn on one's sleeve as a badge, it cannot be acted out as a find of pantomime, it cannot consist of glib and meaningless phrases. Religion demands a degree of dedication based upon deep conviction and positive belief.

It is at once supremely personal and completely social. It commands the full attention of the individual even as it restrains him from imposing judgment upon others. Instead, it leads him to rejoice when he sees a fellow man moving in the same direction, although possibly by a different path.

3. A third major area of concern in our blueprint for tomorrow is the attitude which



"Next to life itself, one's unconscious influence is his most sacred possession. It is the effect you have on another's life that you didn't plan to have."

we take toward morality. I speak this morning for a moral standard of responsibility. Theodore Roosevelt said: "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

Any definition of morality which accepts the norm of society as a standard is not enough because riding with the current leads inevitably to a general decline of the moral future of society. Dr. Doyle Bon Jour of Chicago says that "man does not really have rights; fundamentally, he has only responsibilities. It is the successful stewardship of these responsibilities which brings what we call rights. . . ." Put another way, no man has a moral right for which he has not assumed a prior responsibility. As Dr. Bon Jour states further: "No man . . . has the right to any form of employment unless he has earlier assumed the responsibility of thorough preparation for it. No man has the right to an education unless he has demonstrated ability and willingness to work for it. No man has the right to freedom unless he has assumed the responsibility for underwriting the freedom of every man."

So, instead of talking about moral rights, we ought to substitute the thought of moral responsibility.

4. A final and very significant area of concern in any blueprint for tomorrow is the problem of our attitude toward intellectualism.

Many people look askance at great books, listen unmoved to inspired music, and pass coolly by priceless art treasures as things to be toyed with, but not to be taken seriously. Here, exactly as in the case of social, religious, and moral concerns, we are tempted to follow the norm of society. Why not demand the more enduring, the better, things?

It is gratifying to note that not only are nearly all the great literary masterpieces available in the library, but they can be purchased in paperback bindings at a nominal cost. There is no dearth of great newspapers or magazines. Nearly all the

great music is now available and ready for your use, and at prices no higher than the popular kind. Even television presents choices in drama and music.

In the words of Sam Walter Foss: "We need men to match mountains, men with empires in their thinking, men with eras in their brains."

The opportunity is yours to be men and women of influence. I am using the word "influence" to stand for one's total relation to other people and one's usefulness to his generation. What makes America is more important than what America makes. Next to life itself one's unconscious influence is his most sacred possession. It is the effect you have on another's life that you didn't plan to have. It is the shadow your life casts across the pathway of somebody else.

Many of us have been moved by the classic words attributed to H. M. Stanley, sent by an American newspaper to find David Livingston in Africa: "When I saw that unwearied patience, that unflagging zeal, those enlightened sons of Africa, I became a Christian by his side, though he never spoke a word to me about it." Influence and life can be like that. One man—one woman—whose life is so captured and controlled by God in developing socially, morally, intellectually, and spiritually—can be sure of his influence. This can happen at Ashland College, and I commend to you this blueprint for tomorrow, as we begin the Centennial Year of this College.





Announcing

New "Scholar Awards" Program at Ashland College

Ashland College has developed a new scholarship program which will be based on competitive testing. The program is to be initiated this fall and will be effective for students entering Ashland College in 1978.

Students planning to enroll in the Spring Semester 1978 (starting in January) will be eligible to compete for one full tuition, room, and board award, two full tuition awards, and two one-half tuition awards. The test session will be held on October 15-16, 1977.

The second test session will be November 12-13, 1977, and will be for those planning to enroll for the Fall Semester 1978. Five full tuition, room, and board awards, ten full tuition awards, and

ten one-half tuition awards will be made on the basis of the competitive testing.

To be eligible for the test sessions, prospective students must make application for admission to Ashland College, complete a test application form, and have completed less than twelve hours of college credit. Interested applicants should contact the Admissions Office, Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

The testing program provides an excellent opportunity for qualifying Brethren students to receive significant financial assistance. Posters announcing the program have been sent to moderators of Brethren churches.

College expresses appreciation for scholarship support

A number of individuals, organizations, and Brethren churches have established scholarship funds for worthy students at Ashland College. In addition, similar funds have been provided by individuals, organizations, and member churches in support of students at the Ashland Theological Seminary.

At this time we would like to recognize and express appreciation to those making possible the following undergraduate scholarship funds at Ashland College:

Carrie Hoff Baer Memorial Award
Bell-Walker Scholarship
Edwin Boardman Memorial Scholarship
Hilda Price Carpenter Award
Glenn L. and Janet S. Clayton Scholarship
Pearl Dutton Crafts Award
Helen Jordan Award
John and Ann Lichty Scholarship
Josiah and Cora Maus Memorial Award
Ruth Lewis Petit Memorial Award

Clarence and Marie Rohrer
Memorial Scholarship
Harvey S. Rutt Award
Dorothy Stuckman Memorial Award
Ida B. Wertman Award
National Boys' Brotherhood Award
National Ministerial Association
Student Aid Fund
National WMS Award
Oakville, Indiana, Brethren Church
Pennsylvania District WMS Award
National Sisterhood of Mary and Martha Award
Southeast Laymen's Scholarship

Any Brethren church, church organization, or individual interested in perpetuating His work through scholarships assisting in the education of worthy young people should contact Dr. Donald B. Swegan, Vice President for Student and Resource Development, Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Ohio to plant new church

by Ronald W. Waters

Delaware, Ohio—The Ohio District held its fall business session September 17 at the Asbury United Methodist Church.

Perhaps the most significant action was a decision by the conference to increase its Unified Financial Program apportionment by \$5.00 per member to support the planting of a new congregation in the district.

The district mission board revealed its plan for Operation BOOM (Brethren of Ohio On the Move). Following extensive survey work in Medina, Ohio, the board is planning to initiate Bible studies in that area yet this fall.

Other plans call for an All-District Survey Day at Pickerington, Ohio, on October 22; an Ohio Mission Emphasis in Ohio churches during November 1977; and an enlargement of the board to 10 members to provide more manpower for the work ahead.

In other action, the conference elected its com-

Park Street honors seminarians, hears AC's President Schultz

Ashland, Ohio—The Park Street Brethren Church honored 18 Brethren seminary students and their families on September 25. Non-Brethren students who attend the church were also recognized.

Those in attendance at the 10:30 worship service were introduced by Dr. Joseph R. Shultz, vice president of Ashland College for the seminary. He noted that several were unable to attend because they were serving student pastorates.

Eugene Beekley, pastor of the church, said, "We are proud of these seminarians as they study and labor together in preparation for Christian service. These dedicated people deserve our welcome, our prayers, and our support."

Speaker for the worship service was Dr. Arthur L. Schultz, president of Ashland College.

Dr. Schultz, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, spoke on the steps involved in entering the ministry. His text was Ephesians 4:11-13.

He noted, "The factors that keep people out of the ministry are not girl friends or low salaries. It is because no one is guiding them into the ministry."

mittee on committees and nominating committees for the year.

Reports from various district and denominational boards were presented throughout the day. The district WMS and laymen and pastors also met.

A total of 81 lay and 23 ministerial credentials were presented. Another 14 ministerial credentials were presented in absentia.

Bits 'n Pieces

The **First Brethren Church of Pittsburgh, Pa.**, is seeking a "tentmaker" organist who could live in Pittsburgh and help build the Lord's Church through the ministry of music.

October 9 will be **Homecoming** at the **Loree, Ind., Brethren Church**. Activities will include regular Sunday morning services, a dinner at noon, and an afternoon service at 1:30. Former pastors are especially invited.

Rev. Robert Clough (Rt. 2, Box 217K, Bridgewater, Va. 22812), pastor of the **Bethlehem Brethren Church**, would like to purchase a copy of **Nead's Theology**, also titled **Theological Writings on Various Subjects or a Vindication of Primitive Christianity**. If you know where a copy of this book might be found, please contact Rev. Clough.

The **Whitedale Cooperative Brethren Church** in Terra Alta, W. Va., is building a new Sunday school addition to the church building. The addition is made necessary by a gradual increase in Sunday school attendance.

The **Woman's Missionary Society No. 1** of the **Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church** gave \$100 for flood relief for Johnstown, Pa.

Revival services were held at the **Whitedale Cooperative Brethren Church**, Terra Alta, W. Va., August 7-14. Rev. Charles Berkshire, pastor of the Masontown, Pa., Brethren Church, was the evangelist.



Mr. and Mrs. Donald Flagg and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Finster were set aside on July 31 at Peru.

Deacons, deaconesses ordained at Peru

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Flagg and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Finster were set aside as deacons and deaconesses in a special service in the Peru, Ind., First Brethren Church. The service of ordination was held on Sunday afternoon, July 31.

Rev. Richard A. Austin, pastor of the Peru Church, delivered the ordination message. He was

assisted in the service of ordination by Rev. Albert O. Curtright, pastor of the Burlington, Ind., First Brethren Church, and George C. Brown, pastor of the Denver, Ind., Brethren Church.

A reception was held following the ordination service.

Maurertown Brethren break ground

A ground breaking service for a new addition to the Maurertown Brethren Church building was held on Sunday afternoon, September 4. More than 200 members and friends of the church attended the service.

This service prepares the way for construction to begin on a new educational unit to be added to the present church building. The addition will include 10 new classrooms, a large dining area-social room with a big fireplace, and a study for the pastor.

The afternoon began with a hog roast, after which the ground breaking service was held. Members of the church pulled together on a rope attached to a plow to break the ground.

An offering was taken during the service in which a total of \$6,100 was received. Rev. Kent Bennett, pastor of the Maurertown Church, reports that they now have \$33,000 toward the total of \$83,000 needed to complete the new addition.

Calendar of Events

October 6-8—Midwest District Conference, Morrill, Kansas.

October 9—Homecoming at the Loree, Ind., Brethren Church. Afternoon service will be at 1:30.

November 1-4—One-day Church Growth Seminars, sponsored by the Ohio Association of Evangelicals at Cleveland, Bluffton, Columbus, and Cincinnati. Seminar leader, Rev. Peter Unruh.

November 15—Central Council, Ashland, Ohio.



Membership Growth

North Manchester: 7 by baptism
Corinth: 11 by baptism

Graham completes visit to Hungary

Budapest, Hungary—Evangelist Billy Graham concluded his week-long preaching mission to Hungary saying that all of his reasons for coming had been more than fulfilled.

Graham's visit was given a strong beginning when an estimated 15,000 persons turned out for his first service. It is believed to be one of the largest audiences for a religious gathering since World War II.

Everywhere Graham preached he had overflow crowds. He preached in three different cities and had the opportunity to bring five evangelistic messages in which he gave invitations to accept Christ. Graham noted that "hundreds of people have given their lives to Christ."

One of Graham's reasons for visiting Hungary was to meet with church leaders. During his time there he gave three major addresses to church leaders. In addition, Graham said he had long discussions with the Bishops of various denominations and with the Jewish leadership of Hungary. He said he had never been to a country where he had met with the church leadership in so short a time.

During his visit Graham learned that Christians in Hungary have considerable freedom. People can come to church and freely worship God, there

were no preconditions or restrictions on his preaching at any time, and he was informed by church leaders about the challenges, opportunities, and problems they face. Mr. Graham commented at a press conference, "I think I can report that the church is very much alive in Hungary."

Dr. Graham had a hectic schedule for his short visit. In addition to the five evangelistic messages and the three public meetings with church leaders, he had lengthy dialogues with pastors and church officials, carried President Jimmy Carter's personal greetings to Deputy Prime Minister Gyorgy Aczel and to His Excellency Imre Miklos, President of the State Office for Church Affairs, visited a 46,000 acre collective farm, a Budapest factory, and was guest of honor at a reception at the U.S. Embassy by Ambassador Philip Kaiser.

In addition to Graham's preaching, other Team members Cliff Barrows, T. W. Wilson, John Akers, and Denton Lotz preached in a number of churches. Mrs. Graham also made several appearances.

Asked if he intended to visit other Soviet Bloc countries, Graham replied that he had no definite plans. "But if we receive a formal invitation from those who have discussed it with us," Graham said, "we will most likely accept it. I have to remember that God loves everybody and the Gospel is to the whole world and this is an important part of the world."

Campus Ministry Council employs three

Ashland, Ohio—The General Conference Campus Ministry Advisory Council (CMAC) has announced the employment of three workers for the 1977-78 school year.

Donald Snell is beginning his third year as coordinator of campus ministries at Ashland College. He is a student at Ashland Theological Seminary and a member of the Winding Waters Brethren Church. Don formerly worked with Campus Crusade for Christ.

Mike Gleason and Sue Canfield are being employed by the council for the first time. Previously, Mike and Sue worked on campus under sponsorship of the National Laymen's Organization. Both are students at the seminary and will serve as associates with Mr. Snell.

This is the first year the CMAC has been financially able to employ more than one worker. Additional financial assistance was made available for the new year by a pledge of \$6,500 by the National Laymen's Organization.

The CMAC was established by the 1975 General Conference. Membership of the council is composed of the five denominational executives and the president of Ashland College.

The campus ministry is supported by contributions from individuals, churches, districts, and auxiliaries.

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Address Correction
Brethren Publishing Company
524 College Avenue
Ashland, OH 44805

NAE calls for prayer for Africa

Wheaton, Ill. (NAE News)—At a recent meeting of the National Association of Evangelicals executive committee, the following call to prayer was issued to evangelicals across America:

“Recent events have called world attention to the volatile political situation which exists all across the continent of Africa.

“Millions of evangelical believers live in Africa. Nearly 8,000 North Americans serve as Protestant missionaries there. Many of them are suffering because of the political and ideological unrest. Thousands of Christians are among the multitudes who have been wantonly killed in Uganda.

“Since the beginning of 1977, two gospel radio stations have been silenced: The Voice of the Gospel in Ethiopia and the gospel station Radio Cordac in Burundi.

“In view of the critical needs of Africa, we call on Christians in America to pray for solutions which will bring peace to the continent with freedom for all. Pray that our fellow evangelicals may find ways to have a ministry of reconciliation in the midst of hostility.”

"God's Mandate/Our Mission" theme for 1978 NAE Convention

Wheaton, Ill. (NAE News)—“God’s Mandate/Our Mission” will be the theme of the National Association of Evangelicals’ 36th Annual Convention, to be held February 21-23 at the Radisson South Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis.

The theme is based on Micah 6:8, “. . . what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

In Memory

May Cassel Jacobs, 90, September 9, of Kingsburg, Calif. Widow of former Ashland College President Edwin E. Jacobs, who served in that role from 1919 to 1935. She was raised in the First Brethren Church of Philadelphia and graduated from Ashland College in 1908.

Elver Pullen, 62, August 29. Member of Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Alvin Grumbling, pastor.

Spencer Eschbach, 21, August 25. Member of North Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Woodrow A. Immel, pastor.

Clarence R. Sipes, 78, August 17. Member of Linwood, Md., Brethren Church. Services by Rev. Hayes Logan and Rev. Robert Young.

Mrs. Nellie Stover, 94, August 11. Member of Morrill, Kans., First Brethren Church. Services by Rev. Joseph Cooke.

ABS announces Bible Sunday

New York (ABS News)—“Let the Word Speak” has been chosen as the theme of National Bible Sunday 1977, according to an announcement by the American Bible Society.

Most churches will celebrate National Bible Sunday on November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. It is a day set aside for focusing on the worldwide cause of Bible translation, publication, and distribution, a service performed by the American Bible Society on behalf of the churches.

Aids available for celebrating Bible Sunday include a daily Bible reading guide, a Bible Sunday bulletin, a bulletin insert with a special Scripture responsive reading, special ABS Scriptures, films, filmstrips, and a Bible bank wrapper for collecting gifts for the Society’s work. These aids may be ordered from the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, New York 10023.

Weddings

Janice Eileen Straub to Michael Andrew Prebihilo, September 17, at Vinco, Pa., Brethren Church; Carl Phillips, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Vinco Brethren Church.

Carol Marie Humbarger to Ronald Pruden, September 2, at the bride’s home, Bloomington, Ill.; Rev. Robert Ashman, officiating. Bride member of Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Darcy Michelle Dunfee to Robert Wayne Kingery, Jr., August 13 at Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church; Alvin Grumbling, pastor, officiating. Groom member of Flora First Brethren Church.

Joy Elaine Shoff to Edgar Paul Boettcher III, August 7, at Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church; Alvin Grumbling, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Flora First Brethren Church.

Linda Grumbling to Dennis Albertson, August 6, at St. David’s Lutheran Church, Johnstown, Pa.; Rev. Ray Hileman, officiating. Bride member of Johnstown Third Brethren Church.

Cathy Jo Hanawalt to Michael Dean Morrow, July 30, at Market Street Methodist; Rev. Bill Moon officiating. Groom member of Corinth, Ind., Brethren Church.

Cindy Lou Seehase to Kevin Lee Scott, June 12, at Metea Baptist Church; Rev. Joel Blanton and Rev. Daniel Vittitoe officiating. Groom member of Corinth, Ind., Brethren Church.

Deborah Louise Barber to Richard Claude Surette, March 27, at Lancaster, Pa.; Rev. Carl Barber, father of the bride, officiating.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. George Giltner, 59th, October 17. Members of the First Brethren Church, Sarasota, Fla.

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Dillman, 50th, September 14. Mrs. Dillman a member of the Brethren Church, Corinth, Ind.

"Tell Me a Story!"

Stories to Tell in Children's Church by Velma B. Kiefer (Baker, 1966, 153 pp., \$2.95 paperback).

Velma B. Kiefer, a veteran storyteller, has compiled sixty-one children's stories in a very convenient-sized paperback book.

She has included a variety of stories. There are true stories taken from the lives of famous people—Fanny Crosby, John Bunyan, Abraham Lincoln, and others. There are also missionary stories, animal stories, and stories that relate everyday relationships of children with family, friends, and God. All stories illustrate Bible truths, and many include Bible verses or Bible stories.

Not only can **Stories to Tell in Children's Church** be used quite effectively in children's church, but it can also be used for Bible clubs, study groups, junior youth groups, or as a family devotional guide. Some intermediate-age children would find the stories fun and interesting to read by themselves.

Any person working with children would find this paperback a practical, useful, and worthwhile tool, and a helpful addition to his library.

—Joanne Kroft

Jo Kroft is a housewife from Ashland, Ohio. She is active in VBS and other children's ministries at the Garber Brethren Church.

On Romans

Romans: A Verse by Verse Study by Herschel H. Hobbs (Word Books, 1977, 169 pp., \$5.95 hardback).

This commentary on Romans is truly a verse by verse study. It may not seem possible that Herschel Hobbs has written a verse by verse commentary on the 16 chapters of Romans in only 169 pages, but he has.

This commentary also evidences scholarship. It shows the author's thorough acquaintance with the book of Romans. Herschel Hobbs evidences the spiritual gift of prophecy in his handling of the text.

It is necessary to have your King James version of the Bible open as you read this commentary, even though the author refers to 16 different versions to illuminate the text. He does not rely on English versions alone, however, but uses many Greek words and bits of Greek sentences in explaining the message of Paul. In addition, he uses quotations from other books of the Bible, comments from other commentators, and well-chosen illustrations in his exposition of the text.

This is a commentary that will delight the serious student of the word and the minister of the gospel. It is so well written that the intelligent Christian layman can also receive much help from it.

The author is recognized by many as Mr. Southern Baptist. He was pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City for 23 years and preacher on

the Baptist Hour for 18 years. This is his 27th book.

I am usually prejudiced against brief books, but this is an exception. It is full of meat. You cannot go wrong in buying this valuable little commentary.

—Rev. C. William Cole

Bill Cole is pastor of the Wabash, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Another Ivan

Ivan and the Informer by Myrna Grant (Tyndale, 1977, 108 pp., \$1.75 paperback).

This book is about Ivan, a young Russian, who is beginning to suffer persecution for being a Christian. He is nearly kicked off the school hockey team and is constantly harassed for not joining the Communist youth organizations.

Then Ivan and a few of his Christian friends are caught holding an illegal Bible study. His friends are fined, but he is not, which leads them to believe that he is the informer who got them caught.

I recommend this book for pre-teens because it is fast-paced, interesting, and because Grant wrote it perfectly for this age level. It's a good story on faith and long-suffering.

—Joe Hemersbach

Joe Hemersbach is a sophomore at Temple Christian High School in Kokomo, Indiana. He attends the Burlington, Ind., Brethren Church.

For Such a Time as This

For Such a Time as This by Vonette Zachary Bright (Revell, 1976, 122 pp., \$4.95 hardback).

A busy young woman, frustrated with the daily routine of husband, home, children, ministry, relates how she learned to recognize the reality that Jesus Christ needs priority in her life.

Because she made a full surrender of her life to Christ and learned to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, she was able to overcome her frustrations and share her faith with others. She learned to set long-term goals for herself in spiritual, physical, mental, social, recreational, domestic, and financial areas.

How she dealt with these goals should interest men as well as women, "For Such a Time as This." I liked it because it included so many things I could relate to my own life.

Vonette is the wife of Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ International. She, herself, is co-director of the Great Commission Prayer Crusade. She shares her faith as a speaker before civic, church, and women's groups.

—Betty Bird

Mrs. Bird is a member and active worker in the Berlin, Pa., Brethren Church.

Progress Report:

Association of Brethren Church Teachers

Christian Education Director Fred Burkey presents an updated summary on the new teachers' organization.

THE new Association of Brethren Church Teachers (ABCT) is off the ground! Will it fly? We know it will! Over 150 persons attending a "kick-off" luncheon during Conference agree. Most have already joined.

Among the purposes of ABCT are:

(1) The development of a sense of com-

radeship and mutual concern among Brethren Sunday school teachers (and youth leaders);

(2) The promotion of quality instruction in Brethren Sunday schools through training programs;

(3) The identification of the needs of teachers and students and the meeting of those needs;

(4) Keeping communications open at all organizational levels; and

(5) Generating enthusiasm for making Christian disciples.

Benefits to members include a bi-monthly newsletter containing ideas, news, reviews, resources, and announcements. Members also will receive a year's subscription to **KEY to Christian Education**, a quarterly magazine for local church teachers and leaders. A professional leadership team is now being assembled to staff the first round of regional **FOCUS Seminars** early in 1978. Members may attend at a reduced registration rate.

Later on, we project discounts on educational resources and materials. A follow-up luncheon for ABCT members is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 17,



Photo by Bruce Ronk

Fred Burkey spoke to Conference delegates and guests at a special luncheon describing the new association.

Looking Ahead in Christian Education

THE Board of Christian Education is working in a number of areas important to the growth and well-being of the Brethren Church. In recent meetings during General Conference, the Board established task forces to study problems in Sunday school curriculum, youth ministries, family life, and Christian discipleship.

Within the next year, these task forces will develop a wide range of recommendations and produce materials of value to both local church and district ministries. Following is a brief statement of the projected work of each task force.

Youth Ministry Development

A task force composed of members of the Board of Christian Education, representatives of the Woman's Missionary Society, National Laymen's Organization,

and National Brethren Youth will meet on Saturday, November 5, to evaluate and explore the possibility of an integrated youth ministry for the Brethren Church.

BYC Policy Manual

The need for a manual as a guide to the work of Brethren Youth Crusaders at the local, district, and denominational levels has been identified. Work on this project will coincide with the findings of the Youth Ministry Development Task Force.

Sunday School Curriculum

Curriculum materials produced by major evangelical publishers will be reviewed in terms of the needs of Brethren Sunday schools. Also, special effort will be devoted to improving adult Christian education.

(continued on next page)

1978. Also, the membership will be eligible to nominate candidates for both Educator of the Year and Sunday School of the Year.

Applications for membership are now being received from Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, pastors, superintendents, and members of local, district, and denominational Boards of Christian Education. Charter memberships will be received until November 30, 1977. All Charter Members will receive a complimentary set of INSIGHTS, forty pages of condensed information for Christian Educators, published by Scripture Press. INSIGHTS covers ten topics of interest to teachers and leaders ranging from "The Ministry of Teaching" through "Evaluation: Looking in Your Mirror." This additional benefit to Charter Members is a regular \$2.00 value.

The annual membership fee of only \$5.00 promises to pay excellent dividends. Inquiries and applications for membership should be directed to:

Board of Christian Education

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Photo by Bruce Ronk

Good food and good fellowship combined at the special introductory ABCT luncheon at General Conference. What ABCT members do you recognize in this photo?

Members of the Board of Christian Education have been working diligently to meet the Christian education needs of the Brethren Church.



Christian Discipleship

Materials for the development of Christian disciples suitable for use in Brethren churches will be sought by this group. In areas of need, some new resources may be developed and made available.

Family Life

Programs and materials for the improvement of Christian family life will be identified and publicized. Some seminars on the subject are planned.

Program Coordination

The Executive Committee of the BCE will meet with the presidents of the district boards of Christian education January 19 and 20, 1978, to continue efforts to coordinate and improve the over-all education and youth programs.

So, the denominational BCE is looking ahead with anticipation to providing materials and services of value to the entire fellowship. Ideas, concerns, or suggestions are always welcome.

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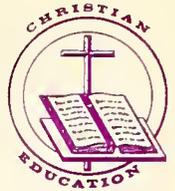
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New Brethren Youth Moderator and Officers

DELEGATES to the 1977 National Brethren Youth Convention in August elected James P. Miller as moderator for 1977-78. A native of Johnstown, Pa., Jim has long been active in local, district, and national youth activities. He has served as a Summer Crusader for five summers and plans to enter the pastoral ministry.

This year Jim is a senior at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa., where he is completing a Bible major. He is interested in drama, music, and athletics and has been involved in nearly every possible kind of church program from camping through personal evangelism.

We welcome Jim to the leadership of National BYC and know that he, along with the rest of the officers, will do a great job.

The new vice moderator is David Kerner from Roann, Ind., an Ashland College sophomore. Elaine Hensley, of Mt. Olive and Eastern Mennonite College, is secretary. Her assistant is Nancy Dreyer, whose home is Tucson, Ariz. Nancy is a senior at the University of Arizona. Jon Barber is the treasurer. His home is Herndon, Va., and he is a junior at Ashland College. The statistician is Tim Rowsey, of St. James, Md.

These are all fine Christian young people who will be the core of leadership for National BYC. During the year we hope to give them as many opportunities as possible



BYC Moderator Jim Miller

to participate in district BYC rallies, retreats, and planning programs.

Please direct inquiries about their participation to the BCE office.





(continued from page 5)

It's frightfully easy for us to get caught up in the life of our local churches, forgetting that we are in fact a part of one another. Each congregation is a cell of the body, and each must think of itself in such terms. Henry Holsinger and the others who started the Progressive Brethren described our church government as federated congregationalism. Incidental affairs of operation are left to the local churches, but in major areas of thought and life all Brethren must stand together. We really do need each other!

Rev. Kent Bennett described in a 1970 article in the Brethren Evangelist "What It Means to be Brethren." So far as outsiders are concerned, he wrote, the quality that distinguishes the Brethren is their caring fellowship, what we are here calling a family style of Christianity. Think for a moment about the names of other denominations. Lutherans are disciples of Martin Luther. Presbyterians are so called because they govern their churches by a system of elders (presbyters). Baptists insist on that great rite of the church, and that it be by immersion. Methodists got their nickname because the founding Wesley brothers were so methodical in everything they touched. But what can you do if your name is "Brethren"? You have to be a family! That is what outsiders noticed about the first Christians, and this is what observers marked about the early Brethren, too.

The Brethren Church exists to express our allegiance to the Lord Jesus in a family style out of loyalty to the gospel and love for the world. The second half of that sentence contains the "why" of the Brethren Church, our reason for existence.

"We in a republic don't understand lordship . . . how it feels to have someone over us, before whom we fall prostrate and whisper, 'Master!' "

Loyalty to the gospel

As Jesus interpreted it, loyalty to his saving good news means obedience. "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and don't do the things that I say?" he asked. "If you love me, keep my commandments." And so, for Brethren from 1708 to 1978, love has meant loyalty more than coziness or ecstasy.

Now, every family has its forms, and the forms of various families differ. Some whole families, for example, squeeze the toothpaste tube in the middle. In one family the father takes out the garbage; the father in another family wouldn't think of taking out the garbage. Call it tradition, call it ritual, call it whatever you like—every family has its forms. And the Brethren Church has hers. Best known are the external forms of baptism by trine immersion, confirmation by the laying on of hands, the three-fold service of the Lord's Supper, and prayer with anointing for healing.

In addition to these, the Brethren family style from the beginning took the internal form of **an obedient life**. Here is the root of which the external forms are fruit. If Jesus commanded something, the original Brethren tried to do it. Sometimes they went too far and had to pull back; then they might change direction, only to correct their course again. But they were desperately intent on obeying the word of the Lord to whom they had pledged allegiance.

This family style was also a **separated life**, a life set apart from the world and reserved for Jesus' use. At times there was too much emphasis on being separated "from" and not enough on being set apart "for." Today many Brethren haven't even heard of the doctrine of the separated life. It is in Scripture, and it's part of our heritage.

In the third place, Christian life for the founding Brethren was a **simple life**. Modesty and frugality in obedience to the New Testament characterized their style of living. Now, when ecologists are urging us to simplicity, the Brethren could take their flag out front if they really believe in a simple life.

It also was a **peaceful life**. This meant a life in which they not only tried to put away violence in religion and international relations, but also they tried to avoid harsh feelings toward one another. These may arise as part of life in a family, but Scripture calls Christ's followers to be reconcilers and peacemakers.

Likewise it was for the early Brethren a **ministering life**, one in which, at their best, they approached the world and asked, "May I serve you?" If Jesus the Lord came to minister and give away his life, his servants who followed him could do no less.

Can we today hold together these historic forms and our contemporary methods? Or must one be sacrificed in the interest of the other? The Progressive Brethren were convinced that no necessary contradiction exists between eternal realities and time-conditioned techniques. They said in effect, "We can both be loyal to the truth of the gospel as practiced by the early church and apply it in the modern world using the very latest methods." Henry Holsinger even appeared in a photograph wearing his new-fangled rubber overshoes to prove that it could be done!

Love for the world

In attempting to carry out this ideal, Charles F. Yoder, after earning a Ph.D. degree and editing the Brethren Evangelist, left this country in order to found a missionary work in Argentina. Many years and heartbreaks later, when it became necessary to reestablish that same work, Dr. Yoder—then past retirement age—set about to do the job.

This was love for the world, but not in the wrong sense. It was not love for the world that "is passing away and all the desires of it." No, this was true, proper love for the world, as when "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." In fact, "in Christ, God was acting to reconcile the world to himself." That's what

got the Progressive Brethren going a hundred years ago. It was their loyalty to the gospel that made them Brethren; their love for the world made them Progressives.

When a theologian asked Jesus about this business of the great commandment and the second, he answered with the story of the good Samaritan. One analysis of that parable says that each of the bandits who beat the traveler and left him half dead was in effect saying, "What's yours is mine, and I intend to take it." The priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side were saying, "What's mine is mine, and I intend to keep it." And the Samaritan — hated half-breed that he was — declared, "What's mine is yours, and you're welcome to it if you need it."

When Jesus finished the story, he turned the theologian's question around. The problem had been "Who is my neighbor?" but he reversed it, asking, "Which of these was neighbor to the victim?" Our Lord laid the responsibility on his hearers to take the initiative by acting in a neighborly manner. He did not require needy outsiders to justify receiving aid. "What's mine is yours, and you're welcome to it if you need it." As those who have become new creatures in him, we need no longer claim anything for ourselves—not even our life.

The existence God gives us is not ours but his, to be given away for the sake of the gospel and the world. Such was the spirit of former Progressive leaders like editor Henry Holsinger, evangelist Stephen Bashor, missionary Charles Yoder, theologian J. Allen Miller, brothers named Ronk, and the inimitable Mrs. U. J. Shively.

At the time of the American Revolution two famous printshops operated in Philadelphia, those of Benjamin Franklin and Christopher Sauer, Jr. A loyal member of the German Baptist Brethren, Sauer suffered personally and professionally during the war and its aftermath. Still he never lost sight of the motto placed in the shop by his father: "For the glory of God and my neighbor's good."

That's what the Brethren are all about. A faith to live by, a family to live with, certain forms to live out, and a future to live for—all to the glory of God and the good of our neighbors. That's why there's a church called Brethren!

"The Progressive Brethren said in effect, 'We can both be loyal to the truth of the gospel as practiced by the early church and apply it in the modern world using the very latest methods.'"

Missionaries of the Bible

Preaching Saves a City

"Jonah," called God, "I have work for you to do. Go to the great city of Nineveh. Tell them I am going to destroy them because they are so wicked."

Jonah usually obeyed God. He certainly agreed with Him now about Nineveh being wicked. He had heard of the many evil things they did. "I don't want to preach to those wicked people," Jonah thought. "If I stay here God will keep asking me to go to Nineveh. I know what I'll do! I'll get on a ship and sail to Tarshish. Maybe God won't notice I'm going away from Nineveh."

So Jonah found a ship ready to sail to Tarshish. He bought a ticket, boarded the ship, and went below deck to hide from God.

Now, of course, God who knows everything knew exactly what Jonah was doing. When the ship was at sea, God sent a strong wind and a terrible storm. The sailors thought their ship would surely sink.

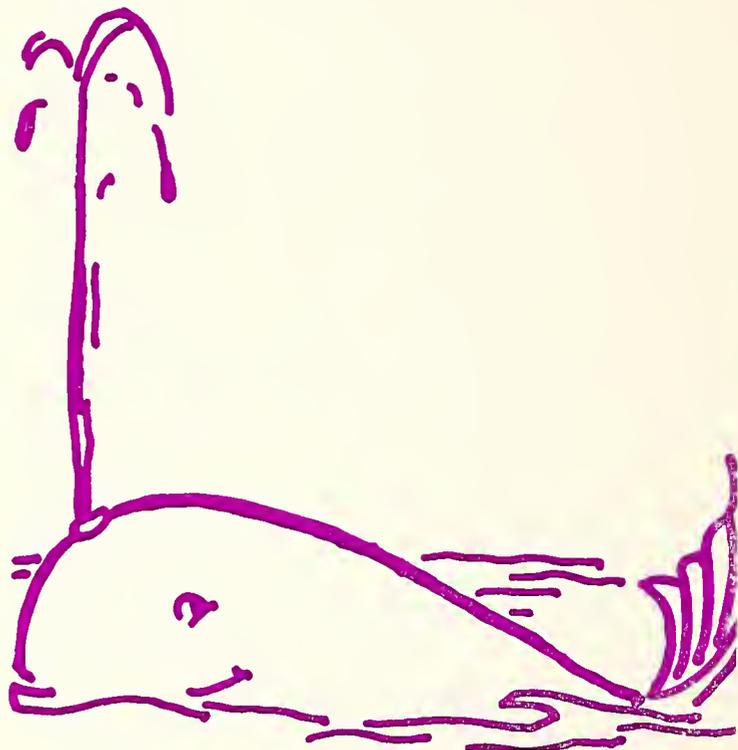
"Jonah," called the captain. "Come up. We are in terrible trouble."

"It's all my fault," Jonah told the captain and sailors. "I tried to fool God. I tried to run away from Him. Throw me into the water and the storm will be over."

"We can't do that," said the captain. "You would drown."

Again the sailors tried to row the ship out of the storm. It was no use. They had never been in such a terrible storm. At last they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the storm stopped!

Jonah did not drown as the sailors thought he would. God had prepared a great fish which opened its mouth and swallowed Jonah whole.



For three days and three nights Jonah was inside that fish. He knew why he was there. He had disobeyed God. Would he ever get out? he wondered.

"Oh, God," prayed Jonah, "I'm sorry I tried to run away from You. I'm sorry I didn't go to Nineveh as You asked me to do. If you will save me from this fish, I'll worship you every day. Yes, and I will go to Nineveh to tell the people how displeased You are. I will tell them you plan to destroy their city because of their wickedness. Please save me, God, and I will obey You."

Just then the fish spit up Jonah and he landed on a nearby shore.

"Thank You, God," said Jonah.

"Go to the great city of Nineveh," said God. "Go and warn them as I told you before."

This time Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh.

When he entered the gates of that large city, he shouted to the people, "God is displeased with you."

A crowd gathered around him. "God has seen

Readiness Activities

1. Making a fish mobile will appeal to some of the children. Have them draw, color (both sides), and cut out many different kinds of fish. These can be fastened to a coat hanger with varying lengths of thread.
2. Other children will like to draw on large paper a picture of a ship in a storm at sea. Talk about the pictures during the story.

More Valuable Than Money

Susie was seven years old. She liked to help at home. She made her bed. She set the table. She dusted.

She liked to play with her friends. They played hide-and-go-seek, tag, and jump the rope. When the days were cold or rainy, they played with their toys in the house.

Susie was in second grade. She could read harder books now. And she could spell enough words to write letters to Grandma.

Every Sunday Susie and her family went to church.

One morning in Sunday school Mrs. Morgan, the teacher, asked, "What part of the church service do you like best?"

"Oh, I like the organ," said Jack. "I like to hear the pretty music."

"I like to sit and look at the colored windows," said Ann. "Especially when the sun is shining."

"I like to hear Mr. Dale sing," said Linda. "He sings loud."

"He sure does!" agreed Sam.

"One Sunday I dropped my penny," said John. "It rolled all the way to the front. That was funny." He giggled. The other children giggled, too.

"That's the part of church I don't like," said Susie. "The offering."

"Why, Susie?" asked Mrs. Morgan.

"'Cause I don't have any money," answered Susie.

"Is money the most important thing we can give God?" Mrs. Morgan asked.

The children looked thoughtful.

"What else can we give Him?" John wanted to know.

"We can't help Him like we do our dads and moms," said Sam.

"And we can't share our toys with Him like we do with our friends," added Linda.

"No," said Mrs. Morgan. "But you know when we are a cheerful helper and a kind friend, God is pleased. You are showing you love Him by the way you act."

The bell rang for the end of Sunday school.

"Remember, children," said Mrs. Morgan, as they got ready to leave. "You have something more valuable than money to give to God."

All week Susie thought about what Mrs. Morgan had said. "Something more valuable than money."

"This Sunday I'll have an offering," she thought.

Sunday morning while the organ was playing and the ushers were passing the offering plates, Susie took a folded piece of paper from her purse. When the plate was passed to her, she put the paper on it.

Later, when the treasurer and his helper were counting the money, they found Susie's paper. The treasurer unfolded it, read it, and gave it to his helper to read.

When they finished counting the money, they put the money in the bag to take to the bank the next day. Susie's note they took to the pastor.

"This was in the offering today," said the treasurer.

The pastor took the note, read it, smiled, and said, "This gift is worth more than all the money given to God in all the churches in the world today."

The note said:

Dear God,

I don't have any money, but I give myself to You.

Susie

(Based on a true incident told to the Signal Lights editor by Pastor George Solomon, Derby, Kansas.)

your wickedness," Jonah said. "Forty days from now He will destroy Nineveh."

When the king heard what Jonah was saying, he said, "We are a wicked city. Let us pray to God. Let us tell Him we are sorry. Perhaps if we turn from our wickedness, God will let us live."

The king and his noblemen and all the people of Nineveh prayed to God. They told Him they would give up their wicked ways and obey Him.

God heard their prayers. He saw them turn from evil. Then God did not destroy their city. He saved them because they were sorry for their sins.

—Based on Jonah

Memory Scripture: Salvation is of the Lord.

Jonah 2:9b

Salt and Light

(continued from page 10)

is not because we believe that social action takes the place of evangelism, worship, and nurture. We have aggressively pursued these areas too.

Rather, we see social action as the other side of the gospel, applying its concerns and truths and principles to the issues and problems of daily life. We see social action as Christians busy at discipleship, being salt and light in society, as Jesus instructed. Social action is not a substitute for evangelism and missions; it is their companion.

Let's really "equip for ministry"!

by Peter Roussaki

It had been a couple of years since I'd been to General Conference. When I read that this year's theme was "Equipping for Ministry," I was indescribably excited.

Many denominations have for many years taken this process of ministry seriously. For example, the Southern Baptists have denominational agencies for the promotion, training and enrichment of special area ministries: Christian education, church music, church recreation, Christian social work, campus ministry, communications, denominational staff ministry, evangelism, and missions. In addition, for each of these a comprehensive program of seminary training is offered.

I count it a privilege to have benefited from their seminary education for the ministries of music, Christian education, and campus ministry. I now serve as an associate pastor for Christian education in a Methodist church in a denomination where multiple staff ministry is encouraged.

Many Methodist-sponsored workshops are held for the understanding of the multiple staff organization and church staff relations for special area ministers and lay leaders. The role of lay persons in the work of the church is taken seriously because it is the laity who comprise the greater fellowship of the body and who must be encouraged to translate their faith into responsible service for Christ.

I approached General Conference with high hopes, with great expectations. I left utterly disillusioned. How could a national denominational convention, proposed to be advancing the process of equipping for ministry, fail so miserably?

Did the committee in charge of planning Conference truly grasp the significance of the equipping process? Why was nothing said which at least would have discussed the meaning of the Conference theme? Why no suggestions for how to equip?

The only Conference program which had any focus on equipping was the presentation for the Association of Brethren Church Teachers, a fine new auxiliary committed to the task of enriching the educational ministry of the local church.

As I have had time to sit back and evaluate why things were as they were, I have come to believe that the fullness of the theme was not grasped. The idea was the best I've heard in years. Unfortunately, the idea was not carried out.

Why was this so? I believe the answer lies in the consideration of several ideas.

Brethren pastors have not been educated to understand the implications of equipping. Nor have most pastors or seminary students had any experience in a multiple staff situation—full time. They lack the appreciation for what a special area minister's job is all about.

It seems to me that the mindset of the Brethren is stuck in the idea of a church with one pastor. I understand this from an historical tradition. But we're not living in the eighteenth or nineteenth century any more. History is history. We live in a changed society. Industrializa-

tion, advanced technologies, and twentieth century philosophies have led us to an age of specialization where church persons' needs and the needs of the man in the street are diversified, and a one-man-show will not do. Larger churches should take notice. Specialization is in vogue. Let's face the reality.

There are scores of dynamic, talented youth who have no one to nurture stifled musical and dramatic gifts, for example. It's no wonder youth stay with school activities rather than church functions. We're not preparing church workers to meet their needs. Above all other institutions, the church should embrace the arts, sanction their use, and nurture God-given abilities for the work of His Kingdom.

There's more, oh so much more reality, relevance, and substance to our faith to be appreciated. Why aren't we equipping people to be the agents of reconciliation of these abilities and needs?

I do not believe it's a question of finances. We lack the will and the education. Who's kidding who? Many folks in our congregations pour out enough money in a year on junk food and pleasure things to support an additional special area minister.

It almost seems old hat to say it, but the Scriptures admonish us to commission all kinds of special area ministries. The process for ministry mentioned in Acts 6:1-7 (delegation

Peter Roussaki was formerly minister of music and education for the New Lebanon, Ohio, Brethren Church.

Views expressed in "As I See It" are strictly those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Who rules the roost?

by John L. Giffin

One of the strongest social movements within the past few years has been the demand for civil rights. Civil rights are no longer the interest of only the blacks. Multitudes of groups now pursue their civil rights.

of responsibility) and the ministries quoted in Romans 12:4-8, I Corinthians 12:4-6 and Ephesians 4:11-13 are there for us to ponder and act upon. We are called to be sensitive to one another's abilities, to realize we complement one another in our diversified strengths. No one can do it all.

I'm thankful for the work of the Board of Christian Education. They are doing much with their limited resources and staff. The seminary is making progress with specializations in pastoral psychology and Christian education.

There's much more to do. I have three recommendations.

1) I believe there is a need for **solid** seminary training in worship education, multiple staff ministries, Christian social service, staff relations, musical and dramatic ministries, and denominational staff ministries. In this way we'll prepare for the future.

2) Denominational workshops should be offered in the above said areas. In this way we'll make the transition for the future (which is the present in many other denominations).

3) Another emphasis should be made either through an additional auxiliary (i.e., Fellowship of Brethren Artists) or through an expanded Board of Christian Education staff, to care for the enrichment and training of worship leaders (pastors and lay leaders), music, drama and Christian literature. We need to develop a 20th century Brethren cultural expression, something which does not exist at present.

As I see it, it's time to support a denominational venture for expanding the preparation for special area ministries. In this way will we equip for ministry and complement the work of pastoral care.

Groups such as the women's liberation movement, movements for the rights of the American Indians, the gay liberation movement, and even a movement for the rights of prostitutes to practice their trade are demanding that society recognize and grant their requests. People are demanding the freedom to engage in whatever profession or life-style they choose.

History speaks to the fact that no lasting society can be built upon the oppression of certain groups of people. People need the freedom to think, to speak, and to live. A society that is built on anything besides respect for personhood is doomed to fail.

But history also says that no lasting society can be built when
(continued on next page)

John Giffin is a student at Ashland Theological Seminary and pastor of the Ganges United Church of Christ, Shelby, Ohio.

What will Brethren do about homosexuality?

by Dottie Mellott

I would like to know if the Brethren Church is going to take a stand on the Bible-based moral issue of homosexuality.

My husband Charles and I feel as believers in Jesus Christ that it is our obligation to take a stand against legalizing homosexuality. We feel that to sit back and not "get involved" would be a sin against God and our brothers and sisters. These perverted people are openly influencing many otherwise sexually normal people **and** our children—those ones God has blessed us with and given us a responsibility for.

I am distressed that we sit in our pews on Sunday, then go out the rest of the week saved, sitting, and satisfied. It is time that we, as our forefathers before us, take a stand on this immorality in the name of Jesus Christ and be heard before it is too late. It is time we get off

the pews and carry the cross.

We all can't be missionaries away in some foreign land. But we do have a mission field right here in the good old U.S.A. We must preach the gospel and not be afraid to speak out on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We had a discussion one evening about what one person could do. Let me remind you of what one woman did—Madalyn Murray. She had prayer taken out of schools, which did affect our children.

Let me say this in closing: when we make our voices heard, we are not going alone; we are going with the power of the Holy Spirit of God, which is the strongest force in the world and which is given to every born-again Christian.

And again, it is our responsibility that, when we pray for our country, we should be willing to do something too.

Dottie Mellott is president of Handicapped Citizens of Washington County and a member of First Brethren Church, Hagerstown, Md.

Conference did pass a resolution on homosexuality, due in part to the concern of Mrs. Mellott. The resolution is printed in its entirety in the General Conference Special Report issue of the Brethren Evangelist.

(continued from page 33)

the people of that society are immoral. Neither can a society be built upon the idea that everyone does what he thinks right and nothing else.

These are the two questions we must face as a country today:

1. Can a society recognize as a civil right behavior that is considered immoral and will in itself undermine that society?
2. Where do the rights of one individual end and the rights of another individual begin? or Where do the rights of one group end and the rights of another group begin?

Recognition of rights cannot be based upon the idea that each person lives unto himself. Man is social. What man does always affects others. What he says always affects others.

We have long recognized this principle in property rights, such as zoning laws, etc. We are long overdue to recognize this principle in personal rights. When what a person says or does affects the welfare of another person, or the welfare of his family or society, he has the right to say no.

Anita Bryant and those supporting her faced this question in Dade County, Florida. In this situation, as in every confrontation, there were misunderstandings and false charges. Yet the principle should be clear. Persons have the right to live as they choose as long as their lifestyle does not undermine society or infringe upon the rights of others.

The Church should be supporting Miss Bryant in her struggle, as she carries her campaign to other parts of the country. Not for the oppression of homosexuals, but for the preservation of society and the guarantee of her own rights and the rights of her family.

It is not up to the Church to legislate morality for the whole nation. But it is the responsibility of the Church to speak and work against moral corruption, whatever the form. It is up to the Church to insure the rights of its people.

finally, brethren

... some thoughts to take with you!

Prayer of Concession

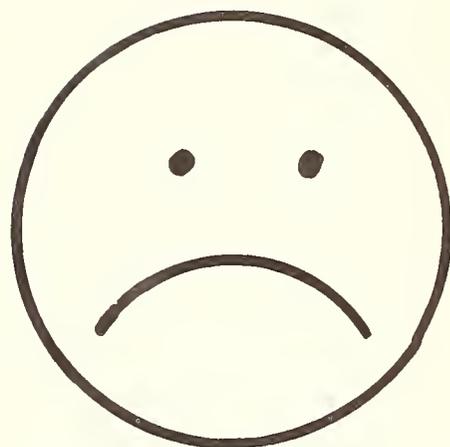
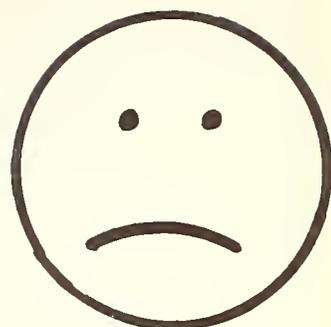
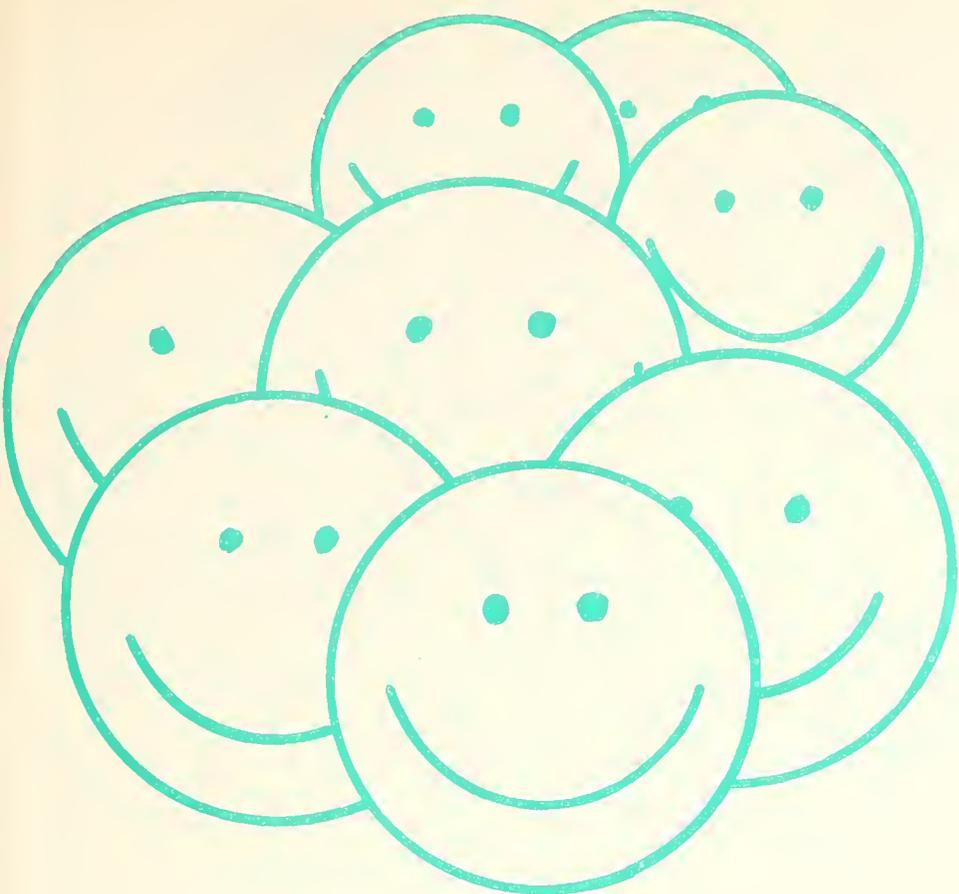
Father, when You said, "Go,"
I could not reply, "No."
Yet I doubted;
I pouted.

Though Your request seemed stern
I could not hide nor turn,
But I sighed.
I cried.

Your will was very clear:
Leave all that was most dear.
Still I delayed;
Then obeyed.

Joyously, now I see
Your plan was right for me.
I am content.
Content!

—Alberta Holsinger



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Or write to Ron Waters or Dick Winfield for more information. There's no obligation if you write.

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*What do you do
with a
"SONshine Orange"?*



Arden Gilmer says you should:

- Pick it up** . . . at your local Brethren church, early in the month of October (or write to the Missionary Board)
- Fill it** . . . with coins, bills, or checks
- Display it** . . . in a prominent place in your home, as a prayer reminder for OPERATION IMPACT—for the Bennetts and RuLons in Florida
- Slice it open** . . . on November 27 at the "Harvest Ingathering" at your church, and release the money to be invested in reaching men and women for Jesus Christ

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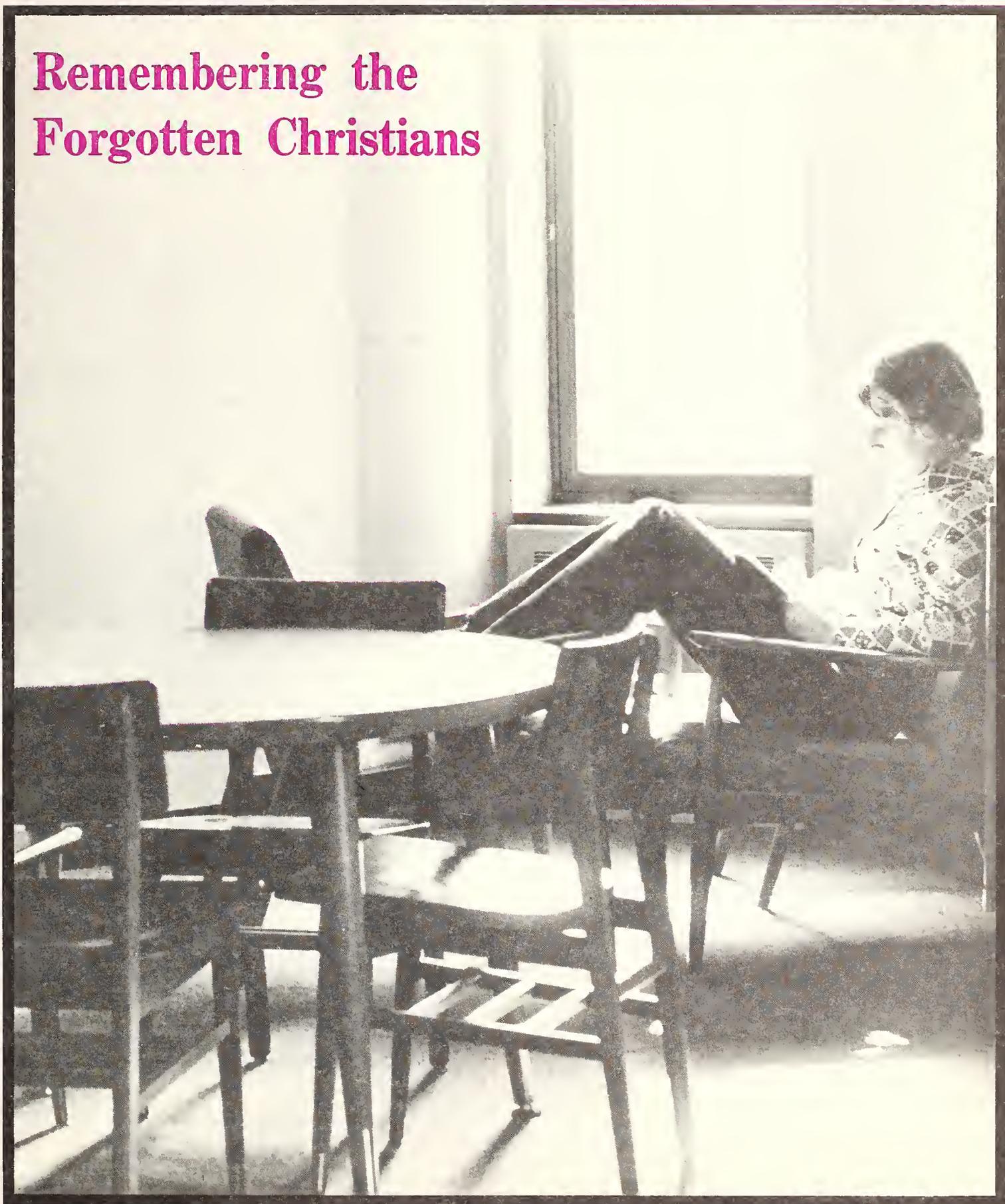
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but they have not prevailed
against me."

The
Bible Class Quarterly
Winter 1977-78

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Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists; \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Cover

College students are often a forgotten group of Christians, yet they have basic needs which must be met. See page 4. (AC photo by Steve Stokes)

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Remembering the Forgotten Christians

Roger Thomas says we should invest more attention in those young Christians away from home.

TEN years ago when Charles Garrison, then campus minister at the University of Kentucky, authored a guidebook for college-career work, he had good reason to entitle it **Forgotten Christians** (College Press, 1967). At that time, very little was being done by anyone in the Christian churches to minister to the needs of the thousands of young believers on the college campus. When a young man or woman left home for the university or for a job, he was for all practical purposes **forgotten**.

Today, things have changed—to a point. Now there are dozens of campus ministries across the country. Thousands of Christian students benefit from their programs every year and hundreds more are introduced to Jesus for the first time through their outreach. But still, even today, the college-career young person often remains the forgotten Christian in the church.

Consider the situation of a typical teenager. Throughout high school, he's at the center of attention. There are Sunday-school classes, youth groups, social activities, and often even a youth minister—all aimed at keeping him close to the Lord. Again and again, he hears preachers, elders and other leaders in the church emphasize the importance of youth work. "They are tomorrow's church! We must reach **them** if we don't do anything else," is the church's battle cry. Surrounded by such concern and interest, the young person naturally feels loved, and gets an idea that he is actually a valuable part of the church.

Even as he graduates from high school, the young Christian is the center of attention. Special announcements, honors, and

even gifts are showered on him by the church.

And then it happens!

After high school everything changes, especially for the student who heads for the university rather than the Bible college. No more youth programs! No more social activities! And most of the time not even a Sunday-school class! If he goes to Sunday school, he is shuttled in with either the high school "kids" or the young marrieds. Conversation centers in either the principal, study hall, and P.E. class, or babies and diapers!

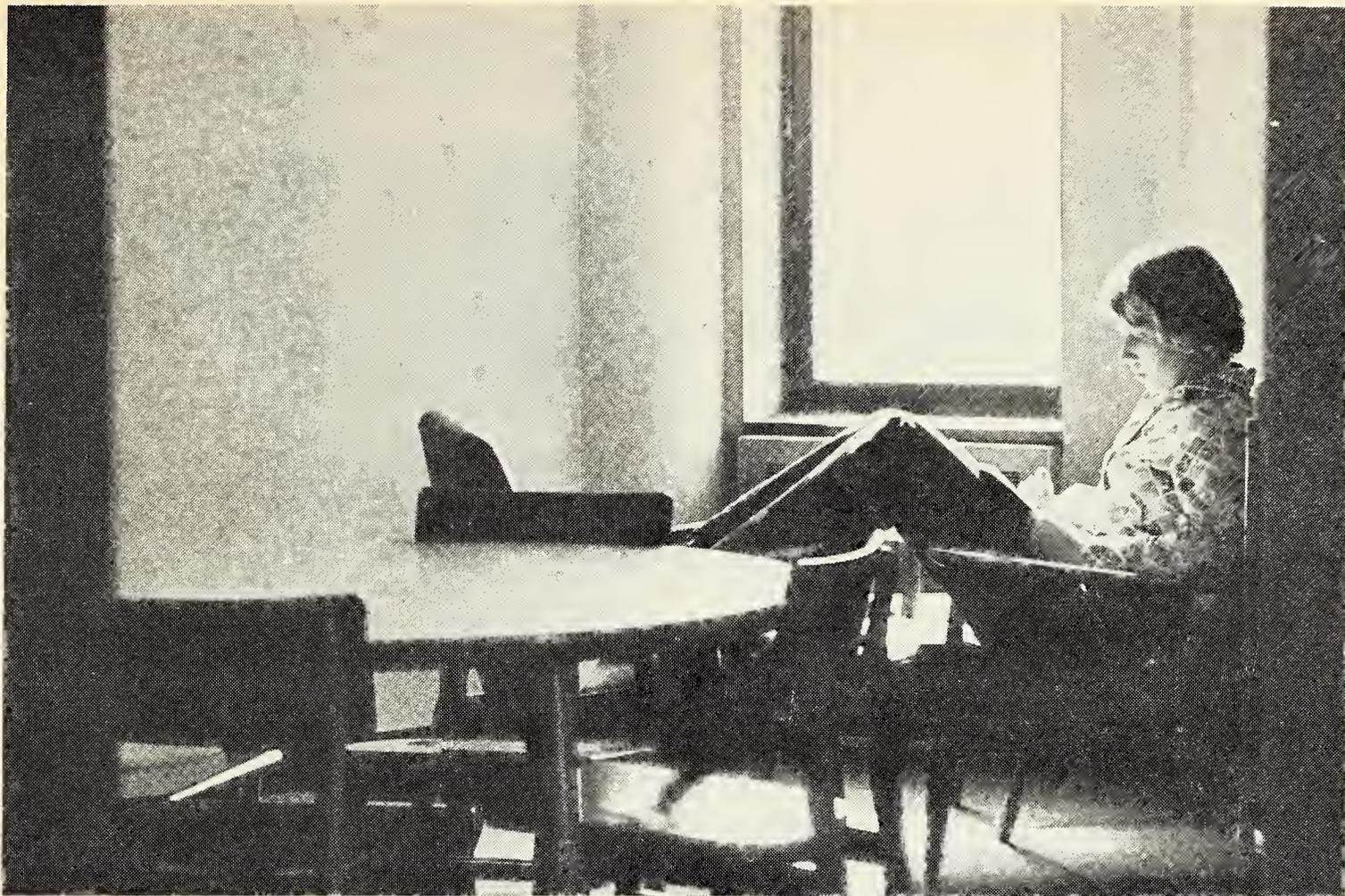
After a few weeks away at school, the new college student gradually loses contact back home. He seldom hears from anyone in the church when he's gone. And when he does make it home for church, he finds that the few church folk who take the time to talk to him have forgotten what he's doing or where he is going to school. After a while with fewer and fewer of his friends around, the church doesn't seem like home any more.

Can anyone wonder why the vast majority of college age young people are no longer active in the church by their second or third year in school?

This continuing tragedy of the "forgotten Christians" is of special concern to me. As a campus minister and before that as a college town preacher, I've seen both sides of the street. I have seen young Christians come to the campus and I have watched them go away to college. And I have also seen the difference that a little special effort on the part of the home church can make in the life of a student.

Let me share with you a few simple suggestions that may help your church remember those "forgotten Christians."

Roger Thomas is campus minister at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.



Prepare them

Prepare your students for college by giving them a sense of mission. Tell your high school students that God wants to use their lives wherever they are. Help them to see that their service is not limited to "Christian vocations," but extends to any and every position that God leads them to. This vision of what God can do with him can give the young believer a purpose for holding on when everything else seems to be falling apart.

Also do your best to let your young Christians know that you expect great things from them. Don't burden them with well intended warnings about the "terrible" pressures at the secular university. Rather, tell them that they are your church's missionaries to that campus. Encourage them to seek out ways to witness and serve on the campus whether there is a campus ministry there or not.

Before the young person graduates from high school, help him select a college that will stimulate his Christian witness and growth. But note, this does not mean just a Bible college. If a young person declares an interest in a profession or career that requires work at the university, don't discourage him. Rather help him look for a college that has an active faithful campus

ministry and/or a local church with an effective ministry to students. Let him know about the Christian opportunities on that campus. Introduce him to the campus minister if possible. Best of all, plan a Saturday visit to nearby campus ministries for your entire high school youth group. Make sure that the young person knows ahead of time that his faith ought to set the standards when he chooses a college.

Use campus ministry

Prove to your young people that the church is serious about their Christian growth at college by supporting the work of the campus ministry. Acquaint your entire congregation with the work of various campus ministries. Invite various campus ministers to speak to your church and youth groups. Also, give campus ministry a place in your church's financial budget. Any church that cares enough about young people to have a high school youth program of any sort ought to be concerned enough about the future of those young people to invest significant money and promotion in the work of the campus ministry. Don't expect your college students to be interested in the campus ministry when they get to college if your church doesn't take such ministries seriously when

planning the budget and scheduling guest speakers.

All of the above suggestions must be done before a young person ever leaves church for the college campus. Once he is gone there is very little you can do to instill within him the proper values and priorities. Assuming you have done a respectable job preparing your young Christian for college, there are still some vital things you can do even after he leaves.

Communicate

Keep the communication lines open. Make sure that every young person in your church who is away from home is on your church's mailing list. This applies to college students, military personnel, those with jobs away from home, and others. Remember to write letters of encouragement and love. If Paul had the time to write Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and other Christians that he was personally involved with, certainly any modern-day preacher, elder, Sunday-school teacher, or concerned Christian friend should be able to find the time to write an occasional word of encouragement to a college student. Let the young person know that you still care and are interested in how his spiritual life is developing. Above all remember to visit with him when you see him at church.

Honor

Give honor when honor is due. A little recognition can make a big difference in a young person's life. Make note of his accomplishments at college. If he makes the dean's lists, is initiated into an honor society, or makes the football team, let him and others in the church know that you know. Especially acknowledge his involvement in Christian activities at school.

Along the same lines, **remember the student's special days**. Anybody away from home knows that birthdays and holidays are especially lonely times. A letter or card to a student on one of these special days just might be the brightest spark of love you've ever shown him. No matter how trivial you think it, he will remember it. **Care packages** are always appreciated by a student. A **care package** is any unexpected box of goodies that you can put together—cookies, candy, etc. Such surprises are

especially appreciated at mid-semester when he hasn't been home for several weeks or just before final exam time.

Supply spiritual support

Send him some high caliber spiritual ammunition. Make sure that he is acquainted with some good Christian books, especially those related to his field of study. Your church can also see that he continues to receive the same Christian literature that he would get if he were home all of the time—like **The Brethren Evangelist**, **BYC Morning Star**, **INSIGHT into Brethren Missions**, etc. A gift subscription to one of the many fine Christian student magazines could also be very helpful. **Campus Life** and **His** are among the best.

Finally, back him with your fervent prayer support. Mention your students frequently in prayer and suggest their names to the church as prayer requests. Their names and personal needs might also be added to prayer lists for circulation to the widows and shut-ins in the church. These elderly saints can provide a valuable ministry for the church just by interceding each day for your students and others in need of special prayer.

The ladies' group in your congregation might also adopt some of the students as special projects for prayer and other needs as they arise. The ladies, for example, might choose one student a month to receive special letters, cards, Prayer-Grams, and "care-packages." A student who knows that there are scores of friends and family back home praying daily for his spiritual growth is more likely to take his own spiritual responsibilities seriously.

Obviously, none of these suggestions is extraordinary. Your church may have been doing some of these things and more for years. But many haven't. As simple as these suggestions may seem, they can make a difference.

The key to all of this is intentionally planning to remember the student. Forgetting is easy. Remembering requires effort. But in this case, a little bit of time spent remembering the **forgotten Christian** is an invaluable investment in the future of your church and the kingdom! □

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"The key is intentionally planning to remember the college student. Forgetting is easy. Remembering requires effort."



Let's Face It

What do people see when they look you in the eye? Walt Kime tells how you can reflect your faith in your face.

HOW would you describe a Christian?"
"That's easy. He believes in Christ."
"But that only tells me what he believes. Describe him."

"Well... a Christian is one who goes to church, reads the Bible, and prays a lot."

"Now you've told me what he does. I want you to describe him."

"He gives to missions, calls on the sick, and helps those in trouble."

"You still don't get it. Describe him. What does he look like?"

"Oh! That's harder."

That is a fact. It is hard to describe a Christian. They come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Yet, what could be more important in our witness than the way we look? Oh, I'm not talking about being clean-cut or neatly dressed. I mean our faces. Our expressions. Our wrinkles. Our eyes.

How many times did people look into the eyes of Jesus and believe? What did they see? How did they feel? Stop for a moment and make a list of five feelings people might

have experienced as they looked at the face of Jesus. Write them down.

My list included peace, joy, strength, understanding. Did yours?

One more experiment before we go on. This one is harder. Go stand in front of a mirror. Close your eyes. Imagine yourself walking into church. You've just sung the hymn of meditation and heard the Scripture read. The minister steps into the pulpit and starts his sermon. He's on the second point.

Now open your eyes. Look at your face in the mirror. Notice how you hold your mouth, the lines around the eyes, and your expression. What would someone feel as they looked at you? Make a list.

Walt Kime is a senior at Ashland Theological Seminary.

(continued on next page)

Did your list include words like joy, peace, and strength? Mine didn't. My list looked more like serious, tired, worried, sad.

Experts say people can lie with their words but not with their bodies. Christians need to remember that! We can't tell a person that the Christian life is full of joy and have a face that broadcasts, "This person is depressed."

But can we change the way our faces look? They are, after all, the faces God gave us. True. Yet, they are also faces that are molded by our life experiences.

If you like the way you looked, great! Stop reading, praise God, and go on to the



"How many times did people look into the eyes of Jesus and believe? What did they see?"

next article. But if you were surprised by what you saw when you looked in the mirror, if you don't think your face reflected your faith, then try this exercise.

Step 1: Write down on paper what Christ means in your life. This should be about twenty-five words long.

Step 2: Take a red pencil and underline the key words or ideas in this statement of your faith.

Step 3: For each underlined word or idea, make a list of how you practice that belief in your life. We'll call this a life list.

Step 4: Taking the words or ideas one at a time, study the idea and your life list. Then write this question beside the idea, "Do I really believe this deep down inside?"

Step 5: Answer the question on paper.

If your answer was "No," that's fine. God has known that all along. And now that you know it, you can grow in that area. Study the word or idea. Write down what you don't agree with. Read what the Bible has to say about the matter. Talk it over with a friend. Read a book about the idea. Pray about it, and your faith will grow.

However, if your answer is "Yes," you face a different problem. It's not that you don't believe, it's that your belief doesn't show. So what do you do now?

Saturation is the key. Saturation and practice. A sponge can hold a lot of water. It keeps soaking up the water until every space is full. It is saturated to the point where, if you add more water, the sponge overflows.

Your mind is like a sponge. It soaks up facts about your faith. But when it becomes saturated, it overflows into your life.

Reading Scripture and praying are, of course, the ways to saturate your mind. But for now, read and pray with a purpose—that what you believe might show. As Psalms says, "Look to Him and be radiant."

But do more than read. Keep a notebook, a journal. Every time you read a passage that speaks directly to you, write it down. As you copy it, write in **your** name. For example, John 10:10 could be written: "I came that Walt might have life and have it more abundantly."

As your list grows, make a habit of reading ten each morning and ten at night.

"Practice makes perfect," the old saying goes. And it's true! To practice letting your faith show isn't as hard as it may first seem.

Take the list you wrote of what people felt when they looked at Jesus. Expand it, if you like, to include those ideas you are working on. At the start of each day, pick out one of the words you will work on that day. If "joy" is the word, then record it in your journal. "Today I will show joy as I greet people." Then practice showing joy throughout the day.

In the evening, write about your experiences that day. Tell how you tried, how you felt, and what people's reactions were. Write about the times you forgot, and how you could have done better.

Next, look over the whole list. Put check marks beside the words or ideas which you can specifically remember practicing that day. At the end of a month, this will give you a good measure of where you need to work.

Two points need to be made about practicing. (1) Your practice must be supported by prayer. Prayer in the morning for guidance with this idea. Prayer through the day for endurance. Prayer at night in thanksgiving for what God has done with you. (2) Your practicing should be shared. Tell a friend what you are doing—what word you are working on. Ask him to pray for you. Let him remind you or congratulate you or even practice with you.

Finally, when you go to church, praise God for the growth, and show Him your faith throughout the service. □

Doers of the Word

The Brethren of Peru, Indiana, have discovered that "doers" see results, as told by Richard Austin.

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).

WE have doers at the Peru First Brethren Church. I just praise the people who attend our church. God is not dead in Peru, Indiana! He is alive and well and is helping many Christians here to win victory after victory. We have committed our lives to the will of **Jesus Christ**.

I praise the name of Jesus for lives changed for the better in recent months. So many have rededicated their lives to Jesus Christ, and many have invited Jesus into their lives for the first time! We have seen the sick healed and the brokenhearted comforted by the blessed goodness of our Lord. I have seen Jesus enter prison cells and set men and women **free**. I have seen

Richard Austin is pastor of the First Brethren Church of Peru, Indiana.

Jesus Christ set tormented minds free—He cures and blesses the mentally ill.

I believe the church at Peru is a very special congregation. It is uniquely different, just as Jesus Christ is uniquely different. There is peace and joy here. We are ready for Christ's return. Our eternal hope is in Jesus Christ. We will endure with **joy**, and we will win a victory for the **glory of our Savior**.

I would like to share with you what has happened in my life. Before coming to Peru my family and I were members of the Warsaw First Brethren Church. It was at the Warsaw Church that my family and I found what we had searched for over a number of years. Through the life and witness of Pastor Claude Stogsdill and many of the members at Warsaw, I found myself drawn closer and closer to Jesus Christ.

Rev. Arden Gilmer's **Layman Alive** pres-



Team members have prayer before leaving the church for visitation in the community. Last year such teams made over 475 calls.

The Peru First Brethren Church sponsors a weekly Bible study in a Galveston, Indiana, home. Deacon Donald Flagg (left end, second row from front) is the study leader.



entation at the Warsaw Church in 1975 stirred me to the point where I began to study deeply and to spend much time in prayer. God began to deal with me in a very special way. Pastor Stogsdill placed me in charge of the visitation training program at Warsaw. Each step helped prepare me for the work that was ahead.

I was an industrial electrician at the time, and I really planned to remain a layman in the Brethren Church. Then God called me to greater service as the pastor of the Peru First Brethren Church.

As the ministry was about to begin at Peru, I was asked by the official board what I expected from the Peru congregation. I outlined what I felt I had learned

as a layman is important in the work of the church. Let me share with you how we approach the ministry as pastor and lay members at Peru.

We believe in aggressive outreach in which many members with many varied spiritual gifts go to the need. We are excited! We expect a visitation of the Holy Spirit not just once, but often in our lives.

As a part of our outreach, we have Visitation Teams which go out two-by-two each Tuesday night. These people are all trained soul winners. We have divided the city into ten areas which we have color coded, and each week the Visitation Teams work in a specific area. We also receive referrals from many sources, and we attempt to visit each of these families. Our Visitation Teams made more than 475 visits during 1976, and it appears the 1977 figure will be even higher.

There are also Bus Visitation Teams, which go out each Saturday morning. (These are not necessarily the same people as those who visit on Tuesday.) These teams work in a certain area each week contacting 80 to 100 families. The Bus Teams make many referrals to the Visitation Teams.

On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons Nursing Home Visitation Teams visit two local nursing homes. These people write letters for the residents, read them the Bible, cheer them up, or do whatever is required to help. The team members always have prayer before leaving the rooms. During 1976 these teams made more than 1,800 such visits. Many of the team mem-

Church growth at Peru

In 1976 the Peru First Brethren Church led all other Brethren churches in conversion growth. Conversion growth accounted for thirty-one new members in the church. Total increase for the year was 41 new members, giving them a 68% growth in membership in 1976.

Church growth has continued in 1977, with 17 conversions and 13 baptisms recorded as of General Conference.

The church has set a goal of 250 members by 1980. That will require an average gain of 38 members a year. Pastor Austin says, "I'm trusting Jesus Christ that we will do that!"



Nursing Home Visitation Team members Corine Austin and Dorothy Dennis visit with Pauline Barnett at a local nursing home. The Nursing Home Teams made over 1,800 visits last year.

bers are so thrilled by the nursing home and hospital visitation that they go for an additional few hours on one or two other days in the week.

We also have a Jail and Prison Ministry. Rev. George C. Brown, who is now pastor of the Denver Brethren Church, served as our Prison Chaplain until he was called to Denver early in 1977. I have traveled with Brother George and other members of the Peru Church to all the state prisons in Indiana except Indiana State Prison at Michigan City. This is a very special ministry with a great many heartaches, but there have been so many wonderful, wonderful blessings!

Members of the church have traveled with me to two mental institutions in Indiana. Mental institution visitation is very difficult, but the blessings are so very great. Pastor and members made more than 240 visits to jails, prisons, and mental institutions in 1976.

Bible studies are also an important part of the church at Peru. One of our deacons, Donald Flagg, leads a Bible study at Galveston, Indiana, each Monday evening. Our Sunday school superintendent, Lyman Resler, leads a Bible study at the parsonage each Wednesday morning. A youth Bible study is held each Thursday evening, and the adult Bible study and prayer time is each Thursday evening. I hope that by the beginning of 1978 our attendance at Bible studies will be larger than at morning worship. We cannot mature spiritually in our churches without meaningful Bible studies.

Many of our members have committed themselves to help in a discipleship program for new converts and new members. We want to see our new Christian friends grow closer to the Master day by day. We also have many excellent teachers in our Sunday school. These people are working daily to make the Sunday school hour more effective.

We are dedicated to **spiritual growth!** I see people each week stepping out in faith to grasp what Jesus Christ has for them.

We also pray for and expect continued **growth in numbers!** We believe we will either go forward or fall backward. There never is a time when we can pause to rest—we cannot stand still.

Jesus teaches us that the final days are near and that the “fields are already white for harvest.” If we are not growing, we have closed our eyes to the commands of Jesus Christ! There is little joy that can compare with the joy of having a friend, relative, or complete stranger discover new life with Jesus Christ.

God dwells in our lives—we take Him everywhere we go. We believe He will continue to fill us to the overflowing with His Holy Spirit. We would challenge each of you to really know God. Learn what God has for you to do! Most people spend so much time fretting over just living that they never learn what **joy** God has in store for them. Find out whom God wants you to reach out and touch. Find out where your caring and sharing is going to take you.

Praise the sweet name of Jesus, we have only begun! □

Ohio is BOOMing!

Larry Bolinger tells how the "Brethren of Ohio are On the Move" to plant new churches in their district.

**BOOM* (boom), *v.i.*, become active, prosperous; an acronym for "Brethren of Ohio are On the Move."

LET the report be heard among the Brethren. Ohio Brethren are fired up!

New churches should be planted. We are in responsive times! Christ tells us to "go, make disciples."

In April 1976, the Ohio District Conference made church planting one of its priorities. This task was given to its mission board. A goal of planting two new churches by 1982 was defined.

Larry Bolinger is pastor of the Smithville, Ohio, Brethren Church and chairman of the Ohio District Mission Board.

"Ten in Five"

A goal to plant ten churches in five years, beginning with 1976, was set by the national Missionary Board. Achieving this denomination-wide goal depends upon the development of a comprehensive church planting strategy involving existing districts, as well as starting churches in areas where there are no districts.

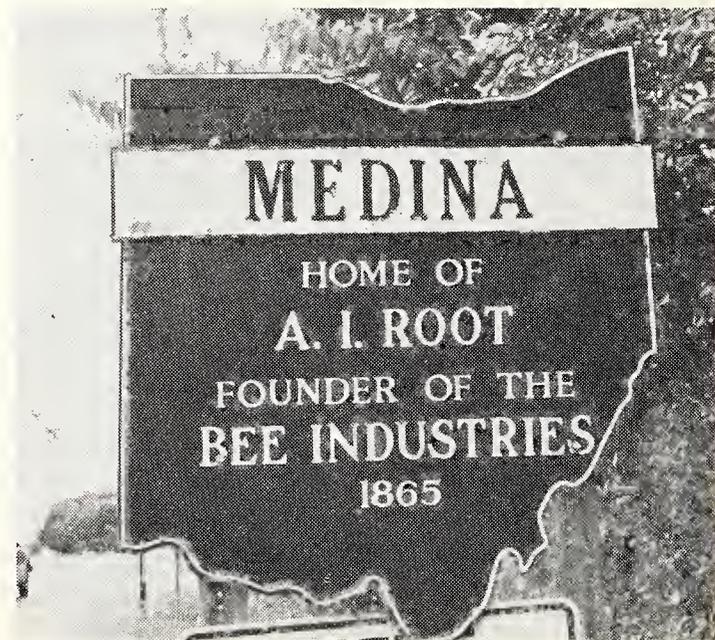
As a coordinating agency, the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church has developed guidelines for church planting. The Ohio District Mission Board is implementing these guidelines and coordinating its work with the national Director of Home Missions.

—Arden E. Gilmer

The Ohio District Mission Board, in cooperation with the national Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, set out to discover new methods and strategies for church planting. Areas of population growth needed to be found. These growth areas needed to be tested for responsiveness. And strategies needed to be developed for planting new churches in responsive areas.

According to population projections, five metropolitan areas in Ohio seemed most promising. They were Columbus, Cleveland-Akron, Toledo, Cincinnati, and Dayton.

We felt that trends in population shift needed to be discovered, so we gathered information on 13 counties surrounding these metro areas. We visited city, county, and regional offices to get a more accurate picture of the population flow. We also





Photos by Arden Gilmer

A recent Medina newspaper article announced proposed plans for a new 247-acre development, to include 267 single-family homes and 540 garden apartments. Medina County is the second fastest growing county in Ohio.

visited housing developments of 100 or more new homes in these counties. In all, we made visual surveys of 42 communities for growth potential.

Two criteria were used to evaluate the information gathered. Other church bodies have found that a community of 1,000 people is needed to support an average church and that people are most responsive to new ideas within the first three years after a major household move.

To discover responsiveness and needs, we took a "community profile." A team of Summer Crusaders, along with workers from local Brethren churches, used a questionnaire to survey three cities this past summer. The profiles developed from these surveys showed Medina to be the most responsive of those surveyed.

We have now visited with families in Medina, and a Bible study has been set up. We hope that the response to the Bible studies will warrant the starting of worship services. We feel the Bible study approach is one method to gauge the interest of a community in a particular fellowship before bringing a full-time worker to the field. This is possible in Medina because of its closeness to other Brethren churches.

In the Columbus area, we have found the community of Pickerington to be growing rapidly. Brethren families in the area have been contacted and are interested in helping. District church members gathered together there on October 22 to survey the area and develop a "community profile."

In its September meeting, the Ohio District Conference voted to support the planting of new churches through a \$5 per



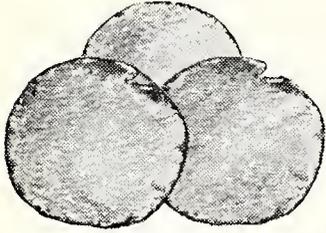
Successful church planting ventures require extensive data gathering. Ohio District Mission Board chairman Larry Bolinger has done most of the leg work.

member increase in the district Unified Financial Program. Brethren see that if people in Ohio are on the move, then we too must be on the move—to meet them and deal with their needs as only Bible teaching, spirit-filled fellowship, and Christ-sharing lives can do.

Yes, the Brethren of Ohio are **On the Move**. We haven't arrived. But we invite you to join us in life's greatest venture—discovering Christ's ability to use our lives for His glory!

Be a mover that Christ uses!





Bring Forth Fruit

A Nation-Wide Home Missions Plan

Can the Brethren Church plant ten new churches in five years? Yes, and Arden Gilmer tells how.

LOOK what's happened in the last twenty months! A new mission church in Tucson, Arizona; a mission church in St. Charles City, Md.; a new house-church in Sarver, Pennsylvania; and most recently, a mission church in Brandon, Florida, and another in Tampa, Florida. All of this indicates substantial progress towards the goal of planting ten new Brethren churches during the five-year period of 1976-1980!

Notice the geographical spread of these new churches—Arizona to Maryland to Pennsylvania to Florida. Ohio will soon be added to the list as the Ohio District through its mission board begins a new work on the basis of research and surveys now being completed. Without exaggeration we can say, "Things are happening all over the country!"

What ties all this activity together? How did it all start? Many of our people sensed a new leading of the Holy Spirit. He was teaching us that planting new churches is an essential part of fulfilling the Great Commission. New churches will reach people for Christ who would never be reached by any of our existing churches, no matter how dynamic their evangelism.

Arden Gilmer is Director of Home Missions for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

In tune with the Holy Spirit's promptings, the national Missionary Board took several giant steps forward. In November 1975 we prayerfully adopted the goal of planting **ten new churches in the next five years.** "Ten in Five" became the slogan. The goal gave us direction, but also gave birth to a weighty question, "How do we do it?"

Searching for answers to this urgent question, the Board commissioned Dr. Fred Burkey to prepare a research project on church planting. In August of 1976 the national Missionary Board adopted "Guidelines for Planting New Brethren Churches" as the procedure to follow in establishing new Brethren churches.

The guidelines enumerate the stages involved in establishing a new church:

The pre-planting stage

During this stage research and survey work are conducted in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit in order to determine areas which appear to have high potential and need for a Brethren church. Demographic, economic, and social characteristics of the area are gathered and examined. "Windshield surveys" are conducted. Potential communities are surveyed to determine their composition and the lifestyle and attitudes of their people.

Analysis of this information leads to a decision about starting a church. One of three basic decisions will result: 1) No Brethren church should be established in this community; 2) This community holds a possibility for a Brethren church, but now is not the time; 3) The community has definite potential and now is the time to start. This procedure led to the selection of Brandon and Tampa, Fla., as new areas for Brethren ministry. The Ohio District Mission Board during the past year has conducted similar research to determine prime areas for starting new churches in Ohio.

The mission church stage

Following an affirmative decision to start a new church in a specific area, the process shifts to developing a mission church. The mission church pastor is selected and placed on the new field. The mission church pastor receives his initial support for salary, housing, and program from either the national Missionary Board, a district mission board (if one is involved), or from a joint program of the national and district boards.

The new mission pastor must also receive extensive training in church planting. This training is provided by the Director of Home Missions of the national board. Other denominational executives assist in specific

"The goal is a vibrant, evangelistic church full of people who are growing in the Lord and who will support financially their entire local program."

areas of the training. The training covers many facets involved in starting a church: form of government, facilities, equipment, program development, evangelism strategies, budget, publicity, and leadership training.

As an exercise in faith a developmental timetable is constructed. An assessment committee, composed of members outside of the mission church, is named. The Director of Home Missions serves as chairman of this committee. It meets quarterly with the pastor and leadership of the mission church to evaluate progress. This committee has the responsibility to decide if progress is sufficient to warrant continued financial investment. The goal is for the mission church to be self-supporting

in three years. If the church does not make adequate progress, the assessment committee will vote to terminate the work.

The self-sustaining stage

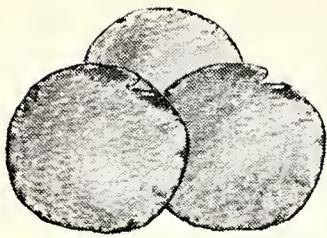
The goal is accomplished when the church has progressed to the place where no further outside financial support is necessary from either the national or the district mission boards. The goal is a vibrant, evangelistic church full of people who are growing in the Lord and who will support financially their entire local program. They will also be involved in meaningful support of denominational ministries, assisting in the establishing of still other new churches.

We rejoice that the Stockton, Calif., and Mansfield (Walcrest), Ohio churches will become self-supporting in 1978. Also, Ft. Wayne (Meadow Crest), Ind., will go off Missionary Board support and be assisted only by the Indiana District Mission Board.

The "Guidelines for Planting New Brethren Churches" established policy for the relationship of the national Missionary Board to district mission boards. The purpose of the policy is to develop a comprehensive plan of church extension. Each district will be a part of the overall plan through activity in their district, and the national board will supervise, coordinate, and assist in endeavors of the various district mission boards. In addition, the national board will be active in church extension in areas of the U.S. where there are no Brethren districts. The Director of Home Missions must work closely with all the district mission boards.

All of this will result in more churches being started, present districts being enlarged, and new districts being formed. The end result is another step forward in fulfilling the Great Commission entrusted to us by our living Lord. New people will hear the gospel, accept Christ as Lord, become his disciples, and serve as active and responsible members in local Brethren churches. To God be the glory! □

Bring Forth Fruit



Florida Churches Hold First Services

Bring Forth Fruit

THE Brandon Brethren Church and the Town and Country Community Church began holding regular services on October 2.

Pastor Keith Bennett reported 13 in Sunday school and 14 in worship the first Sunday at Brandon. Rev. Dale RuLon said 10 attended Sunday school and 11 attended worship at Town and Country.

Prior to the first services, the Bennetts and "tentmakers" Dave and Sue Stickler made nearly 500 calls. As a result, they were able to develop a prospect mailing list of 150 families who are not active in a local church.

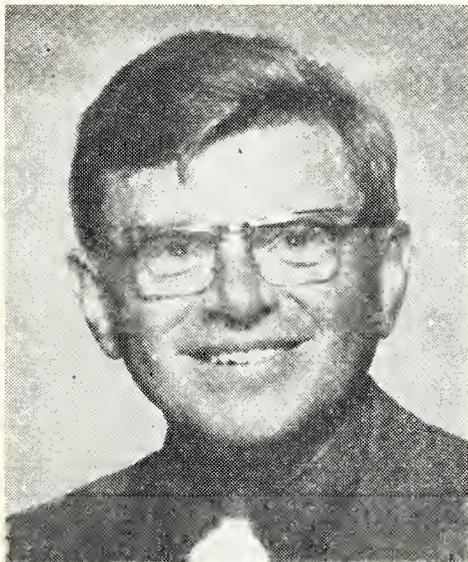
Likewise, the RuLons and "tentmakers" Gene and Sue McConahay knocked on 499

doors. They also hosted a get-acquainted fellowship on Wednesday, September 28. Attending were two families from the area.

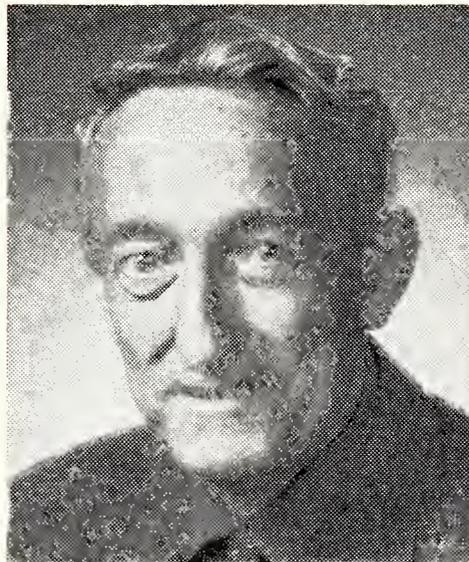
Pastors and "tentmakers" have also spent considerable time in prayer, Bible study, brainstorming, reading church growth literature, and completing endless federal and state forms.

Both churches have received favorable coverage by area newspapers.

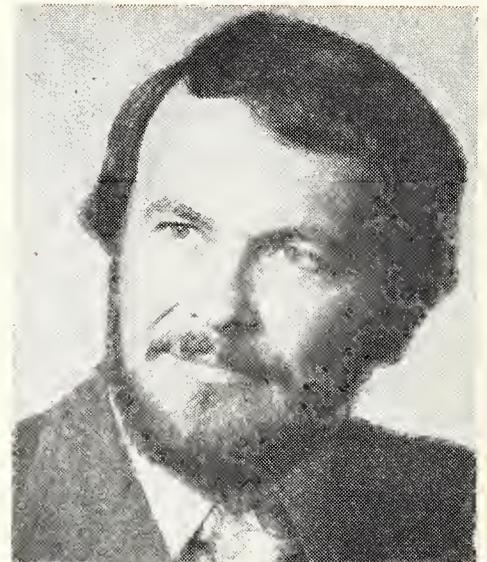
The Brandon Brethren Church is meeting at the Sunshine State Federal Bank, 420 West Brandon Blvd., in Brandon. Town and Country Community Church is holding services at Woodbridge Elementary School, 8301 Woodbridge Blvd., in the northwest part of Tampa. □



Walter Heil



Doc Shank



Richard Boyd

Men Who Serve

Are home mission pastors different from other pastors? No, they are often very much like men in other pastorates, but...yes, they do shift gears as they face the peculiar needs of a newly established work or one trying to become self-supporting.

We welcome to home mission ministries Doc Shank, for the work at Herndon, Virginia; Richard Boyd, in his pastorate at Stockton, California; and Walter Heil, to shepherd the Massillon, Ohio, congregation.

We are also thankful for the Florida church

planters, Keith Bennett at Brandon and Dale RuLon at Tampa, who are carrying out "Operation Impact."

All these men are experienced pastors who have worked in various areas of Christian service. We are thankful for the challenge they have accepted, and we request your prayers for them in their new locations.

And please pray for all home mission pastors, "tentmakers," and congregations in their various stages of growth.

Moving in and Reaching Out

Obstacles can be overcome, according to
Duane Dickson.

A PASTORAL change is always difficult for both pastor and congregation. So when I received a call from the Director of Home Missions last fall, it was a very traumatic experience. I was pastoring an active, growing congregation. In fact, we were very happy where we were.

After much agonizing prayer, however, I knew that God wanted us to move to Mansfield. So we made preparation to move from the security of an established congregation to the uncertain, day by day experience of working with a struggling home mission congregation.

There were many things that had to be done immediately to implement an effective outreach and teaching program. We were also confronted with many obstacles that had to be buried or bypassed, but step by step things began to take shape. Through the efforts of the consecrated laity of the church, a visitation program was instituted and attendance began to increase. We have established attendance and financial goals, and we are taking steps to guarantee that we will meet these goals.

One problem we faced was the immediate need for housing. A temporary solution was rental, but this has been unsatisfactory because the distance has made contact with the church community less than ideal. When we searched in the community for a house suitable for the use of the church, we were brought face to face with the extremely high cost of housing in that area. We then began to investigate the cost of building a house on the available church property.

The Ohio District Mission Board pledged \$2,500.00 toward housing if we could match their pledge. At the present time we have approximately \$3,500.00 in the building fund. **Praise the Lord!** We have survived all the red tape, and by the time this is

Duane Dickson is pastor of the Walcrest Brethren Church, Mansfield, Ohio. The church will become self-supporting in 1978, after three years of assistance from the Missionary Board.

printed, the house should be well under construction.

Many good things have been happening to us. This summer we were fortunate to have a Summer Crusader team do survey work for us. They visited 416 homes and discovered at least 70 family-unit prospects. We are now beginning to reap results from their efforts. We want to personally thank Dave Kerner, Russ King, Julie Slabaugh, and Jane Drexler for their consecrated work. We were also fortunate to have Joan Holsinger, a summer intern, for a month following the survey team. Joan spent many hours tabulating the results of the survey and assisting in visitation.

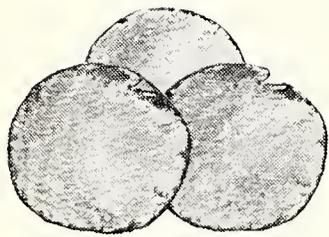
We are reaching into the community in many ways—through personal visitation, community interest programming, and newspaper advertising. As soon as finances permit, we would like to sponsor regular one and two minute radio spots promoting the church.

So that we will know where we are going, we have established attendance goals of 100 by the end of 1977, 150 by the end of 1978, and 200 by the end of 1979. Pray for us as we implement programming to meet these goals.

Our big need at the present time is willing, trained workers to help us with the church programming in the teaching ministry and the music program of the church. If you are looking for a ministry that is both challenging and rewarding, we could use you in Mansfield.

We have faith in God, that He has the power to overcome all obstacles that stand before us. We are convinced that God has the church here for a purpose, and that is to praise His name. The only way that a church can praise the name of God is to harvest in His name.

This we promise: the Walcrest Brethren Church will grow and become what God wants it to be. We realize that it will take hard work, much sacrifice, and, most of all, your prayers. □



Building in Tucson

Bring Forth Fruit

Bill Curtis says the new church in Tucson will soon have a new building.

FAITHFUL is He that calleth you, who also will do it." What a wonderful Bible verse this is...and better yet... the promise contained within. How many times we have been reminded of God's great faithfulness! And what a blessing it is to see Him at work in the Northwest Brethren Chapel in Arizona.

Not all of our original goals have been attained, but we are seeing gradual growth in our family of workers. The Chapel began just 18 months ago with 24 individuals (11 family units) from the First Brethren Church of Tucson. Now our new members outnumber the "seed families," with a membership of 46 and a family unit count of 17. There are more who will be baptized in the near future. We have also experienced better attendance this year than last, with some services being shared by the congregation of First Brethren.

In February, the congregation purchased ten acres of property at the base of the beautiful Catalina Mountains. This property is located in a very strategic area of the

"The Chapel began 18 months ago. Now our new members outnumber the 'seed families,' with our membership at 46."

fast-growing Northwest Tucson area. The greater part of the survey and topology work was donated by a Christian brother from the mother church, and an architect is now working on the master plan. This plan will attempt to project our needs in buildings and land use over the next fifteen years, or until the Lord returns. This master plan will reflect what we feel the Lord wants our ministry to be. Although our immediate priority is reaching people for

Bill Curtis is pastor of the Northwest Brethren Chapel, Tucson, Arizona.

Jesus Christ, nevertheless we must plan for the facilities to minister to those people and be planning for that first building.

Knowing that the time for meeting in our temporary quarters—Thornydale School—is limited, we have set January 18, 1978, as the target date for having our own building. That would be exactly two years from the date our first meeting was held. We hope to contribute much of the labor ourselves, and we have already had many offers from laymen across the denomination to come and help us. The first unit will be an all-purpose structure, to be used for worship and educational ministries until our numbers increase sufficiently to allow for the construction of a larger sanctuary.

Last April, some 75 Brethren from both of the Tucson congregations gathered on the newly purchased land for a Sunrise Service. As we sang praises to our risen and living Lord, we could not help but dream of a strong church on the very location upon which we stood. We watched there in the desert as the bright rays of the sun began to gleam over the mountain, and we envisioned that in a short time that same glory would be visible through a sanctuary window.

Our desire and our prayer is to reach people for Jesus in the time which remains. We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church and all the Brethren who gave through the Growth Partners Call, and who continue to support us through your prayers and through your encouragement for our development.

We extend an open invitation for visitors who travel to Arizona to worship with us, and even more, we pray for "tentmakers" to move into our area and share our blessings and the beautiful Arizona climate.

Please pray that the church here will continue to grow and be strong in the Lord's work. □

Self-Supporting

Richard Boyd shares the excitement of a church becoming financially independent.

NOTHING can surpass the excitement of reaching out in faith, whether it be sharing the gospel with someone, or stepping out on your own, independent of the support you once received.

The year 1977 marks a milestone in the history of the Stockton Brethren Church. On December 31, they will leave the support of the Missionary Board and venture out on their own.

This can be a traumatic experience for the people, or it can be a great step of faith and renewed dependence on God. I see it much like watching my newest daughter over the past year. She is now walking around things, but hangs on very tightly. Soon she will leave those familiar means of support and take steps on her own. I am confident that she will make that transition to self-support because of the encouragement of those who love her and desire to see her grow to maturity.

I have that same feeling, and I know others do also, about the Stockton Church. With God's help and the prayers and encouragement of those who love the church and her Lord, Stockton Brethren will become a mature, productive fellowship, reaching the lost for Christ.

The present feeling of the people is one of deep faith in their Lord. We realize the seriousness and urgency of our commitment to God and the responsibility we have of supporting our own program. We are putting our faith to work in a new relationship with the Brethren denomination, not as a mission church, but as a church ready to reach new goals and to give support to others as payment for support received in the past.

We get our English word enthusiasm from two Greek words, *en* and *theos*, which mean "in God." This is truly the feeling that is manifested in the Stockton Church. We are enthused about what is happening and about the way God is working through us. It has become evident to

us what God can do if we only believe and yield to the leading of His Spirit. There are many ministries being conducted through individual efforts which add to the excitement and enthusiasm as we share them with one another.

There is, without a doubt, a new life among the people in Stockton. We are anxiously looking forward to the coming years of service to God and the Brethren Church as we anticipate growing and striving to serve the Lord. There is the realization that we can grow if we are willing to apply ourselves and do those things which must be done to promote growth and the life of the body.

The need for the gospel of Jesus Christ is beyond description in this area. All manner of false prophets and false teaching are

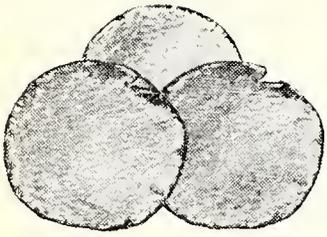
...a new relationship with the Brethren Church, no longer as a mission church but as one helping to support others.

prevalent. With the new feeling of enthusiasm and new life of "being on our own," I know God will use us to reach many who are now being led astray.

To enhance the new feelings, many new things are now being planned. A Sunday morning task force is being formed for the "Early Bird," to help formulate ideas for outreach and programing. New ideas in advertising and promotion are being considered in order to make the community aware of the Brethren Church and its ministry. New ways of ministering to the body are not only being offered, but are being carried out and supported. We are coming alive for God.

The truly exciting times we live in are made more exciting by a new vision—a vision of serving God in new directions and of being totally self-supporting. Perhaps we will even be able to give to some other mission work, that they too might share the joy of growth and independence. □

Richard Boyd is the new pastor of the Stockton, California, Brethren Church.



Bring Forth Fruit

Special Home Missions Ministries

St. Petersburg

The work of Phil and Jean Lersch with Bonnie Munson started out as a learning-by-doing center of education and has evolved into a creative Bible-teaching ministry for children and church school teachers. They are intensifying their efforts this year at **Brethren House** to produce more Christian education literature.

Leaders in churches across the country turn to Brethren House for guidance in the learning laboratory for Christian education.

Latest developments:

New 120-page craft book: "Bible Teaching Crafts—from Our Shed."

New Scriptomatic addressing machine for their mailings to 6,000 people.

A 3-week workshop tour along the East Coast in October by Phil and Bonnie, including our Washington, D.C., and Mt. Olive churches.

Their progress continues to reduce the financial undergirding from the Missionary Board as they work toward their scheduled goal of becoming a self-supporting ministry.

Krypton, Kentucky

Margaret Lowery continues her humanitarian service in a day center type of work for church-related activities—serving people of the Southern Appalachia area in Kentucky. The all-around program is directed toward leadership among youth. Sunday school, Bible schools, and Bible study classes are mixed with camping programs, 4-H, Cub Scouts, and Homemakers Clubs—all constituting a program for Christian living.

For the present time, Margaret has requested that churches supplying clothing should take it to Lost Creek rather than Krypton. Margaret is going through a critical time as she faces possible medical procedures to free her from pain and enable her to continue in the work to which she has committed her life.

Lost Creek, Kentucky

Riverside Christian Training School serves approximately 140 students and has maintained a quality educational program with high school accreditation.

Doran Hostetler is president of the school, and reorganization was accomplished and a revised constitution and by-laws adopted in the fall of 1976.

The Missionary Board continues to provide facilities and major maintenance for the school, as well as giving substantially toward expenses for the school program.

Local people and the Parent Teacher Fellowship strongly support the program and finance many projects. They faithfully stand with the teachers and their children in the academic program and in helping students participate in extracurricular activities.

Through the school's scholarship program, 36 students were assisted in the 1976-1977 school year, so that they might receive a good education with strong Christian emphasis.

Lower Lights and the **Gospel Lights** (a gospel team which grew out of **Lower Lights**) continue to tour—showing blessings on churches wherever they present their programs.

A new roof and some repair to the girls' dormitory were provided, with volunteer labor supplied by dedicated laymen of one of our churches. Also, many other work parties supply assistance each year in maintenance and program—benefiting the school and bringing joy to the participants from supporting congregations.

A new furnace was installed in the main building this past year, and presently a 26- by 60-foot area is under construction for a library above the present shop and athletic quarters. This addition is made possible by a local anonymous donor's gift of \$10,000 to start the project. The project is to be completed by local people without additional help.

Mission outposts are continuing to reach people at Rowdy Brethren Church, Lick Branch Sunday School, and Haddix and Fugates Fork, in addition to the ministry of the Lost Creek Church.

UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church

Mrs. Garrett honored at Oakville; taught Sunday school for 54 years

Oakville, Ind.—Mrs. Bernice Garrett was honored by the Oakville, Ind., Brethren Sunday School on September 11 for her 54 years of Sunday school teaching. Mrs. Garrett, who taught in the junior department, has now retired.

The pyramiding influence of Mrs. Garrett's tireless efforts can be seen in the Oakville Church. Moderator Don Siewert, Deacons John Holsinger and Jerry Covington, several trustees, and most of the present teachers in the Sunday school department were former students of Mrs. Garrett in the junior department.

Kokomo hosts Lay Witness Mission

Kokomo, Ind.—The Kokomo First Brethren Church decided to try something different this year. Rather than having a revival meeting, they had a Lay Witness Mission.

Thirty-five Christians from all over Indiana came to the Kokomo Church September 9-11 to share their faith. The witnesses shared both their good and bad experiences, telling how God had helped them through the bad and giving glory for all the good.

Participants spent most of the weekend in small groups, discussing their spiritual growth, praying, and sharing with one another. The whole weekend was spent glorifying God and spreading his love to fellow Christians.

During the weekend two people gave their lives to Christ, and numerous others rededicated their lives to Him.

Liz Surbey, church correspondent, reports that the response to the weekend was quite favorable. Nearly everyone who attended told how he had been changed in some way. They are looking forward to having another Lay Witness Mission in the future.

KUMAR CONGRESS COORDINATOR

Hyderabad, India (MNS)—Telegu-speaking evangelical Christians in India gathered at Hyderabad, India, for the Andhra Pradesh Congress on Mission and Evangelization October 19-22, 1977. Coordinator of the congress was Brethren missionary **K. Prasantha Kumar**.

The congress was a follow-up to the All India Congress held last January in Devlali. The Andhra Pradesh Congress sought to identify priorities for evangelistic efforts in the region and to initiate plans for effective evangelism.



Mrs. Bernice Garrett

Bits 'n Pieces

The **Loree Brethren Church** had a reception welcoming their new pastoral family, **Rev. & Mrs. Stephen Cole and daughter Jennifer**, to their church on September 20. Nearly 100 church members attended, bringing various articles of food for the Coles. A number of members of the congregation had also helped the Coles move to Loree on September 8.

The **Ardmore Brethren Church** of South Bend, Ind., has two new additions to its congregation. They have not yet been baptized or taken into membership, but the congregation is confident of their regular attendance. The two additions are **Alan and Bradley Moore**, twin sons of Pastor and Mrs. Brian Moore, born September 14, 1977.

The **Hillcrest Brethren Church**, Dayton, Ohio, has received a bequest of \$25,000 from the estate of **Russell V. Fox**. Mr. Fox, a very active member and deacon of the Hillcrest Church, passed away in December of last year.

AC grad to edit *Christianity Today*

Wheaton, Ill.—The Board of Directors of *Christianity Today* magazine has announced the selection of Kenneth Kantzer to become editor of the twice-monthly periodical upon the retirement of the present editor, Harold Lindsell, next spring.

Kantzer, who received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Ashland College in 1938, has been a top administrator at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School since 1963. During this time the school grew from 31 students to more than 700. Kantzer served as dean and vice president of graduate studies at Trinity, and also as professor of biblical and systematic theology.

Prior to his going to Trinity, Kantzer taught Bible at Wheaton College for 17 years.

In addition to his B.A. from Ashland College, Dr. Kantzer has a Master of Arts degree from Ohio State University, a Master of Theology degree from Faith Seminary, Wilmington, Delaware, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Kantzer will begin work at *Christianity Today* shortly after the first of next year and will assume full editorial responsibilities March 1, 1978.

BGEA to release financial statements

Minneapolis, Minn.—The Board of Directors of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has authorized the officers of the Association to release to the public the annual report of the Association for the year ending December 31, 1977, including the audited financial statements. The decision was made at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors held on September 30.

The annual report will cover the affairs of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and its affiliated organizations in a manner similar to the annual reports of publicly held corporations. It will include a description of the ministries and audited financial statements.

The decision to release this report was made in the light of questions which have been raised recently about the way in which the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association handles its financial affairs.

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President Carter receives "Good News"

Washington, D.C. (ABS News)—On September 14 President Jimmy Carter received a commemorative copy of the American Bible Society's **Good News Bible**. The President was presented this personalized copy of the Bible in today's English by representatives of the American Bible Society at a private ceremony in the White House.

Representing the Bible Society at the ceremony were Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, a Bible Society honorary vice president; Mr. Coleman Burke, vice president of the Society's Board of Managers; and Dr. Laton E. Holmgren, the Society's general secretary.

The copy of the **Good News Bible** presented to the President symbolizes the five million copies of this modern English translation which have been distributed worldwide since its publication in October of last year. The presentation to President Carter maintains a long Bible Society tradition of presenting Scriptures to U.S. Presidents to mark significant milestones in the American Bible Society's worldwide ministry.

Many prominent Americans have been involved in the work of the Bible Society throughout the years of its existence, including one United States President. John Quincy Adams, President of the U.S. from 1825-29, served as a Bible Society vice president from 1818 to 1848.



White House photo

President Carter received a personalized copy of the GOOD NEWS BIBLE from Dr. Laton E. Holmgren of the American Bible Society. The copy commemorated the five million copies of this Bible distributed since it was first published 11 months before.

ABS to assist Manila Crusade

New York (ABS News)—Billy Graham's Manila Crusade, to be held in the Philippine capital November 23-27, is receiving generous support from the American Bible Society through a gift of 1,862,000 Scriptures.

According to Dr. Laton E. Holmgren, the Society's general secretary, the gift will include 10,000 copies of the **Good News Bible** and 40,000 copies of the New Testament **Good News for Modern Man**.

In addition, the ABS is supplying 300,000 Scripture selections (Scripture passages printed as leaflets), 1,400,000 Scripture bookmarks, and 112,000 copies of a Scripture booklet titled "Jesus, Who Are You?" All but 56,000 of the booklets are published in Today's English Version. The remaining 56,000 will be in Chinese.

The Bibles will be given to pastors and crusade counselors who attend the crusade's School of Evangelism. The New Testaments will be distributed to people making decisions for Christ during the meetings, and the other Scriptures will be distributed to Manila residents as part of the crusade's advance preparation.

The importance of Scripture distribution in evangelism has been shown by a recent survey conducted in the Philippines by Southern Baptist missions. This survey revealed that 51 percent of Baptist church members there attributed their conversion to Bible reading.

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Brethren Publishing Company
524 College Avenue
Ashland, OH 44805

Weddings

Patricia Mitchell to **Steven Wilkinson**, September 24, at Burlington, Ind., First Brethren Church; Albert Curtright, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Burlington First Brethren Church.

Diana Lynn Birk to **Gregory Joseph Sobecki**, September 24, at Ardmore, Ind., Brethren Church; Brian Moore, pastor, and Rev. Howard Kuhns officiating. Bride member of Ardmore Brethren Church.

Patricia Reed to **Jim Vandermark**, September 11, at Timbercrest Chapel; Rev. James Overholt officiating. Groom member of N. Manchester, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Teresa Jenkins to **Jerry Story**, September 3, at Burlington, Ind., First Brethren Church; Albert Curtright, pastor, and Rev. Toby Rendleman officiating. Bride member of Burlington First Brethren Church.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Brubaker, 50th, September 29. Members of the First Brethren Church, Burlington, Ind.

In Memory

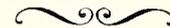
Evelyn L. Kyle, 58, September 9. Member of Dutchtown, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Jim Sluss, pastor.

Mrs. Bertha Banta, September 6. Member of Hillcrest (Dayton), Ohio, Brethren Church. Services by John Brownsberger, pastor.

Membership Growth

Loree: 2 by baptism

Sarasota: 2 by baptism



Calendar of Events

November 1-4—One-day Church Growth Seminars, sponsored by the Ohio Association of Evangelicals at Cleveland, Bluffton, Columbus, and Cincinnati. Seminar leader, Rev. Peter Unruh.

November 15—Central Council, Ashland, Ohio.

Scriptures to Live by



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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Title of publication: The Brethren Evangelist	
Publication no.: 064200	
Date of filing: Sept. 30, 1977	
Frequency of issue: Monthly	
No. of issues published annually: 12	
Annual subscription price: \$5.75	
Location of known office of publication, and location of the headquarters or general business offices of the publishers: 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805	
Names and complete addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Publisher, the Brethren Publishing Company; Editor, John D. Rowsey; Managing Editor, Ronald W. Waters; all at 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805	
Owner: The Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805	
Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: none	
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.	
Extent and nature of circulation:	
Total no. of copies printed	
	Average for preceding 12 months 4216
	Single issue nearest filing date 4145
Paid circulation—sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales	
	Average for preceding 12 months 0
	Single issue nearest filing date 0
Paid circulation—mail subscriptions	
	Average for preceding 12 months 3804
	Single issue nearest filing date 3711
Total paid circulation	
	Average for preceding 12 months 3804
	Single issue nearest filing date 3711
Free distribution by mail, carrier, or other means—samples, complimentary, and other free copies	
	Average for preceding 12 months 35
	Single issue nearest filing date 35
Total distribution	
	Average for preceding 12 months 3839
	Single issue nearest filing date 3746
Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	
	Average for preceding 12 months 377
	Single issue nearest filing date 399
Returns from news agents	
	Average for preceding 12 months 0
	Single issue nearest filing date 0
Total	
	Average for preceding 12 months 4216
	Single issue nearest filing date 4145

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) John D. Rowsey, Editor

Twelfth Man

Twelfth Man in the Huddle by Dave Diles (Word Books, 1976, 187 pp., \$6.95 hardback).

Author Diles has incorporated into his book accounts of the Christian lives of 23 professional football players. The publisher states, "This is a book filled with football, but it is more than that. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the men who play, and the men who pray."

The foreword to the book is by Billy Graham. In it Dr. Graham writes, "Men whose names are familiar across America are seen in a new light, as we discover their backgrounds and share in their common commitment to Christ."

Mr. Diles has presented the 23 mini-biographies in a straight-forward, masculine, and inspirational manner. His 23 Christian football players come from varied backgrounds. This variety, this diversity underscores a major contention of the author, that out of diversity comes a commonalty in Christ. All 23 players share the conviction that for Christ to be real in one's life, He must be personal.

It was refreshing to read that these 23 men had developed their personal relationships with Christ through evolutionary processes which were not particularly sensational in effect, but permanent in commitment. It was also refreshing to discover that the author included Catholic as well as Protestant witnesses to the significance of Christ in their lives.

Twelfth Man in the Huddle is easy reading, and Mr. Diles has been concise in his description of each of the 23 lives. Because it is easy reading, I recommend it for young athletes who, because of the nature of competition, tend to divorce religion from athletics. I was genuinely impressed by the manner in which these men have been able to coordinate their love for competition and football with their love for Christ.

Finally, I submit that the most effective aspect of the book is that Mr. Diles has been able to lend credibility to a sport which has developed an increasing need for credibility.

—Richard L. Beal

Richard Beal is a student at Ashland Theological Seminary.

Something More

Something More by Catherine Marshall (Spire Books, 1976, 276 pp., \$1.75 paperback).

My first introduction to Catherine Marshall's writing was when my grandmother loaned me a copy of **A Man Called Peter**. Later, I read her very popular book, **Christy**.

Author of a number of books, Mrs. Marshall broke a decade of writing silence when she published **Something More** in 1974. More than 400,000

copies were sold in hardback. Now Spire Books has released this paperback edition.

In this book Catherine shares some of the challenges to her faith and the answers to which her personal tragedies have led. Illuminating insights are introduced, such as her chapter on "The Law of the Generations," based on such verses as Exodus 20:5: "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation..."

Other chapters on "The Fallen Angel" or "The Unholy Spirit" provide thought-provoking reading. Joy-filled chapters such as "Yes, God Is in Everything" and "The Golden Bridge of Praise" are included with ones like "The Enigma of Healing" and "The King's Treasury."

I felt it was a very worthwhile book, with much inspiration.

—John Rowsey

John Rowsey is Executive Director of the Brethren Publishing Company.

Scott Free

Scott Free by Scott Ross with John and Elizabeth Sherrill (Chosen Books, 1976, 156 pp., \$5.95).

Scott Ross knew that becoming a Christian was supposed to change people. The Bible says so. "But as far as I could see," he writes in this searingly honest book, "most of the old things were still around."

For each one of us the old things are different. For Scott Ross they were illogical fears, a hot temper, sex fantasies, and drugs.

In the early 1960's Scott was a top disc jockey, pals with all the big stars—the Beatles, Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones—and only 25 years old. Not bad. But one morning he awoke to find himself the slave of his own "freedom." Soon after, he gave his life to Jesus Christ.

Scott found the real struggles now lay ahead. He was arguing with his wife, had no money, and quarreling inside himself. How could he get free from his old patterns and lifestyle?

The way to freedom that Scott took is the story of the book, and the last one he himself would ever have imagined.

I feel that this book will help a great many people. Teens will identify with the pressures which Scott thought he was under. Parents will discover ways to help their children handle the stress often put upon them by non-Christians.

The book has a straight-from-the-shoulder approach. It shows that Christians are faced with many temptations and problems, but that God doesn't give us more than we can handle.

—Kris Long

Kris Long is a housewife from Ashland, Ohio. She attends the Garber Brethren Church.



"Breaking Bread and Loneliness"

Join the "National Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans."

MANY older Americans will be eating Thanksgiving dinner alone this year. For those who don't want to be by themselves, that's loneliness!

No Greater Love, a humanitarian organization, is trying to make Americans aware of these lonely Americans by sponsoring the National Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans. The theme of the salute is "Breaking bread and loneliness."

Bringing Thanksgiving home

The plea of the Psalmist, "Do not cast me off in time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent," too often has been ignored. By recognizing that "to age is human," and by extending our hearts and hands of friendship to older Americans, we will show them that they are honored members of our national family.

What you can do

Add a new dimension to your Thanksgiving. Invite a senior citizen who lives alone or without family to share this holiday in your home. If you are without an older person to invite to share in your celebrations, contact your church. If you are a senior citizen, ask one of your fellow seniors to celebrate with you. Suggest that your church or civic group sponsor a small Thanksgiving dinner for several senior citizens.

What others are doing

The National Football League and radio and TV stations across the country are lending their resources to this National Salute through public service messages.

The National Interfaith Coalition on Aging, Inc., (NICA) is encouraging local congregations, clergy, and religious-spon-

sored agencies to participate wholeheartedly in this Salute to our nation's older adults. NICA, representing the collective concerns of national denominations and agencies of the religious sector for the spiritual well-being of older Americans, recognizes the Thanksgiving Salute as a significant response to these concerns.

Some suggestions for your church

The following suggestions for the National Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans are for you to use, build upon, or merely be inspired by.

1) On the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving Day, pastors could build their sermons around the Salute theme—"Breaking bread and loneliness." The sermon could present the problems the elderly face and consider what each member of the congregation can do throughout the year to improve the spiritual well-being of older Americans.

2) Encourage members of your congregation to contact all elderly members of their families on Thanksgiving Day and include them in their holiday celebrations. If elderly members of your congregation may be alone that day, help make sure that they have someone with whom to share the holiday.

3) Because of public service announcements about the Salute which the National Football League is sponsoring, you may receive some inquiries about the program from people outside your congregation. Most of these will be from individuals who would like to invite an older person to their homes for Thanksgiving, but who do not know anyone they could ask in. Encourage these people to volunteer their help with the event(s) your congregation is planning (provide transportation, food, etc.).

Experience has shown that many of these callers are people who are not already



affiliated with a congregation, and their involvement with your congregation on the Salute may be one way of involving them spiritually.

4) Ask a group within the congregation (a study group, women's group, youth group) to sponsor a small Thanksgiving dinner or celebration for a group of senior citizens. The elderly persons could be members of the congregation, or people in the neighborhood who may not be members of a religious group. The young people, as their project, could plan to visit a nursing home or rest home.

5) Organize a study group to talk about the problems older people are facing in modern society. Invite visitors to speak on related issues, with a view to what the congregation could do on an individual or civic basis.

6) Call a meeting of clergy and lay leaders in your area to develop and coordinate the community's program outreach with the elderly.

7) Encourage coverage of special human

interest episodes resulting from Salute activities in community newspapers and magazines. (For example, ask a reporter to attend the event sponsored by your congregation; inform TV stations and newspapers of what activities are planned; perhaps you know of two old friends who haven't seen each other in years, but who get together specifically because of the Thanksgiving Salute, etc.)

No Greater Love

No Greater Love, which is sponsoring the National Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans, is a non-profit, humanitarian organization which provides programs of friendship and care for groups of forgotten Americans. Hank Aaron, baseball's home run king, is NGL's National President.

Like all of No Greater Love's programs, the Salute to Older Americans is not an end in itself. An event like the Thanksgiving Salute is only a symbol of a deeper attitude of friendship and care that we need to show one another 365 days a year. □



Crops Ruined in Bangladesh

Paul Munshi, director of the WRC-related Christian Service Society in Bangladesh, wrote this letter in August 1977.

THIS year we had untimely heavy rain which totally damaged both the dry and monsoon seasons' crops in various parts of Bangladesh.

Our CSS project area at Kotalipara is badly affected, but we thank the Lord that the Dacope project (visited by Phil Lersch in 1976) is saved.

A lot of these affected people from Kotalipara are coming to Khulna in search of work and food. We will soon be starting some kind of job-creating project for these people in Khulna. Already we have started paddy-husking and fishing projects in many places at Kotalipara. Through these projects two thousand starving families are trying hard to survive.

Sometimes I feel completely beaten and lost and would like to run away from this battle, because it has no end in our poor country. We are always victims of some kind of natural calamity or hazard. Though

the battle is too great and frustrating, and as a human it is too hard to stand, I look towards the Cross and I see a victorious Lord through His death and sufferings, and it gives me strength to fight and hold the fort till He comes.

Hope you will be glad to know that on the 4th of July we received the Presidential award (a silver medal, a certificate, and two thousand takas) for our socio-economic development work in Bangladesh. As head of our organization, I had to go to Dacca to receive this award. It was a very special and unique occasion for me and for our organization to receive the award from the President himself. Ours is the only national Christian organization which has received this highest honor of our country. All praise, glory and honor goes to our Lord who has enabled us to get this recognition from our government.

We are all keeping fine by His grace and hope you are also doing the same.

Paul Munshi also wrote: "I was shocked to see the deadly effect of the tornado. Almost every home is collapsed, shocked people are searching through ruins, and everything is gone. They need everything." Brethren funds are helping in Bangladesh through these WRC channels.



How Do You Spell Relief?

A look at WRC's diverse ministries.

Honduras

Dr. Everett Graffam, executive vice president of the World Relief Commission, visited Honduras in June of this year and found several important things happening.

In one area that WRC helped to build after the hurricane Fifi disaster, there are three evangelical churches. Many families are profitably employed or self-employed in cottage industries or bee-keeping.

More than 160 boys are attending a school at another location operated by the World Gospel Mission. They work in the morning and attend school in the afternoon. Their studies include crafts, machinery maintenance, animal husbandry, and farming. Following the hurricane, WRC was able to help them build their school and get some of the equipment for their classes.

Much spiritual benefit is apparent, with some of the young men going to the seminary and into the ministry in the small cities and rural areas of Honduras.

Korea

When the World Relief Commission office received an SOS from their Korean Director in Seoul, Korea, on July 14th, they dispatched \$13,000 in emergency funds.

The city of Seoul and its suburbs were inundated by floods followed by landslides caused by several days of torrential rain, the worst storm to lash the capital city in 57 years.

Early estimates were that 300 people had died or were missing, and 87,000 lost everything.

WRC funds will be used to buy survival food and cooking utensils. It was estimated that \$50 will provide these necessities for a family of five for one month.

Other ongoing projects of WRC in Korea include assisting a rural TB clinic, a school for blind children, and two orphanages.

The World Relief Commission held a three-day International Crisis-Coordination Seminar in Washington, D.C., in June. Rev. Virgil Ingraham was in attendance, representing the Brethren Church.

The goal was to search for ways to increase the efficiency of evangelical disaster relief overseas. The seminar was the first step in exploring how denominational and faith missions could voluntarily cooperate in meeting the needs of victims of disaster.

The 49 people present represented missionary boards and agencies that involve thousands of missionaries overseas. Each one of the missionaries is a potential disaster-area coordinator.

The seminar was just the introductory step. The World Relief Commission is now preparing materials for an ongoing study which is expected to result in an effective, loosely-structured crisis network that will benefit hundreds of thousands of people in future trouble spots.

Guatemala

When Dr. Everett Graffam visited Guatemala in June of this year, he learned that large village areas which had been totally destroyed by the earthquake some months ago were rebuilt with funds the World Relief Commission supplied to eleven different agencies.

Roofs, buildings, farms, schools, churches, and other desperately needed facilities were developed through WRC's inter-agency cooperation and coordination efforts in Guatemala.

WRC received the commendation and appreciation of government officials, church leaders, and missionaries. Plaques were installed in schools, churches, and other major buildings indicating the vitally important share WRC had in the rebuilding of the devastated areas.

Crisis-Coordination Seminar

Relief for India



Emergency food and clothing are distributed to TB patients at two hospitals in Delhi, India.

WRC photos

WRC sends water tablets

Following devastating flood conditions during mid-summer in northern India, a medical team of local volunteers took preventive action to control gastrointestinal diseases and malaria which had broken out.

The government was able to pay people for repairing dams to protect their own property, which also gave them money to buy food. **But purification of drinking water and prevention of diseases required high priority action without delay.**

World Relief Commission flew **200,000 water purification tablets** directly to their representatives there to assist in providing this crucial and much-needed remedy to the bad water condition.



Water is life

The World Relief Commission and a Free Will Baptist Missionary to India are bringing blessing and benefit to thousands through cooperative well digging and village irrigation projects in West Bengal, India.

Funds for the program were forwarded after the desperate need for both household and farm water supplies was reported to the WRC executives during their 1976 fall survey tour.

Hand-boring a well that will later be operated by a gasoline-powered pump.

Five Churches Increase Giving

Phil Lersch shares how they did it.

EARLY in July, Treasurer George Kerlin sent me a report of each Brethren church's World Relief giving for the first six months of 1977.

The report indicated that we are about \$1,000 lower than at the same date a year ago (which always concerns me). But, on the brighter side, the giving of five local churches caught my attention—not because their gifts were the largest for the six-month period, but because all five had given considerably more from January to June 1977 than they had in any 12-month period in the past.

We applaud that kind of “betterment,” and recognize the increased involvement in World Relief outreach of these five congregations:

Church	Previously	1977
Lathrop, Calif.	0	\$123.37
Cerro Gordo, Ill.	\$ 59.01	\$165.52
N. Manchester, Ind.	\$ 51.00	\$314.71
Berlin, Pa.	\$426.74	\$823.71
Vandergrift, Pa.	\$ 20.00	\$414.66

I wrote to the pastors of these five churches asking for explanations of their churches' increased giving last spring. To date (September 15) these have responded (either by letter or as we talked at General Conference):

Cerro Gordo, Illinois—Pastor Bill Livingston told me that what helped them was the showing of a World Relief Commission film, followed by the use of pop cans covered with the WRC label. The labeled pop cans serve as a reminder bank for each family to keep on their dining table. (One key in the use of these pop cans is to collect enough cans for everyone and put the labels on ahead of time, then distribute the cans with the labels already stuck on. A good tip to keep in mind for your church).

North Manchester, Indiana — Pastor Woody Immel indicated that, in addition to a strong general emphasis on World

Relief in the spring, they also found that the pop can banks had a lot to do with their ability to raise more money.

Berlin, Pennsylvania—Pastor Ralph Mills reported that World Relief emphasis has always been a WMS project at Berlin. He'll do a little scouting around to discover what enabled them to nearly double their giving this year.

Vandergrift, Pennsylvania — Pastor Bill Walk writes: “Our Brethren Youth Crusaders took the lead this year. A concern for giving more to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless became evident and the youth were willing to accept the leadership to do something to increase this awareness.

“A date was set for a **soup supper** at which time Love Loaves were distributed, the film ‘Bangladesh—Darkness into Light’ was shown, and the date of another **soup supper** was announced. At the second **soup supper** the Love Loaves were broken and the film ‘Africa—Dry Edge of Disaster’ was shown. Love Loaves were also distributed at the regular services.

“The increased giving stems also from making the people aware of the needs. Simply put, **publicity**. The church budget calls for \$20 per year, then the remainder came from individuals who gave.”

Lathrop, California—Pastor Ken Sullivan's reply is yet to arrive. But I am intrigued with one entry in George Kerlin's records, which I also asked Ken about. There is a contribution of \$75.00 from the “Northern California District Conference.” This is the first we have ever received from a district conference. I wonder what they did to raise that money?

It's possible that I may have overlooked others of you whose giving has risen considerably over former years. If so, please drop me a line and tell me how it was possible in your church...so I can share it with others. We salute these who have taken seriously the task of sharing our material and spiritual goods with others in desperate need. □

Phil Lersch is chairman of the Brethren World Relief Board.

signal lights

written by
Alberta Holsinger

Missionaries of the Bible

Looking for the Lost

This is the month we celebrate the birthday of Jesus. Most of you know the story well. Some of you have made scenes about His birth in these boxes.

The box represents the stable. We see animals at the back, and here in front is a manger with the Baby Jesus in it. Mary and Joseph are by the manger, and some shepherds are coming in.

These are things we think about when we think of Christmas. But did Jesus stay a baby?

No, He grew just as you are growing. He learned to creep and then to walk and run. He learned to talk and sing and whistle. He learned to use tools and wood to make things.

He grew tall and strong. He was kind and thoughtful. He loved God and other people. Because Jesus is God's Son, He could do many things we cannot do.

You remember the time Jesus and His disciples were in a boat and a storm came up. The wind blew and the waves tossed the boat about. Jesus said, "Be still," and the storm was over.

Then there was the time a great crowd of people was with Jesus all day. At supper time He used a little boy's lunch of two fish and five small loaves of bread to feed all the people.

You have heard how Jesus healed many sick people, not with medicine, but just by saying, "You are healed!"

Even people who were dead came back to life when Jesus spoke.

Oh, yes, He did many wonderful things. But most of all He told people about God and His great love for everyone.

One day He told the story of a shepherd. This shepherd had one hundred sheep. Every morning he led his sheep to pasture where there was green grass and a stream of water. Every evening he led the sheep back home to the sheepfold and closed the gate. There they were safe from wild animals and storms.

One evening as the shepherd counted his sheep, he discovered one was missing.

"Only ninety-nine sheep!" he thought. "One is lost. I must find it before a wild animal does!"

Quickly he fastened the gate to keep the ninety-nine sheep safe. Then he headed back toward the pasture.

He looked among the bushes. He looked behind trees. He looked over cliffs. He called the sheep by name. He kept looking and calling until at last he found his sheep.

"Oh, here you are!" he said. Gently he lifted the sheep to his shoulder. "Let's go home," he said. "It's not safe for you to be out here alone."

The shepherd carried the sheep all the way home.

"I've found the lost sheep!" he called happily to his family. "I've found him and brought him home. He's safe!"

After telling this story, Jesus said, "I am like that good shepherd. I have come to find those who are lost from God. There is great joy in heaven each time a lost one is found. I have come to show you the way to your heavenly home."

—Based on portions of: Luke 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15

Readiness Activities

1. Using chenille wires and scraps of cloth, some of the children can make figures for a Nativity scene. These can be arranged in a shoe box standing on its side. You will need a shoe box for each child making a scene and a large supply of chenille wires.
2. Other children might like to cut the figures for a Nativity scene from old Christmas cards. If a tab is left at the bottom of each figure, these can be glued in a standing position in a shoe box "stable" also.
3. On a long sheet of paper have some of the children draw things they remember from the life of Christ (not just Christmas scenes).

Memory Scripture: For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

—Luke 19:10

Giving to Jesus

A man stood gazing at the stars one night. He lived in a country far from Bethlehem. He and his friends studied the stars. Night after night they looked into the sky. They had named some of the stars and knew where to find them each night.

One night as these Wise Men were studying the sky, one suddenly shouted, "Look! There's a new star!"

"It seems to be moving toward the west," said another. "I wonder what it means?"

"It's so big and so bright it must mean a king is born," said a third. "Let's go find him."

The others, too, wanted to see this king. They wanted to worship him. They loaded food and supplies on their camels. They packed gifts for the king.

Then they started across the desert to find this king. During the hot days the men rested. In the evenings they traveled, following the bright new star.

At last they came to Jerusalem. "Where is the newborn king?" they asked. "We have seen his star in the east. We have come to worship him."

People stared at these men and their camels. Newborn king? They hadn't heard of any.

The men went to the palace.

"We have come to see the baby king," they told King Herod.

"What?" shouted King Herod. "There is no baby king here!"

"We have seen his star," explained one of the men. "There must be a new king."

King Herod called the palace teachers. "Where will the Jewish king be born?" he asked.

"In Bethlehem," answered one of the teachers. "God's word tells us He will be born in Bethlehem."

King Herod turned again to the men. "Go to

Bethlehem," he told them. "When you have found the child, come and tell me. I, too, will go and worship him."

Now King Herod didn't really plan to go and worship the baby. He was making an evil plan to get rid of this one who might become king instead of him.

The Wise Men left the palace. They started for Bethlehem that very night.

"Look!" said one, pointing to the sky. "It's the star! The star of the new king."

They followed the star to Bethlehem. It stopped over a house. The men got off their camels. They knocked at the door. Joseph opened it.

"Is the baby king here?" asked one.

"Come in," said Joseph.

The Wise Men went into the house. They saw Jesus cuddled on Mary's lap. This was the Child whose star they had followed so far. This was the new King. They knelt down and worshiped Him. They opened their packages. They gave Him gold and perfume and spices. These were gifts for a king. Then the Wise Men left the house.

That night God sent a dream warning the men of King Herod's wicked plan. The next day the men started home, back across the desert. They did not stop at the palace to tell King Herod where the Child was. As they traveled homeward, they were happy. They had obeyed God. They had seen the Child, the newborn King, the One whose star appeared in the sky.

There are people who will learn about Jesus for the first time this Christmas. Some of them will hear of Him at our home mission churches. The offering we give through Signal Lights will help tell others about our Savior and King.

Coded Messages

Here are some messages written in code.

To make your secret decoder, write the alphabet on a piece of paper. Number each of the letters. A will be 1; b, 2; c, 3. You will end with z, 26.

Now you are ready to decode each message. There are three things you should do every day.

12 15 22 5 / 15 14 5 / 1 14 15 20 8 5 18.

15 2 5 25 / 25 15 21 18 / 16 1 18 5 14 20 19.

20 18 21 19 20 / 7 15 4.

finally, brethren

. . . some thoughts to take with you!

Praise the Lord

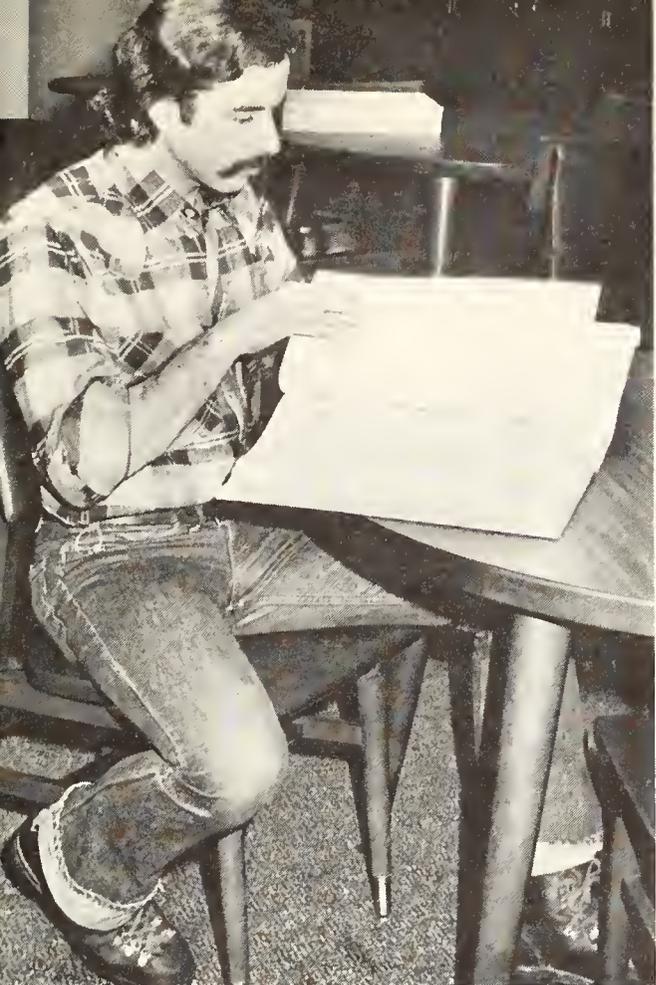
We plow the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand;
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love.

We thank Thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Thy love imparts,
And what Thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love.

—Mattias Claudius



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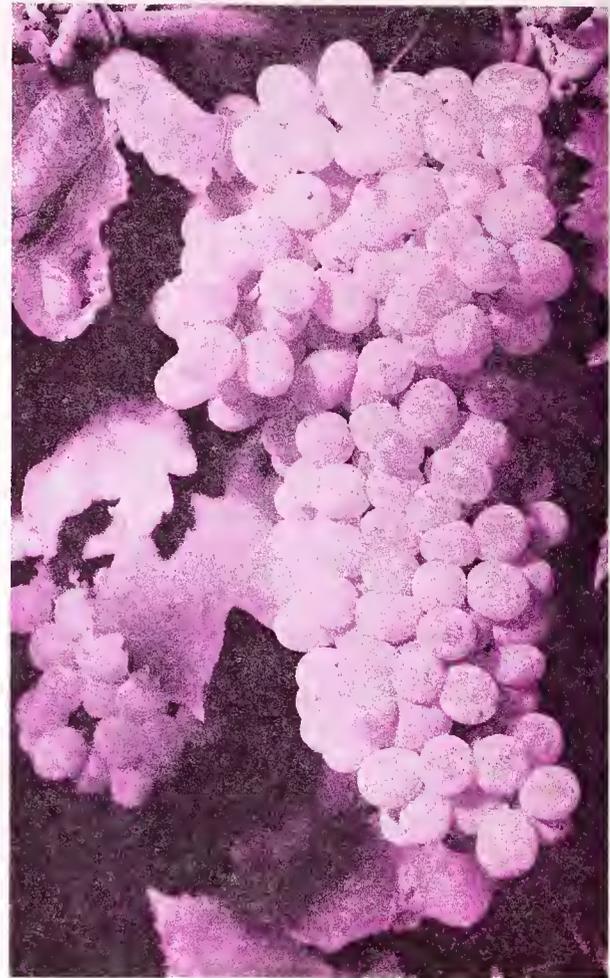
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December 1977

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**524 College Avenue
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Serving Christ and the Brethren Church
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524 College Ave.

Ashland, Ohio 44805

Phone: (419) 289-2611

Published monthly for the Brethren Church by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

One year subscription rates: \$4.75 for 100% church lists; \$5.25 for church lists of 5 or more names; \$5.75 for individual subscriptions.

Single-copy price: 60 cents

Change of address: Please notify us at least three weeks in advance, using the form provided in each issue.

Authors' views are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

Queries and manuscripts should be addressed to the managing editor. A writer's packet with query tips is available upon written request.

Unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome. However, the publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited material not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Second class postage paid at Ashland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Member, Evangelical Press Association

Cover

Each of us at the Brethren Publishing Company takes this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.

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Saints Equipped!

Paul Rees, World Vision's editor at large, speaks to the 1977-78 Conference theme, "Equipping for Ministry."

Punctuation that preaches

Why does Christ's Church have "apostles," "prophets," "evangelists," "pastors," "teachers"? If you use the King James Version for the Apostle Paul's answer, this is what you get:

"For the perfecting of saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).

Now read it in the New English Bible:

"...To equip God's people for work in his service, to the building up of the body of Christ."

After the word "saints," translated as "God's people," note the missing comma. It was inserted by the King James translators simply because they thought it ought to be there. Later scholars have tended to omit it on the ground that its presence breaks the flow of Paul's thought.

The difference that is made by the comma's absence, far from being slight, is important. If it is kept, the meaning is that the clergy have the dual responsibility of equipping God's people and of exercising ministry. If it is left out, the meaning is that "ministry" is not the monopoly of the clergy, but the responsibility of **all** the people of God, and that the role of the clergy is to help them to fulfill that responsibility.

Tradition that tethers

In the early Christian church there was no such gap between clergy and laity as that which developed later. "Even those who were called bishops," remarks Bishop Lesslie Newbigin in his late book **The Good Shepherd**, "were men who had to earn their own living, probably as slaves in a pagan household." But then came the

“conversion” of Constantine and the rise of Christianity as an “official” religion. Gradually Christians were being classified into two orders: “the clergy whose duty was to teach and to govern and the laity whose role was to learn and obey.”

Sadly enough, this tradition survived the Reformation. In modified form it has been found in most of our Protestant communions.

Mentality that menaces

In spite of the measurable success that has come to efforts at improving clergy/laity relationships and refocusing on New Testament patterns, there is still among us a strong mindset that is “clerical.” According to this view, the clergy are dominantly responsible for church order (administration), church doctrine (theology) and church outreach (evangelism). A few years ago John Lawrence, editor of *Frontier*, wrote:

“What does the layman really want? He wants a building that looks like a church; a clergyman dressed in the way he approves; services of the kind he has been used to and to be left alone.”

Exaggerated? Yes. But not enough to be a serious distortion. Take a look. See how it is in **your** church. And the fault, let it be added, usually lies on both sides of the clergy/laity line.

Engagement that equips

In a talk he gave to the clergy of the Madras (India) diocese Bishop Newbegin said:

“The ordained pastor is called to train all the members committed to his care for their ministry in the world.”

Hans Rudi Weber is getting at the same truth when he writes:

“The laity are not helpers of the clergy so that the clergy can do their job, but the clergy are helpers of the whole people of God, so that the laity can be the church.”

Although the first part of that sentence strikes me as being an overstatement, the observation is fundamentally sound.

It would be a mistake, however, to conclude that this equipping task of the pastors is designed simply to prepare lay people for what we commonly call “church work,” such as singing in a choir or serving on a committee. This kind of activity can be a **performance** that is job-centered rather than a **ministry** that is people-centered. Pastors with cleansed motives have, therefore, the responsibility of “growing” members who are learning from Christ how to turn job-performance into people-care.

But the equipping task is even bigger. It includes the ways and means by which pastors can help their people—male and female—to convert their vocational activities into opportunities for Christian ministry. Doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, merchants, administrators, government officials and employees—all these, as Christians, need training if they are to become to others the channels of Christ’s ministering, caring love.

Out of the National Evangelical Anglican Congress, held in Nottingham, England, last April, came “The Nottingham Statement,” from which I quote:

“Christianity is a one-caste religion: all Christians are equally called to minister to Christ in the world, and ministry must be seen as a calling for all, not a status for some.”

Well said! Let it be well practiced by all the rest of us. □

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Are you willing to turn your problems into possibilities?
If so, Stephen Swihart says you are God's target for

Pressures and Promises

IN the presence of trouble, some people grow wings, others buy crutches.

Trials do not weaken us, but they show us where we are weak, in order that we may become strong, valuable, and useable.

You can count on pressures

Jesus clearly taught that life promises pressures. He said, "The gate is small; and the way is **NARROW** that leads to life, and few are those who find it" (Matthew 7:14). The word translated "narrow" here is elsewhere translated "afflicted" and "tribulation." Actually, the term means "to be pressed" or "to be squeezed in." The way that leads to life, therefore, is not only narrow but also full of pressures, afflictions, and tribulations.

The New Testament often speaks of pressures and tests (Acts 11:19; II Cor. 1:6; 6:4; Eph. 3:13; Phil. 1:7; II Th. 1:4-7; Heb. 10:32-33; Jas. 1:27; etc.). They come from irritating circumstances and from troublesome people. You can count on them.

Setting your mind to face trials

Nothing shows us more accurately our level of Christian maturity than the way we face trials. Anyone can be a thermometer—

Stephen Swihart is pastor of the Elkhart, Ind., First Brethren Church and author of the Victor Bible Source Book.

rise when the heat is up and descend when the heat goes down. But God calls us to be thermostats—temperature regulators.

James tells us the proper way to encounter trials. He writes, "**Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials**" (James 1:2). What!? "Consider it all joy?" Impossible!

No, it is not impossible to face trials with joy. It all depends upon your attitude and your knowledge of why you are being confronted with the trial at hand. Let's examine two points.

First, trials are not meant to be destructive, but constructive. Today we tend to think of trials, tests, and pressures in only a negative way. But this notion is wholly outside (and even opposite from) the picture that is presented by the Bible. Problems are not accidents according to the Scriptures. They are sent—as God's fires to refine us, to cleanse us, to draw us nearer to Him. The aim of a trial is not to destroy us, but to open our eyes to a greater need for Christ in some area of our lives (see II Corinthians 12:1-10).

Second, trials must be seen at the outset as opportunities for growth. That is, at the very beginning of a pressure situation we must get our mind ready for a thought-battle. When James said "**consider it all joy,**" he was saying get into a deliberate and definite mental state that will refuse to tolerate any attitude which cuts across the boundaries of "joy."

“
In the presence of trouble,
some people grow wings, others
buy crutches.
”

You need to remember these two points: (1) trials are good, and (2) they need not rob you of joy.

Going through the tunnels

Everyone encounters pressures, but there is no virtue in just meeting them. The virtue comes in conquering them. Trials only become beneficial when they are endured until the end with a positive and Christ-like attitude (see Mt. 10:22; I Cor. 9:24-27; Heb. 6:12; Rev. 2:10).

This principle can be vividly illustrated by picturing several tunnels spaced on an incline. Outside the tunnels all is bright. Inside the tunnels all is dark.

Trials are something like going through these tunnels. If we humbly submit to God in these tunnels and allow Him to carry us through without doubting, worrying, or striving to do something according to our own strength and wisdom, then we shall see the light again—and even more brightly than before! And our journey to Christian maturity has been advanced. (See the first illustration.)

But if we grumble, complain, become critical and negative, or waver in the tunnel, then God will shoot us back out the entrance, and the process must be repeated. (See the second illustration.)

Regretably, many of God's children have

not learned to trust Him for the seemingly “bad” events in life, and as a result they have not grown into spiritual maturity. They are still babes in Christ. Remember that our growth is not determined by our appreciation of the Bible and the church, but by our ability to manage pressures in a spiritual way.

Why God puts you in a tunnel

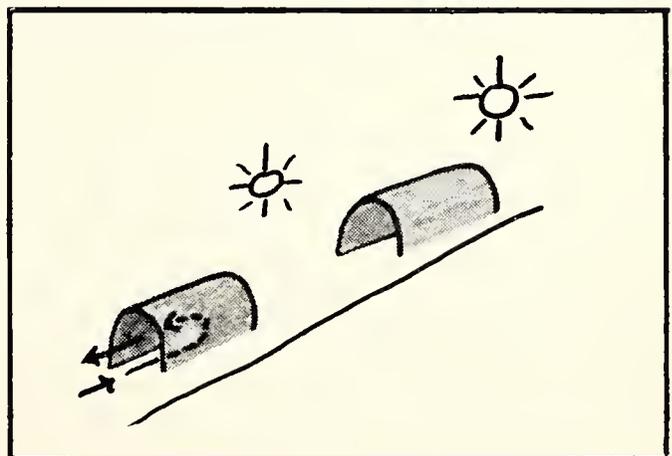
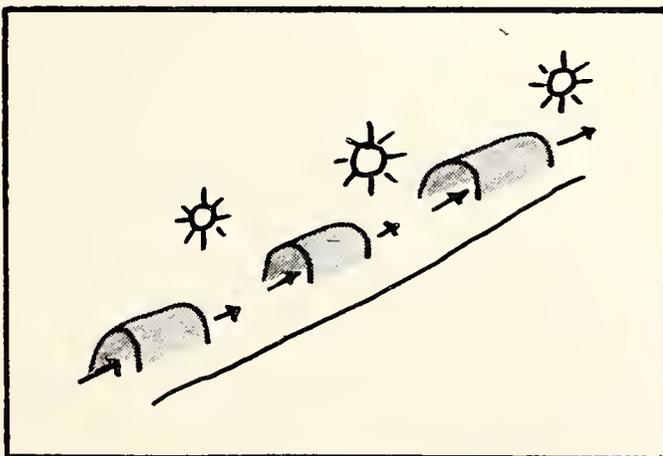
Consecration is like signing your name to a contract and letting God fill it in as He wishes. God never promised us that “it's fun being saved.” Instead, He guaranteed pressures from this world and promises from heaven. Here are five reasons why God puts you in a tunnel.

(1) Tests prevent our slipping and falling through pride (II Corinthians 12:7-9). God made the world out of **nothing**, and as long as you think you are **something**, He cannot make **anything** out of you. Trials are intended to bring us to **nothing**.

(2) We experience trials because we are not of this world (John 15:18-20). For the moment Satan is the god of this world, and until Jesus Christ returns, Christians will live in the enemy's domain. Such an atmosphere is naturally conducive to pressures.

(3) Trials sometimes aid in the spreading of the gospel (Phil. 1:12-14; Acts 8:1-4).

(continued on next page)



Trials are like tunnels, shielding us from the light. If we submit ourselves to God, He will bring us through to the light again (first illustration). If we complain about the trial, we will have to repeat the process in order to grow to Christian maturity.

Troubles are not accidents but opportunities in disguise.

(4) Only through a problem can we come to experience and to understand the greatness of God's grace and comfort (II Corinthians 1:3-5). Through problems we learn that God will supply that for which we have need. In times of trouble we learn that we cannot break God's promises by leaning on them!

(5) Pressures are God's method for maturing His children into adult-like Christians (Jn. 15:2; Rom. 5:3-5; Heb. 2:10; 5:8; Jas. 1:2-4). Rivers become crooked by following the line of least resistance. So do people. We need pressures in order to confront us with the God of possibilities. We are either overcomers or we are overcome. God sends us tests to demonstrate to us that by His strength we can be overcomers.

Two significant illustrations

For a number of years scientists have known that the gem of gems, the diamond,

was actually created from carbon deposits by the extreme pressures of the earth's inward forces. Recently this process has been mechanically duplicated in making what is known as the "synthetic diamond." General Electric has developed a process whereby it can create diamonds. It requires more than 1,500,000 pounds of pressure per square inch at temperatures of 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit for hours at a time. Do you want to be a precious jewel in the Master's hand? It has a price—pressure!

Henry Ward Beecher penned these appropriate words about Christian growth. "An acorn is not an oak tree when it is sprouted. It must go through long summers and fierce winters; it has to endure all that frost and snow and side-striking winds can bring before it is a full grown oak. These are rough teachers; but rugged schoolmasters make rugged pupils."

Are you willing to endure pressures? Are you willing to turn your problems into possibilities? It can happen. You are God's target for pressures and promises. □

Richard Craver ordained to ministry

Marianna, Pa.—Richard Craver was ordained into the gospel ministry of the Brethren Church at the Highland Brethren Church on Sunday evening, October 30.

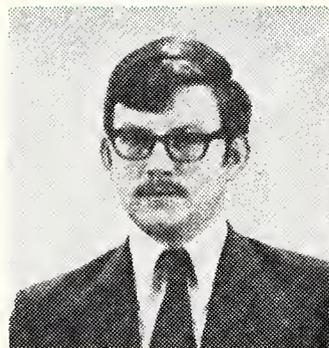
Dr. Charles Munson, professor of practical theology at Ashland Theological Seminary, presented the sermon at the service of ordination. Elders Norman Long, Carl Phillips, and Henry Bates also participated in the service.

The action of the church calling for ordination was read by Mr. James Daumit, moderator of the Highland Church. Mrs. Edith Moore played the prelude and postlude for the service, and special music was provided by the Highland choir.

Richard Craver is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard F. Craver of Barnesboro, Pa. Richard was graduated from Central Cambria High School at Ebensburg, Pa., and he attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania for approximately two years before being called into the military service. In the service he was trained as an X-ray technician at Ft. Sam Houston and then served with the army in Germany and in Thailand.

Following his discharge from the army, Richard worked as an X-ray technician at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital. While living and working in Pittsburgh, Richard united with the Pittsburgh Brethren Church and became active in all phases of the church's program. He served as vice-moderator of the church, and he and his wife were ordained as deacon and deaconess.

Feeling God's call to the full-time ministry, Richard moved to Ashland to continue his aca-



Rev. Richard Craver

demical training. He attended Ashland College and Seminary, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from the college in 1974 and his Master of Divinity degree from the seminary this past June.

While in Ashland Richard served as student pastor of the Reedsburg, Ohio, United Church of Christ for several years. In July of 1976, he became pastor of the Highland Brethren Church of Marianna, Pa., driving to Highland on weekends during the school year until he completed seminary this past June. Following graduation, Richard and his family moved to Pennsylvania where he continues to serve as pastor at Highland.

Richard is married to the former Maxine Bates, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Henry Bates of Waynesboro, Pa. Mrs. Craver is a graduate of Central Cambria High School, Ebensburg, Pa., and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Masters Degree in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh. Rev. and Mrs. Craver have two children.

A Different Look at Christmas

The Road to Bethlehem by Tom Harpur (David C. Cook, 1977, 95 pp., \$6.95 hardback).

In the days immediately preceding the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary made a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What was this journey like? How difficult was it? What did they experience along the way?

To find answers to these questions, Tom Harpur, his wife (also named Mary), and photographer Dick Loek traveled the nearly 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, making the journey as Mary and Joseph probably made it—by foot. The trip, which took them five days, was made just before Christmas last year.

The Road to Bethlehem is a day-by-day account, in words and black and white photographs, of their journey. It tells what they saw and experienced along the way. It also gives the author's reflections on his own trip and on the one made by Joseph and Mary nearly 2000 years before.

The author succeeds in stripping away much of the sentimentality which we associate with the journey of Joseph and Mary. He shows that their trip was "a gruelling, dangerous hike" made in extremes of temperature, along deserted roads through sections of barren countryside, and with the threat of robbers along the way.

Tom Harpur, an ordained Anglican clergyman, is the religion editor of **The Toronto Star**, Canada's largest newspaper. He made the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem as a basis for a special Christmas feature for his newspaper. **The Road to Bethlehem** is the full account of this unusual trek.

—Dick Winfield

Dick Winfield is editorial assistant for the Brethren Publishing Company.

Pastor and People

Survival Tactics in the Parish by Lyle E. Schaller (Abingdon, 1977, 208 pp., \$4.95 paperback).

The local church is fascinating... fascinating in its composition, in its organization, in the work it does, and in the relationships between its members. Perhaps most fascinating of all is the relationship between the pastor and the people.

In this book Lyle E. Schaller, a church consultant with the Yokefellow Institute in Richmond, Ind., gives insightful attention to the relationship between pastor and people. His writing is filled with penetrating and practical observations based on his visits with more than four thousand congregations in the last twenty years.

One gem illustrates his succinct practicality. He writes, "Whenever we introduce a new idea into a group or whenever we ask people to support a new way of doing things, there are three discrete



and essential needs to which we must address ourselves. First, people must understand the new reality. Second, people must accept the new idea. Third, people must be given the opportunity to commit themselves to the new." Schaller has loaded this sequel to **The Pastor and the People** with a multitude of workable insights which, when put into practice, will enhance the relationship between the pastor and the congregation.

Schaller has a unique understanding of the factors which cause relationships within the church to disintegrate. Many of the remedies have to do with adequate communication. He has an excellent chapter on expressing gratitude to deserving members of the church. He offers both criteria and methods for "passing out bouquets."

His chapter "Looking at Youth Ministries" will hold surprises for some, but his observations are well researched and "right on." Almost every pastor, though faithful in his parish visiting, has experienced statements like, "Why Didn't You Call on My Mother?" Schaller's chapter by that title offers worthwhile suggestions on how a pastor can handle this constructively. Every pastoral relations committee should study with their pastor the chapter "Why Have a Pastoral Relations Committee?"

Each of the fifteen chapters has applications to some facet of the local church. Any pastor, any moderator, any deacon, any local church member interested in making pleasant discoveries about ways for his church to strengthen its ministry will find rewarding reading in this book.

—Arden E. Gilmer

Arden Gilmer is Director of Home Missions for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.



Building on the Rock

Fred Burkey says quality Christian education requires building on a solid foundation.

THOSE familiar with Ashland know that the city is about equally divided by Town Creek, a meandering little stream. During most of the year it can be crossed on protruding stones. Agile youngsters easily jump from one bank to the other. A good thunderstorm quickly changes Town Creek into a fast-running, aggressive little stream. And the flood of 1969 transformed it into a raging torrent, sweeping all kinds of things downstream.

Recently a spirited discussion developed in the City Council over who was responsible for repairing the retaining walls along the banks of Town Creek. The issue was raised by a man whose house extends over both the retaining wall and the creekbed.

This all reminded me of Jesus' words in Matthew 7:24-25 (TLB):

All who listen to my instructions and follow them are wise, like a man who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents, and the floods rise and the storm winds beat against his house, it won't collapse, for it is built on rock.

There is a saying which often surfaces when the Christmas toys are being assembled: "If all else fails, read the instructions!" We Christians are given explicit instructions in the Bible about "building on a solid foundation." We wonder why anyone would build a house over a creekbed in the first place (maybe he didn't... perhaps the bank eroded). Anyway, the problem looks ridiculous from our perspective (it's not my house that is threatened).

But what about our house? Or, to translate, what about our program of building

up the people of God? (See I Peter 2.) How hard have we tried to understand and implement the instructions? Experience indicates that there are no shortcuts to quality Christian education. There is no quick and simple way to make people into disciples of Jesus Christ. Vibrant, exciting, effective churches know this well. There is a price to be paid if the instructions are to be followed.

The Board of Christian Education (BCE) is working to assist and encourage Christian educators wherever they may be working in the church. We are pleased by the response to the Association of Brethren Church Teachers (ABCT). Resources and materials are already flowing to the membership. At least five ABCT seminars are being planned jointly with district boards of Christian education for next spring. And a special ICL clinic is scheduled for August 14, 1978, (the day General Conference opens) in Ashland.

The BCE is working in other areas as well. We commend the superb work being done at Milledgeville, Illinois, our "Sunday School of the Year." We congratulate Elma Delagrangé (of Jefferson), whom we named "Christian Educator of the Year." Her work typifies the level of excellence required for "building on the rock." We work extensively with Brethren youth through the BYC Council, preparing them for responsible leadership roles in the church. And we administer the Summer Crusader/Internship programs, giving future pastors, church staff, and missionaries experience in doing the work of ministry.

On the pages which immediately follow, you will find examples of the work in which the Board of Christian Education is in-

volved. These pages are more informative than "promotional," but perhaps they can fulfill both functions. For while we could produce an abundance of high-sounding material about our services to your Sunday schools and Brethren Youth, the fact remains that there are limitations on our time, energy, and resources.

Our Board is funded entirely by church offerings. Our services are limited to those things we can pay for. We have no unappropriated resources salted away in a bank or a savings and loan drawing interest. We often struggle to make it from one offering to the next. We depend on you to help us evaluate our work . . . and we can tell what

you think from your giving.

Believe me, we're doing our best to provide the materials and services needed by the churches and districts to more effectively produce Christian disciples. We employ biblical principles to accomplish biblical objectives. We know, however, that the rubber meets the road in the local church. Thus, we are partners with you in building upon the Rock.

So look us over . . . evaluate our program . . . offer suggestions if you wish . . . but please don't overlook the needs of Christian education and youth ministry in the Brethren Church. Our work is not spectacular, but it is foundational. □

Christian Educator Honored

Elma Delagrange of the Jefferson Brethren Church, Goshen, Indiana, was named "Christian Educator of the Year" by the BCE during the 1977 General Conference. Mr. Fred Horn of the Ardmere Brethren Church and Mr. Wayne Smith of Muncie received honorable mention certificates.

These fine Christian teachers have contributed many years of faithful service to their churches. All have served in many capacities, always giving unselfishly of themselves and their time. We are thankful for people of such great vision, energy, and spiritual commitment. It is a pleasure to honor them as representative of the multitude of "unsung heroes" whose efforts enrich every Brethren Sunday school.

Mrs. Delagrange, the mother of four grown sons, has applied her practical knowledge of young people by working extensively with Jefferson's youth group and their Sunday school class. In both programs she has shown unusual vision and creativity. According to Pastor Oxenrider, "... under her leadership, the youth program has more than doubled . . . more like tripled or quadrupled!" He went on to say that her groups are typified by tackling **unbelievably** large projects and **succeeding**. Right now they are working toward a week-long retreat in Florida.

Rev. Oxenrider also reports that Mrs.



Photo by Bruce Ronk

BCE President Brian Moore presented Elma Delagrange with her award.

Delagrange has helped establish a girls' prayer group (Prime Ribs) and a boy's group (Grow—Guys' Recreational Outreach). Both of these groups have ministered to growing numbers of young people in the community. They have grown to over eighty members (from nine) in one and one-half years.

She has also played an active role in the development of a "ladies' prayer brunch ministry," which holds monthly meetings for Bible study and inspiration. Her interests also extend to those who are having difficulty dealing with serious life issues. In this regard, coping groups have been organized to minister to specific needs.

In summary, Mrs. Delagrange is a competent, creative, energetic Christian who
(continued on page 14)

MILLEDGEVILLE ■ ILLINOIS ■

Congratulations Milledgeville! You have a great Sunday school. At least three of your young men are now preparing for Christian ministry—evidence that you have built upon the Rock. As further proof, we note your growing attendance, contagious enthusiasm, aggressive outreach through a radio ministry, and plans for housing the elderly of your community.

The Milledgeville Sunday School is housed in an attractive, well-equipped new unit—dedicated last May. But the thing that makes this a great Sunday school is people—people who care, who pray, who plan, who work, who know the love and grace of God. Teachers who go the second mile to provide an environment conducive to Bible teaching and learning are the backbone of the school.

People of vision and wisdom, serving on the Board of Trustees and the Building Committee also deserve praise for providing good facilities, equipment, and training for

the teaching staff. The whole body, working together in obedience to the Great Commission, has made Sunday school “the place to be” on Sunday morning.

In many ways, the church reflects the values and priorities of pastor-evangelist James Black, who views the Sunday school as “all important” in his ministry. Very early every Sunday morning he can be found at the church making sure all is in readiness for a great day of learning and worship. Like their pastor, the leaders and students expect things to happen, and they do. New people are coming almost every week.

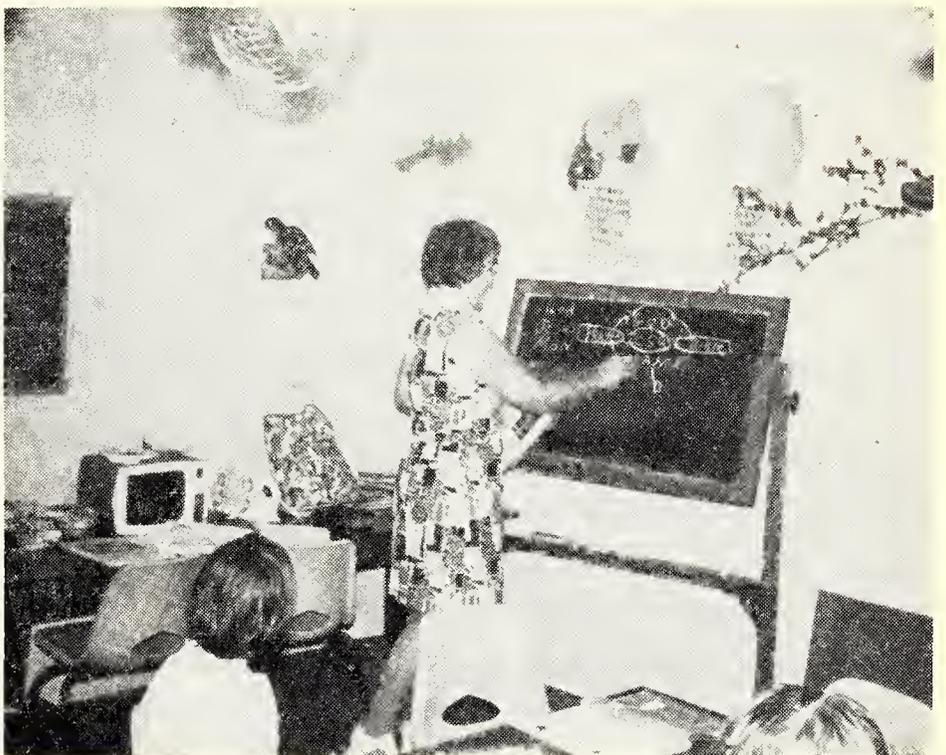
Everything about the people, the building, the classrooms, and the leaders says, “Welcome, come in and join us . . . we care about you . . . we want you to know our Lord.”

The Board of Christian Education is proud to honor Milledgeville as “Sunday School of the Year.” Keep up the good work—may your number increase!

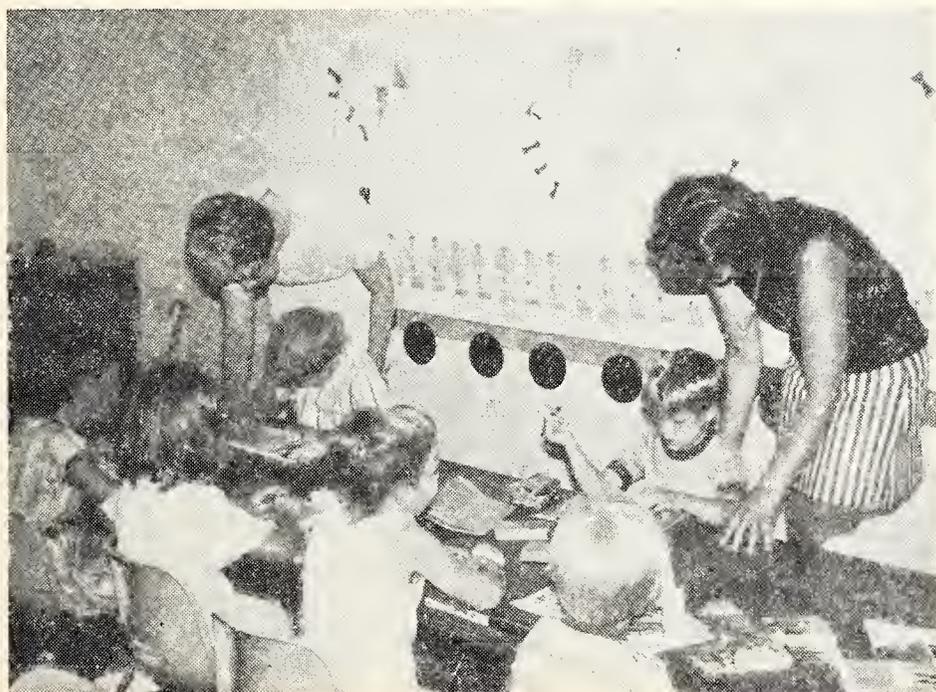
Dr. Fred Burkey, director of Christian education, presented the “Sunday School of the Year” award to Shirley Black, Sunday school superintendent, and Pastor James R. Black. They accepted the award on behalf of their church.



SUNDAY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR



Photos by Fred Burkey



Bright and beautiful is one way to describe classrooms at Milledgeville.

In Caroline Miller's sixth grade classroom (above, left) and Alberta Wilkinson's third grade classroom attractive visuals are evidence of extensive preparation.

June Hollowell and Judy Malson (left) show that in their fourth and fifth grade class, learning is fun when everybody is involved.

Building Leaders on the Rock

The National BYC Council prepares youth for church leadership.

"Sort of like a family reunion... with a work agenda." That's the way one member of the National BYC Council described a recent meeting. Really, he wasn't far off target. Over the last few years Brethren youth have developed a deep sense of fellowship that transcends local or district boundaries.

The Crusaders and Interns, the BYC Council, and the National BYC Convention have contributed to this spirit of unity and concern. Issues of concern to local, district, and national BYC are discussed openly and intelligently by the National BYC officers, district presidents and representatives, and guests at the council meetings. Problems are identified, alternatives explored, and decisions are made.

Council meetings are usually held once each year to evaluate the BYC Convention, suggest changes, and consider new ideas. This year, for instance, a basic plan was outlined for alerting local youth groups to prayer concerns. In 1976, the need for a "Youth Leader's Handbook" was identified. Such a manual is now being sent to the sponsors of every registered local group.

The council is also concerned about representation, paying at least part of the travel cost for members who must come a long way to meetings. These young people acted at least three years ahead of the General Conference in providing a travel subsidy to encourage representatives of distant churches to attend the National BYC Convention and General Conference.

The Board of Christian Education en-



Photo by Fred Burkey

National BYC Treasurer Jon Barber presented ideas on the BYC project and budget at the October Council meeting.

courages the young people to "run their own organization" as much as possible. We believe this has resulted in broader participation in BYC and in the emergence of greater interest in the Brethren Church and in Christian service than at any time in memory. Of the six young people entering seminary this fall, four have been actively involved in National BYC Council at one time or another.

We are proud of our young people. Their leadership experience provides a solid foundation for future Christian service. The administration of the National BYC program is another function of the Board of Christian Education.

Christian educator honored

(continued from page 11)

has the capacity to see things through. She has the drive to attempt great things and invests the time to get the job done. These are admirable characteristics... worthy of the "Christian Educator of the Year"!

Scripture teaches that our role as teach-

ers involves modeling the faith. We are clearly told that faith without works is meaningless (see James 2:17 LB). It is further asserted that we shall be known by the fruits of our lives. Certainly Mrs. Delagrange's life and work meet these criteria. We pray God's continued guidance and blessing upon her in her ministry of Christian education.



Missionary Interns Becky Grumbling, Tom Keplinger, Mark Baker, and Joan McKinney sit on a mountain overlooking Medellin, Colombia, where they served last summer.

Looking Down from the Mountain

Mark Baker reflects on his Summer Crusader experience in Colombia.

I made my commitment to full-time Christian service over 12 years ago, and I had no idea how God would use me, nor how He would prepare me for service. Until four years ago I had neither heard of a place called Medellin, Colombia, nor suspected that I would someday spend a summer there. But God takes the unexpected and transforms it into a growing and helpful experience.

I had only studied one year of college Spanish, and I felt anxious about ministering to people of a different language. Being a die-hard Hoosier, I was also anxious about living in a different culture. But through the Lord's guidance, I was able to observe first-hand the work of a foreign missionary.

My experience can best be described by telling you about a trip we took during the summer. One morning we left for a two-hour climb up the mountain to Picacho. This is a statue of Christ with outstretched arms overlooking the city of Medellin. There was no clear path to the top. We walked through paved streets, dirt roads, mud, grassy fields, and finally rugged rocks. During the journey I experienced many different feelings—happiness, freedom, adventure, weariness, doubt, frustration, soreness, and hope. Walking up a steep incline can make many things cross one's mind. But as we finally reached the top, I felt joy—joy that I had overcome the terrain. God was with me

through my walk up the mountain, just as he was with me, and is with me, every moment of each day.

The feelings I experienced that one day correspond to the feelings a missionary must experience on the field. There are days when the walking is easy, but there are also days when you want to turn back and go down the mountain. But once we reach the top, we have the joy that only God can give, knowing we reached our goal with His help.

Whether or not God sends me to a foreign country to minister is really in His hands. The experience I've gained this summer will help me if He does. But also it will help me if He doesn't. Through my internship, I have gained first-hand knowledge of mission work, which I can pass on to my congregation, friends, or as I'm doing now.

Looking down from Picacho, we had a beautiful view of Medellin. We saw a city filled with two million people who need to know the message of Jesus Christ. If for no other reason, my summer in Medellin was valuable in that it reinforced the sense of responsibility in my mind that each of us is a disciple of Christ, and we are to spread the Good News—to every man, woman, and child, whether it be in another country or our own neighborhood. I hope that someday you, too, can look down from the mountain.

Emmert Wilson honored at AC homecoming activities

Ashland, Ohio—Mr. Emmert R. Wilson, a member of the First Brethren Church of Sergeantsville, New Jersey, was honored as an outstanding Ashland College alumnus at the college homecoming activities in October. He was one of four AC alumni chosen for this honor.

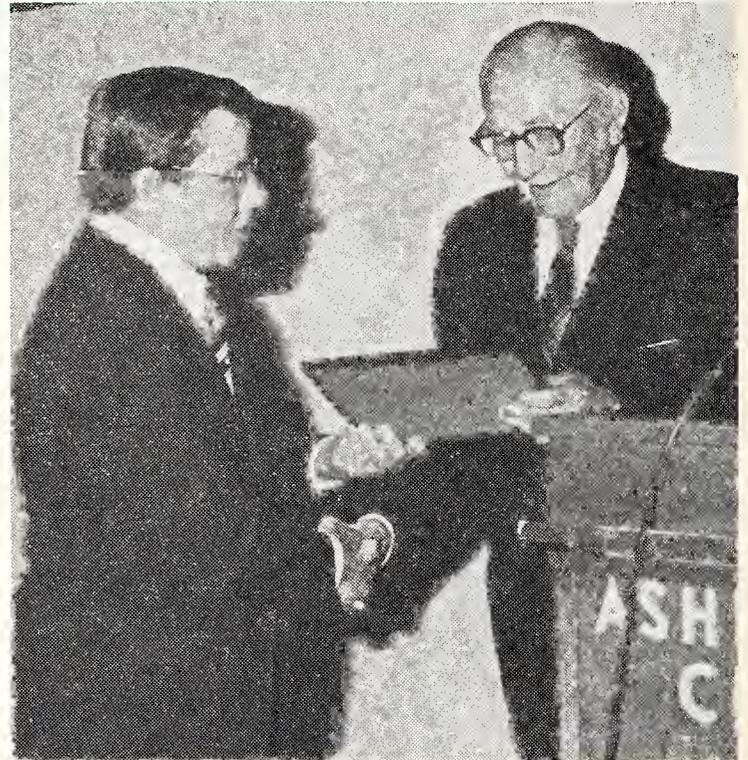
Wilson, a 1915 graduate of Ashland College, was born in 1896 in Rosemont, N.J. He attended Stockton Public School, State Model School, and Haniman Business College, in addition to A.C. He has been active in the fields of agriculture, industry, politics, real estate, and insurance.

Wilson served as mayor of the borough of Stockton for four terms and was a five-term member of the New Jersey legislature. During these terms he served on several major committees, and he held a perfect attendance record for all committee meetings and legislative sessions. At present he is active in the real estate business. He has no plans of retiring.

In the Sergeantsville First Brethren Church, Wilson has served as moderator for 42 years. He is also an Ashland College trustee, representing the Pennsylvania District. His wife has been church organist for more than 60 years. Their only daughter, Edith F. Swain, was Ashland College May Queen in 1942.

Ashland College outstanding alumni are chosen for this honor on the basis of their leadership accomplishments, professional achievements, and service to humanity. They are nominated by fellow alumni, with the final selection being made by the Ashland College Alumni Association.

The other three outstanding alumni honored at



Emmert Wilson (right) received his outstanding alumnus award from Charles Hill.

this year's homecoming were Mrs. Cathy Donges, Miss Lulu Wood, and Mrs. Helen Mandeville Gunnells. The outstanding alumni rode in the homecoming parade and were honored guests at the annual alumni banquet.

Bits 'n Pieces

Mrs. Nellie Knepper, a member of the **Berlin Brethren Church**, was presented an award on Sunday morning, October 16, recognizing her 40th year of perfect Sunday school attendance.

Dr. George Brunk, the 1977 General Conference speaker, will hold revival services January 1-8 at the **Sarasota, Fla., First Brethren Church**.

Fifty-four residents of the **Brethren's Home** at Flora, Ind., partook of communion on October 5. The service was conducted by Rev. Alvin Grum-

bling, deacons Basil Eller and Russell Flora, and their wives, all of the Flora Brethren Church.

The Wabash, Ind., Brethren Church is looking for tentmakers. Especially needed are a youth worker and an organist. Job opportunities in the Wabash area are good.

Mr. Lynn Stump, a retired businessman from Goshen, Ind., has been named Minister of Visitation of the Sarasota First Brethren Church.



David Long received his God and Country Award on October 16. Participating in the service at Berlin Brethren Church were Rev. Ralph Mills; David Long; Eloise and John Long, his parents; and Lester Coslic, his scoutmaster.

Berlin's David Long receives "God and Country Award"

Berlin, Pa.—David Long, a member of the Berlin Brethren Church, was presented the "God and Country Award" during the morning worship service of his church on Sunday, October 16.

The God and Country Award is a special Boy Scout honor. In order to receive the award, a scout must complete an extensive project. David spent 2½ years completing his project, which included church and community activities, studies of the history and organization of the church, and interviews with civic leaders and missionaries. He kept a record of these various tasks in a notebook. In completing his project, David worked closely with his pastor, Rev. Ralph Mills.

The award was presented to David by Lester

Coslic, scoutmaster of the Berlin troop. Coslic commended David for his excellent work in achieving this badge of honor and recounted David's other Scouting activities, which include attending the Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico, in 1976 and the National Scout Jamboree in 1977. David is also a Life Scout and needs only two more merit badges to become an Eagle Scout, the highest progress award in Scouting.

David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Long of Berlin, Pa., and a junior at the Berlin High School. In addition to his Scouting activities, he is active in the Berlin Brethren Church and also a member of the high school band.

AC Presidential Inaugural Week scheduled for February 13-19

Ashland, Ohio—February 13-19, 1978, will be observed as Presidential Inaugural Week at Ashland College. A full schedule of activities are planned for the college campus as part of this special week, which will celebrate not only the inauguration of Dr. Arthur Schultz as president, but also the 100th anniversary of the founding of Ashland College.

Events of special interest to Brethren people will be the inaugural ceremony on Saturday morning, February 18, and the Founders' Day worship service on Sunday morning, February 19. The Founders' Day service, which commemorates the 100th anniversary of Ashland College, will be held in Memorial Chapel, with General Conference Moderator James R. Black the speaker.

It is expected that a large number of Brethren people, representing both district conferences and local congregations, will be attending these special ceremonies, demonstrating their support for Ashland College as a church related college and their conviction that the Brethren church should be a college related church.

Membership Growth

Roanoke: 2 by baptism
 Wabash: 1 by baptism, 1 by letter
 County Line: 2 by baptism, 2 by letter
 Huntington: 10 by baptism
 Flora: 6 by baptism

New Subscription Rates

The following subscription rates for the Brethren Evangelist become effective January 1, 1978:

100% church list—\$5.25
 Regular church list—\$5.75
 (5 or more names)

Individual subscriptions—\$6.25

This 50¢ increase was necessitated by increasing production costs and rising deficits for the magazine.

Subscribers may take advantage of the present rates (printed on page 3) by renewing their subscriptions now. Renewal now will extend your subscription for one year, no matter when it expires. See the ad on page 2 for details.

1978 Summer Crusader plans announced

Ashland, Ohio—Dr. Fred Burkey, director of Christian education for the Brethren Church, has released the prospectus for the 1978 Summer Crusader/Internship Program.

The proposed ministries are patterned after those offered during 1977. The prospectus for each ministry appears on page 19.

According to Dr. Burkey, applicants for Crusader or Internship service should have completed at least their junior year in high school by June 1978. Specific skills and requirements for each ministry are outlined in the prospectus.

Applicants for Crusader or Internship service should carefully consider the area in which their

gifts may best be used and indicate their preference. Top priority will be given to applicants of college age who are considering a career of Christian service.

Applications will be accepted by the Board of Christian Education from December 1, 1977, through January 31, 1978. Application forms may be received by writing to the BCE office. The forms should be requested early enough to allow time for completion and return by the deadline date.

Dr. Burkey also encourages pastors and other church leaders to study the prospectus and contact him about possible scheduling of Crusader teams or Interns.

Brethren relief for Johnstown flood reported at \$806.00

St. Petersburg, Fla.—As of October 31, 1977, Brethren people had contributed \$806 for the Johnstown, Pa., flood emergency, according to Phil Lersch, chairman, and George Kerlin, treasurer, of the Brethren World Relief Board.

This amount, given through the Brethren World Relief Board treasury, came from four individual gifts and five church offerings.

Milledgeville, Ill., led the contributions with a gift of \$500.

Other churches contributing were Meyersdale, Pa.; County Line and Roanoke, Ind.; and Papago Park, Ariz.

Toccoa Falls Bible College receives World Relief aid

St. Petersburg, Fla.—The **World Relief Commission** (WRC) has forwarded \$50,000 from its exigency funds to aid Toccoa Falls Bible College in Georgia. The aid was sent after Dr. Everett Graffam of WRC learned that the lower campus of the school (where 250 people lived in dorms, houses, and mobile homes) was completely wiped out in November when the collapse of an earthen dam released a 30-foot wall of water which swept through the campus.

Thirty-eight people (faculty, students, and their families) were killed by the flood and forty were hospitalized. Bodies were found as far as two miles away. Rev. Merle Graven, pastor of the local Christian and Missionary Alliance church and a former missionary in Cambodia, said it was the worst destruction he had ever seen.

Toccoa Falls Bible College is a Christian and Missionary Alliance school. Many of the student-victims were children of overseas missionaries.

Beekley attends chaplains' meetings; Navy to assign chaplain assistants

Ashland, Ohio—USAF Chaplain Lt. Col. Eugene J. Beekley, Ret., present pastor of Park Street Brethren Church, recently attended a three-day meeting in Washington, D.C., of two related agencies.

The first meeting was of the National Association of Evangelicals, Chaplain Commission, of which Rev. Beekley is a member. The commission met one day to deal with problems of chaplain effectiveness in management principles and sensitivity to people's needs.

This was followed by a Conference of Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agents for the Armed Forces involved with the spiritual and moral welfare of military personnel. Chaplain Beekley attended representing the Brethren Church.

At present the Brethren Church has two chaplains on active duty. They are Lt. Comdr. Thomas Schultz, U.S. Navy, Cypress, Calif.; and Capt. Joseph Hanna, U.S. Air Force, Cannon AFB, N. Mex.

Of greatest immediate significance from the meetings attended by Chaplain Beekley was an announcement by the Navy Chief of Chaplains that soon the Navy will be accepting 1,000 young men and women as Religious Program Specialists. These people will serve as Navy chaplain assistants and be authorized to conduct some worship services in the absence of a commissioned chaplain. The Navy will need people trained in religious education, music, theology, and other related Christian ministries. They may join the Navy as either enlisted personnel or as officers, depending on their qualifications.

This is a forward step for the Navy and for young men and women who desire to serve the Lord in this way. Further announcement will be made about this program when it is completed and ready for applicants.

1978 Summer Crusader/Intern Prospectus

Applications Accepted: December 1, 1977, through January 31, 1978.

Applications Available from: Board of Christian Education, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

All applicants should have completed at least the junior year of high school.

Crusader Team Ministries

INSTRUCTIONAL/SURVEY

Services Offered: Teaching in vacation Bible schools, district camps, day camps; community survey; prospect survey; camp counseling and youth recreational activities; participation in worship programs.

Skills: Teaching experience; willingness to meet strangers; ability to plan and participate in group efforts; ability to share the Christian experience effectively; good health; positive attitude; ability to follow directions.

Personnel: Two or three four-member units.

Length of Service per Location: One week; sometimes two weeks.

MUSIC/DRAMA

Services Offered: This team will be prepared to present one or more programs of Christian music and/or drama in churches, conferences, district camps, community settings. Programs will integrate contemporary and traditional Christian music with selected dramatic material. Puppetry will be included. In all cases, the objective will be to proclaim the gospel message through musical and dramatic media.

Skills: Dramatic and/or musical experience and ability to share the Christian experience effectively. The ability to work under pressure in harmony with the group is essential.

Personnel: One team, eight persons.

Length of Service per Location: Optional one or two day program or weekend (Thursday evening through Sunday morning) program.

Internships

NOTE: Internships are designed for persons at an advanced stage of preparation for careers in Christian service or for persons considering lay ("tentmaking") ministries.

PASTORAL OR CHURCH STAFF INTERNSHIPS

Purpose: To provide field experience for persons considering pastoral ministry or careers in Christian education, youth work, or music ministry. Each assignment is arranged individually for maximum benefit both to the Intern and the church. Applicants should have attained at least junior status in college and show definite promise in Christian service. Acceptance is contingent upon placement.

MISSIONARY INTERNSHIPS

Purpose: To provide short-term (around six weeks) foreign mission experience for persons considering missionary service.

Skills: Must have a reading knowledge of Spanish, some musical ability, teaching experience, work experience, ability to get along with others.

Personnel and Location: Conditions permitting, one four-member unit will be sent to Colombia, South America.

SPECIAL

Persons having special gifts or talents useable in Brethren-operated institutions will be considered individually for summer placement.

Former AC President Anspach dies

Ashland, Ohio — Dr. Charles L. Anspach, 82, former president of Ashland College, died October 25 in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, following an extended illness.

Dr. Anspach was president of Ashland College from 1935 to 1939. He left Ashland in 1939 to become president of Central Michigan University.

Anspach was born in Fremont, Ohio, and became a member of the Fremont Brethren Church in 1909. He attended Ashland College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1919 and a Master of Arts in 1920. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1930.

In 1923 Anspach became registrar at AC, and three years later he became dean of the college. He then spent several years at Eastern Michigan University, first as head of the Department of Education and later as dean of administration, before returning to Ashland College as president in 1935.

During his years in Ashland, Anspach transferred his church membership from Fremont to the Park Street Brethren Church, retaining his membership at Park Street until his death.

Dr. Anspach attended part of the 1977 General Conference of the Brethren Church in August. He spoke briefly at the Ashland Theological Seminary program.



*Dr.
Charles
Anspach*

In Memory

Chlora A. Hazen, 87, October 29. Member and deaconess of Ashland, Ohio, First Brethren Church (Park Street). Services by Eugene J. Beekley, pastor.

Ona J. Humbarger, 85, October 22. Member of Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Alvin Grumbling, pastor.

Clyde Young, 87, October 20. Member of Roanoke, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Ralph Gibson, pastor.

Theodore Miller, 69, October 19. Member of Lanark, Ill., First Brethren Church. Services by Dave Cooksey, pastor.

Mrs. Theodore (Oma) Miller, 67, October 19. Member of Lanark, Ill., First Brethren Church. Services by Dave Cooksey, pastor.

Lillian Louise Miller, 69, October 9. Member and deaconess of Roann, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by William H. Kerner, pastor.

Alene M. Leaman, 69, September 30. Member of Ashland, Ohio, First Brethren Church (Park Street). Services by Eugene J. Beekley, pastor.

John W. Dean, 71, September 16. Member of Vinco, Pa., Brethren Church. Services by Carl H. Phillips, pastor.

Jene Holmes, 52, September 14. Member and deaconess of Roanoke, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Ralph Gibson, pastor.

Ballard to succeed WRC's Graffam

Wheaton, Ill. (NAE News)—Jerry P. Ballard will succeed Dr. Everett Graffam as executive vice president of the World Relief Commission (WRC), effective July 1, 1978.

Ballard, who is currently president of the management consulting firm of Ballard & Puckett, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, will officially join WRC on January 1 as executive vice president-designate.

Ballard is no stranger to relief work, having served on the WRC executive committee from 1968-70 and as director of World Vision International from 1970-72.

From 1972-75, Ballard was professor of communications at the Columbia Graduate School of Bible and Missions in Columbia, South Carolina. He left that position to devote his full attentions to Ballard & Puckett, Inc., a firm whose clientele consists predominantly of international Christian organizations.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Sausaman, 57th, October 30. Members of Roann, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Brower, 57th, October 20. Members of Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Mr. & Mrs. Burl Mackey, 50th, October 8. Members of Quiet Dell, Pa., Brethren Church.

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Humke, 64th, September 20. Members of Roanoke, Ind., First Brethren Church.

Crusaders inspire Lanark Sunday school

Lanark, Ill.—The preschool and first grade classes of the Lanark First Brethren Sunday School have a new look. The new look includes both the physical surroundings—a newly redecorated teaching area, new shelves—and the teaching sessions—new enthusiasm and the use of a variety of teaching aids.

This new look is a result of the influence of the Lifeline Crusaders and of the excitement they generated at Lanark this past summer. The Lifeline group spent a week in Lanark in July, sharing their talents in drama, music, and puppetry.

As a result of the Lifeliners' visit, the teachers of the preschool and first grade classes began to look at the possibilities for creative teaching in their classes. Meetings were held several times a week to plan and prepare for a face-lift in their department. After weeks of preparation, they began their new approach, which includes the use of audio-visuals, puppets, nature center, crafts, home living and building area.

As might be expected, the children love the new look. Parents report that the children talk more about their Sunday school lessons than they ever did in the past.

A spokesman for the Board of Christian Education of the Lanark Church made these comments: "It has been good for all of us, and we wanted to share it with the world and especially with the Lifeline Crusaders who inspired it all. I hope we all realize the impact that the Summer Crusader program . . . is having on the future of the Brethren Church; they sure changed ours."

Weddings

Sharon Kay Slisher to **Stephen Patrick Hagan**, October 8, at Roann, Ind., First Brethren Church; Rev. William Kerner and Father Patrick Kohl officiating.

Susan West to **Randy Strawn**, October 1, at Cameron, W. Va.; Rev. Cecil Bolton officiating

Janice Bartley to **John Rowsey**, September 30, at Ashland, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene; Ivan Beatty, pastor, officiating. Groom member of Ashland, Ohio, Garber Brethren Church and Executive Director of the Brethren Publishing Company.

Paige Hollinger to **Mark Stephenson**, September 2. Rev. John Kless officiating. Bride member of Gratis, Ohio, First Brethren Church.

Marcia Sue Mangus to **Rick Lee Forrester**, August 20, at County Line, Ind., Brethren Church; Kent Bennett and Gerald Barr, pastor, officiating. Bride member of County Line Brethren Church.

Gwendolyn Kaye Mobley to **Michael Hart**, August 6, at Gratis, Ohio, First Brethren Church; Gene Hollinger, pastor, officiating. Bride member of Gratis First Brethren Church.

Sandra Shoemaker to **Daniel Faris**, June 20, at Wabash, Ind., Brethren Church; Rev. Paul Faris officiating assisted by C. William Cole, pastor.



Puppets are part of Lanark's new approach to Sunday school.

Sarasota radio ministry expanded

Sarasota, Fla.—Six additional radio stations are now carrying "The Brethren Hour," the radio ministry of the Sarasota First Brethren Church with Dr. J. D. Hamel as speaker. This brings to 17 the total number of stations carrying this Christian radio program.

"The Brethren Hour" radio ministry has also arranged with Mr. Stan Grams of Grams Production to handle the production of this extended radio outreach. Staff for the radio ministry includes John Hamel, chief engineer, and Tom Provenzano, John Adams, and Michael Funkhouser, control room technicians.

Pastor given special love gift by concerned church members

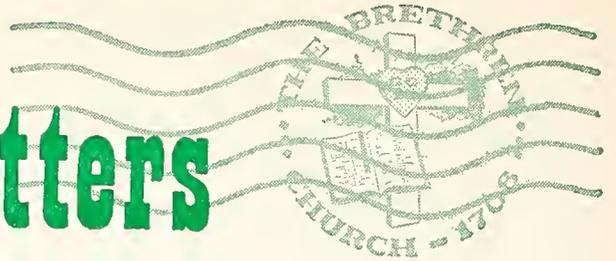
Adrian, Pa.—On Sunday, October 2, Rev. Thomas Kidder, pastor of the Brush Valley Brethren Church, mentioned during the morning service that his father was in the hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee, recovering from surgery.

After the service Rev. Kidder was given a card which contained \$139 and instructions that he should use the money to buy a round-trip airplane ticket so that he could spend some time with his father. The card was signed, "From some folks who love you."

Thanks to the loving gift of these Christian friends, Rev. Kidder was able to spend several days with his father and be with him when his father died on October 14.



Letters



On baptism

I am a Christian. I read the Brethren Evangelist, although I am not a member of the Brethren faith. I read various church publications when available.

In your special report on the 1977 General Conference, I read where you rejected the option of accepting into Brethren membership persons who have confessed Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, and have been baptized by believer's immersion and who evidence a personal faith in their lives.

I asked a Brethren person just what was believer's immersion. This person, a member of the Brethren Church, could not answer this question.

This is precisely what is wrong with Christianity today, technicalities. Although I have profound respect for the Brethren, as well as all churches, I could not find myself ever joining the Brethren Church if my admission would be denied on such a technicality.

—Melvin R. Elliott
Georgetown, Del.

On Publication Offering

I feel the Brethren Evangelist is not worth the \$5 subscription cost let alone \$11.65 each subscription (I suppose the \$11.65 is annual, too). It would appear that the overhead is much too great to continue publishing this magazine. I feel this is a matter that should be discussed at Conference (General) and it is too bad you waited until after

Conference to bring your information to the recipients (not readers) of the Brethren Evangelist. I, for one, would love for someone else to get my copy, instead of the "round basket."

Instead of sending contributions to support a magazine that's not worth its present cost, I strongly suggest that you ask for prayerful consideration of having it discontinued, or reduce the size to a pamphlet with "Brethren news."

Yours in Christ who believes in keeping a realistic budget.

—Name withheld
Washington, D.C., area

Your letter was very informative.

We do appreciate getting the Brethren Evangelist and want to help with expenses.

Your letter was an eye-opener. Many do not realize what all is involved in this publication.

Our prayers are with you.

—Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Dague
Scenery Hill, Pa.

On recent issues

We here at Maurertown want to thank you for the excellent issue (September 1977) which featured our church. We admit that we are prejudiced, but we sincerely feel that that was one of the best overall Evangelists for many, many years! The layout, the cover, the use of pictures, etc., were all done in excellent taste.

We appreciated very much the complimentary copies of the

Evangelist, and we believe that several new subscriptions will result from this. We have seen a steady improvement in the work there, and we are increasingly pleased with the product.

Many people have compared the Evangelist to the Messenger, which the Church of the Brethren produces, and the comparison hasn't always been favorable. But I believe that the Evangelist does now compare favorably to the Messenger and that it does, in ways, surpass it.

Keep up the excellent work!
—Kent Bennett, Pastor
Maurertown Brethren Church
Maurertown, Va.

You must be commended for your latest issue (October) of the Evangelist. The cover was outstanding and unique. The article it proclaimed was excellent. Why don't you make up that article in a pamphlet? I'd like more than several, if you do.

Continue the good work on the Evangelist.

—Jane E. Hendricks
Sarasota, Fla.

We really enjoy reading the Brethren Evangelist. The magazine contains so much information. Every Brethren family should subscribe to it and have it in their home. We especially enjoyed the Conference special. I have shared it with a family that could not attend Conference.

—Edith Rodkey
Burlington, Ind.



Topsfield Terrace Opens Model

Sales are underway for the new retirement center in South Bend, Indiana.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held November 12 to officially open the new Topsfield Terrace model apartment and business office in South Bend, Indiana.

Topsfield Terrace is a project of Brethren Care of South Bend, Inc.

Howard R. Goodhew, president of the board of Brethren Care of South Bend, reported that an exact replica of a two bedroom apartment has been constructed, along with a business office, on the building site for Topsfield Terrace. "We did this to give people an idea of how the finished units will appear, and to help in furniture arrangements," Goodhew pointed out.

"Also, a scale model of the entire Topsfield Terrace project will soon be on display along with architectural drawings of each of the four apartment styles," he said. "We feel that if prospective residents can actually see what Topsfield Terrace will be like, they will be just as excited about the program as we are."

The Topsfield Terrace project will be located on 34 wooded and gently rolling acres bordered by Ironwood and Inwood Roads on the southeast side of South Bend. Plans call for construction of 254 private residential suites located in eight separate three story buildings. These will be connected to an activities center and an 80 bed health care center.

Goodhew stated that "construction of a model apartment on the building site is part of a new and enthusiastic marketing program initiated by PHP Management-Consultant Services."

"PHP Management-Consultant Services, Inc., is a not-for-profit subsidiary of Presbyterian Housing Program, Inc.," he said. "It provides consulting, marketing, and

management services in the field of retirement housing."

"We've thoroughly investigated them and we're convinced they run the type of operation we want Topsfield Terrace to be," Goodhew said. They have a very impressive track record, and they're consulting with other facilities in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and North Carolina.

"The objective of our Board of Directors is to offer a continuum of residential living arrangements and services for people 62 and over in a stimulating and friendly environment," he said. "Probably the most important feature of Topsfield Terrace is the comprehensive health care program, featuring outpatient services, emergency assistance, and skilled care on either a temporary or long term basis.

"Monthly fees for residents of Topsfield Terrace will generally cover meals, utilities, maintenance, housekeeping, laundering of bed and bath linens, and certain health care benefits," Goodhew said.

"We'll begin construction when 50 percent, or 127 apartments, have been reserved, and when all state and federal regulations have been met and financing arrangements have been made," observed Goodhew.

Formal applications for residency in Topsfield Terrace are being accepted. Complete information about costs, services, and the occupancy plan will be available at the office. Weekday hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and weekend hours, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

John Wilson is project coordinator for the Topsfield Terrace project. Anyone contemplating residency in Topsfield Terrace may contact Wilson at (219) 291-8205.

Treatment for Evangelism Ills

How can we be effective in evangelism?

In our last column (October 1977), we did some diagnosis based on our 1976 statistics and the 1977 moderator's survey conducted by Rev. Marlin McCann. The diagnosis revealed that 30% of our churches were totally ineffective in evangelism, while 41% were only mildly effective.

Constructive diagnosis can never be content with simply identifying the sickness. True diagnosis is the basis for prescribing effective treatment which will result in the patient being cured. So let's turn our attention to possible treatments for our evangelistic ill.

One principle is foundational to all the possible remedies: **To be effective in evangelism, Christians must take the initiative to relate to unbelievers where they are.**

Jesus is our model for this principle, both in His incarnation and in His ministry upon the earth. He took the initiative to come to this sinful world. He came uninvited. And when He was here, He made contact with sinners where they were. He came to call sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32); to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life (Matthew 20:28). He ministered to sinners, touched them, and turned them into disciples. The mission of the church is to do the same (John 20:21).

The Apostle Paul highlighted this same principle. He said, "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, **to win as many as possible.** . . . I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some" (I Corinthians 9:19-23 NIV). Adaptability, flexibility, and creativity characterized Paul's evangelistic methods because his ultimate purpose was "to win as many as possible."

But isn't it true that many of us are rigid, inflexible, and timid with regard to evangelism? Instead of going to unbelievers, don't we tend to isolate and insulate ourselves from them? Sometimes, I fear, our church programs contribute to our isolation. But Jesus, Paul, and many of the early Christians—through the power of the Holy Spirit—knew how to identify with non-Christians without losing their own identity as Christians. We must do the same if we are to be effective in our evangelism.

If our desire is "to win as many as possible," our thinking, our attitudes, and our methods will change to achieve the desired results. We will be eager to make the changes and do the things which will increase our effectiveness with non-Christians. Becky Manley, writing in the December 1976 issue of **His**, gives us some helpful hints along this line:

1) **Be Yourself.** "God made some of us shy, others outgoing. We should praise Him for that. Remember, shyness is not an excuse to avoid relationships—rather it is a means to love the world in a different way than an extrovert."

2) **Be a Risk Taker.** "Being a Christian means taking risks: risking that our love will be rejected, misunderstood or even ignored. . . . If you find yourself in a situation in which you believe God has put you, then accept the risk for his love's sake."

3) **See Beneath the Crust.** "Once we get beneath the surface of a person we'll usually discover a sea of needs. We must learn how to interpret those needs correctly, as Jesus did."

4) **Avoid the "Holy Huddle Syndrome."** "Don't be a 'rabbit-hole' Christian, whose only contacts with the world are those mad, brave dashes to and from Christian activities."

5) **Christians are Positive!** "Our attitude in responding to people is crucial. . . . If you communicate enthusiasm, not defensiveness, and carefully listen instead of sounding like a record of 'Answers to Questions You Didn't Happen to Ask,' non-Christians will become intrigued."

As we Christians walk in the Holy Spirit, we have the capacity to consciously and deliberately change our attitudes, our thinking, our lifestyle so that we can effectively relate to non-Christians. We'll never win them if we refuse to relate to them. As we personally seek to learn and do those things which will enhance our evangelistic effectiveness, our churches will also begin to create ministries and programs geared to reaching out to unbelievers. We can if we will!

Quotes reprinted by permission from **HIS**, student magazine of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, copyright 1976.

Missionaries of the Bible

A Roman Officer Believes

Peter had been with Jesus. He had listened to Jesus tell about God. He had watched Jesus heal the sick. He had seen Jesus on the cross. He had seen the empty tomb after Jesus arose from the dead. And, yes, Peter had stood with the others on the mountain and watched Jesus go back to heaven.

Peter knew that Jesus is God's Son. He remembered that Jesus had asked him to tell others this good news.

After Jesus' return to heaven, Peter did tell others about God's Son. Great crowds came to hear Peter preach. As they listened, they knew he was speaking the truth. They were sorry for the wrong they had done. They accepted Jesus as their Savior and were baptized.

Sick people were touched by Peter and, in the name of Jesus, were healed.

Peter preached to the Jews throughout Palestine. He thought that since Jesus was a Jew, He had come to save just the Jewish people. Then one day he found out differently.

In the city of Caesarea there was a Roman army officer named Cornelius. Although he was Italian, he had lived among the Jews for a long time. He had come to believe that they worshiped the true God.

Since he was not a Jew, he could not take part in the religious ceremonies, but he could pray. Every afternoon he prayed. And he could be kind. He and his family were kind to others and helped those in trouble.

One day as Cornelius was praying, he saw an angel of God.

"Cornelius!" said the angel.

"What do you want?" asked Cornelius in a frightened voice.

"God has heard your prayers," said the angel. "He has seen the good you have done. Now He wants you to know more about Him. Send some men to Joppa. Tell them to go to the house of Simon the tanner. Tell them to ask for Peter, who is staying there. Have them ask Peter to come and visit you. He has important news for you."

Then the angel was gone.

Cornelius sent for two of his servants and one of his soldiers. When they stood before him, he said, "I want you to go to the city of Joppa, to the house of Simon the tanner, and ask for Peter. Invite Peter to come home with you."

Now Peter tried very hard to keep all the Jewish laws. One of the laws said they should not eat with non-Jews nor go into their homes.

Peter was upstairs praying when the messengers from Cornelius arrived. He heard them ask for him.

"Go with them, Peter," the Holy Spirit said.

"But they're not Jews," answered Peter.

"I have sent them," the Spirit told Peter. "Go with them."

Peter went downstairs.

"We have come from Cornelius," said one of the men. "He's a Roman officer, but a good man."

"Even the Jews of our area like him," said the soldier.

"Yes," continued the first. "And he prays every day. Yesterday an angel came to him and told him to send for you. Will you go back with us?"

"I will go," said Peter. "Stay with us tonight and we will start out early in the morning."

The next afternoon Cornelius watched for his messengers. At last he saw them coming down the road, and Peter was with them.

"Come quickly!" he called to his family and friends. The man of God is coming. He is coming to tell us something important!"

Cornelius ran down the road to meet Peter. He fell at his feet in worship.

"Stand up," said Peter. "I'm just a man. We worship only God."

(continued on next page)

Readiness Activities

1. Tell the children to pretend someone is coming to their house to tell them some important news. Ask them to draw a picture of everyone they would want to be there to hear this great news. Refer to these pictures when telling the Bible story.
2. Some of the children might like to pretend they are a missionary telling someone who has never heard about Jesus. Two children could work together taking turns being the missionary and the listener.

Then together they went into the house. Peter was surprised to see so many people there.

"I wanted my family and friends to hear the good news, too," said Cornelius.

"It is good news," said Peter. Then he sat down and told them about Jesus.

"Until today," continued Peter, "I thought Jesus came to save just the Jews. Now I know that those in every country who accept Jesus are part of God's family."

Cornelius said, "I believe."

And Peter baptized him.

—Based on Acts 2, 3, 4, 10



Memory Scripture: In every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted with him.

Home Missions Story

How Shall We Go?

Have you heard of Cheyenne, Wyoming? Yes, it's mentioned in many stories and songs of the early West. Then it was a small town where ranchers came to do business and where people traveling farther west stopped for supplies and advice. It was named for the Cheyenne Indians who once roamed the Great Plains.

Today Cheyenne is the capital of Wyoming. It is a large city with shopping centers, factories, railroads, and airports. Thousands of people live and work in Cheyenne.

In this city there is a Brethren church. It is a former Home Mission church. People attend the church to learn of Jesus, to worship God, and to find ways to serve Him better.

Mrs. White is a member of the Cheyenne Brethren Church. She lives about one and one-half miles north of the city. She loves God very much. She also loves children.

One day as she was praying about what she could do to help others learn of Jesus, the answer came to her: "Tell the children."

"Of course!" thought Mrs. White. "That's what I'll do. I'll invite the children from this neighborhood to come. We'll have a Good News Club. The trailer parked in the backyard will be our clubhouse."

Now when you say "neighborhood," you probably mean the people living near you. But outside of the cities, neighbors in Wyoming are miles apart. When Mrs. White thought "neighborhood," she thought of the children two miles that way, the ones five miles down that road, the new ones over there—all the children for miles around.

Mrs. White called some mothers. She drove to see others. To each one she said, "May your children come to the Good News Club at my house? We will meet once a week in the trailer behind my house."

And the children came. Each week it seems more and more children come. The first ones told their friends, and they told their friends.

A few of the children live close enough to walk to the Good News Club. Some ride their bikes. Mothers bring some in cars.

Tom and Dave had heard about the club. They wanted to go. They lived too far away to walk. No one could take them in the car. They didn't have bikes. How could they go?

"I know!" said Tom. "We can ride our donkey!"

And that's what they did. They rode their donkey to Mrs. White's Good News Club to learn of Jesus.

The boys and girls of the Cheyenne area need Jesus as their Lord and Savior just as you do. They want to learn of Him. Some ride bikes, some ride in cars, some ride a donkey to hear the Good News.

If a Brethren church were not in Cheyenne, some might never learn of Him.

(Based on a true incident told to the Signal Lights editor by Rev. Larry Baker, former pastor at Cheyenne, Wyoming.)

Missing Words

Can you think of the missing word for these song titles? If you get them all right, the first letter of each word will spell the reason we have Christmas.

1. _____, All Ye Faithful
2. _____! The Herald Angels Sing
3. _____ Out the Old, Ring In the New
4. _____ Came Upon a Midnight Clear
5. _____ Night
6. _____ First Noel

Answers: 1. Come; 2. Hark; 3. Ring; 4. It; 5. Silent; 6. The. The first letter of each word spells CHRIST.

as i see it

ATS is Different!

by Walt Kime

I am Presbyterian. So why am I writing to the **Brethren Evangelist**? Because I am a student at Ashland Theological Seminary, and I want you to know it's different!

I spent my freshman year at a Presbyterian seminary; but that was ten years ago. When I decided to return to seminary, I was pleased to learn that Ashland Seminary had grown. That meant I could return to school without moving my family.

Now that may not be the best reason for choosing a seminary, but with three boys in elementary school, it was a factor. I'm glad it happened. I knew Ashland was "conservative," but I had no idea what it was really like!

My first class was the September "intensive Greek" course. I knew Ashland was different the day the professor announced that one of our classmates had dropped out of school. Six students gathered around our instructor to ask how they could help.

I couldn't help but compare this experience. I had "dropped out," and no one cared. But at Ashland, things were different.

The first week of regular class, I knew Ashland Seminary was different. After one day of classes, we went on a retreat.

Professors had always seemed different. They had their world, and the students had theirs. But Ashland is different. For two days the professors bunked with students, and together we developed a fellowship which has carried us throughout the year.

Walt Kime is a senior at Ashland Theological Seminary.

Studies at Ashland are demanding. But first and foremost, the professors are interested in us as people. They care about how we are growing, both mentally and spiritually. They care about our wives and children. And that is different.

I knew Ashland Seminary is different the day I went for my official "middler-year review" and the professors asked, "How can we help you?"

It has been a great year at this seminary with a difference, and one fact has never been far from my mind: Ashland Seminary is supported by the people

of the Brethren Church. I can afford to be trained to serve the Lord as a minister because you care enough to support the seminary.

Ashland Seminary is different. It is surrounded with love. This love may be fostered by the outstanding faculty. It may be carried out by the student body. But it is founded on the love which so many of you show when you give for students you will probably never see.

Your witness of love touches each one of us. But it doesn't stop there. It overflows into our homes. It spreads into more than forty denominations represented at the seminary. Each of us who serves our Lord takes with us a part of the love you have shown us. This love will be shared with congregations throughout the world.

For this I say to you a heartfelt "Thanks." For your witness, I say, "Praise God!"

You'll find carefree retirement living at Woodfield Terrace.

That's right. At Woodfield Terrace, we take care of life's unpleasant chores... so you can enjoy your retirement to the fullest.

Woodfield Terrace is a new center designed for special people—those who want the freedom of independent retirement living, with the security of a caring community.

And it's being developed by Brethren Care and the Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church—folks with a proven record for offering health care and retirement living at its finest for over 50 years.

So give up those unnecessary concerns... and join us for care-free retirement living at Woodfield Terrace.

Woodfield Terrace



Tell me more about carefree retirement living at Woodfield Terrace.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

2000 Center
Street

Ashland,

Ohio

44805



left to right: Scott Milhouse, Doug Heestand, Carol French, Deb Munson, Charles Munson

Is your BYC group a family?

BYC should be a group of concerned young people—concerned about the message of the Gospel, the church, and each other. They should feel a part of the family of believers.

This year at Christmas give members of your family BYC T-Shirts. Show them you're glad to be a part of a special family. Make this Christmas a special one.

Rugby—\$7.25 each; group rate* - \$6.80 each

Chief—\$5.25 each; group rate* - \$4.95 each

Heather (not shown)—Adult \$3.50, group rate* - \$3.20 each Child \$3.00 each

*10 or more of any size or style shipped to same address

Order now to insure delivery before Christmas.

**Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805**

Brethren Historical Library
Manchester College
North Manchester, IN 46962

77 General Conference

Conference conducts business; issues, hears reports

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new district. It also referred a proposed change in denominational organization back for further development, rejected a memorial, and cared for house-keeping chores.

A total of 439 delegates

attended the Conference — 265 lay delegates, 128 ministers, 30 district delegates, and 16 cooperative delegates. Of these, only 15 were moderators of local churches, 29 were deacons, and 37 were deaconesses — causing Moderator Marlin McCann to say that the leadership of local churches was not present for General Conference.

Much of the business time was spent in hearing reports of the various boards and committees of Conference and in electing members to these boards and committees.

The majority of the reports consisted of comments on printed reports in the Conference program book. For the most part, the reports were accepted with very little question or discussion.

Interestingly, though Moderator Marlin McCann called for the church to examine and speak to social issues, the Conference abolished its Resolutions and Peace Committees.

The delegates did agree to keep the peace position of the church alive by electing a "Peace Coordinator" to serve on the Central Council's Social Concerns Committee.

In other action, the Conference reconstituted the Committee on the Spiritual State of the Churches, at the recommendation of Moderator McCann. It will now consist of the moderator of each district (rather than one member from each

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A motion was presented, reaffirming the practice of triune immersion for new converts, while granting churches the option of accepting individuals previously baptized with believer's immersion.

While generating considerable interest, the motion received little discussion on the Conference floor.

The motion, which required a two-thirds majority to pass, failed by 13 votes (62.9 percent in favor).

Florida named newest district

General Conference created a new district, acting on a motion presented by Dr. J. D. Hamel in his inimitable style.

The name of the new district is the Florida District. It will consist of established churches in Sarasota, Bradenton, and St. Petersburg, plus the new churches being planted at Brandon and Town and Country in the Tampa Bay area.

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/ Bruce Ronk



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Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Manchester College
North Manchester, IN 46962

1977 General Conference

Conference conducts business; faces issues, hears reports

The 1977 General Conference conducted its business from Tuesday through Friday of Conference week.

It issued statements on homosexuality and the charismatic movement, and it established a

new district. It also referred a proposed change in denominational organization back for further development, rejected a memorial, and cared for house-keeping chores.

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attended the Conference — 265 lay delegates, 128 ministers, 30 district delegates, and 16 cooperative delegates. Of these, only 15 were moderators of local churches, 29 were deacons, and 37 were deaconesses — causing Moderator Marlin McCann to say that the leadership of local churches was not present for General Conference.

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(continued on page 4)

Baptism option rejected

General Conference turned down a motion to allow churches the option of receiving into membership persons "who have been previously baptized by believer's immersion" without being rebaptized.

The Gratis, Ohio, Brethren Church memorialized the General Conference with this petition of inquiry: "Is it possible to accept into our membership persons who have confessed Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, and have been baptized by believer's immersion,

and who evidence a personal faith in their lives?"

A motion was presented, reaffirming the practice of triune immersion for new converts, while granting churches the option of accepting individuals previously baptized with believer's immersion.

While generating considerable interest, the motion received little discussion on the Conference floor.

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Special Report

This special report was written by the Evangelist staff and some invaluable assistants especially for subscribers.

Additional copies are available for \$1.00 each, or \$.75 each for 10 or more to one address.

The Brethren Evangelist is published monthly by the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Photos by Bruce Ronk

Celebration!

—theme of opening session

by Richard C. Winfield

Celebration was the theme of the opening session of the 89th General Conference of the Brethren Church.

The session began as Brethren celebrated their presence at the Conference with a display of church flags. Flag bearers representing Brethren churches across the United States stepped into a spotlighted area at the front of the darkened auditorium and announced the churches they represented, supported by the applause of others present from each church.

Immediately following this display of flags, "Lifeline" — supported by a group of Brethren Youth Summer Crusaders—sang "Celebration of Hope," one of several selections they presented during the program.

The room was darkened again

and a single spotlight illuminated a suspended open Bible as the words of John 1:1-18 were read.

The theme of celebration continued as representatives from various denominational boards highlighted those aspects of their board's work which give cause for celebration.

Then Rev. Keith Bennett and Rev. Dale RuLon expressed by means of a theatrical dialogue their excitement as they face the challenge of opening two new churches in Florida under "Operation Impact." Though celebrating the challenge of their new work, the men expressed concern that their departure for this new work left vacancies in Brethren pastorates which would need to be filled. They wondered where laborers would be found to fill these vacancies.

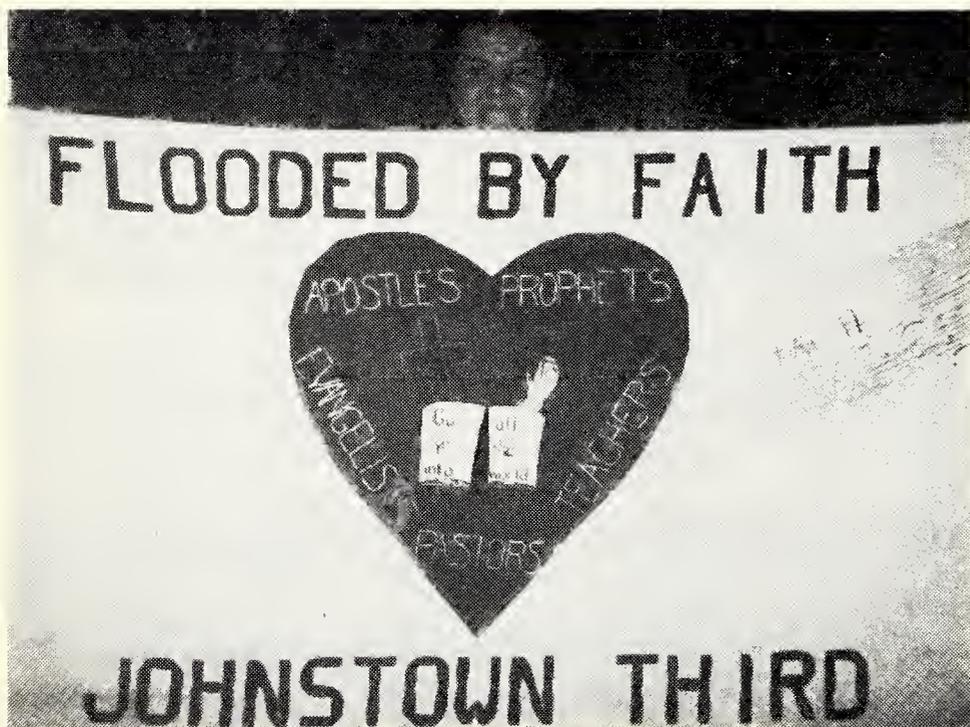
As the spotlight faded from Bennett and RuLon, another light shone on two men at the opposite side of the room. These two men—Dan DeVeney, manager of the Carpenter's Shop, and Charles Beekley, program director of radio station WVNO — answered the challenge posed by Bennett and RuLon by announcing their plans to leave their present positions to enter Ashland Theological Seminary this fall.

Once again the room became dark. A single light illuminated a suspended globe as Dr. Charles Munson asked the congregation, "Where in the world will you go for Jesus Christ through the Brethren Church?" As pictures were projected showing different parts of the world, Dr. Munson repeated the question, "Where in the world will you go for Jesus Christ?"

Noting the need for laborers to present the message of Jesus Christ to the world, Munson reminded the congregation that Jesus instructed His followers to pray for laborers. He then invited the congregation to join him in praying for laborers for the Lord's work.

After the prayer, Munson challenged those present who had heard the call of God for laborers to come forward in an act of commitment to Christian service. As lights illuminated the globe, the Bible, the two mission pastors, and the two new seminary students, approximately 15 young people went forward indicating their commitment to Christ and His service.

The service concluded with the Brethren present feeling that they have real reason for celebration, not only for what has already been done in the Brethren Church, but because of the continuing commitment of others to the work which remains.



"Flooded by Faith" was the theme of Johnstown, Pa., Third Brethren Church's flag. It was appropriate, in light of the recent devastating flood that hit that city.

The original design for the flag was made several months before Conference, but the final pattern was drawn the evening before the flood. Said Cathy Lybarger (pictured above with her flag), "I had nothing else to do—it was raining!" (photo by Norman E. Grumbling, Jr.)

Moderator McCann reports on spiritual state of the churches

by Richard C. Winfield

Rev. Marlin McCann began his moderator's address by noting that his year as moderator was one of many joys, problems, and opportunities. He then commented that making a moderator's report on the spiritual state of the churches is "an awesome task." "Trying to determine where the denomination stands is an almost impossible task." But he added, "We need to know where we have been and where we are now so we can plan our direction for the future."

He based most of his address on the results of a questionnaire which he sent this year to Brethren pastors, moderators, deacons, and deaconesses. The questionnaire sought to determine the state of the church by asking questions concerning spiritual gifts, evangelism, goals, church growth, social issues, pastor/congregational relationships, divorce and remarriage, baptism, and related matters.

A total of 288 responses to the questionnaire were returned, coming from 75 churches (of 123 churches listed in the Brethren directory). Seventy of these responses came from pastors, 56 from moderators, 101 from deacons, and 61 from deaconesses.

One area of the questionnaire dealt with spiritual gifts. Noting that many Christians are puzzled as to what stand to take concerning these gifts, the moderator warned of two improper attitudes that are growing in churches today. These are "charisphobia" — fear of gifts and opposition to any form of their expression — and "charismania"—the elevation of gifts to undue prominence and regarding the gift of tongues as the sign of one's having the Holy Spirit.

He encouraged Brethren to study God's word more and to understand as best we can what the various gifts are and how they can be used.

The questionnaire indicated that an even greater concern for the Brethren Church is our lack of evangelism goals and strategies. It showed that the majority of churches spend 5% or less of their budgets on local evangelistic outreach.

The moderator asked, "Could this be our problem—we don't want to spend the money for evangelism?" He then added, "We had better review our budgets and begin to designate more toward evangelism and the development of evangelistic strategies."

Rev. McCann also noted the church's failure in recent years to take strong positions on social issues, but said that he senses that the Brethren Church is becoming more concerned about these issues and wants to speak out on them. In order to encourage this he recommended that Board Group and Central Council wrestle with the matter and bring a report to the 1978 General Conference as to how our involvement in social action might best be implemented.

The moderator expressed a particular concern for the unresolved issue of divorce and

remarriage in the Brethren Church. He felt that this issue must be dealt with in a more satisfactory way, and he recommended that pastors and deacon boards study together the book **The Right to Remarry** by Dr. Dwight H. Small.

Rev. McCann had done considerable thinking about the work of the moderator and of certain committees of General Conference. He made several recommendations for changes.

In the concluding section of his address, the moderator quoted the words of Jesus in Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Noting that the various tasks Jesus mentions in these verses are the tasks which are still before us today, Moderator McCann concluded, "Let us move on in the power of the Holy Spirit that the task can be completed!"



Housing assignments went much more smoothly this year as a result of the work of a special housing committee, chaired by Charlie Beekley. Pre-registration was the key. Above, Betty Bird and Ida Kimmel of Berlin, Pa., receive their room assignment from Martha Weaver (right), while Beekley looks on.

Polity Comm. to study denominational reorganization . . . again

The General Conference was unable to take action for or against a denominational organizational proposal prepared by its Polity Committee. Instead, it referred the proposal "to the Polity Committee and Central Council for further detailed development."

The proposal was the result of a study conducted by the Polity Committee, as requested by the 1976 General Conference.

Purpose of the proposed reorganization was "to enable the Brethren to more effectively reach their primary objectives under the leadership of God's Spirit."

Adoption of the proposal would have established a single policy-making board of nine members to supervise the million dollar annual investment in church ministries. It would have replaced and fulfilled the responsibilities of the seven cooperating boards and Central Council.

A proposed timetable would have spread the transition to

the new organization over a two-year period, with completion projected during the 1979 General Conference.

According to the proposal, the work of the new board would have been administered by a "Director of Denominational Ministries," whose employment would have been subject to ratification by the General Conference. He would have been assisted by departmental executives.

The proposal would not have affected the structure, responsibilities, or authority of the General Conference itself, nor would it have affected districts or local congregations.

Those speaking in favor of the proposal saw its implementation as bringing about more efficiency and effectiveness in accomplishing the ministries of the church through setting common goals. At the same time they saw it making these ministries more accountable to General Conference.

Some, on the other hand, expressed fear that adoption of the proposal would place too much authority in the hands of only a few people. They also expressed concern that such an organization would lead to decreased involvement of individuals in the work of the church on the national level.

Others requested a more detailed description of what denominational ministries would be established, which was out of the scope of the Polity Committee's responsibility. The proposal would have left such specific organizational decisions to the board during the transition period. Such actions would have been subject to the directives of General Conference.

After considerable discussion during several business sessions, the proposal was referred to the Polity Committee and the Central Council for preparation of a more detailed proposal for the 1978 General Conference.

Conference conducts business, hears reports

(continued from page 1)

district), plus the General Conference Moderator.

Conference adopted a resolution of appreciation for the lives and service of Dr. and Mrs. Glenn L. Clayton. It recognized Dr. Clayton for his 29 years of leadership of Ashland College, Mrs. Clayton for her faithful support, and both of them for their concurrent lives of service and dedication to the First Brethren Church of Ashland, Ohio.

The adopted budget for the General Conference and Central Council in 1978 projects a deficit of almost \$5,000. A recommendation was passed that the Central Council study the Fair Share/Minimum Asking Scale and bring back a recommendation to the 1978 General Conference that would effect a balanced budget.

CONFERENCE

On the charismatic movement:

"I move that this Conference go on record as reaffirming the Brethren theology of the Holy Spirit as being totally adequate; that we endeavor in love to 'keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:3); that we encourage all Brethren to study prayerfully the full meaning of **salvation** and **sanctification, one stage Christianity** with many experiences in the Spirit as spiritual growth and crises of life enable us. We encourage all Brethren to 'stir up the gift of God that is within,' and that they seek to 'walk by the Spirit, and not by the flesh.' We urge charismatic Brethren to take a second look at the **two stage** approach of 'baptism of the Spirit' as it is taught by the leaders of the charismatic movement—a practice which is at the base of the division of evangelical Christians, placing the saints of God in two categories and on two separate levels. In doing this—keeping the walk in the Spirit one continuous experience—we can remove the 'wall of separation' between the growing factions and allow the **gifts of the Spirit** to become **fruits of the Spirit**. There is but **one salvation**, but there are unnumbered spiritual blessings attainable through many crises as we develop our individual gifts and talents. Let us 'in honor

Rev. Black is new moderator

Rev. James Black of Milledgeville, Ill., became the new moderator of the General Conference. He succeeds Rev. Marlin McCann in that position.

Elected to terms for the new year were Rev. Duane Dickson, Mansfield, Ohio, moderator-elect; Fred Horn, Sr., South Bend, Ind., secretary; Rev. Rodney Thomas, Huntington, Ind., assistant secretary; George Synder, Ashland, Ohio, treasurer; Charles Beekley, Ashland, Ohio, assistant treasurer; and Rev. Larry Baker, South Bend, Ind., statistician.

Rev. Black has served the past year as moderator-elect and as secretary of the General Conference Executive Committee.

He has pastored the Milledgeville, Ill., Brethren Church since 1970. The church recently completed a new Christian education unit.

Rev. Black has also conducted numerous evangelistic services in Brethren churches across the country.



Moderator Marlin McCann (left) presented Ashland College's new president, Dr. Arthur L. Schultz, to the delegates on Tuesday morning.

Delegates meet AC's Dr. Schultz

Conference delegates and guests had ample opportunity to meet Ashland College's new president, Dr. Arthur L. Schultz.

Moderator Marlin McCann introduced Dr. and Mrs. Schultz at the first business session of the 1977 Conference. They were welcomed by a standing ovation.

Dr. Schultz commented that he had received many personal indications that his selection as president of Ashland College had been the will of God.

He added that since he and Mrs. Schultz had arrived in Ashland, they had found wonderful Christian fellowship.

Dr. Schultz also addressed separate sessions of the National Ministerial Association and the National Laymen's Organization.

In speaking on the mission of the church-related college, he told each group that "education must be Christian, and Christians must be educated."

"If we are to build a Christian world order, we must invest now in the preparation of those young people who can and will be the leaders of such a church and such a world," he said.

He concluded, "We seek your understanding, loyalty, assistance, interest, participation, and prayers."

Excerpts from these addresses will appear in the October 1977 issue of the Brethren Evangelist.

RESOLUTIONS

prefer one another,' rejoicing in the Lord always. 'There is **one body, one hope of (our) calling, one Lord, one faith, ONE BAPTISM**, one God and Father of us all, who is above all, through all, and in (us) all.' Brethren, this is **our** faith and our sanctification.'

On homosexuality:

"Recognizing the biblical teaching in regard to homosexuality in such passages as Leviticus 20 and Romans 1, we move that we, the 89th General Conference of the Brethren Church meeting at Ashland, Ohio, on August 19, 1977, express our extreme opposition to the efforts being made to protect homosexual behavior as a valid and acceptable lifestyle.

"However, we do recognize God's love for these people and His grace to those who repent.

"Further, we move that copies of this action be sent to the President of the United States and appropriate governors and legislators.

"Finally, we move that Brethren churches and their members likewise be encouraged to take affirmative action in their local communities in opposition to efforts to protect homosexual behavior as a valid and acceptable lifestyle."

"Equipping Youth for Ministry" theme of youth gathering

by Norma Waters

The 1977 National Brethren Youth Convention focused on the theme of "Equipping Youth for Ministry" in Christ's church.

The separate elements of the week's program effectively emphasized this theme.

Rev. Daie Stoffer led three Bible study sessions on the topic

of the spiritual gifts and how to discover and use them. Two other speakers, Dr. Richard Allison and Rev. Arden Gilmer, presented messages on the process of preparation for ministry and the ministry of tent-making in our church.

The youth were scheduled to attend several adult Conference sessions — the Monday night "Celebration," Rev. McCann's moderator's address, two of Dr. Brunk's messages, and the BCE/Mission Board presentation. These sessions all added to the challenge of equipping for ministry.

Another element of the Convention schedule were two movies. "Cipher in the Snow" was a stirring film showing the importance of caring for others. "Noah's Ark" was an interesting example of the correlation of biblical and scientific knowledge.

The spirit of the 1977 BYC Convention was one of learning and inspiration. The youth were shown many ways that they can be useful to God through the Brethren Church. Through Christ, they will be equal to the challenge of leading the Brethren Church in the future.



The 1977 Summer Crusaders and Interns presented a musical, "The Backpacker's Suite," on Wednesday evening in Memorial Chapel. Dave Kerner (center), member of "Education Unit E," was one of the speakers between songs.

Youth surpass budget goal for 1977; choose Operation Impact for 1978

The 111 1977 National BYC Convention delegates voted to raise the budget for the coming year by \$100, making their goal \$11,100 for 1978. The major share of this budget will go to the Summer Crusader program and the Missionary Board's Operation Impact project.

The Ingathering total by the end of Convention this year was \$11,971.31, more than \$4000

above that of last year. Additional contributions will be accepted through October 31. The project monies from this Ingathering go to the Summer Crusader Fund and to the Colombian mission work for a van equipped for evangelistic street campaigns in Medellin.

Mark Baker presented awards to the BYC groups that had contributed the most to the Ingath-

ering. The Derby, Kans., BYC group was recognized for giving the highest proportion of money per member. The top ten contributing groups were: Sarasota, Fla.; Bryan, Ohio; Park Street, Ashland, Ohio; St. James, Md.; Milledgeville, Ill.; Derby, Kans.; Jefferson, Goshen, Ind.; Napanee, Ind.; County Line, Ind.; West Alexandria, Ohio; and Smithville, Ohio.

JIM MILLER NAMED MODERATOR; OTHER OFFICERS ELECTED

The National BYC Convention elected new officers for the 1977-78 year. The new moderator is Jim Miller, of the Johnstown, Pa., Second Brethren Church. Jim is a senior this year at Geneva College.

Elected to the office of vice-moderator was Dave Kerner. Dave is from the Roann, Ind.,

Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania BYC groups make presentations

The district BYC organizations from Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Ohio each displayed much talent and planning by making hour-long presentations to the Youth Convention.

The Indiana district's program, presented Tuesday evening, was emceed by Rev. Gerald Barr. An excellent musical and testimonial program was given by a group called "The Joy Generation" from South Bend, Ind., including such favorites as "Come to the Water," "Get All Excited," and "The Family of God."

Wednesday afternoon, the Pennsylvania district BYC began by leading several games and choruses. Cathy Lybarger spoke on being ambassadors for Christ and read a challenging story concerning using the gifts that Christ has given.

Part of the Ohio district BYC's program on Thursday afternoon was a parable about Christianity and the meaning of life, which was presented as a reading/skit. Also included were singing, sharing of ideas for local youth work, and a skit on witnessing and prayer.

The three district BYC presentations were a valuable addition to the program of the National BYC Convention.

Brethren Church and is a sophomore at Ashland College.

Elaine Hensley will be serving her second term as secretary, with Nancy Dreyer as her assistant. Elaine is a member of the Mount Olive Church and is a junior at Eastern Mennonite College. Nancy, from the Tucson First Brethren Church, is a senior at the University of Arizona.

Jon Barber was re-elected to his position as treasurer. Jon, a junior at Ashland College, is a member of the Chandon Brethren Church. Tim Rowsey was chosen for the office of statistician. Tim is a member of the St. James Church and a freshman at Hagerstown Junior College.



BYC Moderator Jim Miller

Stoffer led youth studies on finding spiritual gifts

by Norma Waters

The youth at the 1977 National BYC Convention benefited from some very concentrated biblical teaching on the subject of spiritual gifts and their use in the church. Their Bible speaker was Rev. Dale Stoffer, doctoral student at Fuller Theological Seminary and member of the Canton Trinity Brethren Church.

Rev. Stoffer led three sessions on the topic of the spiritual gifts. In the first session he listed, defined, and categorized the gifts as mentioned in Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. He pointed out that the spiritual gifts are given to fulfill two purposes: to build up the body of Christ and to extend the church's witness and ministry.

In his second session, Rev. Stoffer presented some of the biblical principles governing the use of spiritual gifts. He stressed that each person is necessary for the successful ministry of

the church, since each has a gift. He concluded by listing some steps in the process of discerning one's own gift(s).

In the last session, Rev. Stoffer challenged his audience to be open to the Lord's leading for their lives, always willing to exercise the gift(s) He has given. Some very profitable time was then spent in small groups, discussing how to discern and use spiritual gifts in the local church setting. Hopefully, much of this inspiring teaching will be put to use in the Brethren Church in the coming years.

Communion highlight of BYC Convention

As is always the case, Youth Communion was an inspirational high point of BYC Convention week. The Communion was held Thursday night at the Park Street Brethren Church, with approximately 185 youth in attendance.

Mrs. Delagrane, Milledgeville honored for Christian education excellence



Elma Delagrane receives her "Christian Educator of the Year" award from BCE President Brian H. Moore.

Elma Delagrane, of the Jefferson Brethren Church, and the Milledgeville Brethren Church were recognized for excellence in Christian education on Thursday evening. Awards were presented by Brian Moore and Fred Burkey for the Board of Christian Education.

Mrs. Delagrane was named "Christian Educator of the Year." She has been very active in the youth ministry of her church. Her expertise in Christian education was also recognized by her election to the national Board of Christian Education this year.

Receiving honorable mention were Wayne E. Smith of the Muncie, Ind., First Brethren Church and Fred Horn, Sr., of the Ardmore Brethren Church, South Bend, Ind.

The Milledgeville Church received the first "Sunday School of the Year" award.

According to Dr. Burkey, criteria used in selecting Milledgeville included organization and administration of the school; effectiveness in reaching young people; commitment to discipleship and evangelism; role of the pastor; and the congregation's commitment to grow.

Receiving the award plaque were Shirley Black, superintendent, and Rev. James Black, pastor.

Peggy Beekley received a special award for her work in preparing the Colombian Interns for their ministry in Colombia. Mrs. Beekley tutored the young people in the Spanish language and Colombian culture.

National WMS picks Operation Impact

The National Woman's Missionary Society selected Operation Impact as their project for the next two years.

Offerings for the project will be collected at the 1978 and 1979 Conferences.

What do you do with a "SONshine Orange"?

- Pick it up... at your local Brethren church, early in October
- Fill it... with coins, bills, or checks
- Display it... in a prominent place in your home, as a prayer reminder for the Bennetts and RuLons in Florida
- Slice it open... on November 27 at the "Harvest Ingathering" at your church, and release the money to be invested in reaching men and women for Christ

Help share the "SONshine"—use your "SONshine Orange"!

(sponsored by Missionary Board of the Brethren Church)

25 commit lives for service

More than 25 people from a broad age spectrum presented themselves for Christian service at the historic Board of Christian Education/Missionary Board service Thursday night.

The service included music by "Lifeline," presentation of Christian education awards, commissioning of Operation Impact workers, and the General Conference Offering for Operation Impact.

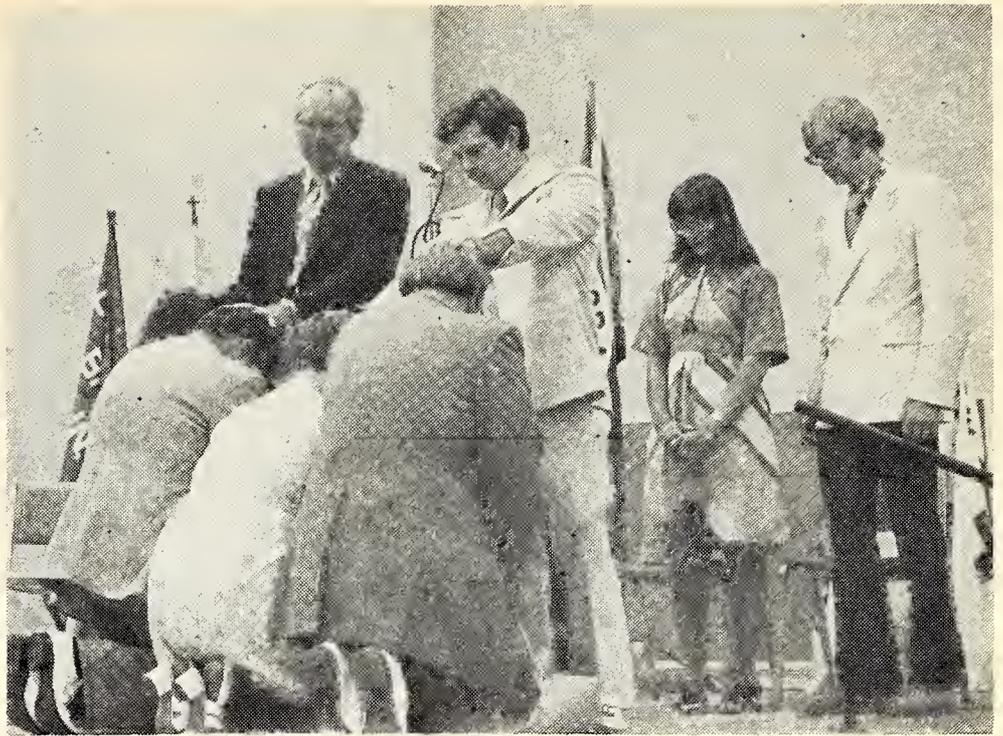
The commitments to service followed a challenge presented by Arden Gilmer, director of home missions for the Missionary Board.

Rev. Gilmer first asked individuals who sensed God's call to pastoral ministry to make a public commitment.

He then asked delegates and guests to come forward if they were hearing God's call to serve as tentmakers. He described tentmakers as "lay people who purposely move to a home mission area, who will support themselves financially while lending the spiritual gifts God has given them to the work."

He especially challenged recent college graduates, single adults, retired pastors, and laymen and women who can take early retirement from their jobs to consider a tentmaking ministry.

More than 25 signed commitment cards at the end of the service.



Missionary Board President Spencer Gentle and Home Missions Director Arden Gilmer laid hands on Rev. and Mrs. Bennett and Rev. and Mrs. RuLon, commissioning them for church-planting ministries. At right are "tentmakers" Gene and Sue McConahay, who have joined the work in the Town and Country area of Tampa.

Bennetts, RuLons set apart to start churches in Florida

Keith Bennett, Dale RuLon, and their families were commissioned to home missions service Thursday night.

They were set apart to plant two new churches in the Tampa Bay area as part of the Missionary Board's Operation Impact.

Prior to being set apart for his ministry in Brandon, Fla., Rev. Bennett said, "My vision

for Brandon is a metropolitan regional church that centers on the needs of unchurched people. We will seek to be self-supporting in three years, and in no more than five."

He noted, "We'll adopt a constant attitude that with God, all things are possible."

Rev. RuLon said, "I want to thank you, the Brethren Church, for giving me this opportunity to reach the lost."

He expressed special appreciation to vacation Bible schools, WMS societies, Brethren youth, and others who had already made it possible for him and Rev. Bennett to go to their fields of service fully equipped.

He concluded, "It is our hope that Town and Country and Brandon will be helping start other Brethren churches in the near future."

Missionary Board President Spencer Gentle and Arden Gilmer laid hands on the pastors and their wives and prayed for God's leading in their new venture.

Operation Impact offering exceeds goal by \$12,000

Over \$22,000 has been given or pledged for Operation Impact as a result of the special General Conference Offering. Goal for the offering was \$10,000.

As of September 9, \$20,124.46 had been received in cash by the Missionary Board. Pledges to that date amounted to nearly \$2,300.

Banks in the shape of Florida

oranges were given to all who attended the Thursday night service, as mementos of the occasion and as prayer reminders for the Bennetts and RuLons.

Similar banks will be distributed in Brethren churches on October 2 as part of the annual home missions emphasis. Filled banks will be collected on November 27.



Senior Citizen of the Year Margaret Lowery is congratulated by Benevolent Board President Albert Curtright. Dr. L. E. Lindower (left) was one of four receiving honorable mention in the national program.

Margaret Lowery chosen "Senior Citizen of the Year"

Miss Margaret Lowery of Krypton, Kentucky, was named the 1977 Senior Citizen of the Year for the Brethren Church at the Senior Citizen Honors Banquet held on Thursday evening of Conference week. Thirty-four nominees from local churches across the denomination were recognized at the banquet sponsored by the Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church.

Four nominees were given honorable mention in the Senior Citizen program. They were Harvey J. Amstutz of Smithville, Ohio; Mrs. Robert Kline of Dayton, Ohio; Dr. L. E. Lindower of Ashland, Ohio; and Mr. Ralph Sausaman of Roann, Indiana.

The First Brethren Church of Elkhart, Indiana, was presented the 1977 Senior Citizen Church Award for its year round program for senior citizens.

Miss Lowery's many-faceted ministry in Christian education and community service in the Krypton, Kentucky, area is well-known. She began this work in 1953.

Previous to this she was a public school teacher for 14 years and was active in the Hagerstown, Maryland, area in 4-H work and church activities.

She initiated the first VBS for blacks in that area.

Following her years of public school teaching, Miss Lowery served as Director of Nursing Instruction at Samaritan Hospital in Ashland, Ohio, from 1947 to 1953. During this time she also attended Ashland Theological Seminary in preparation for mission work.

In addition to this award, Miss Lowery also received a National Award in 1967 for her 4-H activities, and in 1975 she received a Distinguished Service Alumni Award from Towson State College, her alma mater.

When presented the Senior Citizen of the Year Award, Miss Lowery remarked that it is her goal to keep on serving her Lord until the last day of her life.

Later she added, "All I do, I do because I feel God wants me to help advance His cause here on earth. It has always been a joy for me to find ways of helping others to learn of Him and find Him and then seek to develop to be the kind of citizens He can be proud of.

"My cup runneth over with blessings as I've worked with folks. I count it a great privilege to be in His service."

Brethren pastors hear Schultz, Steiners

The high point of the four sessions of the National Ministerial Association was a message by Dr. Arthur L. Schultz, president of Ashland College and Seminary.

In his message Dr. Schultz shared his convictions and concerns as he begins his presidency of the college and seminary. He stated that it is his prayer and goal to work toward a renewed and vital relationship between Ashland College and Seminary and the Brethren Church.

Other activities during the ministerial sessions included business, elections, and memorials for elders who died during the past year.

Newly elected officers for the association are Rev. Gene Hollinger, president; Rev. Gerald Barr, secretary-treasurer; and Rev. Ralph Gibson, assistant secretary-treasurer. Rev. Spencer Gentle, retiring secretary-treasurer of the association, was recognized for his 25 years of service in this position.

At the first meeting of the association various members expressed their remembrances of the lives and ministries of Elders Clarence Hesketh, Fred Vanator, and Gil Dodds, all three of whom passed away during the past year.

During the final session of the association, Rev. Paul Steiner and Rev. Donna Steiner told of their team ministry in the Union Bridge Church of the Brethren in Union Bridge, Maryland. This husband and wife team serve together as one full-time pastor, with Paul presently assuming seven-eighths of the responsibilities and Donna the other one-eighth. Each seeks to function in those areas where he or she has particular gifts.

1978 General Conference

The 1978 General Conference is scheduled for Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio, for August 14 to 18. Theme will be "My Brother's Keeper."

Schuster elected Laymen's president

George Schuster of the Canton Trinity Brethren Church was elected to a two-year term as president of the National Laymen's Organization (NLO).

Schuster was formerly editor of publications for the Brethren Publishing Company. He was the first layman to serve as editor of the Brethren Evan-

gelist. He retired from that position in 1976.

He had previously been a driver and driver trainer for Standard Oil of Ohio for 29 years.

Schuster has been active in the Laymen's Organization, serving as president of the Trinity Laymen and the Northeast Ohio Laymen. He has previously served the NLO as secretary.

He lives in North Canton, Ohio, with his wife Ola.

Elected to one-year positions were Richard Morris, Columbus, Ohio, vice president; Gene Geaslen, Flora, Ind., secretary; Sam Anderson, Waynesboro, Pa., assistant secretary; Jack Stombaugh, Bryan, Ohio, treasurer; and Owen Nye, Milledgeville, Ill., assistant treasurer.

Elected to three-year terms as trustees were Harold Real, Milledgeville, Ill.; Lester Leidy, Vinco, Pa.; and Jim Payne, Russiaville, Ind.

Men choose campus ministry as 77-78 national project

The National Laymen's Organization (NLO) voted \$6,500 support to the Ashland College Campus Ministry as its project for 1977-78.

Support by the NLO will be channeled through the General Conference-appointed Campus Ministry Advisory Council (CMAC). The NLO had independently supported student workers the past two years.

The decision to contribute funds to the CMAC will bring all Brethren campus ministry under one unified program for the first time.

The \$6,500 NLO pledge for the 1977-78 school year is in addition to an annual \$500 seminary scholarship provided by the men.

The NLO has asked that local groups send contributions toward the project monthly to NLO Treasurer Jack Stombaugh. He, in turn, will forward funds to the CMAC so that monthly personnel and program costs may be met.

Stombaugh's address is 905 Newdale Circle, Bryan, Ohio 43506.

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Conference speaker says:

"We need a new awareness of the supremacy of Jesus Christ!"

That was the theme of the messages presented by Dr. George Brunk, main speaker for the 1977 General Conference. Combining a sharp wit with insightful probing of God's Word, Dr. Brunk moved many to a renewed understanding of the role of Christ in His church, the role of the church in the world, and the power available to the believer through the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Brunk is president of Brunk Revivals, Inc., of Harrisonburg, Va. He served eight years as dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary and has taught there and in Eastern Mennonite College.

"Wherever Jesus Christ is in the midst of His church, that church is qualified and able to live and to thrive and to grow in the midst of a Satanic society," he noted.

"Jesus said one time, 'I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' . . . Actually, what the Greek

says there is that the gates of hell will not be able to withstand the advance of the church."

How can the church have this power? Dr. Brunk said that "God has made provision for us, as His people, through the power of the Holy Spirit."

He described the dynamic advance of the first century church and then asked, "Why is there such a staggering difference between what we see in the church of the apostles and what we see around us in the church today?"

In response he noted two reasons for the difference. "First, the people were under the Lordship of Jesus Christ . . . They knew what the centrality of Jesus Christ meant . . . And second, they experienced the power and the dynamic of the third person of the Godhead, who is the Holy Spirit."

Concerning the charismatic movement, Dr. Brunk asked, "Should we be for it or against it?"

He noted that many oppose it because it creates tension and division. He agreed that it does at times, and listed two reasons for it.

"One reason is, we've got some people who are so hard and unspiritual and carnal that they're opposed to anything that threatens their carnality. And I want to tell you, the charismatic movement will stick a knife right into the carnality of the church.

"Secondly, there are some of our charismatics who have made themselves overbearing, and they've pushed and pushed and tried to tell the rest of us that unless you've spoken in tongues, you're just not in the race. I reject that."

He went on to say, "I believe there is a legitimate gift of tongues—don't ever write it off! And I also believe there is an illegitimate tongues."

He described himself as a

charismatic who does not have the gift of tongues, but who does have other gifts.

In describing the supreme task of the church, he observed that "there is some danger that we get lost in what our real task is: is it ministering to the physical needs of man or is it ministering to his spiritual needs?"

"I subscribe to the thesis that the gospel is intended for the whole man, not just the saving of his soul. . . . But let us keep this double foci in sight, so we're not in danger of forgetting the spiritual needs of man."

Perhaps one of his most penetrating statements was this: "My friends, I predict . . . that when we saints get to heaven, and behold the Lord of Glory, we will marvel that we wasted as much of our energies on the things of such little consequence while we were here."

Cassettes of Dr. Brunk's four messages are available from the Brethren Publishing Company at \$3.50 each.

Exploration Time helps delegates discover gifts, role in church

Rev. Jack Oxenrider led three "Exploration Times" following Dr. Brunk's messages.

The three-fold purpose of the sessions was to help participants come to the conviction that each was indwelt with the Holy Spirit, discover their spiritual gifts, and find ways of ministering for Christ through the church.

Participants divided into groups of six for discussion directed by Rev. Oxenrider. Unfortunately, the sessions were sometimes hampered because of prior meetings running overtime.

On the whole, those who participated found the discussions helpful in understanding their role in Christ's church.

Models of church growth to appear in Brethren Evangelist this fall

Four growing Brethren churches made presentations Thursday as models of church growth.

Pastors making the presentations and the churches they represented were: Kent Bennett, Maurertown, Va.; Richard Austin, Peru, Ind.; Norman Long, Pittsburg, Pa.; and Russell Gordon, Bradenton, Fla.

Several of the pastors also had members of their congregations share specific areas of ministry.

The presentations are being highlighted in the Brethren Evangelist this fall. The first article, on Maurertown, appeared in the September issue. Pittsburg is scheduled for October.

Brethren hear about Association of Brethren Church Teachers

Nearly 150 Brethren were introduced to the new Association of Brethren Church Teachers (ABCT) at a Wednesday luncheon.

Bradley Weidenhamer explained that the ABCT is being formed to better equip Christian educators, to identify needs, and to develop a sense of comradeship and mutual concern among educators.

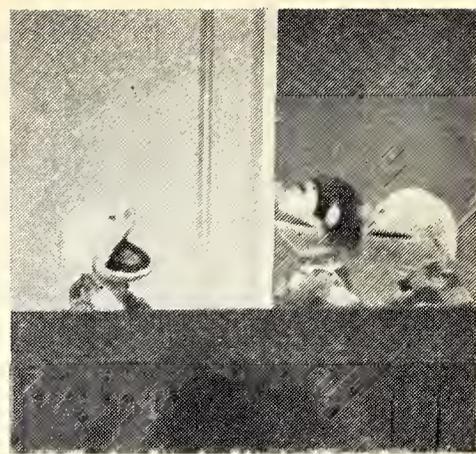
Sunday school teachers, superintendents, members of boards of Christian education, professional church workers, youth advisors, and others interested

in Christian education were invited to join the association.

Included in the program was a slide presentation on the Milledgeville Brethren Church Sunday school, which was named "Sunday School of the Year" during Conference week.

Also shown was a film, "CIPHER in the Snow," which dramatically points up the need for showing loving concern for all students.

According to Fred Burkey, director of Christian education, over 100 have joined ABCT, with many churches planning to register all their teachers.



"Cast from *Bernie the Bike Breaker*" appeared at the puppet seminar.

Missions session concludes 1977 General Conference

The final session of the 1977 General Conference was the inspirational service of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

Special features of this service included greetings from Medellin, Colombia, brought by Mark and Chantal Logan, Brethren missionaries to Colombia who have just returned to the United States for furlough; music by the Brethren Youth Missionary Interns to Colombia (Mark Baker, Becky Grumbling, Joan McKinney, and Tom Keplinger); and a message in chalk, light, and music presented by Rev. Donald Rowser.

Rev. Arden Gilmer, Director

of Home Missions, reported on the work of home missions, noting that this is the last year of Missionary Board support for the Stockton, California, and Walcrest (Mansfield), Ohio, churches and giving a brief progress report on other mission churches.

Rev. M. Virgil Ingraham, General Secretary of the Missionary Board, reported on progress on the Brethren foreign fields of Argentina, India, Malaysia, and Nigeria. He also presented certificates of appreciation to Jerry and Cheryl Grieve and to Kitty and Dick Winfield for their years of mission work in Nigeria.

Fasting banquet informs, raises money for world relief

Special features of the World Relief Fasting Banquet were a film, **Haiti: Mountains Beyond Mountains**, and an original song, "How Much is Enough?" composed and sung by Mrs. Jean Lersch.

The banquet, held Thursday noon of Conference week, was attended by 152 people. The meal consisted of a small bowl of seasoned rice and a glass of water.

Those present heard up-to-date reports of what the World Relief Commission is doing in various parts of the world. It was noted that during the recent flood in Johnstown, World Relief aid was sent to this devastated area. Brethren wishing to have a part in this aid may still do so by sending checks designated Johnstown to George Kerlin, treasurer of the World Relief Board.

Puppets, families, retirement subjects of workshops

In keeping with the Conference theme of "Equipping for Ministry," three workshops were conducted on Wednesday afternoon.

The Board of Christian Education sponsored "Starting a Puppet Ministry" and "Toward Better Families." The Benevolent Board conducted a seminar on answering questions about retirement.

Over 75 delegates and guests attended the workshops.

Summer Crusader Mark Britton led the session on puppet ministries. He had been involved in producing puppet programs with "Lifeline" during the summer.

Jim Sluss and the Family Life Task Force of the Board of Christian Education directed the family life workshop. Participants gained practical suggestions for developing family ministries in their local church programs.

Dorman Ronk guided the retirement workshop. Included in the presentation was a film entitled "The Rest of Your Life."

At the conclusion of the banquet, those attending were given an opportunity to give an offering toward world relief. A net offering (after deducting the cost of the banquet) of \$598.20 was realized at that time. Money received later from others at the Conference brought the total Conference offering for world relief to \$678.20.

"The Master's Touch" speaker's theme

Every Christian has received the "touch of the Master's hand," according to Dr. Roy J. Johnson, speaker for the WMS public service on Wednesday afternoon of Conference.

Dr. Johnson, a medical doctor from Shelby, Ohio, spoke of five different ways in which we are touched by the Master's hand. He mentioned, first of all, that

most of us receive a **touch of sorrow and suffering**. Life is a pilgrimage, and in this pilgrimage we are almost certain to experience some sorrow and suffering.

Most Christians also receive a **touch of refreshment** from the Lord. When we get really down in life, the pause of refreshment which Pepsi-Cola offers is

not enough. We need real refreshment. We have the opportunity in the Lord to get this touch of real refreshment.

A third touch we can receive is a **touch of power**. Daniel received such a touch (Daniel 9), and so did Jeremiah. We, too, can receive a touch of power from the Lord.

In Matthew 8:2-3 a leper came to Jesus. The Lord touched him and he became clean. In the same way Jesus touches us, and we are cleansed from the leprosy of sin. We receive the **touch of salvation**.

There is one touch which is yet to come—the **touch of life**. When Jesus was on earth, he touched certain people and raised them from the dead. We have not received this touch of resurrection, but we are waiting for such a touch today.

Most of us have already received various touches of the Master's hand, but God's best is yet to come. Someday, Dr. Johnson said, we are going to have a touch of real life—when the redeemed of the Lord will come forth as a result of this touch of life from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pfeiffer Library dedicated at Ashland Seminary service

The Charles F. Pfeiffer Memorial Library was dedicated as part of the Ashland Theological Seminary program Friday morning.

Theme of the program was "Alleluia"—for the heritage of the gospel, the hope for our age, and for His faithful servants.

Dr. Pfeiffer was professor of ancient literature at Central Michigan University at the time of his death in 1976. He had been an adjunct faculty member at Ashland Theological Seminary for ten years.

He was a widely known schol-

ar of biblical literature and the ancient Near East.

Dr. Pfeiffer willed his entire personal library to the Ashland Seminary library. The nearly 10,000 books will create one of the finest Old Testament and archaeological collections to be found anywhere, according to Dr. Joseph Shultz, vice president of the college for the seminary.

In paying tribute to Dr. Pfeiffer, Dr. Shultz said, "This was a man who not only studied about God, but walked with God and knew God in a very personal way."



Is this a missionary conference? No, but Missionary Board members Charles Lowmaster and Russ Gordon joined former missionary Bill Curtis to discuss the work in Colombia with missionary Chantal Logan.

October 1 deadline for SMM registrations

SMM registrations are due October 1 or as soon as possible thereafter, according to Becky Hamilton, general secretary.

Groups should send a list of the names, addresses, and ages of all local officers and members. Names and addresses of patronesses should also be included.

The lists should be sent to the general secretary at Nunn Hall, Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. 40351.

Dues for the year are \$1.50 for both juniors and seniors. They should be sent by January 31, 1978, to Financial Secretary Debbie Munson, 616 Park Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Girls hear missionaries and panel on dating

by Nancy Ronk

The National Sisterhood of Mary and Martha had an exciting and inspiring Conference week. Attendance ranged from 33 to 52 at the four programs.

Speakers for the week included Kitty Winfield, Chantal Lo-

gan, and a panel of Beth Barber, Norma Waters, and Karen Weidenhamer.

Mrs. Winfield shared some of her "treasures" and experiences gained from her 10 years as a missionary in Nigeria. She encouraged the girls to continue

writing to and praying for our missionaries.

Mrs. Logan talked about the girls' auxiliary in Colombia, which meets weekly for spiritual nourishment and instruction. She noted that the girls there would be overjoyed to receive letters or cards from our SMM groups or individuals. (Their address is Sociedad de ninas auxiliares, in care of the Solomons or Logans.)

The panel led an open forum on Christian dating, engagement, and marriage. Panelists shared from their own experiences in these areas, then fielded questions submitted by the girls. Many girls were involved in the discussion, and we all learned some new concepts in this important area.

Sisterhood elects officers, collects project monies

The National Sisterhood elected officers and conducted other business during Conference week.

Officers elected for the new year are: Linda Zerbe, president; Susie Keslar, vice president; Becky Hamilton, general secretary; Debbie Munson, financial secretary; Linda Waters, treasurer; and Becky Grumbling, literature secretary.

Roberta Gilmer of Ashland was elected patroness, with Corine Austin of Peru, Ind., selected as assistant patroness.

A total of \$600 was collected for the project of establishing

a car rental fund for furloughed missionaries. Some groups still had money to submit to the project.

The project was continued for another year to increase the fund, which is held and administered by the Missionary Board.

Mary Ellen Bates of Waynesboro, Pa., was the recipient of the 1977-78 Myrtle Mae Snyder scholarship. Miss Bates will be a freshman at Messiah College, majoring in early childhood education.

Ruth and I and II Timothy were chosen as Bible study books for local groups for the coming year.

Task Force to study total youth work

The Board of Christian Education has formed a task force to study youth ministry in the Brethren Church.

Participating on the task force will be members of the Board of Christian Education and representatives appointed by the National Laymen's Organization and the National Woman's Missionary Society.

The task force will meet in Ashland on November 5 to evaluate and explore the possibility of an integrated youth ministry for the Brethren church.

Currently the BCE directs the National Brethren Youth program. The Laymen's Organization sponsors Boys' Brotherhood, and the WMS oversees the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha for girls.

The meeting of representatives from the three bodies was prompted by a recommendation by General Conference Moderator Marlin McCann in his address on the spiritual state of the churches.

Mrs. Benshoff new WMS president

The National WMS elected Pauline Benshoff as president for the new year. She succeeds Jessie Solomon in that position.

Mrs. Benshoff is the wife of Rev. St. Clair Benshoff, pastor of the College Corner Brethren Church, Wabash, Ind.

She is currently a member of the National Board of Christian Education and the new Ministerial Recruitment Committee of General Conference.

Also elected to offices were Judy Gentle, Flora, Ind., vice president; Sherry Van Duyne, Shipshewana, Ind., financial secretary; and Dorothy Carpenter,

Ashland, Ohio, treasurer.

Receiving appointments to positions were Trudy Kerner, Roann, Ind., general secretary; Linda Geaslen, Flora, Ind., assistant general secretary; Helen Shively, Ashland, Ohio, literature secretary; Karen Weidenhamer, Ashland, Ohio, assistant literature secretary; Alberta Holsinger, Ashland, Ohio, Signal Lights editor; and Grace Grumbling, Johnstown, Pa., Outlook editor.

Special recognition was given to Dorothy Drushal, who had served on the national WMS board for 35 years.



The Brethren Evangelist gave over \$2,000 to Christian education last year.

Why? Because we believe in the need for equipping Christian educators and youth for ministry.

When you give money to the Board of Christian Education, you want as much of it as possible to go to its equipping ministry. But you also want to know about the ministries they are performing.

So we gave \$2,061.99 to Christian education in 1976 (and \$11,670.31 to all Brethren Church ministries)—not in cash contributions, but by providing promotional materials in the Brethren Evangelist below our cost.

We believe you're willing to share these publication costs. So we're asking you to give this month to the ministry of the Brethren Evangelist. Won't you help?

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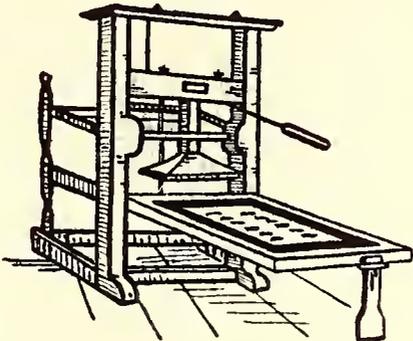




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