

## The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

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### Remembering and Celebrating

by Pastor Len Smith

We read in Psalm 115:12 A *"The Lord remembers us and will bless us ...."* Certainly, the year 2014 was a year of celebration for this congregation to remember for many years to come.

For the second time in twenty years we celebrated a mortgage burning service on January 12, 2014. This time it was for our 2007 addition. Then on July 27, 2014, we celebrated not only the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation's reorganization, but also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of our 1984 worship facility.

There were also other celebratory events such as our spring Friendship Sunday on April 27<sup>th</sup> and our fall Homecoming Sunday on October 26<sup>th</sup> with our revival services conducted by Rev. Tracy Wiser. We enjoyed several Sunday morning presentations from the Cearfoss Drama Connection and special music throughout the year. Also especially noteworthy was our September 14<sup>th</sup> new member recognition meal for twenty-one individuals who became new members from 10-13-13 through 9-14-14.

We certainly also praise the Lord for our increased Sunday worship attendance in 2014 averaging 123 compared to 120 in 2013. Our 2014 offerings met 99% of our 2014 projected budget for local expenses and mission outreach. We have so much to be truly thankful for.

2014 was also a time for us to remember seven church members who passed on into glory:

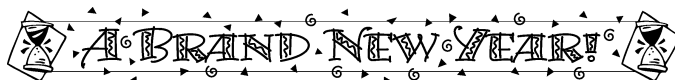
February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hazel Angle, August 5<sup>th</sup> – Evelyn Funk, August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Winnie Gourley,  
August 31<sup>st</sup> – Todd Hoffman, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Betty Bastian, October 26<sup>th</sup> – Jane Wolford,  
and November 29<sup>th</sup> – Charles Wasson.

Every one of these church members is missed by their loved ones and friends who still retain those precious memories of how their lives touched them.

I too laid another loved one to rest who was not a member of this congregation in 2014 when I conducted services for my father, Donald Ray Smith, in Salisbury, North Carolina on April 30<sup>th</sup>. I have sincerely appreciated your prayerful support.

But as we begin another new year, it is extremely important for us not to just consider past spiritual celebrations or dwell on our personal losses. I believe that the Apostle Paul was inspired by God to write some helpful advice for us in Philippians 3:12-13. *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heaven ward in Christ Jesus."*

May each one of us prayerfully consider worthy celebratory spiritual goals for 2015!



# Hope Outreach Ministries

*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields . . .* —John 4:35

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings to you and to your dear family from India! God is good all the time and He is worthy to be praised! We would love to share with you briefly what the Lord has been doing through Hope Outreach Ministries (HOM). Every day is an opportunity to live for Him.

## Hope Bible Training Institute (HBTI)

We have focused on the Bible school and sewing ministry the past few months, while being involved in regular church meetings. For several weeks we fasted and prayed for committed men and women who would be willing to join HBTI. Since there is so much poverty in the villages, even believers who have a desire to serve God are discouraged from spending their time in a school.

They depend on daily wages to support their families. Because of drought and cyclones, many people, including believers, have huge debts. So it is hard for them to think about giving their time. They needed counseling and encouragement from the Word. We visited all the villages again and again after our summer ministry, and several believers responded to the invitation to join HBTI after counseling and prayer. There were 28 people who wanted to join in the current class, but we are able to take six couples. Lord willing, they will start in February. It is a two-year systematic Through The Bible Course.

There are very good theological seminaries for educated people, but there are very few Bible training schools or institutes that train village preachers. Preachers who are illiterate or semi-literate have not much provision to learn the Word of God. Many seminary graduates look for opportunities to serve God in cities and towns, but not in interior villages. God laid a burden on our hearts to provide theological training to preachers from villages. And they, in turn, will make others disciples who eventually become church planters. The summer ministry helped us to know the needs of the villages and find believers who have a burden to share the gospel. They all need special attention for literacy and teaching. We are looking to the Lord for provision for the Bible school needs. The cost is pretty high to meet, food, travel, teaching material, teachers' remuneration and monthly support for students. The students at HBTI are the preachers and church planters in the most interior villages.

## Reaching villages by sharing God's love and the Gospel

The Kondur village is one of the most interior villages. There is no public transportation to this village. People walk, or use a bullock cart, or request a ride on a tractor or a milk van. They have to walk at least 13 miles to reach the nearby town for transportation, medical clinic and for food items and other things. The population in this village is about 15 thousand people; 60 percent belong to the low caste; 40 percent of the children and

youth are under 20 years of age; 45 percent are women, who are mostly illiterate. About 14 years ago a mission built a church here, but it was closed because of the opposition and persecution. Five years ago Daniel, who joined HBTI, was willing to go to this village to share the gospel, and God has done mighty things for that village. The person who opposed the gospel 14 years ago has accepted the Lord. And later on many came to trust in Jesus as their Savior.

## Serving through sewing

The Sewing Ministry has been going on since 2000. So far we are able to reach out to the tribal groups whose main profession is rag picking and begging. They are widely spread in slums of cities. These groups are a mixture of many tribes from different backgrounds, faith and cultures, and from different states in India. It is a privilege to meet them in the Sewing Center, and share with them the good news they never heard before. In villages all castes come together at the Sewing Center and they find a HOPE and new life in Jesus Christ. It is challenging to do this work by faith. There are ups and downs because of the financial needs. But God always does miracles to meet the needs. We are providing a free 8-to-12 month tailoring course to needy women. They are taught tailoring and quilting.

We have seven sewing centers now in different villages. We are able to extend this ministry because of God's faithfulness and your generosity. Two years ago we received a huge gift from a brother in honor of his late wife. Later on, we heard the donor also went to be with the Lord. But because of their giving, many women are finding the Living Hope. We bought 25 sewing machines and fabric. God has enabled us to start another new sewing center, and a church sent a gift for fabric. The donations were a big blessing to the sewing ministry at HOM. We started a new Sewing Center at Chowdariguda village, as the Lord gave us a burden for that village.

Dear friends, as we have come to the end of the year, we are deeply grateful to you and your families for your sacrificial support all through this year. We have so many things to praise the Lord for. "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV). May the Lord richly bless you and your families!

Yours in His blessed hope,  
Pastor Vijay and Sukanya Singapogu



# Mission and Ministry

## News from the Church of the Brethren

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120; 800-323-8039; [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)

January/February 2015

### **EYN Compassion Fund has distributed more than \$200,000 to aid Nigerian Brethren**

Since a special appeal for the Nigeria crisis at the 2014 Annual Conference, giving to the EYN Compassion Fund topped \$168,459.

Since its inception, the fund collected donations totaling \$305,821 for Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).

In the fall of 2014, the EYN Compassion Fund was closed out and a new Nigeria Crisis Fund began receiving donations toward a matching challenge of \$500,000 from the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board.

Recent large gifts to the fund included \$17,050 from Lititz (Pa.) Church of

the Brethren, a grant of \$10,000 from the United Church of Christ, and a rebate of \$8,750 that the Church of the Brethren received from Brotherhood Mutual through the Brethren Mutual Aid Agency.

All the donations received in the EYN Compassion Fund have been sent directly to EYN. The money has been used for a variety of purposes, as determined and distributed by EYN leadership--in particular the EYN Relief Committee and the EYN district church councils.

The money has helped families of EYN pastors who lost loved ones or homes or churches in the violence, has aided other affected EYN

families, and as the insurgency grew also has provided for larger food and material aid distributions and has helped begin the building of relocation sites for displaced people.

#### **Hills direct crisis response**

Carl and Roxane Hill have been named co-directors of the Nigerian Crisis Response for the Church of the Brethren, working as staff of Brethren Disaster Ministries and Global Mission and Service. They are based out of the denomination's General Offices in Elgin, Ill.

For more information about the Nigeria Crisis Response see [www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis](http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis).

### **Haiti Medical Project receives second grant from Royer Family Charitable Foundation**

For a second year the Royer Family Charitable Foundation of Lancaster, Pa., is providing major support to the Church of the Brethren Haiti Medical Project.

The grant of \$126,300 will support an expanded program of mobile clinics, a first Social Ministries Consultation in Haiti, a new thrust into community health and pure water projects, and an endowment fund.

An earlier grant from the foundation made it possible to double the number of mobile clinics to 48 in 16 Haitian communities in 2014, and increased the number of persons served to about 7,000.

The new grant will continue the expanded effort to provide basic health care in partnership with Eglise des Freres Haitiens (Church of the Brethren in Haiti).

The Royer Family Charitable Foundation was founded by Kenneth Royer and his late wife Jean. "We're really impressed by the work being done in Haiti and we feel like our support is making a quantifiable difference," said their daughter Becky Fuchs, who is the foundation's vice-president and treasurer, and is pastor of Mountville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. The improvement to people's health and quality of life resulting from the Haiti Medical Project "is encouraging us to continue to be involved," she said.

As is the case with all aspects of the Haiti Medical Project supported by the foundation grants, the clinics also receive generous support from Brethren individuals and congregations.

For more information go to [www.brethren.org/haiti-medical-project](http://www.brethren.org/haiti-medical-project).

### **Workcamps provide opportunities to serve**

The 2015 Church of the Brethren workcamp ministry is offering 26 workcamps across the nation and overseas this summer.

Workcamps provide an opportunity for members of the denomination to serve together, while growing in community and practicing humility. The theme is "Side by Side: Imitating Christ's Humility," based on Philippians 2:1-8. In this passage, Paul encourages followers of Christ to remember the interests of others and extend a helping hand.

Find the schedule of workcamps and their descriptions at [www.brethren.org/workcamps](http://www.brethren.org/workcamps).

Mission and Ministry replaces *Tapestry* as the newsletter reporting on Church of the Brethren denominational ministries

## Brethren Disaster Ministries surpasses goal of Sandy grant from Red Cross

A Hurricane Sandy recovery grant that Brethren Disaster Ministries was awarded from the American Red Cross (ARC) in 2013 provided the financial backing needed to expand the ministry's efforts in New Jersey from one project in Toms River to a second project based in Spotswood.

As a recipient of this grant, the Brethren Disaster Ministries goal was to repair or rebuild 75 homes by the end of 2014. By the end of the third quarter of 2014, 74 homes were completed at both sites, with 9 more in progress in the Spotswood area.

The people who have been helped include single mothers with one or two children and no insurance, an older couple who ran out of money and were traumatized by the flood, and numerous others in similar situations. Brethren Disaster Ministries has decided to continue recovery work in Spotswood into the spring of 2015 and possibly longer.

—*Mission and Ministry*, January/February 2015

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### Mexico: A sewing co-op in Tijuana

An allocation of \$10,000 from the Global Food Crisis Fund was given to support a ministry in Tijuana, Mexico, sponsored by Bittersweet Ministries. This grant will support Two Machines, a women's sewing cooperative that grew out of classes given by volunteers with Bittersweet. Two Machines is helping the co-op members in the planning and running of their own business.

Employment opportunities are limited in Tijuana. Many individuals and even sometimes entire families work as laborers in nearby landfills, where they sort through trash by hand looking for items of value. Some of this trash is delivered to the landfill in trucks coming from municipalities in southern California.

The co-op members sew backpacks for local school children that are then purchased by Bittersweet Ministries for its student scholarship program. Leather pouches and purses produced are available for purchase in the United States through friends of Two Machines.

To learn more about the work of Bittersweet Ministries and Two Machines, go to: <http://bittersweetministries.org> and <http://twomachines.org>

### Philippines: Helping fisherman after the typhoon

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines. It was one of the strongest tropical cyclones ever recorded and it left in its wake not only loss of life, but also loss of livelihood for many Filipino fishing communities. Shortly after the storm, former Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines and current member of Montezuma Church of the Brethren, Peter Barlow, was able to return to assess the situation along with Roy Winter, associate executive director of Brethren Disaster Ministries.

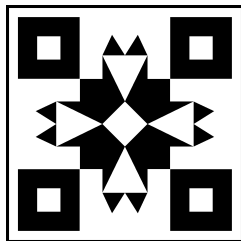
Through Peter, the Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF) was able to be connected with a local association of fishing families called the Barangay District 1 Fisherfolk's Association of Babatngon, Leyte. This association is made up of 30-40 families and was given a grant of \$10,000 by the GFCF to acquire a new community fishing boat, for nets and materials to build cages to replace those destroyed during the typhoon, and to purchase Milk Fish fingerlings to be reared in the cages.

—*E-news of the Global Food Crisis Fund of the Church of the Brethren*, Fall 2014

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### 38th Annual Brethren Disaster Relief Auction *by Jane Yount*

The thirty-eighth annual Brethren Disaster Relief Auction held at the Lebanon Expo and Fairgrounds in late September raised about \$423,000, reported David Farmer in a Sept. 27 Auction Committee press release. The auction proceeds benefit Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) as well as a local relief fund known as TURF. Roy Winter, associate executive director for BDM, described the event as "an amazing tribute of love and compassion for those impacted by emergencies and disasters."



The auction is a cooperative effort of the Atlantic Northeast and Southern Pa. Districts of the Church of the Brethren, and since 1977 it has raised over \$14 million for disaster relief. Funds raised also support volunteer disaster relief trips throughout the year. "Some items sold years ago were redonated and resold," reported Farmer, "a quilt for \$2,300 and a scale size wooden farm wagon for \$3,000." Volunteers also gathered during the auction to assemble an impressive 12,000 disaster relief school kits in a little over two hours.

BDM deeply appreciates all the volunteers who have a hand in this Brethren tradition "for the glory of God and our neighbor's good."

NOTE: *Handmade quilts brought in \$38,000 at the 2014 Brethren Disaster Relief Auction.*

—*Bridges*, Vol. 15, Fall 2014 (published by Brethren Disaster Ministries)

## Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center: Changing lives at the Heifer Global Village

For another year our Global Village programs saw more than 1,000 participants (including the first visit from our local Washington County Public Schools) come from all over the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic U.S. to discover a little bit more about what life might be like for those less fortunate living here and around the world. The alpacas were a great addition to our livestock crew, which all serve as valuable teachers in explaining Heifer International's goal to end hunger and poverty through the gift of livestock. Our livestock are also an appreciated feature in several sessions of Summer Camp and even in a few Road Scholar programs. Two seasonal interns also gave their time and talents to making these programs a success – evidenced by there being already seven groups with more than 225 people signed up for Global Village programs in 2015.

—Reflections from the Spring, Fall 2014

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### Come Walk With Me



In the quiet hush of the evening  
I go way back in time  
And live again in fancy  
Those childhood days of mine.

The coal oil lamp gave little light  
We'd study by its flames  
We'd go to the cellar for apples  
And sometimes played some games.

I'd like to see all the kids we knew  
And play in the stream from the spring  
Catching lizards and crabs from under the rocks  
Knowing the joy it would bring.

I see the springtime orchard  
With blossoms on the trees  
The meadows filled with daisies  
With nectar for the bees.

I'd like to go home again  
To when we were young and gay  
Back to the time we went barefoot  
Which usually began in May.

I'd like to walk up to Round Top  
And see the cottage still there  
I'd sit on the porch with its wooden rails  
And dream of a life without cares.

I wander down a country lane  
To scenes of yesterday  
I see the trees we used to climb  
And games we used to play.

I'd like to play in the apple trees  
And walk up the big hill again  
I'd like to play in the wet weather springs  
In the ditch where they all began.

As I sit here alone, now in my autumn years  
I think of these things we did back then  
Someday I'll look down from heaven  
And remember them never again.

Often when the day was over  
And there was nothing much to do  
We'd gather in the living room  
To spend an hour or two.

I'd like to walk down to the river  
On a hot day with a balmy breeze  
And play in the cool, cool water  
These are my memories.

by Edith Gloyd  
January 1996

**Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came TODAY!**

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FIRST CLASS MAIL