

The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

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Fall or Follow?

by Pastor Len Smith

One of my students studying English as a Second Language once remarked that the weather frequently changes in Hagerstown. He shared that in his native country of Honduras, it is hot and humid all year round.

Probably many of us are glad that we live in a temperate zone with clearly defined seasons. For many of us, **fall** is our favorite season with its cooler temperatures and the changing color of the leaves.

In recent years we have heard a lot about climate change. Certainly if you examine the Scriptures carefully, you will discover that the Middle East today has a different climate than it had in Biblical times. For example you will find mention of bears and forests in ancient Israel. I do not believe you will find many bears or lions in their forests today.

The Israelites looked forward to the winter rains. The winter rains that began in October or November could be cold and heavy. The temperature began to rise at the end of March and the beginning of April when the spring rains came. They did not look forward to the hot desert winds from the southeast that could scorch anything that was growing during the dry seasons.

Over the years I have observed that many individuals go through seasons in their spiritual lives as well. The Apostle Paul warned Christians in I Corinthians 10:12 "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't **fall!**"

Jesus Christ said in Luke 8:13 "Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they **fall** away."

The Apostle Peter observed in II Peter 3:17-18 "Therefore then, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and **fall** from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

When we make the decision to consistently practice all of the Biblical spiritual disciplines, we can grow in God's grace and knowledge regardless of the particular challenges we may face in every season of our lives.

We need to recommit ourselves to constantly **follow** the life and every teaching of Jesus Christ as our Savior and our daily manager as we move through every season of our lives. I am reminded of the challenge we find in I Peter 2:21. "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should **follow** in his steps."



Daughter of EYN* member rescued

*Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)

Abel was a staff member of EYN Headquarters. He worked in Mubi before the Boko Haram attacked that community. In November (2014) he was assigned a new position in Jos as Medical Officer with the Relief Team. He has a 14-year-old daughter named Sarah. In October she was at school with other children when the attack in Mubi started. She was kidnapped with other children and kept in Mubi under Boko Haram.

Abel had come to Jos with all the staff of EYN headquarters, but he couldn't think of anything or concentrate on anything because of his missing daughter. His wife was so sick and heartbroken...The church kept praying for God to strengthen Abel and at least show him a sign that his daughter was dead or alive...In December, Abel received a call that his daughter had been rescued and was in Cameroon with other children. What an unbelievable relief to Abel.

Sarah was injured as a result of bombings by the Nigerian Air Force on the buildings occupied by Boko Haram and the kidnapped children. Many children lost their lives, while Sarah was wounded in the leg. According to Sarah,

she was attended by doctors and her leg was amputated from the knee down without any form of pain relief. She said she was well taken care of - it is believed that the doctors and other workers serving Boko Haram are citizens kidnapped either from their homes or on the roads.

Sarah was brought to Jos and received all the necessary medical attention. The team visited Abel at home with his wife and Sarah. I broke down in tears when I saw Sarah. Abel has accepted the state of his daughter in good faith and is strengthened by the help of EYN and the Church of the Brethren. He was assisted with money from the relief funds to be able to take his daughter to a big hospital where she could get very good medical care.

She is fast recovering and hoping to go back to school by next year. "I want her to continue with her education" said Abel. They are also hoping Sarah will be fitted with an artificial limb.

This story was written by Rhoda, secretary for the EYN Crisis Response Team. For more stories as well as a scripture study, visit the Nigeria Crisis blog at brethren.org/nigeriablog.

Nigeria Blog and Devotions

Looking for the most up-to-date information on the Nigeria Crisis Response? The best place to look is the new Nigeria blog site www.brethren.org/nigeriablog. Visit this blog regularly for weekly stories and reports from church leaders and volunteers in Nigeria. You can also sign up to have email notifications sent to you when these new entries are posted to keep current on our Nigeria Crisis Response.

The blog also features posts with EYN devotions. EYN leaders in Nigeria believe prayer is one of the most important ways to support the Nigerian people and the Church. These daily devotions were written by EYN members and published by the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria. EYN's daily devotional for 2015 is being posted a week at a time on the blog site, appearing midweek for the following week. Reading them daily is a powerful way we can be in solidarity and connect with our brothers and sisters caught in this crisis.

—*Bridges*, Vol. 17, Summer 2015, published by Brethren Disaster Ministries

Our outreach dollars at work

A portion of Broadfording's outreach giving each week helps to support the mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren, specifically in the following areas:



- Emergency Disaster Fund
- Emerging Missions Fund
- Global Food Crisis Fund

A total of \$5,100 was budgeted for these three funds in 2015. Each fund receives quarterly payments of \$425.

After receiving our second payment of 2015 to the Emerging Missions Fund, Stanley J. Noffsinger, Church of the Brethren General Secretary, wrote:

Your gifts help support the work of partnerships in Haiti, Nigeria, South Sudan, and many other places around the world. Your faithful giving undergirds service-focused ministries and opportunities for faith formation. Your generous contributions empower ministries that speak peace and extend Jesus' table through dynamic programs and ministries of the Church of the Brethren. Thank you for helping to continue the work of Jesus.

It is a blessing to partner with you to carry the light of Christ into the world, and to boldly share the love of Jesus with neighbors down the street and around the world. On behalf of all staff, volunteers, and board members of the Church of the Brethren, thank you for your time, prayers, gifts, and passions. We are honored to serve with you in this important work.



Church of the Brethren

Children's Disaster Services responds to the spring storms

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) volunteers had a short, but meaningful response in Oklahoma City, Okla. in mid-May. The team served in a Multi Agency Resource Center that was set up to serve families after spring tornadoes and flooding. The team, led by project manager Nancy McDougall, had 30 child contacts. Children especially enjoyed painting, play dough, shaving cream, puppets, and dolls. Though our volunteers were only there for a few days, they enjoyed the children and found it to be rewarding.

Following the massive flooding in Texas, the Houston shelter response was more complex. These children's homes had been lost in a tornado that came through with the storm system. The team moved with shelter residents three different times. They had a total of 124 child contacts. On the first day Kathy Howell, project manager, wrote that, "Anyone who had visited the center yesterday or earlier sure saw a world of difference today. They were amazed and so appreciative of our presence. One of the moms was so happy this afternoon to get three hours to herself to run errands. She expressed what a difference it made for her mental health!"

After a particularly busy day of bubbles and shaving cream play with paper airplanes zipping by, one of the 10-year-olds provided a quote-of-the day, "You guys are just really, really, really, big kids!" There was complete agreement from the CDS team!

Many thanks to the volunteers that could go on short notice and for additional volunteers who were standing by ready to help if needed. Gratitude for the work of the Red Cross, as well as the children and families who are sharing and caring even in this time of loss.

—**Bridges**, Vol. 17, Summer 2015
published by Brethren
Disaster Ministries

First District Church of the Brethren in India celebrates 100th Jilla Sabha

Indian Brethren gathered in Valsad, Gujarat, for the church's 100th Jilla Sabha (district conference). The event began May 13 with worship and the regular business of the denomination, with May 14 dedicated to a celebration that ran late into the evening.

Attending on behalf of the Church of the Brethren was Annual Conference moderator David Steele, and Global Mission and Service executive Jay Wittmeyer.

The First District, under the leadership of Brethren missionary Wilbur Stover, held its first conference in 1901, and its 69th in 1970, when First District (Gujarat) and Second District (Maharashtra) joined five other communions to form the Church of North India (CNI). After an interim period, the First District resumed meeting as the First District Church of the Brethren and was recognized by Annual Conference in 2003.

A significant matter for the 100th Jilla

Sabha was recognition of Ahwa into the denomination. The mission of Ahwa began in 1907 and its current church building was constructed in 1933. Located in the tribal hill region of Dang, the Ahwa church was formerly with CNI but decided it was more suited to fellowship with First District Church of the Brethren.

Maganlal Gameti, 101, was elected moderator of the First District, mainly as a means to honor his years of ministry. "I am not worried about taking on such a role at my age, many will give me whatever assistance I require."

The day of celebration began with a 1,000-person parade that finished at the Valsad church for a feast and worship. The evening featured a historical slide show, fireworks, and a cultural program.

—**Mission and Ministry**
News from the
Church of the Brethren
July/August 2015

Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Summer 2015



Sharing God's Love Through Acts of Service

*Working for Peace Caring for Creation
Advocating Justice Serving Human Needs*

Here are a few of the exciting things happening in BVS!

In 2014:

- BVS hosted four orientation units: one in Gotha, Fla., one in Denton, Md., and two in New Windsor, Md.
- 48 new volunteers entered the program
- 115 total volunteers served throughout the year

Currently, BVS has 64 volunteers ...

- ranging in age from 18 to 78
- placed in 12 different US states and Washington D.C.
- serving in 10 countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland, and the USA

Say among
the nations,



Psalm 96:10

News from Bob & Judy Kay / Santiago / Dominican Republic June 2015

Gray Hair Is Good!

The gray hair still surprises us at times when we look in the mirror. But one of the good things about growing older is that you hopefully, by God's grace, are a bit smarter. The key is being able to remember what you've learned! And the fun

part is finding those who want to learn what you know. Our focus here in Santiago has always been on training leaders, but lately God has given us more opportunities to mentor both Haitians and Dominicans.

Mentoring in Las Palomas

Osiris drives a van for us when teams come to visit. He also started a new church in the community of Las Palomas. Several months ago he invited Bob to help train his church leaders in how to study the Bible.

Because of the relationships he had built, Bob continued ministering alongside these young leaders after the course ended. Now Bob and some of the leaders circulate to talk with those passing by during the church's weekly evangelistic service in a neighborhood park.

Rafael was hanging out at the betting "bank" on the corner when they talked to him. This led to an invitation from Rafael for Bob and Osiris to come to his home. The following week Rafael and his family listened with interest to what Christ has done for them on the cross. Since then, Osiris has started a weekly Bible study with this family.

Mentoring in Pekin

The drive across town and into the crowded *barrio* of Pekin is not easy, but Bob does it for the joy of mentoring a group of young Haitians there who attend the Perfect

Faith Church. They are mostly university students and catch on quickly to the principles of observing and interpreting Scripture in its context. Bob's weekly class also provides an opportunity for him to encourage Pastor Diony, who is also a medical student.

Mentoring in La Joya

Back at our home church near downtown Santiago, we decided to take the couple's ministry to the next level. So, for the last several months we have been training four couples to be marriage mentors.

The goal is that they will intentionally encourage and strengthen the marriages of others in the church. During the second worship hour (which actually lasts two hours), we gathered in a classroom downstairs. As we talked about how to mentor, we had fun sharing and comparing our stories with each other.

Home Ministry

Thinking about sharing stories, we want to let you know that our time for Home Ministry is fast approaching. Every three years we spend six months in the U.S., visiting those of you who partner with us in the ministry in Santiago. We'll be arriving in the states in mid-July to share with you more stories of how God is working here in the Dominican Republic.

Thanks for your prayers for us as we prepare for some busy months of traveling.

Bob & Judy Kay

*Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he,
I am he who will sustain you. —Isaiah 46:4a (NIV)*

Bob and Judy Kay will be visiting Broadfording to share a missionary presentation during the morning worship service on Sunday, October 11, 2015.



Pastor Len's new Sunday School Elective beginning Sunday, September 27, is "**How the Bible and the Brethren Came to Be.**" All interested persons welcome.

On Sunday, October 4, we will join with many believers around the world in commemorating Christ's sacrificial death on the cross with **bread and cup communion** during the morning worship service.

At 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, Broadfording walkers will participate in the **Clear Spring CROP Hunger Walk** to help in ending hunger, locally and around the world, one step at a time! Both walkers and donors are needed.

A harvest celebration for all ages is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in the new church pavilion. Enjoy a time of games, making crafts, pumpkin carving, and snacks.

All men of the church are invited to attend to a free breakfast sponsored by **Hand to Hand (Men's Ministry)** at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24, in the church fellowship hall.

A spaghetti dinner is being planned for Saturday, November 7, to benefit the 2016 Dominican Republic mission trip. (Time to be announced.)

Homecoming Sunday

and Revival / Renewal Services

Invite others!



Sunday, October 25—Wednesday, October 28

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:30 a.m.

Sermon by Pastor Len: "Returning Home" (1 Peter 2:22-25)

EVENING SERVICES - 7:00 p.m.

Guest minister: Pastor Dan Rudy, Ninth Street Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Virginia

Sermon Titles - Overall theme: "Resurrection"

Sunday, October 25	"Revive Us, Again" (Psalm 85)
Monday, October 26	"Dry Bones and Holy Marrow" (Ezekiel 37:1-4)
Tuesday, October 27	"Resurrection Faith" (1 Corinthians 15:12-32)
Wednesday, October 28	"The Marks of a Resurrected Life" (Colossians 3:1-17))

Pastor Daniel Rudy grew up in the Glade Valley Church of the Brethren in Walkersville, Md. He has served Christ and the Church in various capacities ranging from District Youth Cabinet in the Mid-Atlantic District to Brethren Student Movement and Student Ministry Board at Bridgewater College. Dan graduated from Bridgewater College with a BA in Philosophy and Religion in 2008. After college, Dan continued his studies at Bethany Theological Seminary where he graduated in 2011 with a Master of Divinity degree with honors in Biblical Studies and Historical and Theological Studies. Following ministry internships at Broadfording in the summer of 2005, at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren in Pleasant Hill, Oh. from 2009-2010 and at Black Rock Church of the Brethren in Glenville, Pa. during the summer of 2010, Dan was called as the pastor of the Ninth Street Church of the Brethren in November of 2011. In addition to serving as Pastor at Ninth Street, Dan is the Chairperson of the Southeast Roanoke Christian Partnership. On June 22, 2013, Dan married the former Tabitha Hartman, who is now a student in the Master of Divinity program at Bethany Theological Seminary. In his free time, Dan enjoys golfing, watching professional sports and grilling.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL