

## The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

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Official Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/thebroadfordingcobfellowship](http://www.facebook.com/thebroadfordingcobfellowship)

### A Father's Journey

*by Pastor Len Smith*

Many of us are familiar with a chorus that sounds like this: "Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had father Abraham ...." Abraham experienced a lot of journeys in his life. He moved from Ur in what is modern day Iraq, to Haran in what is today modern Syria, to Canaan in what is today modern Israel. During a time of famine, Abraham went to Egypt. He then returned to Canaan. But most importantly, where ever Abraham found himself, he remained a man of faith. The Apostle Paul concluded in Romans 4:11 "So then, he is the father of all who believe."

Hebrews 11:8-10 reminds us "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; ...For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

Instead of many sons, Don Smith had two sons, Len and Mark. Don's journey began in Vinco, PA, a small village near Johnstown on April 5, 1929 in Jackson Township. He was born at home and grew up on a farm his great grandfather had purchased in 1890. Don's ancestors had journeyed from England, Germany, Holland, Ireland, and Wales to America in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. His male ancestors included farmers, ministers, deacons, township supervisors, an American Revolutionary War veteran, and a Civil War consciousness objector.

Growing up Don listened to a battery powered radio because there was no electricity on the farm until he was ten years old. Water was pumped from a spring. There was no indoor plumbing. One went to the outhouse with a Sears catalog instead of toilet tissue. Kerosene lamps were used at night. Christmas gifts were few.

In elementary school he received a certificate from the PA Department of Public Instruction certifying he was neither absent nor tardy for the 1939 school year.

He attended Sunday School and worship with his parents, Warren and Kathryn Smith, who ultimately were married for 72 years. He was baptized on June 16, 1940 by trine immersion by the Rev. Ord Gehman.

During World War II he corresponded with his uncle, Weldon Smith who served in the U.S. Navy. Don was also recognized for wartime service as a member of his school safety patrol in May 1943.

He started to play football in high school. He was a vocational-agricultural student.

Upon the completion of 3 years of high school he was in the U.S. Army between 1946 and 1948. He enlisted before President Truman officially ended the Second World War on December 31, 1946. He entered the service in Harrisburg, PA. He was stationed at Ft. George G. Meade in MD. After he completed his basic training he served 6 months as a switchboard operator and 9 months as a military policeman at Ft. Monmouth, NJ. In NJ he assisted in the enforcement of military law and regulations, the maintenance of order and the control of traffic at the Signal Corps School performing duty with both the town and radio patrol. He was honorably discharged having received a World War II Campaign & Service Victory Medal.

He journeyed to Winchester, VA to marry Marie Daley on May 27, 1950. It was my privilege to officiate when they publicly renewed their vows at their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in 2000 at Ebensburg, PA and at their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship.

Upon leaving the military he worked at Bethlehem Steel, the Windber Farm Bureau, and the Ebensburg Farm Bureau. He drove a gasoline transport truck for 15 years for the PA Farm Bureau from Mercer, PA. When the PA Farm Bureau merged with Agway in 1965 he took a position as the Petroleum Plant Manager in Washington, PA.

**A Father's Journey**, continued on next page

## A Father's Journey, continued

He was an insurance agent for Agway, hauled steel, and had other sales positions before he became a commercial bus driver for several companies. In his later working years he delivered film and picked up and delivered used cars. Don probably drove millions of miles, but his favorite car remained his 1950 Lincoln.

He was a Cub Scout master. He took his sons to Sunday school and worship, Civil War sites, and camping. He provided for his family well. He made sure his sons got to visit with their grandparents. He was a carpenter who constructed fine bookcases that are still used in the home of a son and a grandson. He always modeled a strong work-ethic. He was very sociable. He took his family to visit friends on Saturday evenings, and enjoyed Sunday afternoon rides in the country. He shared his knowledge about driving with his sons. He was a caring and concerned father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

He enjoyed visiting with his four grandchildren and his five great grandchildren in Indiana and North Carolina. He annually attended the Resurrection Day Sunrise Service at The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship. He especially enjoyed the breakfast there put on by the church ladies.

After he retired he enjoyed visiting the Amish areas of Ohio. After all, nine of his family lines at one time were Amish before

they became Brethren by the late 1700's. He was a member of the Houston, PA American Legion. He enjoyed hunting and country music. He enjoyed watching the History Channel on TV and sports. His favorite country music artist was Johnny Cash. How many of you remember his song "I've Been Everywhere?" After all, Don's bus driving occupation took him to most of the states in the eastern half of our nation.

In August 2013 Don and Marie sold their home in Washington, PA after 48 years and journeyed to Gastonia, NC to live near Mark. On January 6, 2014 Don took another journey to the VA Hospital Hospice Facility in Salisbury, NC where he lived until April 26, 2014.

But Salisbury was not to be Don's final journey for we read in Hebrews 11:13-16 concerning Abraham and others "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."

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## *Together on the Journey* with your District Executive Minister ...

**April 2014**

When I was pastoring the Easton church, on a couple of vacation Sundays I visited St. Mark's United Methodist Church across the intersection, where my friend Gary Moore was the pastor. St. Mark's was an historic and healthy, growing congregation.

On the Sundays I was there, and I understand at the end of every Sunday service, Gary would conclude with the benediction and then say, "This week, say a good word for the Lord, and don't forget to say a good word for St. Mark's."

Wow! What if this week, instead of talking bad about the pastor or his or her spouse or the sermon or the service or the music or the board chair or the temperature in the sanctuary or the unruly kids behind us, what if we said a good word for our church? Must be something good, right? Something attracted you. "You can always find a place to

park at my church!" "My church has great potlucks." "A few of the finest people I've ever known I met at church—they were really Christians."

I wonder if there's a correlation in the Church of the Brethren between bad-mouthing and membership decline? I wonder if the Lord gets sick and tired of our bad-mouthing and complaining?

We could give it a try ... This week, say a good word for the Lord, and don't forget to say a good word for your church.

Together on the Journey,

Gene Hagenberger  
Mid-Atlantic District Executive Minister



Church of the Brethren



## Brethren Disaster Ministries

Helping them rebuild

### Hurricane Sandy rebuilding in Haiti *by Roy Winter*

Along its destructive path in October 2012, Hurricane Sandy first slammed Haiti days before making landfall in New Jersey. In the Marin area, near Port-au-Prince, torrential rains from the storm swelled the river and moved the riverbed more than 50 yards. In the aftermath, the Haitian Church of the Brethren requested funds from Brethren Disaster Ministries to help rebuild homes that were destroyed.

Construction of the new homes in the

area of Marin has continued with good progress. With some mentoring from Ilexene and Michaela Alphonse (mission workers in Haiti) the church has completed 9 homes, with 3 more planned to be finished in the near future. In a March trip with the Global Mission Advisory Group, the quality of construction looked good and all financial accounting was in order. It is very encouraging to see the Haitian Church managing this disaster recovery project so well.

### Sandy work progressing in New Jersey *by Kim Gingerich*

It seems incredible that we have already been here in South Toms River, NJ for just over 7 months. So much has been accomplished, yet so much remains to be done. We have celebrated - literally - bringing families in off of the street, back into their homes. People who, for more than a year, dreaded the rain because it meant water in their homes now sleep a bit more soundly knowing the roof over their heads is sound and secure.

All of these have received not only the blessings of an earthly home, but (through encouraging words, the warmth of a blanket and the hands of those who come to witness Christ's love) the blessing of knowing there is an everlasting home which cannot be destroyed by wind, water or fire. Many thanks to all of those who have answered Christ's call to serve in these past months!

Moving forward, there is good news! While keeping work prepared has been a bit challenging here in New Jersey, things are looking up a bit for the rebuild work. We have begun work on a few new projects, to include a SIP Panel new build with Monmouth County LTRG, along with our first project with Northern Ocean Habitat, which we anticipate to be a good relationship.

Even more exciting news is that the excavation equipment has finally arrived at the site of our new build project with OCEAN, Inc., provided there are no other delays and weather cooperates, we should be able to start framing work the last week of March. This means that the new Spotswood site will be getting all the other repair and rebuild work. So, there should be plenty of work for both sites for awhile.

### Serve

*Oh my Father I feel so empty,  
What do I do to serve the plenty?  
You gave me hope, you gave me love  
You sent us your son from up above.*

*He was free of sin and showed us your way,  
I don't want to feel so empty every day.  
I know you love me and I have a plan for me,  
It's faith and grace from you I want to see.*

*I look to and fro, I look near and far  
It's through people's kindness I know you are.  
I do my best to show you I care  
And through helping others I can feel you are there.*

*Now serving is my life, I do it with great pride  
Never will I need to feel empty or from you try to hide.  
So give me a chance to serve others the way you meant it to be,  
And in heaven there my reward from you I shall see.*

*Poem by Sharon Eley, Arbutus Church of the Brethren member,*

## Church World Service School Kits needed now!

Church World Service (CWS) is down to its last few cartons of CWS School Kits, and all those have been spoken for. The warehouse (operated by the Church of the Brethren in New Windsor, Md.) needs replenishing so that pending and future requests can be met.

CWS School Kits give basic tools for learning to children in impoverished schools, refugee camps and other difficult settings, including children whose families have lost everything to natural disasters.

Last year, 57,730 CWS School Kits were provided for children in the United States and overseas. U.S. recipients included young survivors of flash floods in Kentucky, wildfires in Colorado, and Hurricane Sandy in New York. International recipients included Syrian school children displaced by war, and children in need in Cameroon and Romania.

For the specifics of assembling the kits go to:  
[www.cwsglobal.org/schoolkits](http://www.cwsglobal.org/schoolkits)

All articles on this page reprinted from Vol. 15 Spring 2014 **BRIDGES**, a publication of Brethren Disaster Ministries.

## Pause your fast-forward life for a moment (or more) to relieve stress



How's your relationship with stress these days? If you two have met once or twice but aren't close, then congratulations. But if stress is constantly looking over your shoulder and interrupting your day, you might want to consider making some relationship changes.

Stress is a hormonal reaction that scientists believe is our body's way of helping the mind deal with a problem — but the elevation of blood pressure and heart rate, and the mind-racing energy that comes from it, often feels like more of a hindrance than a help.

While stress management is a long-term project that's best left to you and your physician or mental health professional, there are some simple, short things you can do when you feel stress levels on the rise.

**Pray.** In her book *The SuperStress Solution*, Dr. Roberta Lee cites several studies that indicate a spiritual connection can provide needed relief from stress. She writes, "On an intellectual level, spirituality connects you to the world, which in turn enables you to stop trying to control things all by yourself. When you feel part of a greater whole, it's easy to understand that you aren't responsible for everything that happens in life." Using your faith, consider taking a moment to close your eyes, fold your hands, and recite a simple prayer asking for peace, guidance, comfort, or simply the presence of God.

**Stretch.** Stress is a mental phenomenon, but it manifests itself in the body for many people: tight shoulders and neck, increased blood pressure, elevated heartbeat, quickened breathing. Taking even a minute to step away from a stressful situation and move your body in an intentional way can start to shut down those defensive behaviors our bodies go through when we're feeling stressed. In a quiet, secluded place, roll your shoulders, bend at your waist, practice some yoga poses if you are familiar with them, do some lunges or squats, and breathe deeply throughout your stretching. When you're done, your body might feel lighter and looser — and your mind might, too.

**Write.** Even if you're not a creative person, it might help to write down your stressors as a way of removing them from your inner mind and moving them out into the

open. In a Harvard Medical School study from 2011, a group of healthy college students wrote about either personally traumatic life events or trivial topics for 15 minutes on four consecutive days. For six months following the experiment, students who wrote about traumatic events visited the campus health center less often, and used a pain reliever less frequently, than those who wrote about inconsequential matters. Even if you don't have 15 minutes, consider writing down a few sentences about your problem(s) and feeling(s). Then, tear up this paper, or hold on to it and look at it in a few days or weeks.

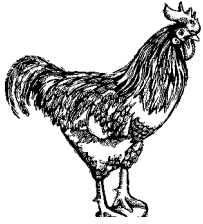
**Laugh.** In stressful times, it might be hard to find a reason to laugh, but laughter might be the key to relieving your body's reactions to stress. The Mayo Clinic reports that laughter enhances the intake of oxygen-filled air, stimulates circulation, aids muscle relaxation, and increases endorphin release in the brain. But that's not all laughter can do — in the long term, Mayo Clinic cites studies that show laughter improves the immune system, relieves pain, and reduces depressive symptoms. Next time you're stressed, ask a friend or co-worker to tell you a humorous joke. Alone? Think back to childhood. For many of us, there's bound to be a funny memory from youth that'll get the giggles rolling.

— Brian Solem

—Reprinted from the First Quarter 2014 *Benefit News*.

**Benefit News** is published by Brethren Benefit Trust, an agency of the Church of the Brethren that provides health and welfare benefits, pension and employee financial services, asset management, deferred gifts, and financial advocacy for the entire denomination and its affiliated organizations.

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. —Mark 12:30*



## Meat Canning Project Update

*The Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania Districts would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to each congregation and volunteer who participated in the 2014 Meat Canning Project.*

*From January 1 through April 30, the Mid-Atlantic churches have donated \$14,103.15 to this ministry.*

*The distribution of the 20 skids (approximately 44,800 pounds) of chicken that was canned will be divided in the following manner:*

- ◆ 325 cases - denominational offices in New Windsor for shipment to Honduras.
- ◆ 650 cases - divided between Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania Districts (325 cases each) for local distribution via congregations to a variety of facilities.

**Broadfording's participation:** On Tuesday, April 22, 2014, Gene Detrow, Milt Greenlee, Pat Greenlee, Ron Kendle, and Arlene Summers traveled to Ephrata, Pa., to help in the canning process. In addition to the services provided by these volunteers, financial contributions from the congregation totaled \$600.00. This exceeded the budgeted goal of \$500.00.

*In four days of canning, 198 volunteers from both districts combined, traveled to Ephrata, Pa., to help in this process.*

*Since this year was a pivotal point in the status of this ministry, the following overview is included to share some good news. These figures are a compilation of the funds from both districts. Last year we forecasted 2014 costs to be about \$68,800. The final total was \$75,196.80. However, the combined income of congregation and individual donations amounted to \$85,953, so we are able to carry a positive balance forward for 2015.*

*Thank you for fulfilling the pledges made for 2014 so this ministry can continue.*

*God's grace be with you.*

*Gene Hagenberger, District Executive Minister*

## Turning hunger around

*Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?*

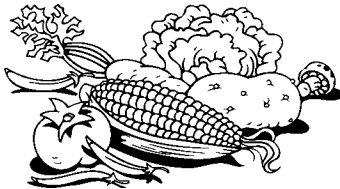
—Matthew 25:37

*Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

*On behalf of the Global Food Crisis Fund and the many families you have touched with your gifts over the years, I wish to thank you. People in Honduras, Haiti, Nigeria, and other places including here in the U.S., have shared the love of Jesus with their neighbors. Sometimes this looks like a chicken, some bean seeds, or a box of veggies from a community garden.*

*I realize that many of you have given sacrificially, and your congregation has many options when it comes to giving. Thank you once more, and may the Lord bless your church for remembering those in need (Psalm 41).*

*In Christ's Love,  
Jeff Boshart, GFCF Manager*



A portion of Broadfording's outreach giving each week helps to support the Church of the Brethren Global Food Crisis Fund.

## Rehabilitation at Fahrney-Keedy allows a return to independence

Regine Holsinger, a member of the Broadfording congregation, was featured in a story released by Fahrney-Keedy Home and Village on April 21, 2014. Following are excerpts from the release.

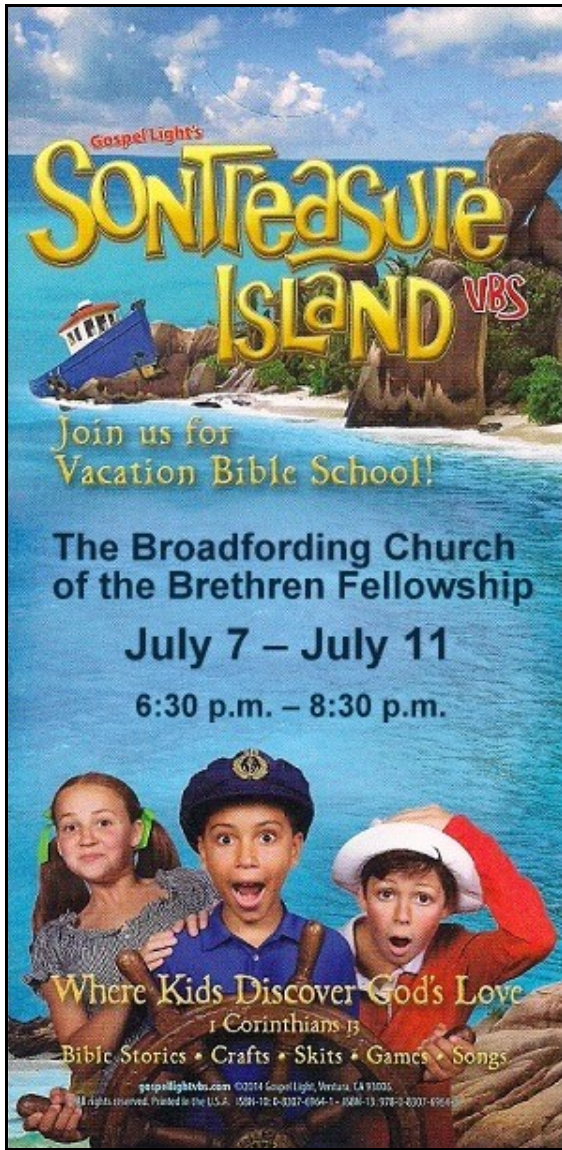
*In early February, after less than a month of rehabilitative therapy, Regine Holsinger said goodbye to the staff and left Fahrney-Keedy Home and Village to return home to an independent life.*

*Holsinger was admitted to the continuing care retirement community in Boonsboro in January for a complex medical need. The intent of her stay was to undergo short-term rehabilitative – including physical and occupational – therapy. She was concerned she would not be able to return home.*

*Along with her family and God, she credits Fahrney-Keedy staff and its care and rehabilitation for allowing her to resume an independent lifestyle. "She gained back her independence, which she had lost with this complex medical need," said Linda Reed, director of admissions at Fahrney-Keedy.*

*Holsinger is not alone in finding such success. Reed said almost all short-term residents – 98 percent – meet their goals and are able to go home, thanks to the exceptional care and staff at the facility.*

Fahrney-Keedy, affiliated with the Church of the Brethren, has provided care for the elderly for more than 105 years.



## Church women's group honors Heather Reese

Heather Reese was recognized on May 9, 2014 by Church Women United of Washington County as one of two Outstanding Young Church Women. Kristen Sheffler of Williamsport United Methodist Church was the other honoree.

Heather is a math teacher at Heritage Academy where she is also the junior class adviser and adviser for the National Honor Society.

As a member of The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship, she serves as church treasurer, sings solos on a monthly basis at morning worship services, and is a member of the praise and worship team as well as the handbell and chimes choir.

Heather's husband, Mike, is a member of the church board and serves as sound technician. Their sons, Tyler, Evan, and Colby, are puppeteers for the church's puppet ministry.

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### Celebrate God's Goodness!

Our congregation's 35th anniversary will be celebrated on Sunday, July 27, 2014.

Please mark this date on your calendar and join us in thanking God for 35 years of blessings!

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### Celebrate Summer!

Mark your calendar for the Second Annual **Shepherd's Spring Celebrate Summer Festival.**

**August 16 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Enjoy swimming, tours and games. Be entertained by a comedy team, a band, and a performing arts troupe.

Great food—BBQ, corn on the cob, tomatoes from Shepherd's Spring gardens, ice cream, and bake sale.

Free.

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