



**Broadfording
Church of the Brethren
Fellowship**

14010 Greencastle Pike, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Len Smith, Pastor
301-791-5432 (Church Office) 717-328-4496 (Residence)
Pastor's home e-mail address: lensmith@TKIemail.com
Church's e-mail: broadfordingcob@verizon.net
Web site: www.broadfordingcobfellowship.com

GROWING THROUGH PRAYER EVANGELISM

by Pastor Len Smith

Our congregational theme for 2010 is growing through prayer. At our December 2009 Board Retreat I shared many of Ed Silviso's words and ideas from his book, Prayer Evangelism.

Prayer evangelism is talking to God about our neighbors before we talk to our neighbors about God. The Scriptural essence of prayer evangelism is found in Luke 10: 5, 8, 9, *When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." When you ... are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, "The kingdom of God is near you."*

- 1. Speak peace to them or bless them.**
- 2. Fellowship with them.**
- 3. Show a concern about their needs.**
- 4. Proclaim the good news or witnessing.**

Instead of following this four step approach taught by Jesus, we reverse the order beginning with the last step, witnessing, and skipping the blessing, the fellowship, and the caring that are to precede sharing the Gospel.

1. Speak peace to them

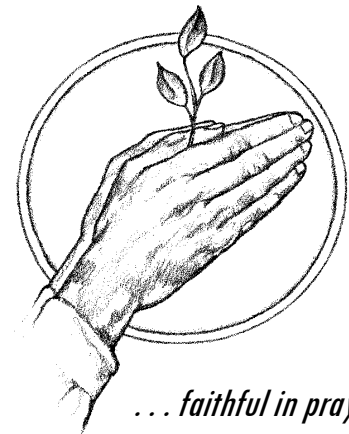
We need to declare peace to those who need Christ in their lives. Too often we preach the truth without love. That is like giving someone a good kiss when you have bad breath. No matter how good your kiss is, all the recipient may remember is your bad breath!

If we bless those who need Christ we will stop cursing them. Think about all of the times we have silently cursed people who need the Lord in their lives. Blessings are more powerful than curses because curses can be broken by the power of God. If a child of God can feel a curse that is energized by Satan, how much more will an unbeliever feel a blessing that is empowered by the Lord God Almighty?

According to II Corinthians 4:4 we need to speak peace to neutralize the demons blinding our neighbors to the light of the gospel.

2. Fellowship with them

When we speak blessings over those within our circle of influence, sooner or later many people who used to avoid us will begin to seek us out, opening the door to fellowship when they begin to actually sense the blessings spoken over them.



... faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

GROWING THROUGH PRAYER EVANGELISM, continued

Fellowship provides an opportunity to show unconditional acceptance by welcoming individuals just the way they are instead of the way we think they should be. Jesus' evangelism model calls for a two-way fellowship, with an emphasis on receiving rather than unilaterally giving. Jesus treated sinners with respect. When we allow unbelievers to do something with us, we affirm their value and dignity. Sharing a meal, yard work, or organizing a multifamily garage sale together can allow us to speak blessings upon others at close range.

3. Show a concern about their needs

Friends may be willing to share with you their concerns about their marriage, their job, or their children. You can promise to pray for felt needs. You can not promise how God may answer these prayers. Your friends may especially appreciate your offer of prayer in a moment of crisis.

4. Share the good news

After you have provided your friends or neighbors with peace, provided them with a protective healing fellowship, and you have offered prayers for needs they feel very deeply, it is natural for them to want to know more about your God that loves them so much.

Remember:

1. Praying for blessings can open the door to unbiased fellowship.
2. Fellowship establishes a level of trust, allowing our neighbors to share with us their felt needs.
3. Specific prayer that addresses their felt needs shows that you really care.
4. When we engage in intercessory prayer for others, the kingdom of God comes near them in a very tangible way.

Historically prayer has been used as a primer for evangelism. Sometime, do a detailed study of John 14, especially Jesus' encounter with Thomas and Philip to see how prayer can be used to open the eyes of unbelievers to the divinity of Christ. Most of us probably came to the Lord as a result of someone's prayers.

The gospel is not just a message to be preached in isolation. Jesus Christ is a proactive Savior who came into the world to save sinners because they sense a need for Him. This is the heart of prayer evangelism and, when properly practiced, it is capable of transforming the evangelistic outreach of any congregation and changing the spiritual environment of a community.

Before you invite someone to attend our special April 25th Friendship Sunday Services be sure to pray!



"... if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Our church facility will be open on Thursday, May 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in observance of National Day of Prayer.

We encourage as many of you as possible to join other believers across the nation in faithfully interceding on behalf of America's churches, schools, families, businesses, military, government, and media.

New Windsor



Dear Parent(s) and Participants:

This work camp will be at the Brethren Service Center at New Windsor, MD. Pastor Len and Ashley Burger, adult female chaperone, will be camping with them at Codorus State Park near Hanover, PA. Boating and/or swimming for evening recreation are available at the Codorus State Park site. Students do not need to bring any money unless they want to make personal purchases at the SERRV Store.

We will leave the church at 3:00 p.m. July 25th to set up camp. We will stay at our campsite for the nights of July 25, 26, and 27. **We will return to the church about 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28th.**

The students will work 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day in the Brethren Service Center at New Windsor, MD. Their work with at least one adult advisor will involve processing donated hygiene kits, school kits, blankets, comforters, and packaging/pricing SERRV products. The Brethren Service Center will provide a buffet style lunch each day.

The Brethren Service Center, where many Church of the Brethren and interdenominational agencies are based has a global reach. The work done there will go beyond our national borders such as Haiti. The Brethren Service Center has mailed us permission forms to be signed by a parent or guardian.

Pastor Len recommends that students do not have cell phones or any other electronic devices turned on when they are in work areas or having devotions from July 25th through July 28th.

Pastor Len needs the signed permission forms no later than Sunday, June 27th. **Space is limited to 6 students.** Students need to bring sleeping bags and other necessary items for camping including snacks to share. We will be eating a complimentary hot buffet lunch on Monday through Wednesday at the Brethren Service Center. Breakfast and dinner will be at the campground.

Please contact Pastor Len @ (301) 791-5432 with your comments or questions.

Movie night planned

On Saturday, May 15, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., we will be showing the movie, **“The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry.”** This movie has been credited with many people having a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

The movie is set in the 1970’s and stars Gavin McLeod (Capt. Stubing of “Love Boat”) as Jonathan Sperry. It shows how one person’s life can be an influence on other people. Three young boys set out in the summer to have fun. Dustin, one of the young boys, meets Mr. Sperry when he mows his lawn and what happens from then on is life-changing.

Please set this date aside and bring your family and friends to see the movie. The movie is free. A love offering will be given to the producer for allowing us to show the movie.

Remembering lost missionaries

On September 2, 1935, Minneva Neher, Mary Hykes Harsh and Alva Harsh set off for China as Church of the Brethren missionaries. They mysteriously disappeared two years later. Mary Hykes Harsh was a member of the Broadfording Church of the Brethren congregation.

Ruoxia Li, author of an article appearing in the January/February 2010 issue of *Messenger*, was born and grew up in Shouyang, Shanxi Province, China. During the summers of 2008 and 2009, she went back to her hometown to talk with people in the church that had been one of the Church of the Brethren missions in the early 20th century. In her article she tells of a woman, now 86, who, when shown photographs of missionaries, recognized Neher and the Harshes and shared some of her memories of them.

Friendships, like apples, keep the doctor away



MySpace. Facebook. Twitter. As social networking tools are becoming mainstream means of maintaining contact, Americans are spending vast amounts of time using them to find old friends, post photos from group activities, and "tweet" about matters large and small. These Internet-based services have taken over our computers, smartphones, and workstations, sometimes with unfortunate effects on work productivity, face-to-face social time, and personal privacy.

In short, our lives have been overtaken by computer services that insist we stay as intimately attached to our friends as possible.

Maybe this is just what the doctor ordered.

Researchers from around the globe have studied the effects of friendship on health and arrived at some surprising results. A 1993 study of 736 middle-aged men in Sweden determined that men with many friendships were at a lower risk of coronary heart disease and heart attacks than men with only one strong relationship. An Australian study from 2005 found that close contact with friends impacted longevity in older adults — even more than contact with family. In 2008, researchers in California discovered that older women with strong social networks have a one in ten chance of developing dementia, compared with a one in five chance among women without strong groups of friends.

The physical benefits don't stop there. Recovering from illnesses, overcoming addictions to alcohol and smoking, and even staving off the common cold are all easier to accomplish when surrounded by friends, research indicates. Proximity to friends is irrelevant, according to most studies. Even if your closest friends live far away, simply having friends makes a difference.

Check in. The health benefits of friendships

are only there if contact is maintained — a Christmas card once a year doesn't count! Researchers identify stress relief as the main reason friendships are so beneficial to the body, so make sure you are available as an outlet for your friends' worries. If you suddenly remember a great anecdote about a friend, call that person and share it. The chuckle from hearing it might ease your friend's troubles.

Open up. Having an army of acquaintances is great, but studies show that the true benefits come from maintaining strong, intimate friendships. Talking about concerns and conflicts with friends offers immediate relief, even if the problem isn't solved at that moment. Friendships have also been shown to increase confidence; sharing fears and insecurities with friends allows them to remind you of your strengths.

Keep growing. You may have met your best friend in high school, but that doesn't mean that your personal growth stopped there. Old friends are invaluable — they typically provide the most open ears and sincerest compassion. Growth, however, sometimes occurs outside of the realm of those dear friends, and as hobbies, interests, viewpoints, and life stages evolve, our social networks must respond to these changes. Connect with people who relate to you today, while staying close with friends from the past who can remind you of your origins.

Be careful, though — the power of friendship can swing both ways. A 2007 study in "The New England Journal of Medicine" found that participants whose friends gained weight were 57 percent more likely to also gain weight.

Perhaps all that sedentary tweeting isn't so beneficial after all.—Brian Solem

Reprinted from the Third Quarter 2009 *Benefit News*



Theme: **EGYPT: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace**

June 14—June 18

6:30 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

Presented by the combined congregations of
Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship and Salem Reformed Church

Location in 2010: Salem Reformed Church, 13182 Salem Church Road

Journey to the land of the Great Pyramids, the Sphinx, pharaohs, and more. The curriculum immerses children and teachers alike into biblical culture and times as they experience the traditions, foods, games, and crafts as they learn from Joseph himself that God never leaves us through life's trials and triumphs. (by Group Publishing)

Meet our Sunday School Teachers

This is a continuing series of articles profiling the teachers of our Sunday School.

We thank them for their dedication to this calling.



Pastor Len Smith is teacher of the Adult Elective Class.

Len was born in 1951 in Mercer County, PA to Marie and Donald Smith, presently of Washington, PA. He has one brother, Mark, who resides in North Carolina with his family.

Pastor Smith's Brethren roots date back to 1774 when his sixth great-grandfather, Michael Beeghly, was elected to the ministry in the Brother's Valley Congregation of the Church of the Brethren in Somerset County, PA.

He and his wife, the former Teresa Heckman, were married in her home church of Brandt's Church of the Brethren at St. Thomas, PA in May 1974. Teresa is employed as an executive assistant at the First National Bank of Mercersburg, PA. Len and Teresa have two married sons and three grandchildren. Boyd and Krista live in Goshen, IN. Joel and Missy reside in Alexandria, VA.

Pastor Len received his bachelor's degree from Messiah College, Grantham, PA and his master's degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. He also attended Bible institutes in Argentina and Chambersburg, PA, Shippensburg State University, and the University of Cincinnati. His ordination course work was completed through the Bethany Academy in 1998.

His prior Christian ministry experiences have included pulpit supply, Sunday School teaching, mission work in Argentina and Mexico, student (youth) pastor at the Carlisle Brethren in Christ Church, Christian bookstore management, and congregational delegate to various church conferences. Len served as Minister of Christian Education at the Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship (2002-2005) and Pastor since June of 2005, Senior Pastor of the Rockhill, PA Church of the Brethren (2000-2002), and Pastor of the Rouzerville, PA Church of the Brethren (1996-2000). In addition, Len has 21.5 years of experience teaching students at public schools and private Christian schools at the 5th through the 12th grade levels in a wide variety of subject areas. He was honored to be selected to be in 9th and 10th Editions of Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2005 and 2006. Less than 2% of America's teachers are included in more than one edition.

Pastor Len's hobbies include playing the accordion, researching family genealogy, reading, amateur radio, camping, hiking, and kayaking.

Haiti Relief Continues

Church of the Brethren relief work in the Caribbean nation of Haiti, which was devastated by a mid-January earthquake, has remained strong in the months following the disaster.

The Emergency Disaster Fund has made \$300,000 in grants for the relief effort, supported by more than \$290,000 in donations through mid-February (see www.brethren.org/HaitiDonations).

The Material Resources program in New Windsor, Md., has also been busy, sending a total of nine shipments of relief goods to Haiti since the earthquake, representing 157,962 pounds of various relief supplies.

—Church of the Brethren *TAPESTRY*,
Apr. 2010, Vol. 8, Issue 3

Reach Out To Haiti Update

During the month of February, Lisa Weller and her friend, Emily Becker, were working on their service project to earn their Bronze Awards for Girl Scouts. Their project was to collect medical supplies and canned foods for Reach Out to Haiti, a nonprofit organization that runs a shelter, hospital clinic, and orphanage in Haiti. The girls collected: 61 jars of peanut butter, 68 cans of meat, 97 boxes of medical supplies, 2 containers of baby formula, and 3 boxes of powdered milk. Over 200 pounds of supplies are being shipped to New York, where they will be forwarded to Haiti.

Thanks to everyone who gave a donation and for your support.

—Lisa Weller



Amazed!

A devotion by
Amy S. Gall Ritchie
based on Luke 24:1-12

At the edge of a hushed, wooded pond in southwest Michigan, there is a grouse this day, greeting the rising sun with the thump of its chest. It is calling to its partner. It is calling to any who are awake and listening. Are you awake this day of gaining brilliance? Are you awake at this moment of hope that rises, as the sun rises each morning?

*“Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here, but has risen.”*

Jesus Christ lives. He calls to us, his followers, to also live, to embody his teachings. Christ came bearing God’s message of salvation, abundant life, holy love, and reconciled relationships between humanity and creation. Christ came to save us. Let us live in this reality. Let us live out this gospel of salvation and justice. Let us accept the unbelievable love that quenches our thirst.

Are you awake? Drink deeply from the well of God. The rivers of living water flow freely and abundantly. We can now drink and be revived. Offer this water to all! Play in the cooling springs. Run, believe, be amazed, Christ is alive!

—Reprinted from *SEEDPacket*,
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Church of the Brethren.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

April 25, 2010

Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

14010 Greencastle Pike
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-791-5432



**BRING
YOUR FRIENDS
TO CHURCH**

**Sunday School
9:30 a.m.**

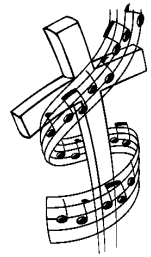
**Morning Worship
10:30 a.m.**

Sermon by Pastor Len:
“The Value of Friendship”
(Proverbs 27:5-19)

*Fellowship meal immediately following
the worship service*

**Festival of Music
and
Hymn Sing
7:00 p.m.**

**to benefit
Shepherd’s Spring
Summer Camp Scholarships
16869 Taylors Landing Road**



- ♪ Music by area Church of the Brethren congregations
- ♪ Entire offering for summer camp scholarships
- ♪ Refreshments and time of fellowship

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FIRST CLASS MAIL