



Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

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We Have This Ministry

by Len Smith, Ordained Minister, Church of the Brethren

Although there are 775,693 words in the English Bible, you can only find 99 variations of the word, "ministry" including both the Old and the New Testament. Yet the Apostle Paul was inspired to write the following words found in II Corinthians 4:1-2. *Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.* Notice that the ministry is plural in this text. In the Church of the Brethren we do **not** believe that the ordained or licensed minister is the only individual who ministers, serves, or attends to the spiritual and/or physical needs of those individuals who make up a congregation. Rather it is stated like this in the book For All Who Minister published by the Brethren Press on page 131. "All people, as they join the church through baptism, are called to minister through their life and work to their neighbors in the world."

On the other hand, what is the contemporary status of the set-apart (licensed or ordained) ministry of the Church of the Brethren? Most of the following information was gleaned from the most recent Pastoral Study Project written by Steve Clapp in the Winter Spring 2009 issue of "Brethren Life & Thought." The average pastor has been in the ministry for 20 years. 71% of the pastors have completed college. 54% of the pastors are between 40 and 59 years of age. 62% of the pastors serve in congregations where the average worship attendance is less than 100. Only 30% of the pastors are employed full-time and are paid on scale. In regard to the denominational policy on pastoral Sabbath rest, only 23% of the respondents

indicate that they have taken a Sabbath rest. The average amount of time taken for Sabbath rest was ten weeks.

59% of the responding pastors felt that their church views them primarily as both a caretaker and a leader. However, 68% of the pastors viewed themselves primarily as both caretakers and leaders. Only 48% of their pastors described their churches as having a sound financial base.

Pastors were also asked to self-evaluate their skills for ministry. The pastors felt that they were most effective in the following areas: preaching, worship leadership, pastoral care, knowledge of the Bible and theology, congregational hospitality, and working with spiritual concerns. Most pastors desired further training in preaching, worship leadership, handling conflict, evangelism, and church growth, and being a change agent. In spite of the number of pressures pastors face in our time, their morale was higher than Mr. Clapp expected and represented an improvement over earlier studies that had been done in the Church of the Brethren.

Evidently many ministers still find relevant and encouraging these inspired words, also penned by the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 4:5-6. *For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.* May we daily continue to remember to prayerfully support each other in our respective ministries for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastoral contract modification receives a strong vote of approval

At a well-attended congregational business meeting on Sunday evening, July 11, 2010, the following pastoral contract modification proposed by Pastor Len received a strong vote of approval:

Effective 09-01-10 Pastor Len has requested that his paid pastoral contract be modified from 50 hours per week to 20 hours per week. Under his 2010 contract this would amount to a \$26,718.57 savings to the church over the next 9 months. Pastor Len is requesting that this savings be transferred to the building fund and that the \$2,968.73 monthly that he would not be paid would be placed on the principal of our mortgage debt each month. As of 6-10-10 our mortgage balance was \$223,095.07. Pastor Len has been concerned about the rate in which the balance of our mortgage has been paid down aside from bequests and fundraisers. The pay decrease would affect his salary, housing allowance, and pension. All other provisions of the 2010 contract would remain unchanged.

His normal, regular hours devoted to church work aside from his prayers and devotions for our people would be on Sundays, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and four hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. He requests that the executive committee meetings be moved to an appropriate Thursday evening. Saturday would be his day off with his wife. Our ESL program would be discontinued and a volunteer would be requested for our Thursday morning walk & talk Bible study and Thursday evening basketball. The Pastor would continue to teach Sunday school, on Wednesday evenings, and sing with the choir. Second Mile Servants would be requested to make morning and early afternoon hospital visits or phone calls. The current Second Mile Servant/Pastoral visitation schedule for our shut-ins will be maintained. When not engaging in ministry Len will be employed full-time as a Bible, Math, and Spanish teacher at the Cumberland Valley Christian School in Chambersburg. The school will give him excused time off for day-time pastoral emergencies such as funerals.

As many of you can appreciate, full-time pastoral ministry involves its own particular form of stress. This contract modification allows Pastor Len to renew and refocus his mind as he teaches 36.25 hours a week for 37 weeks per calendar year.

“A Recipe for Healthy Stewardship”

The ingredients for whole-life Christian stewardship below are taken from “**Christian Stewardship: Responsible Freedom**,” a 1985 Annual Conference statement. Score yourself in each area, then total your points and check the “key” on the next page to see how you’re doing as a healthy Christian steward.

SCORING: I’ve never considered this ingredient = 0
 I believe this is an ingredient = 1
 I include this ingredient as action in my life = 2

<i>Ingredient</i>	<i>Points</i>
1. My time.	_____
2. My skills and creative abilities.	_____
3. My energy.	_____
4. My physical body.	_____
5. My decision-making about the use of everything.	_____
6. Earth and its resources: Air, water, soil, plants, animals - all aspects of creation.	_____
7. My relationships (to God, others, self, the physical universe).	_____
8. The gospel (Good News).	_____
9. My material possessions and money.	_____
10. “Attitude spices:” Gratitude and joy, service, love sharing, caring, discipline and maturity of faith, responsibility, freedom, accountability	_____
Total Score	_____



Ten yard sales later

Having just held our tenth yard sale, all of us will agree that yard sales require a lot of work! Is it worth the effort? Let the following statistics answer that question.

<u>Yard sale proceeds:</u>	
October 20, 2001	\$ 2,550.00
September 13 & 14, 2002	2,874.75
September 5 & 6, 2003	2,938.78
July 23 & 24, 2004	1,984.40
July 29 & 30, 2005	2,099.82
May 20, 2006	1,440.44
July 20 & 21, 2007	2,444.70
May 16 & 17, 2008	1,115.50
July 10 & 11, 2009	1,882.46
July 16 & 17, 2010	<u>2,289.75</u>
Ten-year total	\$21,620.60

Many, many thanks to Sam Hawbaker, Millie Lowman, Heart to Heart, and all others who assisted in any way, for a job well done again in 2010!

Church board action

The following motion was adopted by the church board at its June 10, 2010 meeting and is to be published in church bulletins and in the newsletter:

By contributing to projects, donors acknowledge that the congregation has full authority to apply contributions designated for projects to other purposes in the event a project is canceled.

Stitches, stitches, and more stitches

On January 18, before record snowfalls, before knee surgeries, and before some other unexpected experiences took place, the “Texas Star” quilt for the 2010 benefit auction was placed in a frame for quilting. Six months and many stitches later, in spite of obstacles along the way, a beautiful hand-stitched quilt was removed from the frame on July 26.

We thank everyone who had a part in painstakingly completing this project: Dorothy Binkley, Bernie Burkett, Judy Carbaugh, Pat Greenlee, Jo Ann Hendershot, and Becky Slate. Special thanks go to the anonymous donor who gave the quilt top and to Dorothy for overseeing the whole undertaking.

In other quilting news, Church of the Brethren congregations are invited to submit a patch for quilts that are stitched and auctioned at Annual Conference. Our thanks go to Dorothy Binkley for creating a “Broadfording patch” and to Pastor Len for taking pictures of the quilt that contained her patch. See Dorothy for this and other 2010 Annual Conference pictures.

Helping to spread God’s Word

Roy Grove, a mission-minded retired businessman, is collecting good used Bibles for Hands for Christ International, an interdenominational, evangelical, Christian mission outreach based in Roanoke, VA. Anyone who has extra Bibles that are not being used is invited to bring them to the church or place them in the drop-off receptacle at Mr. Grove’s home in the Huyett area at 16321 National Pike. For additional information see our community bulletin board or call Mr. Grove at 301-790-3340.

How did you do on the stewardship ingredient quiz?

Consider the suggestions below:

- 0 – 5 **PRAY!** Covenant with a trusted mentor in your faith community to pray, share ideas and find support for growth in understanding stewardship.
- 6 – 10 **SEEK!** Join a group Bible study on all aspects of stewardship. Commit to one new stewardship practice this year.
- 11 – 15 **GIVE THANKS** and read “Christian Stewardship: Responsible Freedom.” Discuss your stewardship experiences with others.
- 16 – 20 **PASS IT ON!** Find ways to share your stewardship journey and commitment with others—especially children and youth!

*One choice we do **not** have is whether or not to be stewards . . .
What we **can** choose is what kind of steward we will be.*

Reaching out in 2010...

Meat Canning Project

Broadfording congregation's support of the 2010 Meat Canning Project consisted of contributions totaling \$400.00 and five volunteers who traveled to Ephrata, Pa., on Thursday, April 15, to help with the canning process: Dale Binkley, Milt Greenlee, Pat Greenlee, Bob Holsinger, and Ron Kendle.

Gene M. Hagenberger, Mid-Atlantic District Executive Minister, reports on this year's project:

We are pleased to report that the Meat Canning Project for 2010 has been completed, having produced 47,779 cans from 88,240 lbs. of chicken. Thank you to the Mid-Atlantic District congregations who supported this year's ministry...especially the extra week that was added so that meat shipments could be sent to Haiti. During these two weeks, approximately 299 volunteers from 45 congregations went to Ephrata, PA, to carry out this project from both the Mid-Atlantic and Southern PA Districts. Financial donations (January through May) from 27 Mid-Atlantic District congregations and 5 individuals totaled \$30,943.18. In addition, the Southern PA / Atlantic Northeast Disaster Relief Auction contributed \$10,000 toward the Haiti project, along with generous contributions from the Southern PA District churches, there were sufficient resources to fund this year's two-week project.

The major portion of the canned chicken (32,400 cans) was shipped by our denomination for distribution in Haiti via Church of the Brethren church leaders in the Dominican Republic. The remaining portion was divided between the Mid-Atlantic and Southern PA Districts. Meat distributions in the Mid-Atlantic District were completed on Saturday, June 19th.

This year's meat canning project was a success, mainly because congregations went the extra mile in providing the needed funds and volunteers for two weeks of canning. Please let your congregation know that they are making a difference to those persons in Haiti and in our own communities who are out of work and in desperate need of food. Jesus' words, "For I was hungry and you fed me..." reminds us that God is giving us the opportunity to bless Him by giving to those in need. This project, over the past thirty-three years, has given us a vehicle to respond. "Thank you" to all who made this year's canning project possible.

Church World Service Kits

In response to Church World Service's need for contributions to its Kit Program following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, our congregation provided 146 hygiene kits, 4 baby care kits, and a box of miscellaneous items (dental supplies, soap, lotion, etc.). Pastor Len delivered the kits and other donated items to the Brethren Service Center warehouse in New Windsor, MD on February 23.

Expressing thanks, Rev. John L. McCullough, Executive Director and CEO of Church World Service, writes:

Thank you for your congregation's compassionate response to the people of Haiti. Six months after a deadly earthquake claimed tens of thousands of lives in Haiti, Church World Service remains at work assisting Haitians in their long, slow process of recovery. You and your congregation are a part of that ongoing story, thanks to the CWS Kits you helped to provide when we needed them most! To date, CWS has distributed CWS Hygiene, School and Baby Kits, blankets and other emergency supplies to more than 41,750 earthquake survivors. Thank you so much for your generous support!

Church of the Brethren Haiti Relief Fund

Monetary donations from our congregation in January and February for the Church of the Brethren Haiti Relief Fund totaled \$1,941.10. Thank you for contributing so generously.

Shortening the distance between farm and table

The rainbow-colored produce department of your local grocery store may be a welcome sight in winter, but the best destination for fruits and vegetables in the summer months is the flatbed truck of your local farmer. From small towns to major cities across the country, farming operations bring their fresh, healthy harvests directly to you or your local farmers market.

Weekly deliveries bring fresh food to your table

As Americans have drifted toward larger, urban areas over the last century, the trip food takes from farm to table has been redirected through supermarkets and food processing plants. These days, however, many Americans are rebuilding direct relationships with local farmers through Community Supported Agriculture arrangements.

Typically, a consumer will buy an annual "share" of a local farm, and the farmer will make a weekly delivery of produce, eggs, herbs, milk, meat — whatever is fresh and in season that week. These arrangements typically start in May or June and continue well into the fall. Prices vary from farm to farm, but typically cost less than a week's worth of produce at a supermarket.

In North Manchester, Ind., Jeff and Kathy Hawkins run Hawkins Family Farm, which serves over 100 regular customers through its CSA and a retail outlet in town.

Jeff also oversees HOPE CSA, a yearlong workshop for church leaders that combines agriculture with religious study. Manchester Church of the Brethren Pastor Kurt Borgmann, along with 17 other local church leaders, participate.

"HOPE CSA strives to move pastors back out into the pastures, to give tenders of congregational flocks the experience of tending nature's flocks in order to better understand their task," states Jeff.

CSAs can be found across the country; to find one in your area, visit LocalHarvest's Web site, www.localharvest.org/csa.

To market, to market

From May to October, parking lots and city blocks become open-air markets for farmers in your area. Many rise well before dawn to truck their goods to your town. Over the last decade, local farmers markets have grown in size, number, and popularity. According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the number of U.S. farmers markets has grown from 2,863 in 2000 to 5,274 in 2009.



Buying enough goods for a week of nutritious meals can sometimes cost significantly less in summer months than in winter. Plus, getting to know the butcher of the chicken you cook for dinner or the orchard owner your apples come from completes a missing link in the modern food chain.

"A grocery store might have the same products, but without the personal touch," says Michael Ervin, market manager at Central Market in Lancaster, Pa. "In a market, you can develop real relationships with vendors." Central Market has been operating since 1730 and is considered one of the country's oldest and largest farmers markets.

Farmers markets are also able to create significant social change. A farmers market in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood now accepts food stamps for double their value and is helping other area markets do the same. This project helps bring fresh produce, often considered a luxury, to the tables of low-income families and helps eliminate "food deserts" — urban areas in which a supermarket is virtually inaccessible.

To find a market near you, go to the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service site at <http://apps.ams.usda.gov/FarmersMarkets/>. —Brian Solom

Reprinted from the SECOND QUARTER 2010
BENEFIT NEWS

An invitation to volunteer locally, give globally

For 60 years, SERRV has worked to eradicate poverty through its direct connections with low-income artisans and farmers by marketing their crafts and foods, finding joint solutions to their challenges, and helping them grow and embrace the future.

SERVV welcomes adult and youth volunteers for all day or part of a day at its New Windsor, Maryland warehouse located 7 miles from Westminster off Route 31. Volunteers receive shopping discounts on SERRV products and access to outlet items. For more information including upcoming events and a 30% discount coupon for shopping at the SERRV store see our community bulletin board.

2010 NEW WINDSOR WORK CAMP by Pastor Len

Our work camp was held from July 26-July 28 at the Brethren Service Center at New Windsor, MD. We camped at Codorus State Park near Hanover, PA. Boating and/or swimming were available for evening recreation.

The students worked from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day in the Brethren Service Center at New Windsor, MD. Their work involved processing and packaging donated hygiene kits, school kits, baby care kits, sewing kits, and packaging/pricing SERRV products. The SERRV products came from Cameron, Ecuador, Nepal, and Mexico. The Brethren Service Center provided an excellent buffet style lunch each day.

The Brethren Service Center, where many Church of the Brethren and interdenominational agencies are based, has a global outreach. The work done there goes beyond our national borders to assist victims of national disasters everywhere.

The adult advisors this year were Ashley Burger and Pastor Len. Student participants included Kyle Buckholtz, Krystin Colliflower, Aaron Divel, Shawn High, Zach Humphries, and Hayley Runian. Please thank these students for their hard work and spirit of volunteerism.

Upcoming fundraisers to benefit new addition debt reduction

8th Annual Church Auction



Saturday, August 28

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Food available all day

Concert by "Wendy and the Boys"
from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Silent auction from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Live auction starts at 11:00 a.m.

All-you-can-eat

**Spaghetti
Dinner**



Saturday, September 18

Served 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Suggested donation: Adults - \$7.00
Children under 8 - \$3.00

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FIRST CLASS MAIL