



Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

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Are You Hoping to Give or to Receive?

by Pastor Len Smith

As we approach another Christmas season again this year, many of the readers of this article are very familiar with Acts 20:35 – *Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to **give** than to **receive**."* Perhaps many of us associate giving with Christmas or birthday celebrations. However, I do not believe that giving and receiving are only for those special occasions.



For example, on Saturday, September 24th at the Fairgrounds Park in Hagerstown, there was a great deal of giving and receiving. That day the Convoy of Hope visited our community challenging many individuals to volunteer to be the hands and feet of Christ. The Convoy of Hope is about meeting people's physical needs, giving them a sense of hope, and demonstrating the love of Christ. There were 1,600 volunteers participating. Several individuals in our congregation took up the challenge to share their time and their talents along with 59 other churches in our community.

According to information supplied by Ron Showers of Convoy of Hope, 5,100 guests attended the event. 4,000 of those guests were prayed with in the prayer tent. 1,041 guests were served in the dental tent. 1,408 family portraits were given out, 1,000 pairs of shoes, and 500 free haircuts were given. There were also 1,100 medical exams and 700 eye exams given in addition to free groceries. There was even a Kids Zone set up for children to play in at the Fairgrounds Park.

I volunteered to serve in the prayer tent where we asked the guests if there was anything we could pray with them about. Some individuals did not want to pray, but others shared prayer needs in the areas of family relationships, health concerns, economic concerns, and spiritual needs. At times those in the prayer tent had the opportunity to share their personal testimonies and how to make personal commitments to Christ. However, I do not know the total number of individuals who made decisions to rededicate their lives to Christ or to receive Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord of life.

As I compose this article, several Scripture verses fill my mind. From the earliest Gospel, Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give** his life as a ransom for many.* From John 1:12, one of my favorite verses of Scripture: *Yet to all who **received** him, to those who believed in his name, he **gave** the right to become children of God.* And the Lord Jesus Christ himself said in Matthew 10:8 *Freely you have **received**, freely **give**.*

My prayer for you, not only this Advent season, but at all times and at all seasons is that you will ask the Lord to guide you in your giving decisions. May we reflect again on the birth of Jesus and the reason He came into this world to provide the means of salvation. I pray that you might always totally identify with these inspired words recorded by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:15 *Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*



Using digital/web media to reach remote Alaska for Christ

I wanted to send out a little update on what we have been doing.

I have been keeping very busy and finding new creative ways to make full use of the internet. I have created several facebook groups for SEND North and our missionaries. Some are public and some are private. I will let you know when the SEND North facebook page is ready to launch. I am also working to polish SEND North's website. This past week I received extra training on how to best use social media and blogs to make the most of the internet for marketing purposes. I am now communicating this potential to both the SEND North and the SEND International home office. If they are willing, I will be helping them set up this proven system and I know it will have a great impact for God's kingdom. It doesn't cost anything beyond what they are already putting into the internet, so that is a major bonus. Launching this endeavor will be pretty time consuming at first, but it will be worth it. I am also gathering resources for Change-

Point's digital outreach endeavor (that is the Anchorage church I am working with). That is not so time consuming right now, but more is on the horizon. They are looking into sending me above the arctic circle to Kotzebue to do a video shoot. A very gifted Native pastor lives there and may be willing to be taped teaching some of his curriculum. That is an exciting possibility so please be praying about that.

On the home front we are doing well as a family. I am starting to teach Emily Russian for homeschool and Laura is doing well in teaching her the other subjects. Annika is growing by leaps and bounds and is developing quite a personality. We want to thank all of you for your prayers around the loss of our baby in pregnancy. We are feeling God's loving hand. This past week we have been fasting and praying. God has been so near and has been bringing much healing to our hearts.

Thank you so much for all of your support and prayers.

— Excerpts of email from Daryl Carlson serving with SEND International in Palmer, Alaska

Preparing for a lifetime of usefulness in the Lord

*But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
2 Corinthians 12:9*

Shelly Barvinchack, daughter of Roman & Mary Ann Barvinchack and a student with Global School of Supernatural Ministry from September 2011 to May 2012, recently participated in a missions trip to Brazil. She received a donation from our Sunday School Missions Fund to help with the expenses of her trip. Shelly's note of thanks is printed below:

Thank you so much for your financial donation towards my Brazil trip in October! I expect that the Lord will do GREAT things in and through me while I'm in Brazil and as a student with GSSM. I anticipate that the Lord will do more than I could ever imagine.

I would appreciate your prayers as I continue to follow God's leading on my life. It is my desire that I continually experience more and more of who He is for me!! I am continually in awe of how AWESOME Papa God is!! He is truly the most loving and kindest person I know! May you also experience the GREATNESS of Papa God!

Many blessings as you continue on in your journey with Jesus.

Shelly Barvinchack

Shelly will be sharing her Brazilian trip experiences during the morning worship service on February 19, 2012.

NOTE: The Sunday School Missions Fund which is used for special mission needs is maintained by the Sunday School offering received on the first Sunday of every month.

Lines from Lois Ann Glessner

Thank You! Your gifts to Joy El are deeply appreciated. It is a joy to serve the Lord and to have ministry partners that make it possible. A new ministry year is underway and God is providing adults to make an impact. Pray that lives will be changed as the gospel goes forth.

In Christ, Lois Ann



Jesus Presented in the Temple

Anna

A meditation by Christy Waltersdorff

“There was also a prophet, Anna” (Luke 2:36-38).

Anna was an elderly woman who lived in the temple. She prayed and fasted and was devoted to God. She, too, recognized the face of God in the baby Jesus and she sang her own song of joy. She told everyone about his arrival and what it would mean for God’s people.

I can picture the young couple, Mary and Joseph, standing there with their baby representing God’s glorious future, being blessed by an old woman and an old man who represented the best of the past. At this moment in the house of God the past and the present, the old and the young, the promises and the fulfillment meet and praise God.

After the prayers and songs of joy, each went their own way, but that encounter was important enough for the Gospel writer to remember and give thanks.

Isn’t that a beautiful picture of what the church is called to be? The family of faith is not complete unless all generations are present, supporting and blessing each other.

In your prayers today:

- Give thanks to God for those whose spiritual maturity is a blessing to you.
- Pray that you may share your wisdom and faith with people of all ages.

Christy Waltersdorff is pastor of York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Ill. This meditation was one of the resources provided for the 2011 Older Adult Month, observed in May (www.brethren.org/oam).

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Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship Budget Allocations

How the 2012 Local Operating and Outreach Dollar is Allocated

Administration	.06
Christian Education	.06
Music & Worship	.03
Outreach *	.14
Pastoral Program	.43
Property & Stewardship	.28
Total	\$1.00

* We take up additional special designated offerings for outreach at various times throughout the year.

Our local operating and outreach budget for 2012 is \$163,060.95 or \$3,076.62 per Sunday.

The above figures do not reflect our monthly mortgage payments on the Community Ministry Center addition that are paid through fundraisers and additional contributions made to our building fund.

How the 2012 Outreach Dollars are Allocated

Advertising	.039
WCRH 90.5	.035
WTRM 91.3	.035
Mid-Atlantic District	.20
Meat Canning	.017
Shepherd’s Spring Camp	.13
Susquehanna Valley Minister Center	.004
Emergency Disaster Fund	.07
Emerging Global Mission Fund	.07
Global Food Crisis Fund	.07
Missionaries:	
Baldwins (Rwanda)	.07
Bhaskars (India)	.03
Carlsons (Alaska)	.05
Glessners (Children’s Bible Mission)	.065
Heidebrinks (Missionary Aviation)	.05
Kays (Dominican Republic)	.065
Outreach Total	\$1.00

Meet Brenda Weller

This is the first in a series of articles profiling individuals who serve in various capacities within our congregation. In this issue we are featuring Brenda Weller. In addition to Brenda's involvement in the music ministry of our church, she has served as Sunday School Treasurer as well as on the Church Board and on Pictorial Directory Committees. She currently assists the Music and Worship Commission by assembling welcome packets for visitors and preparing acolyte and usher schedules. We thank Brenda for using her many talents to further the work of God's kingdom at Broadfording.

My name is Brenda Weller and I have been attending this church since its beginning. Let me share some of my memories and life history with you.

I remember when the congregation first met at the Maugansville Ruritan. After a short while we changed locations to the Wacohu Grange Hall. Sunday mornings meant going early for Sunday School so we could help set up the folding chairs and pass out hymnals. After the service, these all had to be put away. We also had to set up and dismantle the sound system each Sunday, and put everything back into Charles Wasson's van. I remember playing the piano at the Wacohu Grange Hall—the piano bench was so low that I had to sit on several hymnals to reach the keys!

I remember when this land for the church was purchased. It was planted in field corn and sweet corn so we could



raise money for our church building. I remember when the building was built and the many volunteers that helped. I especially remember the ladies' home cooked meals that were prepared for the workers! When I look back and see how far we've come, I know that God has truly blessed us.

After graduating from Clear Spring High School, I attended college at University of Maryland, College Park and then transferred to the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, from which I earned my Bachelor's of Science in Pharmacy. I am employed as a registered pharmacist by Clear Spring Pharmacy and Williamsport Pharmacy, both of which are owned by the same employer.

I have been playing the piano since I was nine years old. Most Sunday mornings you will find me playing the piano for the Soul Singers class, accompanying the hymns on the piano during church service, and leading the choir. I have a twelve year old daughter, Lisa, who is currently in the seventh grade at Clear Spring Middle School. She has been playing the piano for five years.

Finally, I want to thank those members of the congregation who have allowed Lisa to sit with them over the years so that I could continue to sing with the choir and play the piano for church services.

“Growing Through Meditation” selected as theme for 2012

Each year at the Church Board's annual retreat, Pastor Len introduces the congregational theme for the coming year. During his opening devotional on December 17, 2011, he will be challenging Board members to grow through meditation in 2012, based on the theme verse from Psalm 119:78.



**... I will meditate on your precepts.
Psalm 119:78**



December 11
1:30 p.m.
Christmas Caroling
and distribution of gift
bags to shut-ins



December 17
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Advent Saturday
Happening
for children of the
congregation

December 18
10:15 a.m.
Worship Service
with



6:00 p.m.
Praise & Worship
Service

December 1, 8, 15, 22
8:00—10:00 a.m.
Walk & Talk
Topic: Advent and the Birth of Christ
(A four-part study)



Christmas Day

9:30 a.m.
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.
Worship Service

December 24
7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve



Jesus is the reason for the season. Join us in celebrating His birth!
A blessed Christmas to you all!

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FIRST CLASS MAIL