



**Broadfording  
Church of the Brethren  
Fellowship**

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***GROWING THROUGH SPIRITUAL SUBMISSION***

by Pastor Len Smith

**“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”** Ephesians 5:21

At our December 18, 2008 church board retreat I introduced our congregational theme for 2009. “Of all of the spiritual disciplines none has been more abused than the discipline of submission. Every spiritual discipline has its corresponding freedom.” So wrote Richard J. Foster in his classic Celebration of Discipline that I used as a primary source for our challenge. We all need to center more on Christ and view every spiritual discipline as a way of drawing us closer to His plan for us as a congregation.

First, there is freedom in spiritual submission. It is the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always wanting to get our own way. Almost all church fights or splits occur because people do not have the freedom to give in to each other. If we could see that most differences in congregational life are not major, sacred issues, then we would not hold them so tightly. With spiritual submission we are free to value the dreams and plans of others. We can discover that it is far better to serve each other than to have our own way.

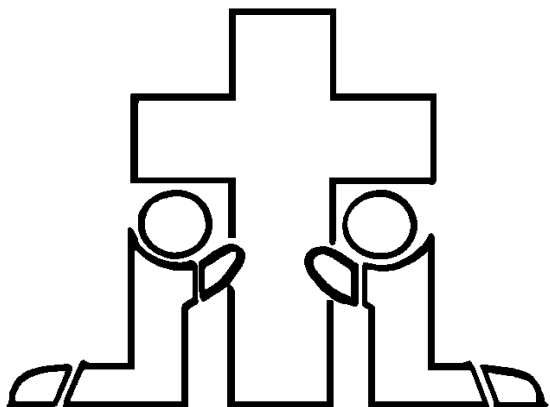
Second, a touchstone for the biblical understanding of spiritual submission is Mark 8:34, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Self denial is simply a way of coming to understand that our happiness is not dependent upon getting what we want. We need to consider, not what I think is preferable, but what is best for the growth of the body of Christ.

Third, Jesus taught revolutionary submission coupled with servant leadership. Jesus took women seriously, was willing to meet with children, and knelt to wash His disciples’ feet. Jesus exemplified a life of voluntary spiritual submission. Do you remember His prayer in the garden before His crucifixion? Matthew 26:39, “My Father, ... Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Fourth, the New Testament letters inform us about spiritual submission. Paul reminds us in Philippians 2:3, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” The New Testament church made decision-makers out of people who were forbidden in their culture to make decisions.

Fifth, we must understand that there are limits to spiritual submission. The limits of spiritual submission are at the points at which it could become destructive and a denial of the law of love as taught by Jesus. At times the limits of submission are easy to visualize. At other times the limits of spiritual submission are not so easy to see. We must prayerfully depend on the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit to define the limits of spiritual submission in every life situation we face.

Finally I presented seven different acts of submission at the church board retreat. The first act of submission is to the Triune God. We can yield our minds, bodies, and spirits to the Lord. We can expect answers to our prayers when we pray to God, **as** He wills, **what** He wills, and **when** He wills.



The second act of submission is to the Bible. We can submit ourselves to **hear** the Word, **receive** the Word, and **obey** the Word.

The third act of submission is to our families. Philippians 2:4 reminds us, “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

The fourth act of submission is to everyone we encounter in our daily lives. We can demonstrate small acts of kindness such as sharing food, baby-sitting, visiting, or sharing our tools or equipment. No task is too small or trifling because each task can be an opportunity to live in submission and to show that we care.

The fifth act of submission is to our local assembly of believers. None of us can do everything, but each one of us can do something. Sometimes there are matters that deal with administration. But more frequently there are multiple tasks of servant hood that offer us spontaneous opportunities for submission. Our fellowship is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2009. How many individuals has this congregation called out in the last thirty years to the set-apart ministry? When we are called to serve at any level can we do it with a willing heart, with assurance, and with reverence?

The sixth act of submission is to the broken and the despised. We have a responsibility to work with the helpless and those who cannot fend for themselves. How much time and treasure will we expend in 2009 to assist “the least of these” Jesus referred to in Matthew 25:45? How can we better use our facility to reach the spiritually needy people in our community?

The seventh act of submission is to a greater community. Like or not, we live in an interdependent international community of nations. We no longer live in isolation. To what degree do we care about the starving and the sick in other nations? Can our individual acts of spiritual submission become determined efforts to live as responsible called-out people in an increasingly irresponsible world?

When we begin to consider spiritual submission, we come to see that Jesus taught a concept of authority that runs completely counter to the thinking of this world. Authority does not reside in positions, degrees, or titles. A person with spiritual authority may or may not have an outward recognizable position of authority. True spiritual authority is marked by both compassion and power. Those who walk in the Spirit can instantaneously identify spiritual authority and willingly submit to that spiritual authority. We can in a courteous way and out of a heart of compassion submit to the person who is exercising spiritual authority. Do we realize how difficult their role is? It can be a frustrating quagmire to be in a position of spiritual authority. Can you imagine the inward pain and suffering they may endure on a daily basis?

Let’s pray for those in spiritual authority and for anyone who does not know Jesus and the power and the authority of the Holy Spirit in their lives. As we are spiritually submissive we can befriend them and assist them in any way we can. Soon, we will discover that they, as well as we, can experience the great benefits of spiritual submission! “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21.

# MONEY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

by Pastor Len

We will have a money management seminar on Saturday, March 14, conducted by Brethren Benefit Trust personnel. Brethren Benefit Trust is a financial and stewardship ministry of the Church of the Brethren, serving individuals and organizations affiliated with or sharing the values of the Church.

The program will consist of four separate topics and sessions between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

- **Socially Responsible Consuming**  
How the values you hold affect the purchases and choices you make
- **Digging Yourself Out of Debt and Staying There**  
How to develop a realistic financial plan
- **Living Within Your Means**  
A realistic approach to balancing your budget
- **The Seven Biggest Mistakes People Make with Their Money**  
Basic financial planning techniques



The only cost for the seminar will be \$6.00 per person to eat a delicious lunch at noon that will be prepared by Heart to Heart. Please contact Pastor Len if a luncheon scholarship would be helpful. Please sign up by Sunday, March 8, if you plan to attend this valuable seminar. You may deposit your payment in an envelope attached to the clipboard. Checks may be made payable to the church.

## Valentine's Day Word Search – 1 Corinthians 13

### WORD LIST

all	knowledge
angels	love
arrogant	man
away	men
bears	mountains
became	my
boastful	mysteries
burned	never
clanging	not
cymbal	now
dim	own
endures	perfect
fails	prophetic
greatest	resentful
imperfect	right
insist	see
irritable	understand
know	

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	E	C	I	I	L	M	V	L	S	E						
	C	N	L	E	T	G	O	Q	D	I	M	M				
Y	Y	D	A	G	C	N	H	L	U	F	T	S	A	O	B	
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W	B	R	G	E	F	I	M	Y	S	T	E	R	I	E	S	C
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L	S	N	W	E	L	B	A	T	I	R	R	I	T	R		
J	G	O	P	L	U	F	T	N	E	S	E	R				
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## Choir Director's Musings by Carolyn Adams *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder*

As I am writing this article, Pastor Len has been preaching on the second coming of Christ. Certainly His coming is an important event in the lives of all people. The Bible tells us that we know not the day nor the hour when He will return so we need to be ready as if it could be today.

This hymn was inspired by disappointment. James Black the author of this hymn was calling roll one day for a youth meeting in his Methodist church in Williamsport, Pa. One name – Bessie - the daughter of an alcoholic didn't answer. James was extremely disappointed that she was not there and commented, "O God, when my own name is called up yonder, may I be there to respond."

Returning home, a thought struck him as he opened the gate. He went inside and set down at the piano and wrote the words and music effortlessly.

Years later, this song comforted a group of traumatized children in a Japanese concentration camp. In his book, "A Boy's War," David Mitchell tells of being in boarding school in Chefoo, China during the Japanese invasion. On November 5, 1942, the students and faculty were marched from their campus and eventually ending up in a concentration camp.

Among the students was Brian Thompson, a lanky teenager. One evening about a year before the war ended, Brian was restless waiting for the evening roll call which was long overdue. A bare wire from the searchlight tower was sagging low, and some of the older boys were jumping up and touching it with their fingers.

Brian decided to try. Being taller than the others, his hand was drawn into the wire, and it came down with him. When his bare feet hit the damp ground, the electricity shot through him like bolts of lightning. His mother, who had been interred with the students, tried to reach him, but the others held her back or she, too, would have been electrocuted. Finally someone found an old wooden stool and managed to detach the electrical wire, but it was too late.

At roll call that night, when the name "Brian Thompson" was called, there was no answer. David Mitchell later wrote, "Our principal and Mr. Houghton led a very solemn yet triumphant funeral service the next day. The shortness of life and the reality of eternity were brought home to us with force as Paul Bruce related that Brian had missed the roll call in camp, but had answered one in Heaven. How important it was for us to sing and know, "When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there."

1 Corinthians 15:52 states, "...The trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." It is my prayer that all reading this article will indeed be ready when the roll is called up yonder.

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### 2009 Church of the Brethren Conferences

#### Young Adult Conference

May 23-25, 2009 (Memorial Day weekend)  
at Camp Swatara in Bethel, PA  
(not far from Hershey, PA)

This conference is for young adults ages 18-35.

For more information contact the  
Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office  
of the Church of the Brethren,  
1-800-323-8039 or visit their website at  
[www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/index.htm](http://www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/index.htm)

#### National Junior High Conference

June 19-21, 2009  
at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA  
(just off Interstate 81)

This conference is for junior high youth having  
completed grades 6-8 and their advisors.

The registration cost will be \$125 per person for both  
adult advisors and youth.  
To request brochures call  
1-800-323-8039 or visit their website at  
[www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/NatJrHighConf.htm](http://www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/NatJrHighConf.htm)

## 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.

Written by Sam Hawbaker, teacher of the Faith Searchers Sunday School Class

I was born July 17, 1942, at Dry Run Road, Clear Spring, Maryland, at 11:00 a.m., just as mom was fixing lunch (we called it dinner back then) for the farmers who were threshing wheat. I was one of six boys and two girls. Times were tough, life was good. My dad died in 1956; things got tougher. My aunt Mary told us then that “with God’s help, we will make it.” We did.

I was a bricklayer from 1960 to 1966 and sold life insurance from January 1966 until 1996, retiring at age 55. My wife Kathy and I live on Route 494. We have three children, Lorena, Joshua and Sally; three grandchildren, Evan, Jacob, and Willy. Travis died in 1995 in a car accident.

I’ve taught Sunday School since I was 18. Folks, God is good. Love Him as I have. Remember, with God’s help, we will make it.

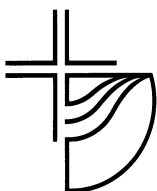


Sam Hawbaker

God Bless,  
Sam Hawbaker

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## Church of the Brethren Logo



Church of the Brethren

If you have seen our new church sign that was donated in memory of Mr. Clarence C. Bragunier, Sr., or our new church letterhead, you will know that the Church of the Brethren logo has been included in the design of both. This logo is composed of images central to the life of Jesus Christ. The **cross** recalls our baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection (Rom. 6:4) and testifies to God’s plan to bring “all in heaven and on earth... into a unity in Christ” (Esp. 1:10 NEB). The **circle**, partially defined, represents the world into which we are sent by Christ (Matt. 28:19). The circle also affirms that

as members of Christ’s body we are members one of another (Rom. 12:5)—a people who confess “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph. 4:5). The **wave** connotes new life in Christ, “born of water and the Spirit” (John 3:5). The wave further evokes the waters of justice (Amos 5:24), the cup of water offered in Christ’s name (Mark 9:41), the basin and towel (John 13:5), and “springs of living water” (Rev. 7:17).

Combined as a single symbol, the cross, the circle, and the wave present a distinct “Brethren” statement centered in Jesus Christ. A statement reflecting a stable, yet vital spirit. A statement of openness and compassion, of reaching out to the community and to the world. A statement that calls forth unity, discipleship, and mission. The logo of the Church of the Brethren lifts up images central to the life of Jesus Christ—images for Brethren to live by.

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## Revival Services April 19 - 22, 2009

We are pleased to announce that the evangelist for our 2009 revival services will be James F. Myer of Lititz, Pennsylvania. Bro. Myer is an ordained minister at White Oak Church of the Brethren, a part-time farmer and part-time staff for Brethren Revival Fellowship. He has served on District and General Boards, and various functions at Annual Conference including Moderator in 1985.

*You will not want to miss these services!*

*Our congregation's  
30th Anniversary  
will be celebrated on  
Sunday, February 8, 2009*

***Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.  
followed by a Fellowship Meal***

For the newer members of our congregation, here is a brief history of what took place thirty years ago:

Although Broadfording Church of the Brethren can trace its earliest beginnings to the late 1700s, a re-birthing took place after church council voted in August 1978 to disassociate with the Church of the Brethren and become the Bible Brethren.

The following month, Church of the Brethren Mid-Atlantic District representatives called a meeting of persons interested in beginning anew the Broadfording Church of the Brethren. As an outflow of the meeting, a steering committee was formed to pursue that prospect.

Efforts of the committee resulted in an afternoon worship service in January 1979, and a decision to proceed with beginning again the Broadfording Church of the Brethren. On February 4, 1979, morning worship services began at the Maugansville Community Center followed by the commencing of Sunday School on April 22, 1979.

God has opened many doors for our congregation since that time and we thank Him for all of the blessings he has bestowed upon us during the past thirty years.

***Please join us in this special celebration!***

## DINNER & THEATRE

Saturday, March 7, 2009

6:00 p.m.

### Spaghetti Dinner

#### Play: "And Then There Was None"

Staring: Teresa & Len Smith  
Michael Reese  
Brenda Weller  
Steve Hawbecker  
Sally Hoopengardner  
Becky Burkett  
Bailey Kercheval  
Virginia Weyant

Clara & William Hubbard (Brenda & Michael) are having a dinner party for a few friends from church. During the meal, the Boston cream pie disappears.

Who stole the pie? Was it Gretchen & Franklin Kleehepper (Teresa & Len), or Uta & Edgar (Becky & Bailey), or Amanda & James (Sally & Steve)?

Come and help Luans (Virginia) solve the mystery.

\$10 per person—see Sharon Reese for tickets.

Proceeds will benefit the  
2009 Dominican Republic Mission Trip.

Multipurpose room of Broadfording  
Church of the Brethren Fellowship

Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship  
14010 Greencastle Pike  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

FIRST CLASS MAIL