



Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

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Our Debts

by Pastor Len Smith

Recently we have been seeing and hearing a lot about American financial debts in the news media. Congress is debating about how and when to raise the ceiling on the federal government's debt that in May was more than \$14.4 trillion. To put that in some perspective the total value of all of the goods and services produced in our nation annually, our Gross Domestic Product, is about \$14.7 trillion.

Neither have our state and local governments been immune from increasing debt levels. It may surprise you to learn that our local governments owe more than our state governments. Local government debt totals \$1.7 trillion while our 50 state governments together owe \$1.2 billion.

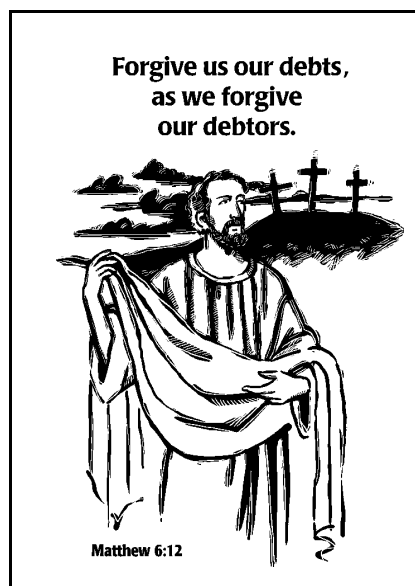
Well, what about personal debt in the United States? We owe \$13.3 trillion on our home mortgages and \$2.4 trillion of consumer debt. In addition we owe about \$799 billion on our credit card debt.

The estimate of America's total debt that includes our federal, state, and local government debt in addition to the debt of private households, businesses, and financial institutions is currently about \$55.4 trillion. By the way, the average American family has liquid cash assets of about \$6,600. In my opinion these are almost incomprehensible numbers.

Nearly every Sunday in our congregation during the Lord's Prayer we recite these words about our debts from Matthew 6:12, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." What kind of debt was Jesus talking about? A debt is not merely a liability or obligation to pay something. It can also refer to the condition of being under such an obligation. Theologically the word "debt" can be a sin or a trespass. In fact the New Testament Greek word for "debt" can also mean sin or transgression. When you pray the Lord's Prayer do you view your sins as moral and

spiritual debts to God's righteousness?

I believe that in Matthew 6:12 Jesus shows that it is hypocritical for us to ask God to forgive our sins if we would withhold forgiveness from someone else who has sinned against us or offended us. I believe that daily forgiveness is necessary in order for us to maintain unbroken communion with God. Any sin, especially the failure to forgive another person, constitutes a debt to God. How can we expect God to owe us forgiveness, if we fail to forgive another person?



Whenever you hear or read about America's financial debts, remember to daily pay attention to our spiritual debts as well to forgive and acknowledge the primary role of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Scriptures in our lives. In the words of that grand old hymn: "Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow."



Church of the Brethren

Connecting with the Mid-Atlantic District

May 2011

HE IS RISEN! HALLELUIAH!

By now, Easter is several weeks behind us, but we pray that the new life and renewal granted us by the death and resurrection of our Savior is felt by you throughout the year.

The Leadership Team of the Mid-Atlantic District (MAD) will be meeting four times this year; we met most recently on April 30. A large focus of our time has been and will continue to be finding ways to communicate with the congregations of the District in a meaningful way. We are also striving to be more accessible and a better resource for the various types of ministries offered by each congregation. One of the ideas being explored is a PowerPoint presentation that can be used in front of a variety of small groups to give more insight about the mission and organization of the District. Another idea we are exploring is a new ministry team whose focus will be making sure lines of communication are open between the District and the congregations we serve and also among the congregations themselves. If you or anyone you know feels this is an area where their gifts lie, we urge you to reach out to your Leadership Team representative or the District Office. We are open to any suggestions or help you would offer.

Coming up on the Calendar are many opportunities to share your time and talents. Your MAD newsletter, "Together on the Journey," contains information about what is going on in your District and other events of interest. Read it online at www.madcob.org or ask your church office for a copy. Look for details of these and other events:

- ▶ National Junior High Conference at Elizabethtown College, June 17–19
- ▶ Annual Conference Delegate Briefing at Westminster CoB, June 26, 3–5 p.m.
- ▶ Holy Spirit Conference at Columbia Furnace CoB, Woodstock, VA, July 18–21
- ▶ National Older Adult Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC, September 5–9

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Overcoming Barriers... Transforming Lives... Building God's Kingdom

Headquartered in Nampa, Idaho, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) serves Christ worldwide using the tools of aviation, communication, and learning technology. Its ministry impacts evangelism and church nurture, community development, medical assistance, national training and capacity building, and disaster response.

Doug and Janie Heidebrink have served with MAF for twenty-five years. Following are excerpts from their recent newsletter, *Heidebrink Happenings*:



On February 28, 1986, we were accepted into MAF as career staff missionaries. Wow! Where does the time go? Last week in a service award ceremony here at MAF we were given our twenty-five year plaque to commemorate this milestone. For us, it was a reminder of how God has faithfully journeyed with us and how He guided our path each step of the way. Not only was God faithful, but many of you have been faithful as well. It would have been impossible to be involved with MAF's ministry around the world without your continued prayer and financial support. Praise God!

We are planning a trip to visit many of you later this year. We want to visit as many of you as we can and will be contacting you with our schedule. As we mentioned in our last letter, we are lacking a considerable amount in our ministry support level. Please pray with us for co-laborers to come alongside us in our ministry with MAF.

We want to thank you, our "Wingmen," as you've prayed and supported out ministry over the past twenty-five years. Many of you have been with us from the very beginning. Our prayer is that our Lord will richly bless your generosity and faithfulness.

Doug & Janie



Tornado response begins

Twin tornados tore through Pulaski County, Va., on April 8, destroying about 70 homes and causing major damage to 183 and minor damage to another 171, primarily in the county seat town of Pulaski. Pulaski First Church of the Brethren reported that none of its members were harmed.

A crew of 10 Brethren volunteers from Virilina District worked with chainsaws on April 12, cutting up fallen trees and clearing debris. The crew was organized by Jim Kropff, disaster coordinator for the district.

Kropff was in contact with the Southwest Virginia VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and offered the services of Brethren Disaster Ministries for any future needs of volunteers for cleanup or rebuilding work.

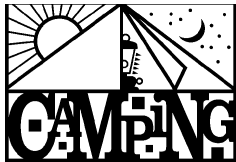
Another deadly tornado outbreak on April 16 wreaked

havoc in seven states and claimed more than 40 lives. North Carolina was the most heavily impacted, with 62 tornadoes destroying 500 homes and damaging more than 1,000 across 15 counties. The American Red Cross reported that some of the hardest-hit areas of the Tar Heel State were still inaccessible days after the disaster, and officials said that well over 1,000 families were expected to be homeless.

Brethren Disaster Ministries said it was continuing to monitor reports and potential needs, maintaining close contact with impacted Church of the Brethren districts. Virilina District encompassing parts of Virginia and North Carolina, bore the majority of the serious storm damage for two consecutive weekends. Recent damaging tornadoes have also struck Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere.

—Church of the Brethren **TAPESTRY**
June 2011, Vol. 9, Issue 5

A Celebration of 20 years in



Ministry

Shepherd's Spring

"A Source of Renewal - A Place to Grow!"

16869 Taylors Landing Road
Sharpsburg, Maryland

Saturday, August 6, 2011

Please plan to join us for this great celebration. We will have activities from 1-6:30 p.m. with a Chicken BBQ served from 4-6.

Crafters can set up a table to sell their creations, hikers can get sponsors to support their 2-mile hike around the property (money collected goes to support the summer camp program) and there will be plenty of FREE activities as well. There is a rumor that pastors will be available for dunking in a dunking booth!

We will also be auctioning MILE STONES! Where some cities decorate animals as an art statement, we have lots of rocks—so we will have MILE STONES—one for each year of our summer camp ministry. Folks have

been asked to decorate them. You will be able to vote for your favorite with donation dollars and then we will auction off these unique creations! If you're feeling artistic, we still have a few MILE STONES left to decorate. Call to reserve yours!

Shepherd's Spring Board Chair, Judy Clister is organizing this wonderful day. Registration forms for the walk or to set up a craft table are available from the Shepherd's Spring office or from Judy. Contact Judy via email for more details at JClister@frontiernet.net.

We will end the day with vespers at the Spring led by Summer Staff and friends from the many years of Summer Camp Ministry.

—Ann Cornell, Administrator
Shepherd's Spring Enews, 5-18-2011

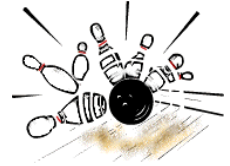
The 2011 Cearfoss Youth Connection is off to a great start...

ATTENTION: Parents and Children grades 4th—8th

Boys and Girls are invited to be part of the C.Y.C. program at Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship



*Do you like Gokarts and MiniGolf?
Do you like to Bowl?
How about Swimming and a Picnic?
WE HOPE YOU SAID YES!!*



Dates for the five remaining C.Y.C. events are:

6/1, 6/29, 7/13, 7/27 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. and 8/13 from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Some dates and times can vary per activity, but with advance notice.

We're going to have fun each time we meet so try not to miss!

Any questions please feel free to contact:
Pastor Len Smith at 301-791-5432 or
Patrick Wildeson at 717-643-0907.



Church of the Brethren youth events ...

Senior High Youth News

Annual Conference Youth Activities
July 2-6, 2011
Grand Rapids, Michigan

MAD COB night at Camden Yards
July 16, 2011

Youth Camps 2011 at Mardela & Shepherd's Spring

Visit www.madyouth.org for more details.

2011 National Junior High Conference

June 17-19, 2011
Elizabethtown College

Register NOW at www.brethren.org/youth
(click the "Junior High Conference" link).

The event is open to junior high youth who've
completed grades 6-8 and their advisors.
The cost is \$150.

For more information call 800-323-8039 Ext. 289.

2011 church fundraising events to mark on your calendar ...

9th Annual Benefit Auction



Saturday, August 27

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Food available all day

Music by Wendy & the Boys
10:00—10:45 a.m.

Silent auction 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Live auction starts at 11:00 a.m.



**Saturday
September 17**

Served 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Don't miss it!

An incentive to invite friends yielded good results

Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship holds two Friendship Sundays each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The date of this year's Spring Friendship Sunday was March 29. The highest attendance for any previous Friendship Sunday stood at 159.

With that in mind, Pastor Len presented a challenge to the congregation by proposing to endure the "wind tunnel" at Valley Mall if attendance on Sunday, March 29, reached or exceeded 160. Apparently, a lot of people wanted him to have that experience because a new record was set for Friendship Sunday attendance when 170 people were present at the morning worship service.

Pastor Len fulfilled his commitment at the Valley Mall on the following Thursday. A dozen people from the congregation were on hand to witness the event.



"Get me out of here!"



Pastor Len and friends

Photos courtesy of Ashley Burger

Just for fun ...

A Riddle

Here's a riddle that can be solved with a one-word answer.

1. The word has seven letters,
2. preceded God,
3. greater than God,
4. more evil than the devil,
5. poor people have it,
6. wealthy people need it,
7. if you eat it, you will die.

The answer is given below but don't look until to try to figure it out.

The answer is: NOTHING

NOTHING has seven letters.
 NOTHING preceded God.
 NOTHING is greater than God.
 NOTHING is more evil than the devil.
 Poor people have NOTHING.
 Wealthy people need NOTHING.
 If you eat NOTHING, you will die.

What is 101 percent?

What equals 100%? What does it mean to give more than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions.

If letters are represented as follows:

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, and Z=26;

then
 K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E (11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5) = 96%
 and
 H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K (8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11) = 98%
 but
 A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E (1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5) = 100%

AND,
 look how far the love of God will take you,
 L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D (12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4) = 101%

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that: While Knowledge and Hard Work will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top!



Vacation Bible School

We're bringing kitchen fun to the kids at our Vacation Bible School, with **Shake It Up Cafe: Where kids carry out God's recipe for living.**

After a high energy opening at Shake It Up Cafe, the chefs make their way to Kitchen a la King. Interactive Bible lessons reveal five secret ingredients for living as a follower of God, and your chefs will learn Bible Bite memory verses that will boost their faith long after VBS.

The children will expand on what they've learned by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at Tangy & Tart Arts, singing new music, participating in recreational activities at Spork Sports and enjoying tasty snacks at the Takeout Treatery.

Let's get cookin'!

Join us at Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

June 13-17, Monday-Thursday, 6:30-8:45 p.m., Friday, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

On Friday evening all VBS families are invited to join us at 8:30 p.m. for the closing program and ice cream float social.

To register or find out more about Shake It Up Cafe volunteer opportunities, call or email Nicole Row at 301-733-3706 or nickirow@hotmail.com.

New this year ...

Father-Son Breakfast

Saturday, June 18
9:00 a.m.



All men and boys of the congregation are invited!



Pig Roast/ Community Music Event

Saturday, July 16
2:00—6:00 p.m.

- Music
- Fun activities for kids
- Big water slide for the young at heart

Meal served at 4:00 p.m.

Adults: \$9.00 - Children 5-12: \$4.00 - Under 5: Free

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FIRST CLASS MAIL