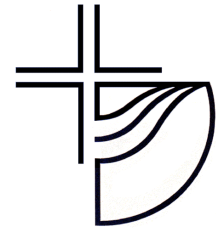


WABASH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



645 Bond Street Wabash IN 46992 • 260-563-5291 • office@wabashcob.org

January 2020

Happy New Year!

Welcoming 2020

Greetings to the New Year! And to some, the new decade (I'm in the camp that this decade doesn't end until the end of the year).

However, that won't stop me from bringing some change into the newsletter. Over the next few months, I'll be working at organizing the material a bit more, so that it will be like an inverted funnel—information pertaining to the congregation near the beginning, the district toward the middle, and the national/international denomination near the end.

As always, if you know of goings-on around you that you think the church family/extended family would want to know about, please pass it along via email or phone, to the office.

Church Directory

Yup, it is that time again! There is a copy on the back table in the sanctuary, but for those who are unable to make the updates there, please either email or phone them into the office so we can have current information.

We welcome all who are on the journey to know Jesus, who share in his love and who choose to embrace the diversity within this community of believers. As individuals we may be at different places along the path, but as a community, we are all traveling together in faith, trusting God to show us the way.



In This Issue

- Pastor's Letter
- Women's Fellowship News
- Worship Schedule
- Camp Mack Corner
- District Prayer Concerns
- BLI Update
- Church Calendar
- And more!

Wabash CoB Sanctuary

Foundational Scripture Project

Pastor Doug Veal



As Brethren, the Bible is a central part of our life together. The group which began the Brethren movement in Schwarzenau, Germany, gathered together for many months as they studied scripture together before they took the radical step of adult baptisms in the Eder River. It was in their shared study of scripture that they found the need and desire to take that first step. Ever since then, as Brethren have gathered together, the centrality of scripture and our joint study of it together has continued.

In thinking about how we can come together to discern our continued journey together in the upcoming year, I have been thinking a lot about the role of scripture in that journey. Every Sunday, we come together in worship to hear and to think about a scripture passage. Our weekly Bible study offers an opportunity for us to dive even more deeply into scripture.

I hope and pray that each of us is taking time to read and study the Bible throughout the year on our own as well. To help with this, in our newsletters this year I will be including a list of daily scripture readings that will help you to read through the entire Bible in a year.

Each of us, of course, has particular scripture passages that speak to us in significant ways. There are passages that we turn to again and again that help to shape our understanding of God and of the church, that build the foundations of our faith. For me, one of the scriptures that has been foundational for me has been Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" In my own faith journey, these directions to do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with God offer me guidance and direction as I seek to follow Jesus. Such familiar and foundational scriptures offer us a bedrock for our faith.

It is important for us to recognize and to study these foundational scriptures that offer us significant direction in our lives. This year, we will be taking time to think deeply and to examine deeply the scriptures that have been important and foundational for us, as individuals and as a congregation.

To help us identify some of these foundational scriptures, on January 26, our worship service will look a bit different. We will spend time that Sunday morning working together to identify scriptures that have been important in our individual lives, as well as for the congregation as a whole. There will be time for discussion and sharing about the scripture passages that are important for you. I will also be working on a way to include input from those who may be unable to come to worship that Sunday. From the discussion that Sunday, we will begin a process by which a list of foundational scriptures for our congregation will be developed. This list will then be published, and will be the basis of a sermon series after Easter.

I am looking forward to getting to hear more about important and foundational scriptures in from each of you. It is my desire to see this be a springboard for us as we consider how we can continue to join together in the work of God in our local community and as we seek to continue to journey together as followers of Jesus.

In Christ, *Pastor Doug*

Women's Fellowship

Please put in that Women's Fellowship visited the Festival of the Trees at Timbercrest on Dec 7. We enjoyed viewing the trees, making purchases at the bazaar, and good fellowship over cookies and cocoa in the Cocoa Bar.



Please turn in the survey to Brenda about meetings for next year. Even if you don't have specific suggestions for programs, fill out the rest of the survey and turn it in. Your input is important.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The staff is always looking for articles to include in the newsletter. Have a fun travel story? Read a good book lately? Attended a gathering of friends/family? Don't keep it secret, share it with us. Have questions? See Michelle in the office, or send her a quick email.



Worship Schedule

There are many roles that bring worship each Sunday; contact a member of the nurture commission (Mikayla G, Bonnie H, Laurie K-C, Linda M, or Doug V. to find out how your unique gifts can be of service.

Jan	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
5	Michelle R.		Stan M.		Larry J. Chloe B.	Carol H.	Bonnie H.
12	Pastor Doug Baptism: Ours and Jesus'	Leroy S.	Mikayla G.		Larry J. Chloe B.		Bonnie H.
19	Pastor Doug Fishers of Men?	Linda M.	Mikayla G.		Larry J. Chloe B.		Bonnie H.
26	Pastor Doug Foundational	Karen O.			Larry J. Chloe B.		

Reading through the Bible in a year: Daily readings for January

1 Rom 1-2	9 Gen 4-7	17 Josh 11-15	25 Ps 9-11
2 Gen 1-3	10 Josh 6-10	18 Ps 6-8	26 Job 7-8
3 Josh 1-5	11 Ps 3-5	19 Job 5-6	27 Isa 18-22
4 Ps 1-2	12 Job 3-4	20 Isa 12-17	28 Matt 8-10
5 Job 1-2	13 Isa 7-11	21 Matt 5-7	29 Rom 9-10
6 Isa 1-6	14 Matt 3-4	22 Rom 7-8	30 Gen 16-19
7 Matt 1-2	15 Rom 5-6	23 Gen 12-15	31 Josh 21-24
8 Rom 3-4	16 Gen 8-11	24 Josh 16-20	

Special Offering

Through January 5, 2020

Don't forget that you can still make a donation to Heifer International through the church. Our goal is to be able to buy at least one large animal, or several small ones, to be sent to families around the globe. Heifer International's goal is to provide families with means of support that allows them, in turn, to give to others. Please see Karen O. for more details.



Witness Commission

Recycling Volunteer

If you are looking for a small way that you can serve the church, then look no further! We are in need of someone to run the recycling over to Solid Waste in Wabash (it does NOT need to be sorted). It would need to be picked up 2-3 times a month. Please see Karen O. for more details.

Witness Commission

Local Outreach

We are seeking volunteers to help work in the food pantry. We would like to offer more open hours. We would also like to have a sub list for those who are working and have things come up during their time slot. If someone would like to work evenings, we feel that needs 2 people for safety purposes.



From the Board

New Members for 2020

We are pleased to welcome the following individuals to the board:

Linda Barkey, Megan Bishir, Bethene Gill, Dave Hahn, Bonnie Haughn, Carol Horn, Dennis Horn, Larry Jamerson, Sharon Larowe, Jean Martin, Barb Miller, Linda Miller, Karen Odiorne, Kathy Ply, Cliff Ross, Michelle Roudebush, and Leroy Striker.

Board Chair—Dennis Horn

Vice Chair—Dave Hahn

Clerk—Carol Horn & Laurie Kieffaber-Cornett

Stewards Chair—Leroy Striker

Nurture Chair—Linda Miller

Community Support

Church Food Pantry

Our local pantry is looking to supplement what we get from Milford each month. Additional items needed are:

Mac and Cheese boxes
Hamburger
Baked beans
Hamburger /Tuna/
Chicken Helper
Peanut butter
Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
Jelly
Pasta
Saltines
Bread
Soups
Canned fruits and veggies
Saltines
Cleaning Supplies
TP/Tissue
Personal Hygiene items



Ben at Camp, 2016

Camp Mack Corner

Upcoming Opportunities at Camp:

- New Year's Eve Retreat
December 31, 2019- January 1, 2020, 2p Tuesday- 12:30p Wednesday. Youth grades 6-10. \$61 per person (\$71 after 12/9
- Go to the Camp Mack website: www.campmack.org for information and to register or call 574-658-4831.

P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542
Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax: 574-658-4765
Email: info@campmack.org Website:
www.campmack.org

The Art of Hope

Mental Health America of NE
Indiana partnership with MU.
Fort Wayne Campus, Gallery
101.





Brethren Leadership Institute

Upcoming Classes

Worship Instructor: Laura Stone Dates: January 18, February 8 & 22, 2020 Marion COB, 2302 S Geneva Ave., Marion, IN Please pre-register by Jan 9, 2020 to avoid \$25 late fee To register for a BLI course or for questions, contact the District Office (260) 982-8805, scindcob@gmail.com.

Old Testament Survey Instructor: Robert Bowman Dates: March 7 & 21, April 4, 2020 Location: Marion COB, 2302 S Geneva Ave., Marion, IN Please pre-register by Feb 27, 2020 to avoid \$25 late fee

Classes are open to all: You may be exploring ministry, answering a call to ministry, and/or seeking further education. CEUs are available. For more information on the Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI) and fees, visit <http://www.scindcob.org/BLI.html>.

Save the Date

March 14, 2020 at 7pm

Ken Medema and Ted Swartz in Concert at the Manchester CoB. Watch for more details. Event is sponsored by the S/C Indiana District.



Compañeros el Ministerios

Cancelled Stamp Project

We have a new stamp collector for our congregation! Thank you Larry Landis for stepping into this role. The stamps are sold through the District Office, and proceeds are donated to Compañeros, based out of Galveston, IN. If you would like to help support them, it is very easy to do. When you receive mail with a cancelled stamp on it, cut it out (leaving 1/4" margin) and bring it in to church to put in the basket.

Larry will then collect them up, make sure they are in the correct condition, and then send them off to the District Office.

District Prayer List

January 5—Please pray with us for Akron CoB and Atlantic Northeast District congregations and staff.

January 12—Please pray with us for the Anderson CoB and Atlantic Southeast District congregations and staff.

January 19—Please pray with us for the Andrews CoB and the Idaho District congregations and staff.

January 26—Please pray with us for the Antioch CoB and the Illinois/Wisconsin District congregations and staff.

Brethren Volunteer Service

SPRING BREAK SERVICE TRIP

BOSTON, MA

Dates: March 3-8, 2020 **OR**
March 7-12, 2020

Cost: \$385 (Transportation not included)

Housing: United Parish of Brookline



SERVE

at food banks and
soup kitchens

EXPLORE

what it means to be a just and
compassionate global citizen



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HANNAH SHULTZ WITH BVS
(HSHULTZ@BRETHREN.ORG)

REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 4, 2019 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG/WORKCAMP

VBS Spring Break Workcamp

March 3-8 and March 7-12

For the first time, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) is offering spring break service trips for college students. Over the weekend in between the two weeks, participants will join together to explore Boston and learn more about the city's rich history. The United Parish of Brookline will host both groups.

All college students are welcome. Cost is \$385 (transportation not included). Registration opens Dec. 4. Visit www.brethren.org/workcamps for more information. For questions contact Hannah Shultz at hshultz@brethren.org or 847-429-4337.

Join BVS in Massachusetts as we explore what it means to be a just and compassionate global citizen in one of the nation's oldest cities!
-- Hannah Shultz is coordinator of short-term service with BVS.



Workcamps

Registration starts January 16, 2020

Theme: Voices for Peace Theme Scripture: Romans 15:1-6 (The Message)
Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we'll be a choir - not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!

Jr. High - completed 6th - 8th grade

June 7-11 Rodney, MI - Camp Brethren Heights
June 14-18 Harrisburg, PA
June 27-July 1 Philadelphia, PA
July 8 -12 Brooklyn, NY
July 22-26 Roanoke, VA
July 29-August 2 South Bend, IN

Sr. High - completed 9th grade - age 19

June 7 -13 Miami, FL
June 14-20 Boston, MA
June 20-28 BFR- Haiti
June 20-26 Cle Elum, WA - Camp Koinonia
July 5 -11 Kalamazoo, MI
July 12 -18 Palmyra, PA
July 12-18 Waco, TX - Family Abuse Center
July 19-25 Santa Ana - California
July 26 - August 1 Knoxville, TN
August 3-9 Littleton, CO

Intergenerational - completed 6th grade & older

July 6-10 Keezletown, VA - Brethren Woods Camp & Retreat Center

Adult - ages 18+

May 28-June 8 Rwanda
June 22-25 Bethel, PA - We Are Able Companions

We Are Able - ages 16-30

June 22-25 Bethel, PA - We Are Able

Clergy Tax Seminar

January 25, 2020

Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online seminar. Learn how to:

- File clergy taxes correctly and legally
- Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.
- Earn 0.3 CEUs – requires attendance in the first session.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

- Session 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods, including housing allowance, business expenses, and medical reimbursement plans. The court case around the housing allowance will also be discussed. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only.
- Session 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

(see next page sidebar)

This seminar is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

Sponsors: The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary

Seminar Schedule

- 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EST: Session 1
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. EST, Lunch on your own
- 1:30-3:30 p.m. EST Session 2

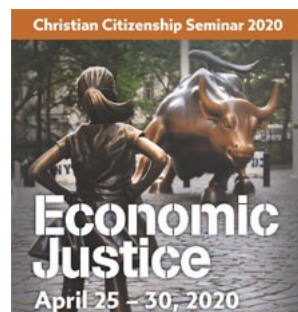
Registration and Cost
Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Prompt registration is advised – registration deadline is January 15, 2020.

Christian Citizenship Seminar

April 25—30, 2020

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

This year's Christian Citizenship Seminar will focus on pursuing economic justice.



Who is eligible to attend?

All high school youth and their adult advisors are eligible to attend the seminar. Churches are strongly encouraged to send an advisor with their youth, even if only one or two youth attend. Churches are required to send one advisor for every four youth.

Registration is limited to the first 60 participants. Registration opens 12/2 at 10 a.m. central time.

What is the cost?

The \$450 registration fee includes:

- Event programming
 - Lodging for five nights
 - 2 dinner meals, one in New York City and one in Washington D.C.
- Transportation from New York to Washington D.C.

Note: Each participant will need to bring additional money for most meals, sightseeing, personal expenses, and subway/taxi fares.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions, contact Nolan McBride, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at nmcbride@brethren.org or 847-429-4385.

National Young Adult Conference

May 22-25, 2020

Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, North Carolina

National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! For more information, go to: <http://www.brethren.org/yac/> Questions? Contact Nolan McBride, nmcbride@brethren.org, 847-429-4376.



Hearts For Nigeria:

Roxane Hill Concludes her position with Nigeria Crisis Response

Church of the Brethren Newslines - November 18, 2019 (excerpted)

Global Mission and Service (GM&S) and Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) expect the response to continue for two more years, through 2021, and then expect to continue providing grants for specific work in Nigeria. For more details about the Nigeria Crisis Response (NCR) go to www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis.

A concluding report from Roxane and Carl Hill: In November 2014, we sat around a table with EYN leadership in Jos, Nigeria. As we looked at these men and women, we saw faces filled with desperation looking at us for answers. Just a few short weeks before, they were sitting in their offices conducting affairs of the church at their headquarters in northeast Nigeria. Now, they had been displaced by the insurgent group known as Boko Haram and did not know where to turn. In late October 2014, Boko Haram had swept through the northeast bringing destruction and chaos, forcing our Nigerian brothers and sisters to run for their lives. The majority of EYN leadership had come as far as Jos, a city in central Nigeria, to find a safe haven. It was at that meeting in Jos that EYN leaders adopted the idea of assisting their people through a newly created Disaster Ministry (DM), to be headed by the EYN President and an appointed pastor, Yuguda Mdurvwa. We recalled the day we were contacted by Stan Noffsinger, then general secretary of the CoB, and GM&S executive director Jay Wittmeyer and associate executive Roy Winter, to be the new directors of the NCR. When they contacted us, we were touring the country as spokespeople for GM&S and had just completed a stint at EYN's Kulp Bible College, and we were excited to share our experience with the church at large. The NCR has been carried out as a collaboration between EYN and the CoB's GM&S and BDM. EYN is a church established by Brethren missionaries almost 100 years ago, and for many decades has been independent from its "mother church" in the US. During the heyday of Brethren missions, many from the US found their way to Nigeria and served there. Many conscientious objectors elected to serve in Nigeria as part of their obligation to this country--Nigeria was a place that qualified for "alternative service." Because of the large scale of the crisis, the NCR quickly became the largest single program of relief and aid in the CoB's 300-plus years. Because of the push from top leaders, a goal was set to raise \$5 million. People across the denomination gladly gave of their resources because of the church's familiarity with and love for Nigeria. Starting with seed money from the Emergency Disaster Fund, the church was soon on its way to raising the money needed to get the program off the ground. Fast forward five years. We have just completed our last scheduled trip to Nigeria as representatives of the CoB. This last visit was to observe and report on all that was done, how it has impacted the people most affected, and what challenges still remain for our brothers and sisters in Christ. On our trip we met with EYN president Joel S. Billi, who recognized the DM as a valuable part of EYN and praised the staff for their tireless efforts in assisting those affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. We also met with EYN's DM Team and spent time listening to their joys and concerns. A main focus of the trip was visiting camps for Internally Displaced People (IDPs). We visited two camps around the area of Nigeria's capital city, Abuja; a camp near the city of Yola; and three within the city of Maiduguri in the far northeast. The IDP camps near Abuja and Yola are surrounded by farmland and the displaced people are growing their own food. These camps amazed us with their progress and steps toward self-reliance. But in Maiduguri the camps are overcrowded, there is never enough food, and the living conditions are far below the quality of the other camps located in safer areas. Traveling safely to Maiduguri and assisting these camps remains a huge challenge for EYN and its DM. While visiting the EYN Headquarters in Kwarhi we traveled to the town of Michika, where we observed the progress toward rebuilding one of EYN's large churches. GM&S has given 40 grants of \$5,000 each to EYN congregations to help them rebuild their church buildings following destruction by Boko Haram. We also were able to witness the blessing of two water sources provided by the DM. The bore holes are providing a consistent source of good water and help build unity among the recipients and their communities. The need for alternative sources of income is very important for subsistence farming communities in northeast Nigeria. We visited a livelihood training center where widows and orphans are learning to be tailors. We observed a distribution of goats to some of the most vulnerable people, who included disabled and/or elderly people and a few of the orphans whose parents had been killed by Boko Haram. Each beneficiary was given a male and a female goat, and these animals will be a welcome source of livelihood and income for their future. We left Nigeria and our many friends with mixed emotions. There was a sense of satisfaction that when our brothers and sisters in Nigeria were at their lowest point, the Church of the Brethren stepped in to provide what was most needed. However, we also left with sadness as we realized this was probably the end of our official role in Nigeria. We are just two of the many Brethren who went to Nigeria to help out during a time of crisis. As we boarded the plane to fly home, we knew we had left a piece of our heart in Nigeria. Many challenges remain for EYN and the people of northeast Nigeria. More than 2 million people are still displaced, living in camps or host communities or in the neighboring country of Cameroon. Travel and communication are difficult, especially in areas still threatened by Boko Haram. There are still huge unmet needs, and they far outweigh the available resources. Our plea is to hold up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

Book Note

In May 2019, Al Hohl presented at the BLI Practice of Ministry Day. At that time he referenced a book that he was in the process of publishing. The book, titled: *The Heart of Prayer: Seeking the Sure Reign of God*, has now been published and is available for purchase. If interested in a copy, contact Al Hohl at hohlyone@gmail.com; discounts are available if a group would like to purchase multiple copies to be shipped to one location

Christian Citizenship Seminar seeks creative solutions to violent conflict

Recap of 2019 CCS

Church of the Brethren Newslines May 17, 2019

By Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred

The Christian Citizenship Seminar gathered 47 high school youth and advisors from Church of the Brethren congregations throughout the US, beginning on April 27 in New York City and ending in Washington, D.C., on May 2, focused on the theme “Creative Solutions to Violent Conflict Worldwide.” The event was led by five Church of the Brethren staff from the Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy.

For the latest Brethren news go to the main Newsline page

Throughout the week, participants learned about how churches, governments, and non-governmental organizations can pro-actively build peace and defuse potential violence without resorting to military force. In between sessions about the military budget, unarmed civilian protection, and advocacy, participants visited the United Nations, explored New York City, and met with their members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

Youth lobbied their senators and representatives to support funding for unarmed civilian protection, a strategy for preventing violence by providing a protective, nonviolent presence to observe and accompany civilians living amid conflict. They also shared how their background as members of a historic peace church informed their desire to see less militarism and more efforts to build peace in US foreign policy. In many offices, preventing violence without the use of military force was a novel but welcome concept, and participants were pleasantly surprised that staff and legislators from varying parties and perspectives received their ideas and their presence with curiosity and enthusiasm.

For many of the participants, who hailed from 14 congregations in 12 states, this was their first time lobbying their members of Congress. Most walked away encouraged to continue engaging in advocacy for peace and other issues that inspire them. Christian Citizenship Seminar, which occurs every spring except for years when National Youth Conference is held, exists for just such a purpose: to empower and inspire Church of the Brethren youth to see and speak on issues of peace and justice through the lens of their faith.

-- Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred is serving as the Youth and Young Adult Ministry assistant through Brethren Volunteer Service.

Volunteers Needed

A Note from Cliff



Friends,

Several items of interest to you this Prince of Peace season.

- Children's Disaster Services is beginning the year with several training possibilities, perhaps near you. Encourage others to join you to prepare to serve the children of disasters in the trauma that catastrophes carry into their lives. See the BDM web site: www.brethren.org/bdm/
- Puerto Rico had 30,000 roofs still tarped with blue plastic when Arlene and I arrived there with a BDM team at the end of October. There are still probably 29,000+. So your help is needed to replace roofs and do other repairs. The project is accepting volunteers through next May and does expect volunteers to stay at least for two weeks. Volunteers should expect hard physical work and hot temperatures. To sign up check the above web site or call BDM in New Windsor at 1-800-451-4407.
- the BDM rebuild projects are continuing in the Carolinas, Florida, and, maybe soon, Ohio. An off and on project in Nebraska with flood response is available. To volunteer for these possibilities please email me, kindy@cpt.org, and I will work to get you on the project
- As always, disaster cleanup kits are always in short supply, our S/C Indiana district disaster travel fund is being used regularly and would welcome replenishment,
- and the denominational BDM welcomes contributions for Nigeria, other international disaster sites and its ongoing support of the regular rebuilding program.

Thank you for your support of Brethren Disaster Ministries!

Cliff Kindy

phone: 260-982-2971

