

*Another way  
of living*



Church of the Brethren



# Another way of living

You shall be like a **watered garden**, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. —Isaiah 58:11

**We Brethren have been described as practicing “another way of living.”** That is, we pattern our daily living after the example of Jesus, not the values of the world. We try to carry the message of Sunday into every day of the week.

What does this look like? In the following words and images you’ll see some of the ways the Church of the Brethren is a compassionate alternative in a thirsty world. Here you’ll find the mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren from 2016-2017 provided in calendar format to inspire you for the daily living of 2018.

These are your ministries. Thank you for all the ways you bring them to life.



Yours in the work of Jesus,

David Steele

The Church of the Brethren distinguishes itself not as an abstract way of believing, but as a way of living, conveyed from one person to another.

The Church of the Brethren patterns its daily living after the life of Jesus—a life of humble service and unconditional love.

As a compassionate alternative in a world of increasing violence, complexity, and alienation, the

Brethren way of living incorporates peace, simplicity, and togetherness.

The Church of the Brethren offers another way of living, one that, like cold water to a thirsty soul, leads to replenishment—in all senses of the word.

**The Church of the Brethren carried out ministries** totaling more than \$12.1 million in 2016. That includes the church’s Core Ministries, gross expenses for self-funding ministries, and responses to disasters and other areas of need.

Giving to Core Ministries was down slightly from 2015, and the fund ended with a net deficit of \$273,768. Giving to the Emergency Disaster Fund decreased significantly from 2015, a year that was unusually high because of contributions to the Nigeria Crisis Fund.



## INCOME

**2016 Total \$6,896,616**



**2015 Total \$7,864,945**



## EXPENSE

**2016 Total \$9,931,942**



**2015 Total \$10,974,112**





# As you go, **disciple people** in all nations

—Matthew 28:19 (International Standard Version)



Venezuela



Spain



Rwanda

## JANUARY 2018

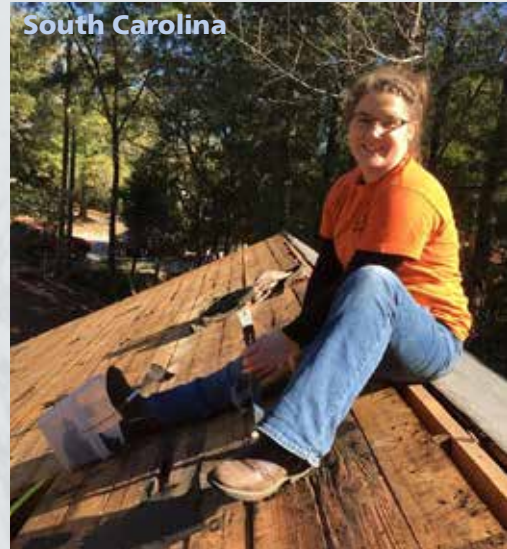
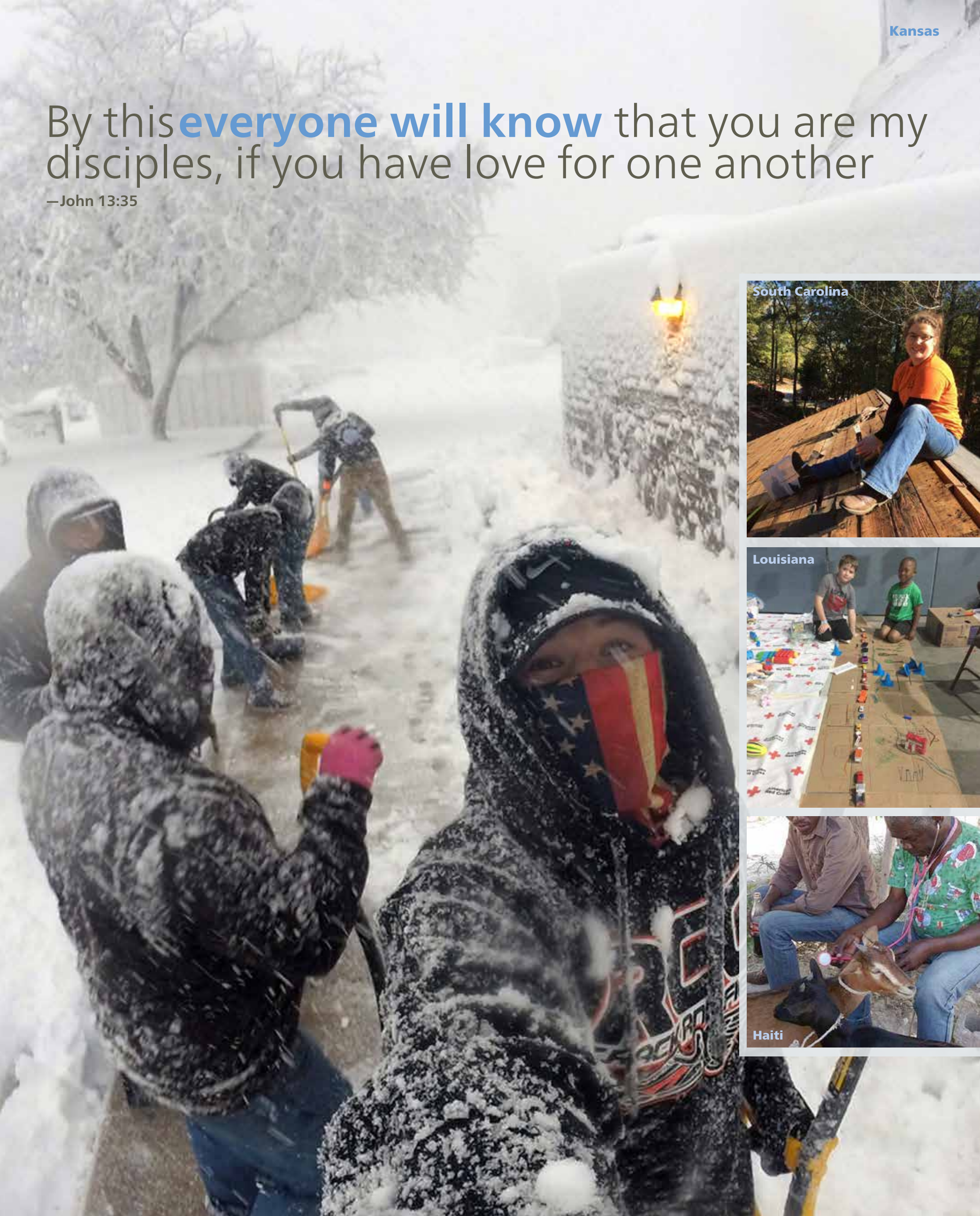
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**Years of buildings relationships** have resulted in formal approval of mission work in the Great Lakes region of Africa (Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo) and Venezuela. ■ Christian leaders in the Great Lakes area were attracted to the Church of the Brethren because of our focus on peace, reconciliation, and development. In addition to church planting, theological training, and peace work, the Brethren have now funded agricultural projects, disaster relief efforts, scholarship programs, and church construction. ■ Mission work in Venezuela emerged out of connections with the Brethren in the Dominican Republic. The Venezuelan group has grown spiritually and theologically through visits from church leaders in the DR, the US, and Brazil.



By this **everyone will know** that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another

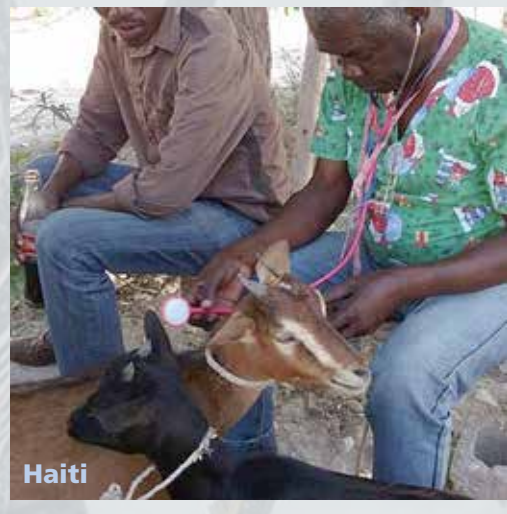
—John 13:35



South Carolina



Louisiana



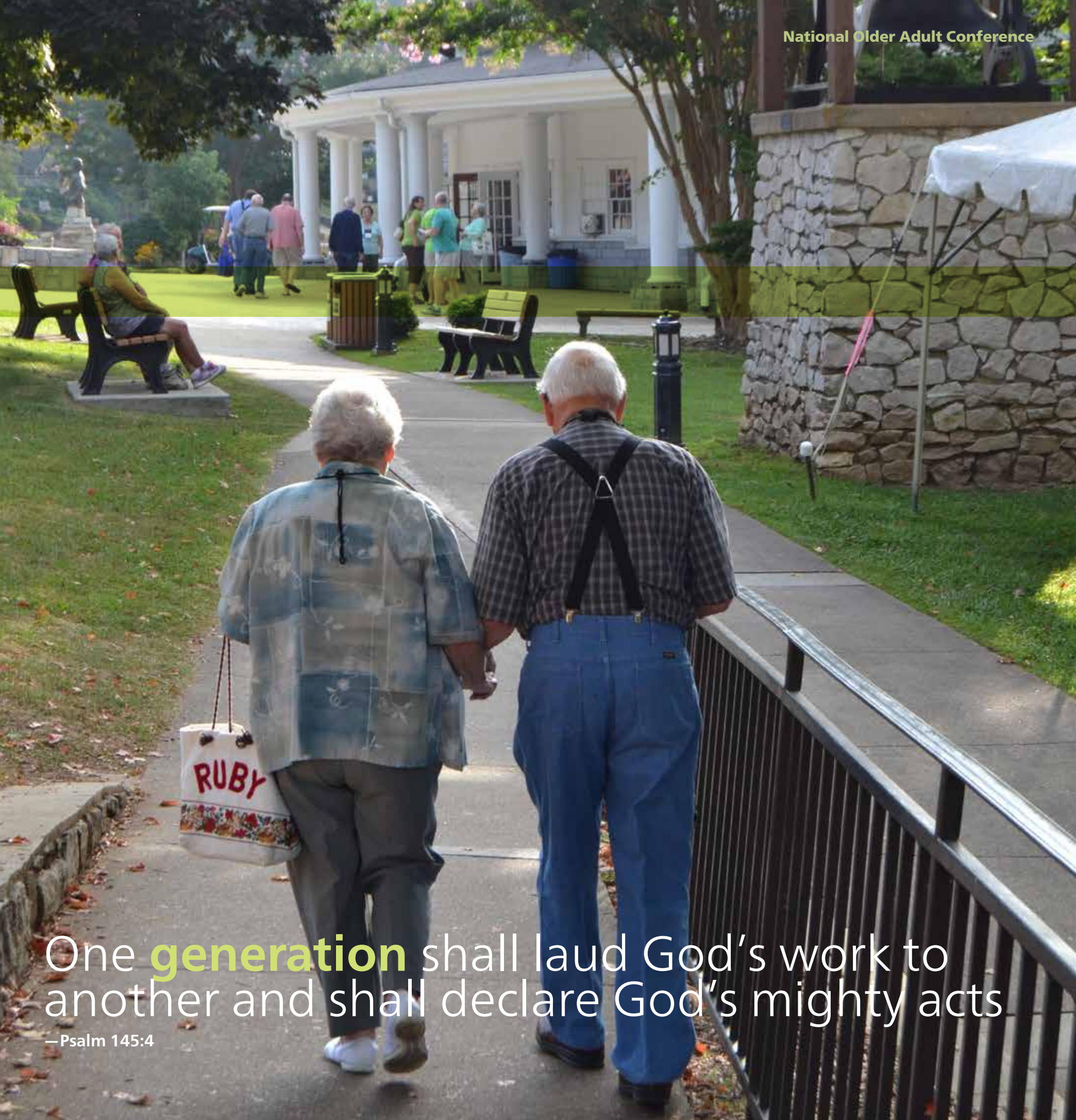
Haiti

## FEBRUARY 2018

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**In these extraordinary times,** global violence and the refugee crisis prompted individuals and congregations to give more than \$1.8 million for disaster response in 2016. The Brethren gave especially generously to the Nigeria Crisis Fund. Help also went to Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, South Sudan, Syria—and to Haiti following Hurricane Matthew and to Ecuador following an earthquake. ■ Stateside, Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers helped rebuild communities in New Jersey, Michigan, Colorado, West Virginia, and South Carolina. Children’s Disaster Services responded to a record 12 disasters, with 97 volunteers caring for 1,782 children in the US. ■ A special focus on trauma healing for children in Nigeria was the focus of the Healing Hearts curriculum created by CDS and introduced in a workshop for 14 women theologians.





One **generation** shall laud God's work to another and shall declare God's mighty acts

—Psalm 145:4



Young Adult Conference



National Junior High Conference



Christian Citizenship Seminar

## MARCH 2018

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**Unlike much of daily life,** church is often an intergenerational space, where young and old worship and learn together. Here we see a fuller sense of the richness of the family of God. Special highlights such as youth Sunday or disabilities month help congregations attend to the different gifts and needs of God's beloved community. ■ Nurturing those gifts is enhanced through the fellowship and inspiration of conferences for particular age groups—older adults, young adults, youth, junior highs, Christian Citizenship Seminars, workcamps. In so many ways—at home and away—generations are learning from each other.



... so that we may be **mutually encouraged** by each other's faith

—Romans 1:12



# APRIL 2018

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**Working in partnership with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria** (EYN—the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and five Nigerian organizations, the Church of the Brethren is supporting large-scale responses, including peace-building and trauma healing, homes, water, food, medical supplies, household goods, seeds and animals, equipment and training, education—even a cyber café to bring internet service to the church headquarters. ■ To bolster this work with advocacy, the Office of Public Witness has met with the Nigerian ambassador in both Washington and Abuja, met with officials in the US government, and held briefings related to the Chibok girls and the famine. ■ Though the Boko Haram crisis continues, the Brethren in Nigeria and the US are mutually encouraging each other. “We are not Church of the Brethren in Nigeria and you are not Church of the Brethren in America,” former EYN general secretary Jinatu Wamdeo told the Church Planting Conference. “We are one church in Jesus Christ.”

Main photo, left, center: Donna Parcell. Right: Jay Wittmeyer.





Alaska



Haiti

# I was hungry and you gave me food

—Matthew 25:35

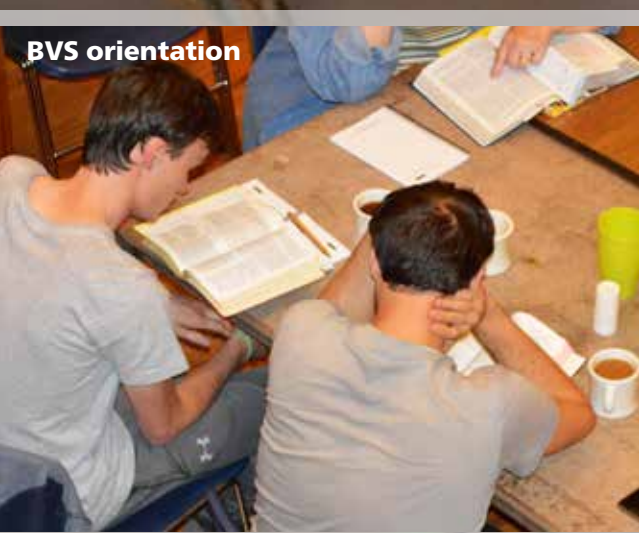
## MAY 2018

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**Through the Global Food Initiative**, the Church of the Brethren is feeding people around the world. In Haiti, farmers are seeing increased incomes, women’s saving groups are growing, and families are sending more children to school. In the Great Lakes region of Africa, partners are promoting sustainable farming practices among the Twa people. In Nigeria, people are working on a soybean production and utilization project. ■ In the US, community gardeners are getting together to collaborate, and the spotlight on their work gives them inspiration. “I pray it will stir churches to think about Jesus’ mission in new ways!” says a pastor in Maryland. One unique collaboration is between gardeners in two Native American communities—Lybrook, N.M., and Circle, Alaska.

Main photo: Lucas Al-Zoughbi. Left: Penny Gay. Right: Jay Wittmeyer.





BVS orientation



Church Planting Conference



Young Adult Conference



# I planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the growth**

— 1 Corinthians 3:6

## JUNE 2018

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**Church planting in the US is a broad effort.** Districts do the planting, and the wider church waters these efforts through training, networking, and other support. A major source of inspiration is the biennial Church Planting Conference, where leaders share ideas and become better equipped. ■ The evidence of God’s growth is seen also in new congregations in Spain, Venezuela, and the Great Lakes region of Africa. God gives growth in the deepening faith of young adults and the commitment of volunteers giving a year of service. God gives growth through deacons, spiritual directors, and evangelists. Each one plants or waters. Each one watches for the growth.

Main photo, center: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford). Left: BVS. Right: Kelsey Murray.



For just as **the body is one** and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ

—1 Corinthians 12:12



Annual Conference



Annual Conference



## JULY 2018

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**Seeking to be God's community** is a hallmark of the Church of the Brethren. Even when the journey is difficult, we are strengthened in many ways: Worshiping and studying the Bible together. Engaging in deep conversation at tables. Working shoulder to shoulder. Washing feet. ■ Community often begins in congregations, but it also flowers in BVS orientations, conferences, camps—wherever we come together as the body of Christ. We deepen our understanding of community when we become more intercultural and create a more colorful mosaic within our churches. Especially meaningful is when we enlarge our community, worshiping and working with other people of faith.



... let us love, not in word or speech,  
but **in truth and action**

—1 John 3:18



Oregon



Washington, D.C.



Oregon

# AUGUST 2018

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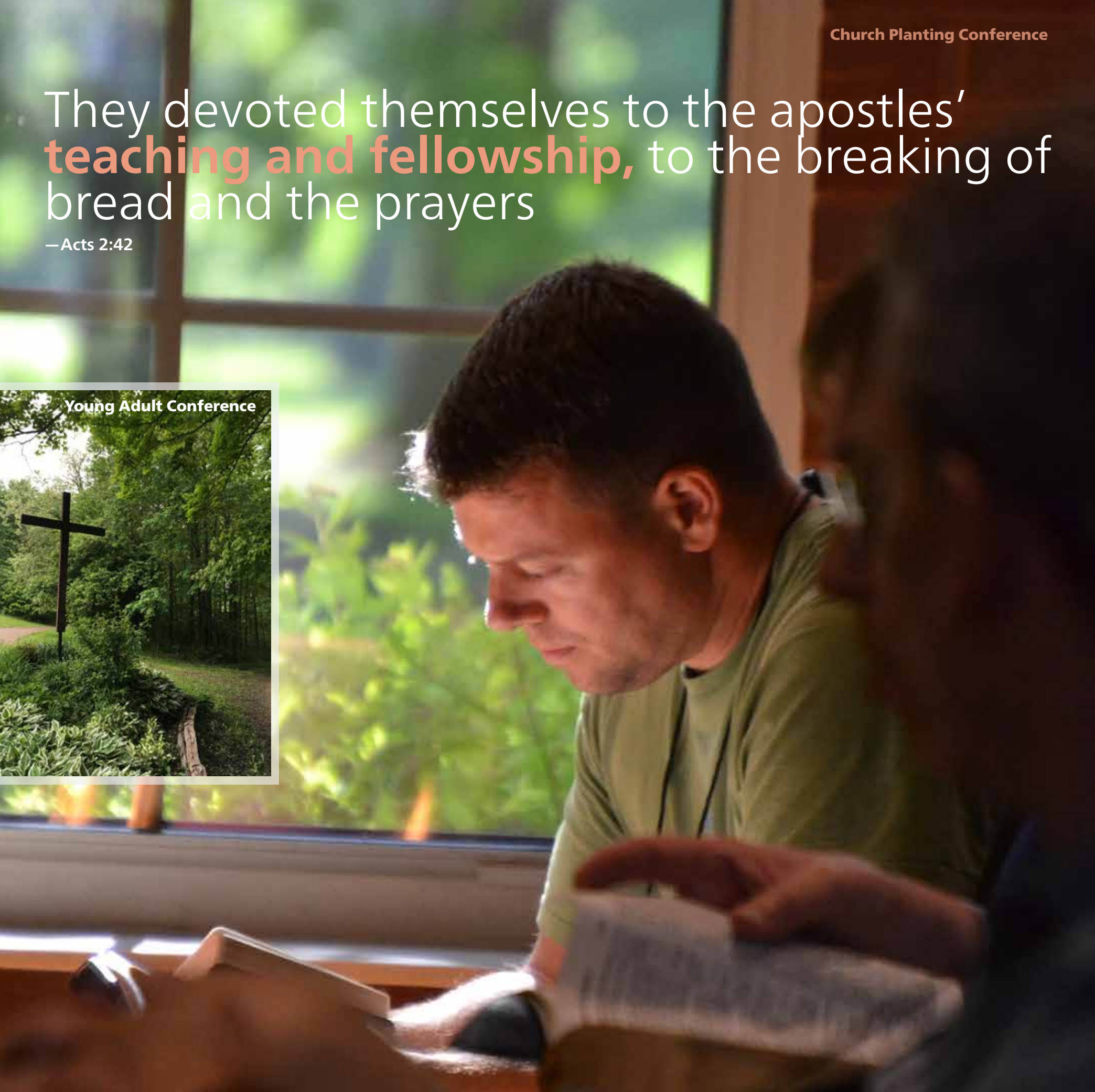
**Workcamps are about serving other people.** But they are also about faith formation and the daily practice of following Jesus. From junior highs through senior citizens, workcampers head out into the world for a concentrated time of meeting new people, engaging in Bible study, and putting their faith into action. Workcamp locations are spread from coast to coast, including Puerto Rico, and young adults can choose to work overseas—Northern Ireland in 2016 and Nepal in 2017.

■ A particular joy is US Brethren taking part in some of the Nehemiah Project workcamps in Nigeria, where Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria is rebuilding churches destroyed by Boko Haram. Their motto is “Come let us rebuild,” from Nehemiah 2:17. When brothers and sisters in Christ serve side by side, they are constructing more than buildings.



# They devoted themselves to the apostles' **teaching and fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers

—Acts 2:42



## SEPTEMBER 2018

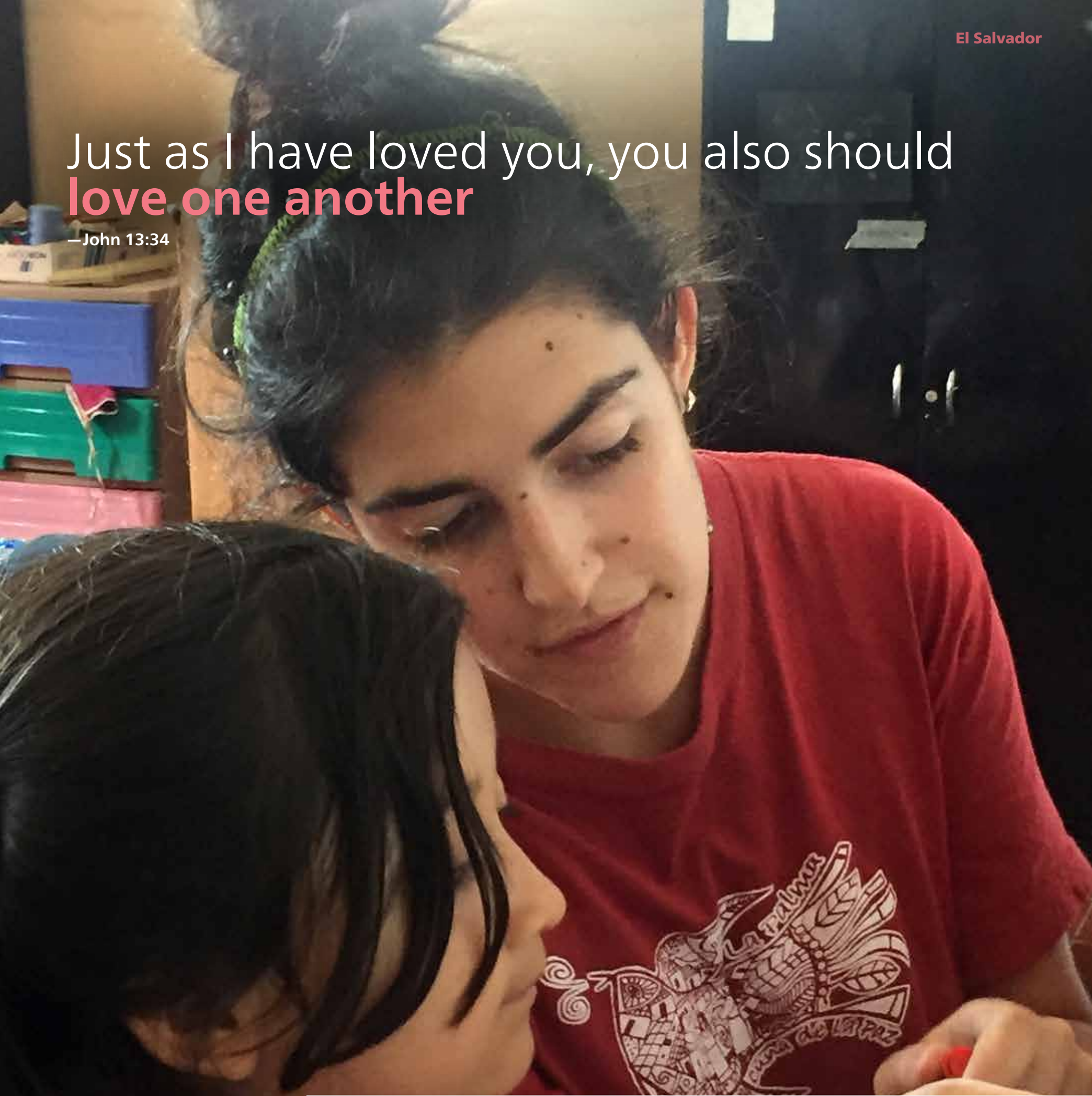
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**It's within congregations** that people often take their first steps in faith, welcomed as children or adults. That's where believers gather for worship, small groups, Sunday school, service projects. It's where individuals are consecrated, baptized, called into ministry. ■ The vitality of congregations is a major focus for Congregational Life Ministries, the Office of Ministry, and Brethren Press. Through these ministries, the Church of the Brethren supports the calling of ministers for congregations and leadership in districts, development of Bible study resources, and the creation of opportunities for individuals to grow as followers of Jesus.



# Just as I have loved you, you also should **love one another**

—John 13:34



## OCTOBER 2018

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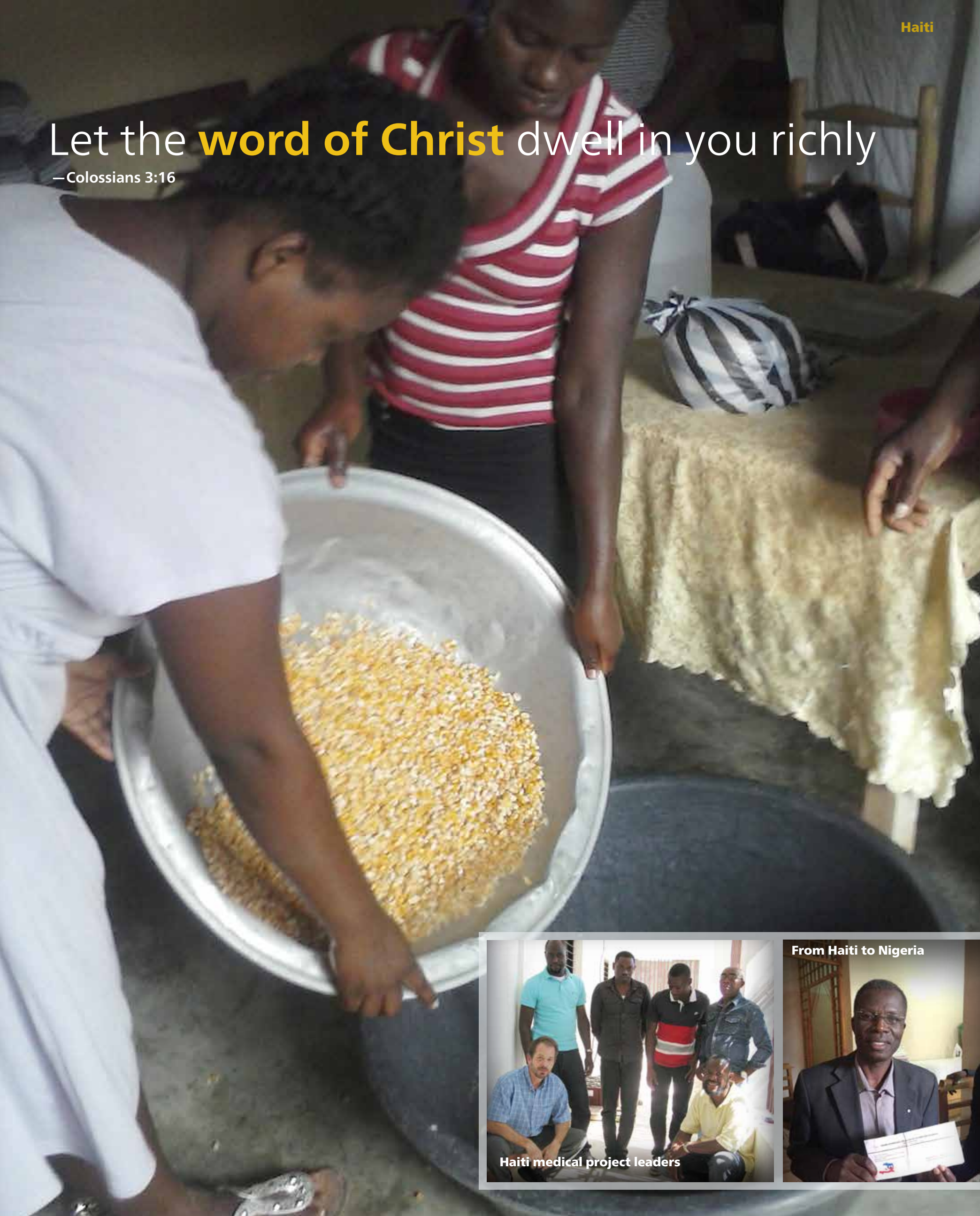
**One of the newest projects** in Brethren Volunteer Service is Horton's Kids, a program that works with at-risk school kids in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Other projects have become available because of a new partnership with Mennonite Voluntary Service, through which BVSers can serve at MVS sites. Volunteers have already been placed at the Gubbio Project, which provides sanctuary and chaplaincy to homeless people in San Francisco, and the Primavera Foundation, which provides pathways out of poverty for people in Tucson. ■ BVS projects reach toward one of four goals: advocating justice, working for peace, serving human need, and caring for creation. More than 7,000 volunteers have practiced another way of living through BVS during its almost 70 years. In 2016, 84 served in seven countries and 19 states.

Main photo, left: Dan McFadden. Middle: Donna Parcell. Right: BVS.



# Let the **word of Christ** dwell in you richly

—Colossians 3:16



Haiti medical project leaders

From Haiti to Nigeria



## NOVEMBER 2018

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**L’Eglise des Frères Haitiens** (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) celebrated the graduation of 22 church members who finished the three-year Haiti Theological Training program. One of the three female graduates became the first ordained woman in the Haitian church. ■ The social service ministry of the church expanded outreach to the rural poor in 2016. The mobile clinic initiated a school nurse program and continued to promote maternal health care and strengthened community-based dispensaries. A reverse-osmosis water filtration project was installed in Gonaives. After Hurricane Matthew, the ministry shifted its attention to rebuilding communities and replacing lost animals and crops. ■ In a generous expression of Christian love, the church in Haiti sent a financial gift to the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria.



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**

—Isaiah 9:6



Pyongyang University, North Korea



Young Adult Conference




Young Adult Conference

## DECEMBER 2018

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**God's promise of peace** takes the Church of the Brethren to places far and near. There's our longstanding commitment to Nigeria, where generations of relationships have bound us together in the body of Christ. We have also built relationships in tense areas such as South Sudan and North Korea. More recently we have seen Christians in Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo seek our help in peacemaking. ■ Peacemaking matters close to home too. The Vital Ministry Journey led the Modesto (Calif.) congregation to get to know their neighbors of other faiths. Brethren Press published *Speak Peace*, a trove of 366 readings about peace. Delegates at Annual Conference wrestled with differences, but worshiped with a sense of common purpose. In peacemaking efforts both small and large, the church prays that the Christ child will "be born in us today."





Under the direction of the Mission and Ministry Board, whose members are elected by Annual Conference, the Church of the Brethren engages in ministries across the United States and around the world:

Annual Conference • Brazil • Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership • Brethren Disaster Ministries  
Brethren Press • Brethren Historical Library and Archives • Brethren Service Center • Brethren Volunteer Service  
Burundi • Children's Disaster Services • Christian Citizenship Seminar • Church Planting • Curriculum and Books  
Deacons • Democratic Republic of the Congo • Dominican Republic • Donor Relations • Ecumenical Relations  
Emergency Disaster Fund • Evangelism • Faith Formation • Finance Office • General Offices • General Secretary's  
Office • Global Food Initiative • Going to the Garden • Haiti • Health and Disabilities • Home Rebuilding • Human  
Resources • India • Information Technology • Intercultural Ministries • Intergenerational Ministries • Material Resources  
Messenger magazine • Ministry • Ministry Summer Service • National Junior High Conference • National Older  
Adult Conference • National Youth Conference • Newline • Nigeria • Nigeria Crisis Response • North Korea • Older  
Adults • Public Witness • Rwanda • Shine • Spain • Spiritual Life and Discipleship • Stewardship • South Sudan  
Venezuela • Vietnam • Vital Ministry Journey • Webinars • Workcamps • [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) • Young Adult Conference



## Church of the Brethren

**Annual report of 2016. Published in 2017.**

Visit [www.brethren.org/annualreport](http://www.brethren.org/annualreport) to access a digital version of this pictorial report. Look there also for a PDF of the full written report reported to delegates at Annual Conference.