

**April 2017**



In this edition of the newsletter, we are excited to share with you what God is doing in and through Brother Yakubu Bakfwash, the restart pastor in Dundalk, Maryland. Yakubu and his family moved to Dundalk on December 12, 2016. In the seven weeks following their arrival, a lot has happened – a lot of meaningful, great things have taken place.

In the seven weeks following their arrival, Yakubu and his wife, Diana, have made several connections, have developed relationships with people in the community, and have knocked on several hundred doors. Together, they have been able to break down racial, class, and ethnic barriers to bring the gospel, the good news of Christ's salvation, to their community.

The secret of those seven weeks' hinges on personal and corporate prayer, trusting in God, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, which has resulted in the birth of a new church. A brand-new church – GraceWay Church of the Brethren – came into existence at 10:00 am on February 5. That day there were seven nations represented in worship: Ethiopians, Sudanese, Eritreans, Nigerians, American, Cameroonians, and the Congolese. A good picture of Revelation 7:9.

Since the doors of GraceWay Church were opened, there has been an average of twenty-five worshippers every other Sunday. These twenty-five had not worshipped in any Church of the Brethren before.

The new church is a multi-ethnic faith community of ordinary people in the hands of God, seeking to live out the Gospel. GraceWay is committed to God's good news for the salvation of the nations (that is, people of every ethnicity and language)

through evangelism, peacemaking, and reconciliation.

GraceWay Church will be a "GOING" church for a coming Christ. The gathering of different ethnicities in the worship of the one true God at the 10:00 am service has defined our identity in Christ. The establishment of GraceWay Church helps in the fulfilment for God's will to be done here "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:10).

Many opportunities are already opening up for ministry through the International Rescue Committee (IRC) of Baltimore, where Yakubu will help refugees settled in Dundalk adjust to the new culture in America. He will help the refugees with cross-cultural communication and learn how to navigate the new American culture. He sees this opportunity as an open door for evangelism.

Yakubu is excited to be a mentor to the new families that are being settled in Dundalk. Working as a mentor with IRC is a great opportunity that will help add value to God's kingdom. GraceWay Church is about "Equipping the nations to live transformed lives, so they can carry on the mission of Jesus."

The directional goal for GraceWay Church lies in its mission statement: "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known to the Nations" (Eph. 1:17-18; John 17:3; Rev. 7:9). The vision and the mission statements tell why the GraceWay Church congregation exists.

*Thank You  
from Shepherd's Spring*

Heartfelt thanks to the five churches who are hosting the slippery pot pie dinner at the end of this month and making us their offering for the Lenten series.

## *Counselors Wanted at Shepherd's Spring*

Camp Counselors provide adult role model leadership for the summer camp program. Whether it's a listening ear, attention to safety, or faith in action, campers look for their counselors to be present with them during camp. Counselors sleep in the cabins with the campers as well as participate in the daily activities of campers from pool time to meal time. Additional application and training is REQUIRED.

### *Shepherd's Spring Seeking Board of Directors candidates*

Shepherd's Spring seeks Church of the Brethren members to fill two Board of Directors vacancies. We invited interested individuals to contact Robin Haywood at [rhaywood@shepherdsspring.org](mailto:rhaywood@shepherdsspring.org).

### *Tri-District Peace Fellowship*

The Tri-District Peace Fellowship is a group originally based in the Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern Pennsylvania Districts. Taking literally the prophetic message of the angels at Jesus' birth, we gather to worship, fellowship, and learn how better to live out "Peace on earth; goodwill to all". The next gathering is Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM (includes potluck lunch) at Ruth Aukerman's home - 191 Stem Road, Union Bridge, MD 21791. To register or for more information and directions, call or text Joan Huston at 717-460-8650.

### *NOAC 2017*

Consider using the Mid-Atlantic bus to travel to NOAC, a one-day trip with cost not to exceed \$135 per person for a round trip. The 2017 NOAC is September 4-8 at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

For More Information, contact the District Office

## PLACEMENT UPDATE

Broadfording	Searching
Easton	Searching
Frederick	Preparing profile
Friendship	Searching

### *2017 Directories are HERE!!*

The 2017 District Directories have been printed and the office is planning to mail them to congregations. Please look for them in the mail. If you would like a digital copy of the directory, contact the District office at [aamad@brethren.org](mailto:aamad@brethren.org)

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

### *April*

- 1 LT Meeting 10 am-3 pm at District Office
- 17-20 Meat Canning
- 19 P&A 6 pm at District Office
- 22 ACTS Formation 9 am-12 pm at the District Office
- 24-25 Meat Canning
- 28-30 New Pastor Retreat at Rhodes Grove

### *May*

- 6 MAD Auction @ Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, Maryland
- 17 P&A 6 pm at Frederick CoB
- 20 Outreach Ministry in Healthcare Setting at Fahrney Keedy Home and Village, 10 am- 12 pm.

- June* 14 P&A 6 pm at Frederick CoB

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