

churches, hospitals, education and other institutions." Fifty Christian leaders signed the letter.

**In another statement on an apparent attempt at ethnic cleansing in Sudan**, the Executive Board of the NCC called attention to a genocide going on in Darfur that already has claimed tens of thousands of lives, a May 19 release said. The statement called on the government of Sudan to stop attacks against civilians and called on the US "to continue to press the Sudanese government to bring to a halt this unfolding horror and to support appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian, conflict resolution and peace enforcement efforts by the United Nations to these ends." The statement came after an April 23 observance of the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, sponsored by the NCC, at which speakers noted that the world is not stepping up effectively to stop the killing in Sudan.

"The Church of the Brethren would certainly echo this call of concern guided by the 1996 Annual Conference Statement on 'Nonviolence and Humanitarian Intervention,' " said Noffsinger.

### **Bethany Seminary celebrates ninety-ninth commencement.**

On Saturday May 8 Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Indiana, celebrated her ninety-ninth commencement. Two observances marked the occasion: a ceremony for conferring degrees in Bethany's



Nicarry Chapel, and a public worship celebration held in Stout Meetinghouse on the adjacent Earlham College campus. Eleven students received Master of Divinity degrees, one with an Emphasis in Ministry with Youth and Young Adults. Six students received Master of Arts in Theology degrees, four with an emphasis in Peace Studies. Those who received degrees are:

**Master of Divinity, with an emphasis in Ministry With Youth and Young Adults:** Noel S. Naff, of Tryon, North Carolina.

**Master of Divinity:** Jeremy Ashworth, of Fort Wayne, Ind., with Distinction in Ministry Studies; B. Elizabeth Cox, of Waynesboro, Pa.; William House, of New Castle, Ind.; Paul Liepelt, of Madison, Conn.; Patricia L. Meeks, of Greenville, Ohio; Brian P. Messler, of Baltimore, Md.; Ever Mudambanuki, of Zimbabwe; Mbode Ndirmbita, of Nigeria; Andrew Sampson, of Forest, Ohio; and Richard Yeager-Stiver, of Marion, Ohio.

**Master of Arts in Theology, with a Peace Studies Emphasis:** Thomas Coursen, of Richmond, Ind.; Leslie Ann Billhimer Frye, of McPherson, Kan., with Distinction in Theological and Historical Studies and her thesis work; Mark Godfrey, of McPherson, Kan.; and Holly White, of North Hampton, Ohio, with Distinction in Theological and Historical Studies.

**Master of Arts in Theology:** Joshua Brockway, of North Canton, Ohio; Kathryn S. Eisenbise, of Elizabethtown, Pa., with Distinction in Biblical Languages.

Graduates' future endeavors include careers in pastoral and congregational ministry, teaching, and additional graduate study. Bethany Theological Seminary was founded in 1905 and is the graduate school and academy for theological education for the Church of the Brethren.

### **New gardening book published by Brethren Press.**

A new book on gardening, "**Gardening for the Earth and Soul**" by Heather Dean and Tom Benevento, has been published by Brethren Press.

More than a sustainable gardening book, it's also a book of social commentary, global peace, and children's activities, all pulled together by Benevento's line drawings. Drawing on their education and personal experiences, the authors address both the practical and spiritual benefits of gardening. Benevento, the General Board's Latin America specialist, and Dean both have worked alongside the indigenous people of Central America and used their experiences to create community gardens that thrive in the urban landscape in