

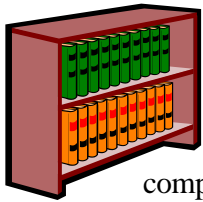
North America. The book is a practical and inspirational "how to" manual. Cost is \$18.99 plus shipping and handling. To order, call 800-441-3712, go online to [www.BrethrenPress.com](http://www.BrethrenPress.com), or buy it at the Brethren Press bookstore at Annual Conference this summer in Charleston, W.Va. Refer to item number 8534.

**Don Vermilyea has taken his 20 millionth step in his Walk Across America.**

**The Brethren Volunteer Service worker** is walking across the nation, with the goal of visiting every Church of the Brethren congregation. He took the historic step in Minnesota on May 12, and has now walked 9,689 miles. For more information on Vermilyea's quest, which began in Feb. 2002 in Arizona, go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) and click on keyword box to find the Walk Across America.



**2004 Intellectual Freedom Award from the Indiana Library Foundation**



**Doug Archer**, ordained in the Church of the Brethren and peace studies librarian at the Hesburgh Library at the University of Notre Dame, has received the 2004 Intellectual Freedom Award from the Indiana Library Foundation. The award recognizes his longtime advocacy for intellectual freedom and support for local control of library policies, in opposition to last year's Supreme Court ruling that public libraries must have filters on their computers to block out potentially offensive websites. Archer is a member of Mount Pleasant Church of the Brethren in Bourbon, Ind. An article about the award can be found at [www.SouthBendTribune.com](http://www.SouthBendTribune.com).

Life's Lesson



There once was a bunch of tiny frogs, who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants. The race began. Honestly, no one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You heard statements such as "Oh, WAY too difficult!!" "They will NEVER make it to the top." Or: "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"



The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one...except for those, who in a fresh tempo were climbing higher and higher. The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. But ONE continued higher and higher and higher. This one wouldn't give up!

At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one who reached the top! THEN all the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it.

A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal. It turned out...that the winner was DEAF!!!



The wisdom of this story is: Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic...because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you...the one you have in your heart! Always think of the power words have.

Because everything you hear and read will affect your actions. That is why it is so important to immerse oneself in the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures.

Therefore: ALWAYS BE POSITIVE. And above all: Be DEAF when people tell you that you cannot fulfill your dreams! Always think: GOD AND I CAN DO THIS!

