

East campus in Richmond, is executive director; Ruth Hill, former assistant in conflict resolution at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga., is associate director.

**Church World Service (CWS) is preparing to assist refugees** from Haiti, in response to the escalating political and humanitarian crisis there. In addition, "Haitians are hungry," said a CWS press release. A worsening food crisis was exacerbated by floods in December. CWS has had a long-standing presence in Haiti and supports Haitian asylum seekers and detainees in the US.



**A Church of the Brethren missions conference, "Mission Alive 2005!" is being planned for April 1-3, 2005, in Goshen, Ind.** The meeting is designed to be "a national Church of the Brethren missions conference to energize and equip ourselves to faithfully share Christ's love with the world," according to the Mission and Ministries Planning Council (MMPC), which initiated the event along with the General Board. One of MMPC's roles is to encourage discussion about mission among the Church of the Brethren membership. A steering committee of Brethren with experience or interest in mission has been named to shape the event: Carolyn Schrock, Mountain Grove, Mo.; Larry Dentler, East Berlin, Pa.; Carol Spicher Waggy, Goshen, Ind.; James F. Myer, Lititz, Pa.; and Merv Keeney, the General Board's executive director of Global Mission Partnerships.

### **Who's First?** -Teresa Billingsly

A man knelt at the foot of his bed, and prayed God would grant him an opportunity for a personal chat, so he could ask a few questions. God honored his request.

"Lord, who is first in the kingdom?"

**"Who's last" (Luke 13:30).**

"No, who's first?"

"Okay, who is last?"

**"Who's first."**

"Let me go back to the beginning,"

**"Oh, the word." (John 1:1)**

"Right, my choice of words seems to be creating a communication problem here. How do I speak so I may be clearly understood by you?"

**"Call those things that be not as though they were" (Romans 4:17).**

"Huh? I don't get it. Speaking of calling things, what should I call you? What is your name?"

**"I Am" (Exodus 3:13-14).**

"Right, that's what I'm asking, Who are you?"

**"I Am."**

"Yes, You are? Who?"

**"I Am."**

The man stood to his feet, and left his room frustrated with God. He wondered why God did not answer him. He thought the replies he received were in the form of questions, yet they were biblically correct explanations.

This is an all too familiar scenario. The key to understanding God in relation to our dilemmas is to acquaint ourselves with [God's] vocabulary. Our study time in the Bible enables us to have the wisdom to discern and rightly divide [God's] words (2 Timothy 2:15).

- taken from *Pulpit Helps*, published by AMG Publisher, Chattanooga, TN 37422

### **Moments with God**

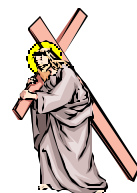
Happy moments, praise God.

Difficult moments, seek God.

Quiet moments, worship God.

Painful moments, trust God.

Every moment, thank God.



- Sparks *Pulpit Helps*, published by AMG Publisher, Chattanooga, TN 37422