

# News from the Brick

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren  
5352 N. Brick Church Road  
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Established 1820



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Jodi Johnson: Interim Secretary  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

August  
2005

*Continuing the Work of Jesus.  
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

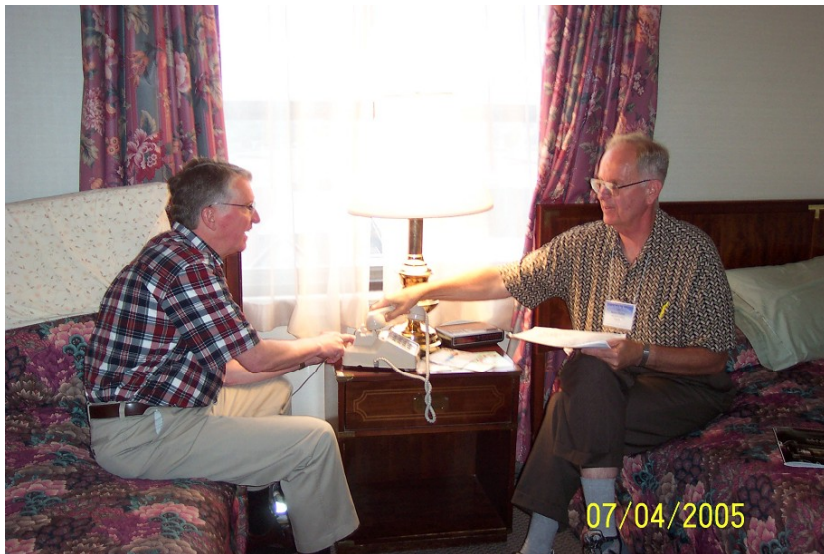
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### Carol's Comments

### *"How Many Brethren Does It Take"*

*Read: Matthew 25: 14-30 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'* v. 23

One night at Annual Conference Bob, Leland, Beverly, and I decided we would have pizza in our room. There was a place across from our hotel, so we thought we would order and have it delivered. We had a problem with our phone. The plug going into the back of the phone was loose and would not stay connected. In order to make the call one person would have to hold the plug in the socket while the other person dialed. So, Leland volunteered to be the plug holder while Bob made the call. We found out that there was a \$10.00 charge to have it delivered across the street. Needless to say, Bob and Leland went over to pick it up.



We jokingly said, "How many Brethren does it take to make a call?" Indeed, how many Brethren does it take to make a call? A call to discipleship? A call to a ministry? A call to serve on a board or committee? How many Brethren does it take? It takes all of us. It takes every committed Christian to invite others into the kingdom of God—to make disciples. It takes all of us to be alert to the God-given abilities we notice in others...those special gifts...those spiritual gifts. Whether we are serving at the local level, the district level or the denominational level, it takes all of us being attentive to God and others.

It is not an easy task to serve on a nomination committee or a gifts and discernment committee. Many people are asked to serve in a position, and many people say, "No," for whatever reason. Are we missing something in our calling out of people? Are we who are being called to serve taking the time to discern if this is God's call to us? Are we going to prayer with the call? I think in today's society, we face many other things clamoring for our attention and our abilities. So when it comes down to the church's call or God's call, it's easier to say, "No." What if Christ said no to healing others, to being compassionate, to listening, to loving, to forgiving, to serving when the call came?

The parable of the talents describes the person who diligently prepares for Christ's return by investing his or her time and talent to serve God. That person will be rewarded. The person who has no desire or work for the kingdom will be punished. God rewards the faithful.