

Brethren leader Thurl Metzger to be honored by Heifer International.

A new Thurl Metzger Education Center will be dedicated at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 4 at Heifer Ranch near Perryville, Ark. A **Church of the Brethren member**, Metzger served Heifer International for some 30 years as executive director, director of International Programs, and senior consultant, beginning in 1953. The Church of the Brethren started Heifer Project in 1944.

Previous to his service to Heifer, Metzger was director of the Polish farm-youth exchange program of the Church of the Brethren Service Commission.



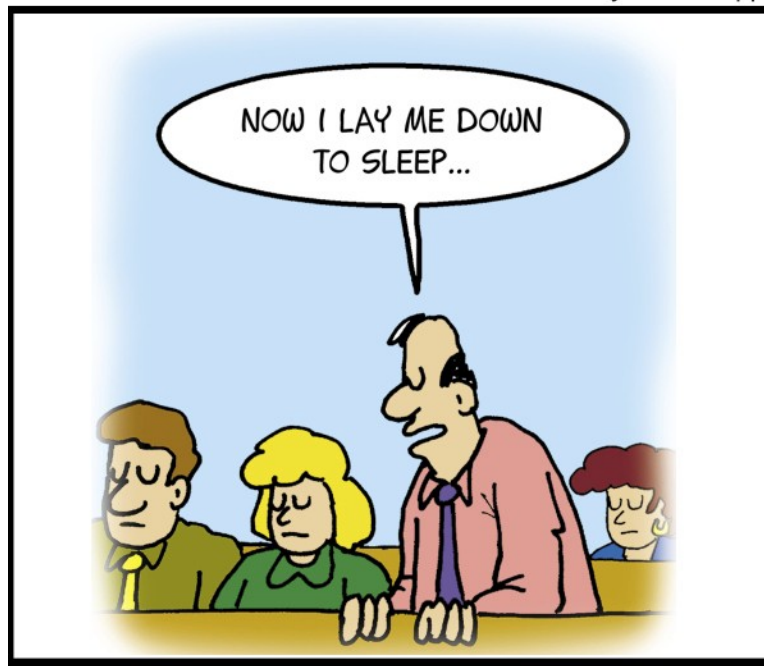
The new building will include "green" features, classrooms, and office space for the Ranch education team and the Volunteer Department team. It will be equipped with handicap accessible trails to accommodate wheel chairs, and will serve as a severe weather and tornado shelter.

The National Council of Churches (NCC) has participated in or made statements on several current political issues. General secretary Bob Edgar was one of 27 religious leaders who signed a statement calling for the elimination of torture as a part of US policy (to endorse the statement go to www.nrcat.org). The NCC renewed a call to close the US



Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba following the suicides of three prisoners; as of June 15, more than 10,500 people had signed a petition at FaithfulAmerica.org calling for the facility to be closed (FaithfulAmerica.org is a program of the NCC; for more see www.nccusa.org/news/060_216gitmo.html). The NCC also urged Congress to raise the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour from \$5.15 an hour, joining the Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign. "A raise to \$7.25 an hour is the least we can do now for minimum wage workers who have gone without a raise for nine long years," the NCC said (for more go to www.letjusticeroll.org).

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



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