

## Called to a ministry, not a mansion

### *Former BIC pastoral couple answers with abundant generosity*

#### **Simon Lehman Jr. and his wife Betty**

could be living like millionaires with money they got from selling their farmland, but instead, they invested it with the Brethren in Christ and say they are reaping far greater riches.

“I love Jesus!” Si, as he is commonly called, says with firm conviction. “He called me to ministry, not a mansion!”

Betty quips that her husband would give anyone in need the shirt off his back – “But I still have a shirt on!” Si corrects. However, it’s that spirit of giving that characterizes the life of this retired Brethren in Christ pastoral couple.

Si, now 82, was called to be a pastor when he was 18, “by the Good Lord Himself,” he says, but it wasn’t until he was 25 that the church called him to service. In October 1951, he was chosen as pastor of the Mechanicsburg (Pa.) BIC, where he stayed 18 years. While serving there, he helped start the Duncannon BIC, now called Roseglen BIC, and later was pastor.

In 1980, Si became chairman of the BIC board for evangelism and church planting and the founding pastor of West Shore BIC. He was called to Fairview BIC in 1988 and oversaw four building projects while the congregation grew from eight people to 82 people. He retired from there in 1999 and became interim pastor at Mowersville BIC for almost two years.

Throughout his busy ministry, Si had



Betty and Si Lehman love to share their blessings with others.

another job. He began farming on his wife’s family farm in 1949 in Mechanicsburg, Pa. and was later joined in partnership by his son, Ken. His dairy cows, Si says, paid his way in life. He would work on the farm from 4:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and then start doing his pastoral visitation rounds.

The very farm that earned him a living and allowed him to answer God’s call to preach would also turn out to be a blessing to the entire BIC Church. As neighboring farmland became developed, Si was approached several times to sell portions of his land. When he retired from farming in 1989, he gave half of the land to Ken, and began using the other half to benefit the church. He donated land to the Brethren in Christ Foundation and, with money he received from selling portions of his land, he invested in charitable remainder unitrusts with BICF. He and his wife live

comfortably off the interest from these unitrusts, he says.

“My money has always been in the church. We are called to share with others,” Si explains simply.

“The bottom line is the satisfaction of knowing we’re investing in the Lord,” echoes Betty.

The Lehmans apparently passed on their charitable mindset to their son. In honor of his parents, Ken made a sizeable donation to the BIC pastoral leadership development fund called Shaping Leaders for Tomorrow.

The Lehmans have long been an example of faith in action. They lost their other son, Galen, at age 13, to Hodgkin’s disease. Explains Si, “I have always been one of those people who has adjusted to whatever God brought into my life. If you can’t adjust, you can’t serve. After Galen died, I learned to keep going. You dare not stop. A neighbor told us later, ‘We were watching you

to see how you were gonna take it,' and they commended us on how we did."

One of the highlights of Si's life was a 50-day trip he and his wife took around the world in 1969. They visited 17 countries and each of the BIC mission stations, leaving a donation at each one. When they heard a donation was

needed to build a church in an Indian village, they left a check to cover the cost – and said it was in honor of Galen. "Later, we got a letter that said every person in the village accepted the Lord," Si recounts. "We really felt that God blessed our donation!"

While some may laud the Lehmans

for their donations, Si dismisses any applause: "God gave me the opportunity of service that was beyond me. I am simply not worthy of any of it. God has done it all!"

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For more information on opening a charitable unitrust account, visit the BICF website at [BICFOUNDATION.ORG](http://BICFOUNDATION.ORG) or contact Jim Smiley at (717) 796-4788.

## Childhood lesson yields lifetime of giving

### *One man's story of generous living*

**Growing up on a farm in Lancaster** County, Pa., Wendell Funk knew 10 percent of whatever his dad paid him to help on the farm went straight to the Lord.

"I grew up with that philosophy and I lived with that philosophy ever since," says Wendell, who is now 57 years old and still living by the childhood advice given by his parents Hilda and Paul Funk. "I feel strongly that it's important to teach children about giving when they're young. It's very hard to instill that mindset later in life."

Wendell also credits his uncle Charles Frey, a longtime member of the Brethren in Christ Church, with modeling a charitable mindset for him. "He challenged me with his incredibly generous living," Wendell says.

Though he still lives on a farm in Manor Township, Lancaster County, Wendell chose a different profession. He is a plastic surgeon, with offices in three central Pennsylvania locations.

"I probably live a simpler lifestyle than many of my professional colleagues," he allows. "If I gave less, I would have more money, but I certainly wouldn't be any happier."

Wendell has a gift deposit account with the Brethren in Christ Foundation and enjoys being able to designate

which ministries he would like his money to benefit. Some of these include Manor BIC Church, where he attends; Kenbrook Bible Camp and Paxton Ministries. He also supports individual missionaries, civic organizations and his alma matter Franklin & Marshall College, to name a few.

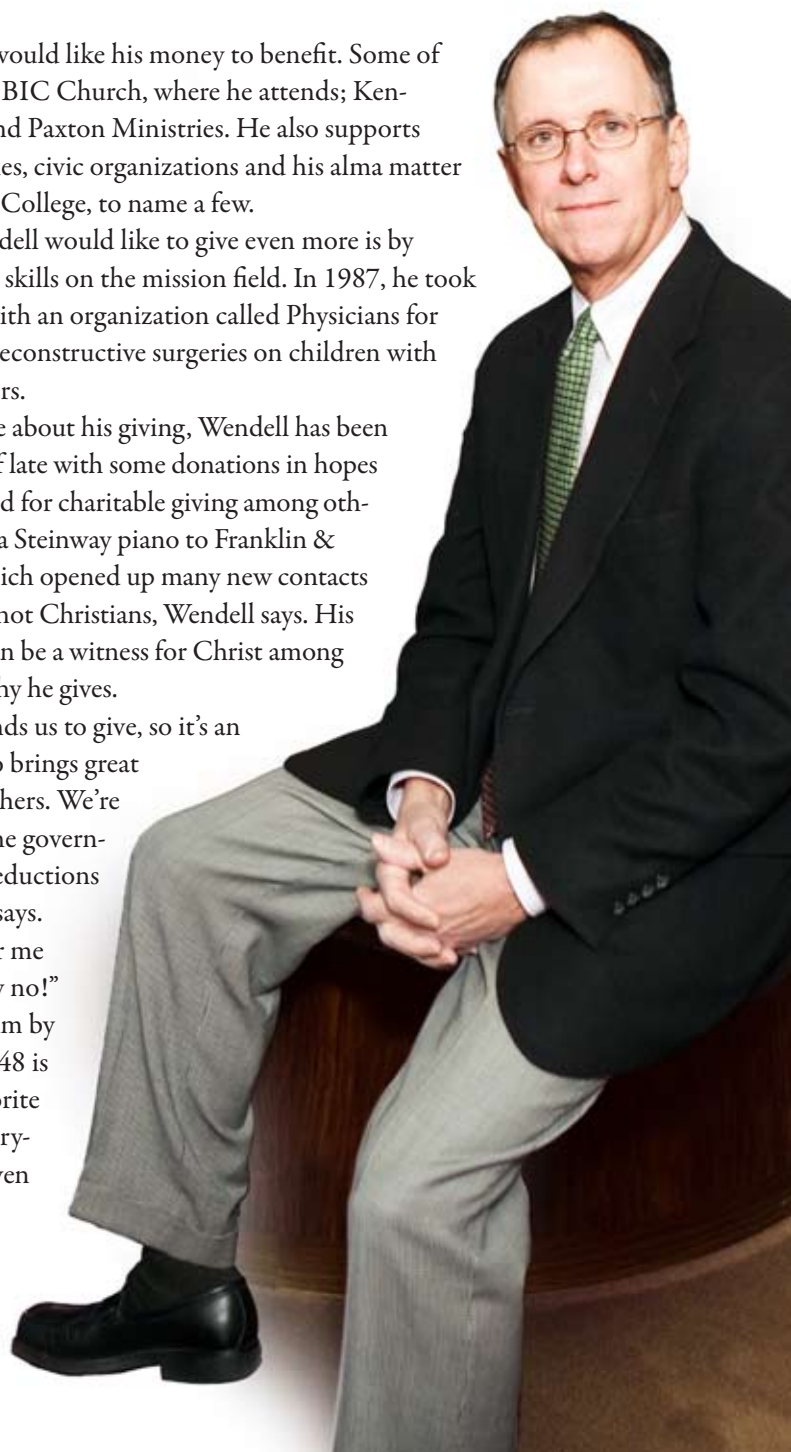
One way that Wendell would like to give even more is by donating his medical skills on the mission field. In 1987, he took a trip to Damascus with an organization called Physicians for Peace, where he did reconstructive surgeries on children with cleft palates and others.

Usually very private about his giving, Wendell has been a little more public of late with some donations in hopes that it will plant a seed for charitable giving among others. He recently gave a Steinway piano to Franklin & Marshall College, which opened up many new contacts with people who are not Christians, Wendell says. His generosity, he says, can be a witness for Christ among those who wonder why he gives.

"The Bible commands us to give, so it's an obligation, but it also brings great enjoyment to help others. We're very fortunate that the government allows us tax deductions for giving," Wendell says.

"The hardest thing for me now is learning to say no!"

Often quoted to him by his mother, Luke 12:48 is one of Wendell's favorite life verses: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded."



Dr. Wendell Funk learned the joy of giving from his parents.

“Giving does not have to be strictly money; it can be talents, time and other gifts,” Wendell notes. “Some people are blessed with many gifts besides just money. We are expected to use all of our gifts for the work of expanding Christ’s kingdom.”

For more information on a BIC gift deposit account, visit the BICF site at [BICFOUNDATION.ORG](http://BICFOUNDATION.ORG) or contact Jim Smiley at (717) 796-4788.

## Living on the least, to give the most

### Former BIC missionaries have seen the needs firsthand

**“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”** Fred and Grace Holland believe in that verse from Joshua so much so that it’s engraved over an archway in their Dillsburg, Pa. home.

For these former Brethren in Christ missionaries, serving means giving not just of their time and talents, but of their financial resources as well – whenever they can, as much as they can.

“People without Jesus are lost. Giving our lives, time, talents and money has been a way of life – a joyful way of serving God,” Grace shares. “That is what led to missions and to giving. We live on the least that we can so that we can give the most that we can. Giving brings so much satisfaction!”

The Hollands have a charitable gift annuity with the Brethren in Christ Foundation. They started investing when the foundation was known as the Jacob Engle Foundation. They began paying into the Minister’s Pension fund as missionaries, and later rolled in their IRAs from teaching.

“For years we gave all that we could to promote God’s Kingdom growth through the church,” Fred shares. “Then as we got older we realized we should have some elder-days security, so with the gift annuity, we can get some income and still leave a large life-end

Fred and Grace Holland find that charitable giving is “holy fun”!

### Want to get your children off to a giving start?

Check out these books as a starting point. Read them together and talk about it:

- *The ABC’s of Handling Money God’s Way* – age appropriate workbooks available from Crown Financial Ministries ([www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org))
- *The Giving Box: Create a Tradition of Giving with Your Children*, by Fred Rogers
- *The Giving Family: Raising Our Kids to Help Others*, by Susan Crites Price
- *Kids’ Guide to Giving*, by Fredericka Zeiler, who wrote this as a seventh grader, from a kid’s perspective.

gift for missions. We would encourage others to think of giving to BIC Missions that way.”

No price could be put on the amount of time and personal energy the Hollands have put into serving God on the mission field. They served in Africa from 1955 through 1974 and intermittently from 1981 through 1986. They are largely responsible for developing a program called Theological Education by Extension (TEE) in Africa. It teaches the Scriptures to poorly-educated African pastors and others and is often their first opportunity for real training in the Bible. In fact, the Hollands themselves have written many of the TEE lessons, which are evangelical in

content and allow the student to work independently for the most part.

The BIC uses TEE in India, Nepal, Mexico, Philadelphia, and Navajo land as well as Africa. Fred and Grace continue to be involved in the preparation of materials on a volunteer basis.

“It is important to do all we can because God calls us to do it!” Fred exclaims. “Jesus said that when we give even a cup of water to the poor we have done it to Him. We have seen the suffering; people need help.” Fred has always wanted to have a million dollars to give



## IN RETURN

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away, he confesses. “There is so much need!” Grace echoes. She has helped on the executive end of Brethren in Christ World Missions, having served as board chair or assistant chair for five years, and Fred has worked as BICWM coach for evangelism and church planting.

“We have seen small amounts of money turned into blessing, and have partnered with national churches to reach into urban areas and start new churches,” Fred says. “It would be great to end the journey trying to help third world churches push on to reach their own people. So, we pray, try to motivate, and use the money that has been entrusted to us for His Glory—and that is holy fun!”

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For information on opening a charitable gift annuity, visit the BICF website at [BICFOUNDATION.ORG](http://BICFOUNDATION.ORG) or contact Jim Smiley at (717) 796-4788.

## Sharing my thoughts

### *A note from Jim Smiley, director of planned giving*



**Welcome to our** first issue of “In Return,” the newly-renamed newsletter of the Brethren in Christ Foundation.

What comes to mind when you think of “In Return”? When we think about how God meets our needs, we give Him praise in return. He provides what is needed and enough to share with others. Good stewardship is founded on the principle of returning a portion of what He has provided. The testimonies in this first issue of “In Return” breathe life into how this principle has guided the lives of these faithful stewards.

The Hollands have given their lives to missions, and in return, the Lord has blessed them in many ways and

enabled them to return what He has provided. Dr. Funk chose to use his medical training to glorify God as he has helped the needy in various places and used earnings from his medical profession to help others. He continues to return what he was given. The Lehmans have been faithful to God as they have been called to various congregations. The compassion that drives them could be provided only by God. As they have been blessed financially, they have chosen to return what He has provided.

At the Brethren in Christ Foundation, we work to help people fulfill their dreams of returning what God has provided to them, while at the same time receiving a return on their investments. It would be my pleasure to talk with you about the possibilities. In Return, may you be blessed in all that you do.