

Study Questions for “The Greatest Adventure Is What Lies Ahead!”
By Dennis Lohr

1. Dennis Lohr focuses on the emerging church, the important changes in the church in these times that will define what the church is in the future. How would you say the church has changed in your lifetime? Why do you think it changed? Is the worldwide church growing or declining as a religion?
2. Lohr points out that, as a people, we give greatest priority to home and family, then to our work, and only third to the church. What should the order be, in your opinion? Assuming that church is not the only place where we experience God, how have you encountered the sacred in the home or at work?
3. “Call it what you want—postmodern, post-Christian, post-Christendom, post-denominational, post-orthodox, post-nuclear family, post-nation state, post-superpower, post-religious, post-scientific—it seems we’re truly going postal! The prefix “post” keeps cropping up because even though we’re not sure where we are headed, it’s pretty clear that much of what has defined us and our world is coming to an end.” What if the early Brethren had said this? How was their world changing? Which Brethren beliefs from the early days are still relevant today? No creed but the New Testament? No force in religion? Nonresistance to evil? Simplicity? Believer baptism? Have we moved on from these concepts, or are we coming back around to them?
4. Lohr talks about “leavers,” people who have grown in faith by examining their beliefs and analyzing them. The church has not always been very hospitable to analytical members, who often leave the church. Is your congregation a “safe place for people to ask questions, to disagree with stated positions and to explore their faith”? In what ways do you encourage deep exploration of faith? In what ways do you discourage deep analysis for fear it will destroy faith?
5. “I have a growing conviction that the primary ministry model we have used for the last fifty to one hundred years is not sustainable or desirable in a postmodern world. I’m talking about the full-time, salaried pastor model.” If your congregation struggles to support a full-time paid pastor, what are some other options? If you have a successful model of ministry, what makes it successful?