

of the
*Brethren in Christ
Historical Society*

SIDER INSTITUTE STUDY CONFERENCE

The Non-Violent Atonement

The annual Brethren in Christ Study Conference for 2011 will focus on “The Non-Violent Atonement” and is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Hostetter Chapel on the Messiah College campus. The event is sponsored by the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies, of which Richard Hughes is director.

Seminary in Philadelphia and the founding director of Evangelicals for Social Action, will discuss “Traditional Views of the Atonement.” Finally, Robin Collins, professor of philosophy at Messiah College, will explore “The Non-Violent Atonement.” Following these presentations, pastors and other participants will have the opportunity to discuss in small group settings the implications of what they have heard in the formal presentations.

The registration fee is \$30 per person and includes lunch. For additional information, please contact Carol Hostetter, Assistant to the Sider Institute, at 717-766-2511, ext. 2720; or at hostetter@messiah.edu.

The Brethren in Christ Historical Society is represented on the Sider Institute Advisory Committee by two members (Pauline Peifer and Glen Pierce), who help to plan the fall conferences. **BICS**

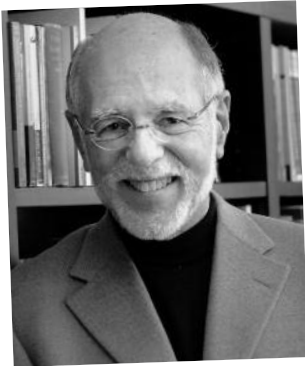
A Call for Research and Writing Suggestions

The Historical Society editors are compiling a list of subjects which we hope will lead eventually to publication as articles. Multi-page articles will be published in the Society’s journal, *Brethren in Christ History and Life*; shorter articles of one to two pages will appear in the *Newsletter*.

All members are invited to suggest subjects. The subjects may be on any aspect of Brethren in Christ history and life, including biography, theology, movements, events, institutions, etc. A statement on the topic will be helpful, although not necessary, such as why it is important and what the article might contain.

Eventually a list of topics will be published in the *Newsletter*. Among the results of this exercise, we hope, will be the publication of a significant number of articles in one of our publications. Send your suggestions to the editor, Brethren in Christ Historical Society, P. O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027 (or e-mail msider@messiah.edu).

Richard Hughes, who was appointed as the Director of the Sider Institute after the death of former director Luke Keefer, Jr.



Three speakers will approach the conference theme from three different perspectives. John Arthur Brubaker will explore “Historic Perspectives on the Atonement Among the Brethren in Christ.” Ron Sider, professor of theology, holistic ministry, and public policy at Palmer Theological

Reminder of the Annual Meeting

As announced in the summer issue of the *Newsletter*, the annual meeting of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society will be held on October 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the Port Colborne Brethren in Christ Church in Ontario, Canada. The meeting will begin with dinner, followed by singing and storytelling. The cost of the dinner is \$15. Canadians should send reservations and a check made payable to the BIC Fund to Leonard Chester, 209-400 Steele Street, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 5Z7. Members in the United States should make checks payable to the Brethren in Christ Historical Society and mail them to E. Morris Sider, P. O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027.

Reservations must be made by October 14. Persons needing lodging should contact Leonard Chester (see address above) or e-mail leoruchester@hotmail.com.

E. Morris Sider
Editor

Glen A. Pierce
Contributing Editor

The *Newsletter* of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society is published three times a year. No subscription charge. Comments, ideas, article suggestions, and letters may be directed to the Editor, Brethren in Christ Historical Society
P.O. Box 310
Grantham, PA 17027
(717) 766-7767
E-Mail: msider@messiah.edu
Web: www.bicweb.org/ministries/histsoc

A Tribute to Two Mentors

By E. Morris Sider

WHY DID I BECOME A HISTORIAN? Even as a child I was interested in history, first in Canadian history, later in a wider range of historical subjects. But my decision was also, and more importantly, owing in large measure to the mentoring of two professors at Upland College in California.

In my first semester, I took a history course from Paul Engle. I found in Professor Engle a teacher who was enthusiastic about history, and about the importance of knowing how individuals, communities, and nations are affected by their histories. From him I discovered that the study of history has value as well as being interesting.

He also took a personal interest in me. On various occasions he gave me wise counsel. And he modeled for me the simple lifestyle that he and other Upland College faculty seemed willingly, out of necessity, to live.

Then in my second year at Upland College, Wendell Harmon joined the faculty. I was immediately attracted to him for non-academic reasons: during World War II he had spent some time in a CPS camp, which peace position paralleled my own; and his wife Francis came from the same area of northern Saskatchewan in Canada from which came my own soon-to-be wife, Leone.

But there was more than this that attracted me to Professor Harmon. He was so obviously the scholar. He was finishing a doctorate at UCLA at a time when doctorates among faculty of Brethren in Christ educational institutions were rare. He had a scholarly presence in the classroom. His presentations were clear (obviously well prepared) and interesting.

And he had sound, scholarly judgment. In one of his classes another student and I got into an argument about the value of the British monarchy, which value, as a



Paul Engle



Wendell Harmon

Canadian, I, of course, defended. The argument ended when Dr. Harmon declared that we were both biased. And when students in one of his classes complained that he did not give them high grades as he did another student, Dr. Harmon's straightforward response was, "If you worked as hard as that student, you would get good grades too."

My growing interest in becoming a historian was cemented during my final college year in a conversation I had with Dr. Harmon one evening after church service. I told him that I would like to go on to graduate school but I didn't think I had the ability to do graduate studies. "Oh, sure," he replied, "you can do it."

So I give thanks to two mentors who, more than any other persons, influenced my decision to become a historian and who were models for my work as a historian. Professor Engle died in 1993. I had the privilege of flying from Pennsylvania to California to be with him in the last three days of his life. Dr. Harmon lives in a retirement home in Chino, California. I remain in touch with this scholar and mentor through periodic telephone conversations. Our conversations are a wonderful reminder of the very significant role that he played in my life.



Defective Copies of the Journal

In some copies of the current (August) issue of *Brethren in Christ History and Life*, the illustrations accompanying the article by Paul Hostetler on the denominational logo are not in proper numerical order, although the captions for the illustrations are correct (see pages 207-212).

A few copies containing the correct order of the illustrations are available. Those members wishing to obtain a replacement copy may do so (without charge) by contacting the editor at msider@messiah.edu or at P.O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027. Because the number of correct copies remaining is limited, requests for replacement copies will be filled on a first-come basis.

Thinking About a Christmas or Birthday Gift?

Membership in the Brethren in Christ Historical Society makes an excellent gift for people who like to read about the Brethren in Christ heritage and/or current Brethren in Christ life.

Membership is only \$10 a year. It brings three issues of the Historical Society's journal a year and three issues a year of its newsletter. Occasionally members receive a free copy of a book published by the Historical Society. Members also may attend all meetings of the Society.

To obtain a gift membership, contact Glen Pierce, executive director, at the Brethren in Christ Archives, Messiah College, Grantham, PA 17027 (e-mail: GPierce@messiah.edu.)

Dedicated Volunteers Serving in the Archives

The Apostle Paul instructs Christians living in Rome to give honor to those who are due honor. Paul was focusing on how believers should relate to the government, but the verse (Rom. 13:7) comes to mind when thinking of those who have given dedicated service to the church by volunteering in the Archives.

When I became Director in 2007, two persons were volunteering one morning a week. **Lela Hostetler** began working in the Archives in 1990, after retiring from a 21-year career in the Messiah College library. **Esther Ebersole** began her volunteer work in the Archives in 2001, having served at Messiah College and with Brethren in Christ Missions and the denominational offices.

In 2008, **Martha Long** joined the volunteer staff. She taught English at Messiah College for more than 29 years. **Ruth Brubaker**, who was College Nurse at Messiah for a number of years, began her volunteer work in the Archives in 2009. Generally these four former Messiah College employees work one (and sometimes two) mornings a week.

Also in 2009, having completed his history of Rapho District, *In The World But Not Of The World*, **Morris Sherk** began volunteering three mornings a week. A retired teacher from the Carlisle school district, Morris has written three church histories and one genealogy. Rounding out the current group of



Lela Hostetler works on an index.



Morris Sherk doing research.

volunteers is **Jerry Hess**, recently retired from teaching biology at Messiah College, and **Hillary Carter**, a senior at Messiah College who was an intern during the summer of 2010 and is volunteering three hours a week during this academic year.

Special mention must be given to **Phyllis Engle**, Brethren in Christ missionary currently serving in the Theological College of Central Africa library in Zambia. During her 2010 furlough, Phyllis gave 270 hours (nearly seven weeks) of volunteer assistance in the Archives.

These volunteers play a critical role in maintaining the denominational Archives — doing research for persons

who cannot come to the Archives, sorting through boxes of materials deposited in the Archives, creating indexes and other finding aids, and doing numerous other tasks. With a storage room full of materials yet to be sorted and cataloged, and with plans to digitize hundreds of photographs, slides, and key denominational documents, the Archives could use additional volunteers who are “computer savvy.”

To Lela, Esther, Martha, Ruth, Morris, Jerry, Hillary, Phyllis, and those volunteers not mentioned here who worked in the Archives in prior years, this comes as an inadequate but truly heartfelt “thank you.”

Paraphrasing Moses’ blessing in Deut. 33:6 (KJV), “May your tribe increase.” **BIC IS**



Left to right: Esther Ebersole, Ruth Brubaker, Martha Long.



Jerry Hess entering catalog data.

— Glen Pierce, *Director*
BRETHREN IN CHRIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES OF MESSIAH COLLEGE

THE Newsletter

*of the
Brethren in Christ
Historical Society*

Brethren in Christ Church

P.O. Box 390

Grantham, PA 17027

Images from the Past

From the photograph collection of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives

On Christmas Day 1954, recently ordained pastor Benjamin Mirandy from Banmankhi, in the Purnea District of Bihar, India, baptized Paul, a young Santal convert from the Purnea Mission area. One of the first Santal converts to



Christianity, “Paul gives a contagious witness.... Since Paul’s baptism on that Christmas Day, six [from his village] have been baptized.” Paul’s story is told in the January 30, 1956, issue of “LOOK on the Fields,” a biannual supplement to the *Evangelical Visitor* designed “to help our readers keep in clear focus the challenge of Brethren in Christ Mission fields at Home and Abroad.”

Donations for Thomas Book

Donations of \$50 or more continue to be welcomed to help cover costs of publishing a book of essays (some already published or revised, some new) by Dwight Thomas. (For a fuller description of the book, see the summer 2011 issue of the *Newsletter*.) Donors will receive a receipt for income tax deduction, and a free copy of the book when it is published (possibly mid-2012), and their names will be included on a page in the book that lists all donors.

Send inquiries and checks made payable to the Brethren in Christ Historical Society to E. Morris Sider, P. O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027 (e-mail: msider@messiah.edu).

In Canada, checks should be made payable to Canadian Conference, Brethren in Christ Church, and sent to Leonard Chester, 209-400 Steele Street, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 5Z7.