

of the  
Brethren in Christ  
Historical Society



John Graybill

## Annual Heritage Service at Ringgold

The Heritage Service for 2008 will be held in the Ringgold meetinghouse on Sunday, June 1, from 3–4:00 in the afternoon. John Graybill will be the main speaker, with Nelson Byers and Nathaniel Fickett also participating. The New Guilford men's quartet (formed in the 1940s and comprised of Frank Kipe, Gerald Wingert, Laban Wingert, and Nelson Wingert) will provide "special music."

John Graybill is well known in the Brethren in Christ Church. He and his wife Lucille spent 45 years with the Brethren in Christ in Japan, 16 of those years as mission superintendent. He has

written of his experiences in Japan in his book, *Our Journey Into the Heart of Japan*. Graybill is now Presiding Elder of the United Christian Church. He resides in the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home in Palmyra.

At the Heritage Service he will speak on "Our Common Heritage." All who attend this Heritage Service will be well rewarded by listening to this engaging and challenging speaker.

For further information and directions, write to the Brethren in Christ Historical Society, P.O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027. Information also may be obtained by e-mail: [msider@messiah.edu](mailto:msider@messiah.edu).



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Annual Meeting of Historical Society Slated for September 27

The annual meeting of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society is scheduled to be held on Saturday, September 27, at the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church. The evening will focus on the 30th anniversary of the society's journal, *Brethren in Christ History and Life*. Featured speaker will be Dr. Luke Keefer, Jr. Three persons will give brief comments on the journal.

The evening activities begin with registration and punch at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 and the program. The registration cost is \$10 per person, which covers the cost of the meal. Further information and opportunities for registration will be forthcoming.

Plan to come to Grantham early and visit the nearby Brethren in Christ Historical Library and Archives (located on the ground floor of the Messiah College library), which will be open from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. prior to the annual meeting.

In the first editorial (June 1978), E. Morris Sider, who has served as editor throughout the journal's history, wrote, "It is proposed that the journal be broad in its content. The base, perhaps inevitably, will be historical, but efforts will be made to include articles and news with an orientation toward such fields

as theology, music, art, and sociology. Book reviews and information on research and writing activities will also become features of the journal. The editor welcomes articles, reports of activities, and suggestions for content."



### Invitation for your feedback on the Journal

What have you found especially interesting or helpful in the journal? Do you have suggestions for articles or themes to be explored in future issues? We invite your comments, which should be mailed to Brethren in Christ Historical Society, P.O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027, or may be sent by email to [msider@messiah.edu](mailto:msider@messiah.edu).

A recording of the 2007 annual meeting of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society is available in either cassette or CD form. (The meeting features a reunion of River Brethren descendants at the United Zion Camp.) Cassette tapes are \$4.00, CDs are \$5.00. To order, please state your preference and make a check payable to The United Zion Church, and mail it to Clyde Martin, 1010 New Street, Akron, PA 17501.

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,

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## BIOGRAPHY

# George A. Sider: A Friend

George A. Sider was a friend of mine. George made new friends everywhere he went. He had a fundamental belief in the worth of individuals; his love for people permeated his attitude. You can read about George's life and times in a chapter of *Lives Remembered*, written by Lester Fretz. This personal essay is about how George influenced me.

Our paths crossed because he was instrumental in planting the Sunbeam Sunday School, which introduced my parents to the Brethren in Christ. My mother carried me there as a newborn, and I was placed on the Cradle Roll.

In 1956, the Sunbeam Sunday School became the Port Colborne Brethren in Christ Church. For its dedication service, George wrote the following: "To those who are weary and need rest; to those who mourn and need comfort; to those who are lonely and need friendship; to those who are happy and would serve their fellow man; to those who are complacent and need disturbing; to those who have erred and need a Savior; this church is open and extends a welcome. The living Lord is here, calling us to more consecrated service and a deeper faith." In that building I learned about Jesus, and came to know him as my Lord and Savior. I also learned that church is all about people, and ministry is all about developing relationships.

My first memory of George is a hay-rack ride for teenagers he and his wife Mabel hosted at

their farm in Wainfleet, Ontario. It was the mid-sixties and I was a couple of years away from my teens, but I tagged along with an uncle. I vividly remember my parents sitting me down in our living room to lay down the law: "You be on your best behavior. George and Mabel are real Christian people. ..." I have forgotten the rest of it, but those words "real Christian people" have stuck with me.




George & Millie Sider

Years later, after Mabel had been transferred to glory, I served with George and Millie (his second wife) in northern Ontario in the summer of 1973. I quickly came to understand what my parents meant by *real* as an adjective. George's faith expression played itself out with such authenticity that it both inspired and challenged other believers. He was constantly on a clearly defined mission: People needed Jesus, and he was determined to share Jesus by his words and deeds.

He gave heartfelt counsel that put trials or difficulties in perspective. He would quietly adapt or overcome roadblocks to accomplish goals. His gentle leadership style maximized people resources, and he could stretch ministry dollars farther than anyone else I have ever known. The annual Vacation Bible School campaigns to remote areas of northern Ontario were operated on shoe-string budgets, but George's motto exemplified his faith: "Little is much when God is in it." I have often repeated that phrase.

In the 1973 Vacation Bible School in northern Ontario, zucchini and peanut butter were dietary staples that kept our bellies full and our eyes twinkling with laughter. In my office is a picture of George and Millie sitting at the kitchen table of the rented cabin in Gowganda. It is a source of good memories: memories of our pranks; memories of our prayers; memories of George pouring his life into us; memories of some deep, late-night discussions.

George A. Sider seemed to always have the energy to invest in young people. It is my strongest memory; it is one of his attributes that I, and surely other people who knew him, have endeavored to emulate.

— Ken R. Abell, Xenia, Ohio 

## FEATURED BOOKS

*Books in the Brethren in Christ Historical Library describe some aspect of church life, relate to three theological streams that have influenced Brethren in Christ doctrine and practice (Anabaptism, Pietism, and Wesleyan Holiness), or are written by Brethren in Christ authors.*

### Some recent additions:

*Heart of the Heritage: Core Themes of the Wesleyan/Holiness Tradition as Highlighted by the Wesleyan Theological Society 1965-2000.*

Compiled and edited by Barry L. Callen and William C. Kostlevy  
©2001, Schmul Publishing Company

**FOCUS: Wesleyan/Holiness**

*Road Signs for the Journey: A Profile of Mennonite Church USA*

By Conrad L. Kanagy  
©2007, Herald Press

**FOCUS: Anabaptism**

*Through Refining Fires: The Lives of John and Ada Sauder*

By Miriam J. Brechbill and Hannah E. Scott  
©2007, Brethren in Christ Historical Society

**FOCUS: Old Order River Brethren**

*Anabaptist Songs in African Hearts*

By Alemu Checole, Samuel Asefa, Bekithemba Dube, Doris Dube, Michael Kodzo Badasu, Erik Kumedisa, Barbara Nkala, I.U. Nsask, Siaka Traore, Pakisa Tshimika  
©2006, Good Books  
(Indexed edition of a Global Mennonite History, Volume One: Africa, 2003)

**FOCUS: Brethren in Christ/Anabaptism**

*The Brethren in Christ Historical Library is a reference library — books must be viewed on site.*

## River Brethren DVD and cassette tapes available

"River Brethren Descendants," a DVD on places and activities of the Brethren in Christ, Old Order River Brethren, and the United Zion Church is available at \$12.00. Cassette tapes containing Henry Ginder's stories are available at \$5.00. Tax and postage are included in these figures.

Both the DVD and the cassette tape may be obtained by making a check payable to the Brethren in Christ Historical Society and mailing it to the Brethren in Christ Historical Society, P.O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027. In Canada, contact Leonard Chester, 209-400 Steele St., Port Colborne, ON L3K 5Z7 ([leorchester@hotmail.com](mailto:leorchester@hotmail.com)).

# news and notes

FROM THE BROTHERS IN CHRIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

**E**va (Gramm) Brubaker recently emailed the Archives regarding the photo accompanying the article on the Mt. Carmel orphanage (page 3 of the Fall 2007 Newsletter).

Actually, this is a photo of the Franklin Corners (one-room) grade school of 1948-49, which includes both orphanage and

community children. The teacher is Miss Daehler, a favorite of mine. The school was located on the corner of the Zook Mission farm, which my father farmed and where our family lived at that time. My older brother Eugene in the back row is fourth from the right, I am first on the left, and Ivan is first on the right on the floor. We were in 8th, 7th and 1st grades

## On-line Photo Identification Project

By Dwight Thomas

**S**everal years ago in Punea I had a conversation with Moses Marandi about his father, Stephen Marandi. In the course of the conversation, Moses told me he had no photographs of his father. I knew that Stephen Marandi was one of that original group of Santal converts in Bihar and I was surprised to hear that Moses had no photos of him. Upon reflection, it was obvious — missionaries had the cameras and the financial means to develop and print pictures; most Indian Christians did not. After my return to the United States, I checked the Brethren in Christ Archives. Sure enough, we have photos of Stephen Marandi and other Bihar believers.

From that time to the present, I have tried to make some of the older photos available to our international church. With help from one of my classes, we scanned 400 historic photos from Zambia and Zimbabwe. I took CDs of those scans to Zambia in 2007 and shared them with people there. As a result, we have begun to identify people in those photos and have started a collaborative research project with students and teachers at Sikalongo Secondary School. Additionally, I suggested to Morris Sider (and more recently to Glen Pierce) that we establish an online photo gallery to enable people from across the denomination to view and help document these historic photos. We do not have much time left to identify some of the people in the photos.

Making photos available online could help to facilitate the identification process. To that end, we are working on a photo website which will permit registered users to view and comment on these historic photos. We are currently working on a few lingering logistic details but hope to make the web address available within the next several months. As soon as this information is available, we will publish it in the Newsletter, with details on how to become a registered user.

Efforts like these are one of the ways we can continue to partner with our

that year. This picture brings back many memories for me.

Eva's feedback illustrates the importance of identification of photographs as they are placed in the Archives. Unfortunately, that had not been done for the photo in question, which was part of the Mt. Carmel collection.

In the article below, Dwight Thomas introduces an exciting new initiative to identify photos of early mission work overseas.

international sisters and brothers. We enjoy a shared heritage of work and friendship that goes back more than 100 years. As the keepers of these important documents, I believe it is our responsibility to do our best to make them available to people on both sides of the ocean.

**BICHS**

*Dr. Dwight Thomas is Associate Professor at Messiah College where he teaches courses in music theory, church music and ethnomusicology. He has traveled widely among the overseas Brethren in Christ Churches in recent years (as noted in his article above) and has published articles relating to Brethren in Christ musical life in America and abroad.*



This screen shot shows the current "Africa" page with two of the initial sixty-five thumbnails of images from Zimbabwe. A registered user will be able to click on a photo to access another page giving what detail is known about that photo, with a text box where additional comments may be submitted.

# Images from the Past

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



## 1949 Kansas Youth Conference

With the theme "Finding The Way," the thirteenth annual youth conference of the Kansas Brethren in Christ Church was held Aug. 29-31, 1949, at Camp Wa-Shun-Ga, near Junction City, Kansas. Conference speakers were Alvin C. Burkholder (Upland, Calif.), Charles and Mary Eshelman, and Jacob Kuhns (Grantham, Pa.).

Harold Hoover was Camp Director; the Assistant Director was Homer Engle; Cecil

Plank served as Registrar; the Assistant Registrar was Earl Engle (who also served as Director of Recreation); and the Treasurer was Alvin Hoover. Monroe Book served as Dean of Men and Edith Hoffman was the Dean of Women, with Pauline Frey the Assistant Dean of Women. Abram Brechbill was Junior Leader, while Dorothy Witter served as Director of Music and Alvin Hoover was Dining Hall Supervisor.

*The original photo is more than twice the size of the reproduction here. How many people can you identify by name? Send your responses to the Archives, P.O. Box 3002, Grantham, PA 17027, or by email to [archives@messiah.edu](mailto:archives@messiah.edu).*

*The original photograph may be seen by visiting the Archives, which is located in the lower level of the Messiah College library. Normal hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You may want to phone before your visit: (717) 691-6048.*

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