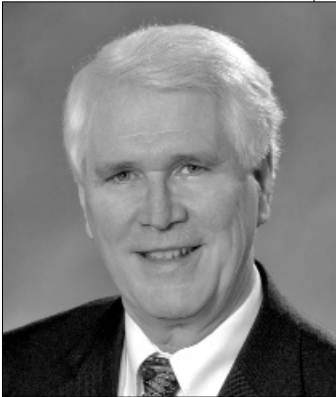


of the
Brethren in Christ
Historical Society



Luke Keefer, Jr.

REGISTRATION DETAILS ANNOUNCED

Annual Meeting, Sept. 27, celebrates the Journal's 30th Anniversary

The 2008 annual meeting of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society will be held on Saturday, September 27, at the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church. The evening will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Society's Journal. Luke Keefer, Jr., will be the featured speaker, with Harvey Sider, Doneen Dourte, Stephen Scott, and Morris Sider making short presentations. Ronald L. Miller will lead singing.

Activities begin with registration and punch at 5:30 p.m., allowing time for you to explore the display of previous issues of the Journal and to visit the book table, offering for sale selected books, cassette tapes, and dvds published by the Society. Dinner will be served at 6:00 (featuring home made pies for dessert), with the program following the meal.

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.

The meeting is open to persons who are not yet members of the Historical Society, and we encourage members to invite several friends to come with them for dinner and the program.

The registration cost is \$10 per person, which includes the cost of the meal. Please observe the registration deadline of September 12. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "Brethren in Christ Historical Society" and mailed with your reservation to Glen Pierce (Executive Director), Brethren in Christ Archives, Messiah College, Box 3002, Grantham, PA 17027. If need be, refunds may be requested up until Sept. 20. (A registration form is included in this Newsletter mailing.)

The first issue of the Journal (June 1978) featured the lead article by Carlton O. Wittlinger, "Who are the Brethren in Christ?"

(continued on next page)


We All Love Dr. Virginia

The Brethren in Christ Historical Society has published a book for juvenile readers (ages 9 to 14) on missionary Dr. Virginia Kauffman. *We All Love Dr. Virginia* was written by Joan Clucas of Solid Ground Brethren in Christ Church in Alta Loma, Calif. The forty-two page book tells how, through what seems to be a series of miracles, Kauffman became a medical doctor and how Africa became her mission field. There she served with skill, compassion, and humor.

On retiring to her native California, she continued her compassionate caring for people.

The book contains color photographs of Dr. Kauffman at her work in Africa and color drawings by Nathan Stump, also of the Solid Ground congregation.

We All Love Dr. Virginia is an excellent means of challenging youth to become active in meaningful service to the world and to the church.

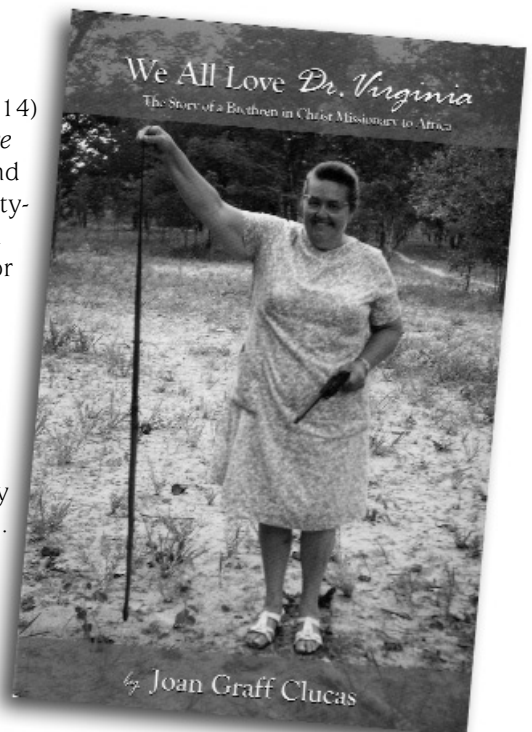
The book sells for \$7.00 (which includes postage and PA sales tax). Orders, together with a check, may be sent to the Brethren in Christ Historical Society, Messiah College, Box 3002, Grantham, PA 17027. 

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



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An Interpretive Essay.” Arthur M. Climenhaga wrote, “Towards a Brethren in Christ Hermeneutic(s),” Martin Schrag highlighted important material which recently had been acquired by the Brethren in Christ Archives in his article, “The Search for New Sources in Brethren in Christ History.” In an essay entitled, “On the Writing of *Rich Christians In An Age of Hunger*,” author Ronald J. Sider explained the background to the writing of the book and the Brethren in Christ influences on his thought, while Dorothy Sherk wrote a review of the book.



Plan to attend Monday lunch at Conference

The Historical Society at General Conference

The Historical Society will be involved in several activities at the 2008 General Conference, to be held in late June in Toronto. As part of its report to Conference, the Society will release the August issue of the Journal, which features as its lead article the biography of Dwight and Faye Bert. Entitled “Serving God and People: The Lives of Dwight and Faye Bert,” the biography was written by Donald Clucas. Dwight and Faye plan to be at Conference and will be available to autograph copies of the Journal. Society members who are at Conference will be able to pick up their copy of the Journal, while non-members may purchase the August issue of the Journal at the Society’s display table.

Plans are being made for members of the Historical Society to share in a lunch meeting on Monday of Conference. In addition to a time of informal fellowship around the table and a brief program, this will be an opportunity for members to give feedback to the Society’s executive committee as well as suggesting topics for future research and writing.

BRETHREN IN CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

newsnotes

◆ IN ITS MARCH 2008 MEETING, the Executive Committee approved a policy for awarding research grants to writers. Initially a grant of up to \$500 will be available annually to fund research and writing projects, which then would be published by the Historical Society.

The Executive Committee also gave approval for the creation of a permanent Publication Committee. This new five-member committee will assist the society’s editor in helping to determine which publishing projects should be undertaken, help in establishing the sale price and other details of publication, and assist in marketing the resulting products. In addition, the Publication Committee will administer the research/writing grants, reviewing proposals and establishing grant levels.

◆ KIMBERLY FORRY HAS BEEN named to the Executive Committee for a three-year term. She recently completed a three-year term as a member of the Journal’s Editorial Committee. A 2000 graduate of Messiah College with a degree in Communications, she is married to Adam Forry, senior pastor of the Speedwell Heights congregation in Lititz, Pa. They are the parents of a daughter, Cassandra (age 5) and a son, Trace (age 2). Kimberly says, “I enjoy reading biographies and histories, fixing jigsaw puzzles, and doing laundry (really!).”

◆ SEVERAL PEOPLE TOOK UP THE challenge of identifying persons in the photograph of the 1949 Kansas Youth Conference (Spring 2008 *Newsletter*), sending lists of names of the partici-

pants they recognized. Among those who wrote, or visited the Archives to see the original photograph, was Evelyn (Byer) Heister, McVeytown, Pa., who noted, “My sister Ann (Byer) Ginder and I were in attendance. I also have a large picture in my possession.” Evelyn (Noel) Dohner Lichty, Greencastle, Pa., wrote, “I was in that group and Youth Camp was a big highlight of our summer in Kansas.” Myron Lady, Abilene, Kansas, reported on a group effort: “A number of us have enjoyed going over this. Those were amazing conferences.”

◆ THIS IS A GENTLE REMINDER TO members of the Historical Society – please renew your annual membership if you have not already done so. Check the mailing label on this newsletter. If you don’t see “08” in the upper right-hand corner, that means we haven’t yet received your renewal check. The basic annual renewal is \$10. Gifts above that amount are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution and are gratefully received, since the Historical Society is able to continue its work only as it receives generous contributions from its members.

In the U.S., checks or money orders should be made payable to “Brethren in Christ Historical Society” and mailed to P.O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027.

In Canada, cheques should be made payable to “Canadian Conference BIC Church” and on the memo line, write “Historical Society.” All Canadian cheques should be mailed to Rev. Leonard Chester, 209-400 Steele St., Port Colborne, ON L3K 5Z7.



We urge all members of the Society who will be at General Conference to plan on attending the Monday lunch. Details will be announced at Conference.

This year, the Society again shares a display table at Conference with the Brethren in Christ Archives. There you

will be able to purchase copies of selected books and dvds/audio tapes published by the Society, including the new book, *We All Love Dr. Virginia*, the story of missionary doctor Virginia Kauffman, which is designed for juvenile readers (ages 9-14).



Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives Archives of Messiah College

Report to the 2008 General Conference (Abridged)

Gregory S. Hunter, in *Developing and Maintaining Practical Archives*, summarizes the task of an archivist (and, by extension, the mission of an archives): "To identify records and papers of enduring value, to preserve them, [and] to make them available to patrons." The Brethren in Christ Archives, which is combined with the Messiah College Archives on the Grantham campus, is tasked with preserving records and historical artifacts related to the church so that they may enrich and benefit the ongoing life and ministry of the church.

Since General Conference 2006, four persons have served as Director of the Archives. In October 2006, Gloria Stonge concluded over two years of service as part-time Director. Two persons followed her as Interim Director: Joy Houck (4 months) and Emily Wilson-Hauger (5 months). As I assumed the responsibility of Director in August 2007, it was evident that the Archives has been administered by persons committed to the life of the church and college, who sought to faithfully serve both constituencies.

The Archives continues to be a resource to both the college and the church. During 2007, for example, the guest book recorded nearly 200 visitors (some working in the Archives for more than one day) and the research log indicates that the staff responded to more than 130 requests for research assistance. Some were rather simple requests, while others required hours (and in some cases, several days) of research. Interestingly, about half of the research from August to December related to the college and half to the church: 28 requests involved the Brethren in Christ Church in some fashion, 26 requests related to the college, and 4 were from the public regarding family history, genealogy, etc.

I appreciate the help provided by Esther Ebersole and Lela Hostetler, long-term volunteers, as well as three work-study student positions funded through Messiah College. In part because the position of Archivist is currently part-time, these volunteers and student

workers have been essential in the operation of the Archives. In fact, we could use more volunteers who are interested in Brethren in Christ history, are careful and thorough in their approach to historical records, and want to help preserve and communicate the heritage of the Brethren in Christ Church and Messiah College.

Soon after beginning my assignment, I discovered four major areas of concern:

- (a) a backlog of material (more than 400 cartons) deposited with the Archives, but not yet catalogued;
- (b) many photographs and slides lack adequate information about the people or events pictured;
- (c) the Archives is running out of room to house documents and artifacts; and
- (d) the holdings of documents, books, and artifacts are currently recorded in a combination of card catalogs and several word processing and spreadsheet documents. The goal of computerizing the Archives' catalog (a goal projected by a succession of archivists since 1992) has not yet been implemented.

In the next biennium we hope to focus our energies in addressing each of these areas:

- (a) evaluate, sort, and catalog at least 100 of the 400-plus cartons of backlogged materials;
- (b) take steps to identify selected photographs of overseas missions subjects (see the article "On-Line Photo Identification Project" in the Spring 2008 Newsletter, p. 3);
- (c) seek imaginative ways to increase the space available for the Archives; and
- (d) secure software designed for archival use, and begin the massive task of

converting current records into a searchable "on-line" database, which will be used by Archives staff as well as researchers who are unable to come to Grantham.

A perennial challenge facing the Archives is that of encouraging pastors and other church leaders of the importance of depositing key records with the Archives. For example, two persons recently contacted the Archives for information about their baptism. In both cases, they had been baptized in a Brethren in Christ congregation which later had been closed. Unfortunately, in neither case had congregational records been forwarded to the Archives. In the past, the archivist periodically mailed letters to pastors and congregations, urging them to regularly forward important records to the Archives for safe-keeping and availability for research. (Such records are always available to the congregation should the need arise.) This report, then, brings an urgent plea: please ensure that important congregational and denominational records are sent to the Archives on a regular schedule. We will be happy to send guidelines and other information to congregations and church administrators as requested.

You are invited to visit the Archives, located in the lower level of the Messiah College library. Normal hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Other hours are available by appointment. For persons traveling from a distance, we recommend you phone or email, to make sure the Archives will be open. Phone us at (717) 691-6048; or email us at archives@messiah.edu.

— Glen A. Pierce, Director
BIC Historical Library & Archives
Archives of Messiah College



There's still time to send your comments about 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 E. Morris Sider, Editor; P.O. Box 310; Grantham, PA 17027, or may be sent by email to msider@messiah.edu.

Images from the Past

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



This photo postcard was sent to Levi Doner in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The note on the message side reads, "This town is not two years old till next Oct. so you can see how it has grown. The store marked is Charlie Baker's."

In his book, *The Brethren in Christ in Canada: Two Hundred Years of Tradition and Change*, Morris Sider traces the Ontario church's growing interest in Northwest Canada. In the summer of 1906, Bishop Charles Baker and Isaac Baker were sent to look for "a suitable location where brethren moving from Ontario, or elsewhere, may colonize" (p. 169).

According to a short article written by Clarke and Marion Baker of Vancouver, B.C. and posted on the Kindersley, Sask., website, a group of homesteaders arrived by train in Saskatoon a year later, including C. W. Baker, 25-year-old son of Bishop Charles Baker (and the father of Clarke and Marion). In addition to his homestead, C.W. opened a store. According to the website article, C.W.'s first store was opened in May 1909 in a "sod shack, with his first customers being Henry and Albin Winger." In October 1909, the first lots comprising the hamlet of Kindersley were put up for sale, with C.W. buying one and building a

store within a month (evidently the store marked with an "x" on the photo). Also during 1909 the hamlet was incorporated into a Village and Baker was elected to the first council.

Isaac Baker, who also took up his homestead in 1907, began to hold services on the first Sunday after his arrival – first in his tent, then in his sod house. In 1910, a church building was constructed on his property. In 1953, a church was built in the town of Kindersley (Sider, pp. 166-176).

Grantham, PA 17027

P.O. Box 390

Brethren in Christ Church

Historical Society

Brethren in Christ

of the

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