

of the  
Brethren in Christ  
Historical Society

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2009  
**Ringgold  
Hymnsing**

Sunday, Aug. 30  
5:00 p.m.

Historic Ringgold  
Meetinghouse

near Ringgold, Maryland

## Annual Meeting of Historical Society Set for October 10


The 2009 annual meeting of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church.

Activities begin with registration and punch at 5:30 p.m., allowing time for you to visit the book table (where you can buy books and audio/visuals published by the Historical Society), or to talk with friends. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. (topped off by home made pies for dessert), with the program following the meal.

The evening program will feature the release of the one-volume biography of three educators/churchmen: Owen Alderfer, Martin Schrag, and Carlton Wittlinger. The authors (Daniel Chamberlain, Luke Keefer Jr., and J. Norman Hostetter) plan to be present and will discuss aspects of their research on these three individuals who helped to shape

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

Registration cost is \$10 per person, which includes the cost of the meal. Please note that the deadline for reservations is Sept. 25. 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, P.O. Box 3002, Grantham, PA 17027. (If your plans change, refunds may be requested up until Oct. 3.)


A registration form is included in this Newsletter mailing. 

## History of Rapho District Nears completion

As you read this newsletter, Morris Sherk's 304-page history of the Rapho District is being printed at Evangel Press. *In the World But Not of the World: Rapho District 1872-1957* is a case study in Brethren in Christ church life. Events such as love feasts, harvest meetings, revival services, and tent meetings are described. Doctrines and practices, such as deacon visits and separation from the world, find their places in the book. The advent of Vacation Bible Schools, Sunday schools, and young people's meetings reflects what was occurring not only in Rapho District but elsewhere in the denomination.

Another valuable feature of the book is the author's biographical work. He includes short biographies of both well-known and little-known persons who were a part of the Rapho District. (The index of names contains nearly 1,000 entries.)

More than fifty individuals or couples contributed generously toward the cost of publication. Because of their generosity, each


member of the Historical Society will receive a free copy of the Rapho history—only one of the many benefits of membership in the Brethren in Christ Historical Society. 

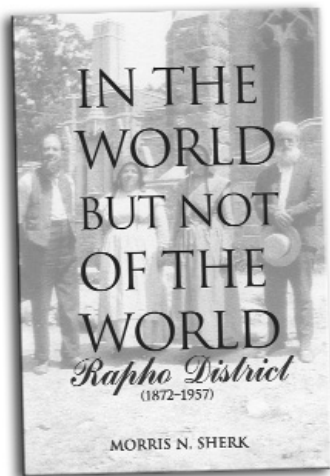
## Complete Mennonite Encyclopedia Online

The large project of posting the five-volume Mennonite Encyclopedia online has recently been completed. The project, known as GAMEO, may be accessed at [www.gameo.org](http://www.gameo.org).

This web adoption of the printed volumes contains many articles on the Brethren in Christ, most of which are written by Brethren in Christ.

GAMEO is now entering a new phase in which new articles will be entered and existing articles updated.

For more information, contact Sam Steiner, GAMEO managing editor, at [samsteiner@gameo.org](mailto:samsteiner@gameo.org). 



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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](mailto:msider@messiah.edu) Web: [www.bicweb.org/ministries/histsoc](http://www.bicweb.org/ministries/histsoc)

# Mapendhla Moyo: My Hero in Faith

by Elias Moyo

In the Ndebele language, there is a saying, “*Idube laziwa ngamabala,*” which means, “By its colors, the zebra shall be known.” This analogy applies to Mapendhla Moyo. He was a “what you see is what you get” character. He was a father figure, a friend, teacher, and, most of all, my spiritual mentor.

My initial contact with Mr. M.M. (as we used to call him) was in 1967 at Wanezi Bible Institute (WBI) when I enrolled for theological training. He had just become a lecturer at the Institute after graduating from Messiah College in 1966. Mr. M.M. was greatly loved and appreciated by all students there.

Mr. M.M. is remembered for many good things in the Brethren in Christ Church and Zimbabwe community, but three personal perceptions sum up my appreciation of him: his commitment to God, his commitment to the body of Christ, and his commitment to missions.

## His commitment to God

Mr. M.M. was a God-fearing Bible teacher. Unfortunately he did not live long. He became ill in 1968. During his last months at WBI, students attended classes at his home because he was unable to walk or drive to class. Since I had enrolled at WBI one term later, I also had to take classes at his home (alone) in order to catch up with the rest of the students. In God’s providence, a one-to-one interaction afforded me the blessings to receive Christian instructions from a man who had few months to live. It was very evident during the lessons that he was in serious pain, but he always amazed me by his faith in God. “Elias, the Lord is aware of my pains,” he unreservedly advised. Despite his ill health (lung cancer), he believed there is life after death and that for him, “...to live is Christ and to die is

a gain.” That is why he was always cheerful and taught me with conviction and commitment.

One day during the class he stopped teaching because of his pain. That afternoon he was transported to Mpilo Hospital by Luke Keefer, Sr. It dawned on me that it had been my last time to see him. I told the rest of the students that I wanted to bid him farewell, but failed to do so because I could not reveal to his wife why I wanted to say goodbye. It was later reported at the hospital that he witnessed to other patients about the love of God in his life. One afternoon he told nurses and other patients that “the Lord has taken away pain. I have a new body. This evening I will meet my maker.” That evening he departed from this world and met his Master whom he had served with obedience and love.

## His commitment to the Body of Christ

He loved the communion of saints and the fellowship of the brethren. One time he said this to me: “When you finish training, go and preach and win the lost for Christ.” He did not love people because they were good to him or cared about him, but he had the spirit of “in spite of love” for all. At one time he quoted the book of James: “We as the body of Christ must respect even the poor.” He loved children as the future leaders of the body of Christ. While a student teacher at Matopo in 1934, he said, “Let us humble ourselves before these men and women of the future.” He always moved my spirit when he spoke about the grace of God. Mr. M.M. believed in the power of Grace. He would teach: “We are saved by grace and disgraced by our actions.”

## His commitment to missions

“Elias, go and preach about Christ and him crucified,” Mr. M.M. would



*Maphendhla Moyo preaching at the 1967 General Conference held at Wanezi, Zimbabwe, on the need to love one another.*

always insist. He wanted to see the development of the African Church and prayed for it to be involved in missions beyond its borders. In the early sixties when Billy Graham conducted an evangelistic crusade in Zimbabwe, Mr. M.M. served as an interpreter. After the service Billy Graham thanked him for his service and said, “This man will be the first national bishop of the African Church.” That was the kind of man God had lent to the Brethren in Christ Church. Unfortunately, he was promoted to glory a year earlier before the national bishop was installed.

This man loved God, he loved the church and he wanted to see souls saved. Like Paul wrote to Timothy, I pray that I will commit Mr. M.M.’s faithful teachings to faithful men who will also instruct others. **BICHS**

*Elias Moyo is a member of the Editorial Board of Brethren in Christ History and Life. He and his wife Fadzai are missionaries to the U.K. from the Zimbabwe Brethren in Christ Church. They live in London, where Elias pastors the Forest Gate congregation and is General Director of the six Brethren in Christ congregations in the U.K.*

## Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this *Newsletter*. If it has “09” on the upper-right corner, that means your membership has been paid through calendar year 2009. If your label reads “08,” our records indicate that your membership expired at the end of 2008. In order to continue receiving the Journal and this Newsletter, please send your renewal check as soon as possible. The cost of an annual membership is \$10.00; contributions above that amount receive a tax-deductible receipt.

**In the U.S.:** make checks payable to “Brethren in Christ Historical Society” and mail to: Brethren in Christ Historical Society; P.O. Box 310; Grantham, PA 17027.

**In Canada:** make cheques payable to “Canadian Conference BIC Church,” and on the memo line, write “Historical Society.” Mail to: Leonard Chester; 209-400 Steele St.; Port Colborne, ON L3K 5Z7.

# news and notes

FROM THE BROTHERS IN CHRIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

**A**MONG THE MANUSCRIPT collections in the Archives, a researcher will find correspondence between missionaries on the field and missions administrators in the home office. The Archives also houses reports by missions administrators describing aspects of their visits to overseas churches.

One such report (excerpted below) was written by Rev. Henry N. Hostetter, then the Executive Director of Brethren in Christ Missions, following his 1956 trip to Cuba. Howard and Pearl Wolgemuth had taken up their assignment at Cuatro Caminos less than a year before.

Reading the correspondence between the missions office and the

Wolgemuths in Cuba provides a greater understanding of some of the themes mentioned briefly in Rev. Hostetter's report. We are fortunate that these letters and other items of the Wolgemuths (and those from other missionaries who served in other countries) have been placed in the Archives. Such material provides valuable insight into the development of the various overseas Brethren in Christ Churches, and highlights the challenges of being effective in cross-cultural ministry (both then and now).

## Trip Report from Cuba

by Henry N. Hostetter, Executive Director, Brethren in Christ World Missions

**F**rom Tuesday evening July 10th till Monday evening July 16th [1956] was spent with the Wolgemuths in Cuatro Caminos. The weather was typical Cuban summer and from what I can gather we had several very hot days with very little breeze moving.

### THE PROGRAM

While here we attended four preaching services, and one Sunday School. We found ourselves worshipping in inspirational and warm services. The Tuesday evening service was well attended with about 65 in the service. Friday evening the attendance was a bit smaller but the testimony service was inspirational and in the close of the service, a newcomer to the church, bowed at the altar [sic]. Sunday evening service was an unusual service. The people testified that never testified before, and five bowed at the altar [sic] of prayer for the first time. A group of ten young people participated in special singing and most of them gave testimonies. The last individual who came to the altar [sic], came after the services was [sic] dismissed. She was a mother, who expressed as people were moving out of the church, a desire to be saved also. Attendance at this service was about 70 with a number of the regulars being absent. The Sunday School session at ten in the morning recorded a banner attendance. One hundred and fifteen in attendance....

The six o'clock hour of prayer every morning in the church is a most commendable part of the program and

it is only natural that such devotion will be effective. Their policy has been to invite all but none are obligated.... More than 1800 calls were made during the Wolgemuths [sic] first year of service on the field. Every indication points in the direction of commendable and satisfactory community relationships.

### THE PROBLEMS

Just as every growing program has its problems, so does this one. One hundred children in a church building of this size and no facilities to divide them into more than [sic] two classes has its distinct disadvantages. Even those two classes have only a curtain to separate them.

The lack of a knowledge of the Spanish language on the part of the workers has been a handicap and likely has sometimes created misunderstandings. The same also applies to the culture of the people.

Furnishing transportation to certain groups of church attendants which has been part of the program since its beginnings, has remained a problem to which no adequate or satisfactory solution has been found. Attempts to solve them has [sic] met with criticism that has been difficult and unjust.

By far the most difficult problem, however, are those that have grown out of the fact that we have set up our mission program in what was once a thriving and growing church area and came to ruin thru contention [sic] and strife. We are not far removed from this tragic past of church history in Cuatro Caminos. As a result there are



Henry Hostetter stands between two young Cuban men at Cuatro Caminos, Cuba, in this 1956 photo.

numbers of people who refuse to come to the church because of certain individuals upon whom they feel reflections are justly centered. It resembles the problems that exist in old churches where dominant [sic] personalities are a source of friction and tends to disturb the tranquility that should be enjoyed as a result of the gospel. We understand other Cuban Church Leaders who know the past history have said, we are very brave to attempt to establish a work in this area. God has most graciously manifested Himself in blessing and spiritual progress but our workers are almost constantly being severely tested by these problems and need an unusual amount of wisdom and forbearance to continue to guide the work. This problem engaged more of our planning and discussion visit than [sic] any other and we need to pray constantly and fervently for our workers and for all concerned lest it hinder the progress of the work, or even repeat past history." **BICHS**

# THE Newsletter

*of the  
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Historical Society*

Brethren in Christ Church

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## Images from the Past

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



### Football at Messiah

The words “Messiah College” and “football team” typically are not spoken together. But in the 1950s, football was one of Messiah’s intramural sports. The 1952 Messiah College *Clarion* carried this report on the rivalry in intramural football: “The rugged fight for the trophy ended with the College Freshman team ahead with 6 wins and no losses. Close behind were the Academy Seniors with 3 wins and 1 loss.”

This photo shows the 1952 Academy Seniors football team. *Kneeling (left to right):* Lamar Rissinger and Karl Hess. *Standing:* John Byers, Richard Royer, John Mauk, Robert Duck, John Raser, Fred Olinger, Charles Lehman, Marlin Niesley, and Ivan Sakimura.