



Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Fall 2008

News

Newly discovered sources on Brethren in China

The copies will be a unique resource for researchers who want to understand the interactions between Brethren and Chinese people in northern China.

The Young Center recently received a unique opportunity to expand historical research on Brethren mission and service work in China in the first half of the twentieth century. Gene Wampler, who grew up in China as the son of Brethren missionaries, found contact information for Gene Crumpacker, grandson of Frank and Anna Crumpacker, the first Brethren missionaries in China in 1908. Crumpacker, who lives in Missouri, has an extensive collection of the diaries, correspondence, and photos of his grandparents from the early decades of mission work in China, the existence of which was unknown outside the family. In April, Young Center Director Jeff Bach traveled to Missouri to meet Crumpacker, who graciously permitted the Young Center to borrow the materials in order to reproduce and inventory them.

The correspondence includes letters from the early decades of the mission, beginning with Frank

and Anna Crumpacker's preparations and the early years of starting the mission. Most of the correspondence is with family members and church officials, and dates from 1907 through the early 1930s. A few additional letters from the 1940s are among the collection. Several of Frank Crumpacker's journals, primarily from the 1920s and 1930s, are in the collection as are a draft of his autobiography and a draft of a history of the mission in China. Perhaps the single most impressive document is an official passport letter issued in 1908 in English and Chinese by W. Roderick Dorsey, Vice Consul General of the U.S.

In addition to the valuable correspondence and journals, the materials include many photos. Future Young Center work will include identifying as many of the people and places as possible by consulting with other Brethren who spent time in China.

Frank and Anna Crumpacker went to China in 1908 along with George and Blanche Hilton and Emma Horning as the founding missionaries of Brethren work there. After language training, they settled in 1910 in Ping Ting, in Shanxi province in northern China. Soon other missionaries arrived to help with medical and educational service, but the economic depression of 1929 hampered their work. The Japanese invasion of China in 1937 and then the Chinese Revolution curtailed the work of foreign missionaries. After some rural service work after the revolution, the Brethren presence in China ended in 1951.

The original materials of Frank and Anna Crumpacker will be returned soon to their grandson, Gene. The copies will be a unique resource available at the Young Center for researchers who want to understand the interactions between Brethren and Chinese people in northern China. ■



Student assistant Megan Memoli and staff member Hillary Daecher inventory photographs and correspondence from the collection of materials from Frank and Anna Crumpacker, founders of the Brethren mission in China in 1908.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jeff Bach

We have heard many voices of different ages and languages this past spring and summer here at the Young Center. In April and May a large group of sixth graders visited the Young Center during a trip to Elizabethtown College, and a Brethren youth group also visited. The sounds of young people in the building reminded me that we have many opportunities to encourage potential scholars for the next generation of Anabaptist and Pietist studies.

At the Pennsylvania German Society's Annual Meeting held here in June, one speaker told a humorous story in Pennsylvania Dutch. Don Kraybill reported in his keynote address that the growing Amish population promises an increase in the number of dialect speakers. The sounds of a very old dialect reminded me that the Young Center is a place of scholarly research on the past and the present of language and religion patterns in our region.

A group of 19 Nigerian Brethren visited the Center in July, speaking English and Hausa, and perhaps some other tribal languages that I did not recognize. Their visit was a happy sign that we continue to build bridges of international and intercultural understanding as we pursue scholarship about Anabaptist and Pietist groups, most of whom have larger numbers in Africa than in North America now.

A tour to Europe for the Brethren 300th anniversary in August prompted me to brush up my German and Dutch. In conversations with Swiss, German, and Dutch people, I experienced how the work of the Young Center moves beyond the United States as people interpret their past long after religious minorities like the Brethren moved away.

Along with these experiences of voices of many ages and languages, we welcome other international connections this fall. Erik Wesner, our Snowden Fellow, is a

native of the United States but teaches in Krakow, Poland. In mid-September we open an exhibit to mark the centennial of Brethren mission and service work in China, and we welcome Joe Wampler to lecture about Brethren relief work in China during the Sino-Japanese War.

We hear the voices of many different ages, and at times different languages, here at the Young Center and in our connections locally and internationally. Researching Anabaptist and Pietist groups opens windows to the familiar and the foreign, the past and the present. The research we pursue engages the young, the old, and those in between. Our study of Anabaptist and Pietist groups connects with people, some of whom continue in these living religious traditions, and others who want to understand them better. All of these efforts give occasions to build bridges of better understanding. We hope you can join us and support us in some of these opportunities this fall. ■

Kraybill takes sabbatical year


Merriam-Webster defines the term *sabbatical year* as "a leave often with pay granted...for rest, travel, or research." Senior Fellow Donald B. Kraybill's sabbatical year began this month, and he will not spend much of it resting. Instead he'll use the time to write, research, and lecture.

Kraybill has three book projects underway. *The Concise Encyclopedia of Amish, Brethren, Hutterites, and Mennonites* is a single volume containing several hundred short entries on topics related to the four Anabaptist groups. Begun in 2002, it is slated for publication in 2010 by Johns Hopkins University Press. The second project, a sweeping overview of the Amish during the twentieth century by Kraybill and co-authors Steve Nolt (Goshen College) and Karen Johnson-Weiner (SUNY Potsdam), will update the work of John A. Hostetler in *Amish Soci-*

ety, which was first published in 1963. Work on the book is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Kraybill also plans to finish a project that has been ongoing for the past eight years. *From the Buggy to the Byte*, a book on Amish technology, is two thirds completed; Kraybill will wrap up the remainder of it by next summer.

Researching and writing three journal articles on Amish entrepreneurship is on Kraybill's agenda as well. He received a grant for the work from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

During the sabbatical, Kraybill will also give three invited lectures on Amish forgiveness. He'll deliver one of these, the John Howard Yoder Dialogues on Nonviolence, Religion and Peace, at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute on September 26. ■



- DIRECTOR
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- SENIOR FELLOW
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- RESEARCH STAFF
Stephen Scott
Cynthia Nolt
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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Young Center News is published twice each year for those interested in the work and events of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please direct correspondence to the address below.

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Young Center hosts Nigerian visitors

Nineteen members of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) visited the Young Center on July 23 for dinner and conversation. The group was part of a larger delegation attending the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Richmond, Va., in mid-July. Their visit was sponsored by the Brethren Evangelism Support Trust and the Atlantic Northeast District. Among the group were Musa Mambula, Young Center Fellow in Spring 2007, and his wife.

At the Center, the Nigerian Brethren saw a German Bible printed by Christopher Sauer in Germantown in 1743. This Bible was the first one printed in a European language in America. Brethren missionaries were the first to translate the



Visitors from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria

Bible into the Bura language in Nigeria. The group also examined a copy of *Martyrs Mirror* printed at Ephrata in 1748, the largest book produced in the colonial era, and heard Mambula explain his work as a Center fellow. The visit offered a good time of fellowship and understanding. ■

Student employees anticipate work

Eastern students who venture to the east edge of the college campus and into the Young Center for a class or to explore the building are often eager to return. This fall three such students, all sophomores, join senior Megan Memoli as the Center's student assistants. A valuable addition to the regular staff, the students type, photocopy, research, create presentations, file, and do myriad other essential tasks.

Memoli knows the scope of the work well; she's been employed at the Young Center since she was a first-year student, and has worked on projects as diverse as Church Member Profile 2006, the Amish in America conference, and the Amish migration database. In addition to the pragmatic consideration of office skills to list on her resume, the English literature major's interest in working at the Young Center was sparked by her curiosity about Anabaptist history — she's a member of the Church of the Brethren, and has a minor in peace and conflict studies. Memoli enjoys her job "because there's always something new to work on!"

Megan Casey, who has a double major in Japanese and English literature, anticipates "learning more about the rich cul-

tural and religious heritage of various Pietist and Anabaptist groups, improving my secretarial skills, and working with great people who are enthusiastic about their work." Her interest in Anabaptism and Pietism was piqued when she took HRE 285: Amish, Brethren, and Mennonites in the U.S. taught by Donald B. Kraybill last semester. "I have always been interested in religious studies, but my schedule doesn't really give me room for a minor, so working at the Young Center will help me maintain some contact with this discipline," she says.

Music therapy major Sarah Biedka also took HRE 285 last semester. She appreciates the "sense of peace and quiet that prevails over the Young Center" and looks forward to contributing to the work that takes place here.

Katarina Eller's interest in Anabaptist and Pietist history stems from her German birthplace and her Church of the Brethren membership. The Center's work is also a good fit, she says, because one of her majors is German and her minor is peace studies. Eller hopes her job allows her to "use some German, and learn more about my minor and my heritage." ■

Director lectures at symposium

Center director Jeff Bach delivered a lecture on issues related to German broadsides printed by the Ephrata Cloister press in the eighteenth century to a symposium held May 22 and 23 for designing a bibliography of German broadsides printed in America up to 1830. The symposium was a joint project of Penn State University and the University of Göttingen in Germany.

The invitation-only event included presentations as well as planning sessions to develop a data base and printed bibliography. Reimer Eck, Hermann Wellenreuther, and Anna von Kamp attended from Göttingen. Lisa Menardi from Winterthur and Jeff Bach were among the American presenters. Bach's speech outlined some of the types of broadsides printed on the Ephrata press and some of the problems in identifying Ephrata broadsides. The bibliography and data base project will be in development for the next two years, concluding with an larger international conference on early German broadsides in America. ■

Fellowships named for donors

The generous gifts of Lucille Snowden and Ken and Carroll Kreider now provide endowments for the Young Center's visiting fellows. Beginning this academic year, the visiting fellow in the fall will be known as the Snowden Fellow and the visiting fellow in the spring will be known as the Kreider Fellow. Likewise, their public lectures will be known as the Snowden Lecture, and the Kreider Lecture, respectively.

Lucille Snowden and her late husband, Armon, and Ken and Carroll Kreider have been strong supporters of the Young Center for many years. Their commitment to the Center's scholarly mission ensures that the academic contributions of its fellows will continue for years to come. ■

Erik Wesner named Fall 2008 Snowden Fellow

Snowden Fellow Erik Wesner arrived at the Young Center in mid-August from Krakow, Poland, where he lives for most of the year. A 2001 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with degrees in economics and English literature, Wesner first became acquainted with the Amish when he worked as a sales representative for a Nashville-based bookseller.

In the summer of 2004, he “happened across” the Amish community around Arthur, Illinois, and ended up selling a

10-book set called the Family Bible Library, one that was already well-known and appreciated in the community. “I was made to feel welcome and, based on comments I received, I feel my low-pressure style of doing business fit in particularly well with the culture,” Wesner says. “Later I continued to sell the same and other products in communities in Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, and Pennsylvania, and finished my ‘Amish sales’ experience with a total of over 1,200 customers. The work was, I feel, a very

good way to get to experience Amish society firsthand. I have many fond memories from those times, and my interest in Amish society is rooted in those experiences.”



Erik Wesner

Wesner teaches English to young professionals and students at two private schools in Krakow and has recently begun translation-related work. He also has two book projects underway, one on Amish principles of business success and another on general information about the Amish for the Polish market. Wesner began his popular blog, Amish America, in 2006; it currently receives approximately 10,000 visitors each month.

While at the Young Center, Wesner is working on his books and conducting interviews with Amish businesspeople in Lancaster County and in Holmes County, Ohio. He is also collaborating on an article on Amish entrepreneurship with Donald B. Kraybill and adding his experiences living with Amish friends to his blog.

Wesner will present the first Snowden Lecture on Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 p.m., at the Young Center. ■

Center provides research assistance

In April, Dutch journalism student Inger Bout spend several days immersed in the Young Center’s collection of Amish publications, including *The Budget*, *Die Botschaft*, and *The Diary*, for her senior research project on the Amish and news. She also interviewed research associate Stephen Scott, who discussed Amish newspaper reading habits and provided contact information for several Amish periodicals.

Bout’s visit was just one of many initiated by those interested in Anabaptist and Pietist history or contemporary topics. This summer, research visitors included Keith Tussing, who used the Durnbaugh collection to research the effect of the Revolutionary War on Anabaptist groups in Lancaster County. The Durnbaugh files were also used by Yvonne Kimmel to trace the movements of Brethren people in Europe relating to her own ancestors. Kay Weaver, stewardship director for Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren, used the *Brethren Encyclopedia* and district history books to research Brethren congregations in ANE District, especially their relationship to each other and their founding dates.

Scott fields numerous phone and e-mail requests for information too. In late spring and early summer he provided direction and answers to a variety of inquirers. Among them were a *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* writer researching Amish

buggy accidents, a *Harrisburg Patriot News* writer researching Amish and Pennsylvania German cooking, a *New York Times* reporter inquiring about the spread of Amish communities and developments in buggy safety programs, a Bucks County Community College student wanting to interview Old Order Mennonites, a *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter writing a story on Amish grocery stores, and a Titusville Area Hospital employee asking about the Amish in northwestern Pennsylvania in order to provide appropriate health education. ■



Jeff Bach returned on August 12 from leading a group of 43 people on a two-week Brethren heritagetour to Europe. The tour included visits to Anabaptist sites in Switzerland and sites of Brethren activity in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands. The trip’s high point was the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Brethren movement on August 2 and 3 in Schwarzenau, where a crowd of more than 800 gathered for the historic event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

No Greater Love: Brethren Mission & Service Work in China 1908-1951

Opening: Sept. 16 ■ 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

This exhibit commemorates the centennial of the beginning of Brethren mission work in China in 1908. A collaborative effort between Young Center director Jeff Bach and Gene and Joe Wampler, whose parents were Brethren missionaries in China, No Greater Love combines text and photos to tell the story of Brethren mission work in Shanxi province in northern China from 1908 to 1951. Formatted as a timeline, it recounts the expansion of medical, agricultural, and educational work in China and also includes some significant events of the Chinese context. The exhibit opens formally on September 16 with a reception from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and runs through May 20, 2009.

Behind the Lines: Brethren Service and the Sino-Japanese War

JOSEPH WAMPLER, PH.D.

Tuesday, September 16 ■ 7:30 p.m.

By August 1938, more than a year after the start of the Sino-Japanese War, the Japanese had advanced into the Brethren mission field 500 miles west of Peking. E. M. Wampler and his family were the sole westerners at the station at Liao Chow, and Wampler sent urgent appeals to Brethren headquarters in Elgin for more relief workers to help aid peasant farmers who had been burned out of their homes by the Japanese army. In particular, he asked for a young worker with “rich red blood” to work with the refugees in the mountains surrounding Liao Chow. O.C. Sollenberger and his 21-year old son, Howard, responded.

Howard spent two years among the refugees and guerrilla fighters in those mountains. There he kept a journal and took many photos to document his odyssey. Because the main Chinese force

Exhibit Opening

- Tuesday, September 16, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
No Greater Love: Brethren Mission & Service Work in China 1908–1951

Public Lectures

- Tuesday, September 16, 7:30 p.m.
Behind the Lines: Brethren Service and the Sino-Japanese War
Joseph Wampler
- Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 p.m.
Is Success a Four-Letter Word? The Amish Approach to Business Achievement
Erik Wesner
Snowden Fellow, Fall 2008
- Thursday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.
The Gospel of Peace: Biblical Witness and Challenge
Willard Swartley

in the region was the communist Eighth Route Army, this story also gives a glimpse of the forging of this army into the force that unified the Chinese nation and led to modern China. The talk, illustrated with many of the pictures Howard Sollenberger took, will describe his work and insights during these turbulent times.

Wampler grew up in China, the son of Brethren missionaries. He received a Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Chicago, taught at the University of California Santa Cruz, and worked at observatories around the world before retiring in 1997. Wampler and his brother Gene share an interest in gathering stories of Chinese and Americans who were affected by Brethren work in China.

Is Success a Four-Letter Word? The Amish Approach to Business Achievement

ERIK WESNER, B.A.

Tuesday, September 23 ■ 7:00 p.m.

The rise of small enterprise among the Old Order Amish has been well-documented in works such as Donald Kraybill and Steven Nolt’s *Amish Enterprise*, as well as in the popular media. Wesner will explore Amish perceptions of suc-

cess in business and in life, and also examine what he regards as the most important business ideas and principles of the Amish, based on the experiences of Amish entrepreneurs in Lancaster County, Pa., and Holmes County, Ohio.

Over the past four years, Wesner has spent considerable time studying the Amish in communities from Lancaster County to Kalona, Iowa. He is currently writing two books: one on Amish business success principles and one on general information about the Amish for the Polish language market. Wesner also authors *Amish America*, a blog on Amish culture. He graduated from the University of North Carolina with degrees in economics and English literature and, when not in *Amish America*, he lives in Krakow, Poland.

The Gospel of Peace: Biblical Witness and Challenge

WILLARD SWARTLEY, PH.D.

Thursday, October 16 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Swartley will present highlights of his findings from his book *Covenant of Peace*, sampling from the range of topics addressed there, and will correlate this New Testament research with topics for preaching and teaching in churches. He will also briefly address the current relevance of these findings to the peace-making challenges we face today.

Willard Swartley is professor emeritus of New Testament at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana, where he served as professor for 26 years and as academic dean for seven years.

Covenant of Peace: The Missing Peace in New Testament Theology and Ethics, the book on which Swartley’s lecture is based, was selected to receive the 2008 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing following the lecture.



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Willard Swartley receives 2008 Brown Book Award

Covenant of Peace named outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies

Covenant of Peace: The Missing Peace in New Testament Theology and Ethics by Willard M. Swartley has won the 2008 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Published by Wm. B. Eerdmans, the book is a comprehensive study of peace in the New Testament. It has been hailed by reviewers as “a thorough, and thoroughly theological, analysis of the theme of peace as it is interwoven into the New Testament account of the work of Jesus Christ” and “a book to be studied and digested by everyone charged with the task of proclaiming for our time the good news of God’s peaceful reign.”

Now professor emeritus, Swartley served as professor of New Testament at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana, for 26 years and as academic dean for seven years. He holds a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Swartley has edited nine New Testament volumes in the Believers Church Bible Commentary (BCBC) series and 20 other books. He has also written more than 80 articles and seven books, the most recent of which is *Send Forth Your Light: A Vision for Peace, Mission, and Worship* (Herald Press, 2007). Currently he is working on a commentary on the Gospel of John for the BCBC series.

The book award judges, scholars in Anabaptist and Pietist studies, selected *Covenant of Peace* from a pool of 35 books nominated for the award. Their comments include “This magnum opus is an enduring contribution to the field of Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. Swartley’s grasp of New Testament scholarly writing is impressive, and his exegetical work is exhaustive on this theme” and “It should be of enduring significance both as a contribution to Anabaptist scholarship

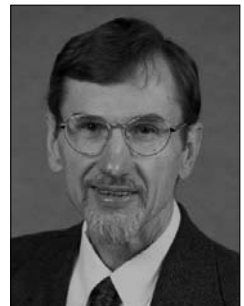
and as a biblical foundation for practical action to advance the peaceable kingdom of Christ.”

The national award, which recognizes an outstanding

book in Anabap-

tist and Pietist studies published during the previous three years, was named for noted author and theologian Dale W. Brown, who served as Young Center fellow in 1993.

Swartley will present a public lecture on Thursday, October 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Young Center. Nominations for the 2009 Dale W. Brown Book Award will be accepted until December 10, 2008. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for details. ■



Willard M. Swartley