

# YOUNG CENTER *News*

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR  
ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES  
AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



## Nigerian Brethren scholar named Snowden Fellow for 2023

Philip Asura Nggada, a faculty member in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at the University of Jos and a member of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN), will serve as the Young Center's Snowden Fellow during the fall semester.

Nggada received his Ph.D. in Hebrew and Old Testament from the University of Jos, and after holding positions elsewhere, was invited back to the university in 2014. He has been teaching there ever since and also directs the department's graduate program. The University of Jos is a public university, so the religious studies faculty and curriculum is both Christian and Muslim.

The author of two books, *The Biblical Foundation for Human Rights and Social Justice: The Experience of Northern Nigeria* (2011) and *The Shepherd Motif in the Old Testament: A Paradigm for Lasting and Enduring Leadership* (2012), Nggada has also published numerous journal articles and book chapters.



*Nggada and his family: Laraba (far left) and Philip (far right), with daughters Rebecca and Doreen, at home in Jos, Nigeria*

Before joining the University of Jos faculty, he served as a lecturer and then as academic dean at Kulp Bible College, an EYN institution. Before that, he was a chaplain and earlier a postdoctoral fellow at Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa, in its African Humanities Program.

Nggada plans to use his time as a Snowden Fellow to read, reflect, and write about "educational institutions as a forum for peacebuilding and peacemaking in Nigeria." He says, "Nigeria today is faced with so many troubles and challenges which are rooted in lack of understanding between the two major religions (Christianity and Islam)... Perhaps the university system can be a forum for peacemaking in Nigeria because 80 percent of Nigeria's politicians and public office holders have graduated from the university and they all serve as policy makers in government."

What might be the outcome "if peacemaking would be enshrined in all curriculum at all faculties in the university?" he wonders. "Education in Nigeria is facing a serious threat because it has not been given adequate support and attention by the government.... And Boko Haram took advantage of these gaps." Properly structured, universities can be an example, he continues. "For instance, in the University of Jos's Department of Religion and Philosophy, both Christian and Islamic studies operate under



*Philip Asura Nggada and his seminar of doctoral students at the University of Jos. (Nggada is in blue at the head of the table.)*

a single head of the department. We have seminars together where different topics are discussed. If peacemaking is taught, trained, and enshrined in curricula, and if peace and tolerance are experienced on campus, there is every likelihood that peaceful coexistence can also be experienced in Nigeria."

A member of the EYN committee that is writing a centennial history of the church, Nggada hopes to do some historical research in Hess Archives, which holds materials from H. Stover Kulp, pioneer Brethren missionary in Nigeria. "I feel that Young Centre would be the appropriate place to get vital information about the founding fathers' beliefs and practices [especially] on peace and peacemaking," he says.

Nggada's time in the U.S. is a collaboration between Elizabethtown College and Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, where he will be Scholar in Residence for the Spring 2024 semester.

## From the Director



The Young Center delights in welcoming visitors, and summer 2023 was filled with guests from near and far. A Maryland-based researcher spent several days here studying Amish teacher training and school curricula. Two local church groups, Spring Creek Church of the Brethren and Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, visited the Bowers Interpretive Gallery. And in August, a university professor from Japan who is studying the roles of women in Anabaptist religious life was here conducting research.

Two groups of US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service staff came to the Young Center for three-day training events in June and July, making them the seventh and eighth such trainings we've provided since 2019. These conservation specialists, who work with Plain Anabaptist farmers, came from Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Texas and learned more about Plain community culture and values so they can more effectively work with these constituents.

Our largest group of visitors this summer, as reported elsewhere in the newsletter, were those attending the Seventh Brethren World Assembly in late July. Coming from across the country as well as several African nations, attendees illustrated the rich diversity of the Brethren movement in the twenty-first century.

This fall, we anticipate more visitors, including students from the German University of Konstanz, as well as groups from retirement communities in our local area. And visitors to campus are welcome to view a fascinating exhibit on the roots of the Brethren witness in Nigeria, on display in the High Library IDEA Lab through September 28.

We hope that you can join us this fall for one of our evening programs, also described in this issue, or simply stop by to enjoy the Bowers Interpretive Gallery.

Steve Nolt  
Director

## New exhibition in High Library

“ROOTS OF EYN” ON DISPLAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Brethren mission in Nigeria. Now known as Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, EYN is the largest national body of the Church of the Brethren in the world.

In 2021, the Hess Archives and Special Collections was fortunate to receive correspondence, documents, and several hundred photographs from the family of H. Stover Kulp, one of the first two Church of the Brethren missionaries to Nigeria in 1923.

A new exhibition, “Roots of EYN: H. Stover Kulp in Nigeria,” features materials from the recently processed H. Stover Kulp Family Papers, 1911–2016 and celebrates the seed that Kulp, his colleague Albert Helsler, and the first

Nigerian Brethren planted. It also celebrates the members who continue to persevere and support the church in Nigeria.

“Kulp’s life and work in Nigeria is an inspiring story of service and dedication,” says Archivist Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh. “Thank you to Abigail Sholes ’23 and Erin Moore ’23 for their work processing the Kulp papers and the family of H. Stover Kulp for their generous donation, which made this exhibition possible.”

The exhibition is located in the IDEA Lab, which is on the main floor of High Library. It is available through September 28 during the hours the library is open. (Check the current hours at <https://etown.libcal.com/>.)



## Sixth journal issue released

The [latest issue](#) of the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities* (JPAC) was released in



May. It includes a demographic profile of the Lancaster County Amish settlement, a discussion of the merits of letter writing for researchers, and part 1 of a two-part article on the

history and distinctive characteristics of the Old German Baptist Brethren. It also contains the keynote and two plenary addresses given at the Young Center’s 2022 conference, “The Amish and Their Neighbors,” and reviews of two recent books.

JPAC is a peer-reviewed, open access journal published by The Ohio State University Libraries and cosponsored by the Young Center. For access to the journal, including an option to subscribe to the mailing list and detailed information for prospective authors, visit <https://plainanabaptistjournal.org>.

## Student catalogs Hess Archives artifacts collection

During summer 2023, Abigail Sholes '23, History and Social Studies Secondary Education major, inventoried and made accessible more than 600 artifacts that are part of the Earl H. and Anita F. Hess Archives and Special Collections. Many of the items pertain to the history of the Church of the Brethren, such as those related to observance of the love feast.

Sholes's work was part of Elizabethtown College's Summer Creative Arts and Research Program (SCARP) and was funded in part through the Young Center's Earl and Anita Hess Endowment, which supports student research. Archivist Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh served as Sholes's project mentor.



## Dale W. Brown Book Award recipient named

*Herrnhut: The Formation of a Moravian Community, 1722–1732* by Paul Peucker has received the 2023 Dale Brown Book Award. The award, named for author and theologian Dale W. Brown, is given annually to an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies published during the previous three years.

*Herrnhut* (Penn State University Press, 2022) examines the origins of the community of Herrnhut, which began in June 1722 on the estate of Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf in Berthelsdorf, Saxony.

Alexander Schunka of the Freie Universität Berlin reviewed the book in a recent issue of *Journal of Moravian History*. He called it “a very important study and a fascinating read that dispels a number of older Herrnhut myths and that can also serve as a good and state-of-the-art introduction into the early history of the Moravian Church.”

The Brown Book Award judges lauded the book. “This is an extraordinarily well-researched historical monograph,” said one. “Deeply rooted in archival sources and in clear conversation with the broader historiography, it draws the reader to the fascinating world of



the 1720s, during the founding of the Herrnhut community. The author offers persuasive evidence and argumentation for how the Moravian group's development interfaced with Count Zinzendorf's leadership, paving the way for this community to persist, by 'masking' its separatism in the context of Lutheranism and other officially recognized religions. Organized both chronologically and topically, *Herrnhut* provides a model for historical writing and prompts readers to further engage the book's themes of community, dissent, belief, and religious freedom.”

Another judge commented that “few scholars can match Peucker's facility with this topic and its sources. He achieves his aim of showing that the endurance of Herrnhut emerged from its ability to mask its true self through means satisfactory to religious and political powers.... *Herrnhut* holds high value for upper level undergraduates, graduate students, or scholars interested in the history of Moravianism and European Pietism.”

Paul Peucker is archivist of the Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He holds a doctorate in history from the University of Utrecht and a degree from the State Archives School in The Hague. He worked as archivist at the Moravian Archives in Herrnhut, Germany, before becoming director at the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 2004. Peucker is also the managing editor of *Journal of Moravian*

*History* and the author of *A Time of Sifting: Mystical Marriage and the Crisis of Moravian Piety in the 18th Century* (2015). He will present a lecture about *Herrnhut* on Tuesday, September 26, at 7 p.m., in the Bucher Meetinghouse.

The deadline for 2024 Brown Book Award nominations is December 15, 2023. Visit [www.etown.edu/centers/young-center/award.aspx](http://www.etown.edu/centers/young-center/award.aspx) for details.

## Stephen Scott papers cataloged

The personal papers of Stephen Scott, research and administrative associate at the Young Center from 1997 until his passing in 2011, have been organized and cataloged recently by [Hess Archives](http://www.etown.edu/centers/young-center/hess-archives).

The collection includes information on Anabaptist and Pietist groups and organizations, records of Amish settlements, census data, maps, research for Scott's books and articles, as well as audiovisual materials and files. This material is available to researchers and other interested persons; see <http://etownarchives.libraryhost.com/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=205> for a detailed description.

## Archives obtains Kurtz Bibles

In 1744, Amish brothers Hans and Stefan Kurtz, ages 22 and 20, left the German Palatinate for colonial Pennsylvania. There, Hans married Elizabeth Rickenbach and settled in what is now Berks County, while Stefan married Veronica Yoder and eventually put down roots in what is now Lebanon County.

Each immigrating brother carried a Froschauer Bible, so named for a renowned printer, Christopher Froschauer, whose Bibles feature a Swiss-German text preferred by Swiss Anabaptists. Hans Kurtz had a Zurich-printed edition from 1580, which he had received from his father, while Stefan had obtained a 1744 edition produced in Strasbourg. In time, both Bibles came to hold family records that bridge the Atlantic and document descendants into the mid-nineteenth century.

The Stefan Kurtz Bible was passed down a branch of the Kurtz family whose members joined the German Baptist Brethren and moved to Ohio. In May 2023, a descendant of this branch, Karen L. Kurtz of Guelph, Ontario, generously donated the 1744 Bible to Elizabethtown College's Earl H. and Anita F. Hess Archives, along with extensive documentation and a transcription and translation of its genealogical records.

Two months later, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, which had held the 1580 Hans Kurtz Bible since the early twentieth century, transferred that volume to Hess Archives, along with a transcription and translation of its family record.

The two brothers' Bibles, long separated, are now together. Individuals wishing to see these Bibles may contact [Hess Archives](#) to make an appointment.



Young Center director Steve Nolt with Karen Kurtz and the Stefan Kurtz Bible she donated.

## Remembering A. Lucille Snowden

A. Lucille (Heisey) Snowden, longtime supporter of the Young Center, died on August 6, 2023, at the age of 91. A schoolteacher for thirty years and a lifelong member of the Church of the Brethren, she was married to Elizabethtown College professor of religion Armon C. Snowden, who died in 2004.

Lucille Snowden was involved in many faith-based causes, such as the refugee resettlement efforts of her church. She also worked with Lancaster Interreligious Network for Central American Action, helping Central American asylum seekers connect with local services and support.

In 2008, she endowed the Lucille Snowden Visiting Fellow Fund to support scholars who come to the Young Center for a semester of research and study. To date, the fund has supported fifteen Snowden Fellows, including scholars from Finland, Israel, Nigeria, Poland, and nearly a dozen U.S. academic institutions.

The Young Center is deeply grateful for Snowden's generosity. Her gift to the Young Center has furthered scholarship and understanding of the faith, history, and culture of Anabaptist and Pietist groups.

## Brethren World Assembly recap

Approximately 175 members from at least eight Brethren groups in the United States, Nigeria, and Rwanda met July 26–29 for the Seventh Brethren World Assembly, under the theme “Brethren Faithfulness: Priorities in Perspective.” The first three days of the assembly were held at Elizabethtown College. Saturday's events moved to Germantown, Pennsylvania, home to the oldest Brethren congregation in North America.

The assembly had a largely historical focus, with reflections on three hundred years

of Brethren church life in America and a century of Brethren witness in Nigeria. Presentations included Dale Stoffer of Ashland Theological Seminary on Brethren migration to Pennsylvania, Denise Kettering-Lane of Bethany Theological Seminary on the establishment of Brethren church life in colonial Pennsylvania, and Sheilah Elwardani of Virginia Western Community College on new research about the Brethren relationship to slavery and emancipation.



Left: Theresa Eshbach, left, a Church of the Brethren member from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, shares a laugh with Rebecca Dali. A native of Nigeria, Dali is currently co-pastor of Panther Creek Church of the Brethren outside Des Moines, Iowa.



Right: Dan Thornton, a Charis Fellowship pastor from Hagerstown, Maryland, visits with Renetta and Jeff Brovont, Old German Baptist Brethren-New Conference members from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

All lectures will be presented in the Bucher Meetinghouse.

## BROWN BOOK AWARD LECTURE Herrnhut: A New Look at the Origins of the Moravian Church

**PAUL PEUCKER**

**Tuesday, September 26, 7 p.m.**



From its founding in 1722, the community of Herrnhut quickly grew to become the epicenter of a transatlantic religious movement that would go on to attract thousands of Europeans, American Indians, and enslaved Africans: the Moravian Church. In his recent book, based on the analysis of thousands of documents from archives in Germany and the United States, Paul Peucker takes a fresh look at the origins of Herrnhut and demonstrates how this community was able to survive despite the existing regulations against new religious groups in early modern Germany.

Paul Peucker is archivist of the Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, managing editor of the *Journal of Moravian History* and author of *Sifting: Mystical Marriage and the Crisis of Moravian Piety in the 18th Century* (2015). His most recent book, *Herrnhut: The Formation of a Moravian Community, 1722–1732*, was published simultaneously in English and German in 2022. Peucker holds a doctorate in history from the University of Utrecht.

## LECTURE Balthasar Hubmaier and Anti- Judaism in the Reformation: Reexamining Regensburg

**BREANNA J. NICKEL**

**Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m.**



Christian perceptions of Jews in the medieval and early modern periods were immensely varied, ranging from utter detestation to indifference to reverence. The social and theological upheavals of the Reformation further confused Jewish-Christian relations. Based upon archival research in Regensburg, this talk will reconstruct the kinds of anti-Judaic sentiment that were prevalent in the city prior to the famous expulsion of the Jewish community in 1519. Including a reexamination of the role and rhetoric of Balthasar Hubmaier and other Christian leaders, the talk also explores whether Hubmaier can be considered as representative of wider Jewish-Anabaptist relations.

Breanna J. Nickel is assistant professor of Bible and religion at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana. Her research and teaching focuses on interreligious relations, including Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations in the medieval and early modern periods as well as current interreligious dialogue and peace-building efforts in global society.

## SNOWDEN LECTURE Celebrating 100 Years of Brethren Witness in Nigeria

**PHILIP ASURA NGGADA**

**Thursday, November 9, 7 p.m.**



Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN), the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, is the largest national body of the Church of the Brethren in the world. The origins of this church date to 1923 and the preaching, teaching, and medical ministry of Brethren missionaries in Garkida and surrounding areas. Philip Asura Nggada will share key developments in the history of the church, which moved from being a missionary enterprise to an independent indigenous church. Major events include national independence in 1960, the transfer of mission institutions to Nigerian control in 1972, and the growth and spread of the church since that time. The attacks from Boko Haram since 2011 produced much suffering but also sent the church into neighboring Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, where EYN is now organizing beyond Nigeria.

Philip Asura Nggada is a reader (associate professor) in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at the University of Jos, Jos, Nigeria, where he has been a faculty member since 2014. He previously taught at Kulp Theological Seminary in Kwarhi and at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria in Bukuru. He is the author of numerous articles and two books, including *The Shepherd Motif in the Old Testament* (2012).



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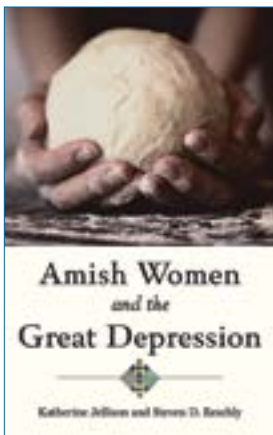
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## New book in Young Center series to be released in November 2023

The newest book in Young Center Books in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies published by Johns Hopkins University Press is available for preorder.



*Amish Women and the Great Depression*, by Katherine Jellison and Steven D. Reschly, examines the integral role Amish women played in making the Old Order Amish of Lancaster County, Penn-

sylvania, the most economically and culturally stable agricultural community in the nation at the end of the Great Depression, according to the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Jellison, professor of history at Ohio University, and Reschly, professor emeritus of history at Truman State University, use the federal government's 1935–1936 Study of Consumer Purchases (SCP) supplemented with Amish women's diaries, newspaper accounts, oral histories, photographs, and other sources in their study of how Amish women sustained family farming during the Great Depression.

Visit <https://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title/53742/amish-women-and-great-depression> to preorder.

FALL 2023

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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. For email notification and a link to each new issue, send a message to [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu).

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