



PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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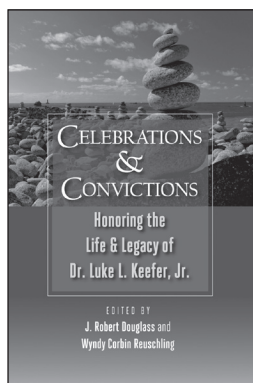
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Historical Society Releases New Book

Collection of essays celebrates life of Dr. Luke Keefer, Jr.



Celebrations and Convictions, recently published by the Historical Society, celebrates the life and legacy of the late church historian and theologian Dr. Luke Keefer, Jr.

In early October, two events were held in Ashland, Ohio to mark the release of the book, *Celebrations and Convictions: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Luke L. Keefer, Jr.*, edited by J. Robert Douglass and Wyndy Corbin Reuschling, and published by the Historical Society.

Members of the Society joined about 200 others at a conference at

Ashland Theological Seminary in honor of the late Luke Keefer, Jr. Following the conference, the Society's annual meeting was held at the Ashland Brethren in Christ Church. The church provided dinner, including the traditional annual meeting fare of homemade pie.

At the annual meeting, Douglass and Reuschling, former colleagues of Luke's at Ashland Seminary, spoke about their memories of Luke and their experience editing the book. After their remarks, a panel discussion was held featuring three of the Brethren in Christ contributors to the book: Grace Holland, Zach Spidel, and John Yeatts (pictured at right). Devin Manzullo-Thomas, another contributor, moderated the panel.

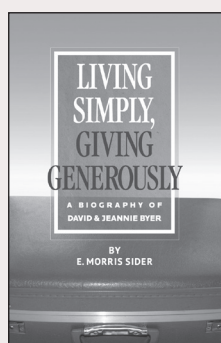
Attendance at annual meeting was not large, but those who were able to come appreciated the opportunity to celebrate their friend and colleague.

Copies of the book are now available for sale from the Historical Society at \$15 each plus shipping of \$2.75 for one copy. You won't want to miss essays that tell Luke's life story, describe his role as mentor and friend, offer Luke's own reflections on the "uneasy synthesis of heritage streams" in the Brethren in Christ Church, and address some of Luke's interests and core convictions: Brethren in Christ history, heresy, women in ministry, reading Scripture, pacifism and nonviolence, and Christian ethical commitments, among others.



Brethren in Christ contributors to the book Celebrations and Convictions (left to right: John Yeatts, Grace Holland, and Zach Spidel) share reflections on Luke Keefer, Jr.'s life and legacy during the Historical Society's annual meeting in Ashland, Ohio, in October.

Send your order for *Celebrations and Convictions* to the editor, Harriet Sider Bicksler. Checks should be made payable to the Brethren in Christ Historical Society.



Another Book Published

Living Simply, Giving Generously: A Biography of David and Jeannie Byer was also published by the Historical Society this fall. Written by the Society's editor emeritus, E. Morris Sider, the biography was published in partnership with the Friends of Murray Library at Messiah College, one of many recipients of the Byers' generosity.

All members of the Historical Society received a free copy; additional copies are available for \$10 each plus shipping of \$2.75 for one copy. Contact the editor.

Michigan Congregation Celebrates Anniversary

Carland-Zion church observes 125 years of ministry

by Jonathan Stanton

The Carland-Zion Brethren in Christ Church (located between Elsie and Owosso, Michigan) recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. “Tunker” families from Markham, Ontario, Canada emigrated to Michigan and established the church in the mid-1880s. Theirs was the first Brethren in Christ congregation in the state and played an important role in establishing other congregations in Michigan—many of which remain to this day.

Early members included the Jacob Meyer family, Bishop Samuel Baker, and Henry Schneider, Sr., and family. A thirteen-week revival meeting took place in a one-room schoolhouse in 1890, and construction began on the church building around the same time. The congregation had no resident pastor for many years, but services were led by various ministers with brief appointments. Shortly after the turn of the century, Michigan bishop Jonathan Lyons served as pastor for nearly thirty years. During that time, Bishop Henry Schneider, Jr., also began his preaching ministry at Carland-Zion before moving to the Merrill congregation. Descendants of both the Lyons and Schneider families are still members of the congregation today.

The original building remains in use today as the main worship sanctuary. A parsonage was built next door in 1948, and a fellowship hall was built in 1958. In the 1960s, the original church and fellowship hall were connected with a building that includes classrooms, a nursery, restrooms, and office space. At that time, the layout of the sanctuary was reversed, and the original entrance area became the pulpit/preaching area.

Current Pastor Eric Stanton, who has served the congregation for more than twenty-five years, led a hymn sing and a time of sharing memories and stories from the past. Bishop John Zuck gave a brief message and a time of fellowship followed. Church members are gathering memories and stories which will be placed in a time capsule to be buried this fall.

Long-time member Alta Downey Sisco composed a poem for the church's centennial in 1990. The poem, a segment of which is printed here, still provides a fitting testimony of the church's 125 years of outreach to the communities it serves in mid-Michigan.

“The Little White Church at the Crossroads”

“Go and preach the gospel,” was the task assigned to all,
Who would follow Jesus in answer to His call?

Down through the years, the faithful carried out the Lord's command,
Preaching the gospel everywhere...even in Michigan!

The message was brought, conviction fell, and people found the Lord
Because the Word that was preached to them was sharp as a two-edged sword.

And now the need for a meeting place, a house in which to meet,
To worship God and grow in grace and fellowship so sweet.

A little white church at the crossroads would be the ideal site,
In which to carry out God's work, and thus send forth the light.
Its rays penetrating the darkness, the darkness of sin and night.



An exterior shot of the Carland-Zion Brethren in Christ Church in Carland, Michigan. Photo by Laura Reppenhagen



The congregation's oldest member, Leola Kiteley Brady, and her daughter, Mary Brady Ford. Leola is a descendant of Bishop Henry Schneider. Photo by Laura Reppenhagen

Pastors came and pastors went, but each the
truth made plain,
Salvation is through Christ alone, by works
we can't attain. . . .

The years have slipped by, a century
has passed,
The little white church is still standing fast.

In proclaiming the message of God's love
for man,
And the blessings provided in His won-
drous plan.

To those who pass by, it still points the way,
To life everlasting, and heaven some day!

Jonathan Stanton is the son of Eric Stanton, current pastor of the Carland-Zion congregation. Jon lives in Omaha, Nebraska with his wife and serves on the editorial committee for Shalom!, a Brethren in Christ publication on peace and justice issues. Much of this information is from a brief history of the church written by Anna Kiteley in 1959.

News and Notes

From the Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives

Recently, while conducting research in the Archives photo collection on another topic, we came across a folder labeled "California: Huron Cotton Camps." Markings on the photos led us to an article, "Migrant Work in California," in the missions insert of the January 28, 1957, issue of the *Evangelical Visitor*.

The article was a news item about a new Home Missions pastorate which began in October 1956. At that time, Carl and Marilyn Wolgemuth conducted their first service at a migrant labor camp in Fresno County, Calif. One of the larger cotton camps in the Huron community, "Camp 4," consisted of some 100 small quonset cabins and space for many trailers. The chapel was a double-size quonset formerly used as a cook-house.

In the article, the Wolgemuths reflect on the early endeavors in this mission project, the living conditions of the migrants, and the long-term prospects of the mission. Selections from the article appear below.

"Interest among teenagers in Sunday evening services led to a series of campfire services outside the chapel during November and early December.



Home mission worker Carl Wolgemuth and several boys at the door to the mission chapel

employing more full-time workers, it is likely that some of the migrants will become permanent residents. Some interest among townspeople in a community church may present new opportunities to us. As the Lord's plan is revealed we request your prayers that He will use His servants to meet the people's spiritual needs whatever may be the circumstances of their lives."

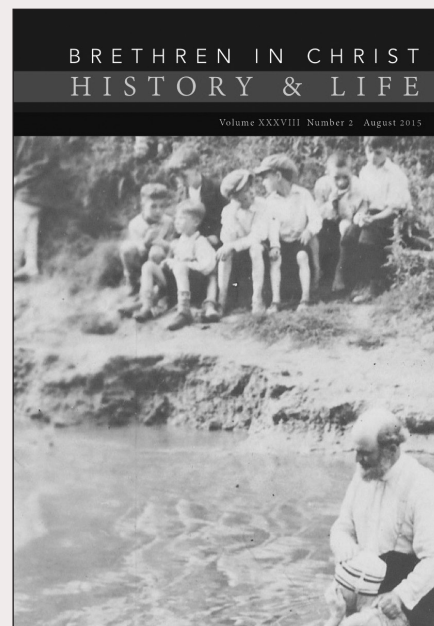


This photo of several quonset cabins was published in the August 27, 1956 issue of the *Evangelical Visitor*. The photographer jotted the following note on the back of the picture: "This is Camp 4—100 cabins in all. I was trying to get a glimpse of the mud that is right up to the cabin doors. It doesn't show up very well. You have to see it to appreciate it! (The mud is seen in winter. Otherwise, it is dusty.)"

Singing choruses and gospel songs to the accompaniment of the guitar, the group are [sic] prepared to listen to testimonies and a short, pointed Gospel message at the close of the fireside service. . . .

"Life is drab and tragically barren for the migrants. The privilege of sharing with the Mennonite Service Unit and others in a ministry to these people is much appreciated. The camp folks now have opportunity for activities under a Christian influence—after-school Bible Clubs with handcrafts for children, recreation for the teenagers, and sewing classes for mothers.

The outlook for the permanence of the work is brightened by developments in the growing Huron community. With some ranchers



Complete Set of Journals Available

In recent months, several members of the Historical Society who are finding it necessary to "downsize" have offered to donate their complete set of *Brethren in Christ History and Life* to a young historian, church library, or anyone else interested in history.

For more information, contact Glen Pierce, director of the Brethren in Christ Archives, via email (archives@messiah.edu), telephone (717-691-6048), or postal mail (One College Avenue, Suite 3002, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055).



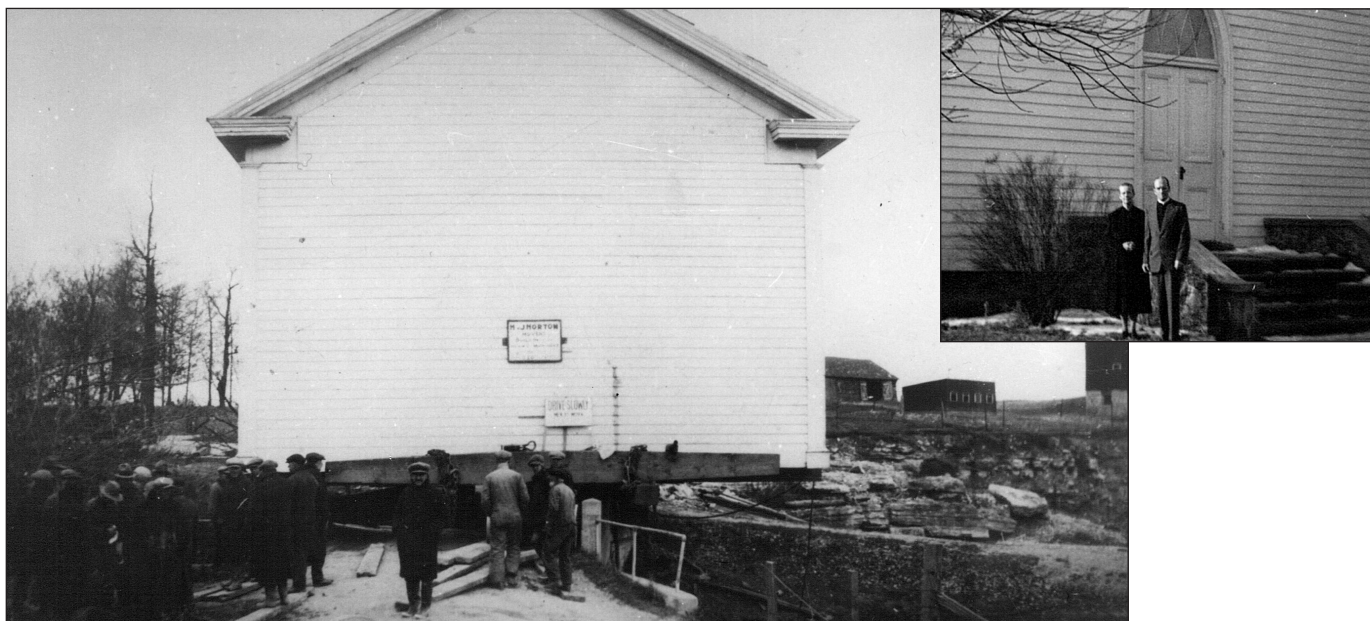
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Images from the Past

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



Establishing the Cheapside Church

In the fall of 1929, an unused Methodist church was moved ten miles to Cheapside, Ontario, and was dedicated to the services of the Brethren in Christ Church on March 23, 1930. The work in Cheapside started ten years earlier, when a tent for evangelistic services was pitched on the lawn of the Hiram Weaver home in July 1920. (This was the first tent pitched for evangelistic services by the church in Ontario.)

Services were held in homes of members for the first ten years. The inset photo shows Pastor and Mrs. Earl Sider standing in front of the church shortly after the congregation celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary of being in the building.