

Brethren

World

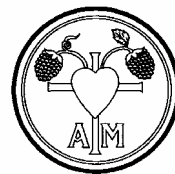
Assembly

July 23-26, 2003
Winona Lake, Indiana

Theme:

*Brethren Presence
Around the World*

Co-sponsored by



**Brethren
Encyclopedia, Inc.**

and

GRACE
COLLEGE &
SEMINARY

BACKGROUND

Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc. was organized in 1978 to create a multi-volume reference work recording the history, beliefs, and practices of those religious bodies originating in Germany with the Schwarzenau Brethren of 1708. Persons from five Brethren groups (then) –The Brethren Church, the Church of the Brethren, the Dunkard Brethren, the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, and the Old German Baptist Brethren – first met together in 1973 on the invitation of M. R. Zigler at the Tunker House in Broadway, Virginia. After holding several small workshops and conferences, the group published the Brethren Encyclopedia, a massive three-volume compendium of information about all the Brethren bodies, and a number of related books and monographs on Brethren history.

The first Brethren World Assembly was held in 1992 at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. The theme was “Christ is Lord: Affirming Our Faith Heritage.” This Assembly commemorated the 250th anniversary of the first known Brethren Annual Meeting, held in 1742 in the Conestoga area of Lancaster County.

The second Brethren World Assembly was held in 1998 at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Virginia. The theme was “Faith and Family – Challenges and Commitments.” Field excursions took conference attendees to Linville Creek to visit the sites of John Kline’s murder and his former home; Tunker House, the former home of Peter Nead and M. R. Zigler and a designated National Historic Site; and the Linville Creek cemetery where John Kline and M. R. Zigler are buried. At this meeting, the Conservative Grace Brethren Church International became an active participant in the Brethren Encyclopedia organization.

This year the Assembly will be hosted by Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana. The theme is “Brethren Presence Around the World.” Some of the Brethren bodies have active foreign mission pro-

grams which have resulted in many congregations and denominational organizations outside the United States. There are more than 1,800 congregations of Brethren in at least 22 nations on every continent (except Antarctica). Total membership outside the United States is rather sketchy, but probably is at least 400,000. So there is a world-wide Brethren movement with more than 3,400 congregations and more than 600,000 members located in twenty-three nations. In addition to these permanently situated congregations, there are many Brethren around the world serving in short-term and long-term service ministries. This conference theme helps us visualize the question: Where are the Brethren around the world and what are they doing?

SITE

Winona Lake, Indiana, is an historic religious center in the Midwest. Brethren have held many annual conferences there. It has been the home of the Grace Brethren Denominational Offices since 1939. Many quaint shops line the streets near the lake. One can visit the Billy Sunday museum and home, as well as the Rhodehaver museum which is located in the former Westminster Hotel—now Grace College’s Westminster Hall.



Westminster Hall

Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Indiana, was founded in 1937; Grace College began as a two-year college in 1948. The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches eventually developed from the association of Brethren Church congregations

that supported the Grace schools. Grace College expanded to a four-year institution in 1954 and now offers BA and BS degrees. The College was accredited by the North Central Association in 1976.

The 2003 Brethren World Assembly will be housed in Westminster Hall, a former hotel which is owned by Grace College and is a popular conference site. The building has been renovated to serve as a modern residence hall for 200 women students at Grace College and includes a new Student Union, offices for Student Life and student government, large community meeting rooms, and a computer lab. Each room has a private bath and typically houses two or three students.

Meals will be served in Westminster Hall, where Assembly meetings will also be held. The rates listed here include three nights lodging and eight meals (Wednesday dinner through Saturday breakfast).

Double occupancy - \$122
Single occupancy - \$152

For those who prefer, there are many motels in the Winona Lake/Warsaw area as well as numerous restaurants.

REGISTRATION COSTS

To cover necessary costs of the Assembly, the registration fee for those attending is as follows:

\$60 per person
\$30 for accompanying spouse

Included in the registration fee is the cost of a copy of the Proceedings of the Assembly when published.

Those attending for a single day are asked to pay a registration fee of \$20. Those attending only the evening services on Wednesday, Thursday, and/or Friday will not be asked to register, but will be encouraged to contribute to a free-will offering.

The registration fee and form (postmarked by June 30, 2003) should be mailed to Brethren World Assembly, c/o Bill Darr, 200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, IN 46590. Full payment with registra-

tion is strongly encouraged. Please make checks payable to Grace College. A letter of confirmation along with travel directions and a campus map will be mailed to registrants.

EXHIBITS AND BOOK SALES

There will be exhibits and book sales in a room just off the lobby of Westminster Hall. Each Brethren body will recommend books dealing with their own history and world-wide activities. Books dealing with national and international directories of congregations will be available. It is also planned to have ready a directory of all Brethren congregations in the world for this conference.

PROGRAM

Registration will be in the lobby of Westminster Hall beginning at 1:00 p.m., July 23. Conference attendees may enjoy fellowship with each other as well as browse the exhibits and book sales. The Rodeheaver Museum is located adjacent to the lobby. A full program will be available upon registration at the Assembly.

The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the meeting room at Westminster Hall. The open session will feature papers on the historical roots of Church of the Brethren missions by A. Ferne Baldwin and historical roots of Progressive Brethren missions by Ronald T. Clutter. The evening service will present a preacher from one of the Church of the Brethren international bodies with worship leadership provided by Church of the Brethren members from Indiana.

On Thursday morning, Dale R. Stoffer will lead a session on Brethren-sponsored denominations and congregations outside the United States. On Thursday afternoon, Mervin B. Keeney will lead a session on Church of the Brethren-sponsored denominations and congregations outside the United States. On Thursday evening another worship service will present a preacher from one of The Brethren Church

international bodies with worship leadership provided by Brethren Church members from Indiana.

The Friday morning session will deal with Grace Brethren-sponsored denominations and congregations outside the United States. The afternoon session will deal with brethren-sponsored short-term and long-term service projects around the world. Kenneth M. Shaffer, Jr. will present a paper on the origins of Brethren service programs and projects in the mid-twentieth century. A panel of a representative of each of the six Brethren bodies will detail the involvement of their groups in service activities currently. The preacher on Friday evening will be James L. Custer, Senior Pastor of the Columbus, Ohio, Grace Brethren Church. Worship leadership will be provided by Grace Brethren members from Indiana.

TOUR

On Saturday morning, after breakfast, all conference attendees are invited to drive to the Bethany church, located on US 6 one mile east of SR 15, between Milford and New Paris. This was the host congregation for the 1882 Annual Conference at which events occurred that led to the division between the Progressive Brethren (The Brethren Church) and the German Baptist Brethren (Church of the Brethren). We will visit the site of the conference where tents were set up in a field just west of the church building. Several railroad companies constructed spurs toward the field where conference attendees could live in train coaches left on the track during the conference.

We will then go to Camp Mack, where we will see the murals depicting the history of the Church of the Brethren in thirteen large panels with figures nearly life size. Other historical memorials around the campus will be noted. Closing meal will be served by the Camp.

Brethren World Assembly REGISTRATION FORM (Postmark by June 30, 2003)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Male _____ Female _____

\$ _____ Assembly registration (\$60 per person)

\$ _____ Registration for spouse (\$30)

Name of spouse _____

\$ _____ One-day registration (\$20 per person)

\$ _____ Double-occupancy room (\$51 per person, 3 nights)

Name of Roommate _____

\$ _____ Single-occupancy room (\$81, 3 nights)

\$ _____ Food package (\$65 per person, 8 meals)

\$ _____ Saturday lunch at Camp Mack (\$6)

\$ _____ Total amount due

Please make check payable to Grace College and mail it with this registration form to:

Brethren World Assembly
Attention Bill Darr
Grace College and Seminary
200 Seminary Drive
Winona Lake, IN 46590