

# ANABAPTIST-MENNONITE SCHOLARS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

[www.AnabaptistScholars.net](http://www.AnabaptistScholars.net)

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## The Disseminary: From Napster to a New Model for Theological Education and Publishing

By A.K.M. Adam and Trevor Bechtel  
[disseminary.org](http://disseminary.org)

David Weinberger comments, "[At this point, projections based on the present are worse than useless. And that, of course, is exactly how matters stand at the turn of the millennium when it comes to technology.] We've never experienced a period of such rapid change--especially when it comes to the Web. Making predictions in this kind of environment isn't just foolhardy; it can be a kind of denial. Tomorrow will be much like today'--yeah, you wish!" ("Predictions," All Things Considered, August 22, 2000).

The end of the book has not been realized by the advent of the world wide web. In at least one way of looking at the world, the advent of the web, with its amazon.com's and mennolink.org's has only increased the accessibility and popularity of the book.

The idea that online education would one day replace the modern university seems even more dubious now that institutions like M.I.T. are choosing to put all of their courseware online at [ocw.mit.edu](http://ocw.mit.edu). They are confident that their well-being is not dependent on charging for information.

If we can't make predictions about the future of the web, and if online publishing and education are best thought of as extensions of their offline counterparts, can we at least say something about what is changing in publishing and education with the advent of the web?

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**Editorial** is on page 4.

At the Disseminary, we think we can; if we think of the web as a special kind of mirror that in its inability to perfectly reflect what we put into it — accentuating some things and blurring others — brings to our attention aspects of ourselves and our institutions that we wouldn't otherwise see. So let's begin by pondering five lessons theological education and publishing can take from Napster.

### Napster

1. It's not the interface.

Napster, even in the heyday of the music "sharing" revolution, was never a pleasant program to use. Shawn Fanning, who programmed and designed Napster, bemoaned the rapid success and almost equally rapid legal miasmas Napster encountered, because he never finished the interface. According to Fanning, Napster reached

... continued on page 2.

### **Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network**

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The Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network is a project of the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, Conrad Grebel University College. The Institute of Mennonite Studies is a co-sponsor.

about the beta level of the product he'd want to have constructed.

*Lesson for Theological Education and Publishing:* If you offer people something they want, they will come. While there is no reason not to offer good material in a pleasant package, always insure that content and quality rule.

## 2. Make it free.

As a corollary of the marginal significance to the interface and of the imminent demise of copyright, the second lesson of Napster is "Make it free." Give it away.

*Lesson for Theological Education and Publishing:* If you need to bribe your faculty, staff, and students to produce noteworthy content to give away, do it. Academic writers are cheap. They write a couple articles a year for which they are paid nothing. The published edition of A.K.M. Adam's most weighty scholarly research project has earned him zero dollars.

## 3. It's about the music.

No one gets degrees or certificates from Napster or its users, and no one would care if they did. The music is its own reward.

*Lesson for Theological Education and Publishing:* Make your webspace a site for sharing theological information, and you will attract the attention and allegiance of users who want such sustenance. Don't just think of the Web as a medium for a really extended extension program. You can, of course, use the Web to help organize and operate an existing extension program, in ways similar to the ways you could use photocopiers, cars, and so on. But the Napster model suggests that if theological educators see the internet only as yet another cash cow for administrative milking-- "Now we can add students who need never darken our doors!"--they will tend to squander large amounts of capital on projects that fail, indeed, that defeat themselves. Does anyone remember giant black-and-white TVs on rolling gantries that were supposed to bring televised education to elementary schools? Theological educators don't stand to make money by sucking it out of web users, any more than record companies will convert the Napster community to for-pay models of music distribution.

In webspace as in Scripture, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The degree-granting model or the certification model puts the server in the position of deciding who gets what, who's gotten enough, who's done enough--and we have insufficient data to assume that users will support such a model. Instead, give and give more. Differentiate the main use of theological webspace--disseminating the information--from possible secondary or tertiary uses (to enhance distance learning). If you

make concessions to profit at the outset, the impulse to suck cash out of users will quickly eclipse better-supported (and theologically sounder) functions of your web presence.

## 4. The more you download, the more music you know.

We now know a lot more about bands of whom we hadn't even heard when we first encountered Napster. And we've bought CDs we wouldn't have bought because we liked what we heard on Napster. If we were about to begin a three-year program of study on contemporary music, we'd be better informed than we would have been before Napster.

*Lesson for Theological Education and Publishing:* At a moment when seminarians arrive for their first classes knowing less and less about the traditions from which they ostensibly arrive, and for whose ministry they ostensibly are preparing, why not put energy into helping students learn more before they unpack on campus? If we devote our efforts to putting useable content into our webspace, we can reasonably expect that some incoming students will at least have bumped into the content we offer. Moreover, this will have the advantage of being the information we want them to have, configured to suit our curriculum and our pedagogical-theological interests--a big improvement over the miscellaneous introductory text whose precepts we may need to uninculcate after students arrive.

## 5. The more music you know, the more musical you'll want to become.

Users who are enthusiastic about music they download will buy the CD and will especially go to the concert.

*Lesson for Theological Education and Publishing:* Users who go to the Disseminary and there find interesting information, impressive scholars thinking in public, inspirational counsel, will not say to themselves, "Wow, I now know everything I need to know about theology." And they'll want to come to the people whose net persona so impressed them in the first place. And when they come they'll be better prepared. Why not use the positive teaching capacities of your faculty to draw students to your seminary for the work that can only be done on-site?

### The Disseminary

The Disseminary has its origins in a proposal AKMA first made in 1995 for a site where theologically-interested inquirers might begin the work of putting into practice a different model for learning and teaching. At the heart of the project lies the premise that institutional infrastructures — not only the physical infrastructure of buildings and supplies, but also the information infra-

structure of grades and credits — and the costs of maintenance do not simply make education possible, but also inhibit education in important ways.

Most obviously, the costs associated with education keep many interested learners at arms length. A building costs large sums whether to buy or rent; salaried faculty cost a great deal, and they expect certain prerogatives associated with their academic vocation. Beyond that, the physical space of education limits the number of students who can participate (those who can get to the location, those who can fit into the facilities). Even further, the institution's attitude toward education warps toward its perceived necessities of physical plant and faculty, and these begin to displace the original educational goals.

Moreover, the social function of education often presupposes goals that do not themselves serve the interests of teaching and learning. People look to educational institutions to issue warranted certification that learners have attained particular levels of proficiency. Institutions that accept such a social function — in other words, the vast preponderance of them — need to slice, dice, and quantify the pedagogical endeavor so as to determine which students attain the degree, diploma, or certification. The exigencies of quantification and standardization oblige schools to squeeze all areas of study into terms of uniform duration, testing students to ascertain their progress, assigning a one-dimensional evaluation of a student's accomplishment, and so on. These all serve the purpose of upholding the social function of the teaching institution — but not necessarily the purposes of teaching and learning.

The Disseminary stands for an approach to education and educational materials apart from the constraints of institutional education: credits, fees, restrictive copyright limitations, grades, and other limitations. The project envisions a variety of educational resources offered at no charge, for no formal credit.

#### Educational Resources

*Seminars:* Disseminary seminars are asynchronous discussions and led by commissioned participants in the project. While leaders would maintain the prerogative to shape the seminar as they felt appropriate, we anticipate seminars beginning from a familiar readings-and-discussion format. The seminars are conducted with the weblog tool Movable Type, and can (at the leader's discretion) permit comments from non-participants. Once the seminar has run its course, the conversation would be archived and available for browsing or redistribution.

*Lectures:* Many institutions for theological and religious studies regularly commission presentations for named lecture series; the Disseminary is willing to house video, audio, or transcripts of these lectures, extending

the reach of the the lecture to remote locations and amplifying the prestige associated with the institution's and the lecture's name.

*Classical sources:* Many of the pivotal resources for teaching and learning in theology and religion were published well before the present copyright regime took effect. The Disseminary prepares carefully-edited digital versions of these texts (many of which are already available in plain-text or lightly-edited versions) for use in classes or for individual reading.

*Study guides:* There exists on the Web a significant amount of highly-useful resources for religious and theological education. However, these resources are widely dispersed and while some indices do exist, these indices rarely provide more than basic commentary. The Disseminary commissions study guides that will direct the reader through a course of study that comprehends its entire subject area. For instance, a study guide on "mysticism" will note that the translations of Pseudo-Dionysius's *Mystical Theology* available online are of significantly lower quality than that available through the Paulist Press *Classics of Western Spirituality* series. It would also note that the work of Maximus Confessor is not available online, and that the serious student should consult a print edition of his *Chapters on Knowledge*. The purpose of this would be to augment the study of figures such as Teresa of Avila and Catherine of Siena—of whose works good online editions are available—with the guidance necessary to enrich a student's learning. The study guides, in effect, teach a subject rather than provide a list of information and links. To some extent, the study guides acts as a small, but reputable secondary resource on its subject. The study guide will also refer to other reliable secondary resources both on- and off-line.

#### Commissioned Publications

Academics write much all the time, for very little return. The Disseminary commissions works and publishes them for distribution online. While some will quickly point out that online publications would fail to draw high-quality writing from estimable authors, we respond that the advantages of online publication would provide an attractive incentive for possible authors. Not every prominent scholar need contribute—but once one or two participate, the perception that online publication lacks scholarly heft will quickly evaporate.

Commissioned publications may vary in scope from full monographs to topical essays to chapter-length introductory treatments of fundamental topics. We especially look forward to commissioning textbook chapters for use in introductory classes; teachers (and learners) may compile a collection of chapters to use as a single textbook, or select particular chapters as worthy of attention. The Dis-

seminary can commission alternate chapters on the same topic, so that a teacher could choose a chapter on “Eschatology” (for instance) from among a range of available options.

We divide publications into two categories or imprints. Quadriga Publications are peer reviewed and met the highest standards of academic excellence. Not all publications useful for teaching in theology and religion need the rigorous examination of peer review. Hoopoe Publications include materials to supplement classroom (or personal) instruction, conference proceedings, interviews, reprints of classic sources, all which merit distribution, but do not necessarily require searching scholarly examination.

#### A Note on Online Publication

We started this essay by noting that the book is not dead. The Disseminary project envisions not only the online distribution of its commissioned work (and edited classical sources), but also distribution in print. Wipf and Stock Publishers are contracted to produce a limited-run edition of almost any selection of Disseminary resources. Moreover, print editions stand to return to their authors royalties over and above the initial commission—a noteworthy incentive for writers to participate in Disseminary publishing ventures.

Online publication offers a number of signal advantages. For instance, the potential audience for a work published by a standard theological publisher would number in the tens of thousands at most, with only a slender chance that a casual browser might come across it. On the Web, however, a project published online at no charge might easily attract the attention many thousands — potentially, anyone anyone with a connection to the internet — and a reader with casual interest may easily come upon the work by using a standard search engine. Internet users from any continent will have ready access to the work, in a variety of forms, and it will not go out of print.

Some of what we have envisioned is already available at disseminary.org and more is in process. We invite submissions, inquiries, donations, suggestions, comments or critique.

*Trevor Bechtel is assistant professor of religion at Bluffton University, Ohio, bechtel@disseminary.org; A.K.M. Adam is professor of New Testament at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, akma@disseminary.org.*

## Editorial

This issue is the last of three to look at aspects of academic publishing. Past issues have featured reflections on envisioning and operating a publishing house; the relation of publishing and Mennonite boundaries; editing an academic journal, trade publishing; and the intersection of research, publication and college teaching. Here, Trevor Bechtel and A.K.M. Adam consider the possibilities of online publication from the perspective of a particular project they coordinate—The Disseminary. While their article explicitly considers theological education, they raise issues relevant for online publishing and the relationship of such publishing to education in other disciplines as well.

Secondly, note the announcement on p.9 regarding a joint conference planned by the A-MSN, the Anabaptist Sociology and Anthropology Association (ASAA), and the Institute of Mennonite Studies (Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary). The conference will be held June 1-3, 2006 in Elkhart, Indiana and will consist of thematic papers on the history, reception, and uses of the 1995 *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* as well as papers on other themes of interest to members. We expect to have both A-MSN and ASAA sessions on topics other than the main theme. A link to the full call for papers will be posted shortly at our website and will be printed in the Spring 2005 newsletter.

Thirdly, at the recent meetings of the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTC) advisory board, a general direction was approved regarding the administration of the A-MSN. TMTC, and thus Conrad Grebel University College, has ultimate responsibility for the A-MSN but the plan is to reorganize the A-MSN advisory committee and to make that committee more integral in setting the direction and program of the association. Discussion about this reorganization and increased mandate will form the main agenda at the A-MSN advisory committee meetings on Sunday, November 21, at the AAR/SBL meetings in San Antonio, Texas. The time and place of this meeting will be announced at the Mennonite Scholars and Friends forum on Friday evening, November 19. If you have comments or questions about how the A-MSN is organized, run, and how your membership fees are spent, send me an email if you cannot attend the November meeting.

*Jeremy M. Bergen, editor and coordinator  
jeremy.bergen@utoronto.ca*

## Research Notes

Leo Driedger is in the middle of writing *At the Forks: Mennonites in Winnipeg* which he hopes to publish by 2007. Ever since they arrived in Winnipeg in 1964, 40 years ago, he has collected materials, presented papers, written chapters in books, published dozens of articles on Mennonites in Winnipeg. In 1990 he did a 100-pager titled *Mennonites in Winnipeg*, but now much more serious research is needed. Half the chapters (history, demography, social context, churches, artists, creative writers) have been written. Another six chapters (schools, media, professions, business, services, musicians) still need to be done. It is hard to find much on what Anabaptists in Amsterdam did the first 100 years in the sixteenth century, when for 400 years they were the largest urban concentration. Now that the largest pile of Anabaptists resides in Winnipeg, this needs to be researched and published, to see how they are doing.

Leo Driedger  
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I am working on a comparative analysis of the ways in which violence is conceived in the book of Revelation and in the Left Behind Series. I am scheduled to present a paper on this topic at SBL in Texas this fall.

Loren L. Johns  
Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary  
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I am currently on sabbatical from Eastern Mennonite University and am spending, with my wife Janet, 15 months on a sailboat in the Mediterranean, following the routes of the Apostle Paul. We are just completing the first summer, having spent time at every site mentioned in the book of Acts north of Cyprus connected to Paul. After wintering in Israel, we plan to sail from Caesarea to Rome next summer. We have a website updated weekly: [www.emu.edu/sailingacts](http://www.emu.edu/sailingacts)

I am working on a manuscript for a book looking at the developing mission theology of Paul as he explores the Roman Empire during his travels. The working thesis/goal is: Paul's understanding of the Lordship of Jesus and the Kingdom of God is developed in his discovery of the power, glory and scope of the Roman Empire. This

awareness shaped his mission understanding and practice during his mission travels and activities on and around the rim of the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean world of the First Century was dominated by Roman interests and influence. Understanding how Paul adapted his mission message and practice as he experienced the Roman Empire will give new insight into mission for Western Christians within the twenty-first-century world dominated by Western global interests and influence.

Linford Stutzman  
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I'm working on my PhD dissertation (philosophy, Purdue University), "Fallibilism and Warrant." Fallibilism is loosely described as the doctrine that knowledge does not require certainty; warrant is typically described as whatever it is that, in addition to true belief, is sufficient for knowledge. Nearly all contemporary epistemologists are fallibilists even though theories of warrant are many and varied. My dissertation attempts to show that the plausible fallibilist thesis is inconsistent with several accounts of warrant that are fashionable in contemporary epistemology.

Work on my dissertation is being supported by grants from the Purdue Research Foundation, the University of Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

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Martha Crealock is pursuing an MA at the Centre for the Study of Theory, Culture and Politics at Trent University. Her thesis is on the contemporary image of Jesus in film. Since his ascension, knowing Jesus has required mediation (oral tradition, scripture, sculpture etc.) The art, craft and meaning of writing an icon has little in common with making a movie. How do (different) visual images and media affect how we see Jesus?

Martha Crealock  
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## Announcements

### Dale W. Brown Book Award

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College invites nominations for the 2005 Dale W. Brown Book Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. Eligibility: Books published in English within the past three years (2002, 2003, 2004); in any academic discipline; on a historical or contemporary subject in Anabaptist or Pietist studies. Nominations are due **December 1, 2004**. For nomination specifications or questions, contact Donald B. Kraybill, Acting Director, The Young Center: [Kraybilld@etown.edu](mailto:Kraybilld@etown.edu).

### The Young Center Fellows Program

Fellows typically spend one semester at the Young Center pursuing research related to the faith, history, and culture of Anabaptist and/or Pietist movements. The Center provides office space, various support services, access to library holdings, and a modest stipend of \$2500 toward housing and travel expenses. Fellows typically teach a seminar, present a public lecture, or organize an interpretive event during the period of residency. Fellows are responsible for their own salary support from sabbatical, research grant, or other sources. Excellent resources on a variety of Anabaptist and Pietist groups are located within the region. Summer fellowships for junior faculty and graduate students are also available for a short-term appointment of four to six weeks. The Center also welcomes Doctoral Fellows who are conducting research or involved in writing their doctoral dissertations. Although Doctoral Fellows receive support for their research through the use of facilities, computer, and library resources, they do not receive a stipend. Doctoral Fellows should follow the same application procedures as Center Fellows.

The Young Center invites applications and nominations for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until the Center Fellow for each semester is appointed. Letters of inquiry should describe the Fellow's proposed research activities and possible lecture, course offerings, or seminar topics. Include a curriculum vitae that details academic accomplishments. Send inquiries or nominations to: Donald B. Kraybill, Acting Director, The Young Center, Elizabethtown College, One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.  
P: (717) 361-1470; F: (717) 361-1443  
E: [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu)

The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek, Croatia seeks an **Interim Director of the Institute for Life, Peace and Justice**. It is an unpaid position at this time, and is suitable for an internship.

For more information, contact Dr. Peter Kuzmic at [pkuzmic@gcts.edu](mailto:pkuzmic@gcts.edu) or [pkuzmic@evtos.hr](mailto:pkuzmic@evtos.hr)

Papers from the Mennonite Central Committee conference "**Seeking the Welfare of the City: Public Peace, Justice, and Order**," held August 1-4, 2004, are available online at: [www.mcc.org/peacetheology/papers.htm](http://www.mcc.org/peacetheology/papers.htm)

### Frank H. Epp Memorial Fund

Frank H. Epp, who died in 1986, was a Canadian church leader, editor, educator and president of Conrad Grebel College. Interest from an endowment fund in his honour is used to:

- Provide scholarships, internships and research assistance for undergraduate and graduate students in the following areas: history of minorities, especially Mennonite; peacemaking, particularly in the Middle East; Mennonite ecumenicity; communication of the Christian faith
- Provide funding for research, writing, publishing and other approved projects considered important by one of the sponsoring agencies and meritorious by the joint administrative committee.

Applications are due **January 15, 2005**. More information, and application forms, are available at: [www.grebel.uwaterloo.ca/epp](http://www.grebel.uwaterloo.ca/epp)

### Galilee Peace Center Invites Faculty Participation

Fr Elias Chacour, President of the newly created University within the Mar Elias Educational Institutions (MEEI), is moving to deepen the work of peace building that he established in Ibillin in Galilee more than 20 years ago. MEEI has been a center for encounter between the diverse groups within the Arab and Jewish communities for 20 years.

MEEI is establishing initial courses in Peace Studies through the General Core of Studies taken by all students at Mar Elias Campus. These will be in the areas of critical thinking, global awareness, social enquiry and Christianity (Abrahamic faith traditions). It is projected that a BA degree in Peace Studies will be offered within five years. Initial research is being undertaken to document local models of peacebuilding through education and an international conference on "Leadership and the Role of Religion in Peacebuilding" has been proposed for early 2006.

Anabaptists are invited to participate in the planning stages with ideas, volunteers for research assignments, and faculty participation in the various stages of growth and as courses are developed.

For more information, contact Marie Loller, Peace Center, [peacecenter@m-e-c.org](mailto:peacecenter@m-e-c.org) or Glenn Edward Witmer, Israel Liaison, North American Mennonite Churches, [office@mennojerusalem.org](mailto:office@mennojerusalem.org).

## Call for Papers

**"Religion and Popular Culture,"** February 9 - 12, 2005, Albuquerque, NM;  
Deadline for proposals: **November 15, 2004;** [www.h\\_net.org/~swpca/](http://www.h_net.org/~swpca/)

The Southwest/Texas branch of the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Associations announces a call for papers on popular culture and religion to be presented at its annual meeting in Albuquerque. Papers should be approximately 20-25 minutes long. Proposals should be no longer than 300 words. Days and times of sessions to be determined.

The Southwest/Texas regional meeting is the largest regional meeting of the PCA/ACA. This is a great conference both for younger scholars and seasoned veterans. The papers are always interesting, the discussion is thoughtful, challenging, and fun. People are laid back and glad to talk about the various aspects of pop culture. Religion scholars often find that religion is a subject in many other aspects of the conference as well.

Panels will be formed according to the themes of the papers presented. This would be a great time to talk about popular religion and the election, especially if we could hear from a variety of perspectives. It would also a good place to start a discussion on pop culture, religion, and theory. Other than that, anything goes. Proposals are invited from a broad range of perspectives. Yoga, quilting, football, hot rods, hip hop, consumerism, militarism, Christianity - all forms of religion are open for discussion. Papers on religion in the Southwest would be particularly appreciated. We had some great papers last year, followed by interesting and thought-provoking discussions. Let's do it again. Paper from graduate students as well as established scholars are welcome. We are aiming for variety and cross-disciplinary dialogue rather than narrowly focused discussions.

Please send a brief abstract with short bio to: or: Wes Bergen, Dept. of Religion; Wichita State University; Wichita, KS 67260-0076; or [wesley.bergen@wichita.edu](mailto:wesley.bergen@wichita.edu)

## Faculty Positions

**BIBLE AND RELIGION.** Tenure track position in Bible and Religion at Bethel College (KS) beginning August 2005. PhD in theology or ethics required (ABD considered). Teach survey and upper level courses in theology, ethics, and religion. Demonstration of commitment to Anabaptist-Mennonite, peace church tradition. Commitment to undergraduate teaching, interdisciplinary collaboration, faith development of students, and Bethel's mission as a church-related college. Evaluation of candidates to begin September 1 and continue until position is filled. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and letters of reference to John Sheriff, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Bethel College, North Newton, KS 67117; email [jsheriff@bethelks.edu](mailto:jsheriff@bethelks.edu). Bethel College is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

**THEOLOGY.** Messiah College's Department of Biblical and Religious Studies invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in theology beginning August 2005. Ph.D. in theology required, preferred emphasis in constructive theology, theological ethics, or theology and culture. Teaching responsibilities include general education theology courses, some departmental major courses, and involvement in the college's interdisciplinary core course. Evidence of strong commitments to teaching undergraduates in the liberal arts tradition and to scholarly research is expected. Messiah College is a Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences located near Harrisburg, Pa. The College is committed to an embracing evangelical spirit rooted in Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan traditions of the Christian church. Women and minority candidates encouraged to apply. EOE. Send cover letter outlining teaching and research interests, detailed curriculum vitae, transcripts, brief description of courses prepared to teach, and three letters of recommendation to Dr. David Weaver-Zercher, Chair, Department of Biblical and Religious Studies, Box 3053, Messiah College, One College Avenue, Grantham, PA, 17027. Review of applications begins November 1, 2004; preliminary interviews will be scheduled for AAR/SBL Annual Meetings in San Antonio, Texas.

**CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES.** Messiah College's Department of Biblical and Religious Studies invites applications for tenure-track assistant professor position in Christian Ministries, with expertise in Global Ministries/Mission, beginning August 2005. Ph.D. or academic D.Min. (with research component) required. Candidate must demonstrate respect for the world's religious traditions and articulate a clear rationale for Christian witness in a religiously plural world. Primary teaching responsibility for the department's Christian Ministries courses in Global Ministries, but will also teach (a) other Christian Ministries courses, including fieldwork courses, and (b) general education courses in Bible or theology and/or the college's interdisciplinary core course. Evidence of strong commitments to teaching under-

graduates in the liberal arts tradition and to scholarly research is expected. Messiah College is a Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences located near Harrisburg, Pa. The College is committed to an embracing evangelical spirit rooted in Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan traditions of the Christian church. Women and minority candidates encouraged to apply. EOE. Send cover letter outlining teaching and research interests, detailed curriculum vitae, transcripts, brief description of courses prepared to teach, and three letters of recommendation to Dr. David Weaver-Zercher, Chair, Department of Biblical and Religious Studies, Box 3053, Messiah College, One College Avenue, Grantham, PA, 17027. Review of applications begins November 1, 2004; preliminary interviews may be scheduled for the AAR/SBL Annual Meetings in San Antonio, Texas, though attendance at that meeting not required for consideration.

**CHURCH HISTORY.** Christian Theological Seminary seeks a tenured or tenure-track faculty member in the field of Church History beginning July 1, 2005, to teach global ecumenical church history from the early modern period to the present. Active involvement in a religious community, commitment to theological education in the context of preparation for ministry and Ph.D. or Th.D. (ABD will be considered if dissertation nearly complete) are required. Preference will be given to candidates with a specialization in Latin-America, Asia, women's religious history, or Disciples of Christ/Restoration history, membership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and seminary teaching experience. Women and racial/ethnic minorities are encouraged to apply. Rank and salary commensurate with experience. CTS is an ecumenical, pluralistic theological seminary of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) whose "mission is to form disciples of Jesus Christ for church and community leadership to serve God's transforming of the world." View our website at <http://www.cts.edu>. CTS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants should send a resume and three letters of reference to the Academic Dean, Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 W. 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208-3301. The cut-off date for applications is November 1, 2004.

**COMPARATIVE RELIGION/ANTHROPOLOGY.** Full-time, continuing faculty position in comparative religion or related field/ anthropology beginning Fall 2005. Requirements include Ph.D. or Ph.D. candidate in religion/ anthropology and expertise in cross-cultural and two-thirds world issues. Seeking a candidate with commitment to Anabaptist Mennonite theological and missiological perspectives, with significant cross-cultural ministry/scholarly experience. Previous teaching experience desirable. Teaching assignment will include the core course in world religions for all Bible and Religion majors and other religion/anthropology courses. Must be willing to teach additional Bible and Religion courses within the general education curriculum. Student advising, university service and ongoing scholarship expected. Salary and rank determined by education and experience. EMU uses an extended contract system. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, transcripts (unofficial acceptable) and three references to Marie S. Morris, Vice President and Undergraduate Academic Dean, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA 22802 or email to [ugdean@emu.edu](mailto:ugdean@emu.edu). Review begins December 1, 2004. EMU reserves the right to fill the position at any time or keep the position open. AAEO employer. We seek applicants who bring gender, ethnic, and cultural diversity.

Bluffton University invites applications for the following tenure track positions beginning fall 2005:

**EARLY CHILDHOOD and LITERACY.** Doctorate preferred; ABD considered. Certification in early childhood and experience in literacy. Required minimum of three years teaching in early childhood, additional experience in literacy required, graduate level teaching experience preferred. Teach graduate and undergraduate education courses in curriculum and instruction in early childhood education and literacy. Supervise student teachers in early education classrooms.

**CREATIVE WRITING FICTION.** M.F.A. or Ph.D. required. Growing English department with a new writing major. Secondary expertise preferred in British literature. Position includes general education courses in Humanities I (through the Renaissance) and composition.

Compensation commensurate with education and experience within the university pay scale. Review of applications begins November 1 and continues until an appointment is made. For additional information see [www.bluffton.edu](http://www.bluffton.edu). Send letter of interest, vita, three letters of reference (submitted directly from the referee), and official transcripts to Elaine Suderman, Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs, Bluffton University, 1 University Drive, Bluffton, Ohio, 45817-2104. Members of underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. EOE.

## Appointments

Willi Braun has been appointed to a 5-year term as Director, Interdisciplinary Programme in Religious Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Mark R. Wenger has been appointed to coordinate the pastoral training programs of Eastern Mennonite Seminary at the Lancaster, PA extension of Eastern Mennonite University, starting July, 2005.

## Books

Beck, Ervin. *MennoFolk: Mennonite and Amish Folk Traditions*. Herald Press, 2004.

\*Braun, Willi and Russell McCutcheon, eds., *Egheiridio Threskeiologias*. Trans. Dimitris Xygalatas. Thessaloniki: Vantias Publishing House, 2003.

Brenneman, James E. *On Jordan's Stormy Banks*. Herald Press, 2004.

Driedger, Leo. *Race and Ethnicity: Finding Identities and Equalities*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

Enns, Fernando, \*Scott Holland and Ann K. Riggs, eds. *Seeking Cultures of Peace*. Cascadia Publishing House; Herald Press; Oikumene WCC Publications, 2004.

Ens, Adolf. *Becoming a National Church: A History of the Conference of Mennonites*. CMU Press, 2004.

\*Epp, Marlene, Franca Iacovetta and Frances Swyripa, eds. *Sisters or Strangers? Immigrant, Ethnic, and Racialized Women in Canadian History*. University of Toronto Press, 2004.

Finger, Thomas. *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: Biblical, Historical, Constructive*. InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Jacobsen, Douglas and Rhonda Jacobsen. *Scholarship and Christian Faith: Enlarging the Conversation*. Oxford University Press, 2004. The purpose of the book is to open up the conversation about Christian scholarship to a wide variety of voices and to deflate to some degree the hegemony of Reformed voices within the Protestant side of that discussion. It also very much roots Christian scholarship in all of life as opposed to merely the "life of the mind."

Reimer, A. James. *Paul Tillich: Theologian of Nature, Culture and Politics*. Lit Verlag, 2004.

Reimer, A. James and Werner Schüssler, eds. *Das Gebet als Grundakt des Glaubens: philosphisch-theologisch Überlegungen sum Gebetsverständnis Paul Tillichs*. Lit Verlag, 2004.

\*Schipani, Daniel S., Hans de Wit, Louis Jonker and Marleen Kool. *Through the Eyes of Another: Intercultural Reading of the Bible*. Institute of Mennonite Studies, 2004.

Snyder, C. Arnold, ed. *Anabaptism and Reformation in Switzerland: An Historical and Theological Analysis of the Dialogues between Anabaptists and Reformers*. Trans. C. Arnold Snyder and David Stassen. Pandora Press, 2004.

Snyder, C. Arnold. *Following in the Footsteps of Christ: The Anabaptist Tradition*. Orbis Books, 2004.

Toews, John E. *Romans*. Believers Church Bible Commentary. Herald Press, 2004.

**New Book Award in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies**  
*Voices of the Turtledoves: The Sacred World of Ephrata*, by Jeff Bach, has won the inaugural Dale W. Brown Book Award, presented by the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania. Bach is a professor of church history at Bethany Theological Seminary in Indiana. A newly endowed fund will support the annual selection of an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies.

Bach served as scholar in residence at the Ephrata Cloister, the 18th-century home to some 200 celibate Pietists, while writing his doctoral thesis for Duke University. *Voices of the Turtledoves*, published jointly by Penn State University Press and Pennsylvania German Society, is a 280-page summary of his research.

The national award, which recognizes an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies, was named for Dale W. Brown, a retired Bethany Seminary professor whose books include *Biblical Pacifism*, *Understanding Pietism* and *The Christian Revolutionary*.

Nominations are invited for the 2005 award (see p.6).

Advance Notice of a

## Joint A-MSN Conference

Hosted by the Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network (A-MSN) and Anabaptist Sociology and Anthropology Association, (ASAA) under the auspices of the Institute of Mennonite Studies (IMS)

June 1-3, 2006, Elkhart, Indiana

IMS Conference Theme:

**Holding Fast to the Confession of Our Hope:  
*The Confession of Faith Ten Year Later***

A-MSN and the ASAA will invite their members to submit proposals on the main theme, but also invite proposals on other themes of interest to members. We expect to have both A-MSN and ASAA sessions on topics other than the main theme.

A full call for papers, with deadline likely in fall 2005 will be published shortly.

## Journals

**Mission Focus: Annual Review**, Vol. 11, 2003, and Vol. 11 Supplement, 2003

Published by the Mission Studies Center at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Walter W. Sawatsky, ed. To subscribe, contact [waltersawatsky@cs.com](mailto:waltersawatsky@cs.com)

**The Conrad Grebel Review** is an interdisciplinary journal of Christian inquiry devoted to the thoughtful, sustained discussion of spirituality, ethics, theology and culture from a broadly-based Mennonite perspective. Spring 2004 (now available): Rudy Wiebe and the Mennonites: Forty Years On. Conference papers, Wiebe interview. Guest editor: Hildi Froese Tiessen.

Fall 2004 (in process): Mennonite World Conference 2003. Reflections by participants, Bechtel Lectures by MWC president Nancy Heisey

Winter 2005 (in preparation): Women Doing Theology Conference papers and reflections.

More info? Contact: [cgreview@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cgreview@uwaterloo.ca).

**Direction** is the academic journal of Mennonite Brethren in the U.S. and Canada. Begun in 1972 and published semiannually, *Direction* includes exegetical and topical articles on a variety of issues, perspectives on the international church, recommended reading lists, and book reviews of important new works. *Direction* seeks to equip the church for well-considered, relevant witness to Christ and his kingdom. Its writers are primarily academics among M.B. and other Mennonites, but work by pastors and other informed writers are also published. The journal's Web site includes full-text of almost all back issues and contact, subscription, and submission information: [www.directionjournal.org](http://www.directionjournal.org). The general editor, Douglas B. Miller, may be reached at [DougM@tabor.edu](mailto:DougM@tabor.edu).

## Lectures, Tours

Special lecture by Paul Toews of Fresno Pacific University, "The Russian Mennonite Story through the lens of Molochna 2004," at Conrad Grebel University College, **December 4, 2004**, 2:30 p.m.

Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies, **March 16 - 17, 2005**, with Fernando Enns of Heidelberg University. Place: Conrad Grebel University College.

Eastern Mennonite Seminary will be offering a study tour to Israel/Palestine ("Places, People, & Prayers") from **May 4 - 27, 2005**. Tour leaders are Dorothy Jean Weaver (Prof. of New Testament) and Kevin A. Clark (Virginia Mennonite Conference Pastor). Registrations are due by December 31, 2004. For more information contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at [weaverdj@emu.edu](mailto:weaverdj@emu.edu).

### **Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology**

Published by the Institute of Mennonite Studies at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and the Institute for Theology and the Church at Canadian Mennonite University  
Vol. 5, Number 2 (Fall 2004): Power and leadership  
Vol. 6, Number 1 (Spring 2005): Scripture  
To subscribe contact [visionsubscribe@amb.edu](mailto:visionsubscribe@amb.edu) or [vision@cmu.ca](mailto:vision@cmu.ca).

## Mennonite Scholars and Friends at the AAR / SBL

San Antonio, Texas 2004

Reception — **Friday, November 19**, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Hilton Palacio del Rio  
Room: Salon Del Rey Central

Forum — **Saturday, November 20**, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Gonzalez Convention Centre, Room: 214B

Theme: "**Anabaptist Faith and American Democracy**"

Malinda Berry, Union Theological Seminary, presiding

Panelists:

Jeremy Bergen, University of Toronto

Peter Blum, Hillsdale College

Peter Dula, Duke University Divinity School

Scott Holland, Bethany Theological Seminary

Glenn Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary

Ted Grimsrud, Eastern Mennonite University, responding

The forum will consist of a panel responding to Ted Grimsrud's paper, "Anabaptist Faith and American Democracy," which appeared in the July 2004 issue of *Mennonite Quarterly Review*. Grimsrud suggests that Mennonite thinking about the intersection of faith and politics is shaped by three narratives: an "Anabaptist Story," focused on nonviolence and compassionate service, a "Democracy Story," focused on consensual political participation and open public discourse, and an "Empire Story," focused on expansion, power, and military strength. The thrust of Grimsrud's discussion is that the Anabaptist Story, while clearly in opposition to the Empire Story, should be pursued in a way that is more supportive of the Democracy Story than has often been the case among Mennonites. He specifically challenges perspectives that he characterizes as less friendly to full participation in the American democratic process, including that of Stanley Hauerwas.