

## FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES

The FGBC appears to be the only Brethren group that is growing. It has developed impressively since the division of the 1930s. However, because of the addition of many individuals who do not understand or appreciate Brethren distinctions, it has become in many ways an example of an evangelical church which has more in common with fundamentalist Baptist, Presbyterian, or Independent Bible groups than with other branches of Dunkers. A steady stream of young people attending such institutions as \*BIOLA, Wheaton College, \*Moody Bible Institute, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Bob Jones U. seems to indicate that the trend will continue. Yet Grace Brethren are forced to remain outside the mainstream of the fundamentalist movement because of their commitment to such ordinances as trine immersion baptism and the threefold communion service. RGC

H. A. Kent, Sr., *Frontiers*, 2nd ed. (1972); A. J. McClain, "Background and Origin of GTS" *Charis* (1951) 9-28 and *Law and the Christian Believer in Relation to the Doctrine of Grace* (1954); D. R. Stoffer, "Thought and Practice" (1980) 680-739; D. D. Martin, "Grace" (1973), "College vs. Seminary," *BLT* 21 (1976) 37-50, and "What Has Divided" 21 (1976) 107-19; *BMH; Annual (FGBC)* (1940-83); H. H. Etling, *Our Heritage: Brethren Beliefs and Practices* (1975); L. S. Bauman, *Faith Once for All Delivered Unto the Saints*, 8th ed. (1960); H. A. Hoyt, *All Things Whatsoever I Have Commanded You* (1948) and *This Do in Remembrance of Me* (1947); A. T. Ronk, *History BC* (1968) and *Missionary Movements* (1971).

**Fellowship of Hope**, an intentional community/house church in Elkhart, IN. Formed in the 1970s from the searchings of nine persons at the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, it is based on an \*anabaptist understanding of Christian faithfulness. In 1978 there were forty-eight adult members and five "intentional neighbors" (potential members), some of Church of the Brethren background. An arm of the fellowship is Shalom Publishers, which distributes literature related to its witness. Members of the community live in households and share their incomes. The fellowship has covenantal ties with \*Reba Place Fellowship (Evanston, IL), \*Plow Creek Fellowship (Tiskilwa, IL), and New Creation Fellowship (Newton, KS). DFD

D. and N. Jackson, *Living Together in a World Falling Apart* (1974) 290; J. G. Melton, *American Religions* (1978) 2:42-43; *Reba Place Fellowship* (1978) [24].

**Fellowship of Reconciliation (USA)**, a religious pacifist organization founded in 1915. Its 25,000 members, which include many Brethren, are committed to nonviolent resolution of conflict through the power of love and truth. The Fellowship engages in education and action programs on questions of peace, disarmament, capital punishment, militarism in education, and draft and tax resistance. A monthly journal, *Fellowship*, contains articles and reviews on peacemaking. The Fellowship unites peace groups from various traditions, including Baptist, Church of the Brethren, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopal, Disciples, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Buddhist peace fellowships. Local groups and seven area offices are coordinated by a national staff at Nyack, NY. KLB

See also INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION; CURRY, A. S.

John N. Sayre, *Story of the FOR* (1935); Vera Brittain, *Rebel Passion* (1964) 96-122; Peter Brock, *Twentieth Century Pacifism* (1970) 21-22, 108-9, 142-50, 225-37; *Messenger* (March 13, 1969) 19-20; D. F. Durnbaugh, ed., *Present Age* (1975) 105, 120-21; C.

Chatfield, *For Peace and Justice* (1971) index; L. S. Wittner, *Rebels Against War* (1969) index.

**Fercken, Gaston John and Seline (Phebe)** (CB), missionaries. Born in 1855 at Aleppo, Syria, of Dutch and French parents, Gaston Fercken was educated in Lebanon, Turkey, Switzerland, and Middletown, CT, where he became an Episcopalian minister. He married Seline Roberdean Shober, of Salisbury, NC, the daughter of a US congressman, around 1884. Through \*D. L. Miller's influence they joined the Mt. Morris, IL, congregation in 1894. Gaston Fercken was later ordained an elder. The Ferckens served in Smyrna, Turkey, where they administered an orphanage and worked in evangelism, 1895-99. They relocated as missionaries at Lancy and Geneva, \*Switzerland, and Oyonnax, \*France. Gaston Fercken left the mission and the Brethren in 1906 for the Swedenborgian faith. In 1917 he was reinstated as a member of the Church of the Brethren but was not restored as a minister. BMC/KIM

BHLA, WMC pers./corr. file under Fercken and Pellet; G. B. Royer, *Thirty-three Years* (1913) 317-19; E. S. Moyer, *Missions* (1931) 160-67, 260; *GM* (Feb. 12, 1895), (Dec. 3, 1898), (Jan. 1, 1899); B. R. Bates, *Life of D. L. Miller* (1921) 188-91; *Brethren's Tracts* (1892), "Spirituality," "Secret Prayer"; G. J. Fercken, *Even Thine Altars* (1904); B. M. Crouse in *Past and Present*, ed. D. F. Durnbaugh (1971) 117-19.

**Fernald, IA, Church of the Brethren.** It was organized in 1913 with twenty-two members and Carmon E. Lookingbill as minister. At first meeting in the city hall, members built a meetinghouse in 1916, the year in which the congregation was recognized by the district conference of Middle Iowa. Although the membership was never large (fifty-six in 1945), the congregation was active in local and district programs and called six young men to the ministry. Following World War II, many members left the area; the congregation was also rent by internal dissension. When it terminated a yoked pastoral arrangement with the nearby \*Maxwell congregation, there was no available leadership. The congregation was disorganized by the district in 1960 and assets dispersed. DFD  
*N. Plains* (1977) index, esp. 155.

**Ferrum, VA, First Church of the Brethren**, located in Franklin Co. The Ferrum congregation was known as the Bethel congregation until 1963. It was a mission point of the \*Antioch congregation until 1958, when Bethel became an independent congregation. Meetings were first held in schoolhouses in the early 20th century. A meetinghouse was built in 1942 three miles southwest of Ferrum. In 1960 the congregation relocated and built a brick meetinghouse in the town of Ferrum. This led the congregation to change its name in 1963 to the Ferrum Church of the Brethren. There were seventy-one members in 1980. MLPu/DMMi  
*Virginia* (1973) 326-27.

**Fetter, Lucas.** See **Vetter, Lukas.**

**Fiction.** See **Literature, Brethren and.**

**Fifer, Jesse C. (OGBB)**, 1867-1901, editor. The son of Eli and Elizabeth Garber Fifer, Jesse Fifer grew up in the Stillwater (Covington), OH, congregation (OGBB). In 1886 he married Barbara Ellen (Ella or Ellie) Kinsey, the daughter of \*Samuel and Barbara Nead Kinsey and