

Journal of ADVOCATE Enterprise

Frank Coho's First Ohio Moravian Lecture Tour



April 18-24, 2005 marked the first educational event conducted by ADVOCATE Enterprise. Rev. Frank Coho of Lancaster, PA, who wrote his S.T.M. thesis at Yale on the Moravian leader Count Zinzendorf, delivered a "Moravian Lecture Series" on the campuses of Ashland Theological Seminary, Oberlin College, Methodist Theological School, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and the First Congregational Church in Mount Vernon. Topics included: "John Heckewelder and David Zeisberger"; "Methodists and Moravians"; "The Moravian Effects on Ohio History"; "Moravian German and Moravian Indian Christians: A Study in Cultural Sensitivity" ; "David Zeisberger and the Mission in Ohio"; "Who was Zinzendorf / Who are the Moravians?"; and "Moravian Influence on Methodism." A highlight of this event occurred when a Methodist Theological student expressed profound amazement in the similarity of a native American religious concept with one held by many of the Hawaiian island people.

Rev. Coho majored in German at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, before completing his M. Div. at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. Coho earned his Masters in Sacred Theology at Yale Divinity School writing his thesis on "The Augsburg Confession Hymn of Count Nicolaus von Zinzendorf as it shaped the Moravian movement." Coho was a Merrill Fellow of Harvard University and the Old Testament Senior Translation Editor of the Hebrew-English Interlinear Bible [Baker]. He served 23 years in pastorates in PA, CT, and MI. He currently is a faculty member in Adult Continuing Education at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Zinzendorf was the 18th century leader of the persecuted Moravians who in turn deeply impacted John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, and Baptist missionary William Carey. As pioneer Christian missionaries, the Moravians traveled from their European headquarters in Herrnhut to such faraway places as America, the West Indies, Greenland, and South Africa. Remarkably, these Moravians managed to spread their faith while respecting the culture of those to whom they ministered. Some of them were even received into the membership of the Iroquois nation. In Ohio, Delaware Indians who embraced the Christian faith as the result of the efforts of David Zeisberger and others, settled in the New Philadelphia area. In 1782 the settlement of Christian Indians at Gnadenhutten was tragically massacred by a militia group.



May 4, 2005 Community Welcomed to Public Dialogue in Loudonville

“From 1517 to 2005: Lingering Questions from the Reformation”—that was the subject of a public dialogue and open forum presented at Trinity Community Church located at 127 S. Union Street, Loudonville, Wednesday, May 4, 2005, 7:00 P.M. Presenters were Dr. James Gustafson, a professor of philosophy from Northern Essex Community

College in Massachusetts, and David C. Brand, Director of ADVOCATE Enterprise, an Ohio-based educational venture commending the historic Christian faith.

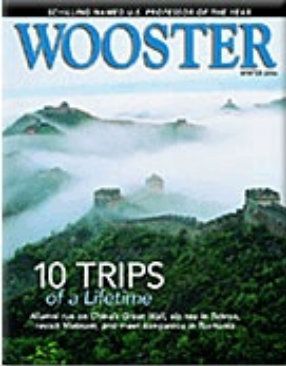
Frank Coho’s Second Ohio Moravian Lecture Tour

October 11-15, 2005, Frank Coho conducted his second Ohio Moravian lecture tour. Speaking to a packed classroom at Muskingum College, Kenyon College, the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County, and at Ohio’s historic Schoenbrunn Village in New Philadelphia, Coho addressed such topics as "Moravian German and Moravian Indian Christians"; "The Moravian Effects on Ohio History"; "Methodists and the Moravians"; and "The Moravian Encounter with

Native American Religion." Coho’s professor was simply



Following one of lectures, a college exclaimed, “This wonderful!”



**Winter 2006: Brand's Letter Published in
Wooster Magazine
<http://www.dcbcom.org/woostermagart.html>**



Johnny Appleseed Lecture, April 19, 2006

**12:00 Noon, Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox
County, 201 N. Mulberry, Mount Vernon, Ohio
Presenter: Dr. William Kerrigan**

Dr. William Kerrigan, Associate Professor of History and Chair at Muskingum College, B.A. Austin College, M.A. Texas Christian University, Ph.D. University of Michigan. Dr. Kerrigan teaches courses on colonial and ante-bellum American history. He is the author of articles in American antebellum and environmental history and has directed a number of oral history projects, including the Reclaiming Our Heritage project, an oral and visual history of the impact of strip-mining on several communities in Appalachian Ohio. He is currently working on a book on John Chapman, the itinerant missionary and apple-tree

planter. Dr. Kerrigan's lecture explored the Swedenborgian roots of Chapman's religious beliefs.



October 2006 Witherspoon Scholar at Mount Vernon Library

"John Witherspoon (1723-1794): Patriot, Preacher, Professor" was the topic of Dr. L. Gordon Tait at the Brown Bag Chat Session on Wednesday, September 27, 2006. John Witherspoon was President of the College of New Jersey (Princeton) from 1768 until his death in 1794, a member of the Continental Congress, and the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Tait, the Mercer Professor of Religious Studies Emeritus at the College of Wooster, is the first American to be made an Honorary Fellow of the University of Edinburgh. He followed his presentation with Q & A discussion. This lecture was offered by ADVOCATE Enterprise, an educational venture conducted on campuses of higher education in Ohio, at historic sites, libraries and offices, and other public venues.



October 28-30, 2008 1st Central Ohio Reformation Institute

A time of study for men who serve as pastors & elders or in other church leadership positions

Guest Reformation Scholar: Richard "Rick" Daniels

M.Div. Winebrenner Seminary; Ph.D., Reformation and Post-Reformation Studies, Westminster Seminary

Pastor; Author: *The Christology of John Owen*

Editor of the New England Reformed Journal

David C. Brand, Director, ADVOCATE Enterprise

Author: *Profile of the Last Puritan: Jonathan Edwards, Self-Love, and the Dawn of the Beatific*
M. Div., Fuller Seminary; Th.M., Westminster Seminary;

Presentations

"Sola Scriptura: From Renaissance Humanism to Covenant Theology"

"Foundation for a New Piety: Reformation Rediscovery of the Savior of Sovereign Grace"

"Between Scylla and Charybdis: The Reformation Navigation of the Sanctified Life"

“From Witness to Warrior: French Protestantism and the Defense of Liberty”
“The Church that Christ Builds: The Ecclesiology of John Owen”
“Reformation in America: Profile of the Last Puritan”

Location

Spruce Hill Inn and Cottages, Mansfield, OH

Report on the Spring 2009 Central Ohio Reformation Institute

The Central Ohio Reformation Institute was held April 28-30 at Hotel Millersburg. Hotel management, Bill and Shirley Robinson, expressed how much they appreciated the men singing! The men attendees in turn were quite pleased with the meeting room, overnight accommodations, and the excellent meals and service. Kyle Robbins, Pastor-Elder at Providence Church, Mifflin, Ohio, led the hymn-singing! Seven presentations representing a lot of preparation time and labor engaged both heart and mind.

Rev. Dennis Witt, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pataskala, Ohio, and Dr. Mark Hamilton, Professor of Philosophy at Ashland University, set the tone on Tuesday evening by showing us how the confessional and "faith alone" aspects of the Reformation had their roots in Scripture and were evident from the early centuries of the church. They both had excellent hand-outs. On Wednesday morning Rev. Matt Timmons underscored Calvin's view of the self-authenticating nature of Holy Scripture, as well as the Geneva Reformer's emphasis on expository preaching and teaching, thereby providing an opportunity for the attendees to explore the cutting edge between classical and presuppositional apologetics. Matt is Pastor of Covenant Reformed Fellowship of Ashland, Ohio.

Rev. Joe Puglia, Pastor of Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Mansfield, Ohio, presented Calvin's view of worship as a starting point for the round table. This was without a doubt the most controversial challenge for all, and Joe handled it with class setting forth Calvin's rationale and defending it. Mark Scholten, Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Akron, Ohio, moderated the round table. Barry Sheets, a member of Pliny Presbyterian Church in Pliny, West Virginia, provided the Institute with a political update addressing issues of special impact upon Christian churches.

Wednesday evening, Rev. Jason Strong, Pastor of Zion Reformed Church in Winesburg, Ohio, spoke of the Lord's covenant faithfulness in raising up leadership for the church throughout seventeen generations of the Strong family, beginning with the first immigrant to America. Jason then related this to the Reformation rubric *sola gratia*, as well as to covenant baptism. Thursday morning Dr. Sacha Walicord called attendees to greater sacrifice in presenting "Christ alone" as the heart of the Gospel with an in-depth portrayal of 18th-century evangelist George Whitefield. He cautioned concerning the ultra-liberal and "knucklehead" versions of Reformed theology. Sacha is Associate Pastor of Christ Covenant Reformed Church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and Associate Professor of Economics at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Dave Brand, author of *Profile of the Last Puritan*, and Director of ADVOCATE

Enterprise, gave the final presentation on the Reformation rubric *solī deo gloria* focusing on the twin dissertations of America's first philosopher and Great Awakening figure Jonathan Edwards: *The Nature of True Virtue* and the *The End for which God Created the World*. This was an adaptation and expansion of a lecture he had delivered at German Community College in Virginia in the fall of 2002.

Dr. John Hood, Moderator of the Ohio Association of Conservative Congregational Christian Churches and Rev. Wilbur Bruinsma, Pastor of the Protestant Reformed Fellowship of Pittsburgh led in devotions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. John also led us in the time of final recap and closing prayer.

Behind the scenes, Richard W. "Rick" Daniels, was available for consultation. Rick was the main presenter for the Central Ohio Reformation in October 2008. His Ph.D. dissertation at Westminster Seminary was published by Reformation Heritage Books under the title *The Christology of John Owen*.

Tim Prince recorded the seven CORI presentations, as well as some of the hymn-singing, and they are available on CD. The presentations from the Institute in October 2008 are available as well. Tim's cost (not counting his time) in reproducing and mailing the October series was \$10.00. If you would like to order the CDs from either the Fall CORI or the Spring CORI, you may e-mail Tim at timothypr@msn.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Brand, Director
ADVOCATE Enterprise
P.O. Box 1387
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
(740) 358-3057
www.dcbcom.org

Seven Man Work Team at Historic Church Building in University Area

"But it isn't even daylight yet!"

On short notice a team of seven men met in the Jelloway area Saturday morning, loaded up, and left for Akron before daylight. It was a special day for many—the opening day of gun season, the annual Massillon-McKinley football game played at the brand-new University of Akron stadium, the annual square-off between the Buckeyes and the Wolverines, and the vote to open the latest version of the U. S. Senate health bill for final debate. Following a brief stop for supplies at Lowes in Wooster, we drove to the work site—University Presbyterian Church at 421 Spicer Street in Akron where Korean pastor, InKyu Park, was waiting with a pot of hot coffee.

Tiger Tailgate Party

After introductions, we surveyed the work areas for roof repair, drywall installation,

and exterior mortar repair. Soon everyone was engaged in a particular assignment but hardly before Massillon Tiger fans with orange shirts and lettered jackets began their tailgate party in the church parking lot, and the Korean ladies began to arrive with food for our noon meal.

“Gentlemen, ‘Yobosayo’ means ‘Hello!’”

To begin our lunch time, Pastor Park led in a Korean-language prayer and Dave Brand followed in English. Indeed we had already been aware of, and grateful for, God’s hand upon us guiding and protecting. While we enjoyed the delicious Korean food so abundant and so well prepared by the ladies of the church, Pastor Park gave us an introduction to the Korean language. By noontime the sound of the Ohio State-Michigan contest was blaring through the neighborhood over a loud speaker.

“Flight plans, anyone?”

The roof crew cut through the clay roof tiles in a valley in order to install aluminum flashing, and administered caulking to seal the sun-baked and deteriorated caulking of the past from further water intrusion. Roof-team leader, David Miller, was obviously in his element as he could be seen from the ground completing his work on a steep valley just a few feet from the edge of the roof and walking up the valley holding on to a ski rope. The drywall crew led by Ephraim Yoder screwed perfectly-cut pieces of drywall to the kitchen ceiling and bathroom wall and, before our leaving, Ephraim instructed Pastor Park on the “how- to’s” of applying the joint compound and finishing. Dave Brand scaled heights on a ladder not previously attained in order to fill mortar joints while Jim McBride, a retired airplane pilot, mixed the mortar and occasionally asked Brand if he wanted to file flight plans. David Miller’s son Aaron and Ephraim Yoder’s sons, Daniel and David, worked with a maturity beyond their years.

“Hey, that’s my song!”

Hearing a few highlights of the OSU game from the ladder, Brand was just sure the OSU band had sung his copyrighted song, not once, but twice during the game! After returning to his home, however, Brand discovered upon further research that the Buckeye Pride song he had written approximately two years ago had been anticipated by James Thurber’s “I Don’t give a Darn About the Whole State of Michigan” in 1940 (the year before Brand was born) and that it had long been a part of the Buckeye-Wolverine festivities. Of course, this was the song Brand heard sung over the radio waves. No wonder the song had come so easily to Brand! Of course, Brand thinks his version to the same tune (“The Old Grey Mare”) is an improvement on the original, but he once again has been reminded of the truth of Galatians 6:3: “If anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” –and also of the words “there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecces. 1:9).

“Unworthy servants”

The day was one which all who contributed thoroughly enjoyed, and the neighborhood took notice. By God’s grace, the dear people of University Presbyterian Church have been encouraged and, among other things, their building will take in a little less water than it has in the preceding years. Letting our lights shine before men just a bit, we can only confess that we are unworthy servants having only done (or perhaps just begun) our duty (Matt. 5:16; Luke 17:10).

Happy Thanksgiving!

In closing this brief report, may I wish for each one of you a most blessed and happy Thanksgiving! Remember the joy the pilgrims at Plymouth must surely have experienced in their hearts as they gathered for that first American Thanksgiving, and were suddenly honored by the presence of Chief Massasoit and his fellow native Americans who brought of their bounty from a very successful hunting expedition to share with these “palefaces.” What a wonderful welcome and encouragement in their new country! Such was the Asian welcome that was ours this last Saturday.

Respectfully submitted,
David C. Brand