

Bibliographical Notes

Stanley Hauerwas, *Dispatches from the Front. Theological Engagements With the Secular* (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1994). Hardcover, 237 pp., \$24.95 U.S.—"God knows, it is hard to make God boring," writes Hauerwas, "but American Christians, aided and abetted by theologians, have accomplished that feat." Hauerwas, theologian and ethicist of Duke University, writes exceptionally personally and interestingly on subjects dealing with such contemporary issues as war and peace (including the Gulf War), gays and the American army, medical ethics, euthanasia, and the church and the handicapped. Referring to himself as "a Mennonite camp follower," Hauerwas follows John Howard Yoder whose writings on pacifism and "just war theory" he quotes in an attempt to show that Christian nonviolence is the heart of the Gospel. Moreover, with references to writers such as Anthony Trollope (nineteenth-century novelist), Karl Barth and others, Hauerwas illustrates how virtues like forgiveness, reconciliation honor, integrity, patience and constancy are basic to what it means to be a Christian. The author's highly personal and at times repetitive writing style, his occasional controversial statements, and his blatant attempt to make readers "think just like me," tend to detract from the scholarly nature of this book. Aside from that, both scholars and laypersons will find this book highly readable and provocative.

Sally Schroeder Isaak, *Some Seed Fell on Good Ground* (Winnipeg: Henderson Books, 1994). Paperback, 120 pp., \$9.99 Can., \$8.99 U.S.—This is the story of the author's work at Radio HCJB, Quito, Ecuador, under the auspices of Mennonite Brethren Missions/Services. The author's varied experiences, her lively writing style, and her realistic and frank approach to life and her work, are most refreshing and enjoyable. All those who know Sally and who are interested

in missions will find this book a good read.

Pamela E. Klassen, *Going by the Moon and the Stars. Stories of Two Russian Mennonite Women* (Waterloo, Ont.: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1994). Paperback, 151 pp. \$19.95/\$25.00 U.S. This is an interesting and unique way of telling stories. The author interviews two elderly Russian-Mennonite women who came to Canada after World War II. She allows the women to speak of their life in the Soviet Union, their war experiences, their lives as women, and their membership in the Mennonite church. Klassen then retells and analyzes the stories, using feminist categories and methods in her undertaking. The result of her work is both illuminating and indicative of the limits of this approach when applied to persons who do not consider themselves feminists. There is even a touch of humour in the women telling the feminist interviewer that they are quite free and happy in their more or less traditional roles as women and that Ms Klassen should get married! (See the advertisement of the book at the end of this issue).

Linden M. Wenger, *Climbing Down the Ladder. A Teacher and Pastor Reflects on his Retirement* (Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 1993). Paperback, 186 pp. "As Christians we believe we have been created in the image and likeness of God. We are the creatures of both time and eternity. We have the capacity of love and faith and the power of selective response to life's circumstances. It is not so much what happens to us as how we respond to what happens that determines the measure of our happiness and the quality of our person. That is what I want to say in this book." Thus writes Wenger in the Preface to this interesting and worthwhile book.

Eve Wheatcroft Granick, *The Amish Quilt* (Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 1994). Paperback, 192 pp., \$24.95 U.S. This book appeared earlier in hardcover. It is a beautifully-produced book on Amish quilt-making, including full-color pictures and a text explaining Amish history, culture and faith. The book contradicts the view that Amish people are plain and devoid of artistic achievement. The art of quilting, as demonstrated in this book, is indeed art of the highest quality, yet an art that pleases and at the same time serves a practical function.

Norma Jost Voth, *Mennonite Foods and Folkways from South Russia*, Volumes I and II (Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 1994). Paperback Vol. I, 480 pp., \$18.95 U.S.; Vol. II, 288 pp., \$14.95 U.S. These valuable and popular books are now available in paperback. The books have retained the beautiful colored and black and white photographs and the paperback binding is sturdy and well done. These cookbooks are not conventional recipe books. They include the history and culture of the Russian-Mennonite people together with the characteristic Mennonite foods. Did you know that the Mennonite *zwieback* (double-

decker bun) may go as far back as Menno Simons' time? These and other things you will find in these excellent volumes.

Bernd G. Laengin, *Plain and Amish: An Alternative to Modern Pessimism*. Translated by Jack Thiessen (Scottsdale, Pennsylvania/Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press, 1994). Paperback, 416 pp., \$15.95 U.S., \$21.95 Can. This is a beautifully produced book, a revision and translation of the German original, *Die Amischen: Vom Geheimnis des einfachen Lebens* (Paul List Verlag, 1990). In the Foreword, Leonard Gross of Goshen, Indiana, writes: "The best semipopular volume written on the Amish, ...readable and authoritative, ...by an author who has lived and breathed the Amish air." The book includes 37 black and white and 50 high-quality color photographs. The book also includes a Timetable of Amish history, Biblical Principles of Amish Faith, and an up-to-date Bibliography.

Edgar Stoesz and Chester Raber, *Doing Good Better! How to be an Effective Board Member of a Nonprofit Organization* (Intercourse, Pennsylvania: Good Books, 1994). Paperback, 152 pp. In their Introduction the authors write: "This book is directed to the men and women who believe, like we do, in helping others through the medium of a nonprofit organization. We intend it to be a practical book which speaks to real life situations. We draw heavily from what we have experienced and observed, although we are also informed by what others have written on the subject....We offer a commonsense approach to the subject, grounded in sound theory with a dash of idealism."

James C. Juhnke, *Creative Crusader. Edmund G. Kaufman and Mennonite Community*. Cornelius H. Wedel Historical Series #8 (North Newton, KS: Bethel College, 1994). Paperback, 298 pp. This well-written biography of Edmund G. Kaufman (1891-1980), missionary, educator, and president of Bethel College, Kansas (1932-52), will delight all those who knew him and whose lives were touched by him. Assuming the presidency of the College during the economic depression, Kaufman built up the school through faculty recruitment, successful financial drives, and innovative curriculum changes. Mennonite fundamentalists attacked Kaufman for his liberal views and ideas about human progress, but Kaufman, as Juhnke shows, was ultimately concerned about Christian community and building God's Kingdom.

The Collected Works of Erasmus Volumes 27 & 28. Literary and Educational Writings 5 & 6. Edited by A.H.T. Levi (Toronto/Buffalo/London: University of Toronto Press, 1986). Hardcover; xxix + 638 pp.; \$105.00 Can. The writings of Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536) had a great influence on the Anabaptists, including Menno Simons who quoted Erasmus frequently in his

work. Erasmus' writings on the free will, practical Christian living, and against Christians going to war were especially appreciated by the Anabaptists. The two volumes include "The Education of a Christian Prince" and "A Complaint of Peace," writings that were valued by many Anabaptists. These and all the other writings in these volumes ("Praise of Folly," "Julius Excluded from Heaven: A Dialogue," and "The Ciceronian: A Dialogue on the Ideal Latin Style") are superbly translated into English and the scholarship (introductions and notes) is of the highest quality. Reformation and Anabaptist scholars and teachers will not want to be without these excellent volumes.

Paul M. Lederach, *Daniel. Believers Church Bible Commentary* (Scottsdale PA: Herald Press, 1994). This sixth volume of the series is both well written and informative, and may therefore be of interest to a wider readership than the "pastoral and lay leaders" the series is primarily aimed at. Although the author did not seek out Anabaptist themes, he admits that they emerged "in almost serendipitous fashion" (12) nonetheless. In its clarity of style and organization the book has much to recommend it. It may be especially useful for those hooked on televangelistic exposition of this sadly misused book.

Luther E. Smith, Jr., *Intimacy and Mission. Intentional Community as Crucible for Radical Discipleship* (Scottsdale PA: Herald Press, 1994). The unfelicitous title somewhat mars an important study of several religious communities: Koinonia Partners, Sojourners, Church of the Messiah, Voice of Calvary, and Patchwork Central, in order to learn about their mission, its strengths and weaknesses, rise and fall. Based on extensive research, this book gives a frank description of these attempts to create community of the Spirit. Not surprisingly, the very "fire that energizes can become the fire that consumes." (175)

Margaret Fast with Dora Dueck, *Willie: Forever Young* (Winnipeg: Bill and Margaret Fast, 1994). A memorial to a young life snuffed out by cancer, which by its beautiful writing and searing honesty recreates the paradox of parenthood: "love and pain and the whole damn thing..." , generously letting the reader share in this rich if bittersweet experience. The book is moving, instructive, and a credit to a family with sustaining values.

Meditative Ballads/Sehnsuchtsballaden, by Reynold Siemens, trans. into German by Gerhard Ens (Vancouver, B.C.: Menno Classics Enterprises, 1994). Paper; 33 pp. Reynold Siemens lives poetry and music. An accomplished cellist and published poet, Siemens is a professor of English at the University of Alberta. In this collection of twelve of his ballads he deals sensitively and movingly with such themes as love, longing and death. Side by side on opposite pages are the poems in German, translated—indeed recreated—by Gerhard Ens, long-time editor of *Der Bote*, a German-language Mennonite weekly. The

following stanza is taken from "Snowy Evening" ("Schnee am Abend"): "I've heard it said that time will heal/The aching of a broken heart;/But, Angel white, time has stood still/Since you and I have been apart." ("Man sagt, die Zeit, sie heile jeden Schmerz;/Doch, o mein Engel, still stand meine Zeit;/Nicht hat geheilt sie mein gebrochen Herz,/Noch aufgelöst endlose Traurigkeit").

Hans-Jürgen Goertz, *Religiöse Bewegungen in der frühen Neuzeit*. Encyklopädie Deutscher Geschichte Band 20. Edited by Lothar Gall (München: R. Oldenbourg Verlag, 1993). Paperback; 149 pp.; DM29.88. This book is a valuable overview of religious movements in early modern times (16th and 17th centuries). Included are the mainline reformers (Luther, Zwingli), radical reformers like Thomas Müntzer, the Anabaptists and Mennonites, Spiritualists, mystics and Quakers, and other individuals and groups. There are three sections to this survey: Brief summaries of the origins of the movements; interpretations; and sources and secondary literature.

Edmund Kizik, *Mennonici W Gdansk, Elblagu I Na Zulawach Wislanych W Drugiej Polowie XVII I W XVIII Wieku, Studium Dziejow Malej Spolencznosci Wuznaniowej*, Gdansk, 1994. 268 pages. In this book Edmund Kizik presents his doctoral study of Mennonites in the Vistula and Nogat River regions. He divides his study into four main areas, namely: settlement and size of population; legal rights, work and tax responsibilities; elements of Mennonite religious life; developments after the first partition of Poland including Prussian policies in regards to Mennonites, as well as the start of the emigration to Russia. The book is in Polish, but includes a brief German summary of contents. Most of the illustrations, maps, pictures and statistical tables have a German bi-line. The book is well footnoted, and also includes a lengthy bibliography. In addition, Kizik also surveys the various archives which have collections on Mennonite history in Poland and Prussia. He includes archives in North America, Germany Holland, and Poland. The survey of holdings in Berlin-Dahlem (formerly Merseburg) and in Gdansk and Elblag are the most detailed and the most comprehensive.

(Editors)