

MENNONITE-POLISH FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1992

To all members and friends,
Greetings!

Interest in our Association and its goals continues to grow, as is shown by a number of events of the past several months. Let me share with you some of the reports that illustrate increasing awareness of the Polish-Prussian Mennonite story.

1. Publication of the *Mennonite Quarterly Review* issue (April 1992) devoted to the Mennonite experience in Poland and Prussia. This issue includes most of the papers presented at the Symposium in Winnipeg in 1990. Copies are being sent to members of the Association. Additional copies are available at \$3.00. In the US write to Paul Toews at the Fresno address listed below and in Canada to John Friesen at the Winnipeg address. We owe special thanks to those of you who contributed articles or financial support, and especially to John Oyer, recently retired editor of *MQR*, who from the beginning of our planning for the Symposium vigorously supported the suggestion to publish the papers.

Efforts are currently underway to have this issue published in German. In a letter dated July 17, 1992, Eckbert Driedger, chair of the Mennonitischer Geschichtsverein in Germany, writes, "I have now read the *MQR* issue of April 1992 . . . and have thought that we should publish it in German."

2. More visitors are traveling to the former Mennonite centers in Poland. This past May Pastor Peter Foth of Hamburg, Germany lead a tour group of approximately 80 persons to Poland. He reported a most rewarding, stimulating experience. He is planning for another tour in 1993. Eckbert Driedger, who was also on the tour, writes, "Following your suggestion, we plan to unveil a plaque in Heubuden next year (1993)." He is currently corresponding with the local mayor and priest. Those of you who were in Heubuden with our group in June 1991 will remember the very warm reception we received.

Another group, this one led by John Friesen, Winnipeg, also visited Poland this past summer. Because of the generosity of Association members John was able to give our friend, Dr. Arkadiusz Rybak of Stare Pole, \$300. for the continuing work at the Heubuden cemetery.

Paul Toews and I are planning to conduct a Mennonite historical tour in late June and early July of 1993. The tour will include visits to former Mennonite sites in Poland and Ukraine and to current congregations in the Orenburg region of Russia. If you are interested in a prospectus please write to the Fresno address indicated below.

3. Research on Mennonites in Poland and Prussia continues in a variety of places. If you are conducting research in this area, or know of others who are doing so, please send me a note. Perhaps we can include such information in the next newsletter.

4. A reminder that the Mennonite-Polish Friendship Association does its work entirely on the basis of voluntary contributions and memberships. Annual memberships are \$20.00 per year. Memberships and contributions will receive a tax deductible receipt acceptable to either the US Internal Revenue Service or Revenue Canada. Contributions, designated for the Association, should be forwarded to the following addresses:

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600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
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