

Faith to Die For

As we begin our celebration of 300 years as the **Church of the Brethren**, we remember those with courage and conviction to be different back in **1708**.

When times were hard, and war was all around, faith in God and the call to discipleship by **Jesus Christ** came at a price. We have the stories of **Alexander** (1678-1735) and **Anna Margaret Mack** and the **other six** whose baptism in August 1708 started our denomination.

These stories, and many more are found in the *various resources* named in the center of this paper. My great hope is that you will find these stories, read them, and share them.

But we also need to remember other forerunners of the **'Free Church Movement'** and of the **Anabaptists**.

These people gave their lives to be able to make the free choice to follow Jesus. Up until **Martin Luther** (1483-1546), **Erasmus** (1466-1536), **Ulrich Zwingli** (1484-1531), **Felix Manz** (1498-1525), **Conrad Grebel** and **George Blaurock**, it was the State and the baptism of babies that made one a 'member of the church'.

Anyone with access to the internet can get interesting information about these **'Swiss Brethren'** and our **Anabaptist ancestors**. It's worth your time to do this reading, and you'll feel blessed by the church that gives us support and meaning **today**.

May 5, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Annual Conference Briefing and Meet the Moderator at the Hope Church of the Brethren

"Proclaim the Power of God"
with Belita Mitchell
and our Michigan
Brethren

Everyone is welcome.

Delegates and Pastors are especially urged to attend this helpful session. Let us all be in prayer for our Church.

Church of the Brethren

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