

# HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION

Spring 2013

Issue 12

...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.  
Isaiah 54:17

## Pulpit Used in Three Different Churches

This pulpit was first used in the “old white church” in Fairbury (1893 – 1965). After the new church was built in 1965, the pulpit was taken out to Sardis, OH, to be used in the church there. Later it was returned to Fairbury and stored. During Fairbury’s recent assembly room remodeling, the congregation met in the fellowship area. Once again this pulpit was brought back into service to hold the Word of God while faithful ministers stood behind it. When the remodeling was finished, this pulpit was given to the Heritage Center.



*...yea, I have a goodly  
heritage. Psalm 16:6*

## New Materials from Switzerland

The Heritage Center has recently obtained copies of numerous documents from the ETG church archive in Zurich. (The ETG Church is the successor to the original Froehlich churches in Switzerland, but is not affiliated with the churches in Eastern Europe and Germany.) These documents include writings and statements of Froehlich and other brothers (including Bros. Bella, Mangold, and Michel) which have previously been unavailable. HCF hopes to obtain the remaining documents of interest from the same archive in the near future. There are hundreds of pages of material, and the translation from German to English will take some time to complete. We are thankful that the ETG church has carefully maintained these documents and was willing to assist in scanning and sharing them with us.

# Do you have...

We have a copy of **Ernest Graf Sr.'s** autobiography and several letters that he wrote to encourage other believers (in English and German). A possible future project could be combining these in a book, along with any other materials (writings or letters). If you have anything you could contribute, please notify Sally Fehr at [sfehr@fairviewhaven.org](mailto:sfehr@fairviewhaven.org) or (815) 692-3407 (home) or (815) 692-2572 (work).

## Message from the Board....

In response to recent questions, we felt it wise to explain both the background and purpose of the Heritage Center Foundation. In 2005 the first volume of the *Stories of Faith and Courage* series was published and met with a tremendously positive response from many brethren. It became evident that the historical accounts were inspiring many believers and friends to learn more of the powerful ways in which God had worked through our forefathers. Early on we realized that not only a great interest in our church history existed, but there was a lack of structure for organizing, sharing, and displaying writings and items that were spiritually valuable and had contributed to the identity of the churches within the Froehlich lineage. Realizing a need for a common depository/library to store and archive historical documents, the Heritage Center Foundation was organized in late 2006 and incorporated in 2007 as a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

Since that time, the Heritage Center has gathered historical writings and artifacts for display at the Heritage Center Library in the basement of the Fairview Haven nursing home in Fairbury, Illinois. The Center has also begun an effort to collect and sometimes digitize writings and sermons from our past and to publish both primary and secondary historical writings for the edification of believers within the Froehlich lineage. All who have labored on behalf of the Heritage Center have been overwhelmed by the sheer amount of writings, sermons, and artifacts, and we never could have imagined that our attempt to excavate our past would prove so fruitful.

At present the Heritage Center Foundation is supported by individuals in all known groups of the Froehlich heritage: the Apostolic Christian Church of America, the Apostolic Christian Faith, the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) in Canada and the United States, the Nazarenes in Eastern Europe, and the Froehlich churches in Germany, plus other individuals outside of these groups. Our hope is to continue to collect and provide material that will encourage and edify all brethren who esteem their connection with the Froehlich movement.

In a 1965 report on the Nazarenes in Eastern Europe, we found the following account:

Around 1900, a Yugoslavian brother was imprisoned for 7 years for refusal to bear arms. After release from prison, he built up a successful clothing business. When a socialist government came to power after WWII, they took away his business allowing him to run only a small one. Several years after the war, members in America sent a large shipment of clothing for distribution among the Nazarenes in Yugoslavia. This brother was asked to be in charge of the project because he knew clothing. The government, after being contacted for permission, insisted on the clothing being distributed through the Yugoslav Red Cross. He was able to gain permission to keep half of the clothing for needy Nazarenes. After the clothing was distributed, the brother was arrested and sentenced to seven years in prison for giving clothing to some of the German-speaking brethren in Serbia. He was released after 3 ½ years because of his advanced age and ill health.

### *Did you know. . .*

Jacob Gehring, Sr. [from Elgin, IA] was a faithful minister of the Word for 59 years. He became blind at age 90 and would walk the one mile to church using his cane to find direction. When he preached, another minister would assist by reading the Scriptures, and then Gehring would do the meditation.

Taken from *Marching to Zion*, page 117

### *A Selection from History*

The following words were spoken by Bro. Rudolph Graf on **November 21, 1943** after reading Luke 19:

The many trials and tribulations which come over us in this life and time – they are only to prove us, they are only to prove and to see how it is with the children of God, whether their faith was only for a short time or whether our faith will also endure the trials and tribulations and the heat of the day. We must indeed have a better faith than the man on the street, the man of the world. Many a man professes to have faith. It is a faith that he may live by but will it be a comfort in death? And so we must have that faith, dear Brothers and Sisters, in our hearts that will not only stand by us in nice and good and pleasant days but also in the days when we come into heavy trials, when our faith is tried severely.

We find that many here even had faith in our Lord Jesus when they saw Him and He was about to enter into Jerusalem, how that they cried, “Blessed be the King that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Peace in Heaven and glory on the Highest.” In one of the gospels we read how soon they turned upon Him when He spoke to them of the strait and narrow way and of the trials and the cross-bearing that was required of the children of God. O they turned away from him –many it says here. So we see that their praise and their honor was oft times only with their lips, and it was not from their heart. Let it not be said of one of us, dear Brothers and Sisters, that we have only served our Lord and Master in the days that were pleasant, when all went by like a song. Let us be of those then on the day when the Lord will confess His own and will acknowledge them before the Father as those who have been with Him through all trials and tribulations.

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**“The Seven Churches”**  
*Zion’s Harp #30, verses 3 and 5*

“Blest is he who overcometh,  
And the first true love maintains,  
Who in truth builds firm foundation,  
And false teaching doth disdain.  
Him with fruit I’ll ever nourish  
From the tree which there doth flourish,  
Which above in paradise  
Is prepared by God all-wise.

“Blest is he who overcometh,  
Fleeing not when pain besets;  
When in fear and tribulations,  
Doth this comfort ne’er forget,  
That I will the true and grateful  
Give the crown of life, who faithful  
Did remain in trials severe;  
Second death he need not fear.