

# Notes from the Editor

It is sometimes difficult for a small community of faith like the Moravian Church to recognize and value its living scholars. It is easy to celebrate figures like John Amos Comenius or Nicholas von Zinzendorf, but it can be hard to appreciate the contributions made by men and women we know. This issue is dedicated to the life and work of one of the most significant Moravian intellectuals and pastors of the modern era. Arthur Freeman has been a teacher, spiritual counselor, and pastor to two generations of Moravian clergy in North America, and he has also been the leading representative of North American Moravian theology in the Unity and in ecumenical gatherings.

This issue of *The Hinge* brings together several people whose lives and careers were influenced by Brother Freeman, and it includes a scholarly article on the influence of Otto Piper on Art's own theology. In this issue you will learn about Art's role in the revision of the *Ground of the Unity*, his work on Moravian hermeneutics and spirituality, his pioneering efforts in multi-media communication, and his importance for the Unity.

There are many reasons why this tribute to Brother Freeman is appropriate. First of all, as Hartmut Beck points out in his article, Art was one of the founders of *TMDK* (later *ITD*), a journal dedicated to transatlantic theological discussion in the Moravian Church. Art was truly the guiding spirit of the North American version of *TMDK/ITD*, and after his retired as editor, the editorial board decided to merge *ITD* with *The Hinge*. Now that *The Hinge* is continuing the international mission of *ITD*, the new board wanted to acknowledge the work of Art.

Another reason for honoring Art is that he is now of an age when it is good to look back and realize that your work was meaningful. All of the contributors to this issue of *The Hinge* believe that Art's scholarship, pastoral care, and sincere love for Christ and the church have been of great benefit to the Moravian Church.

Our tribute also coincides with a special project undertaken by Moravian Theological Seminary — to make electronically available many of Art's selected publications and unpublished works. To access a growing collection of his theological and literary works go to [www.moravianseminary.edu/freeman](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/freeman). The link to Art's works can be found under "Useful Links" in the Center for Moravian Studies section of the Seminary's website (the same section where past issues of *The Hinge* are found).

A final reason for devoting an entire issue to Art Freeman is that the mission of *The Hinge* is to promote theological reflection and discussion in the Moravian Church. I can think of no better way to do that than to highlight the work of a scholar and bishop who always addressed controversial issues in a spirit of love.

In this issue we also have a special contribution from Bishop Theo Gill of Germany and a letter to the editor.