



Mennonite Library & Archives Fresno Pacific University

John J. Gerbrandt An Inventory of His Papers

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Creator: Gerbrandt, John J., 1905-1983.
Title: Papers.
Inclusive dates: [19--]-1983.
Quantity: 1.8 linear ft.
139 slides.
4 photo prints.
Record Group No.: M33.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN J. GERBRANDT

John J. Gerbrandt was born May 12, 1905 in Rosenfeld, Manitoba to Jacob and Justina Gerbrandt. When he was young his family moved to Reedley, California, where he was baptized and joined the Mennonite Brethren Church. Gerbrandt later wrote a brief account of his family's trip from Manitoba to California, entitled *Destination California* (privately printed, n.d.).

Gerbrandt was called to the ministry within the Mennonite Brethren Church during the 1930s. He served briefly as a minister in the Lodi (California) Mennonite Brethren Church and Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church. In 1941 Gerbrandt became pastor of the new San Jose Mennonite Brethren Church and began what would become a long career in church planting. He served as pastor in San Jose until 1945, when he became the Field Secretary for Tabor College (Hillsboro, Kan.). He held that position until 1950. From 1950 to 1953 Gerbrandt was pastor of the Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren Church near Hillsboro, Kansas. In 1955 Gerbrandt returned to church planting when he became pastor of the Garden Park Mennonite Brethren Church in Denver, Colorado. From 1959 to 1960 he was pastor of Western Oaks Mennonite Brethren Church in Bethany, Oklahoma. In 1960 Gerbrandt returned to the West Coast to become pastor of the El Camino Bible Church in Santa Clara, California. In 1964 he accepted the leadership of the Sacramento (California) Mennonite Brethren Church. During 1965 and 1966 Gerbrandt pastored the Clayton Park Mennonite Brethren Church in Concord, California. He completed his ministry with the Cliffwood Heights Neighborhood Church in Capitola, California from 1970 to 1973.

During the 1950s Gerbrandt was active in leadership within the Southern District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. He served on the Colonization and Rehabilitation Committee (1951-1952) and the Evangelism Committee (1951-1956) in the Southern District. He also served on the Evangelism Committee of the United States Mennonite Brethren Conference from 1957 to 1959.

(Record Group M33: John J. Gerbrandt Papers)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This record group contains sermon notes, [19--]-1982; a personal record book, 1940-1951; undated manuscripts and outlines on various topics; a notebook, 1941-?; 3 photographs of the San Jose Mennonite Brethren Church; 1 photograph of the Navalencia Mennonite Brethren Church; and 139 color slides of Mennonite Brethren Churches and communities across North America, 1948-1983.

ORGANIZATION AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION

Some sermons are arranged by subject or according to Gerbrandt's own numbering system; other sermons have no discernible arrangement. Other items arranged by form of material.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1

Sermon notes arranged by subject

Box 2

Sermon notes arranged according to Gerbrandt's numbering system

Box 3

Sermon notes (unarranged)
Sermon notebooks, 1979-1982, undated
Notebook, 1941-?
Personal record book, 1940-1951
Manuscripts on the establishment of churches
Manuscript: "The Umbrella of God's Will"
Outline: "Homiletical Principles"
Studies on various books of the Bible
Miscellaneous
Photo prints
Slides, 1948-1983