



The Historical Commission — through its four archives (Fresno, Abbotsford, Hillsboro, and Winnipeg) — continues to offer research and archiving

services to MB churches — their leaders and their people — even during a pandemic.

My (Jon Isaak) COVID-19 adaptation in March and April has been to work mostly from home, but still go to the Winnipeg archives each week for a day or so. I work alone at the archives, so physical distancing isn't difficult; but, yes, the Centre for MB Studies is closed to the public, until further notice.

However, since many are spending more time online these COVID days, in this report I want to highlight one of the many Mennonite online resources available for historical research, the *Mennonite Historian*, a quarterly publication I co-edit.



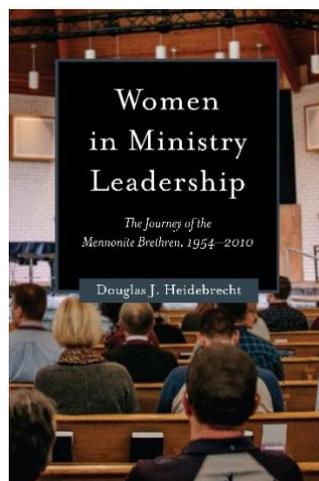
John M. Schmidt (1918-2008), one of the early MB radio preachers, recording a Gospel Light Hour broadcast in the early 1950s from the Logan Mission Church, Winnipeg.

In the March 2020 issue of *Mennonite Historian*, Canadian Mennonite University professor David Balzer presents his study of the beginnings of Mennonite radio broadcasting — its character, tone, and rhetoric — featuring the radio ministry of J.M. Schmidt.

To read David Balzer's article go to the link below and open the latest issue of the *Mennonite Historian*; his is the lead article, starting on page 2, www.mennonitehistorian.ca

And, if you want to see 112 images in the John M Schmidt photo collection, they are now viewable online at <https://archives.mhsc.ca/john-m-schmidt-photograph-collection-2>. I finished scanning and uploading these last week!

Back to my regular report: the Historical Commission funds several initiatives, including research grants, archival development grants. For application criteria and details concerning these initiatives — and the news releases announcing past recipients and their projects — see the Commission's website, <http://mbhistory.org>.



The Commission's most recent publication is *Women in Ministry Leadership: The Journey of the Mennonite Brethren, 1954-2010* by Doug Heidebrecht. The book documents the attempt to find consensus around convictions and practice regarding the role of women in church ministry and leadership.

See www.kindredproductions.com to purchase your copy.

For more information on these initiatives and resources, contact: jon.isaak@mbchurches.ca

The Historical Commission is a funded ministry of both the US Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

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