

УДК 929Тевс+94(7+477)-0.54.7.«19»(092)

Richard Kriegbaum

Fresno Pacific University (Fresno, USA)

TO PAUL TOEWS' MEMORY

President of Fresno Pacific University (California, USA) reveals the stages of research and teaching biography of the Mennonite historian Paul Toews.

Keywords: Paul Toews, Mennonite History, Chortytza-99, Fresno Pacific University (USA).

Наведено розповідь президента університету Фресно Пасифік (Каліфорнія, США) про етапи наукової та викладацької діяльності менонітського історика Пола Тевса.

Ключові слова: Пол Тевс, історія менонітів, Хортиця-99, Університет Фресно Пасифік (США).

Приведён рассказ президента университета Фресно Пасифик (Калифорния, США) об этапах научной и преподавательской биографии менонитского историка Пола Тевса.

Ключевые слова: Пол Тевс, история меннонитов, Хортица-99, Университет Фресно Пасифик (США).

Der Präsident der Fresno Pacific University (Kalifornien, USA) beleuchtet die Etappen der Laufbahn des mennonitischen Historikers Paul Thoews in Wissenschaft und Lehre.

Schlagwörter: Paul Thoews, Geschichte der Mennoniten, Chortitza-99, Fresno Pacific University (USA).

Professor Paul Toews (1940–2015)

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the going home to the Lord of Dr. Paul Toews after a long battle with cancer on November 27. Paul was one of the most influential faculty members in his 44 years as an FPU professor. He offered guidance to a number of FPU presidents and other administrators, served on many committees and task forces that helped define the identity of the university and its future, and served the faculty in governance, and as one who set a standard for scholarly productivity. He mentored many current FPU faculty members, and others who went on to positions in higher education and in the church. His students and colleagues remember fondly his unique presence, the gift of his time

and energy, his rigorous intellect and high academic standards, his friendship, and his deep commitment to and love for FPU and the Mennonite Brethren church.

Paul is the author of *Mennonites in American Society, 1930–1970*, edited a number of books, including *Mennonite Idealism in Higher Education* on the FPU Idea, and wrote dozens of articles. He served with the Mennonite Central Committee, on the board of *Mennonite World Review*, on the editorial board of the *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, as Executive Secretary of the Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission, and in the leadership in many Mennonite Brethren efforts. As a Fulbright scholar he lectured in Ukrainian Universities on American history. He was the director of the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies and sought and helped shape its archival collection.

One of his lasting achievements will be the project of his last two decades. Paul collected over 50,000 Russian and Soviet documents containing information on the Mennonite colonies, peoples and experience in Russia and Ukraine in the 19th and 20th centuries. These documents, now in PhD dissertations not only by FPU students, but by those from research universities around the world. He guided the publication of five volumes related to these collections, including the first history of the Mennonite experience described in these documents. In his last days he ensured that his work would continue and come to completion.

Paul was a member of the College Community Mennonite Brethren church and a former resident of the Kerckhoff community, and is deeply missed by his wife Olga Shmakina, his children Renee and Mathew and their families, his extended family, and brothers and sisters in the faith.

Paul was truly a faithful friend to many of us. He offered wise correction with gracious respect and kindness. He was generous with encouragement and his guidance was consistently trustworthy. We are thankful for Paul's friendship and love for FPU and the church. We miss him and his legacy among us will long endure.

Надійшла до редколегії 11.03.2016