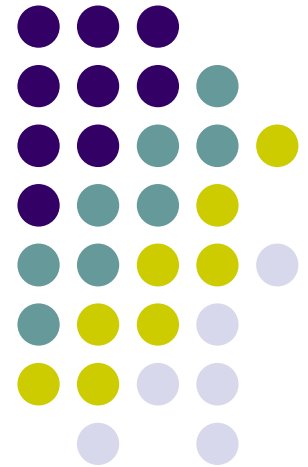
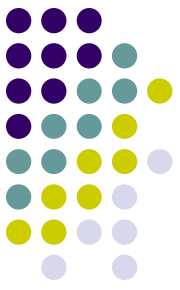


WRITING AND PUBLISHING FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

In the Brethren Movement





Writing

‘The Brethren – government by magazine’

David Bebbington, BAHN Conference 2003

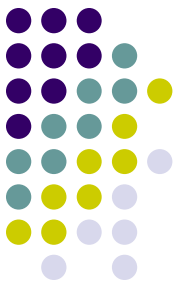
A sign of health in any movement

- No writing, not much thought?
- Nor much sense of calling and mission?
- Writing sharpens thought

The possibility of publishing stimulates writing

But is there a readership/audience? If so, who?





Publishing

Writing needs publishing/publishers and distributors

A distinct expertise

- Much scope for self-publishing, but the risk is the product looks amateur and uncompetitive (the product needs to look good and professional, whether paper or electronic)
- Editing, sub-editing, indexing helps the author and is time-consuming
- Commissioning and controlling the print designer and printer

The challenge of publicizing; and distributing (if paper)

The demise of Brethren publishing?

The potential for international publishing





Paper or electronic?

The paperless society?

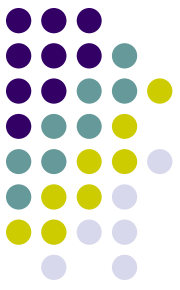
More paper publishing than ever:

- more titles, smaller runs
- print on demand

Electronic:

- A generational question?
- How authoritative? Ephemeral?
- Evaluating cyberspheric publications?
- Who follows blogs? Publicizing blogs?
- Both/and?





Questions

Is there a demand for publishing from the BTN community?

Do you have difficulty in getting published?

What vehicles do you need?

- Periodical (academic? church leaders?)
- Blogs
- Books
- Hierarchy of vehicles to meet different needs?

Is there a need for a publisher orientated particularly towards the Brethren community? What material needs a specialist 'Brethren' publisher?

How can it/should it be organised? An international operation?

Is there a shortage of publishing resources (commissioning? Editing? Sub-editing? Print administration?) How funded?

