

## **George Nixdorf (1700-1785)**

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the following of his rice: I was born Febr. 22. 1110 at Schooler in the Principality of Source in Selevia, & was the first flied which the Rev. M. Schwedler bop, biged in Midderwieve. My dear Mather loved food which holy Word, & the Paperon Stymne proved at all Simes in the Gear as refreshment to her. The was a special Friend of the Son Mr. Schwedlege & frequent, as his Breachings & other Meetings very diligently & look me very aften to him, when he then, as after as I came to him even still in my 12th Gear, fell down

2. Br. George Nixdorf has wrote down the following of his life: I was born Febr. 22, 1700 at Schaefer in the principality of Iauer in Silesia, and was the first child which the Revd. Mr. Schwedler baptized in Niederwiese. My dear mother loved God and his holy word, and the passion hymns proved at all times in the year a refreshment to her. She was a special friend of the Revd. Mr. Schwedler and frequented his preachings and other meetings very diligently and took me very often to him, when he then, as often as I came to him even still in my 12th year, fell

Joson with me on his Inew prayed in my Behalf laid the land upon me & Ste food me. 1108 was the very great & par finelar Awahening of the Phildren throughout Silevia, which I am not able to give a Description of, it was some thing extra ordinary, that in so many Pillager & owns the Philoren whall & great, same all at one upon the Thought: To mor, row on New Years Day we will befin a Meeting out the whole foundry, as if it had been published stances & wanderful Ouiviances, I shall never forget to all Chirnity. It is a special Grace to me, that I was prisent at it, and Irukon thatfrom that Sime that our Saor hav given me vame thing into my Heart, which indeed Did not undowstand, but vince that Time was many thousand times uneary on ac, count of my Behaviour, the tendeavoured to sup. prefs it by all Manner of Means, in order to onfuy the World rightly . 1716 I came to Gold berg to learn the malling & brewing Bulvines. My Marker was a very pious & righteour Man, who held me very whare x left me no diverty to purvue hursful things.

down with me on his knees, prayed in my behalf laid the hand upon me and blessed me. 1708 was the very great and particular awakening of the children throughout Selesia, which I am not able to give a description of, it was something extraordinary, that in so many villages and towns the children small and great, came all at once upon the thought: Tomorrow on New Years Day we will begin a meeting of prayer in the open field, and this was done throughout the whole country, as if it had been published by an edict from the King. The particular circumstances and wonderful occurrences, I shall never forget to all eternity. It is a special grace to me, that I was present at it, and I reckon from that time that our Savr. has given me something into my heart, which indeed I did not understand, but since that time was many thousand times uneasy on account of my behaviour, tho' I endeavoured to suppress it by all manner of means, in order to enjoy the world rightly. 1716 I came to Goldberg to learn the malting and brewing business. My master was a very pious and righteous man, who kept me very sharp, and left me no liberty to pursue hurtful things.

She Gears of my apprenticeship being ended, Itra took & for some years took a View of the Warld in various Countries & primipal Soions, but the Uneavinely of my Heart pursued me every where. me of lave to Bueslaw & vaged there some year, & wrought as Vourney man. I then same to Moly from Frank vien, where I continued will single for some year, & suame arguanted with some Swahened Reopte. I after want to the piour Minister Matter in Septemode, where I also met the first Ma me & in 1124 or 25 came our dr. Br. Thristian vold Demute to me in my Brewing House, I hope at the vame Time a Javern where it went every a very merry, I look them alone into a priva that they might not be in the Hurry or Roise. I vaid: This is a peculiar kind of a huestion my dk. Griends, who would not like to be saved? but in vuch a Way of Life & Tituation, as you see, that

The years of my apprenticeship being ended, I travelled and for some years took a view of the world in various countries and principal towns, but the uneasiness of my heart pursued me every where. I came at last to Breslau, and stayed there some years and wrought as journeyman. I then came to Stotz not far from Frankstein, where I continued still single for some years, and became acquainted with some awakened people. I often went to the pious Minister Haller in Sepliwade, where I also met the first Moravian Brethren. I begged if again once some Moravian Brn. came that way that they should visit me and in 1724 or 25 came our dr. Br. Christian David and old [Gotthard] Demuth to me in my brewing house. I kept at the same time a tavern where it went every day very merry. I took them alone into a private room, that they might not be in the hurry and noise. Christian David asked me: Whether I also would like to be saved? I said: This is a peculiar kind of a question dr. friends, who would not like to be saved? But in such a way of life and situation, as you see, that goes here, it is scarce possible to be saved, tho' one had ever so great a mind. Demuth asked:

I it every Day so with you? I answered yes, I am a plaqued Man! Then Phristian David vaid. My dear good friend, when once you are in Earnest about it to be vaved, God will find Nays & Means to deliver you from this Turnals, but at prevent you are not gled in Eurnand. I feld that he espoke the South, that it was not yet a true forcern to me to renounce the World, & belong to Thrist, they then proceeded jay fully on their Journey & I looked after them with Vears, I was a young Man who was much liked, loved what was good, but wished also not to spoil is with the World, ah! what a plaqued life The I then. The pious Regale withoken Them velves also from me, I trusted me no more. But ah! with what Ratione hav my dear Jass born with me? 1728 I was married with my dear Wife Suranna late from & I staged with her olil 1 year & 8 Months there. I then got a fall to go to Breelan & in 1:30 I moved thither with my Hife & one This, & buame Marker there I vacceded awarding to my Winker outwardly, but was at the vatine time continually uneary; & got ac quanted with the piace Deople, & we look much Pains in

Is it every day so with you? I answered yes, I am a plagued man! Then Christian David said: My dear good friend, when once you are in earnest about it to be saved, God will find ways and means to deliver you from this tumult, but at present you are not yet in earnest. I felt that he spoke the truth, that it was not yet a true concern to me to renounce the world, and belong to Christ.

They then proceeded joyfully in their journey and I looked after them with tears. I was a young man who was much liked, loved what was good, but wished also not to spoil it with the world. Oh! What a plagued life had I then. The pious people withdrew themselves also from me, and trusted me no more. But oh! With what patience has my dear Savr. born with me. 1728 I was married with my dear wife Susanna late Korn and I stayed with her still 1 year and 8 months there. I then got a call to go to Breslau and in 1730 I moved thither with my wife and one child, and became master there. I succeeded according to my wishes outwardly, but was at the same time continually uneasy; I got acquainted with the pious people, and we took much pains in

the Eacreise of godines in our own Strongth, & were very anxious & legal, but when we had carried it to the highest Witch God vent Bu Fellich to as from Hernhith, who ladged A Days with me, Iwas quite openhearted to wardy him, he told me, that we were sofon wrong Ways, Exoulared the Friend of Vinners to me, who justifieth the Ungady, this was a Gosful for me, & now I would draw Breath, but voon after me, because I shoke of free Grace, 1934 the Bon. Lawaloch & Henry Riloch man paid us a livet, who repeated it deligently, made also application for le Br. with lo vlay with un for vome Time, & we got Dr. Minster & his Wife who were will with me when the Sing of Brussia fook Breslaw, My Wife was prevent at the first Elders destival in Hermhuth, & staged there 18 Weeks on a Vivil, & went veveral Times as a quest to the A. fom " with the langun. I then went to fetch her, & found her m quite a diferent Silvation of Mart, this gaves

in the exercise of Godliness in our own strength, and were very conscious and legal, but when we had carried it to the highest pitch God sent Br. Zellich to us from Herrnhutt, who lodged 4 days with me, I was quite openhearted towards him, he told me, that we were upon wrong ways, and he declared the friend of sinners to me, who justifieth the ungodly, this was a gospel for me, and now I could draw breath, but soon after I got differences with the Pietists, who mistrusted me, because I spoke of free grace. 1737 the Brn. Lawatsch and Henry Nitschman paid us a visit, who preached to the gospel of Jesus death and suffering. Soon after I visited the first time in Herrnhutt, and repeated it deligently,

Soon after I visited the first time in Herrnhutt, and repeated it deligently, made also application for a Br. and Sr. to stay with us for some time, and we got Br. Münster and his wife who were still with me when the King of Prussia took Breslau. My wife was present at the first Elders Festival in Herrnhutt, and stayed there 18 weeks on a visit, and went several times as a guest to the H. Comn. with the Congrn. I then went to fetch her, and found her quite a different situation of heart, this gave me a very

deep Impression. Intended to move imediately to the Josephn. but the Bran. would not receive me, but vail, we should very in Brevlaw lill they drove us away . It also did not land long . Br. Teidlig came to Breslaw; Deviced from to keep us a Meeting in the Evening, to which he was directly willing & when it was known a great many Reople cume to if. On Teidliggaid: ( It will now not last long be fore they will east you out, & he was vewer gone then when I was oumaned before the Gergy & declared to be a Sidner. My Marton were ordered to for me away as food as they could, which they did not like they there fore endeavoured to persuade me to leave the Bin , for they wanted to heef me . Itald them , that I would not a bey them herein, I neither would now would have the Dim. Their I was honorably dismifred, where upon I obtained acave to mave to Herrn huth, where we arrived in June 142 we were voon received into the forgen & admitted to the A. fam " vince that Since I will always chave to our Jaor as a poor Sinner. I trought to live & to die there, & we thanked our dr. San. with many Sears, that he had brought us to his Deeple. The langer gave me the Slower & Bread have

deep impression. I intended to move immediately to the Congrn. But the Brn. would not receive me, but said, we should stay in Breslau till they drove us away. It also did not last long. Br. Seidliz came to Breslau; I desired him to keep us a meeting in the evening, to which he was directly willing and when it was known a great many people came to it. Br. Seidliz said: It will now not last long before they will cast you out, and he was scarce gone when I was sumoned before the clergy and declared to be a seducer. My masters were ordered to send me away as soon as they could, which they did not like they therefore endeavoured to persuade me to leave the Brn. for they wanted to keep me. I told them, that I could not obey them herein, I neither could nor would leave the Brn. Thus I was honorably dismissed, whereupon I obtained leave to move to Herrnhutt, where we arrived in June 1742. We were soon received into the Congrn. and admitted to the H. Comn. Since that time I would always cleave to our Savr. as a poor sinner. I thought to live and to die there, and we thanked our dr. Savr. with may tears, that he had brought us to his people. The Congrn. gave me the flower [flour] and bread trade

& we found a good Livelihood by it. June 10th 1748 we got a fall to go to america, this was an unex. with many other Brn. Noter. Our little flield of half ved vave & well in Beth lehem with 120 Bm. Kalne this long dewiney , but they burned out for my Good. How we were soon received arolytes, I became also Hall Servant which was particularly weight, & blefred to me. My Wife verved in the flildrene Olivaning, x of for some years in the Distillery, Br. Nyberg who was Minis for there, received us with much day; & prevented us will the vame Day to his People who all rejoined very much, that vome bady from the forgen would take force

and we found a good livelihood by it. June 10th 1743 we got a call to go to America, this was an unexpected proposal to me. We considered it together and having once for all given ourselves up to live for our Savr. and his matter in the world, we could not decline it, and Aug. 20th we set out from Herrnhutt with many other Brn. & Srs. Our little child of half a year old we took with us, and 2 children a little boy of 9 years and a girl of 6 years we left in Herrnhut in the Oeconomica. Dec. 8th 1743 we arrived save and well in Bethlehem with 120 Brn. and Srs. Here we were soon received [as] Acolyths. I became also hall servant which was particularly weighty and blessed to me. My wife served in the Children's Oeconomy, and I for some years in the distillery. 1747 we got a call to Lancaster to keep school there. Br. Nyberg who was minister there, received us with much joy; and presented us still the same day to his people who all rejoiced very much, that somebody from the Congrn. would take care of their children. They had already prepared a house

for it, & Apr. 1th AT we begun the School with bo Thildren, but in a whork Time their Ramber moreas Ryberg maved to Beth lehem, & Br. & Sh. abraham Remember same to us as Labourers, with whom we had a year in Love & Peace. 1749 we were called to Beth lehem for some sime, where my Wife should keep her lying m. On our sourney we found, that the Waters had riven very much, & the Middle freek was so high, that the Horses had to vwim, & in the Middle of the freek my Wife fell I we dragged her with great Danger of our Lives a warm Room she voon came to hervelf again, & mether who nor her (hild has received any Hurt byi). Within the Shace of a year we came again to Lancardo & then for some years to Warwick, & from thence to new Meeting House was built, which we moved into

for it, and Apr. 1st 47 we begun the school with 65 children, but in a short time their number increased to 80. 6 weeks after I grew very sick, and the Br. Gottshalk who kept the school several months, till I was recovered. The year following Br. Nyberg moved to Bethlehem, and Br. and Sr. Abraham Reinckes came to us as Labourers, with whom we lived a year in love and peace. 1749 we were called to Bethlehem for some time, where my wife should keep her lying in. On our journey we found, that the waters had risen very much, and the middle creek was so high, that the horses had to swim, and in the middle of the creek my wife fell from her horse. Br. Franz Thomas was with us, and we dragged her with great danger of our lives out of the water for dead, and having brought her into a warm room she soon came to herself again, and neither she nor her child received any hurt by it. Within the space of a year we came again to Lancaster, and then for some years to Warwick, and from thence to Christians Spring, afterward to Swabara where a new meeting house was built, which we moved into

& made Preparations for a Synadlo be held There. By the Ignod we were sent the Bo time to damaster, where we verved that langer with Br. Bader & Br. Noh. Verter, We have been in whon the whole 22 years & A Manth in Lancaster at different Times. 1738, Al a Synad in Libanon was ordained a Deceon of the Bons, Shurch 1778 Nov. It we had our Harriage Jubile here in our great Weak ness & in all kinds of Weather would ful Meelings, for the Benefit & Blefring at our Heard. It I Upon Convigration from 100 Pervans were nearly related to me, Vam assanished on auount of the Grace, that our Jaor hav chaven me out of it, & brought me to his longesquation, wherear I am one of the worst among, was also looked whon as such by them, & myself. Thousand thousand thunky to thee dearent Lord for ever be, for what those hard done on me poor Wretch, & dard vill daily. Thur fur our lake Brother ... In his married State in which he has lived almost 54

and made preparations for a Synod to be kept there. By the Synod we were sent the 3rd time to Lancaster, where we served that Congrn. With Br. Bader and Br. and Sr. Oerter. We have been upon the whole 22 years and 4 month in Lancaster at different times. 1758, at a Synod in Libanon I was ordained a Deacon of the Brns. Church. 1778 Nov. 9th we had our marriage jubilee here in Bethlehem. It was a great grace to me and my wife, that we could live here in the Congrn. House, where we amidst our great weakness, and in all kinds of weather could frequent the blessed meetings, for the benefit and blessing of our heart. Upon consideration from what a large family I am descended, when more than 100 persons were nearly related to me, I am astonished on account of the grace, that our Savr. has chosen me out of it, and brought me to his Congregation, whereas I am one of the worst among them was also looked upon as such by them, and myself. Thousand thousand thanks to thee dearest Lord forever be, for what thou hast done on me poor wretch, and dost still daily.

Thus far our later Brother.

In his married state in which he has lived almost

54 years, in which he had & Ridren of which & departed this life when in their Infancy three Sons have welled themselves partly in germany, a partly terein this fountry, but are in no Convicion with the forgra. one Daughter Mar. Rovina has been married with Br. Labler back in Riadord, & the other armedoham is in the Thoir House here! Wherever our lake Breaken has been in our Jown & foundry fongens, parlie larly in Lan carlor where he has verved the longest. his Memory is in Blepsing, among us he has approve ed himself as a Brother who classed with all his Mart to our Save. & to the Congra. & had his Pleasure & Delight in it. He there fore attended the Meetings of the langun uninterruptedly as long as ever he lould. In his Converse with others he was wordial & loving, & when he had milved it somewhere, he voon repented & begged for Pardon Till in his advanced age he enjoyed an uncomon good State of Health except his hearing which was much im paired in his latter years, & which caused no small Uneasine folo himson dedering his great Inclination to attend the Meedings. Only a few Weeks before his Departure he had to take to his Ded, he complained about nothing but Araid nefs in his Breast, which also increased

57 years, in which he had 8 children of which 3 departed this life in their infancy, three sons have settled themselves partly in Germany, and partly here in this country, but are in no conexion with the Congrn. One daughter Mar. Rosina has been married with Br. Lauderback in Risedorf, and the other Anne Johanna is in the Choir House here. Wherever our late brother has been in our town and country congns, particularly in Lancaster where he has served the longest, his memory is in blessing. Among us he has approved himself as a brother who cleaved with all his pleasure and delight in it. He therefore attended the meetings of the Congrn. Uninterruptedly as long as ever he could. In his converse with others he was cordial and loving, and when he had missed it somewhere, he soon repented and begged for pardon. Till in his advanced age he enjoyed an uncommon good state of health except his hearing which was much impaired in his latter years, and which caused no small uneasiness to him considering his great inclination to attend the meetings. Only a few weeks before his departure he had to take to his bed, he complained about nothing but straitness in his breast, which also increased

more & more. He bore there Difficulties with Patience, & praired God till to his End for all the Benefits He has whened to him. At last he deviced much to depart & to be with friend, received also thorough to the Welfing of the fangung whom his Device. He him welf joined also in the Tinging very plainly. The he often lestified contrary to Expertation of other Bim. I who that he should not get go home, he said however the Day before his Departure: Naw let us praire the Day before his Departure: Naw let us praire have were till the next Day on Michaelman about the o' flock in the Afternoon when he ceased to breathe quite unobservedy. Aged 80 years & about & Months.

more and more. He bore these difficulties with patience, and praised God till to his end for all the benefits he has shewed to him. At last he desired much to depart and to be with Christ, received also the blessing of the Congrn. Hereto upon his desire. He himself joined also in the singing very plainly. Tho' he often testified contrary to expectation of other Brn. and Srs. that he should not yet go home, he said however the day before his departure: Now let us praise the Lord! This day I shall go home. But it lasted however till the next day on Michaelmas about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when he ceased to breathe quite unobservedly. Aged 85 years and about 7 months.