

Brian Wren - Biographical Information

Born - 3 June 1936, Romford, Essex, England.

Education

Royal Liberty Grammar School, Romford, Essex, England	1947-55
Military Service, British Army	1955-57
New College, Oxford	1957-60
Mansfield College, Oxford	1960-65
State Scholarship (Government Scholarship for Undergraduate Work)	
State Studentship (Government Scholarship for Doctoral Research)	
Final Honours (BA) Oxon Modern Languages Class II	1960
Final Honours (BA) Oxon Theology Class II	1962
Doctor of Philosophy (D.Phil = Ph.D) Oxon	1968
Master of Arts (MA: Academic Status - not an earned degree)	1968

Employment

1965-70	Minister, Hockley & Hawkwell Congregational Church, Essex, England. Ordained 1965. In 1972 the Congregational Church united with Presbyterian and Disciples' traditions to form the United Reformed Church.
1970-75	Consultant for Adult Education, Churches' Committee on World Development – A Joint Committee of the British Council of Churches and Roman Catholic Church promoting education and reflection on international peace and justice.
1976-83	Coordinator, Third World First – A Not-for-Profit campaign on world poverty and development issues with UK college students. Now known as <i>People and Planet</i> . From 1977-82 I was a member of the Executive Board of the UK Aid Charity, War on Want, and Chair of the Board from 1980-82.
1983-2000	Freelance Ministry, focusing on worship enrichment and congregational song.
2000-2007.	Conant Professor of Worship, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, USA.
2007 -	Retired

Visiting Professor and Lecturer

Lectureships, courses and workshops including (in North America):

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, IN	McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago
Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, MA	Memphis Theological Seminary
Austin Presbyterian Seminary, Austin, TX	New Orleans Baptist Seminary
Bangor Theological Seminary, ME	Pacific Lutheran School of Theology, CA
Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond VA	Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA
Bethany Theological Seminary, IN	Princeton Theological Seminary
Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX	Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, PA
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI	St. John's University, Collegeville, MN
Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA	Saint Paul School of Theology, KS
Christian Theological Seminary, IN	San Francisco Theological Seminary
Chicago Theological Seminary	Southern Baptist T.S., Louisville, KY
College of Preachers, Washington DC	Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH
Drew University School of Theology, NJ	Union Theological Seminary, NY
Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO	Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA
Episcopal Seminary of the S.W., Austin, TX	United T.S. of the Twin Cities, MN
Garrett-Evangelical T.S., Evanston, IL	University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO	Vancouver School of Theology, BC, Canada
Lancaster Theological Seminary, PA	Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC
Lexington Theological Seminary, KY	Westminster Choir College, Princeton NJ
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN	Yale Divinity School

Workshops, Preaching, Worship Design, & Lecturing

Working with congregations and regional church bodies including American Baptist, Christian Church (Disciples), Christian Reformed Church, Church of the Brethren, Episcopalian, Free Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Mennonite, Presbyterian Church (USA), Presbyterian Church in Canada, Reformed Church in America, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Southern Baptist, United Church of Canada, United Church of Christ and United Methodist. Visits also to Australia, Japan, and New Zealand.

Personal

I was baptized on confession of faith at Upminster Congregational Church Essex, England, in June 1955, and ordained in 1965. I have two children from my first marriage, Hilary and Nicholas Wren who live and work respectively in London (England) and Tokyo (Japan). My stepson, Nathan Heafield, lives and works in N.E. Pennsylvania.

My first marriage ended in 1989. On August 31st 1991 I united in marriage with Susan Heafield (“Hayfield”), an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. Susan comes from Eastern Montana, and has professional training in music education and theology, including a B.A. from Rocky Mountain College, an M.Div from Drew University N.J. and a D.Min from Columbia Theological Seminary. She has taught public school music as well as voice, keyboard, and guitar privately. As partners-in-marriage, we keep our given names, write songs together, and co-lead events when our other commitments permit.

In retirement, I continue to write, and support Susan in her ministry.

Publications: Books

- **Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship** (Contributor), Edited by Caryl Micklem (London: SCM Press and Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), 1967
- **Education for Justice** (London: SCM Press and New York: Orbis) 1977
- **What Language Shall I Borrow? - God-Talk in Worship: A Male Response to Feminist Theology** (New York: Crossroad, and London: SCM Press) 1989.
- **Piece Together Praise - A Theological Journey: Poems & Collected Hymns Thematically Arranged** (1996: Stainer & Bell, London-UK, & Hope Publishing Co., Illinois-USA). Words only, with complete indexes.
- **Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song** (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000).
- **Advent, Christmas and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship**, (Westminster John Knox Press) 2008.
- **Hymns for Today** (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).
- **Love’s Open Door: Hymns and Songs 2004-2008** (Hope Publishing Company USA) and Stainer & Bell (London UK) 2009.

Worship Songs for Congregations (with Susan Heafield, composer):

- **We Can Be Messengers – Worship Songs: Christmas, Before, and After (2001)**
- **Tell the Good News! – Worship Songs: Easter, Before, and After (2002)**

Each collection is published in both book and CD format. Praise Partners Publications. Sole distributor: Hope Publishing Company (address below).

Hymn Collections from Hope Publishing Company (Words and Music)

- **Faith Looking Forward** - 1983
- **Praising a Mystery** - 30 New Hymns (1986)
- **Bring Many Names** - 35 New Hymns and 3 Doxologies (1989)
- **New Beginnings** - 30 New Hymns for the 90s (1993).

- **Faith Renewed** (rewrites from 1983 collection, Faith Looking Forward)
- **Visions and Revisions** - 33 New Hymns and Seven Reissues (1997)
- **Christ Our Hope** – 32 New Hymns and Six Reissues (2004)
- **Love’s Open Door: Hymns and Songs 2004-2008** (Hope Publishing Company USA) and Stainer & Bell (London UK) 2009.

Entries in Selected Denominational Hymnals

United Kingdom

Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard (Anglican, 1982)	8
Hymns and Psalms (Methodist, 1983)	10
Rejoice and Sing (United Reformed Ch., 1991)	13
Baptist Praise and Worship (1991)	6

United States and Canada

The Baptist Hymnal (Southern Baptist, 1991)	5
Hymnal 1982 (Episcopalian, 1985)	6
Hymnal - A Worship Book (Mennonite & Brethren, 1992)	15
With One Voice (Lutheran, 1995)	5
Presbyterian Church Hymnal (1990)	11
Psalter Hymnal (Christian Reformed, 1987)	4

Seventh Day Adventist Hymnal (1986)	10
United Methodist Hymnal (1989)	14
Worship III (GIA, Roman Catholic, 1986)	9
New Century Hymnal (United Church of Christ, 1995)	15
Chalice Hymnal (Disciples of Christ, 1995)	21
Voices United (United Church of Canada, 1996)	18
Book of Praise (Presb. Ch. in Canada, 1996)	22

Japan/Australia/Rest of World

Hymnal 21 (United Ch. of Christ in Japan, 1997)	6
Together in Song – Australian Hymn Book II, 1999	24

Publishers of Hymns/Hymn Copyrights:

Hope Publishing Company
 Carol Stream IL 60188 USA
 (630-665-3200 / 1-800-323-1049
 Fax: 630-665-2552
<http://www.hopepublishing.com>

UK and Rest of World

Stainer & Bell
 PO Box 110, Finchley,
 London N3 1DZ, UK
 +44-(0)-181-343-3303
<http://www.stainer.co.uk/>

Contact Information

Revd Dr. Brian A. Wren
 (Please call me Brian)
 121 Cove Road
 Greentown PA 18426 - USA
 Phone +1 570-857-1649
 Email: wrenba@ptd.net