Almost all of these books were given to the NAB Heritage Center by former Cameroon missionaries. These are the materials they read in preparation for Cameroon service or acquired while they were in Cameroon to learn more about their adopted country. Some were written by missionaries after their time in Cameroon, others by Cameroonians or others familiar with Cameroon or similar African countries. The annotations touch on how these materials were helpful to missionaries and some of the specific connections to North American Baptist missionaries.

The order is alphabetical by last name of author (or editor if no author given, or publisher in neither given). Almost all materials are in English with a few in German, French, or Cameroonian Douala or pidgin English.


Amin, Julius. 1992. The Peace Corps in Cameroon. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press. I–VIII, 1–240 pages. The early history of Peace Corps involvement in Cameroon by a Cameroonian who benefited from the program in the 1960s and later came to the USA to study. NAB missionary Paul Gebauer and Camerounian Baptist Flavious Martin are cited as teachers in the first training session in the USA for Americans going to Cameroon under the Peace Corps program. Some Peace Corps personnel taught in the secondary schools of the NAB mission. The acceptance of the Peace Corps by the public probably was a factor in the North American Baptists, as well as other missions, to developing their own short-term programs in Cameroon and later other countries.


Bederman, S.H. 1966. “Plantation Agriculture in Victoria Division, West Cameroon: An Historical Introduction”. Bristol, UK: John Wright & Sons LTD. 12 pages. Coastal plantation workers from the grasslands who became Christians on the coast and then later returned to the grasslands organized the first Baptist churches in the grasslands.


Bender, C. J. n.d. [1924]. Tales from the Jungle. Girard, Kansas: Haldeman-Julius Company. 64 pages. This and the following 2 publications were booklets that NAB missionary Bender wrote back in the USA during the time no Baptist missionaries were allowed to return to Cameroon by the British and French Governments that had taken over Cameroon from Germany after World War I.


Bible Portions used in Cameroon. Six New Testaments & Scripture portions in an open-ended file box.


Good News, St. John (As John been see’am). 1996. (St. John in West African Pidgin English). Omaha, Nebraska: Privately published. 60 pages.

Bongmba, Elias Kifon. 2001. African Witchcraft and Otherness: A Philosophical and Theological Critique of Intersubjective Relations. Albany, NY: State Univ. of New York Press. iii–xxvii, 1–224 pages. This and the following 2 book are by a Baptist Cameroonian educated in Cameroon and the USA who was pastor of a Baptist church in Youndé, the capital city of Cameroon, and then returned to the USA to teach at Rice University in the Religion Department.


Buchet, Jean-Louis, et al, eds. 1988. Jeune Afrique economie: CAMEROUN 88 [in French]. Paris: 640 pages. An English translation by Bart Voskuil of the article starting on page 382 about the Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Solomon Nf Gwei, has been added and inserted in this archived copy. Quote: “Don’t be surprised to find a Bible on coffee table in the waiting room of the State Secretary for Agriculture.” Cameroonian Gwei attended Baptist schools and was pastor of a Baptist church before earning advanced degrees in Europe and the USA. He returned to Cameroon as a high-level participate in the building of that young nation where he was a member of the Cameroon Baptist Convention church in Youndé, the capital of Cameroon.


Cragg, Kenneth. 1959. Sandals at the Mosque: Christian Presence amid ISLAM. New York: Oxford University Press. 160 pages. An introduction to Islam by one who “out of a lifetime’s travel and study in the Islamic world…seeks to show…the depths of Muslim religious thought and experience, and how in that setting to preach the Gospel…” Helpful in gaining perspective about Cameroon since almost 30% of the population is Muslim.


Debel, Anne. 1977. Cameroon Today. Paris: Editions j.a. 256 pages. Designed as an introduction to Cameroon for those who may want to travel as tourists to Cameroon with excellent color pictures and maps with information about interesting places to visit.


Dennis, Alain. 1984. Au-dela du regard: le Cameroun (French); Beyond sight: Cameroon (English). Pages not numbered. Excellent color photographs about Cameroon with both French and English captions.

Dickson, Mora. 1960. New Nigerians. London: Dennis Dobson, 256 pages. Cameroon was governed as part of Nigeria by the British prior to 1961 so this account of Cameroonians and Nigerians learning about community development practices at the Man O’War training school in Cameroon were all considered “Nigerians” by this British author who served at the school.


Yaounde: Centre d’Edition et de Production de Manuels et d’Auxiliaires de l’Enseignement. 314 pages. A scholarly work explaining the constitution that went into effect in 1961 in the newly combined East (French) and West (British) Cameroons as they became self governed. Includes a short history of Cameroon under the Germans, French and British.

Epale, Simon J. 1990. “In Their Master’s Vineyard: The Story of Religious Missions in Cameroon”. Limbé: Non-Published Manuscript. Approx. 619 pages. 8½ x 11” double spaced. Probably the most comprehensive history of Christian missions in Cameroon written by a Cameroonian. Epale’s primary schooling was at the North American Baptist Soppo Mission Station in the early 1930s when NAB Missionary Carl Bender was the missionary in charge. Epale did further studies in Nigeria and England earning a doctorate at Oxford. He assisted North American Baptist missionaries in starting the Teacher Training College at Soppo in 1950. He died before the final editing was completed on this manuscript.


Farwell, Byron. 1986. The Great War in Africa, 1914–1918. New York: W.W. Norton, 382 pages. Chapters 2–4 (42 pages) are about World War I battles fought in Cameroon, some in the coastal area near the North American Baptist Soppo mission station. Farwell tells of a (non-Baptist) mission employee who was apprehended swimming toward an Allied war ship with sticks of dynamite. This may help to explain why the military ordered all missionaries (at that time all were connected to a German mission society) out of Cameroon. Missionaries from North American Baptist churches at that time served in Cameroon under the auspices of the Baptist Missionary Society of Germany so they were lumped together with the German missionaries even though they were American citizens. North American Baptist Carl Bender refused to leave on the basis of his American citizenship and continued to expand the Baptist mission work in Cameroon throughout the 1914-1918 World War I.


Frantz, Charles. 1979. “Fulbe Continuity and Change Under Five Flags Atop West Africa: Territoriality, Ethnicity, Stratification, and National Integration”. Buffalo, NY: State University of NY. 45 pages. This and the following article are scholarly studies of Cameroonian sub-cultures among which NAB missionaries worked.


TO BE CONTINUED