



Heritage Horizons

a publication of

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST HERITAGE COMMISSION

An Auxiliary
of the North
American Baptist
Conference

...a memorial book was written in His presence, recording those who revered Him and those who had the highest respect for His name...

Malachi 3:16

Vol.1, No 2: May 1993 Editor: B.V.Westerman - Co-Editors: E. DeNeui; G.W. Lang



HORIZON WORDS:

At the entrance to our Historical Collection-Archives office a poster greets the eyes. It reads:

"We are the Saints of the Next Generation", underlined as it were, by a mundane affirmation from Wm Safire's "The First Dissident". It conveys the idea that mind-freezing answers will be given to mysteries now "unknowable".

The goose quill of our spiritual ancestors gave way to the steel penpoint which gave way to the typewriter and presently, to global computer systems. Technological answers to mysteries then unknown, but now known.

Thirty years ago I began setting aside historical-archival "collectibles". Twelve years ago they became the embryonic "Rare Books - Archives - Museum" sector. Three years ago we were officially recognized as the "Heritage Commission". Several years prior to that I began encouraging the Cameroon Baptist Convention to start its own archives - an effort that should include all of the N.A.B. mission fields. Global partners in Gospel Proclamation of the Salvation of Souls and Spiritual Growth.

We are the Saints of the Next Generation because we speak in the ACTIVE VOICE. We do have Mind-Freeing answers to the knowable mysteries because we belong to the decay-and-death conquering Christ who



victoriously marches on through history. Even today you and I reach beyond time and space into eternity.
George A. Dunger

GOD OF THE AGES

Editorial Note: We felt deeply impressed with this hymn, genuinely appropriate for a leading motive of our Heritage Commission - shared herewith:

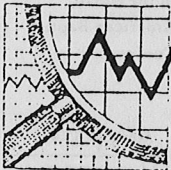
God of the ages,
History's Maker,
Planning our pathway,
Holding us fast,
Shaping in Mercy
All that concerns us:
Father, we praise You,
Lord of the past.

God of this morning,
Gladly Your children
Worship before You,
Trustingly bow:
Teach us to know You
Always among us,
Quietly sov'reign--
Lord of our now.

God of Tomorrow,
Strong Overcomer,
Princes of darkness
Own Your command:
What then can harm us?
We are your people,
Now and forever
Kept by your hand.

Lord of past ages,
Lord of this morning,
Lord of the future
Help us; we pray:
Teach us to trust You,
Love and obey You,
Crown You each moment,
Lord of today.

Words: Margaret Clarkson
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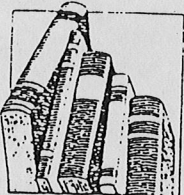
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

Graphics help at times even with a magnifier. Our membership graph would be very simple. So far, of course, no "downs"! Here-with a summary: Life Time 6; Sponsors 5; regular 10; Senior 9; Student 1; Group 1. Thinking of quality of participation we are doing fine! Do you members know of any potentials we may be able to cultivate? Let us know!



FINANCIAL FACTS: We deeply appreciate the subsidy we receive from our NAB Conference. We

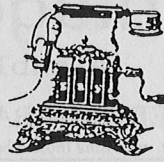
could not continue without it. Our current totals are: Beginning balance July '92, \$5,058.32; total income through April '93, \$10,044.66; expenses \$7,544.42; balance April '93, \$7,558.46. Our fiscal year runs from July to June. As to our balance take a look at our Future Footsteps.



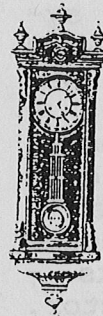
FUTURE FOOTSTEPS: The immediate stride includes updating our equipment. A suitable computer is ur-

gently needed to speed up handling stored materials plus constantly arriving items; also making extensive microfilm holdings useful for researchers by purchasing a microfilm reader. Anticipated footsteps with potential marketing is the republication of C.J. Bender's Blue Books of West African folklore, religious beliefs and practices and other publications.

Acknowledgement: The framed logo are credited to the Scientific American.



MUSEUM MEMORIES: The hectic array of treasured pieces finally found appropriate spots for intelligible viewing in the Museum Room, thanks to the care of Berneice Westerman, our Heritage Commission Assistant. There are large photographs of Triennial Conferences, objects from our far-flung mission fields, and teaching apparatus, some of it from the "Good Old Academy" days. How about a look at the sartorial elegance of our N.A.B. pastor of 1908 or the gilded shovel used at the Ground Breaking for the Seminary Chapel just the other day? Lately 25 members of the South Dakota Men's Brotherhood and numerous visitors at the Seminary Commencement signed the Museum Guest Book.



DID YOU KNOW? Fleischmann Memorial Church, Philadelphia, PA looks back on 150 years of faithful service. Likewise, seven churches celebrate their centennials: Bible Baptist

La Crosse, WI; First Baptist, Chancellor, SD; First Baptist, LaSalle, CO; First Baptist, Winburne, PA; Grace Baptist, Detroit, MI; Immanuel Baptist, Loyal, OK; Memorial Baptist, Parkston, SD. That makes 850 years. WOW! Only the BOOK OF LIFE will reveal the showers of blessings which descended on needy hearts.

NOTE: This issue goes to a number of persons and churches to acquaint them with our work.

If you are a non-member consider joining us for a mutually enjoyable and beneficial fellowship. BECOME A HERITAGE PRACTITIONER!



evangelicalism and spiritual vitality which carry forward to the coming generations the heritage of our conference forefathers. This can be realized by cultivating and nourishing the sense of historical continuity in faith and participation.

How can it be done? Become a member of our North American Heritage Commission at a level suitable for you; collecting and organizing your church records, caring for them and, if possible, locate and keep safely materials found in basement or attic, at some appropriate time to be available to our archives. If some records are written in German, difficult to read and translate let us know, we may be of some help. We invite you to visit the Archives, take a good look at the Rare Book Collection and enjoy the interesting Museum displays. reflected in our occasional publication "Heritage Horizons"



DO YOU KNOW?

...on April 10th 1843 nineteen baptized ethnic Germans made up their church in Philadelphia, PA, later to be known the "Fleischmann Memorial Church", when for the years that had been and were to come, the words of our Savior continued to ring true: "Until heaven and earth may pass away not the smallest letter, not the least pen mark will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished" (Matt. 5:18).

Yes, I am interested in the ministries of:
THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST
HERITAGE COMMISSION

Please enroll me as a
Heritage member.

Enclosed is my check for:

- \$10 Student Membership
- \$15 Senior Membership
- \$25 Regular Membership
- \$50 Group Membership
- \$150 Sponsorship
- \$250 Patronship
- \$500 Lifetime Membership

I cannot become a member at this time but here is a gift of _____.

Please send me information how I can contribute items to:

- Rare Book Collection
- Books written by North American Baptists
- Museum Artifacts

— I would like information about collecting and preserving church records.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Make check payable to North American Baptist Heritage Commission and mail your response and check to:

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST HERITAGE
COMMISSION
1605 S. Euclid Ave.,
Sioux Falls, SD 57105



There
was something
before...

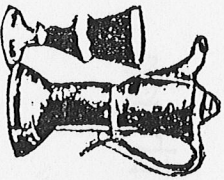
There
is something
now...

There
is something
coming!

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST
HERITAGE COMMISSION

time is fleeting. The Apostle Paul wrote "...buy out the time..." (1st. trans. Eph. 4:16). Somebody said, "yesterday is a canceled check". There was something BEFORE. Our Heritage Commission records are a kind of canceled checks, telling of people, churches and conference events. Transaction achieved. "Mission Accomplished."

There is something NOW. This moment. This hour. This day. People, churches, events. Somebody said, "Today is a check in my hands". How am I going to use it? In it lies the power of the past and its potential for the present to act. It gives us the feeling of competence. A good feeling.



There is something to COME. Somebody said, "Tomorrow is a promissory note". Really, our cup of joy is running over because God's promises never fail: The Joy of Salvation. The Joy of the Walk with Christ. The Joy of Eternal Hope. The Joy of Being His Own! Personally. Corporately. Past. Present. Future. Cash in your promissory note. Join us for the Greater Tomorrow. It is God's earnest for a glorious future. Come and see! Our N.A.B. Heritage Commission has abundant records of that which was BEFORE, gathers data of that which is NOW and

creatively anticipates that which is to COME.

HOW IT BEGAN AND WHO WE ARE

It begins in a limited way in the mid-1950's. The then Librarian George A. Dunger, encouraged by Library Administrator George W. Lang in the early 1980's. Historical, archival and museum items were separated and set aside for organization. This became the informed depository for Seminary and Conference historical documents, rare books and artifacts.

A great step forward was realized when this informal undertaking was given official recognition by the Triennial Conference at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It became an auxiliary organization under the name, "North American Baptist Heritage Commission". Its leadership is being chosen by election and appointment from Conference men and women who in more than one way are the "Keepers of the Keys" of the past for the present and the future.

WHAT ARE WE DOING

Essential activities are accepting, collecting and processing for appropriate use historically important document and objects of local churches, Triennial Conference Reports, departmental records of the Conference, N.A.B. publications ("Der Sendbote" beginning with 1853, the "Baptist Herald" beginning 1923), an immense trove of pictures, records of Conference institutions, biographical files of Conference personages, and not



last or least, statistics, together with publications by N.A.B. authors and theses and dissertations by students and researchers alike.

We are organizing many single volumes and sets of rare books for the historical book collection, some of them of great antiquarian value. We work on the display of artifacts from N.A.B. institutions in the Museum and study areas still in its infant stage of development, library exhibits for public viewers generally and "N.A.B.ers" particularly, carvings, castings and utensils from the mission fields, teaching apparatus from by-gone Seminary days. And how about taking a look at the pastoral Grossrock and dapper Cutaway of past pulpit elegance?

We assist researchers who request information about their churches, former members and pastors, often for anniversary purposes or genealogical reasons. Related to these activities are preservation, security and management of these various holdings,

OUR ANTICIPATION - YOUR PARTICIPATION

In a time of widespread uprooting and change we aim at a N.A.B. identity marked, as heretofore, by sound