



HERITAGE HORIZONS

a publication of
NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST HERITAGE COMMISSION
...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

An Auxiliary
of the North
American Baptist
Conference

1525 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1599

Vol. 4, No. 1: May, 1996 Editor: B.V. Westerman Assistant Editors: G.W. Lang, L. Westerman

Viewing the Horizons:

We are told that nostalgia is a bittersweet longing for persons, things, or situations of the past or homesickness.

Heritage does not really fit that definition for me. There are some bitter things and some sweet things in my past but homesickness is not one of those. The past is much more than memories put into those categories. It is a foundation upon which my life and all the decisions I made and will make are based.

There are a number of "what ifs" to be considered in regard to people and events.

What if my Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Hoekman (the mother-in-law of Dr. Richard Schilke) had not prepared the soil of my heart to accept Christ later?

What if that young man had not given Konrad Flieschman a tract during his travels in Europe? Who would God have used to begin the work among the German Immigrants in the USA?

What if that person who spoke to you about Christ giving His life for you had not done it? Where and what would you be doing today?

Such ideas cause me to think of God's way of working in our lives. It was a Christian doctor who refused to give up his principles of witnessing and was used by God to lead Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn to Christ. We do not hear about that doctor, except that he died for sharing Christ; but we can read much that was written by Solzhenitsyn.

God used an open-air baptismal service being conducted by a Negro Baptist congregation to convince our pioneer leader, Christopher Schoemaker, that baptism by immersion was the scriptural way to obey.

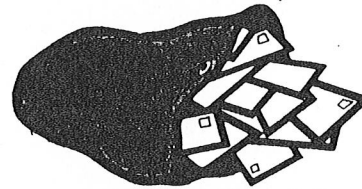
Discipling and discipleship is a continuing event of life. Who knows when a piece of paper, a Sunday School Teacher, a baptismal scene, being a medical doctor willing to live and witness for Christ even though it means death or a comment you make can point someone to Christ. That person in turn could be the one who will help another find a worthwhile life in Christ Jesus.

Perhaps it is the person who is seeking an office in your city's council or state government.

--B. Westerman

Welcome to Our New Members:

Dieter Wienss Pewaukee, IL
Verna Michelson Denver, CO
Steven Miller, NABS Sioux Falls, SD
Dr. John Thielenhaus, Bismarck, ND
Elmer & Ella Wahl, Bismarck, ND



Letters From Our Members:

"We received the Heritage Horizons today and enjoyed reading it. We are thankful that you are working in the archives. History is addictive - you never get enough! We wish we could be nearer to be able to help you."

---Gideon & Eleanor Zimmerman

"Thank you for the Heritage Pin and the list of books. Could you find the obituaries of some of my family for me?" (We found 6 out of 8 that were requested.) --- Verna Michelson

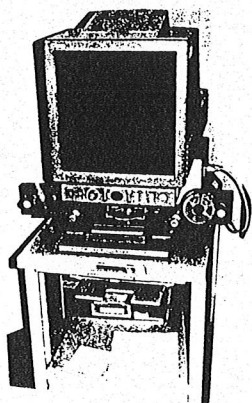
Research Requests:

John Siewert from World Vision made a request for information about Dean Hirsch's grandfather. Rev. Henry Hirsch, was a pastor in the NAB Conference. Dean Hirsch was installed as President of World Vision International on March 22, 1996.

We have a request from a former Peace Corps Volunteer for information about Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. He hopes to come to Sioux Falls to do research here sometime in May 1996.

Our Durham Kansas church requested pictures of some of its former pastors.

Requests for the obituaries of John Koschel and Stephen Holzer were found using our new Microfilm/fiche reader/printer.



We used an estate gift for its purchase.
We thank God and the donor of the gift.

PROFILE: Christopher Schoemaker



"Our dear old Brother Schoemaker" was a disciple who did not compromise in the convictions he had in living the Christian life. For him Salvation had its joys and responsibilities. He was a Separatist Christian at the age of 25. To join that group there had to be evidence of having experienced a change of heart.

After seeing a Negro congregation baptizing new members, C. Schoemaker and his group went home to search the Scriptures and became convinced that they had seen the Biblical way of baptizing by immersion.

He was of Dutch descent but learned the German Language and became so fluent in it that he was able to preach to the German members of his congregation and continued with them after the Dutch members gradually moved away from the city of St. Louis, MO.

Pastor Schoemaker served as a pastor for 51 years, from 1850 to 1901 and retired at the age of 83. He served the following churches: First Church of Buffalo, NY; Concordia, MO; and Muscatine, IA.

DIGGING FOR INFORMATION:

The researchers who have asked us to help them:

Durham Kansas: Church History

Lloyd Harsch: German Baptist History
in Texas

David Priestly: investigating NAB early
work in Ontario.

B. Westerman: exploring NAB beginnings
in South & North Dakota

A Former Peace Corps Worker: seeking
more information of the beginning of
Mbingo Baptist Hospital

For Your Information:

The address for The American Historical Society of the Germans from Russia, is 631 D Street, Lincoln, NB. 68502 This may be a source to get some of the information that you might want.

Our Membership Fees:

Our fees have been changed. Now they are:

\$15 Student or Senior Membership

\$25 Regular Membership

\$250 Patron Membership

\$500 Lifetime Membership

The first two are per year while the last two are one time payments.

Our New Brochure

A copy of our new brochure is enclosed with this copy of the Heritage Horizons. If you have friends that are looking for this kind of information please send their addresses or ask for as many copies as you can use.

Our Volunteers at Work:



Left To Right: Louise Westerman, Marjorie Buseman and Ann Johnson

Can you help us?

Do you have a photograph of the class of 1917 of the Seminary? The picture was printed in Der Sendbote so we know one existed. The names on that picture can not be read.

A statement was made in print that the first German Church in South Dakota was in the Scotland area in 1875. Do you know if perchance the Elm Creek Church was this church? Our records show the Elm Creek Church was organized in May 1889. If you have any information about the Scotland Church please share it with us.

The first German Baptists seem to have come from Aplington, Iowa. Where did the ones come from to North Dakota? Was the search for better farm land the reason for them to settle in the Dakotas?

Send your answers to:

Editor of Heritage Horizons

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

1525 South Grange Avenue

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

THE CURRENT PUBLICATIONS OF OUR NORTH AMERICAN
BAPTIST CONFERENCE



This bi-monthly publication took the place of the former Baptist Herald:

FOR THE HEART OF A
WOMAN

Fall 1995

Our Woman's Missionary Fellowship newsletter:

July/June 1976
A WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE FOR
NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
AND MINISTRIES

Opening
DOORS
through
Prayer

The replacement for Moments with God: