

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

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PLEASE NOTE: Members are asked to check the date on their address label to learn when your yearly membership fees are due. The first number is the month and the second number is the year. Example: 11/97 means in November 1997 your fees are due.

OUR TREASURED HERITAGE

by Dr. Gideon Zimmerman, NABC
Executive Secretary, 1968-1979.



Every North American Baptist has the privilege to know "from whence we came." The volume, HERITAGE AND MINISTRY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE was written by Dr. Frank H. Woyke, who served as Executive Secretary from 1946-1968. He had also been a professor at our NAB Seminary.

Writing the book was a seven year project. Mrs. Beatrice Woyke, who was fluent in the German language, gave immeasurable help through reading many volumes of German publications and making suggestions regarding certain events that were especially historic.

In his preface Dr. Woyke states: "I tried to tell the story of the Conference as it really happened. I avoided the temptation to picture all of our forefathers as spiritual giants whose achievements consisted only of one glorious victory after another. To be sure there were giants in those days, and there were important victories; but there were also problems, struggles, controversies, failures - - and even a few scandals."

The handwritten manuscript was typed by Mrs. Eleanor Zimmerman; the editing was done by Dr. Bruno Schrieber, under the direction of Dr. Reinhold Kerstan, chairman of the project. All persons involved donated their services as a "labor of love". Mr. and Mrs. Ed Russell, Sr. of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan provided a major gift toward expenses. When the book was published in 1979, a copy was sent to each NAB church. A limited number of copies are still available from the NAB Conference office.

The Conference dates its beginning to 1843 when Fleischmann Baptist Church of Philadelphia, PA. was founded.



Tunker Church, Blooming Grove, Pa.
Built in 1828

Our NABC birthplace! Lycoming Co. PA

Several waves of immigrants arrived in the late 1800's from eastern Europe and the

Ukraine. Again in the early 1900's many came from Europe who were fleeing persecution and political unrest. They depended upon God to help them start life anew in a strange land. They established their homes and churches. Numerical growth at times was curtailed because their ministry was confined to the German language. Today there are only a few NAB churches having German Services.

The Conference has expanded its ministry to Spanish-American; Chinese; Romanian; and Korean. Thus a new day of cross-cultural ministry has expanded in this country. Our overseas mission continues to include Cameroon, Africa; Japan; South America and Philippines. A new day of mission expansion has become a reality in both North America as well as other foreign countries. The NAB Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D.; the NAB College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary both in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada have likewise experienced much growth in recent years.

In earlier years women were unable to be active in full participation in NAB Conference Boards and Committees. We note that since 1946 their involvement has been greatly accelerated. Women are presently representatives on board, the General Council and committees. They have had a major role in raising funds; provided literally tons of White Cross supplies to mission hospitals, and have shared leadership in local churches, associations and the Conference. Through continued united efforts the NAB Conference has numerous opportunities to enlarge present ministries for Christ.

The vital role of the NAB Historical Commission with offices on the campus of the NAB Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D.

continues to preserve valuable historical materials which describe the on going ministry of North American Baptists. The Commission deserves our continued generous support financially; in sending to them old pictures and artifacts and in prayer.

Note: Gideon and his wife Eleanor who are members of our Heritage Commission no reside in Louisville, Kentucky.

Triennial Conference Pictures We Need:

11. Dayton, OH	1895	Sept. 24-30
12. St. Louis, MO,	1898	Sept. 21-27
13. Berlin/Kitchner On	1901	Sept. 21-Oct. 1
14. Chicago, IL	1904	Sept. 21-27
23. Detroit, MI	1931	Aug. 24-31
26. Burlington, IA	1940	Aug. 19-25
27. Milwaukee, WI	1944	May 11-14
29. Sioux Falls, SD	1949	Aug. 22-28
30. Philadelphia, PA	1952	Aug. 20-26

The list will be continued since we only have the pictures of the 1958, 1961, and 1964 (32, 33, 34) conferences in our files.

REACHING OUT IN RESEARCH

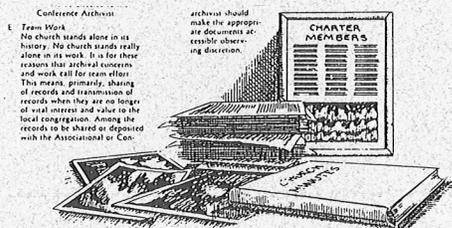
AUSTRALIA request came to us from Australia about information about three of our Conference men who went there in the early 1900's: Franz Orthner, Samuel Blum, O.E.Krueger, and J Heinrich.

BULGARIA: See Dr. Herman Effa's report on page 3 of this issue.

GERMANY: Dr. Tuesch asked for information about Rev. Carl Fülbrandt because his Grandfather was involved in the Danubian Mission.

SWEDEN: A biographical request. We did not have information for them.

OBITUARIES: Many requests for obituaries come to us, including a number from people outside our NAB family. Therefore, we are grateful for the ones you have been sending to us to add to our files.



REJOICE! WE FOUND THE PROOF!

RUSSE BULGARIA CHURCH

Dr. Herman Effa

Thirty years ago, the communist party in Russe Bulgaria confiscated the Baptist Church building and converted it into an atheist club. The Bibles and hymn books were burned, organ removed and any religious signs were removed.

When the communist wall fell and religious liberty began to breathe a little, the leaders of the Baptist church in Russe went to City Hall and asked for their church building to be returned to them. The present leadership at City Hall simply acted ignorant or may actually not have remembered the confiscation. Their response was, 'what building?' and 'prove it was yours.' Proof was virtually impossible locally. An appeal was made to North American Baptists for help since our Conference had helped in the erection of the church when Rev. Fuelbrandt was a missionary in the region.

A search of our N A B Archives at the Seminary in Sioux Falls uncovered an issue of "Der Sendbote" that carried an article about the church with a picture of it. It was sufficient evidence to force City Hall to open their records. The books revealed that on the day of the confiscation, the communist boss had written a note to the extent that 'on this day, we confiscated the Baptist

Church building for our Atheist Club. Never again will it serve a religious purpose.'

When they read that note, the building was returned to our Baptist brethren within days. You can imagine the emotion of the moment when the believers who for years had prayed for their church building to be returned, stood with clasped hands in that sanctuary and rededicated it to God. We were grateful to God once again, that we had archives to turn to.

Herman Effa

(Your Heritage Commission Staff is filled with joy to know that we had a part in this event.)

Donations

South Dakota-Wyoming Association files from 1970-1995 were brought in and put into excellent archival order and preservation by three former Secretaries who were Secretaries at one time: Janell Christiansen, Betty Holtz, and Carla McFarland. We thank them very much for a total of 12 valuable hours of work.

Central North Dakota Financial Files were brought in by the granddaughter of Mr. Tessman. He had served as a former treasurer.

Brief Histories of the Dakota Conference of German Baptists in North Dakota was given by Les Bertsch.

A carved Wooden food saver made in Cameroon was given by Don and Verna Ganstrom.

A 4 page History of the Concord German Baptist Church of Jefferson County WI was sent by Roger Norman.

Nineteen African artifacts and books sent by Harold and Doris Michelson in honor of Verna and Edwin Michelson.

- We also want to express our gratitude for the monetary gifts we have received. SD/WY Association has been giving an annual gift of \$1,500 dollars.

Preparing for Your Church Anniversary:

- Start Early
- Plan Carefully
- Include many people and varied talents.
- Keep Careful Records; preserve the story as accurately as you can.
- Reuse the material you find for the future

Why Celebrate?

To Thank and Praise God

To Provide Reminders of Past

Reconciliation and Forgiveness

To Get a Vision for the Future

Where can we find the material:

1. Interviewing older members.
2. Make Cemetery records. Now is the time to photograph the tombstones by video or still camera shots to record them.
3. Read the Old Church Minutes and if possible have the important ones translated.
4. Research the County Court House records of people and buildings.
5. Find out about the prices and amounts of offerings.
6. Collect and care for photographs of pastors, members, church buildings.
7. Find out the dates when the church building was moved.
8. Give all the names of the church and reasons for the change of name.
9. Begin a Church History room so that your people can see some of these things on display such as: As hymnals you used, choir books, anniversary books and any cookbooks.
10. Put group pictures of the choirs, SS classes, women's groups, baptisms could be put into an acid-free photograph album.

You will have an experience of Gratitude!

OUR TRIENNIAL PLANS

Heritage Breakfast at Edmonton:

The above event has been scheduled for 8:30 A.M. Sunday, August 3, 1997 at McKernan Baptist Church. During the summer months the morning worship service begins at 10:00 A.M. allowing about an hour and a half for the breakfast. Tickets priced at \$6.00 cdn

This is a combination of retired folks and all those interested in the Heritage Commission.

Board of Governor's news:

We agreed to give Dr. G. A. Dunger a Sabbatical so that he has more time to write the History of the NAB Seminary. Pray for him as he begins that task the first of July 1997.

George W. Lang will be the Director of the Heritage Commission starting 1, July, 1997.

The Assistant Archivist has been given the title of Associate Archivist.

ARCHIVIST'S QUIP:

"You can learn a lot about yourself when you know a lot about your ancestors."

Contributed by G.A. Dunger



Our ancestors had courage in covered wagons!