

HERITAGE HORIZONS



a publication of
NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST HERITAGE COMMISSION
*...a memorial book was written in His presence, recording those who revered Him An Auxiliary
An Auxiliary
and those who had the highest respect for His Name...Malachi 3:16*
1525 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1599
Telephone: 1 (605) 335-9071

An Auxiliary
of the North
American Baptist
Conference

Vol. 6, No. 1: MAY, 1998

Editor: Lenore Lang

Assistant Editor: B. Westerman

NEW HORIZONS FOR HERITAGE HORIZONS

by B. Westerman

At our Board of Governor's meeting which was held April 24th, it was approved that Lenore Lang would become the new editor of the Heritage Horizons. Personally I have mixed feelings about this, but the predominant one is satisfaction in being able to use more of my time for Archival matters.

When one begins a project and then hands it over to someone else to continue, it must be something like a mother whose child is getting married. A new person will help develop and advance her aspirations; the mother's interest will always be there, but the heavy load of responsibility is no longer hers.

We have spoken of having some regular items in the newsletter, such as Obituaries, Profiles, Church Anniversaries, church archival helps, humor, and re-quotes from former NAB publications.

Most of you already know Lenore from the devotionals she wrote for the Moments with God devotional booklet published by the NAB Conference. Others of you may know her as a former Missionary and the wife of George W. Lang, our Heritage Commission Director.

Lenore will be getting "grist for her mill" from our office, so all your ideas can be sent to her at the Heritage Commission Office. You will be able to help her by sharing your input in the form of ideas, NAB news, and historical experiences.

Please help me make Lenore feel welcome as our new Heritage Horizons editor.

POINT OF VIEW

by Lenore Lang

For about a month, I've been doing some volunteering in the Archives. I feel like "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" as I try to put in order papers that belong in Mission Board minutes and reports!

"One - two - three - six? Hmmm...Where did pages four and five go?"

Some day someone might need to consult these minutes. When that day comes, that someone will be glad to find things in good order.

The above-mentioned project is my first real "dip" into the Archives pool. I am grateful for others who have been there ahead of me, and for all that they have accomplished. That "all" is a lot!

As explained by B. Westerman, I have been appointed Editor of the Heritage Horizons. There may be some changes in issues to come, but basically the goal stays the same: to keep people informed of relevant Archives material and of what a gold mine of information we have here.

I am grateful to previous editor, Berneice Westerman, for her fine work on the eleven issues which have been published since 1992. I thank Dr. George A. Dunger for his thought-provoking articles which he has crafted. The publication has benefited from other contributors as well.

I look forward to volunteering in this my second project of Archives work and welcome input from readers of Heritage Horizons.

GUEST WRITER Victor J. Gunst

(Editor's note: As reported in HH December 1997, Victor Gunst spoke at the Heritage Breakfast in Edmonton of his parents' homegoing. Here are some further insights into the lives of JC and Irene Gunst.)

One purpose in life -- one passion. They loved their Savior and sought to serve Him throughout their lives in the ministries of the NAB Conference. Jacob (JC) and Irene Gunst, in their lifestyle of dedication and commitment, had an influence on their children as well as on their extended family of NAB'ers.

Anyone who graced Mom's table, who heard Dad teach or preach or counsel, who spent the night, or who took the time to have a piece of pie and a cup of coffee at a convenient restaurant - anyone - could not part company with JC and Irene without knowing where their heart was. The name of the Lord was always lifted up and the NAB Conference ministries always promoted.

They married September 23, 1939. After two short pastorates in North Dakota, the majority of their life work was spent in Conference-related ministries. The last 23 years of their lives were spent side by side as they listened to, reflected upon, and counseled with others about their avenues of ministry. Encouragers themselves, they also appreciated the fellowship, nurture, and encouragement of others.

Their last days were spent in rooms adjacent to each other on the nursing level of Capital Manor in Salem, Oregon. Though Mom had suffered a stroke about a year before, she had made quite a remarkable recovery. Dad, on the other hand, reached his 90th birthday on December 13, 1996 and his health began to deteriorate.

In late April, family members were told to gather for what could be the final hours for Dad. We gathered by his bedside, singing, praying, more singing more praying. By this time, Mom had suffered a debilitating stroke and was weak, but on a Tuesday morning we rolled her in to see Dad. Neither said a word: they couldn't. They just held hands, using their almost sixty years of practice. They communicated. They knew.

Late that day the nurse came in to tell of the positive effect our audible "witness" was having on the rest of the floor and the nursing station.

She decided to check Dad once more. At that point, Dad raised his arm as if to grasp a heavenly hand. A tear rolled down his cheek...and he was ushered into glory.

The services for Dad were celebrations, victorious. We shared with Mom the experiences of that day, Friday, April 25. She was noticeably weaker, no longer able to open her eyes when she spoke. She listened to our individual accounts and understood.

Mom's grieving spirit over the loss of her beloved husband was evident. So was her peace. At 5 a.m. the Lord's day, April 27, we were all summoned to her room. At 6:13 a.m. after more singing, praying, reading, God gave his "come on home" sign to Mom. As it occurred with Dad, Mom yielded to a divine beckoning, and with a tear rolling down her cheek, she went to be with Dad and her Lord in glory.

Both are buried in the beautiful Salt Creek cemetery. Two celebrations in five days for two servants of God, two faithful followers (really leaders) of the Way.

Their testimony continues. A memorial fund in their names provides scholarships for pastors of NAB churches for further training in leadership roles."

(Ed. note: The December 1, 1941 issue of The Baptist Herald carried an article written by Rev. Gunst, "The Need of Leadership Training". At that time he was in Grand Forks, North Dakota, Director of Leadership Training Courses for the Dakota Conference. This good article gives further evidence of his deep interest in leadership training more than fifty years ago! How fitting that this memorial fund should be for such a worthy purpose!)

The memorial fund is being set up in the names of JC and Irene Gunst at the NAB Conference office to provide scholarships for those pastors who desire further training in their leadership roles, primarily in "Growing Healthy Churches" seminars. If you would like more information or if you want to send a gift to this fund, write to:



JC and Irene Gunst Memorial
North American Baptist Conference
1 S. 210 Summit Avenue
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994

IDEAS

Ruth Strauss of the North Carrollton Church in Carrollton, Texas, reports the following in the NAB Southern Association News, March 1998: "Pastor Don Brake announced 1998 as "The Year of the Bible". Schedules for reading the Bible through in a year were distributed and a number of people signed up to participate. A party is held at the end of each month for those who are up to date with their reading at that time.

"Since the program began, we have had the best 'Show and Tell' times! The January party was at the pastor's house, and he allowed us to see some of the very old and rare Bibles he has collected. It is great to see such things apart from public museums."

Congratulations, Pastor Brake! A great combination: having old and rare Bibles, and encouraging the daily reading of it TODAY!

In the Archives here in Sioux Falls are some old and rare Bibles also. There are several in a fine display set up by Dr. George Dunger. The oldest is dated 1563, a German translation by Dr. Martin Luther, printed by Hans Lufft.

Those who are interested -- stop by for a look sometime!



OBITUARIES

If you have ever done any work on compiling a family history, you will understand why it is important for us as NAB'ers to have a file to which "seekers" can go to find information about a loved one who has died.

By being faithful in sending in your own church's obituaries, you can be of help to someone else, somewhere on down the line! This small step for you can be a big leap for someone else! Please -- be there for that someone!

Of course, there is a cost. Recent Board of Governor decisions:

New rates for obituaries: A flat rate of \$15.00 for each obituary we can supply.

Research: A minimum rate of \$10 plus \$10 for each additional hour of research, 10 cents for each photocopied page of information, and 30 cents for each page of microfilm printing, plus any postage for mailing. Checks should be made out to The North American Baptist Heritage Commission. Thank you!



THOSE EDITORS.....

The first issue of The Baptist Herald was published in January 1923, with A.P.Mihm as editor. In his very first "preview" he wrote:

"Your new editor is not an unknown personage to the readers of our former young people's papers....Yet, taking up his work of the editorship, crossing over the threshold of this new enterprise, he realizes, he has assumed new duties and increased responsibility, and feels he has much to learn. He will probably make many mistakes. Be patient with him! Some one has said:

When a plumber makes a mistake, he charges twice for it.

When a lawyer makes a mistake, it is just what he wanted, because he has a chance to try the case all over again.

When a doctor makes a mistake, he buries it.

When a judge makes a mistake, it becomes the law of the land.

When a preacher makes a mistake, nobody knows the difference.

But when an editor makes a mistake, -- "good night!"

Editor Mihm continued, "But we remember the promise: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). It lifts us up. Therefore, in the name of our God we will set up our banners."

To that, your current editor says a hearty AMEN!

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Rev. Harry Johnson , NAB pastor representative, has taken the place of Rev. Harry Haas, who is now at Home with the Lord.

Mr. Stan Johnson of Tacoma, Washington is member-at-large. He has much valuable experience in constitutional matters, as well as in the business world.

Mr. William Gingrich has replaced Mr. Ron Salzman as representative of the Executive Director of our NAB Conference.

DO YOU KNOW THAT.....

In the January 1942 issue of The Baptist Herald, Rev. Alfred R. Bernadt of Burlington, Iowa's Oak Street Baptist Church started a column with the above title. Here are some excerpts:

(January 1, 1942): "Top salary in Iowa did not go to the governor last year but to the football coach at Iowa University. His \$12,000 remuneration makes every touchdown look mighty important."

(February 1, 1942): "When your knees tremble, it is a good idea to kneel on them."

(February 15, 1942): " Approximately 40 churches of our denomination still use the single cup at the fellowship communion services."

and "One of our seminary professors last summer gave 50 addresses in the course of his journey throughout our denomination, but only one sermon was in German with 49 given in the English language."

and "We now have a total of 6580 subscribers to The Baptist Herald, the largest subscription list in our history." (Remember, that was 1942)!

RECYCLED CHUCKLES

Also, in the May 1st issue of The Baptist Herald in 1969, Rev. Bruno Schreiber began a new column called "Chuckle with Bruno", much enjoyed by many. Permission has been obtained from Rev. Schreiber to "recycle" some of these.

(From May 15, 1969): "Our neighbor's dog sure knows how to win friends and influence people, and he didn't even read the book."

A SERMON ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT for past and present seminarians!

(from The Baptist Herald, December 1923):

"Not every young preacher can equal in extemporaneous discourse one of Chas. H. Spurgeon's students of whom a good story is told. It is said that Mr. Spurgeon was in the habit of testing the ability and self-possession of the theological students under his care and instruction by sending them up into the pulpit with a sealed envelope in their hands, containing the text of the sermon or address each one was to deliver on the spur of the moment.

On one of these occasions the student, on opening his paper, found this subject and direction given him:

"Apply the story of Zaccheus to your own circumstances, and your call to the ministry." And the student promptly delivered himself in the following way:

"My brethren, the subject on which I have to address you today is a comparison between Zaccheus and my qualifications.

"Well, the first thing we read about Zaccheus is that he was small of stature; and I never felt so small as I do now.

"In the second place, we read that he was up in a tree, which is very much my position now.

"And thirdly, we read that Zaccheus made haste to come down; and in this I gladly and promptly follow his example."

THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING MINUTES

There have been times when record books containing minutes of past meetings have disappeared from some churches.

Has this happened in your church?
What can we all do to see that such important church records are preserved?



OUR NEXT ISSUE.....will be due in November 1998. Look for it and keep your subscription up-to-date!