

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*

1525 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1599
Telephone: 1 (605) 335-9071

An Auxiliary
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Conference

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(Editor's Note: The Chairman of the Board of our NAB Heritage Commission has assembled some thoughts for us in this issue. Read on:)

AN URGENT PRAYER REQUEST

By Orville Meth

To all who are concerned about the future of the NAB Heritage Commission--claiming the promises of Psalm 37:3-5 and Matthew 7:7-8--let us bring to the Lord:

1. Our need to build an adequate facility on the campus of the North American Baptist Seminary to house both the archival processing/preserving operation as well as a museum that will visually demonstrate the work of North American Baptists both at home and abroad. The present facility in the lower level of the seminary library no longer provides for the space needed. There are over forty boxes of archival materials at the Conference office storage area (in Oakbrook Terrace) because of our own lack of space.

2. Our need of an Endowment Fund to adequately finance the operation of maintaining the ministry of services of the NAB Conference's history.

3. Our need for "good men and women" who would be willing to give of their time and finances to challenge giving on the part of those interested in preserving the message of God's guidance and blessing to the North American Baptist Conference through the years of its existence.

4. Our need to follow Billy Graham's remarks in his autobiography, "Just as I am". Someone suggested that he build a Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, Illinois, to hold the Archives and Museum of his work. He replied that for every dollar spent for a building, a dollar must go to an endowment fund.

5. Our need for wisdom as the Board of Governors meets on April 15th to discern the Lord's leading as to what direction to take in providing the needed expanded facilities.

The challenge is so great that it will be only by God's power and grace that our prayers for these needs can be answered. Praise His Holy Name!

POINT OF VIEW

By Lenore Lang

The telephone rang and I answered happily, thinking it was a friend calling. Instead, I found that the caller on the other end wanted to sell something!



If such a call has happened to you, you can understand my disappointment at the use of the phone for such purposes, however good the cause.

The fact is that here in this issue of Heritage Horizons is yet another "good cause" that is asking for your help, in print this time. How will you respond to this appeal?

You may respond by asking the question, "Why should we have an Archives Building?", and another closely-associated question is "Who needs it?" Well, do we?

House-wise we sometimes realize that in our basements and attics there are too many "junk" items that we do not need. Not long ago a friend of ours said he sorted through "stuff", and put in a big pile what he thought should go right into the trash, whereupon his wife came along and promptly consigned just a few items to the trash, while returning much of the pile to the place it began!

And to be sure, many of us have thrown something out, only to realize a week, a month, a few days
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GUEST WRITER WILLIAM H. RENTZ

(Editor's note: Mr. Rentz, former missionary in Cameroon, West Africa, has done a superb piece of work in translating several documents from the original German. This one pertains to the missionary experience of a missionary couple, The Hofmeisters' Missionary Experience in Kamerun. This was their first time of service in Africa, 1898-1900. Used by permission of the translator.)

Rev. J. Hofmeister wrote: "This overview of our first stay in Africa was mainly based on memory because for the first two years there I kept no diary. My experiences for the other tours of duty there are taken directly from my diaries....Experiences which are recorded at the time they occur are better able to convey the meaning than if they were dealt with historically."

"The future did not appear rosy for us, for West Africa was known as the white man's grave and those of our missionaries sent out succumbed with few exceptions, to the effects of the climate. Only those who went out just prior to us were still among the living. Because of this, new missionaries arriving received no training, no advice of how to protect oneself from the ravages of tropical diseases.

"Since there was no one to pass on their experiences in missionary endeavors or in matters pertaining to health and hygiene, each new missionary learned only from his own experiences.

"The Mission Board appointed me as the Field Secretary as well as the Mission representative to government. My wife took over the direction of the Mission House—this included looking after the needs of the missionaries who were often sick; and it necessitated individual billing for board at the end of the month.

"In the beginning, the problem of native market shopping for food created many problems. However, in time this difficulty was overcome.

"Two weeks after our arrival in Duala, Kamerun we made our first tour....There was no one at hand to give us instructions on how to travel and what preparations to make for an extended tour.
(continued on page 4)

GUEST WRITER FLORENCE MILLER

Reflections on The Harvest

"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already unto harvest." John 4:35.

"Those who are without a knowledge of the true God and Savior, Jesus Christ, are said to be spiritually blind. But often Christians are blind also to many spiritual matters and need to have God open their eyes.

"Amy Carmichael recorded a dream which God used to open her eyes to her responsibility to share the gospel. She said she saw a long procession of people marching toward a precipice. They were all blind. Because there was no one to warn them of the danger ahead, they were falling over the cliff and perishing. Nearby, sitting on the grass in a circle, was another group of people, singing, laughing and making daisy chains, blissfully unaware and unconcerned about the perishing ones.



"When I first heard this dream, I was a student at the Moody Bible Institute. I had gone there to grow spiritually. Surrounded by a thousand Christian students and influenced by fine Bible teachers, I was growing 'fat and contented' in this heavenly atmosphere. But when I listened to missionary speakers, it did not occur to me that I had a responsibility to the spiritually blind millions in the world, heading for a Christless eternity. But God stabbed my heart with the sword of His Spirit, through Amy's dream. He opened my eyes to see that it was not right for me to grow fat spiritually while others starved for lack of the Bread of Life. I understood clearly for the first time that 'to whom much is given, of him shall much be required.'

"That night I made a promise to God to go somewhere, where the name of Jesus was not well known and tell them of the Savior. Little did I realize in 1943 that God would send me to Japan in 1951 to help reap the great harvest that ripened after the war with Japan ended.

"Like the disciples of Jesus, we too, become pre-occupied with our own needs and desires and become blind to the needs of people around us. We need to be reminded often that with the privilege of knowing Christ comes the responsibility of sharing Him with others who don't know Him."

(POINT OF VIEW continued from page 1)
later that whatever it was should have been kept after all!

We as a denomination must decide whether what we have needs to be saved for future generations, or whether we really do want to "toss it out". But then comes the question, If we keep those materials, where do we put them? The attic? Will a mouse (not a computer mouse) chew up those things? Will they be stored in a safe place?

Those are the questions we need to answer, and those are the questions at the heart of the thought-provoking article written for us by our own Rev. Orville Meth.

DO YOU KNOW THAT..... (From the Baptist Herald, by the Rev. A.R. Bernadt, Burlington, Iowa.)

(March 1, 1944) "Who is the most ambitious man in the Bible? Jonah, because even a whale couldn't keep him down!"

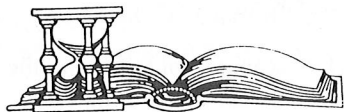
(April 1, 1944) "Rip Van Winkle is the only man who became famous while he was asleep!"

(May 1, 1944) "Biblical money values are interesting—a farthing was three cents; a talent of silver was \$538.30; a talent of gold was \$13,809; a shekel of silver was 50 cents; a piece of silver was thirteen cents and a mite was less than one-fourth of a penny."

(May 15, 1944) "The church that is not a missionary church will soon become a missing church."

(July 1, 1944) "Fifty years ago 70% of the reading material in a First Reader dealt with the religious and character-building lessons of life. Today less than 3% of the space in these books used by the same age groups deals with such matter."

(August 15, 1944) "Man is an able creature, but he has made 33,000 laws and hasn't yet improved on the Ten Commandments."



RECYCLED CHUCKLES

(from a column in The Baptist Herald)

(January 1971) "One good thing to be said about tight shoes," said Mark Twain, "is that they make you forget all your other troubles."

(May 1971) "A convincing talker is a man who can keep both hands in his pockets while describing the fish that got away."

(November 1971) "Only some of us can learn by other people's mistakes. The rest of us have to be the other people."

(December 1971) "Doctors have discovered that hayfever can be negative or positive. Sometimes the eyes have it, and sometimes the nose."



FLORENCE MILLER GOES ON TRIP

On page two we have an article by Miss Florence Miller concerning her missionary call. Now, in April of this year, she will be returning to spend several weeks in Japan, returning in early May.

Watch the next issue of Heritage Horizons for her report on this trip to the land where she spent many fruitful years in the Lord's service.

OUR SYMPATHY.....

is extended to Dr. Janell Christiansen on the death of her beloved husband who went to be with the Lord on November 12, 1998. The funeral service was held in the First Baptist Church of Chancellor, South Dakota on November 16, 1998.

Mrs. Christiansen is a past member of the Seminary Board of Trustees and currently serves on the Heritage Commission Board of Governors.

We also acknowledge the home-going of Dr. Frank Veninga on January 29, 1999. The funeral service for Dr. Veninga was held on Monday February 1st in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Veninga served as NAB Seminary President at two different time periods—as President from 1959 to 1970 and as interim from 1981-1982. In those years he made great contributions to the life of the Seminary.

HOW FAR HAVE THEY GONE?

In the glass case near the Archives is a fascinating display put together by our Associate Archivist, Berneice Westerman.

The centerpiece is a world map with gemstones marking each country, state and/or province if one of the NAB Seminary graduates has set foot there.

You will be amazed to see how the gems shine in many places! And there are artifacts surrounding the map, to highlight some of those places both far and near—39 countries besides the USA and Canada.



One item is what inspired the whole display. In the Seminary Archives, Miss Westerman found a Communion set, a home-crafted two-tray set with nineteen brass cups in each tray. The trays are made of wood, while the cups she suspects were fashioned from brass bullet shells.

Further evidence is provided from a small dish towel with this identification: G.T. Lutz 0-510020 and L /0020. Someone has told Miss Westerman that the first number was Brother Lutz's induction number and the second – his laundry number.

A golden-yellow fringed runner was found with this treasure. From what we know, the set was sent to the serviceman's brother, Rev. Thomas Lutz, who was a pastor in Aberdeen and Wessington Springs, S.D. for a time. He in turn *may* have passed it on to former NABS Librarian, Miss Joyce Ringering, who showed a very keen interest in archival artifacts.

In the November 1, 1944 issue of The Baptist Herald, is an article by Chaplain Gustav T. Lutz, (formerly pastor of the Baptist Church of Jamesburg, N.J.). The title: "Preaching the Love of an all-conquering Christ on the Battlefields of France."

On April 16, 1945 those battlefields claimed that young chaplain's life. If any reader is able to furnish more information, we will be happy to have it. Meanwhile, the communion set gives mute testimony to the tried and tested faith of a brave American serviceman.



(KAMERUN ARTICLE continued from page 2)

"Our preparations were meager to say the least. We took some bread but *nothing else* in food, cooking utensils, sleeping cots, etc. (Editor's note: the italics are mine.) "We hired men and canoes, loaded the cargo and two folding chairs to sit on and were ready for the journey.

"At that time, about the middle of October, there was still much rain, so much so, that the Wuri river had overflowed its banks causing many problems with rowing the canoes. The canoemen were much more experienced than we were – they demanded a certain amount of rice and stockfish (dried cod) prior to leaving.



"Our problems were further compounded by the lack of an efficient translator; a student who accompanied us was not very proficient in German and this made communication with the canoemen difficult."
(To be continued in the *July* issue.)

DISPLAY PANELS

On the lower level of the NABS Library near the present Archives Room are two racks for panels which hold pictures of NABS students and graduates. The first rack shows those from past years, beginning in 1856—the earliest student-body pictures. The earliest graduating class is that of 1908, with others on through 1961.

Now the Seminary Alumni/ae has provided the most recent panels on the second rack so we can display the pictures of graduates for 1962-1997 and future graduates as well. Our hearty thanks for this important contribution!

FUNERAL NOTICES

As we go to press, we have received word of the death of the mother of Rev. Orville Meth on March 24, 1999 in Birmarck, ND. The service will be on Tuesday, March 30.

Also, we want our readers to be aware of the death of Scott Hug, NAB missionary in the Philippines. He died of cancer in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on February 26, 1999, leaving his wife, Karen and a young daughter, Kayla.

And Rev. C.H. Seecamp went to be with the Lord on February 7, 1999 in Cambridge, Minnesota.