

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

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POINT OF VIEW

By Lenore Lang

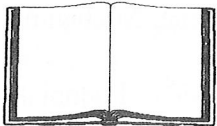
In this issue of Heritage Horizons we have writings by two people who attended the NAB Triennial in Sacramento, and you will find their contributions on pages two and three of this issue.

There are developments "in the wind" concerning the NAB Heritage Commission, and this information (found on page three) is important for you to be praying about in the days ahead.

We also have a new book to tell you about! It is a gripping TRUE story by Rev. Donald Miller, *In the Midst of Wolves*, and some of you who are "NAB'ers" from 'way back may be able to trace some of your own history in what he writes. Read about this book on page 4.

Requests for information and/or a copy of the book should be addressed to:

DONALD N. MILLER
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Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Telephone: 1 (503) 647-5858



WHY WONDER?

by Ethel R. Fuller

If radio's slim fingers
Can pluck a melody
From night and toss it over
A continent or sea;
If petaled white notes
Of a violin
Are blown across a mountain
Or a city's din;
If songs like crimson roses
Are culled from thin, blue air –
Why should mortals wonder
If God hears prayer?
(The Baptist Herald, November 9, 1950)



THE HERITAGE TRIENNIAL BREAKFAST

by George W. Lang, Archives Director

We were very pleased at the attendance of about eighty people at the Triennial's Heritage Breakfast. Dr. Connie Salios served as the gracious Master of Ceremonies. Rev. Don Miller (mentioned elsewhere in this issue) and other researchers were featured. Thelma Fischer and Gerry Howen of Lodi's Temple Baptist Church helped organize a table display depicting something of the early history of NAB churches on the Pacific Coast.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE SACRAMENTO TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

by Guest Writer Rev. Ray Hoffman, Lodi

They came from the North, South, East and West to Sacramento, California. The great attraction was the 2000 Triennial NAB Conference. In spite of some of the setbacks such as the dollar exchange rate with Canadian money and the overall high prices in California, many of the older die-hards still came as did many new comers. I understand that the number of delegates was 160 from Canada and 587 from the U.S. to make a total of 747.

Several of us helped Sarah Reddlich at the delegate desk. This was a good place to meet so many friends we have made during previous conferences. Meeting them again seems to be the glue which is a great part in keeping the conference together.

There were some activities of the Conference which I could not attend because of my involvement at the delegate desk and the fact that we commuted to the conference every day from Lodi. Over all, the entire program was carried out quite well. The displays from the various departments each told its own story.

The morning Bible Teacher, Dr. Mehl from Beaverton, Oregon, was always where the rubber meets the road in his Bible teaching. It certainly was worth while getting his tapes for further study and inspiration. The music each day was upbeat and a little on the loud side for us "older folk" but all had a good message. The evening messages by the various pastors were very inspirational as well. The report on the affairs of our NAB Conference by Dr. Phil Yntema was also encouraging. He stated that we have four or

five times more church plants since 1993. Also, the increase of new believers has risen from 2031 in 1993 to 3600 in 1999.

The Mission Luncheon was another outstanding event. There were at least 44 of our missionaries in attendance, either on their way back to their fields of service or waiting for total financing of support while some just came home from their fields of service. Approximately 57 of those who are retired or have just resigned were able to attend. The missionary parade and program in the evening was beautiful beyond expectation.

On Saturday evening came the great finale which put the icing on the cake for the week. It was exciting to hear the beautiful music of the First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church Choir of Sacramento and their sixteen-member string ensemble. What brought many tears to the eyes of those who attended the service was the tremendous response to the call of either becoming a "go-er" or a "sender". The stirring message by Pastor Tim Schroeder wonderfully set the stage for the great response. The question is now, "Will we be able to follow through as a Conference in helping these people fulfill their high calling?"



IMPRESSIONS OF THE NAB HERITAGE COMMISSION

by Guest Writer Rev. Jacob Ehman
Alpena, Michigan

While at the 46th Triennial Conference Lenore Lang asked if I would write an article for Heritage Horizons on my impressions of

the work done by the Heritage Commission. I have always been interested in our Heritage as a Conference and Seminary because it tells us how our God has been able to use us as His people to share the good news of the Gospel, bringing men, women and youth to Christ.

I found the Heritage Commission booth at the Conference most interesting. As my wife, Helen, and I viewed the pictures of the Churches, Pastors, and people of past and present generations on display, it brought back many good memories of our Seminary days, the people we met, the Churches that we have known, the Seminary progress, the professors, the pastors who have been serving and are serving our Churches today, and the Missionaries who are and have been out in the mission fields. What a great heritage we have as NAB people.

(Editor's Note: And now follows a brief summary of Rev. Ehman's work for the Lord in the places where the Lord led him and his wife, Helen, plus their continued joyful service for Him in "retirement" years.)

Three months after Helen and I were married we were on our way to the NAB Seminary in Rochester, N.Y. This was in 1946. This began our preparation to serve the Lord in ministry. In 1949 we moved with the Seminary to Sioux Falls, S.D. to continue my Seminary studies and preparation for pastoral ministry.

For 35 years I served as a pastor to five NAB Churches located in Bessie, Oklahoma; Sidney, Montana; Goodrich, North Dakota; Steamboat Rock, Iowa and Alpena, Michigan. God blessed greatly by bringing people of all ages to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and calling a number of young men and women into ministries of various kinds. It is great to see some of these men

and women at the Triennial Conference and to renew acquaintances.

In January 1986 I was asked to serve as an Area Minister for the Upper Midwest Area, which included Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, with 57 NAB Churches. We lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during this time. I helped plan the NAB Triennial Conference that was held in Milwaukee in 1991.

In the fall of 1991 I was going to retire, so we moved back to Alpena, Michigan, but the Lord had other plans. The Great Lakes Association Area Minister resigned in 1992 and the GLA Executive asked if I would serve as an Interim Area Minister until a full-time man could be found. I accepted. There were 30 Churches. The territory included Michigan and Ohio. I served this Association until the fall of 1997. I retired again.

We are now involved in the life and ministry of the Word of Life Baptist Church in Alpena. I teach a Sunday School class, Chair the Missions Committee, teach a weekly Mens Bible Study, sing in the Choir, do some preaching in churches without pastors in the area and help with the morning worship service. Helen is involved in the WMF ministry and the church choir.

HERITAGE COMMISSION BUILDING PROJECT

On November 2nd there was a "Brainstorming Session" of the NAB Heritage Commission and we want you to know that the NAB Conference has approved a fund-raiser for a Heritage Commission building project. Please – be in prayer for this important need.



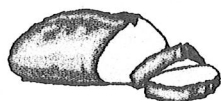
**ARCHIVES:
HELPFUL OR JUST "OLD STUFF"?**

(Editor's Note: "In the Midst of Wolves" by Donald N. Miller is a History of German Baptists in Volhynia, Russia covering the years 1863 through 1943. I have found inspiration in its pages. On pages 177-178 mention is made of a letter from the author's aunt in Russia. Rev. Miller discovered this letter in the Archives in Sioux Falls while he was doing research there! With his permission, here is that letter with some of the passages leading up to the writing of it.)

"The famine.... was especially devastating in Protowka. People lived on the ragged edge of life. There was no food, no jobs and no money. Added to this, was the fact that the harvest of 1932 was the worst in Russian history. Starving people grubbed for food in the forest like animals. They ate everything in sight: birds, animals, plants, roots, leaves, mushrooms, berries and even their pet dogs and cats. It is said that by the end of 1933, there was not so much as a single dog or cat left on the street. Many cooked the straw from their thatched roofs....



"The famine dragged on into 1934 and 1935. On December 4, 1934, Amelia Streichert, Hermann's widowed wife, wrote a letter to Eduard A. Wuerch (a former pastor), who had immigrated to Fenwood, Saskatchewan in 1928. It was a desperate cry for help. She wrote, 'I have been left alone, a suffering widow, with seven orphans. My future looks very bleak. We look every day into the eyes of death. If I don't get help soon, we will all die of hunger. The faithful Brother Wuerch from the Baptist church in Rudkowski Futter is now gone and we have nowhere else to turn. Please have mercy on me and my poor orphans. Even if I can't pay you back, God will.'



"The letter ended up in the Mission Society of the German Baptist Conference in Forest Park, Illinois, with a money order of five dollars and an accompanying letter from Wuerch. It included a list of three people who had contributed one dollar each and two dollars from Wuerch.."



**NOTES FROM THE ASSISTANT
EDITOR AND ASSOCIATE
ARCHIVIST,**

Miss Berneice V. Westerman:

At least ten people stopped by the Archives Booth in Sacramento to help identify pictures of churches and pictures of people. This help was much appreciated and each one who helped will get a personal one year's subscription to Heritage Horizons.



**NOTES BY GEORGE LANG,
Archives Director:**

OUR NEW BROCHURE

A new brochure describing the work of The NAB Heritage Commission is now available. It was completed in time for distribution at the Triennial. A copy of this brochure is being included with this mailing of the Heritage Horizons. You will notice that part of this brochure is a response section for you to fill in.

If you have not sent in your membership subscription since July 2000, you are encouraged to renew your membership for the year 2001. Also we would invite you to consider becoming a patron or a lifetime member. Please tear off this response section and use it to accompany your membership response. Also enclosed in this mailing is a self-addressed envelope for you to use. Thank you for your support.

