

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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An Auxiliary
of the North
American Baptist
Conference

Vol.9, No.1: APRIL 2001 Editor: Lenore Lang Assistant Editor: B. Westerman

POINT OF VIEW

by Lenore Lang

In this issue on page 2 is an article by Guest Writer Ernie Zimbelman, as he writes about his growing-up years in North Dakota. I would be interested in hearing from those of you readers who can identify with him in his experiences. I think there are many of you out there!



Also, we continue the account of Missionary Hofmeister found in his diary. He tells of the early years of our mission work in Cameroon, West Africa. What he and others endured to get the work going is an inspiring story. Find this on page 4.

We are very encouraged by the number of Church Historians who have made themselves known to us in recent months. On this page you will find a contribution by Mrs. Nellie Rivers, Historian of the Anderson Road Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. It is both humorous and inspiring.

This Spring issue of Heritage Horizons is dated April rather than March this year. One of the reasons: the NAB denominational directory is now coming to our hands in April, rather than in January. The new directory makes it possible for us to get updated on any address changes that have taken place during the previous year.

OUR GERMAN SHEPHERD

(Jakob Klingenberg, Pastor,
Anderson Road Baptist Church, Houston,)
Submitted by Mrs. Nellie Rivers, Historian

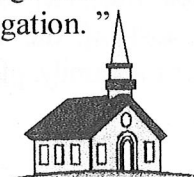
A few days ago I was taken aback by someone who referred to our pastor as a German Shepherd. The first thing that came to my mind was, "Why is he calling our pastor a dog?" The others laughed and finally, after a minute or two it dawned on me what he meant.



Yes, our pastor is a German shepherd, a good German shepherd. He watches over his flock with love and care. He leads us on the straight and narrow path. Our German shepherd feeds his flock with Biblical teachings, moral values, and the knowledge of God's love and blessings.

Our German shepherd has a strong grip when he grasps your hand and gives you a double handshake that emanates sincerity. Our German shepherd is erudite in his Biblical teachings, able to pass on this knowledge in a manner which everyone understands.

We are proud of our German shepherd for where he leads, we will follow. We can refer to our pastor as a German shepherd because he is of German heritage and he is the leader of a flock, our congregation."



"NORTH DAKOTA ROOTS"

by

Guest Writer Dr. Ernie Zimbelman

I was born in a farm house three miles south of Anamoose, North Dakota on December 1, 1926. Well, maybe -- ! I have always celebrated my birthday on the first of December, but my birth certificate says I was born on November 30th. It must be that the midwife who came to the farm for the delivery on a cold, snowy November night, thought the event took place before midnight and sent that to the Capitol as the official date. But my mother, who was there, knew I was born *after* midnight, so that's my birthday as far as the family is concerned.



1926 was during a tough period in Midwest history. This was a period of world-wide recession, and the Dakotas experienced one of the hardest and longest droughts there ever was. My father was a farmer and the father of nine children. I was the eighth son (Paul died in infancy) and then there were two more daughters born after me.

In retrospect I marvel at how my parents were able to make ends meet. There were literally no crops and what there was, was eaten by grasshoppers. I remember the day my father loaded a 280 pound pig in the wagon and hauled her to town and sold her for four dollars. My parents literally wept -- because they would have liked to have had this pig for the family food supply.



The values in our family were church, education, honesty, hard work, and kindness. We loved each other and were loyal and committed to the family. The older boys "worked out" at various jobs and always gave most of the money they earned to support the family. That is how we survived.

For most of my young life I remember the McClusky Baptist Church as our church. It was the total center of our social life. The high events were regular services -- Sunday morning and evening, and the mid-week prayer service, -- youth meetings and camp, sing fests, Fourth of July Sunday School picnics, harvest mission festivals, Easter sunrise services, the Christmas program (every child learned a "piece" and we got a sack of fruit and candy), and a four-hour New Years Eve service.

Some high spiritual events in my life were when I accepted Christ as my Savior at age ten during a Fall revival and I was baptized in Brush Lake the next summer.

I also vividly remember when my parents began tithing after the pastor preached that this was a Biblical principle. Although it was not urged on me, I followed their example. It seemed that if the Bible said you should do it -- we did it. If the Bible said you shouldn't do it -- we didn't do it, and there usually wasn't much doubt as to what the Bible said.



Other events that impacted my young life were summer Bible schools, Egermeier Bible stories, Scripture memory, Christian friends and a mother who prayed fervently for us and placed godliness, cleanliness and education as high priorities.

My childhood and youth years ended in 1945 when I was drafted into the army. By today's standards it would be considered that I lived in a deprived, underdeveloped and poverty-stricken area. But I look back on these years and thank God for the rich and wonderful heritage I have.

(Dr. Ernie Zimbelman is now the Chair of our NAB Heritage Commission.)



TRAVEL WITH THE ARM CHAIR TRAVELER

by Associate Archivist
Berneice Westerman

Travel to South Dakota in earlier days:

Were you aware that there was a German Baptist Hospital in Aberdeen, South Dakota?

"After seeing a picture of that hospital, I read an item in the Emery SD Enterprise newspaper, from its "Down Memory Lane", that told of a Dr. Homan who sold the building he had used in Emery.

"My thoughts were confirmed from an article in Der Sendbote of February 1911! The reasons for the move: greater convenience, because the town of Aberdeen had a railroad depot; plus the fact that Aberdeen was closer to North Dakota, whose people were also using the hospital. Accompanying that article were pictures of both the Emery as well as the Aberdeen buildings.

"A further fascinating part of this story is that Dr. Homan was a student at our Seminary in Rochester from 1893 to 1899! He died in 1933."

Travel to Germany during World War II:

"In the process of compiling material from the NAB Seminary Directory of 1987 into the computer, I have discovered that there are at least twenty-five Seminary graduates who served as Chaplains in Military Service.

"One of these, Gustav Lutz, lost his life while accompanying five servicemen in his duties as Chaplain. The six men were on a damaged bridge when it collapsed. Only one man survived, but Chaplain Lutz was not that one.



"The small communion set that he used during his time of service is on display

outside the Archives' door at the Seminary. It is somewhat of a mystery how his communion set came from the battlefields of Europe to the Seminary in Sioux Falls.

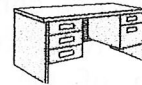


"If anyone can shed light on this mystery, please write to me. My theory is that the Chaplain's property was sent to his brother, Thomas, at Wessington Springs, and he in turn may have brought it to Joyce Ringering, a former Seminary librarian.

"The set was still packed in its original shoe box when I opened it one day."

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR,

George W. Lang



Just recently – April 5th and 6th, we held our Board of Governors' meetings at the Seminary. The meetings went well, although both the Chair, Ernie Zimbelman, and the Vice-Chair, Orville Meth, were unable to attend because of health concerns. Brother Meth is dealing with fibromyalgia and Ernie with chemotherapy treatment for lymphoma. Please pray for the health of these key people.

We were pleased that Edgar Hoffman, Director of the Business Services from Oakbrook Terrace was able to attend this year. Also we are happy that we now have six members-at-large.

Good progress is being made in getting ready for the Capital Fund Drive to provide more adequately for an NAB museum and archival operation. The General Council of the NAB Conference has given permission for this Drive to begin on July 1st this year. Please pray that both the preparations and the response will go well.

**HOFMEISTERS' MISSIONARY
EXPERIENCE IN
KAMERUN; 1899-1900**



Translated by
Guest Writer William H. Rentz,
(Used by permission of the translator.)
(Continued from the July 2000 issue)

(Editor's note: In the last excerpt of the diary, we learned that Missionaries Hofmeister and Muller had had problems in getting enough food to eat. That problem solved, they turned their attention to finding a suitable place for a Missionary Rest House.)

"I planned to stay two weeks in Nyamtang (near the Cameroon coast) and help with whatever needed to be done. We prepared lumber from iroko (oak) trees to be used in the construction of the Mission House. Between times, we made a trek into the hills. Rev. Scheve, the Home Missions Secretary, had asked us to find a suitable spot for a rest and re-creation center similar to what the Basel Mission had at Buea.

"Soppo, not far from Buea would make a suitable site or perhaps a healthy area further east. Since there were the three of us at Nyamtang, we thought it a good idea to look into the matter in the mountainous region. The local chief, Chief Bile, did not want to give us any carriers as he assured us that the spirits of their ancestors occupied the top of the mountain and no-one was to approach this sacred place.

"The chief of Ndogobangege told us the same, except that he was going to have the carriers lead us astray. Only the threat of a severe thrashing convinced the leaders to mend their ways.....We had to cut a path through the tall elephant grass in the lowlands. When we finally arrived at the

foothills of Mt. Cameroon, we found ourselves in the forest region and followed a dried streambed up the mountain.

"Towards evening a tropical tornado blew in and we were at the mercy of the elements. In spite of this we kept on trekking in the hope that we would find a suitable place to spend the night. This we found close to a huge tree that had fallen with its root system sticking up.

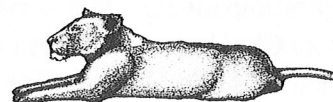


"This provided us with some shelter from the fierce winds of the tornado. The hole was the most level area in the vicinity and provided us all with a suitable windbreak.

"We lit our lantern and gathered some firewood. A little of the lantern fluid on the firewood produced a good fire in spite of the damp wood. We quickly erected a roof of branches over us, put food on the fire and hung up our wet clothes to dry."



"Towards midnight, the rain let up somewhat, so we got out our hammocks and suspended them under our roof and were able to get some rest. The carriers sat around the fire to keep warm and to keep the fire going. They amused themselves by telling stories of lions and ghosts."



(Next issue: What they found the next day.)