

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

At the time of our Autumn issue of this paper, we all had no idea that the events of September 11th, 2001 were just around the corner. Now we know more fully the extent of the damage and the conspiracies which caused it to happen.

At times such as this, the "long view" is important. It always is, of course. Perspective is another word for "the long view". And perhaps those who deal with archives and the papers, books, records, letters, and all the rest of the materials that make up archival records are more inclined to the long view than others who are just trying to survive from day to day, week to week. See a challenge for you – on this page, in "Full Steam Ahead".

On page two of this issue are more paragraphs of early missionary endeavors, translated by Mr. William Rentz.

Page 3 gives us information about books written by members of our own NAB Conference. Also on that page is part of an editorial from 50 years ago, by Dr. Martin L. Leuschner.

And on page 4 Associate Archivist Berneice Westerman has written some compelling words about God's timing.



FULL STEAM AHEAD!

By George Lang, Archives Director



The Capital Fund Drive is proceeding full steam ahead. The twelve-page brochure entitled "Celebrating a Rich Past....Inspiring a Promising Future" has turned out to be a very impressive publication. It was designed to not only promote the current Capital Fund Drive but also to be kept for future reference – with its description of NAB's Beginnings, with its Time-line of historic events in NAB's history and with its Statement of Baptist distinctives.

Many copies have been mailed out already. By now you should have received yours. If not, please let us know. If you wish extra copies to share with friends who may be interested, let us know that as well.

Also please pay special attention to the three cards found in the back pocket – titled "The Story Room", "Prayer Support" and "Financial Contributions:.. The Heritage Commission is interested in collecting the Stories of the Families of our NAB Heritage as well as the Stories of our NAB Churches. In our projected Archive/Museum facility we are planning to set up a special NAB Family Story Room – where we can put these stories in binders and have them available on shelves. If so far your family story has not been written – or not sent to become a part of our current NAB Heritage Commission
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collection, please consider doing so.

Your prayer support is very much needed as we carry on this Fund Drive. Dr. Ernie Zimbelman is currently in the process of making phone calls to follow up the mailing of the brochure. He has decided to begin with making such calls rather than visiting NAB locations in person as previously planned. In his phone calling, Dr. Zimbelman not only is focusing on getting financial commitments, but also on finding out names of others who you think would have an interest in making a contribution to the Fund.



We really appreciate the great support you have given to the NAB Heritage Commission already. This has meant a lot to us. We deeply value your continuing support in our current efforts to bring our Heritage Commission to new levels of capability and impact.

HOFMEISTERS' MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE IN KAMERUN; 1899-1900

translated by Guest Writer William H. Rentz,
Used by permission of the translator.

(Continued from the Autumn 2001 issue)

(Editor's note: Last issue Missionary Hofmeister had come home to find his wife suffering from an attack of malaria fever, and after she was well, he himself became ill with the same fever.)

"At that time medical doctors were experimenting with quinine as a malaria prophylactic but I didn't put too much trust in it because of lack of experience in tropical disease treatment. Friends of mine recommended I fight the fever by homeopathic means and I did try to for half a year but found I was worse off. Although quinine has its side effects, yet it is the lesser

of the two evils and since the mission board did recommend it and since very few people now died of malaria, it definitely was the better course to follow....

"Now that I was settled in Duala, I tried to locate all of Missionary Wedel's students who had dispersed throughout the region. I was able to locate seven of them and taught them for another year....I spent time walking through the scriptures with them and also teaching them some German; for other subjects I did not have much time left....

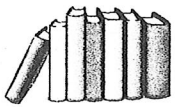
"Teaching school at that time was more difficult than later on because of the lack of texts. Whatever I taught had to be written out – no reference texts were available to the students. Training for our teachers could only be carried out in Duala where there were missionaries to try and teach them the rudimentary skills required in a classroom – their German not being good enough to read and comprehend in German as well as teach the language.

"That made me more zealous in the study and learning of the local language – after four months I was able to converse in the Duala language to the extent that I conducted the wedding service for teacher Ngea.

"I longed for the time when we would have better educated and more reliable students and teachers to help with the mission work."

(Editor's Note: How pleased Missionary Hofmeister would be to know that now Cameroonians are doing well both as students and as teachers at various educational institutions in Cameroon today! The November 7th 2001 prayer letter of Oryn and Pat Meinerts gives these figures: 269 students at CBTS, Ndu, 14 at CBS at Kumba and 8 in an evening program – Evangelical Bible Institute - at Bamenda.)





BOOKS AND THEIR WRITERS

In recent years there have been a number of missionaries who have taken the time to write about their missionary experiences. At the present time we have in our Archives books by several of these missionaries.

We have "Mambila Assignment" by Mildred and Gilbert Schneider, and the more recent one, "The Founding of Bamenda New Hope Settlement, 1952-1961", by Mildred Schneider, finished since the death of her husband, Gilbert on July 26, 1999. This book is based on letters sent home to family and friends.

Another book is by Dr. Dieter Lemke, missionary doctor in Cameroon from 1967 to 1980, and further into the mid-eighties and nineties as well. The name of this book is "Man No Be God" and it is very well done. It is available on Amazon.com for \$16.95 (American) or you may write to The Writers Club Press, iUniverse.com, Inc., 5220 S. 16th, Suite 200, Lincoln, NE 68512.

Missionary William Rentz, has taken time since his retirement in Canada to translate a work by Missionary Jacob Hofmeister who wrote three volumes of his memoirs. Mr. Rentz has finished Volume I. To order a 128 page, spiral-bound copy, write to him at 85 Greenach Crescent, NW, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6L 1W6; price is \$15 (American).

We have previously mentioned other NAB writers, such as Viola Pahl and Helga Bender Henry. Now we are asking for you readers to consider writing your OWN stories. Pray and perhaps the Lord will lay writing on *your* heart, to bless others and to show how He has worked in your life.

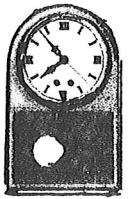


THE CLOCKS OF HEAVEN

by Dr. Martin L. Leuschner

Editorial in The Baptist Herald

January 3, 1952



"Travelers to distant countries have been known to keep one timepiece set to the time of their native land so that—for reasons of sentiment—they might always know what time it was in the homeland. In a somewhat similar sense the Christian pilgrim keeps one clock, the clock of his faith and trust, in time with the clocks in his Father's House above....

"There is a way to measure time which only the heart of faith knows that does not divide the day into hours and minutes but into the repeated trustworthy promises of God. If you can read the time—God's time—by these clocks of heaven, then the year ahead will not be thought of in terms of calendar days but in terms of God's renewed revelations of his truths, his promises and his blessings.

"The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him: (Psalm 103:17). That is the story of every new day in keeping with the clocks of heaven "to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night" (Psalm 92:2). It is the beauty of the Lord our God upon us, establishing the work of our hands as we have been taught to "number our days" by the clocks of heaven and to "apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).....

"God never comes too late with too little or too soon with too much. He is always on time—His time! He is "a very present help in trouble." The clocks of heaven show that "all things work together for good." Abraham, Joseph and Moses were men of
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faith who lived to see the day when the clocks of heaven struck the hour of God's fulfillment in their lives. There may be delays, humanly speaking. There may be disappointments in the calendar of 1952. But the clocks of heaven are always right because of God's assurances and promises.

"It is also of great comfort to us to know that the clocks of heaven have been set for our eternal welfare. Our times are in God's hand! That cannot be shown by the clock or by the calendar on the wall. But it is written in the Book of Life and seen in the unfolding purposes of God and revealed to us on the Cross of Calvary."



TRAVEL WITH THE ARM CHAIR TRAVELER

By Associate Archivist
Berneice Westerman

All travelers need a Time Schedule. However, God's time schedule is not ours. Our Heritage proves that.

- It took 30 years from the time it was first suggested in the Triennial Minutes to the actual time that our Women's Work was officially organized and recognized! Meetings were being held in many places before that.
- It took 53 years from the time Rev. Henry Hirsch suggested in a letter to our conference officials that there should be a "Church Doctor" to the time that we have in some areas implemented the office of Church Health Director.
- It took 30 years from the time it was mentioned in the Conference minutes that we go from the German Language to English. In our 1916 Triennial

meetings it was suggested and it became official with the name change and recording of the minutes in 1946.

So – Waiting is not in vain and your good ideas need time to take root.

Pictures tell stories, but it helps if there are dates and names of the people whose image is on that picture. We have lots of lovely pictures of ladies, men and children – but we do not know where to store these, without identification.

My armchair travels have been mainly to Cameroon. John Siewert, the brother of Alma Henderson, is doing research for a book about Cameroon during the period that his sister served as a missionary there.

Miss Patricia Lenz, our present-day missionary, was here in January to collect information about Mbingo Hospital. Its 50th anniversary is coming, and she wanted to have specific dates of major events. Earlier we had helped Bansa Baptist Hospital with material for their anniversary.

The rescue of documents from one of our Chicago churches from a hot, dry attic storage room was gratifying. At least *that* valuable material was not taken out to the garbage dump because it seemed useless. (Yes, we have had two churches whose history is now being turned to compost, when it could be a reminder to us of how God started His work in that place.) We are grateful to Mr. Locklin, a researcher, who went to that aforementioned church to get some information about his ancestor who was a pastor there.

And finally, the January/Feb issue of NAB TODAY tells of North Dakota beginnings. The Heritage Commission helped both Ernie Zimbelman and Lloyd Harsch collect the materials that were used in that article.

