

Spring 2003

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Heritage Horizons

...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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**Love begins at
home, and it is
not how much
we do...but how
much love we
put in that
action.**

-Mother Teresa-

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Point of View *by Lenore Lang*

We were all glad to have Spring come again, I'm sure. After Winter, with its cold winds and snow, we are happy for grass and flowers again.

This issue of Heritage Horizons precedes a special summer one which we will put out for the Triennial here in Sioux Falls from July 16-19, 2003.

As of now our publication has a new look!

That is because we have a new editorial consultant to help us do new things with our lay-out of the paper. Her name is Sarah Breitkreuz and she is a seminary student who came to Sioux Falls from Canada for the Spring Semester.

Sarah has done publishing in several of the positions she has held in the past number of years and knows a lot about editing a paper.

Look for an article by Sarah in our Triennial issue.

If your area of the country has not had sufficient rainfall and you are concerned about a drought, you will find a good perspective and some words of hope in the article by Dr. Ted Faszner about a family memory.



GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING HERITAGE SUNDAY

By Dr. Ernie Zimbelman (Chairman of the Board)

The Heritage Commission is strongly encouraging every NAB Church to celebrate their NAB Heritage on Sunday June 29th which is the Sunday preceding Canada Day (July 1) and Independence Day in the U.S. (July 4).

A Responsive Reading and guidelines for other parts of this observance are available by writing to:

NAB Heritage Commission
1525 So. Grange Ave.,
Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

It is only appropriate that on the day when we remember key people and events of our national heritage, that we also focus on key people and events of our North American Baptist Heritage.

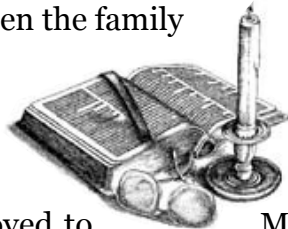
Pearl Weiss Faszer was born on August 2, 1920 at Irvine, Alberta, Canada to John and Minnie (Semrau) Weiss. Pearl was the second surviving daughter, with a younger sister and two younger brothers. An older brother had died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Pearl's schooling was varied: rural school near the farm where she grew up at Hilda, Alberta, high school for one year in Hilda, Winnipeg Bible Institute for one year, then four years at Edmonton's Christian Training Institute from which she graduated with a diploma.

From birth, Pearl attended Hilda Baptist Church with her family. The Weiss family was active in worship, Sunday School and in vocal and instrumental musical groups. The Charles Faszer family was also very active in that Baptist church. Pearl grew up in the same classes and youth groups with Isador Faszer. Isador often visited the Weiss farm on Sunday afternoons for singing, games and fellowship. These visits blossomed into love. Pearl wanted to serve Christ, and was pleased when Isador responded to God's call to serve Christ in pastoral ministry. They studied and graduated together at the Christian Training Institute.

Pearl and Isador were mar-

ried on Pearl's twenty-third birthday, August 2, 1943. They moved to Rochester, NY in August 1944, so that Isador could study at the Rochester Baptist Seminary. Pearl worked as a housekeeper and cook for the family of a medical doctor to help pay seminary expenses. A son, Tim, was born in Rochester in September, 1945. A second son, Ted, was born in Edmonton, Alberta in July 1947, while Isador was serving as a summer student pastor at Central Baptist, Edmonton.

Upon Isador's graduation in May 1949, the family moved to Golden Prairie, SK, where they served the town church and two station churches. Pearl was active in women's ministry, music ministry and Christian education. In 1952 when the family



moved to Minitonas MB, Pearl established a children's church ministry which attracted over 100 children each week. She also instituted a Scripture memory program, and a girls' mission guild. A third son, Loren, was born in July 1952, followed by a daughter, Louella, in October 1953.

In 1957 the family moved to Vancouver BC to serve the Bethany Baptist Church. Pearl was again very involved

in music and education ministries. She also exercised gifts of hospitality, and was active in the Vancouver area NAB pastors' and wives' fellowship. A second daughter, Grace, was born in June 1959.

The family moved to Ashley, ND in 1962. Pearl again played a leadership role in women's ministry, education ministry and music ministry. She also loved visitation ministry, in hospitals, nursing homes, or the homes of sick and elderly members.

After the marriages of the two older sons, Tim and Ted, the rest of the family moved to Long Island, NY in 1968, to serve the Valley Stream Baptist Church. Pearl continued to serve as a teacher, SS Superintendent, music and women's ministry leader. She hosted many missionaries, pastors and international guests, who traveled through New York.

In 1973 the family moved to Calgary Alberta, as Isador became Northern Area Minister and later Alberta Area Minister. Loren and Louella attended North American Baptist College, and met their life partners there. After Grace, the youngest child, graduated from high school and went to NABC where she also met her husband, Pearl went back to work outside the home for the first time in almost thirty years. Pearl accompanied Isador to church anniversaries and dedication celebrations,

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Association meetings and Triennial conferences throughout their ministries.

When Isador retired in 1985, Pearl and Isador enjoyed interim pastorates, mission trips, and travel around the US and Canada in their camper-van. Pearl did all the driving because of Isador's limited vision. Pearl and Isador enjoyed a new ministry with international students during their retirement. Pearl taught Bible, music, conversational English and reading to many students and their families. She hosted international students in their home. Pearl and Isador celebrated their 50th anniversary in August 1993.

After Pearl lost her beloved

husband in December 1996, she continued to live in Calgary until August 1998 when she moved to South Country Village, the NAB retirement community in Medicine Hat, Alberta. There she lived across the hall from her sister and brother-in-law, and two blocks from her brother and sister-in-law. Many of Pearl's childhood friends from Hilda lived in the same complex.

Pearl joined the Temple Baptist Church and became active in women's ministry, seniors ministry and was elected to the mission board. At South Country Village she sang on the worship team. Pearl became ill with cancer

in April 1999 and died on March 17, 2002. Pearl loved Christ, and served her Savior all her life. We can picture her now, singing in the heavenly choir.

“Pearl loved Christ, and served her Savior all her life. We can picture her now, singing in the heavenly choir.”

THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Associate Archivist Berneice Westerman



You will be doing the traveling in July! This armchair will stay in the waiting mode and meet you here in Sioux Falls.

I would like to encourage you to come and see several important items: We have a copy of the Triennial news sheet from the time the Triennial met in Madison, South Dakota in 1913. The people came by train which waited for them until they were ready to return. About

100 automobiles served as taxis while the people were at the Conference.

We have a copy of the 1949 Argus Leader concerning the Triennial which was held here in Sioux Falls that year. Lives were changed – the NAB Seminary was moved from Rochester, New York to Sioux Falls, and two South Dakotans were commissioned to go out as Cameroon Missionaries. (Ed. Note: The two were Berneice Westerman, assistant editor of this publication, and Myrtle Weeldreyer, deceased in May 20, 2003.)

You can greatly help us by bringing all your early Triennial pins and name badges when you come here in July. We would like to have a complete collection of all of these pins and badges if at all possible. We have a pin from 1913 and another from 1940, together with a few more recent ones!

THE STORY OF AN ORGAN

(A little Japanese Yamaha Organ) by Florence Miller *Missionary to Japan*

I purchased this little organ after I went to Ise to start a church there in 1953. It was used in our first little church, a three-room house, which was also home for Miss Yoshiko Yamamoto and me, until a mission house was built. Even though I did not play very well, I played the organ because there was no one else to do it. I also led the worship and did the speaking.

Later, during special evangelistic services with Rev. John Rhoads as evangelist, we also used it for street meetings. John had a van with a PA system and a tail-gate that opened up for a platform from



which he preached, using an interpreter. We had two brothers, Kiyoshi and Ken Iwai, who were Christian university students, helping us with singing. And I played the organ. We were able to attract a small crowd and invited them to come to the church to hear more about Christ.

When I went to Tsu to begin university student evangelism, the little organ went with me and was used by me in the church services we held at the Tsu Christian Center for two years. We even took it to the seashore and used it for an outdoor Easter Sunrise Service which we held there.

Since it was my personal possession, I took it to Ikeda City in Osaka where I taught at the Osaka Biblical Seminary. I kept it in my home for personal use because the churches were then acquiring their own. I brought it back to the US when I retired as a reminder of the small beginnings we had in Japan and of how God uses small things as well as big things. **I would like to donate it to the NAB Missions Archives** with the message that *God will take whatever instrument and talent that we offer Him, however small and imperfect, and use it for His purposes.*

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A STORY OF FAITH

by Dr. Ted Faszter



Charles and Mary Faszter raised ten children on a farm near Hilda, Alberta, Canada during the depression years of the 1930's. Charles and Mary loved Christ. They led their children in family Bible reading prayer each day in their home, and were faithful in attendance at Hilda Baptist Church.

Crop failures were frequent during the 1930's. For several years, rains came too late or not at all. Charles kept a few cattle alive by feeding them "hay" made from Russian thistles. If thistles were cut green and dried, cattle would eat them if nothing else was available. Hordes of grasshoppers ate anything growing. Dust storms blew fine powder through any openings around doors or windows or cracks in houses.

After several years of crop failure, one spring brought enough rain to germinate wheat. All through that summer, showers came at just the right times to keep the crop thriving. It looked as though Charles might be able to harvest a

good crop for the first time in years.

One day, just as the wheat was golden ripe, storm clouds filled the sky. As the wind picked up, large hail stones pounded the beautiful grain into stubble. After the storm, Charles' oldest son, Isador, found Charles on his knees in the hailed-out wheat field. Charles was talking to God.

"Lord, I don't understand why you allowed this beautiful crop to be hailed out when it was so close to harvest. But I know that you provided for our family during these dry years, and I know that you'll continue to care for us now. Please give us the faith to trust you completely."

My Dad told this faith story to his five children. I told it to my two children. When they are old enough to understand, I will tell it to my grandchildren. If great-grandpa Faszter could trust God in the midst of severe hardship, how much more should we follow in the faith footprints of a godly Christian farmer, Charles Faszter.

