

Vol. 11 No. 3

TRIENNIAL 2003

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 3

# 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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## Inside this issue:

WELCOME	2
PREVIOUS TRIENNIALS	3
PICTURES	4
WISH LIST	6
BEGINNINGS	7
DID YOU KNOW	8
HERITAGE SUNDAY	8

**/ know God  
will not give me  
anything I can't  
handle. I just  
wish that He  
didn't trust me  
so much.**

**-Mother Teresa-**

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## POINT OF VIEW BY LENORE LANG

Often when individuals or families are getting ready for guests for a meal or for an overnight stay, there is a flurry of activity: dusting, vacuuming, cooking and re-arranging of furniture. Well, for quite a few months, your NAB family in Sioux Falls has been getting ready for Triennial guests, and many people have been working long hours to have things in good order. Much prayer has gone into the planning, and above all we pray the conference will be a refreshing blessing to each one who comes.

On page 2 of this paper, you will find Words of Welcome by Archives Director George Lang, and you will get a brief overview of Conference Activities. Then, have you ever

wondered about the beginnings of this event we call the Triennial? George has written a page about that very thing, and you will find his observations on page 7.

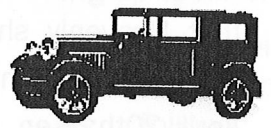
Perhaps you have been trying to recall when and where other Triennials were held. "When was it in Wichita? When was it in Detroit?" you may wonder. You will find the complete list compiled by Berneice Westerman on page 3.

Something new—a "picture section" is on pages 4 and 5.

And—have you ever had a Wish List—some items that you would really like to have? Our Associate Archivist, Berneice Westerman, has such a list, but not for selfish reasons.

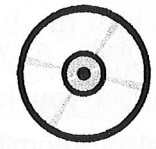
*Continued on page 2*

## Antique Car Rides



Be sure to take a ride in one of the antique cars provided by the Heritage Commission

## CD's Available



A set of three CD's

"What America Means to Me,  
Reflections of Rev. Bert Jacksteit"

are available at the Heritage Display Booth

# WELCOME!!

By George W. Lang, Director of the NAB Heritage Commission

Welcome to the 47<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference.

We of the NAB Heritage Commission are thrilled to have you come to Sioux Falls to participate in this significant event in the life of NAB Churches.

This Conference has prepared for you many important and interesting events and features.

High on the list of these attractions are those being planned by the people of the NAB Heritage Commission.

I trust you have already registered to attend the Heritage Commission/Retired Pastors and Missionaries Breakfast to take place on Thursday morning at 7 am.

The breakfast is FREE - courtesy of R.W. Baird,

representative of NAB's Pension Fund. If you have an interest in the history of NAB, you are warmly invited to attend.



Many items of historical interest can be found at the Heritage Commission's exhibit booth.

Please make a point to see what is on display and to meet our personnel.

You will also want to join the tour taking place in connection with the Bar-B Que - Friday noon lunch - hosted by the Seminary and taking place on the North American Baptist Seminary Campus.

The Heritage Commission's displays are part of this tour. On this tour you will see many items of great interest; such items would be very difficult to transport all the way to the exhibit booth at the Convention Center.



At 1:30 PM on Thursday, at the plenary session in the Convention Hall, Ernie Zimbelman (Heritage Commission Chairman) will lead the Memorial Moments honoring those NAB pastors, their wives and missionaries who have died since the last Triennial.

Following this, you will want to see the ten-minute video presentation of the ministry and impact of the Heritage Commission.

Again the people of the Heritage Commission welcome you to Sioux Falls and to the great Conference sessions that are being planned.

We pray that the Lord and His glory will be exalted in all that takes place.



## POINT OF VIEW

... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She wants to help make our Heritage Commission better! Bravo! Could you help? See the list - page 6.

Give your brain a workout by reading through the "Did you know that" items on page 8, also compiled by Berneice Westerman. You'll be glad you read these. Learn...learn...learn.

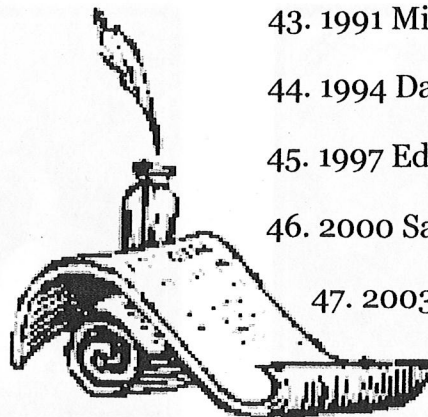
Finally, I have been telling friends that I

think there must be a "Cameroon Corner" up in Heaven now, because we have quite a list of retired Cameroon missionaries who have reached that Heavenly shore this year, 2003: Minnie Kuhn on April 6th; Myrtle Weeldreyer McCann on April 20th; Ken Goodman on May 10; Esther Schultz on June 10th; Gladys Rentz on June 20th, and Edith Schroeder DeNeui on July 2nd. Their names will be mentioned in the Memorial Moments on Thursday.

# PAST TRIENNIAL LOCATIONS

Page 3

1. 1865 Wilmot, Ontario, Canada
2. 1868 Cincinnati, Ohio
3. 1871 New York City
4. 1874 Chicago, Illinois
5. 1877 Buffalo, New York
6. 1880 St. Louis, Missouri
7. 1883 Cleveland, Ohio
8. 1886 Detroit, Michigan
9. 1889 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
10. 1892 Chicago, Illinois
11. 1895 Dayton, Ohio
12. 1898 St. Louis, Missouri
13. 1901 Berlin, Ontario, Canada
14. 1904 Chicago, Illinois
15. 1907 Buffalo, New York
16. 1910 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
17. 1913 Madison, South Dakota
18. 1916 Detroit, Michigan
19. 1919 Chicago, Illinois
20. 1922 St. Paul, Minnesota
21. 1925 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
22. 1928 Chicago, Illinois
23. 1931 Detroit, Michigan
24. 1934 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
25. 1937 Portland, Oregon
26. 1940 Burlington, Iowa
27. 1944 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
28. 1946 Tacoma, Washington
29. 1949 Sioux Falls, South Dakota
30. 1952 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
31. 1955 Waco, Texas
32. 1958 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
33. 1961 Minneapolis, Minnesota
34. 1964 Sacramento, California
35. 1967 Detroit, Michigan
36. 1970 Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
37. 1973 Wichita, Kansas
38. 1976 Portland, Oregon
39. 1979 Bismarck, North Dakota
40. 1982 Niagara Falls, New York
41. 1985 Anaheim, California
42. 1988 Calgary, Alberta, Canada
43. 1991 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
44. 1994 Dallas, Texas
45. 1997 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
46. 2000 Sacramento, California
47. 2003 Sioux Falls, South Dakota





# THE ARCHIVES SHOWN THROUGH PICTURES



(above) The most recent case of people coming to visit our archives to do research is that of John Siewert and Daphne Dunger. They are working on a book about the work of North American Baptist Conference missionaries in Cameroon, Africa during the years 1945-1975.



(above) Berneice Westerman showing the process used for unrolling old pictures while preparing them for archives.



(left) Lenore Lang, the editor of Heritage Horizons is shown at the archives' computer.

(below left) Louise Westerman is showing Ernie Zimbelman some of the science equipment that was used in the academy in the 1800's.

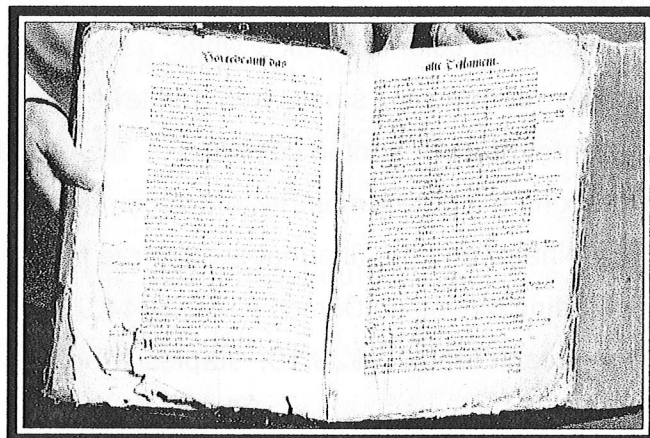
(below right) Chaplain Michelson's (LTC, retired) uniform was donated to the museum by Helmut. He wore it during "Desert Storm".







(above) "All these files need to be put into the computer so researchers will be able to use them with more ease," says Berneice Westerman.



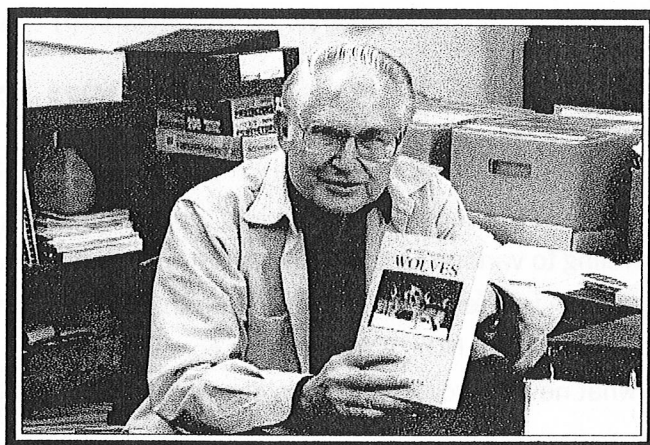
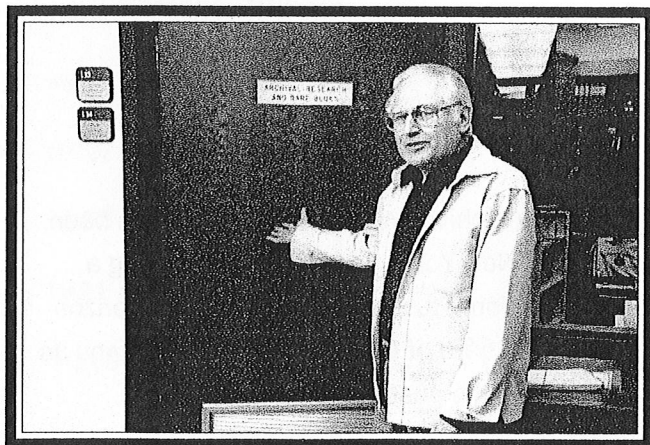
(above) This is the oldest Bible in our collection printed, in 1670, 100 years after the Gutenberg Bible.

(right) Marjorie Buseman is preparing Seminary graduation pictures for display.



(below left) "We welcome you to visit our Archive Office on the tour scheduled for Friday afternoon," says George Lang.

(below right) George Lang, Director, is holding Don Miller's book In the Midst of Wolves. Don spent considerable time in the archives while writing this book.



# MY WISH LIST

Page 6

By Berneice Westerman

## Equipment

- ~ Photocopier, color & black & white; a large one for use of office personnel and researchers
- ~ Ionizer for removing smells from mildewed and burnt articles
- ~ A printer that will print in color and in black and white.
- ~ A second telephone near my office computer
- ~ A laminator and the film that is acid free for old papers etc. (\$179.99/\$122.39)
- ~ A Binding Machine (Demco P300 \$444.99)
- ~ Long reach Stapler (\$23.19; staples, 1 box = \$2.29)



## Church Historical Documents

Every Church should send a list of their membership names, from the charter members to the current list. Church directories with pictures are most helpful and appreciated.

## People

- ~ People who can put things into a computer data-base. Can work at home and send or bring the discs in to the Heritage Commission.
- ~ Volunteers to help in putting files and photos into acid free folders—this would be on-the-spot work.
- ~ Volunteers who can file items and organize files. On-the-spot work.
- ~ Computer Doctor: A volunteer who is willing to help when we have computer problems. On-call when needed.
- ~ Translators: People who are willing to translate from the German to the English Language. Can be done in your home. Call us to ask about books and documents.
- ~ A Volunteer to organize biographical material and transfer it from a note-file to a biographical data base.
- ~ Volunteers to identify pictures: This could be done from your home with photocopied pictures.
- ~ In every church a Church Historian who is ready to collect, preserve, and organize the church's history. We have guidelines for such historians to use. Each church should have a Date Line of the main events of the church. We would appreciate having a copy of that in our files too.

# CAPITAL FUND DRIVE

By Ernie Zimbelman

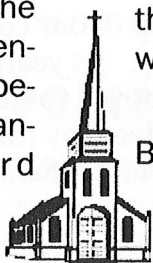
We continue to make limited progress in raising money for a new archive/museum facility. I have been traveling to various parts of the country including California, Kansas and New York in addition to mounting a campaign in the Sioux Falls area, with the help of a paid consultant, Mr. Tom Trussler of the Strategic Horizon Program, Minot, ND. Based on this consultant's recommendations, the Board of Governors will make plans as to what new approach to take, since we achieved very limited goals during the past eighteen months.

# HOW WE BECAME THE NAB CONFERENCE Page 7

By George W. Lang

You have come to attend the North American Baptist 47th Triennial Conference.

You many be interested in knowing about the background of the Triennial Conference—and specifically the use and meaning of the word “Conference” in our NAB history.



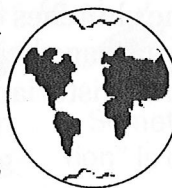
The beginning of the term “Conference” goes back to 1851. As Dr. Woyke\* expresses it: “The first conference of German Baptists in North America was held at the First German Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 6-12, 1851.” (page 3)

At this time the term “Conference” was extended to include not only the coming together of German Baptist churches for a few days in a particular place—but also the fellowship of Baptist Churches agreeing upon a particular statement of faith and having a tie in other ways to other German Baptist churches having the same beliefs.

In this second sense the first Conference came to be known as the Eastern Conference. As churches

continued to be planted—with an increasing number of them located further west, the Conference was extended to become the Eastern Conference and the Western Conference, which was begun in 1885.

The number of German Baptist church plants continued to increase, especially beyond the Ohio River Valley—into the Illinois area—and beyond. As a result it was decided in 1880/81 to divide the Western Conference into three Conferences: the Central, the Northwestern and the Southwestern Conferences. Each local conference had its own annual meeting.



Every three years churches from these local conferences met together as an all-inclusive general conference—coming to be known as the Triennial Conference.

During the next twenty years, other conferences developed —by 1905 adding up to nine.

The beginning date of each local conference is as follows: Eastern (1851), Central (1880/81), Southwestern (1880/81), Texas (1884), Pacific (1895), Atlantic

(1897/98), Northern (1902) and Dakota (1904/05).

In 1945 in connection with the ending of World War II, the name The General Conference of German Baptist Churches of North America was changed to The North American Baptist General Conference.

In 1971, the organizational structure of the General Conference was changed. The local conferences were discontinued, associations replaced them as the basic denominational unit and the term General was dropped; hence, today's North American Baptist Conference.

As indicated in its 2003 Directory, The North American Baptist Conference now consists of 20 local associations.

\* Note: The Information found in this article is based on the book Heritage and Ministry of the North American Baptist Conference by Dr. Frank H. Woyke, 1979.



# DID YOU KNOW...

By Berneice Westerman

1. The First time the Triennial Conference was held west of the Mississippi River was in 1913 in Madison, SD. The train came with the Eastern delegates and waited for the sessions to finish before it left again. One hundred cars served as taxis from the train to the Madison University campus where the sessions were held. See a newspaper from that time in the Heritage Booth.
2. It was suggested in 1916 that we should change from the German language to the English but it did not happen until 30 years later!
3. It was suggested in 1882 *by a man* that the Women's group of our conference should become a national group, but this actually did not happen until 1907, 25 years later!
4. In 1911 in Emery, South Dakota we had a hospital which moved to Aberdeen in 1912 because it was easier for the North Dakota patients to come to Aberdeen by train. The main doctor was an MD as well as an NAB Seminary Graduate: Dr. Carl Homman who died in 1933, and we are looking for his obituary. **Can you help us find it?**
5. Over 50 years ago it was suggested by one of our pastors that our conference should have a 'church doctor' who would go to each church to spend time with them and help with their problems. In 2003 we have Regional Ministers who are doing that job.
6. Our Danzig, Emery, Eureka, Madison, Milbank, Tyndall, SD, and Berlin, Hebron, Minot, and Wishek, ND churches were organized while this area was still The Dakota Territory. Statehood happened in 1889. North Dakota's papers were signed just before those of South Dakota.
7. The sod house that was used as the church building at Linton, ND is still standing. See the picture in the North Dakota book on display at the Heritage booth.
8. Fleischmann Memorial, our oldest church, has changed its name.
9. Because members of some churches could not read the old church documents (in German), they sent them out to the garbage heap. Those histories will never bless anyone. Take note!
10. Your church needs a church historian!

## HERITAGE SUNDAY

By Ernie Zimbelman

The Heritage Commission is suggesting that each year the Sunday connected with the week of July 1st (Canada Day) for Canada and July 4th (Independence Day) for the US, be observed as Heritage Sunday in your church. The focus of this service may be on the Heritage of families, church, Christian History in general, or community and national history. The Heritage Commission has developed a Responsive Reading for the occasion. I went to the Metropolitan Church in Fargo for a Heritage Service on June 29th this year. There I participated in three different services and a potluck dinner with emphasis on German cooking. As part of the eve-

ning service participants opened two cornerstone boxes that had belonged to the Grace Baptist Church of West Fargo. This Church closed during the past year. Pastor Monty Loudenslager plans to bring these materials to the Heritage archives center. Rueben and Verda Tschritter, who helped organized this special Sunday expressed their belief that the Heritage Day heightened the interest of their people, not just in the history of their church but in individual family heritage.

