

Fall 2005

Volume 13, No. 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



Editor: Lenore Lang  
Assistant Editor: B. Westerman

## Inside this issue:

An inspiring poem 1  
An obituary 2

A Camp Beginning 3

An Armchair and  
A Book 4

## Point of View *by Lenore Lang*

On this page we find a poem written over 50 years ago by a woman whose poems have often been meaningful to me. This one should resonate in all our hearts, especially at this time of year.

The mother of Mrs. Darline Bill has gone to Heaven recently. Information about another book coming out. And a mortgage-burning. **All on page 2.**

A mustard-seed miracle? Read about it on page 3.

Archivist Berneice Westerman has good insights to share about helping others. Notes from our Archives Director about a forthcoming book. See page 4.



## LET THERE BE PRAISE!

**By Grace Noll Crowell**

We have been given much, too much for hoarding; Too much to keep without our joyous **praise** Lifting to God, the Maker and the Giver Of all the gifts that overflow our days.

**Let there be praise,** therefore, and true thanksgiving, Rising like incense from the earth's warm sod. Let there be gratitude and glad rejoicing, Acknowledging the mercies of our God.

And may there be no selfishness, no keeping In darkened places gifts we should not hoard; May we be godlike in our outgiving: May we be merciful as is our Lord.

For thus alone will he accept our **praising,** And, thus repaid, his hand will not withhold The sun and shower, and the strength for toiling, The needed garments, and the wheat's pure gold.

From The Baptist Herald, November 3, 1955.

**Life is not  
the wick or  
the candle —  
it is the  
burning.**



from Treasures of  
Silver, page 62.  
1977

**NAB Heritage Commission**  
1525 So. Grange Ave.,  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
(605) 335-9071  
www.nabarchives.org





# HOME-GOING OF MRS. DOROTHY THOLE



At the age of 103 Dorothy Bloedow Thole died on Thursday, October 27, 2005 at the Leisure Homestead, in Stafford, Kansas. Born June 19, 1902 at Killaloe, Ontario, Canada, she was the daughter of William and Marie (Ristau) Bloedow.

In the 1920s while working for a family in Rochester, NY, she met Charles B. Thole who was a student at the North American Baptist Seminary in Rochester. Their marriage took place on May 20, 1926 in Rochester, after which they served pastorates in Lemberg, Saskatchewan, and Leduc, Alberta.

Then they farmed at Olds, Alberta until 1942 when they moved to Stafford, KS where Charles farmed the homestead of George Thole, his father.

Dorothy was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Stafford, the Women's Missionary Fellowship, the choir, and taught Sunday School class for many years.

In December 1998 she became a resident of Leisure Homestead. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, a son, Bernard, her parents, six sisters and one brother.

Grateful for having shared her life are her daughters, Darline (Leon) Bill, Sioux Falls, SD and Lois (Richard) Feldman, Stevens Point, WI, daughter-in-law, Terry Thole, North Tonawanda, NY, 9 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grandchildren.

Her funeral was held on Monday, October 31 at the Calvary Baptist Church of Stafford with the Rev. David Vetter presiding. A memorial fund has been set up — the Charles and Dorothy Thole Scholarship at the NAB Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.... and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13)

Also, their children's works are blessed —and a blessing. Son-in-law and daughter, Rev. Leon and Darline Bill, are faithful members of the Heritage Commission, and Rev. Bill has made a significant contribution of time and excellent work toward the installation of the beautiful stained-glass window which now graces the Seminary halls. Yes, in her own life and work and through the actions of her beloved children, the life of Mrs. Dorothy Thole has been well-lived **to the glory of God and the up-building of His Kingdom.** To Him be praise forever.

We are happy to report news from Rev. Clarence H. Walth, that on Sunday October 2nd, 2005 there was a service of Mortgage burning at the Sunrise Community Church in Fair Oaks, California. This is indeed a significant event in the life of any church, and we are grateful for this evidence of faithfulness on the part of the members as they give to the advancement of the Lord's work among them. Rev. Eugene Kern was the first pastor of the Sunrise Church beginning in 1974 with *four families* meeting together. How the Lord has blessed!

Les Collins of the Church Extension Investment Fund was present at the Burning, representing the North American Baptist Conference home office in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

Also Clarence and Dorene Walth are working hard on Heroes of the Faith II which follows the first volume, Heroes of the Faith. These books are offered for the purpose of encouraging each of us to be faithful in our walk with the Lord, and to make a difference in the lives of those around us. This second volume should be available in 2006.





# A MODERN DAY MUSTARD-SEED MIRACLE

## The Story of The Village Creek Bible Camp, Lansing IA, by Myron H. Dudek

In the summer of 1960 during the annual sessions of the Northwestern Conference of the North American Baptist General Conference, the youth camp volunteer leaders of three states (IA, MN and WI) were discussing their individual youth camp programs. Each state rented a campground facility for one or two weeks each year and usually were limited to the early or late weeks of the summer, because the owners rightfully preferred the prime weeks of each summer for their own camp program. As their conversation proceeded, the comment was made, **“IT SURE WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD FIND A CAMPGROUND NEAR LACROSSE, WISCONSIN WHERE THE THREE STATES COULD HAVE CAMP TOGETHER.”**

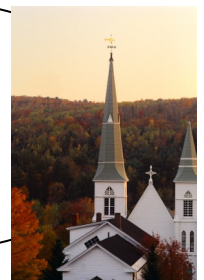
Ten years later, a layman from Steamboat Rock, IA found a farm for sale with good potential for a campground in Lansing, IA, about thirty miles from La Crosse, WI. During that ten-year span of time, the states of WI, MN and IL had gradually combined their camp programs to a campground in northern Wisconsin. Knowing this, the Steamboat Rock, IA layman asked the Iowa Christian Education Committee to invite the three states to a viewing of this farm with a prayerful desire to develop a four-state camp. Pastors and laymen from Illinois and Iowa visited the site on December 21, 1970 and the “mustard seed” blossomed into the early days of development of what is now Village Creek Bible Camp.

The more we ponder the early beginning of this Camp, the more we realize that God motivated the right people at the right time to do HIS will in the development and encouragement of this ministry. With a thousand campers each summer and many Fall, Winter and Spring retreats for all ages, we can only praise God for each “partner” in this ministry, each one who over the past thirty years has had a part in what we are able to enjoy today. **PRAISE GOD! !**

Footnote: Among the camp leaders in discussion at the Northwestern Conference in 1960, were Marilyn Schaer, her cousin Mary Ann Schaer (now deceased) and Myron Dudek. The layman from Steamboat Rock, IA was Harry Luiken (deceased October 2005). Rev. Eldon Schroeder provided information about the year of the Northwestern Conference, when this **mustard seed** was planted in Racine, Wisconsin.

Editor’s Note: Telephone conversations with Mr. Myron Dudek and Rev. Orville Meth have brought the additional information that currently Mr. Thomas Treptau is serving as Director of the Village Creek Camp, together with his wife, Camie (Bohlen) Treptau, a position they have held for nine years, and also that Rev. Orville Meth was Chairman of the Board at the time this original momentous decision was made. Rev. Orville Meth has been an influential blessing for many years in his service as Chairman of the Board of the NAB Heritage Commission.

“Fifty years ago God began His own good work at Parma Heights Baptist Church.” So begins the History of this church located in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, a history written by LaVerna Mehlhaff for the church’s great celebration on May 1st, 2005. Look for more information in the next issue of Heritage Horizons.



# THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Archivist Berneice Westerman



By letter and by telephone I have been in touch with many friends. A while ago, you were asked to pray for someone to help write the story of our NAB Women's Work. These prayers have been answered! Someone has agreed to help get together the materials about what we women have done. This person has contacted a good friend to research and find the information so that our Women's Story can finally be told. We have five boxes of material here at the

Heritage Commission and there are more materials at the Oakbrook Terrace office.

At another time I may write a column of Did You Know? facts, including this fact which I cannot forget: *It was a **man** who suggested that our Women's Work become a USA and Canadian organization and it took 47 years for the denomination to take that important step.* Who was that man and what is the story behind that fact? You will have to wait for the story to be told!

A Researcher came to us from Utah and requested an obituary. I was able to supply it and he then informed a friend who lives in Vermont. Now that second person is requesting more research material. So from this situation I have learned: **1.** A good way to advertise is to tell a friend. **2.** When you do research for others, you learn a lot yourself. **3.** There is a great blessing in helping others. Dr. Jackie Howell and I will be happy to help you learn about your family if they have been involved in our NAB Conference. Call us or write us.

## **A Personal Perspective of Early NAB History To Be Available in an English Translation: — George W. Lang, Archives Director**

A unique and valuable piece of history of the early years of the German Baptist Conference in the United States and Canada has been recently translated from German into English by Dr. Donald Madvig, formerly a professor at the North American Baptist Seminary.

This very descriptive book called Memories (*Erinnerungen* in German) was written by Reverend G.A. Schulte. Reverend Schulte served as the General Mission Secretary of the German Baptist Conference from 1892-1916. He visited many churches in the United States and Canada during the time of their early years and their years of significant growth — because in those years Home Missions and Overseas Missions were included in the same arena of oversight and responsibility.

Before serving as General Missionary Secretary, Reverend Schulte served as pastor of the German Baptist Church in Buffalo, NY for seven years beginning in 1863, and then as pastor of the First (German Baptist) Church in New York City for twenty-two years.

Lois Glewwe, member of the Riverview Baptist Church of West St. Paul, MN, has agreed to be the Editor. Her plan is to enhance this translation by using sidebars that provide related pictures, together with background information and helpful explanations, providing these throughout the book. This translation shall also contain a detailed index. Lois Glewwe shall be working with Berneice Westerman, the NAB Heritage Commission's Archivist, and Dr. Jackie Howell, Associate Archivist.

The goal is to make this publication available at the coming Triennial Sessions to take place July 5-9 at Estes Park, CO. As time progresses, we shall give you more details. Keep in touch.

