

Winter 2007

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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



Editor: Lenore Lang
Assistant Editor: B. Westerman

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Point of View *by Lenore Lang*

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We can still learn from precious lives that have been transplanted to Glory! See page 2.

Changes are in the making! Read good words from two people whose work and influence will be felt among us in days to come. Page 3.

Archivist Berneice Westerman has important information for us from her Armchair! Don't miss it! Page 4.



FINAL WORDS AS DIRECTOR

by George W. Lang

**You cannot let
the darkness out,
you have to let the
light in.**



From **Tell No Man**
by
Adela Rogers
St. Johns
1967

The past seven years have been enjoyable and fulfilling, as I served as the Director of the NAB Heritage Commission. I have appreciated the opportunity to delve more deeply into the documents and artifacts related to our NAB Heritage, and I have especially enjoyed keeping in touch with many NAB friends that I have been able to get acquainted with because of their connection to the NAB work.

I have been impressed by how much of a family of God's people we are and have been through the years — a family of members who have deep regard for one another, and who have fond memories of our fathers, grandfathers, former pastors and denominational leaders who served the Lord with joy and sacrifice.

Now our calendar tells us that we have begun a new year — 2007. Some of the implications of this are described in greater detail in my accompanying letter.

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



HOMEGOING OF THELMA FISCHER

On December 31, 2006, Thelma Freda Forsch Fischer was taken home to Heaven after a full life which began in Selby, ND October 9, 1919. She grew up in Isabel, SD. For more than fifty years she was a legal secretary in Lodi, California. She was an active member of Temple Baptist Church in Lodi, serving as historian for the church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard on July 8, 2000 and by three siblings, Adeline Zimmerman, Clifford and Burdette Forsch. She is survived by a daughter, Sharron-Fischer-Perry, three grandchildren, Renee Zahorowski and husband, Jeff; Stephanie Perry, and Frank Perry and wife Christina, a sister, Loretta Perman, and two sisters-in-law, Fran Forsch and Rosella Forsch.

Thelma's interest in Missions was wonderful. She kept detailed records of those in missionary service, and she regularly forwarded missionary letters to many friends. There is no doubt that she will be greatly missed.



MEMORIES OF A BELOVED DAUGHTER: HEATHER DREGER

(Editor's Note: When George and I were in Cameroon we lived on the same Ndu station as did both Henry and Rose, and appreciated them very much for their loving helpfulness and their evident abilities.)

Henry and Rose Dreger served as Short Term Missionaries in Cameroon, West Africa, Henry in 1968-70, Rose Herke in 1970-71. In 1971 Rose returned to Canada and she and Henry were married in August, 1971. In the intervening years since their marriage, the Lord gave them two children, Heather, born on December 23, 1974, and Norman on January 16, 1977. They lived in Canada, where they were busy in their lives as a history teacher (Henry) and as a public-health nurse and administrator (Rose). They are now both retired.

Their daughter, Heather, grew up and married, and was enjoying life with her husband, Ashley Tait. She had just started her teaching career as a band teacher in Vancouver when she found she was in a battle for her life, the adversary being Multiple Myeloma. She went through a bone marrow (stemcell) transplant and hopes were high for her recovery, but in September of 2004, five years after her diagnosis, her life came to a close.

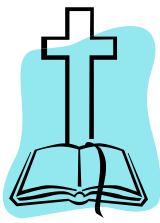
Her memorial service on September 17, 2004 centered around verses from Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season, And a time for every matter under heaven." Now, almost three years later, Heather's parents shared in their Christmas letter that at her former school, "Heather's Garden" has been developed, just outside the band room where she taught. The garden features numerous types of heather plants, a fitting memorial.

Henry and Rose have sponsored a park bench in Terrace, BC in Heather's memory. The bench faces Thornhill Mountain, one of their favorite spots. They continue to support efforts to improve treatment for blood cancers such as multiple myeloma.

So in the midst of their sorrow, these loving parents, Henry and Rose, are remembering their beloved talented daughter in ways that can bring gladness and good memories to others who pass by and to those who were blessed by her life as a joyous Christian teacher.



OUR NEW ARCHIVES DIRECTOR— DR. JACKIE HOWELL:



As I begin my role as Director of the Heritage Commission, I am aware of my dependence on God for wisdom as we move through the months/years ahead. I cherish my experiences within the NAB Conference as a member of an NAB church since 1964, camp nurse at Crystal Springs in the mid 1960's, SD Association secretary for two years and registration chair for the Triennial in Sioux Falls in 2003. Bee Westerman has mentored me in the workings of the Heritage Commission during volunteer experience in the Archives for approximately 1000 hours over the past two years. George Lang, Ernie Zimbelman and others with a strong commitment to preserving the records of our heritage have shared their insights and passion and dreams. Lois Glewwe worked to make the memories of George Schulte come alive for this current generation. I marvel at the way God has worked among our people over the past century and a half. Yes! Our history can be a tool in the hands of God to encourage us to spread the good news.

The specific tasks that are ahead of us as a Heritage Commission include: **1.** Plan for move: policies and procedures; accession/de-accession and space utilization. **2.** Plan for digitization of selected materials including legal, technical, ethical & copyright. **3.** Plan for publication of translations of significant German heritage — policies, procedures & budget.

We covet your prayers as we step into this next phase of ministry.



Our records show that four NAB churches were started 101 years ago (in 1906), three in Canada and one in North Dakota: Whiteshell Baptist in Seven Sisters Falls, Manitoba, Nokomis Baptist in Nokomis, Sask., and Southey Baptist in Southey, Sask. First Baptist in Mercer is the ND church.



Two churches were begun in 1907, 100 years ago: United Community Baptist, Anamoose, ND and Mowata Baptist in Eunice, LA. Congratulations!

DANIEL LEE, Our First-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Writes:

I remember the first time I ever heard my grandmother speak German; actually she sang it. Our church invited people who spoke different languages to sing "Silent Night" at the Christmas Eve candlelight service. It was beautiful; it was Christmas; it was a complete surprise. Growing up in our family we celebrated our British heritage, and our membership in the Mayflower Society, which is devoted to the descendants of the Plymouth Colony Pilgrims. I never even heard that we had German roots until that night.

As your new Administrative Assistant at the North American Baptist Heritage Commission, I believe that our history is important. Where we come from is just as important as where we are going; where we come from, in large measure defines where we will journey in life and in ministry. My Grandmother had a dream of serving as an overseas Missionary, but she graduated from college during the depression and had no opportunities to go. However, her children and grandchildren have lived and served God all over the world.

Deuteronomy 6: 6-7 says "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Our heritage affects who we are. By studying our history we discover the faith of our grandparents and, in doing so, define who we are, what we do, and where we are going. That is why I am proud to work with the NAB Heritage Commission.

THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Archivist Berneice Westerman



In the last Armchair Traveler I made an error in writing about the history of Edmonton's Christian Training Institute! At the moment I still do not know the correct answer, but the amount of the check received because of the death of Ivan Wahl has two possibilities, neither of them being the one I gave you. One person says it was a check for \$1,000 and another report says it was \$2,500. At this time I believe the check could have been for \$1,000 USA currency and that the exchange rate could have been \$2,500 Canadian currency. The figure I gave you could have included contributions that were made by people who were challenged to give in order

to build. Now work is being done to find the correct answer. A history of Edmonton CTI, now Taylor University, is in progress, and we will find out which amount is found to be true.

Researchers often come to us asking for information.

An Australian researcher is asking for information about an NAB church in Delmont, SD. The church no longer exists, but it is from that small church that a pastor went to Australia to live out his entire life. Now his family wants to know more about him and about the Delmont church in which he was ordained.

A Nashville, TN researcher is asking about the NAB church in Denhof, ND. Rev. August Liebig died in Denhof. Perhaps some of his family members are still in that area and could be of help to tell us more about Rev. Liebig's work in the church.

By June of 2008 this Armchair will have to be moved to our new Seminary location. I am most pleased to know that the plan for the Good Shepherd stained-glass window from the NAB church in Cathay, ND is to be a part of the welcome area of the new Seminary building. Those of you who have wondered what will happen to it can be assured that it will have a good spot in our new home.

A very good friend and helper, Thelma Fischer from Lodi, CA, has been called home to Glory. I will miss her a great deal. She not only sent obituaries from that area but also was my main source of current Missionary newsletters. Hopefully someone else will be challenged to take over that good work. On the 25th of December she wrote me a letter with obituaries and by the 31st God said, "It is time for you to come to the place I prepared for you."

May God Bless and Challenge you in 2007.



Editor's Note: Have you heard of the **RETIRED WORKERS RETREAT?** Ron and Sharon Mayforth of Kelowna, BC, Canada, have sent out news of this gathering to be held at the Cedar Springs Retreat Center, Sumas, Washington, May 7-9, 2007. I have personally heard from several people who have attended the Retreat last year, and they said it was great! The cost is \$98 US per person (double occupancy). A private single room is \$10 more. Included in the cost: 2 nights' lodging in a beautiful motel-like room with a private bathroom with a shower. Six delicious meals will be served. The Mayforth's may be reached at #307-1965 Durnin Road, Kelowna, BC, V1X 7K6, or by phone 1 (250)862-8285.