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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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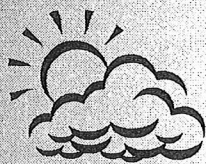
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WORDS FROM OUR DIRECTOR:

Dr. Jackie Howell

**"I believe
in Christianity
as I believe
in the rising sun,
not because
I see it,
but by it
I can see all else."
C.S. Lewis**

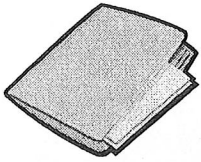


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At the annual meeting of the Board of Governors in March, we had a presentation by Dr. Mike Hagan on the new building plans, with occupancy now scheduled for summer, 2009. The Heritage Commission (NAB Conference Archives) will be located in the northeast corner of the lower level. We anticipate being able to create an environment with the temperature, light and humidity controls that facilitate preservation and longevity of archival materials. It will increase efficiency to have all materials together — materials are now in six separate areas on the NABS campus — three close together and three nearly a block of hallways away.

Planning for the utilization of the physical space in our new facilities is a significant task. Decisions include where to put our 467 boxes of archival materials, 687 linear feet of books and how to develop museum displays (including 3 manikins, an organ and other artifacts) and storage for our framed pictures, picture files of photographs, easels and other materials. Space needs to be allocated for growth. Another area of activity is planning for digitization of selected holdings so that they can be more accessible. The technical, legal, ethical and financial aspects of this will be explored this summer.

Schulte's *Memories* book sales continue. We are nearing the break-even point and then further funds will be set aside for publication costs of another book. Dr. Donald Madvig is in the final stages of translating August Rauschenbusch's autobiography. We are hopeful of publication this fall.



A REPORT ABOUT A BOOK IN PROGRESS

By John A. Siewert:

Researching and writing about the NAB Mission in Cameroon, Africa

As Daphne Dunger and I have been delving into the history of the North American Baptist (NAB) Cameroon mission in the archives of the NAB Heritage Commission, there are some surprises. For example, where do you think the vision for the NAB mission to Cameroon had its birth? Not, as one might usually think, in the churches or among pastors, but through a student in the Rochester (New York) Seminary where NAB young men went for Christian ministry training before the seminary was moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In the early 1890s as seminary student August Steffens of Illinois studied the Bible and theology, he struggled when he heard about the inequalities early Cameroonian Baptists were facing in their few churches as they sought to live out Christian discipleship in their African context. He was also saddened by the fact that only a relatively few Cameroonians had the opportunity to hear the Gospel, since the vast interior had barely been touched by missionaries. Besides that, Steffens was also disturbed by the rough way the German military had treated some dissenting Cameroonians when the German Imperial Government had just a few years earlier forcibly taken over Cameroon as a German colony.

One of the influences that encouraged Steffens to think of overseas missions was the student mission conferences sponsored by the Student Volunteer Movement, or SVM as it was commonly known. (In more recent years some NAB students have been encouraged to consider mission opportunities through InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's Urbana Student Mission Convention or InterVarsity Christian Fellowship-sponsored Bible studies and other gatherings on colleges, universities, and nursing schools in North America.)

What to do? In 1890 Steffens knew the way to Cameroon was through Germany since that Government closely controlled the new colony. Steffens contacted Berlin Pastor Eduard Scheve, who was helping several Cameroonian students in Germany adjust to their new surroundings. At that time August Rauschenbusch, the first teacher in the German department at the Rochester Seminary, had recently retired to his native Germany, and he encouraged Pastor Scheve to assist young Steffens to realize his dream of going to Cameroon as a missionary. This did take place in 1891, supported by North American Baptist churches and individuals. Several years later, after August Steffens' death from malaria, Baptists from Germany joined in the mission to Cameroon.

All of this might seem long ago to a time with which we have no connections today. However, those of us in the older generation do have some connections. In my case, my father was born in 1891. Today we who don't know German can read August Steffens' 1890s letters from Cameroon because Dr. David Priestly has translated some of them and they are in the Cameroon Collection currently being developed at the NAB Heritage Commission's offices in Sioux Falls.





INTRODUCING JOHN SIEWERT AND DAPHNE DUNGER

John Siewert grew up in a family that worshiped at the NAB Napier Parkview Baptist Church in Michigan. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech and the North American Baptist Seminary. John retired after 34 years with World Vision, (WV) an international mission agency specializing in relief and development ministries. His assignments in WV's Research and Publication Group took him to over 25 countries.

Daphne Dunger lived in Cameroon with her parents until she was nine years old when the family returned to the USA because of her father's health. She is a graduate of the Methodist-Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota and of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, is an alum of the Graduate School of Nurse Midwifery in Hyden, Kentucky as well as of the Wheaton College Graduate School in Illinois. She served with the NAB Mission in Cameroon for 30 years in various Nursing Administration and Education assignments and initiated the ongoing Cameroon Baptist Convention's **Life Abundant Program**, a primary health care outreach ministry for medically under-served communities.



AN IMPORTANT AWARD

For a number of years an organization called **The Baptist History and Heritage Society** has been giving awards to various groups and individuals. This year, 2007, the Society has given to our North American Baptist Heritage Commission *The Davis C. Woolley Award for Outstanding Achievement in Assessing and Preserving Baptist History*. Dr. Lloyd Harsch was instrumental in bringing our work to the attention of the organization and will accept it on our behalf at the Awards Luncheon on June 8 at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Kentucky, during the Society's annual meeting. The award consists of a plaque and \$500.

The award was named for Dr. Davis Collier Woolley who creatively and enthusiastically involved others in preserving and using Baptist historical materials, and who in 1960 started a newsletter which became an important journal a decade later. Dr. Woolley firmly believed that Baptists should understand their history and recognize their good heritage. It is no small thing for our group to receive this honor, named for this warm, outgoing, dedicated Christian man.

Appreciation for a book!

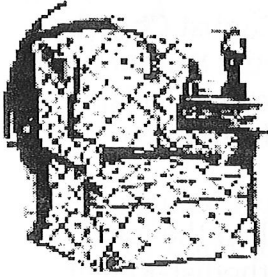
"Dear Grandpa Bert and Grandma Evelyn, I wanted to send a quick note to let you know how much I appreciated your investment of time in the lives of our children. The Growing Up With Grandpa assembly was wonderful! I know my kids will remember your stories with their underlying principles of obedience, responsibility and diligence for years to come. Your presentation was wonderfully entertaining for all of the kids — AND adults! Thanks again for the gift of your life stories. You're now a permanent part of our school's character development." Sincerely, Roberta Meeley (Teacher in The Midland Academy of Advanced and Creative Studies, Midland, Michigan.)

Sandie Gantner, Marketing Coordinator at the Academy expressed appreciation: "Thank you for traveling to the Midland Academy and for your outstanding presentation. The feedback has been extremely positive from students and staff alike!"

Rev. Bert Itterman and his wife, Evelyn, recently traveled to Michigan for a visit with some of their grandchildren who attend the Academy. As you can tell, his book has been warmly received!

THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Archivist Berneice Westerman



Award: The Heritage Commission has been blessed by receiving The Davis Wooley Award this year for *Preserving and Sharing our Baptist History*. The award comes from the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

Cook Book: Since the Seminary will soon have a big birthday to celebrate, a group of us decided that it would be good to have a Cook Book of recipes from as many of the friends, former and present students as possible, as

well as from anyone who has worked for the Seminary or helped in any way such as giving or praying for NABS. Please send your recipes to cookbook@nabs.edu or mail it to the **Cook Book Committee** using the Seminary address. If there are duplicate recipes we will add your name and any variation to the recipe.

New Director: Most of you have heard that George Lang has decided that it is time to step back and give someone else the opportunity to become our Director. Jackie Howell has accepted the challenge and is now serving as our new Director.

Error: I am still unable to give you the exact amount of the check that began our Taylor University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. I quote from Edward Link's book, a biography of E.P. Wahl, You Who Have Dreams: "Rev. and Mrs. Wahl received a check for over two thousand dollars" in settlement of the accident that took the life of their son, Ivan. The variation of amounts may be due to the currency rates between the USA and Canada. The amount I gave in a former Horizon's publication may have included the sum gathered from the friends of the new school; that sum was the amount with which they began to build.

Books: I have been told that the first printing of Edward Link's book, You Who Have Dreams, is sold out, so we are waiting for the second printing to be made available.

The story of Taylor University is due to be printed this year.

Another book is in process and could be finished by the end of this year. Joyce Harris is writing the story of Gordon and Joyce's daughter, Joy, and the book is titled, Blessed By Joy. You may recall that Joy Harris Sauers was afflicted with cystic fibrosis from early childhood and had a heart-lung transplant three years before her death. Many of you prayed for her through the years.

Travels: In August I hope to travel to the Twin Cities in Minnesota to attend the annual meeting of perhaps 80 or 90 women who attended Saker Baptist College, the school which I opened in 1962 in Victoria, (now Limbe,) Cameroon, West Africa. Many of these women are in the USA to attend school, while others have become US citizens. We will have a good time sharing memories.

