

Fall 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



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## Inside this Issue

1. Director's Notes
2. New books
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## Point of View *by Lenore Lang*

Archives Director Dr. Jackie Howell has some good words for us. See this page.

There are new books of interest available for purchase. Read about them on pages 2 and 3.

Archivist Berneice Westerman suffered an unfortunate mishap on a recent trip. See her comments and also her timely encouragement for YOU to write, page 4.

## WORDS FROM OUR DIRECTOR:

Dr. Jackie Howell

Our editor has featured several books in this issue of *Heritage Horizons*. These are books that have an NAB connection and contribute to understanding our heritage. You will see mention of another book that we anticipate having available by the next issue: August Rauschenbusch's autobiography. His spiritual journey is foundational to his ministry. He played a significant role in the early days of our conference and our seminary.

Building plans continue to evolve. Our allotted space in the lower level of the new Sioux Falls Seminary is optimal for protection of the materials entrusted to our care. We continue to work with the architects on good control of lighting, temperature and humidity and to do so in a cost-effective manner. We are also exploring compact shelving which would nearly double the available storage space for boxes of documents.

We regularly receive church anniversary books, pictures and other documents which increase the scope and value of the collection. Thank you for these contributions.

"God always has  
an angel of help  
for those  
who are willing  
to do  
their duty."

Thomas Carlyle  
Baptist Herald,  
May 16, 1957  
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## BOOKS FOR YOU TO KNOW ABOUT.....



### Faith Focus

A New Daily Devotional Book written by Dr. Paul Siewert.

Pastor Siewert has served in several churches in the NAB Conference and was President of the present Taylor University College and Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Faith Focus is a Bible-based engaging daily devotional. Each entry starts with a catching illustration, followed by a Bible text and a brief commentary on the passage. Concluding each day's writing is a prayer challenge.

Some subjects you will enjoy: "More than Advice," "Unable to Sing," "Getting Rid of Things," "The Unforgettable," "Facing the Old with Newness," and "The Great Rescue," — these are some of the inspiring topics you will find in this brand new book!

Anyone desiring a copy is encouraged to write to: Dr. Paul Siewert at 14710 Hayes Road, Apple Valley, MN 55124. Or you can contact him by E-Mail at PHSiewert1@Juno.com. Or telephone him at 1-952-953-9715. The cost of the book is \$10.00.

## LIFE AND LABORS OF P.J. DE NEUI,

### Minister and Evangelist



This is an autobiography originally written in German, translated into English by the author's son, Johannes de Neui, who wrote:

"Sometimes we read of some eminent person, who was very pious, quiet, and averse to worldly pleasures, but not so my father. On the contrary, when he was young, a strong and healthy man, he enjoyed life and its diversions and recreations. But we'll read from his own words, what he believed and experienced."

Our own Archivist, Berneice Westerman, is cited in the Foreword of the book as someone who provided information to Lynn Reemtsma, the book's Editor. Lynn edited this edition which includes appendices that give a fuller picture of this minister's life. Berneice Westerman contributed a booklet from our Archives, Henry Dallmann's 1905 History of the German Baptist Churches in Iowa, which tells of Pastor De Neui's ministry in Iowa churches. Pastor De Neui was a distant relative of Mr. Ray DeNeui, who was well-known and loved by many of our NAB fellowship.

This pastor "had strong views that went against the opinions of the established churches in Ostfriesland, and he was not shy in preaching against the false doctrines of the state churches and the unfair practices of the government. Everyone should, however, marvel at his zeal and his hard labors. Certainly his goal was to promote with all his heart the true gospel of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." (page 5, from the Foreword.)

Available for purchase (\$8.00) from the Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America. The web site of this organization is [www.ogsa.us](http://www.ogsa.us).



## THE TWELVE BAPTIST TRIBES IN THE USA

By Albert W. Wardin, Jr.

This year Atlanta, Georgia's *Baptist History and Heritage Society* has published this book that gives much information about twelve different Baptist Bodies. Included is a section (pages 34-36) on The North American Baptist Conference, of which the author says, "It is the only Baptist body in North America with a denominational organization incorporating both the United States and Canada." (page 34)

Further, on page 35, reference is made to ministerial training, which Rochester Theological Seminary provided in its German Department, headed for many years by August Rauschenbusch. "Increasingly German Baptists assumed the financial responsibility for the department which....developed into an independent seminary. From 1897 to 1902, August Rauschenbusch's son, Walter, taught in the German Department but then became professor of church history in Rochester Seminary where he became noted as the exponent of the Social Gospel. In 1949, the conference relocated its seminary to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in the center of German Baptist work." (page 35)

The author writes that "In 1946, the conference adopted in its preamble to its constitution a moderately stated list of eight tenets of faith. It admires Walter Rauschenbusch, but it has never adopted the principles of the Social Gospel and continues its traditional program." (p.35)

Other groups are similarly researched in a scholarly way and the author has included sixteen colorful maps which show the location of the various church bodies written about.

The book may be obtained from the Baptist History and Heritage Society, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, Telephone 770-457-5540.



### And.....ANOTHER BOOK

You may recall that in 2006 the NAB Heritage Commission published Rev. George Schulte's book **Memories**, a translation from the German by Professor Donald Madvig. Now Professor Madvig has completed another translation from the original German, The Life and Ministry of August Rauschenbusch, who is mentioned in the book by Albert Wardin, briefly reviewed on this page.

Professor Madvig states:

"Rauschenbusch's autobiography provides an intimate look into the life of one of God's choice servants who was very influential in the early beginnings of the German Baptists in America. It is remarkable how openly he shares his physical and spiritual struggles. We owe a debt of gratitude to August's son Walter, who carefully researched August's correspondence, journals and other materials to write the final chapters and make significant additions to others. Without his editorial work and efforts in getting the book published, we would not have this inspiring autobiography. It is my hope that all who read this book will be stirred to give praise to God as I have done frequently while working on the translation."

# THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Archivist Berneice Westerman



I told you in the last Armchair Traveler that I was planning a trip to see the ladies who attended the School I opened in Cameroon, West Africa. I made that trip but it did not turn out as I had planned.

Probably August 2nd, 2007 will be my last trip ever on an escalator by myself. I had a war with the escalator and was taken to the hospital by ambulance to be stitched up and checked out carefully. I did get out of the hospital in time to

attend the Luncheon with **'my girls'** on Sunday afternoon. What a lovely group of ladies have had the opportunity to attend that school! There were doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and heads of departments while others are still attending school to complete their training.

**Your Heritage** that we are able to learn about has been an excellent story of survival, endurance and faith as we have seen God's mercy and love portrayed. How did our ancestors cope with the winds, snow storms, floods, drought, illnesses, and plagues of insects that kept them from having the provisions they needed to survive? Have you had the privilege of listening to your grandparents tell about their problems and about how God saw them through those problems? While your grandparents and other close relatives are still alive, ask them questions about their growing-up days. You may not have another opportunity to do so, and I am quite sure that these people will be glad to tell you their stories.

**Find a teacher** old enough to share with you the tasks of a country-school teacher who also served as the janitor, maintenance person, and the keeper of the large stove that served to warm the school house. Oh yes, the children helped, and they learned how to conduct meetings to choose who would be the one to sweep the floor, wash the blackboards (now called chalkboards), dust the areas that collected the dust, and bring in fresh drinking water. **YCL** would meet every Friday after all the children had cleaned and tidied their desks. This **Young Citizens League** gave our children the opportunity to learn how to conduct meetings and delegate responsibility so that they would know how to deal with life after school was completed, and to appreciate the difficulty of cleaning up after those who were careless. (I do wonder why our educators decided to discard the **YCL** completely.)

I urge each one of you to **write your own life story** and share with others how God has led you throughout the years He has given to you. Encourage your children to ask your parents questions about their heritage, such as: What happened when they got sick? How far did they walk to their school? How many teachers did they have? Did they have air conditioners? Water coolers? What were their favorite games? Answers to these questions can be important eye-openers.

We can use copies of your life story for the **Family Life Story Shelf** that is planned for the new Seminary building.

**A reminder:** When your church celebrates anniversaries or updates its history, we would like a copy for the church files in the Archives records. The documents we preserve for churches include the Minute books, Anniversary books, pictures and Directories as well as the church's History which may have been written up for the church's anniversary celebrations.

