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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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Point of View *by Lenore Lang*

In this Horizons' Summer issue we are highlighting Church Anniversary Time. See page 1 for important details.

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You have heard about a new book before: read a good review. Page 3.

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ANNIVERSARY TIME:

In many areas of life today, **change** is a highly-prized word. Whether on the nightly news or in the morning newspaper-headlines, there is often a call for change.

Even our seminary is undergoing changes, in the construction of a new building, in this case one that will be efficient and "green" in keeping with environmental concerns. Through all of this, however, we must remember that our Lord is "**the same**, yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:5) What a comforting thought.

Churches: 150 years 1858 Northwest Fellowship Baptist, Chicago, Ill., Minnetrista Baptist, St. Bonifacius, MN and North Freedom Baptist, North Freedom, WI.

100 years 1908 Wiesenthal Baptist, Millet, AB Canada and Turtle Lake Baptist, Turtle Lake, ND.

50 years 1958 Renfrew Baptist, Calgary, AB Canada, Bethel Baptist High Prairie, AB, Canada, Elim Baptist, Beausejour, MB, Canada, and Oakridge Baptist, St. Joseph, MI.



"God gives
every bird
its food,
but
He does not
throw it
into the nest."

From
Ginger Snaps
By Diann Ritter,
Page 30

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CHURCH HISTORY



THE MINNETRISTA BAPTIST CHURCH of ST. BONIFACIUS, MINNESOTA

The year of 1958 was the Jubilee year for this church, which is now 150 years old! We have the following account of the church's beginnings from the 1958 Annual, written by D.S. Wipf:

“It was in the year 1958 that several German families came to St. Bonifacius, Minnesota, from Dayton, Ohio. With a faith in God and a hope to succeed, they at once set out to build their new homes, the lumber for which had to be hewn from the trees of the forest.

“Even before their crude log cabins were completed, they arranged for religious services. The first service was held in September 1857, in the home of John Wendt, with seven people present. Regular meetings were held from then on.

“Then came the year 1858 when, encouraged by visiting brethren, the small band of eight Baptists decided to organize themselves as a German Baptist Church. They chose the 20th of November 1858 as the date for organization..... For the first nine years the group met in the home of Rev. John Wendt, who was the first pastor...The erection of the first church building was begun in the spring of 1868. The entire work from the felling of the trees to the final completion of the building was all done by the group.....Throughout the 100 years there were 451 baptisms with many others joining the group by letter. The church (building) was remodeled and rebuilt four times and relocated once.”

In G.A. Schulte's book, Memories, editor Lois Glewwe has noted (page 80), that “Today, the church continues to worship in the charming historic building that has served generations of believers through the years. The church, its property and cemetery are now located within the city limits of St. Bonifacius. The congregation is the oldest NAB Church west of the Mississippi River and the 7th oldest church in the entire NAB Conference.”

(Editor's Note:)



God is at work in the North American Baptist Conference! He has been at work since the first church was started, and He is still working in and through His people. We here at the Heritage Commission want to share with you the stories of those churches. In the next issue we will tell the story of The Elim Baptist Church of Beausejour, MB, Canada. This “telling” is made possible because someone personally brought to us a copy of the church's history.

Each of you reading these pages can help us **tremendously** by sending us anniversary booklets when your church celebrates a “milestone event.” Volunteers working in the Archives here have done great work in filing the information we have, and we are exceedingly grateful for those of you who do send us stories of your churches. Thank you.





August Rauschenbusch: Missionary, Pastor, and Teacher

By John Siewert

(A brief introduction to Life and Ministry of August Rauschenbusch by August Rauschenbusch by his son, Walter. Original German edition published 1901. English translation by Donald H. Madvig, 2008.)

Those of us who do not know German, now with this timely translation have the opportunity of reading about the founding professor of the German Department of the Rochester, NY Seminary which was the beginning of today's Sioux Falls Seminary.

Born in 1816 into a pastor's home in Germany, August Rauschenbusch experienced a loving family life where biblical principles were standard practice.

Several years after university, August succeeded his father as the pastor of his home church. Within the Lutheran Church, Rauschenbusch was part of the pietistic movement which held that a personal commitment to Christ with an understanding beyond young childhood was essential for salvation. This put him at odds with those who saw infant baptism along with confirmation as a youth, guaranteeing (regardless of one's lifestyle) salvation and a home in Heaven after death.

After nine years as a pastor, Rauschenbusch came to the USA to evangelize in a missionary setting through a ministry of itinerant evangelism and Christian literature distribution among the scattered German settlers of Missouri. His excellent work led to an invitation to the American Tract Society's New York office for broader duties. In New York, Rauschenbusch came into contact with German Baptists and heard their testimonies of conversion and observed adult baptism by immersion. This made a deep impression on him.

Eventually Rauschenbusch was baptized in the Mississippi River and went on to start the German Baptist Church on Pin Oak Creek in Missouri. Later when he was pastor of a church in Ontario, Canada, the leadership of the Rochester Seminary prevailed upon him to come and be the founding professor of a Department specifically geared for German students called into the ministry but lacking the background for a full seminary education.

Even in his wildest dreams, Rauschenbusch probably could not have imagined the way God would develop the Department into a seminary that has continuously evolved to meet the educational needs of a variety of persons called by God into special service. After 150 years the institution, initially conceived to fill a temporary language need, continues to prepare students to advance the Gospel in North America and the wider world.

(Editor's Note: John Siewert is a 1964 graduate of Sioux Falls Seminary and now serves on the Seminary's Board of Trustees. He is thoroughly researching and writing a history of the mission of North American Baptists to Cameroon, along with Daphne Dunger, a retired Cameroon missionary.)

The Rauschenbusch book sells for \$19.95 and is available from the Heritage Commission. In the USA, postage and handling = \$4.75. Canadian rates may vary.



THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Archivist Berneice Westerman



Can you help? We do not have the 1959, 1970, 1971, and 1975 Conference Church Directories and would like to have a complete set. Perhaps you still have kept one of the years mentioned and would be able to help us complete our set.

We are looking forward to moving to our new home in 2009 and would like to invite anyone who can help us to come at that time. We plan to have people at the sending end and others at the receiving end, so the task will be to take the materials from here to the new building, a matter of eight or ten city blocks. Each box will weigh 30 lbs. or less. The use of your pick-up trucks or vans will be welcome. See the Seminary website for pictures of construction in progress: www.flickr.com/sfseminary.

Our hope is to be in the new building and hold an “open house” for those of you who will be coming through Sioux Falls on your way to the NAB Triennial in Winnipeg, Canada.

Again: **Can you help?** Do you have a copy of Cassell’s German/English Dictionary that you would like to donate to our workers in the Heritage Commission? We would be happy to get one.

One of the promising new Seminary students for the next school year is the great-grandson of someone who graduated from our school in 1888 while the Seminary was The German Department of Colgate-Rochester in New York. This person’s father graduated in 1962, by which time the name was The North American Baptist Seminary. (This person’s great-grandfather and grandmother were the first two visitors in my home; the great-grandfather was pastor of my church and his daughter, the grandmother, accompanied him on visitation work since his wife had died.)

Do you know that we had seminary students who went to serve Christ in Queensland, Australia in the early 1900s? I wonder how they learned of that need!

Do you know that a group from Parkersburg, West Virginia has agreed to help rebuild the Baptist parsonage in Parkersburg, Iowa? Also a group from Oak Hills Baptist Church in Sioux Falls is also going to help work on that Parkersburg parsonage! The members from the Oak Hills church were trained in sheet-rocking when they helped with Habitat for Humanity houses and will now use that skill in Parkersburg.

Congratulations to the Turtle Lake Baptist Church, Turtle Lake, ND for 100 years of witness in your area as well as in Cameroon and Japan, countries to which you have sent your members. (Perhaps there are other countries as well.) The name “turtle” does not imply lack of speed in your case, but it does include the steady continuing to the end of the race.

