

# Cameroon Mission History Collection in the North American Baptist Heritage Center

## Appendix A: Short List of Books (Including unpublished manuscripts and English translations)

Listed below are a select group of books found to be most helpful in tracing the history of Baptist missions in Cameroon. The following acronyms are used throughout:

**CBC** for Cameroon Baptist Convention, a denomination of Baptist churches in Cameroon related to the North American Baptist denomination.  
**NAB** for North American Baptist, a mission-supporting denomination of Baptist churches in North America (United States and Canada).

### BIOGRAPHICAL and AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WORKS

#### ***Cameroon on a Clear Day: A Pioneer Missionary in Colonial Africa* by Helga Bender Henry.**

The story of Carl and Hedwig Bender in Cameroon 1899-1919 and 1929-1935. They refused to leave Cameroon in 1914 when the French and British military took over Cameroon from Germany and deported all other missionaries with any connection to Germany at the start of World War I. After the war they returned with their children to the USA but eventually returned to Cameroon where Carl died. The book also tells of the Bender's oldest daughter Erica who was the first NAB missionary nurse in Cameroon in 1929-1932.

See a preview of the book on Google: [http://books.google.com/books?id=ZINxPLW63IQC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbv\\_ViewAPI#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=ZINxPLW63IQC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbv_ViewAPI#v=onepage&q&f=false)

#### ***Love Them for Me, Laura* by Edward D. Hughes.**

Laura Reddig is one of the longest serving NAB missionaries serving in Cameroon 1938-1978. As an early nurse in the remote grasslands she walked much of the then British Zone of Cameroon as a first aid mobile clinic with Cameroonian carriers toting the supplies. She was a key person in the establishment of two mission hospitals including a very successful leprosy control program. Author Hughes used Reddig's many letters, periodical articles, and other records as the sources for this account.

#### **“Africa: The Rest of the Story” by Earl H. Ahrens.**

Using his diary and other records, NAB Missionary Ahrens reflects in this unpublished manuscript on the 1945-1962 Cameroon missionary service of himself and his wife Lois. He shares first-hand experiences of what it was like for missionaries in remote Cameroon still minimally affected by Western civilization. Especially unique is the description of their 1944 travels during World War II from New York to Portugal and on to several ports in Africa, passing the coast of Cameroon twice, before finally landing in Cameroon. The 8-passenger airplane that took the 5 missionaries from Nigeria to Cameroon was usually full of wartime military personnel or government officials. However on their day 5 seats were available. Ahrens said: “You should have heard us shout for joy. Even the French Customs officer was excited with us.”

#### ***man no be God: Bush doctor in Cameroon* by Dieter Lemke.**

Dr. Lemke (*Cameroon: 1967-1980, 1986, 1994, 2001*) candidly tells of his preparation and service as a NAB missionary doctor with his wife Marlis and their children. He served in two of the NAB Cameroon mission hospitals with a holistic approach to healing and community relations. Included are several short-terms when he mounted a widespread AIDS prevention program. Lemke participated in Cameroonian life in ways not typical of many missionaries, even playing on a local football (soccer) team. Highly regarded in the community, police authorities would ask him to assist on unusual cases where a death had taken place.

#### **“Missionary Jacob Hofmeister: Experiences in Mission Service in Cameroons, Vols. 1–3” by Jacob Hofmeister.** Translated from the German *Missionar J. Hofmeister: Erlebnisse im Missionsdienst in Kamerun* by William Rentz, Vols. 1–2 and Dieter Lemke, Vol. 3.

Jacob Hofmeister (*Cameroon: 1898-1900, 1905-1915, 1927-1929*) was the first long-term Baptist missionary from Germany to Cameroon. He was a multi-talented person who pulled teeth, did medical procedures, acted as judge, or whatever was needed. He travelled widely looking for potential mission station locations. In those days the Baptist missionaries from Germany and the NAB missionaries worked together closely so he interacted with the Baptist missionaries from North America frequently. Hofmeister got into serious trouble during World War I when he decided to travel with the invading German Army as they retreated to inland Cameroon. Returning back to territory occupied by the British he was captured, made a Prisoner of War, but was eventually released.

### BAPTIST MISSION HISTORIES of CAMEROON

#### ***International Influences and Baptist Mission in West Cameroon* by Charles W. Weber.**

This is the published edition of the author's PhD dissertation at the University of Chicago. The study focuses on the educational ministries of Baptist missionaries from the USA and Germany during 1927-1944 when Cameroon was split between French and British sectors by Mandate of the League of Nations following World War I. The roles of three leading Baptist missionaries from the USA are described in detail. These are NAB missionaries Carl Bender, Paul Gebauer, and George Dunger.

#### ***The Discipling of West Cameroon: A Study of Baptist Growth* by Lloyd E. Kwast.**

“The central purpose of this study has been to see how the Baptist Church in West Cameroon has grown and to understand the factors in her historical development that have influenced growth.” The study focuses on the years 1947-1966 when membership in the Baptist churches of Cameroon connected with the NAB mission grew from 6,480 to 29,374. The book is based on the research the author did while a missionary in Cameroon 1963-1970 and doing graduate degrees at the Fuller Theological Seminary and Institute of Church Growth in Pasadena, California.

#### **“The Mission of the German Baptists in Cameroon, West Africa (1884-1901)” by Eduard Scheve.**

An unpublished translation by Myrtle Ertis of the German *Die Mission der deutschen Baptisten in Kamerun*.

Berlin Baptist Pastor Scheve starts this mission history of Cameroon at the time Baptist missionaries were needed to replace the British Baptist missionaries that were leaving Cameroon for the Congo. Forming a committee no progress was made in securing missionaries until 1891 when a student in the USA volunteered to go. Despite a high death rate from malaria, more missionaries from the USA followed. By 1898

Baptist missionaries from Germany also started to go to Cameroon and Scheve would write: "... finally, after the proceeding daring venture by brethren of America into the mission field, there now are brothers and sisters from Germany who went out as well..."

***Mbingo: The Founding of Bamenda New Hope Settlement, 1952–1961* by Mildred M. Schneider.**

NAB Missionary Nurse Mildred Schneider worked with her husband Gilbert and Missionary Nurse Laura Reddig in establishing this leprosy treatment facility that included agricultural and cottage industry projects that supported patients during treatment and provided an opportunity for a trade after their leprosy was arrested. Dr. Kenneth Jones was the first resident doctor starting in late 1954. By the late 1950s Mbingo was expanding into a regular hospital. Mildred, a gifted writer, tells this inspiring story through her insightful letters home along with her personal thoughts and activities. Also included are reports by husband and project manager Gilbert along with many photos showing the development of the 4,000 acres facility and the progress of grateful patients.

***Heritage and Ministry of the North American Baptist Conference* by Frank H. Woyke.**

This 1851-1978 "history of the North American Baptist Conference and its ministry" by the long-time NAB Executive Secretary includes 20 pages on the NAB Cameroon mission. Included are the changes that took place starting in the 1940s when the governing structure of the NAB Conference changed from one much like a mission agency led by the head of General Missionary Society to that of a more regular denominational structure with the missions budget controlled by the General Council led by the Executive Secretary of the denomination.

**"Cameroons Baptist Mission Statistics: 1939–1983" by George A. Dunger.**

An unpublished report compiled by the long-time Sioux Falls Seminary missions professor. Earlier Dunger and his wife Louise served as NAB Cameroon missionaries in 1938-1948 and again in 1973-1975. The reports start with basic information but are more comprehensive in later years. Statistics include number of churches, baptisms, membership, Sunday school pupils and inquirers. For schools, number of Christian Day Schools, total children enrolled, and number of teachers along with number of students in higher (post primary) training institutions. For medical work, the number of hospitals, clinics and maternity centers with number of patients, deliveries, leprosy patients, and surgery cases.

## CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION HISTORIES

***A History of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board, 1936-1996* by Tih Pius Muffih.**

Cameroonian Professor Tih (PhD in International Development and Masters in Public Health) has headed the work of the CBC Health Board since 1985. He collaborated with his senior staff and others to produce this history. Besides the 2 hospitals and 16 health centres in the system at the time of writing, 5 other ministries including the Private School for Health Personnel, Life Abundant Programme (establishing "Health Posts" in underserved villages), and Integrated School for Blind Children also have their history and status as of 1996 described.

***How the Good News Came to Our Land (1847–1996), 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* by Samuel S. Jam.**

Cameroonian Pastor Jam takes 1847 as the start of this history of the Gospel coming to Cameroon when British Baptist Missionaries Alfred and Helen Saker established a mission station in Douala and Jamaican Baptist Missionary Joseph Merrick was ministering in Bimbia in coastal Cameroon. There are short histories of various NAB missionaries, Cameroonian evangelists and pastors as the Baptist work moved inland. Included is a more detailed account of the work of long-time Baptist Evangelist Robert Jam, the author's father.

**"History of the Baptists in Cameroon, 1840–1961" by Lucas T. Ndichafah.**

This is the typed unpublished manuscript from the original handwritten copy that is also in the *Collection*. Cameroonian pastor Ndichafah was born about 1912 and was 15 years old when Cameroonian Baptist Evangelist Daniel Hangu brought the Good News of Jesus to Ndichafah's home village of Bangolan. He soon became a believer along with several of his family. He was later baptized by a NAB missionary who came to the village. Ndichafah quickly advanced through a Baptist elementary school and became a leader of a local church as the church teacher. After the Cameroon Baptist Convention was organized in 1954 he was ordained and was a pastor in several churches.

**C. B. C. Women's Union History Book 1957–2007. Compiled by Sophie Woloa.**

This was published to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the denominationally-wide organization of the Women's Union of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. There are various articles and reports from the chairladies of eighteen fields (geographical areas) telling of the many different activities and ministries including community home economics centers. Also includes letters of congratulations from the then current and former NAB missionary advisors of the Women's Union.

## CAMEROON GENERAL HISTORIES

***Cameroon History for Secondary Schools and Colleges. Vols. 1 and 2* by Verkijika G. Fanzo.**

Dr. Fanzo, Associate Professor of History at the University of Yaoundé, Cameroon, covers the Cameroonian "peoples and their ethnic groupings, their ancestors, customs, political and social institutions" from pre-historic to the late 1980s. The chapter on "The Planting of Christianity in Cameroon" is an excellent summary in 6 pages of the 1841-1884 work of the Baptist Missionary Society of Britain. However, later periods, such as the section on "The Christian Churches in the 1970s and 1980s" gives much space to the Catholic Church while lumping all Protestant churches into one paragraph with Baptists not mentioned at all, perhaps because no suitable reference publications were available.

***Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Cameroon* by Mark W. DeLancey and H. Mbella Mokeba.**

Editors DeLancey and Mokeba, very knowledgeable and experienced in things African and Cameroonian, use an earlier 1<sup>st</sup> edition and other sources to bring together the 1990 edition of the Dictionary which is surprisingly comprehensive and detailed resource with many short biographies along with descriptions of events, cities, people groups, etc. Example of entries: "Baptist Mission", "Basel Mission Society", "Catholic Mission", "Destabilization Plot of August 22, 1983", "Lake Nyos Disaster", "Native Baptist Church", "Saker, Alfred", etc.

***Modern Geography of the Republic of Cameroon (Third Edition)* by Aaron Neba.**

This book is much more than a typical geography text. Besides the usual geographical and economic information, the sections on "The Coastal Lowland" and "Western Highland" regions are of special interest in the history of Baptists. Included are good illustrative photographs with some in color. The section on "Early Christian Missionaries" is a good 2-paragraph summary of

Baptists Joseph Merrick and Alfred Saker in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. However, as also with other Cameroon histories, Neba's fails to mention the great strides made in Cameroon in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century from the work of missionaries.

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