



SERVANT LINK

FEBRUARY - MAY

Remembering Our Past, Celebrating Our Future

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NAB Communications Writer

We share a common heritage, not only as members of the North American Baptist Conference, but more importantly as followers of Jesus. Our heritage is full of giants of faith. We find them in the here and now and in the days gone by.

We count among our forefathers men such as Simon Peter, brash and headstrong, but full of faith and exuberance; David, a murderer, but a man after God's heart; and Abraham, full of faith, except when it came to his lineage. We also esteem our foremothers: Mary, who was found worthy to bear the child who would be our salvation; Deborah, a leader and a prophetess; and Ruth, who forsook her own people to make her home in Israel with her mother-in-law.

We also count men such as Konrad Anton Fleischmann,

John Eschmann, Alexander von Puttkammer, Andreas Henrich, and August Rauschenbusch as instrumental to the formation of what would come to be known as the North American Baptist Conference, an organization of churches who collectively grew out of God's leading to reach the German immigrant population.

At our heart, we are a missionary people who follow a missionary God. Our God sent Abram from his father's own country to an unknown land. Our God intended the nation of Israel to be a light to the world. Our God sent His Son to redeem the whole of creation. Micah 4:2 prophetically proclaims, "Many nations shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths'" (ESV).

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Whenever someone chooses to relocate their entire lives and live among a people group unfamiliar to them, they stand in the company of greatness. We sometimes forget that half of the New Testament was only written because Paul continued to keep in contact with many churches along his missionary routes, and even beyond. Much of the New Testament is in our hands because of missionary correspondence.

As the NAB, we take our missional heritage seriously. Some of our oldest mission fields are in Cameroon, where we can trace our involvement back to the time between the two world wars, and Brazil, where missionaries made initial inroads within the German immigrant population at the turn of the 19th century.

All the while, there has been a continued movement of people following God's leading in the mission field. Many of our leaders are great men and women of faith who have sacrificed much and requested little in return. One of the instrumental leaders in the Cameroon mission field was Jerry Fluth, who served 1960–1981, with a few additional short periods of service in the years subsequent.

He once wrote, "Everyone wants to get to heaven, but few appear in a hurry to make the trip." This past December, he joined the heavenly throng written about in Hebrews.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1–2)

In light of our great heritage, it is only fitting that new missionaries are continuing to be appointed and new ministries are continuing to unfold. The Bicol Center for Christian Leadership in Philippines is only fifteen years old, and Camp Falcon Rock in Romania only began in 2014. Like the author of Hebrews entreats us, let us not forget to look forward to Jesus, the author of our faith, even as we remember our history and all those who came before us. ■

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Trudy Schatz, former missionary to Cameroon, has moved into assisted living. She is using a cane and a walker due to arthritis in her knees and hips. Betty Mantay and she are still teaching international students and serving at McKernan Baptist in Edmonton, AB. She is grateful for the ability to serve. Her new address is 105A – 10741 – 29 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6J 5H6, and her phone number is (780) 468-6690.

Ron and Joan Stoller completed four months of volunteer ministry at the Greenwich Japanese Gospel Church in Connecticut from July 15 to November 22. On December 8, only 650 miles before they ended their 24,000-mile, five-month trip around the United States, a fiberglass shower unit hit and totaled their car on

the interstate south of Sacramento, CA. They returned home without any injury. There are many things to be thankful for from the Triennial Conference, including going through 43 states on the trip and having contact with NAB and Japanese people. The Stollers plan to go to Japan for another three months of volunteer ministry starting on February 20. *Keep any Servant Link items coming to Stoller@Japan.email.ne.jp.*

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in beautiful Sumas, WA, May 9–11, for the
NAB Retired Workers' Retreat!

Look for more information to be coming soon! If you would like to receive Retreat information, e-mail Amber Pedroni at apedroni@nabconf.org or call 916-797-6222 ext. 0

This publication connects retired NAB workers with one another, with NAB, and with God.

Please let us know about your changes, celebrations, prayer concerns, particular interest in any area of conference ministry, and resources you have discovered to make senior life better. **Send updates to Ron & Joan Stoller.**

A Servant Link could be a note in the mail, a phone call, an email, or a gift—maybe a good book.

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Congratulations! Let's Celebrate!

Adele Kornel celebrated her 100th birthday on October 4, 2015, together with sons David, Tim, and their families. The following day an open house was held at her residence, Village At Mill Creek in Kelowna, BC. In 1952, Adele and her husband, Joseph Kornelewski who passed away in 1965, came to Kelowna to pastor the Grace Baptist Church. In 1962, seeing the need for nursing care of patients discharged from hospital and no place to go, they built Still Water's Nursing Home which today is the new facility of Village At Mill Creek. Adele is now a resident in the care facility that she and her husband started in 1962. At the celebration Adele was presented with a plaque honoring their vision and a tree was planted at Lakeshore Place, one of the residences she was co-founder of, and the plaque is being placed there in recognition of her 100th birthday indicating that she was a pioneer in quality care since 1957 in the Okanagan Valley.

Fred Jantz served as senior pastor of Quail Lakes Baptist Church in Stockton, CA, from 1970 to 2000. He became the regional minister of the Nor Cal Association and served from 2000 to 2009, when he retired from full-time ministry. He has been part time with a local Presbyterian church in Stockton and has assisted them in resourcing leadership and staff, teaching, and overseeing the missions program of the church. He has also been an adjunct professor in Philosophy and Western Religions at Delta Community College. His wife, Kathy, retired this past year and now volunteers with children and drama ministries. Their oldest son, Philip, lives in Stockton with his family, and their other son, Steve, and his family just moved to Budapest. Their daughter, Jennifer, and her family live in Anaheim, CA. Fred and Kathy have nine grandchildren.

Richard and Beth Rabenhorst celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2015. They have lived in Longview, TX, since their retirement in 2003. For 37 years, they served as missionaries in Brazil. Their three children are Murrey, who lives in Longview, TX, with his family; Marcus, who lives near Brisbane, Australia, with his family; and Melody, who lives in Plano, TX, with her family. They have ten grandchildren.

Milton Zeeb celebrated his 85th birthday in January

in Mesa, AZ. His wife, Alice, has been suffering from advanced Alzheimer's for over five years now. She is in a private group home in Mesa. Alice and Milton retired in January 2003 after twenty-two years as SCA minister and having served two pastorates for twelve years with Immanuel Baptist in Kenosha, WI, and Pilgrim Baptist in Philadelphia, PA. In 2004 they were asked to establish a chapel ministry to senior adults. Milton can be reached at 8229 E. Kiowa Ave., Mesa, AZ 85209 and at ellimilt@cox.net.

In Care and Prayer

Dr. Donald Miller had a triple heart bypass, which turned into kidney failure, and he is now on dialysis. Don and his wife, Nancy, live in Hillsboro, OR. Pray for Don and Nancy and for the doctors who continue to monitor him and seek a solution to this serious condition. Contact Don at dnmiller@whiz.to.

Ann Niederer fell and broke her hip. She lives near her children at 1070 W. Jefferson, Franklin, IN 46131. Ann served in pastorate positions with her late husband, Ray.

Home to Glory

Evelyn Mary Frers – September 20 (age 78) after battling pancreatic cancer. Evelyn and Bill were very active in church teaching Sunday school, and Evelyn starting up a children's choir at Magnolia Baptist Church in Anaheim, CA. In February 2015, Evelyn was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. Her parents, Edward and Eldie Firtzke; three brothers; and her sister preceded her in death. She is survived by her loving, devoted husband of 57 years, Bill; her sons, Glen (Joanne) and Kevin (Le Rae); two grandchildren, Brittany and Kyle; two brothers, Clarence and Alvin (Shirley); her sister-in-law, Betty; and a very large extended family.

John Binder – Nov. 20, 2015 (age 85) in Venice, FL. His call to ministry began with his conversion at CTI (Taylor) and his preparation for ministry at NAB Seminary (now Sioux Falls) and Hamburg Seminary. He served a pastorate in Morris, MB. In 1960 he married Barbara Weisser and began 34

years of ministry service at the NAB International Office in Forest Park and Oakbrook Terrace, IL. This included acting as youth director, Stewardship and Communications director, and executive director (1979-94). He served on the executive committees of the BJC and BWA and in Evangelism at his local church First Baptist Church Bellwood in IL, showing his concern for ethnic ministries. He served as interim pastor of seven churches in the US and Canada and one year as Seminary president. After his stroke, he enjoyed doing electrical work for Habitat for Humanity homes for five years. John was active until one week before his passing when he learned he had cancer. John is survived by his wife of 55 years; his three children, Laurette Hampel, Douglas Binder, and Brian Binder; eight grandchildren; and one great grandchild. Barbara lives in Twin Lakes, WI, and can be reached at binderbj@aol.com

Iona Quiring – November 22 (age 84). Ed and Iona were members of Elm Creek Community Church in Maple Grove, MN. She was a prayer warrior, friend, and mentor, and she served with the NAB Women's Missionary Fellowship for a number of years, using her gift of writing to encourage many. She is survived by her husband, Ed; her children, Jill Helgeson, Vicki Lieuwen, Michael Quiring, and Terry Frederick; seventeen grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Jerome and Blaine Fluth. Her brother Jerry Fluth passed away three weeks later on December 18. You can contact Edward Quiring at 3543 L Honoapiilani Road, G305, Lahaina, HI 96761.

Alma S. Henderson – December 16 (age 95) at her home in Athens, GA. George and Alma were appointed as NAB missionaries to Cameroon in 1947. Among Alma's missionary activities was encouraging women to form their own auxiliary missionary organizations within their churches and in union with other churches. At different times, she also taught in the Mission's Bible School and taught Bible classes in the women's college. After serving as missionaries for twenty years, the Hendersons settled in Athens, where George taught at the university level and Alma, among other ventures, taught in a Christian school. Her husband, George, and brothers, William, Walter, and Roger, preceded her in death. She is survived by brothers John Siewert of La Verne, CA, and Arthur Siewert of Penryn, CA; twelve nieces and nephews throughout the United States and Europe; and a host of grandnieces and grandnephews.

Jerry Fluth – December 18 (age 81) due to complications from pulmonary fibrosis. Jerry and Monie were former NAB missionaries to Nigeria and Cameroon from 1960 to 1981. He is survived by his wife Monie. He was preceded in death by his sister Iona Quiring, who passed away on November 22. Jerry knew for some time that his trip to heaven was on a fast track. He preferred a "Commencement" service, and that is just what his family planned on December 30. At his commencement, the family sang these words to "Pomp and Circumstance:"

*Commencement unto glory; now singing with the saints above.
Unfettered lungs burst with praises; adoring the One he loves.
His labors on earth now ended; the celebration has begun.
Faithful to His heav'nly Father; Dad finished the race and won!
We honor our father's graduation into his inheritance as a son.*

John Wollenberg – January 5 (age 85). John graduated from Sioux Falls College in 1953 and seminary in 1957, when he started his long pastoral ministry in Lashburn, SK, and Manitoba before going to Kelowna, BC, in 1974. He remained in British Columbia as the Evergreen Baptist home chaplain and pastoring as God opened doors of continued ministry. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Irene; sons, Mark (Brenda) and Tim (Kathleen); seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; one sister; and one brother. He was preceded in death by one sister and one brother. A memorial service was held on January 23 at Trinity Baptist Church in Kelowna, BC, where John served as senior pastor from 1965 to 1974. You can reach Irene Wollenberg at #217 - 580 Yates Rd. Kelowna, BC V1V 2M3, Canada.

On the Move

Al Lamprecht moved this fall from his home in Sun City West, AZ, into a retirement community in Sun City. He and his wife, Irene, served Golden Prairie, SK, right after Al graduated from NAB seminary. They then pastored McKernan Baptist Church in Edmonton and later pastored in New York City at Ridgewood Baptist. After serving three NAB churches, Al and Irene served as missionaries under ABC missions in Eastern Europe and Russia until retirement. Irene died three years ago. Al no longer uses e-mail, but you can now reach him at 10015 W Royal Oak Rd., Sun City, AZ 85351. (623) 584-5377.

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