

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

Section E: Newspaper Articles - USA, Canada, and Cameroon



This photo and the following caption appeared in *The Tacoma [Washington] Times* on August 24th, 1946:

“The above group of young people is shown in the center of a west African missionary display, on exhibit at the First Baptist Church for the benefit of delegates attending the North American Baptist General Conference.

This group is specially privileged to study and handle the items in the exhibit as they, of all the more than 1,200 delegates, are most vitally concerned with them. Why? Because they are planning to go to the land from whence these items came-- Cameroon, Africa--as missionaries in the near future.

From left to right, these adventurous people are: George D. Henderson, Toccoa Falls, Ga.; Miss Alma Siewert, Milwaukee, Wis.; Rev. George A. Dunger, Hartford, Conn.; Rev. and Mrs. Gilbert Schneider, Dallas, Ore.; Miss Esther Schultz, Auburn, Mich., and Mrs. Clara Gebauer, McMinnville, Ore.”

The following acronyms are used throughout:

CBC for **C**ameroon **B**aptist **C**onvention, a denomination of Baptist churches in Cameroon related to the North American Baptist denomination.
NAB for **N**orth **A**merican **B**aptist, a mission-supporting denomination of Baptist churches in North America (USA and Canada).

These newspaper articles are mostly about NAB missionaries and CBC ministries, with selections about other missions in Cameroon and also general Cameroon events helpful in understanding mission work in the Cameroon context. The writer of an article is given when available. The selected quotes are intended to give key points in the article with bracketed information added to indicate CBC and/or NAB connections, and/or fill in information assumed to be common knowledge in the past but not so common years later.

There are two subsections and the order is chronological within each subsection:

“**Subsection (1)** USA and Canada, 1940s through 2000s”

“**Subsection (2)** Cameroon, 1950s through 1970s”

Subsection (1) USA and Canada, 1940s - 2000s:

1941, Jan 14: “Two Portlanders in Sea Storm”. *The [Portland] Oregonian*. [Pictures of Paul and Clara Gebauer].

Quote: Picture Caption: “On Vessel: [NAB Missionaries] Rev. and Mrs. Paul Gebauer [misspelled ‘Bebauer’]”. “Two Portland missionaries are passengers on an American freighter which Monday was reported floundering in the worst Atlantic storm of the winter and with a cargo of wild animals. They are Rev. Paul Gebauer, 39, and Mrs. Clara Gebauer, 31, his wife.”

1944, May 14. *The Milwaukee Journal*. [Picture of newly commissioned and veteran missionaries].

Quote: Picture Caption: “Commissions for foreign service were given Sunday at the North American Baptists triennial conference in the Auditorium. Miss Evelyn E. Wegner, Chicago, Ill, (left), greets Miss Myrtle Hein, Edmonton, Alta. The others are (left to right) Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Michelson, Rochester, NY; Mr. and Mrs. Earl A. Ahrens, Tacoma, Wash.; Miss Laura

Reddig, Cathay, ND, and Chaplain Paul Gebauer [on week-end Army pass], both former [NAB Cameroon] missionaries, and Mr. and Mrs. S. Donald Ganstrom, St. Paul, Minn. All but Miss Reddig and Chaplain Gebauer received commissions.” [They had been commissioned previously].

“Draft Ruling Irks Baptists” [Article underneath picture]

Quote: “The recent selective service order canceling draft deferments of pre-professional and pre-theological students, effective July 1, was sharply criticized Saturday afternoon by delegates attending the triennial general conference of North American Baptists at the Auditorium ... The convention voted to ask for the release from military service of Chaplain Paul Gebauer, now serving as an army pastor at Campbell, Ky., so that he may supervise denominational mission work in Africa...” [The article goes on telling of the resolutions adopted and business items passed].

1946, Aug 24: “African Exhibit Appeals to Missionaries”. *The Tacoma [Washington] Times*. [Picture of the group].

Quote: Picture Caption: “The above group of young people [NAB Cameroon missionaries of missionary appointees and veteran] is shown in the center of a West African missionary display, on exhibit at the First Baptist Church for the benefit of delegates attending the North American Baptist Conference ... From left to right, these adventurous people are: George D. Henderson, Toccoa Falls, Ga.; Miss Alma Siewert [Henderson], Milwaukee, Wis.; Rev. George A. Dunger, Hartford, Conn.; Rev. and Mrs. Gilbert Schneider, Dallas, Ore.; Miss Esther Schultz, Auburn, Mich. and Mrs. Clara Gebauer, McMinnville, Ore.”

1946, Aug 24. “Commission Service for Missionaries Sunday Afternoon at Temple Theater”. *The Tacoma [Washington] Times*. By Dick Yost. [Picture of Paul Gebauer].

Quote: “A practical demonstration of personal sacrifice and call to Christian duty will be enacted Sunday afternoon when...10 young people will be commissioned by the North American Baptist General Conference to be foreign missionaries ...”

1950, Nov 13: “Missionaries Visit Pet Chimp Here”. *The Cleveland Press*. [Picture of the Hendersons and chimp].

Quote: “Along about the end of last June, in...Douala, a sea coast town in equatorial Africa...Mr. and Mrs. George Henderson, [NAB Cameroon] missionaries about to return to the United States for a year’s leave, turned over Ooo-Ooo, a pet chimpanzee to Director Fletcher Reynolds of the Cleveland Zoo...Yesterday, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson...arrived in Cleveland [to see] Ooo-Ooo...”

1952, Sep 18: “Baptist Missionary Graduate to Address Convocation”. *The [Portland] Oregonian*.

Quote: “LINDFIELD COLLEGE, McMinnville, Sept 17 (Special)—Rev. Paul Gebauer, [NAB] Baptist missionary to Cameroons, Africa, and Lindfield graduate of 1943 will address faculty students and townspeople Thursday evening at 7:30 in First Baptist church at the college opening convocation...Gebauer and Dr. William Osgood, Baptist missionary to India will receive honorary doctor of divinity degrees...”

1953, Jan 8: “Natives Raise Freedom Cry in Cameroons”. *Chicago Daily Tribune*. By Arthur Veysey. [Map showing west-central Africa centered on Southern and Northern British Cameroons].

Quote: “LONDON, Jan. 7 -- The cry of independence is being raised in the Cameroons, one time German colony in western Africa...Two U.N. “missions” have toured the area in the last three years. The first tour was notable for investigating a protest from a British women’s rights society against a local ruler, the fon of Bikom, who was accused of having 600 wives. The U.N. mission found only 100 wives and when the fon publicly said all wives who wished to leave him could do so -- and 40 did -- the U.N. declared the matter closed...A British church mission was established in the Cameroons in 1827 at a place named Victoria. [Example of incorrect information in the press since Victoria itself and its mission station was established in 1858]

1959, Feb 1: “Brotherly Love, Fellowship Are Practiced By Ernest Hildebrand”. *Great Bend [Kansas] Daily Tribune*. By Everett Brown. [Picture of Mr. and Mrs. Hildebrand with some curios from Cameroon].

Quote: “...Ernest Hildebrand...takes occasional jaunts to the British Cameroons in the interests of mankind. His trips are highlighted by the fact that he carries along tools to make the fortunes of the people a little better...to [build] schools and hospitals. Hildebrand, a mild-mannered Stafford County farmer...who takes opportunities in stride, first planted wheat in Stafford and Kearney Counties, then ordered sufficient food and equipment to last him and Mrs. Hildebrand for two years in a land where every malady but frostbite is apt to overtake the uninitiated.”

1959, Sep 23: “First African Student”. *Sioux Falls [South Dakota] Argus-Leader*. [Picture of Flavius Martin getting off an airplane in Sioux Falls shaking hands with Dr. George Dunger as others look on].

Quote: “North American Baptist Seminary [Now Sioux Falls Seminary] has enrolled the first Baptist student from the British Cameroons, Africa, to come to this country to train for church leadership”

1959, Dec 27: “Holidays at Home”. *Burlington, Iowa, Hawk-Eye Gazette*. [Picture of George W. Lang family].

Quote: “...It was a ‘special’ Christmas in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Meilahn, 2600 Irish Ridge Rd., for their daughter, Mrs. George W. Lang, and her family were home from Africa...The Langs [NAB Cameroon Missionaries] left Africa Nov. 21 on a banana freighter, arriving in Liverpool, England, Dec. 6. They will be in the United States for a year’s furlough. The Rev. Mr. Lang is principal of the Baptist Bible Training Center at Ndu, Southern Cameroons, Africa...”

1960, Jan 2: “Cameroons Gains Freedom While Drenched in Warfare”. *Chicago, Daily News*. By Smith Hempstone. [Picture of “Ahmadou Ahidjo, Cameroons premier”].

Quote: “...The new nation is the California-sized Cameroons Republic [This is the former French Cameroons, not the British Cameroons where NAB missionaries reside which will continue under the British for about another year] ... Heavily armed police and Cameroonian army units now patrol the densely populated areas of the Bamileke [where terrorist bands had moved in...] ... more than 300 Africans have been killed in the last six months...The great danger lies in the possibility of terrorism spreading to British Cameroons [where, as noted above, the NAB missionaries resided]...”

1961, May 24: “New Unrest Brewing in Cameroon”. *Chicago Daily News*. By Smith Hempstone.

Quote: “DOUALA, Cameroon -- An extension of the terrorist activity that has plagued this new African nation [French Cameroon where NAB missionaries did not reside but adjacent to the British where they lived] since 1956 is expected in October when Southern British Cameroon will unite with this former French UN trust territory ... The danger is that the unification of Southern British Cameroon and [French] Cameroon, in which the systems of education and administration have been markedly different, will produce a new unrest upon which the terrorist leaders will capitalize to feed the flames of rebellion.” [Note: There was minimal terrorist activity with British soldiers keeping watch until the newly formed Cameroon Government took charge].

1963, Apr 16: “Fascinating Lives Led By African Missionaries”. *St. Joseph [Michigan] Herald-Press*. [Picture of George and Alma Henderson].

Quote: “...[NAB Missionaries] Mr. and Mrs. George Henderson, missionaries to the Cameroons for the past 17 years, have led a busy, interesting life there. They have witnessed the struggle in Africa between tribal background and ‘modern’ life...The missionaries feel they are in Africa as advisors—they want the natives to take over and run their own conference. The Henderson’s prime work is to raise the standard of living through Christian love...After a year in the United States; the Hendersons will be reassigned by the North American Baptist General Missionary Society of Forest Park Ill...”

1963, Jul 20: “Rev. Lloyd Kwast Ordained; Leaves for African Missions”. *The Bulletin [Anaheim, California]*. [Picture of Lloyd Kwast with wife and two children].

Quote: “...The Reverend Kwast, his wife, Sharon and their children, Katherine Lea and Stephen Lloyd will leave New York, Aug. 1st for the Federal Republic of Cameroon, West Africa, to enter full time Christian missionary and teaching service under the North American Baptist General Conference Board of Missions. The Reverend Kwast will become a teacher in the Baptist Bible College of Ndu where native Christians are trained to become pastors to their own people...”

1964, Jan 11: “Missionaries’ 14-Year-Old Son Misses Simple Life in West Cameroon, Africa”. *The Hartford [Connecticut] Courant*. [Picture of Gil Schneider and a second picture of Solomon Ndikvu of Cameroon]

Quote: “...he [son Evan] was eagerly awaiting the day when he would return with his family to West Cameroon, Africa, where his parents have been [NAB] missionaries since 1947. And then a sad thing happened. His father, the Rev. Gilbert D. Schneider, accepted a permanent position at Ohio University, where he will help to develop a program in West African Studies, and where he will help in the training of Peace Corps volunteers ... Rev. Schneider is grateful that his present work will still make it possible for him to return to West Cameroon occasionally to help evaluate rural work that is done by Peace Corps volunteers...”

1965, Jan 28: “Believe Instrument Trouble Caused Douglas-Hamilton to Crash”. *New York Journal American*.

Quote: “Buea, Cameroons, Jan. 28.--Lord Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton, 55 of 45 E. 66th St., New York, missing since last July 21 on a flight to Leopoldville, Congo, is feared to have crashed in a thunderstorm on the north wall of towering Mount Cameroon, the night he disappeared...Indications were that Lord Malcom’s instruments ‘cut up’ like ours did, leading him seven miles off course when he crashed,’ Mr. Brigham said.” [Attached to the article is a copy of a letter from Douglas-Hamilton’s wife that went to many organizations, including NAB’s Cameroon Baptist Mission, updating progress of the 6 month search].

1966, Aug 28: “Fort Collins Reminds African Girl of Home”. *Fort Collins [Colorado] Coloradoan*. [Picture of Pamela Martin, youngest daughter of E.K. and Hanna Martin, long-time CBC leaders]. Caption under picture: “Pamela Martin of the Republic of Cameroon, West Africa, likes Fort Collins because it reminds her of home--where high mountains rise to the east...Miss Martin will study for an advanced degree in English. She is interested in drama and literature.”

1968, Jan 26: “Cameroun: A New Republic Comes of Age”. *The New York Times*. [Picture of the President of the Federal Republic of Cameroon and a full-page encouraging foreign investment in Cameroon]. Quote: “...Cameroon prides itself on being one of the first African states to have passed legislation to encourage capital investment...”

1969, Oct 7: “Things Go Too Fast in U.S., Cameroon Singers Here Say”. *Bismarck [North Dakota] Tribune*. By Hal Simons. [Group picture caption: “Singers of Cameroon Pose on Tour in the United States”].

Quote: “Life goes pretty fast the way it is, but Americans try to make it go even faster...And that’s a bit of a contrast to life in Cameroon, Africa, according to three people with the College Singers of Cameroon [led by NAB Missionary Don Witt] who are now touring the U.S. and Canada. ‘My first and foremost reaction to the United States is that life is rather too fast,’ the Rev. Samuel Lysonge said.”

1969, Nov 22: “Singing Troupe from West Africa Highlights Area Church Concerts”. *The [Washington, D.C.] Evening Star*. [Picture caption: “College Singers...Christian Message from Africa”].

Quote: “The College Singers, a Gospel group from Cameroon which is the first cultural troupe to tour the United States from that West African nation, will give a concert at National Memorial Baptist Church...Monday, at 6 p.m., Cameroonian Ambassador Joseph N. Owono will hold a reception at the Embassy of Cameroon...The Baptist World Alliance is sponsor of the Washington concert. The group will perform at the United Nations on Wednesday...”

1969, Nov 25: “Embassy Reception”. *The [Washington, D.C.] Evening Star*. Picture caption: Grace Besong (left) and Sinota Shiro of the Cameroon College Singers serve themselves at the buffet during a reception at the Cameroon Embassy for the group which is on a concert tour of the United States under the auspices of the North American Baptist Conference.”

1969, Nov 26: “The College Singers from Cameroon--“. *The Washington [D.C.] Post*. The picture caption continues: “...sang to congressmen, tourists and passerby in the Capitol rotunda yesterday. The Singers were greeted at noon by Sen. Charles H. Percy...The college singers are concluding a 70-city tour through America and Canada. They are scheduled to perform today at the U.N. General Assembly.”

1971, Jan 26: “Pastor Visits Cameroon”. *The [Benton Harbor, Michigan] News Palladium*. By Sandee Wallace.

[Pictures: (1) Rev. Norman Vernon. (2) Rev. Vernon with NAB Missionary Norman Haupt. (3) NAB Missionaries George and Marjorie Baab with infant daughter Kimberly born in Kumba, Cameroon].

Quotes: “The Rev. Norman H. Vernon, pastor of [the NAB] Napier Parkview Baptist church, Benton Harbor, recently returned from Cameroon where he visited first hand the work being done by missionaries of his denomination, the North American Baptist General Conference...”

“...the Rev. Vernon says, with the progress that has been made, some phases of Cameroonian life remain in darkness. He gave as an example an incident related to him by [NAB Missionary teacher] Dr. Norman Haupt, director of the Saker Baptist College in Victoria [now Limbé], Cameroon. Dr. Haupt told of a young woman who recently was graduated from the College. She had ranked third highest in her class. But her grandparents still following the old way of life sacrificed the young woman by death. By rules of a secret society when the lot fell on grandparents there were forced to sacrifice the thing they loved and held dearest, in this case, the granddaughter. She was poisoned and died a violent death...”

1973, Jul 6: “Saint Named Ma Reddig”. *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. By Oliver Towne. [Picture of Miss Reddig].

Quote: “Mention the name [NAB Missionary nurse] Laura Reddig in the Cameroon...and they’ll say in Pidgin English, ‘You mean Ma Reddig?’...Even she reflects upon the strangeness of what she calls ‘God’s will;’ that a girl raised in Cathay, N.D., who never saw a black person until she was almost 21 should have spent most of here life since living with them, helping them, suffering with them...”

She was 25 then [first trip to Cameroon in 1938]. War [WW II] clouds were building across Europe...she sailed to Hamburg and finally boarded a banana boat, the only American with German passengers. ‘And a few weeks later, there I was at my first station, a two-room dispensary hut, with grass rood trying to nurse the people of the tribes’...She [also] taught biology and basic subjects in elementary and secondary schools...

Ma Reddig has seen the two-room grass hut become a series of modern hospitals, schools and farms; she has seen her children go on to colleges and come back to teach others and help the Cameroon progress... ‘When I was a girl, I often wondered whether I would have a large family. I never realized it would be so big,’ she says.”

1977, Sep 11: “African church leader studies at seminary”. *Sioux Falls [South Dakota] Argus-Leader*. By Jean Layton. [Picture of Dr. George Dunger and Samuel Ngum with a map of Africa].

Quotes: “[CBC leader] Samuel Ngum was in line to become the chief of his African tribe, but he chose to become a Christian instead. Ngum came to Sioux Falls Aug. 20 to study at North American Baptist Seminary [since 2009 Sioux Falls Seminary] , leaving behind his wife, Susannah, and seven children ... Another Sioux Falls native, [retired NAB Cameroon Missionary] Bernice Westerman, has served as a missionary in Africa in various capacities ...

‘My [Ngum’s] father was a chief controlling many thousands of people. He was reluctant to see his son become a minister’ ... Ngum explained that his people are polygamous and his father had nearly 100 wives... ‘Traditionally my people have many gods,’ Ngum said, ‘and the head of the clan is the priest of the gods who offers sacrifices and offerings to the spirits.’”

1979, Nov 16: “Museum readies lively celebration of African arts”. *The [Portland] Oregonian*. By Beth Fagan.

Five pictures by [former NAB Cameroon Missionary] Paul Gebauer of village weavers working and other scenes including one of Gebauer observing a Cameroonian tusk carver at work in 1938.

Quotes: “A public celebration of African art in the Portland Art Museum will bring scholars from Germany, Mexico and throughout the United States to the city ... The museum in association with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City has just published ‘Art of Cameroon,’ a major contribution to African art studies by the late Paul Gebauer ... Starting Friday night in the gallery adjoining the Cameroon collection there will also be an exhibition of photographs on Cameroon life which Gebauer took over a period of 30 years.”

1980, Feb 12: “Cameroon’s calm makes it Africa’s oddity”. *Chicago Sun Times*.

Quote: "DOUALA, Cameroon--Events in this West African country are about as newsworthy as a sunny day in Florida or a fender-bender on a Los Angeles freeway. And Cameroonians are proud of it ... Beyond their borders, governments--some brutal, some merely ineffective--rise and fall with alarming frequency, and economics sputter fitfully ... "Amid such turmoil, Cameroon has become something of an oddity. In 20 years of independence it as never had a coup or a major political upheaval ... "[Cameroon's President] Ahidjo has often said that a multiparty system would lead to anarchy and inefficiency, and ultimately, to the destruction of the nation."

1981, May 26: "Cameroon Has some Oil, but Keeps Mum About It, Fearing Upset of Economy and of Internal Peace". *The Wall Street Journal*. By June Kronholz. [Map of Cameroon].

Quote: "...Cameroon is already troubled by a rift between Moslems in the North and Christians in the South. Westerners worry that the petroleum boom might heat up a simmering quarrel between the French-speaking and English-speaking provinces as well." (Last paragraph)

1986, Aug 26: "Cameroon Gas Toll Put at 1,200". *Los Angeles Times*. By Dan Fisher.

Quote: "YAOUNDE, Cameroon--A poisonous cloud of gases that erupted from the bottom a volcanic lake and wafted over sleeping lakeside villages last Friday night killed at least 1,200 people and injured 300, President Paul Biya said Monday ... Information Minister Georges Ngango had said that military reports from the scene mentioned a death toll of at least 2,000 ..."

1986, Aug 26: "1,200 die in gas". [Page 1 headline]. *Sioux Falls [So. Dakota] Argus-Leader*. [with Cameroon map].

Quote: YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP) -- A geological explosion cracked the bottom of a northwestern Cameroon lake, releasing a cloud of toxic gas that killed at least 1,200 people, President Paul Biya said Monday ... Information Minister Georges Ngango told reporters earlier that military reports from the scene spoke of a death toll of at least 2,000 ... Joseph Mokassa, top staff aide to the provincial governor in Bamenda said by telephone he saw many dead but did not have precise figures..."

Second article on same page: "**South Dakotans safe**". By Ann Grauvogl. Pictures of [NAB Cameroon Missionary] Daphne Dunger and [NAB Cameroon retired Missionary] Berneice Westerman)

Quote: "South Dakota missionaries working in Cameroon were not endangered by the toxic gas ... Daphne Dunger...went to Cameroon in 1965 and works on a health and religion project ... Berneice Westerman, 61, has worked in Cameroon since 1950 as a teacher and office worker...But everyone in the country was concerned, Oryn Meinerts, a native of Emery, said. Some of the people who work at the Cameroon Baptist Seminary in Ndu were killed while they were home on vacation, his wife, Pat, said.

1994, Nov 25: "Artifacts and love fill Cameroons show". *The [Portland] Oregonian*. By Terry Ross.

Quote: "Oregon is [former Cameroon NAB Missionary] Gilbert Schneider's home. He was born in The Dalles, he lives in Portland and he plans to stay here for the rest of his life. Yet for the 75-year-old retired linguistics professor, Africa will always be his first love ... Although not a professional photographer, Schneider was, at least for stretches of his 15 years in Cameroon, an avid amateur ... At the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, a selection of his pictures -- newly printed by his son, Evan, a photographer at the Oregon Historical Society -- gives a view of some aspects of Schneider's Cameroon idyll."

1995, Dec 5: "Jet crash in Cameroon kills 72 of 78 aboard". *Sioux Falls [South Dakota] Argus-Leader*.

Quote: The Associated Press DOUALA, Cameroon -- A Jet overshot a runway at Cameroon's largest city and crashed into a swamp...The Cameroon Airlines Boeing 737 was making a second try at landing when it went down about 2 1/2 miles past the airport.

2000, Apr 25: "Dr. Laura Edwards, missionary in Cameroon, dies in auto accident". *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. By Chuck Haga.

Quote: "Dr. Laura Edwards [Baptist General Conference Missionary working with the CBC] died in an automobile accident Thursday while doing medical and missionary work in Cameroon...She was 78 and lived in Eagan [Minnesota], but for the past 15 years she had spent from three to four months a year in Cameroon training village women to be birth attendants... 'We know that there were six people on the Landover, and there was a steering failure,' said her son, Dr. John Edwards, of Burnsville.

...Laura Edwards was named Minnesota's female physician of the year in 1989, and she served as president of the Minnesota Obstetrical and Gynecological Society in 1993..."

2001, Apr 1. "Cameroon farmers return to deadly lake: Scientists struggle to vent carbon dioxide from crater that erupted wiping out village in 1986". *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. By Tim Sullivan (The Associated Press).

Quote: "Lake Nyos, Cameroon -- ...Many of the people of northwestern Cameroon, the English-speaking minority in this mostly French-speaking nation, are deeply suspicious of their government. They wonder if Cameroonian officials are actually to blame for the explosion -- perhaps in a weapons test gone awry.

"Others suspect supernatural forces. Tales circulate about a lion that lives there protecting an enormous egg, and old people who turned into buffalos and dove into the water..."

2001, Dec 12: "Local doctor shares his memories of Cameroon". *Edmonton [Alberta, Canada] Journal*. Book Review by Tim McNamara.

Quote: *Man no be God* is a memoir by Dr. Dieter Lemke, now retired [NAB Missionary Doctor] and living in Edmonton, of his years as a Baptist missionary in Cameroon, Africa...Lemke...went to Africa as a missionary, but his essential mission was to help heal the sick. His witness to his faith was to try to make the lives of Cameroonians better....He strikes me as a tough-minded optimist. I strongly recommend the book..."

2002, Apr 10: "Missions' Makeover". *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. By Moni Basu. [Pictures of Alma Henderson: (1) In Cameroon in the 1960s. (2) With the Chinese Bible Study Group at the University of Georgia].

Quote: "In early 1947, [retired NAB Cameroon Missionary] Alma Henderson boarded an Air France plane to cross the Atlantic. The young, attractive graduate of Toccoa Falls College was headed to the British Cameroon to spread the word of God.

She made a four-year commitment to West Africa. She stayed 20 years...While 'serving the Lord' in Henderson's day required an enormous amount of resolve, those who leave on missions today usually set forth carrying more than Bibles. The trips may be of shorter duration, but they involve doing the *work* of God even as they seek to spread the *word* of God..."

2006, May 5: "'Out of Africa' opens Saturday" *The (Highlands, North Carolina) Highlander*. By Lindsey Wisdom. [Picture Caption: "Alma Henderson displays intricacies of a ceremonial robe given to her by the people of Cameroon"]

Quote: "Words alone could touch the grace and beauty of the unique exhibit, 'Out of Africa,' opening at the Bascom-Louise Gallery ... [retired NAB Missionary] Alma Henderson is planning to give a lecture about individual pieces of art..."

2006, Nov 27: "Donors can help nurses combat illness, indifference in Cameroon". *Dayton [Ohio] Daily News*. By Kevin Lamb.

Quote: "Dayton --Zama Ndefru's family buried his brother in Cameroon over the weekend. The 44-year-old university professor's liver ailment wasn't diagnosed until too late, after four months of increasing pain and diminishing health.

"People die because the basic tests are not done," Ndefru said. "If my younger brother had just gotten a good blood test, they could have known what to do."

"With Ndefru's help, Cameroonians will start learning in January which medical tests to do and how to do them. He and some friends and advisers formed Nurses for International Development to open a nursing school in Northwest Province, on Cameroon's border with Nigeria in West Africa."

2007, May 8: "Crash searchers find horror in wreckage: All 114 aboard presumed dead in Cameroon". *Sioux Falls [South Dakota] Argus Leader*. By Heidi Vogt (Associated Press).

Quote: "MBANGA-Pongo, Cameroon -- The searchers, some soldiers in camouflage and red berets, others barefoot villagers in shorts and T-shirts, drove as far as they could into a dense mangrove swamp. Then they set out on foot, crawling through mud until they found signs of so many lost lives ... 'It's a scene of horror,' said Bernard Atebede, prefect [head] of the town of Vouri near the site where the Kenya-bound jetliner went down ... 'The plane fell head first. Its nose was buried in the mangrove swamp,' said Thomas Sobakam, chief of meteorology for the Douala airport ... There were no survivors, said Luc Ndjodo, a local official ..."

2007, Jul 23. *Edmonton [Alberta, Canada] Journal*. (No title for this newspaper article given in Web version).

Quote: "EDMONTON - When [retired NAB Cameroon Missionary] Dr. Dieter Lemke began volunteering in Cameroon in 1972, there was only one local ophthalmologist to look after 7.5 million people. Most of them couldn't afford the trip to the coastal hospital and couldn't get help as their vision clouded with cataracts or was lost to glaucoma.

"There was a whole lot more blind people around," said Lemke, thinking back on the 13 years spent in the western African country as a medical missionary and bush doctor. Eye problems are still an issue there, but Lemke became a pioneer for eye health, AIDS prevention and a drastic reduction in leprosy cases. He is now retired, but his work is continuing as a team from the royal Alexandra Hospital and the University of Alberta travel to Cameroon with a donated retinal camera that can link African ophthalmologists to specialists here..."



This photo and the following caption appeared in the *Cameroon Tribune* on June 10, 1981:
 “Rev. Ray Hoffman - brain behind the week-long crusade; Pastor Peter Evande - his sermons prick.”

The following paragraphs are excerpted from the full-page accompanying article:

“The week long Cameroon Baptist Convention-sponsored Crusade enters its fourth day in Yaounde today. Opened last Sunday participants have continued to listen to the main speaker, the Reverend Peter Evande in his series of pricking sermons which have included a call to the Christian youth to reconsider their ways and cling more to the things of heaven than to those of this earth.

The Christian as well as the elderly, the Rev. Evande stressed in his inaugural sermon last Sunday evening, must understand that they would gain nothing if they acquire all the things of this world and yet lose their souls.

The Crusade which ends next Friday evening is being highlighted by heart-touching singing by eight American and Canadian youths who arrived in the country last month to participate in the Crusade.

On the other hand, Hoffman said that being at the head of the department of Evangelism for the Cameroon Baptist Convention, he was naturally very interested in Evangelism. Evangelism, he said, is simply sharing the message of God’s salvation from sin through a personal faith in Jesus Christ as given to us in the Bible...”

Subsection (2) Cameroon, 1950s - 1970s:

NOTE: Articles in Cameroon newspapers enabled missionaries, as well as those in the Cameroon Baptist Convention to see something of how the Press viewed the Cameroonian religious scene. Articles on such subjects as polygamy, tribalism, and other social issues were helpful in understanding the Cameroonian situation. Cameroonian newspapers were brought back to North America by missionaries. Before 1961 Nigerian newspapers covered Cameroon news so they are also included here.

1954, Nov 4. “Cameroons Assembly in Pictures”. [*Lagos, Nigeria*] *Daily Times*.

Quote: “Chief Manga Williams [CBC church member] taking the oath at the opening of the newly-created Southern Cameroons House of Assembly, constituted under the amended Constitution at Buea.” (Picture caption) (p. 13)

“Some of the people who attended the opening of the House of Assembly.” (Picture caption). [Note: Seated prominently in the second row is NAB General Missionary Secretary Richard Schilke on his first trip to Cameroon].

1959, Oct 28. “How the United Nations dealt with the Cameroons issue”. [*Lagos*] *Daily Times*. By Hella Pick.

Quote: “After nearly three weeks debating, the United Nations Trusteeship council has at last reached a decision on the future of the Southern Cameroons...The UN decision provides that a plebiscite shall be held in the Southern Cameroons not later than March 1961 and that electors will choose between independence by joining Nigeria or by joining the [French] Cameroons.”

1966, Nov 29. “Presbyterian Church Takes Over Schools...Basel Mission Will Continue Aid”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “...At about 12 noon, the outgoing Proprietor of Basel Mission Schools Rev. Bachman, moved to the dais and proceeded to hand over the transfer document entitled ‘Letter of Transfer of the School System Hitherto Conducted by the Basel Mission in West Cameroon to the Presbyterian Church in West Cameroon’, to Rev. Shu, the incoming Proprietor.”

1969, Apr 19. “Government appreciates efforts of Missionaries: Muna Tells Baptist Convention” *Cameroon Telegraph*. [picture of Prime Minister Muna].

Quote: “The West Cameroon Prime Minister, Mr. Solomon T. Muna, told the Cameroon Baptist Convention last Thursday that, the Government of Cameroon appreciates the work, Missionaries have done and are still doing in this country.”

1970, Jun 23. “Pastor Eko for Philippines. *Cameroon Times.*

Quote: “[CBC] Pastor Steve Ekema Eko, Pastor of the Mizpah Baptist Church [Victoria/Limbe] leaves today for the Philippines...[to] study at the Union Theological Seminary in Manila.”

1970, Jul 12. “Kangsen Raps Catholic–Protestant Fighting”. *Cameroon Times.*

Quote: “The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in West Cameroon, the Right Reverend Jerimiah Chi Kangsen, has strongly condemned the fighting between the Protestants and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland....Concluding, Rev. Kangsen called on all the Presbyterians Christians to desist form all acts of discrimination against the other denominations, but should work for the unity of the church in the Republic.”

1970, Oct 1. “Cameroons Development Corporation (Partners in National Growth)”. *Cameroon Times.*

Quote: “Apart from the assistance given to small holders by providing processing and/or marketing facilities for their produce as well as high quality planting material to peasant farmers, CDC contributed in 1969 over 170 million CFA francs to Government revenues in various forms. In this and other ways, it occupies a dominant position in the economy or the country, being also West Cameroon’s major foreign country earner.”

1970, Nov 12. “Concentration Aftermath”. *Cameroon Times.* By Jerome Gwellem.

Quote: “They [thousands of guests] had witnessed a humble and unassuming priest [Dr. Paul Verdzekov] being raised to the Bishop’s chair [of the Roman Catholic Church]...the first West Cameroonian native Bishop.”

1970, Nov 24. Air Afrique - Pilgrimage to Mecca 1971”. *Cameroon Times.* [Advertisement].

Quote: “As we did during the previous years, Air Afrique will operate all flights to Jeddah with fast and comfortable Douglass DC 8 four engines jets... From Douala pilgrims will pay only 99,620 francs CFA (taxes included) round trip to Jeddah...Pilgrims should also deposit with Air Afrique 50,000 -- 75,000 or 100,000 francs for their pocket money to cover their expenses while in the holy land...”

1971, Mar 3. “Saker’s Piped Water Interrupted.”. *Cameroon Times.*

Quote: “There is interrupted supply of pipe-borne water in the [NAB related] Saker Baptist College Victoria...their reservoir was not working because of electricity failure...”

1971, Mar 10. “Is ‘JuJu’ Effectively Used in Football? *Cameroon Times.* By Awah Dzemjagha.

Quote: “The word ‘Juju’ is used in a great variety of ways. It is French and means a little doll...During a football [North American soccer] match teams bring along with them dour-looking, ramshackled old men with magic to the play ground. This man is to work on the opposing team to make it make terrible mistakes and lose. If the opposing team is meeting the other at home the old and decrepit man will sometimes instruct the team that the entrance to the stadium is fixed with magic to weaken them should they pass through the gate. Because of this many teams will not enter the stadium through its main gate, but will jump over the wall.”

1971, Mar 18. “World Wide Mission School Closed”. *Cameroon Times.*

Quote: “The World Wide Mission’s [An independent agency based in the USA] Primary School, Muyuka has been closed down. The reasons for closing down the school has been given as poor enrollment, no [Government] grants and aids for salaries since October 1969, need for new buildings but no funds available and Mission’s funds needed on other projects. “

1971, Apr 17. “To the New Bishops: Rally Round Dr. Peeters”. *Cameroon Times.* By Dr. Bernard Fonlon.

Note: Dr. Peeters, a European Priest appointed by the Pope as a Monsignor “took over nine years ago” the leadership of the West Cameroon Catholic Church and now apparently will be somewhat outranked by the two appointed Bishops. Therefore the plea by the writer, a respected Cameroon Catholic scholar, to work with Dr. Peeters in a leadership “Troika”.

Quote: “After decades of going slow, the Church in West Cameroon, is now wide awake and is striding ahead like the giant with the seven-league boots: two young bishops in eight months; that’s really a record! At this point I would like to say one thing; I have heard that it is being said (and by those who should know better) that the white priests should hand over to the African, as soon as possible, and pack out. This to my mind, if it is true, (and I hope it is not) is most irresponsible talk.”

1971, Apr 17. “Nkwen Parishioners want Cathedral, Secondary School”. *Cameroon Times.*

Quote: “...the Bayelle Parish Council presented an address in which they asked, among other things, for a secondary school, a cathedral and that the Bishop’s house be built in Bayelle...the Prefect [head] of Mezam [a part of Nkwen/Bamenda] Mr. H. P. Sone...[said]...the past few months...the Catholic Church has been under a cloud as people said different things about the church. He expressed hope that with Bishop Verdzekov and other Cameroonians being appointed Bishops, confidence was being restored in the Catholic Church...”

1971, Apr 22. “Big Academic Leap for Presbyterians”. *Cameroon Times.*

Quote: “The Presbyterian schools in West Cameroon have been making gradual academic progress...[Education Secretary of Presbyterian Schools]...disclosed the availability of funds from the Dutch government for the extension of the Cameroon Protestant College...Two thousand and two teachers were engaged at both primary and post primary levels...”

1971, Apr 22. “Polygamous Christians Accused”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in West Cameroon, the Right Rev. J. C. Kangsen has frowned on Christians and pastors who lead polygamous lives...as long as the rule in our church is that communicant Christians should be those with only wife, we cannot but keep to this rule.”

1971, May 5. “A Bright Future for The Cameroon Woman. *Cameroon Outlook*. By SA Njosa.

Quote: “Under our constitution, all citizens are equal without discrimination of sex and theoretically every women is therefore at liberty to make her own career in whatever field attracts her. Nevertheless, as in most developing countries, there is a tradition of discrimination...”

1971, May 27. “Belo Water Dam Dedicated”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “A dam already completed for the water project in Belo area in Kom, was recently dedicated below the CBC School at Igham stream at Anyajua...Prominent in attendance were the Fon of Kom, His Highness Nsom Ngwe, Hon. A.N. Jua, M.H.A., the D.O. Kom, Mr. S.B. Diffang, Pastor P.S. Jam, President CBC...Mr. Johnson Mbeng of CBC School Bamenda...”

1971, May 29. “Times’ Page One Comment: Mgr. Awa, This is Your Challenge!” *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “To you, Monsignor Pius Suh AWA, appointed by His Holiness Pope VI to be consecrated Co-Adjutor Bishop of Buea, tomorrow, Sunday. THIS IS YOUR CHALLENGE!...The challenge of your office is also that as shepherd of the flock you have been entrusted with the care of the faithful, to teach, sanctify and govern them: to convince by doctrine and example those who have strayed from the path of faith and promote dialogue among the clergy and laity.”

1971, Jun 1. “Awa Consecrated Bishop of Buea”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “...last Sunday all roads led to the [Catholic] Bishop Rogan College campus Soppo Buea where the consecration ceremony took place...At about 9 am the field was already packed full to capacity...Bishop Awa was presented with presents...Tribal dances...”

1971, Jun 1. “Ahidjo Condemns Tribalism”. *New Cameroon*.

Quote: “The President of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency Alhaji Ahmadou Ahidjo, Thursday at Mbengwi called on all Cameroonians to wage a stiff, unrelenting combat for the suppression and destruction of tribalism...”

1971, Jun 1-2. “At Mgr. Awa’s Consecration: Christians Want Archbishop”. *Cameroon Times*. [special edition].

Quote: “A call has been made for an archdiocese for West Cameroon with the guiding hand of an Archbishop...The call was first made last Sunday..in an excellent address read by the deputy Speaker of the Federal Parliament, Mr. S. M. Ndeley, and later reiterated by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in West Cameroon, Rev. Jeremiah C. Kangsen.

“Sixteen dancing girls in wrappers and blouses, performing magnificently, bearing gifts of altar wine and communion vessels, danced in four rows to a standing ovation singing ‘Come to, come to the spring of living waters flowing from the Lord..’

“On the point of an Archbishop and an arch diocese, the Buea Diocese said it has been necessitated by the growing needs of the Catholic Church in West Cameroon...”

1971, Jun 1-2. “6,000 Receive Father Figl”. *Cameroon Times*. [special edition].

Quote: “Jubilation in Nkar [Catholic] parish of Dzekwa in Bui division greeted the arrival of the Most Reverend Fr. Francis Figl who is regarded as a militant spiritual leader, a huntsman, a judge and an economist. He introduced the Arabica coffee in the area...

“...Fr. Figl who is now 68 years was born on January 10, 1903 in Moelten Tyiol in Austria. He was ordained a priest on July 18, 1926 in the Mill Hill London and arrived Shisong Catholic Mission in 1932 on Nov. 10 and served as a curate under Rev. Fr. Ivo Stockman for two years and in 1934 became the parish priest of Shisong until August 10, 1940. He returned home because of the second world war.”

1971, Jun 16. “Government Issues New Policy On Primary Education”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “...That expatriation allowances to Missionaries and the payment of contract salaries to expatriate teachers in Voluntary Agencies be abolished...”

1971, Jun 16. “Bishop Awa Received in Victoria [now Limbé]”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “Members of the family of the new co-adjutor Bishop of Buea, the Most Rev. bishop Pius Awa C.D. on June 1st, 1971, accorded him a rousing reception at the Victoria community Hall...”

1971, Jun 26. “Bali College Admissions”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “The [formerly NAB related] Cameroon Protestant College, Bali has published a list of candidates who have gained admission to the college for the 1971-72 academic year...Admitted candidates who do not pay their deposit before 10th August, 1971 will be left out and their chances given to candidates on the waiting list...”

1971, Jun 30. [Photo Caption]. *Black Express*.

Quote: “‘Educate a woman and you educate a nation.’ The Prime Minister Mr. S.T. Muna, paraphrased this last Sunday at [NAB related] Baptist Saker College in Victoria when he told the school’s sixth graduating class that training for tomorrow’s leaders begins today...The photograph shows Mr. Muna making his address at the ceremony...Seated behind Mr. Muna are Mr. E.K. Martin, Baptist Schools Education Secretary and Dr. A.D. Mengot, the Cultural Delegate.”

1971, Jun 30. “This call on the Church”. *Black Express*. [Editorial]

Quote: “In an age of social turmoil, political rumbles and economic uncertainties such as this, many people who are well-placed and qualified to do so, deliberately choose to ‘play safe’ rather than speak out when important human issues are at stake...That is why it was refreshing to hear the people of the Catholic Diocese of Buea call on the Church to speak out fearlessly in defense of the conscience of man and his happiness when his liberty, conscience are attacked...”

1971, Jul 10. “New Church for Bali”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “More than 4,000 people from all parts of the grassland zone converged at Njekah, Bali t the dedication of the 2.8 million francs Njekah Presbyterian chapel.

“The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in West Cameroon, Rev. J.C. Kangsen officiated...The crowd...was later thrilled as the Fon of Bali, His Highness V.S. Galega, Christians and Rev. Kangsen danced a ‘longe’ tune round the new altar.”

1971, Jul 16. “Be the Light of the World”. *New Cameroon*.

Quote: “The Regional Evangelism Secretary, ‘NEW LIFE FOR ALL’ [CBC churches participated] in West Cameroon, Rev. Elias N.G. Cheng has called on students and staff of the Presbyterian Teachers Training Centre Batibo (GCCT) to further the Christian condition of being salt of the earth and light of the world in their daily activities...Challenging the students, Rev. Cheng drew the attention of the college towards the unevangelised areas of Cameroon asking, ‘What are we as Christians doing towards the evangelization of villages in the remote areas of West Cameroon?...”

1971. Aug 6. “Ngum appointed CBC Exec. Secretary”. *New Cameroon*.

Quote: “Mr. Samuel N. Ngum who graduated from [NAB affiliated] BBTC Ndu on July 12, 1971 has been appointed the new Executive Secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC). He pulled 315 of the 520 votes cast...”

1971. Nov 3. “Cameroon Airlines’ Takes Off Amid Cheers”. *Cameroon Times*. By Jerome F. Gwellem.

Quote: “The ‘Cameroon Airlines’, the only indigenous aviation company, went into operation at Douala International airport last Monday, November 1 when the newly acquired aircraft took off for Yaoundé...”

1972. Aug 29. “Bible Confab for CBC to Hold in Victoria”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “The CBC Churches of Victoria, Tiko and Ndongo areas will hold their annual Field Bible Conference at Emmanuel Middle Farm, Bota from 9th to 12th November, 1972.

1972. Nov 8. “Yongkuma Quits V[ice] P[rinciple]’s Office”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “Rev. Enoch Yongkuma, whose appointment as principal of Baptist Teacher Training College, created a rumpus which culminated in his being sent to Bali Cameroon Protestant College as Vice Principal there, has declined the post and accepted being a classroom teacher in that college. [Yongkuma went on to say,] ‘I refused the office of Vice Principal in CPC Bali and accepted an ordinary classroom teaching position which I enjoy.’”

--14 other articles remain to be cataloged for 1972--

1973. Oct 25. *Cameroon Times*. “Nsos [People Group] Mourn Dr. Chaffee [NAB Missionary Doctor]”.

Quote: “...Dr. Chaffee died at the Bansa Baptist Hospital recently after a brief attack of pneumonia. Chaffee’s death has been received with shock and regarded as a blow to Nso people...And in appreciation of his devotedness to work, an African style of mourning the dead has been accorded the late Doctor.”

1973. Nov 1. “Kom Thing’ Coming”. *Cameroon Times*.

Quote: “After a prolonged but a fierce battle waged by the Cameroon Embassy in Washington to recover the stolen Statue known as Afo-A-Kom (the Kom thing) from a U.S. dealer in African art...the Afo will now be returned to Cameroon. Reliable sources in Washington have disclosed that the Afo will be put on a Pan-Am airliner December 3 and it will reach Douala December 4...It will later be moved to Laikom where it was stolen in 1966...”

As luck would have it the Afo was exhibited in New York and was identified among others by Professor Gilbert Schneider [former NAB Missionary] an anthropologist who lived in Kom for many years...”

--4 other articles remain to be cataloged for 1973--

1975. May 21. “C.B.C. Calls for Cooperation”. *Cameroon Tribune.*

Quote: “The 15th general session of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) ended recently...In addressing the conference, the Cultural Adviser in the Governor’s Office in Bamenda, Mr. Lawrence Ekinde, on behalf of the Provincial Governor, expressed Government’s gratitude to the hitherto North American Baptists and the CBC for the great humanitarian services the two bodies had rendered and were rendering to the people of Cameroon...”

1975. Jul 2. “New Government Formed: Biya is Prime Minister”. *Cameroon Tribune.*

Quote: “...The President of the United Republic of Cameroon His Excellency Ahmadou Ahidjo. Has formed a new government in which former Secretary-General in the Presidency, Mr. Paul Biya, has become the Prime Minister of the United Republic...”

1975. Oct 22. “Cameroonian Lady elected V.P. at U.N.” *Cameroon Tribune.*

Quote: “...Last week at the 30th session of the United Nations Organisation, Mrs. Gwendoline Burnley [of the prominent Martin family, long-time Baptists], a Cameroonian, was elected Vice-President of the Third Committee of the U.N.O....”

1975. Oct 29. “C.B.C. Gets New Field.” *Cameroon Tribune.*

Quote: “...The Noni Cameroon Baptist Convention Field consisting of 16 churches was recently inaugurated in Bui Division...on the 23rd of March, 1974, the 16 churches of the Noni Area, then part of the Nso Field applied to the [CBC] General Council of the Convention for field status...Consequently on October 4, 1974 the Council voted to grant the Noni CBC churches a Field Status...Present among others were Rev. O. Meinerts, representing the NAB Board of Missions; Arthur Helwig, the Field Adviser J.B. Kili who acted as chairman; the [Cameroon Government] District Officer for the Kumba Sub-District, Mr. Amah; the Reverend Priest Tabeken, Catholic Parish and representatives of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon.”

--58 other articles remain to be cataloged for 1975--

1977. --2 articles to be cataloged--

1978. --1 article to be cataloged--

1979. --5 articles to be cataloged--

END