

Appendix 1: *Cameroon Mission History Project Description*

PURPOSE:

1. **Organize into a special *Collection*** the various Cameroon mission history materials (1841 to the present) in the North American Baptist (NAB) Heritage Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Completed.
2. **Create a Catalog** of the materials including short descriptions of the individual items in the *Collection*. Completed.
3. **Create a Website** with an online catalog of the *Collection's* holdings that can be searched by name, subject, etc. from wherever the Internet is available and which can be printed out by the user. Approximately 75% complete.
4. **Publish a history** of North American Baptist missionaries and their Cameroonian colleagues as churches, schools, medical clinics and hospitals were established in Cameroon. Approximately 65% complete.

SOME of the ACTIVITIES:

Assembling the *Collection*, organized by category (see below) and date, of the books, pamphlets, academic papers, periodical articles, correspondence, artifacts and photographs/slides/movie films/videos/ DVDs related to mission work in Cameroon. This includes the minutes, internal records, correspondence, etc. of the North American Baptist Conference's Cameroon Baptist Mission, General Missionary Society, and Board of Missions. Completed.

Processing the *Collection's* material for long-term preservation. For example, Annual Reports, Field Committee Minutes, correspondence, etc. going back over 85 years were placed in transparent acid-free sheet protectors. Books and pamphlets more than 30 years old were also placed in transparent acid-free protective coverings. Completed.

Receiving additional materials and integrating them into the *Collection*. For example: A 1940-50s NAB missionary provided a manuscript of his memoirs entitled "Africa: the Rest of the Story". Important books and other materials written in German telling about the early Baptist missionaries were translated into English. Over 50 academic papers (theses, dissertations, etc.) about Cameroon Baptist missions and churches have been collected with most written by Baptist missionaries or Cameroonians as part of their advanced studies in seminaries and universities. Completed.

Producing printed copies of the *Collection's* Catalog, Appendices and Indexes for use by those doing research onsite at the NAB Heritage Center. Completed.

Generating the computer files of the *Collection's* Catalog so it can be placed in the NAB Heritage Commission Website thus making it accessible and searchable on the Internet (in process). A version of the under-construction Website is available at www.nabarchives.org/collections/cameroon-mission-history/ or by doing a Google search using "nab archives", then click on the "NAB Heritage Commission" website, and then under "Collections" dropdown to "Cameroon Mission History Main Page"

Writing a book telling the story of Baptist missions in Cameroon from the time Baptist missionaries first arrived in Cameroon to the time the ministries of the North American Baptist Mission were turned over to the Cameroon Baptist Convention. This is being written (in process) by John Siewert, a retired missions researcher/editor/writer, and Daphne Dunger, a retired NAB Cameroon missionary nurse. She initiated the Life Abundant Program, a healthcare ministry that helps Cameroonian villages without healthcare facilities start their own village Primary Health Centre. Drafts of some parts of the book are on the NAB Heritage Commission Website mentioned above and others will be added.

Sections of the **CAMEROON MISSION HISTORY COLLECTION:**

Acronyms used throughout the *Collection*:

- CBC** – Cameroon Baptist Convention (The fellowship of churches started by Cameroonians with help from CBM missionaries)
CBM – Cameroon Baptist Mission (The operating and legal name of the NAB mission in Cameroon 1942-1975)
NAB – North American Baptists (The Denomination of USA/Canada churches affiliated with the Cameroon Baptist Convention)

- A.** Books (Including English translations of works in other languages and unpublished manuscripts)
B. Pamphlets (brochures, booklets, etc.)
C. Academic Papers (dissertations, theses, project reports, etc.)
D. Periodical Articles (from North American Baptist, Cameroon Baptist Convention and other mission periodicals)
E. Newspaper Articles (from Cameroonian and North American newspapers)
F. E-Newsletters and Web Presentations (printouts that are no longer online)
-----Sections G–Z are restricted to persons authorized by the NAB Heritage Commission Executive Committee-----
G. CBM Annual Field Reports
H. CBM Annual Missionary Field Conference Minutes/Reports

Continued Over--

- I. CBM Field Council/Committee Minutes**
- J. CBM Field Council/Committee Follow-up Correspondence Regarding the Minutes**
- K. CBM Missionary Quarterly Reports**
- L. CBM Field Superintendent/Secretary Circular Letters** (exclusively to Missionaries)
- M. NAB Missionary and Home Office Communications with Supporters**
- N. NAB/CBM/CBC Correspondence and Other Documents** (not fitting in Sections G - M)
- O. NAB White Cross Program** (Women's Missionary Union sending medical and other supplies to Cameroon)
- P. NAB General Missionary Committee & Board of Missions Minutes**
- Q. CBC (Cameroon Baptist Convention) Documents** (Minutes of General Session, Council, Executive Committee, Education Authority, and Medical Authority meetings, etc. with related correspondence and other documents including materials from the Women's Union and 3 H -Head, Heart, Hands for Christ- Girls programs)
- R. Nigeria** (Various materials from the Mambilla Plateau Mission, Woyke House Residence and Hillcrest School for Missionary Children in Jos, Nigeria. Most materials are before 1961 when the Mambilla Plateau was part of Cameroon)
- S. Miscellaneous Printed Materials** (any items that for various reasons did not fit in Sections A-R)
- T. Oversize Materials** (maps, posters, etc. too large for regular size shelves)
- U. Photographs** (prints, 35 mm Slides & Film Strips, CDs)
- V. Audio and Video Mediums** (audio cassettes, CDs, 8 & 16 mm movie films, DVDs VHSs, vinyl records)
- W. Paintings** (Cameroon life, stylized traditional Cameroonian views of spirit world, etc.)
- X. Artifacts** (wood carvings, musical instruments, etc.)
- Y. Materials from individual missionaries not integrated into Sections A - V**
- Z. General Missionary Committee & Board of Missions Files**
- ZZ1. Backup copies (as available) of books and pamphlets**
- ZZ2. Extra copies of books and pamphlets (Available to give-a-way)**

INTRODUCTION:

There are a variety of documents and other materials from Cameroon relating to missionaries and their Cameroonian colleagues in Cameroon at the NAB Heritage Center. Within the thousands of printed materials and photographs there is a fascinating story about the work of North American, Canadian, British, Jamaican, and European missionaries with the majority of the documents relating to North American Baptist missionaries.

The first Baptist missionaries to Cameroon from North America were August and Anna Steffens who arrived there in 1891. They had responded to a call from leaders of two struggling Native Baptist churches asking that missionaries come and help. These churches had been established earlier by British and African-Jamaican Baptist missionaries who were no longer in Cameroon because of disagreements with the German colonial government who had taken over Cameroon in 1884. August Steffens was a student in the German Department of the Rochester Seminary in upstate New York, the forerunner of today's Sioux Falls Seminary, when he read of this call from Cameroon and decided he would go and help.

Organizing the *Cameroon Mission History Collection* started in 2001. As archival materials already in the archives and additional materials from Cameroon and elsewhere were assembled, it became apparent that writing an overall history would require careful research of a broad scope of materials. Summaries of historical materials were placed in computer files in order to prepare a catalog and indexes so continuous cross-checking during research could be more easily carried out. Retired missionaries in the USA, missionaries in Cameroon, along with Cameroonians serving in churches, schools, and medical facilities in Cameroon were interviewed for their stories.

It is inspiring to read from various source accounts how over the years in God's Providence these missionaries and their Cameroonian colleagues continued to minister in word and deed even though many obstacles and setbacks were encountered. In the materials of the *Collection* stories abound about the difference made in the lives of millions of Cameroonians over the years. Today the ministries continue to expand and new ministries develop through the work of Cameroonians in their churches, schools, and various healthcare ministries of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.