

Baptist Herald

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE



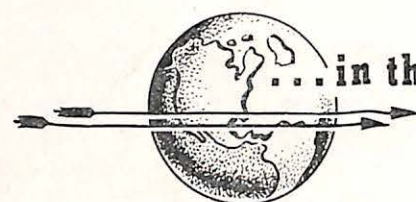
The Christmas Story Is Dramatized by Christian Natives in the Cameroons

December 21, 1950

"And There Were Shepherds"

A Story by GRACE LIVINGSTON HILL

(Page 14)



...in the course of human events

● Moslems are also persecuted! Russia is reported to have desecrated mosques, executed hundreds of thousands of Moslems, and sent mass shipments to Siberian prison camps during years of persecution to wipe out the Islamic faith in the Soviet Union. During the last 30 years, Russia's Moslem population is reported to have been reduced from 45,000,000 to 22,000,000. One mosque was converted into public lavatories, another became a stable. A third was pulled down and another was turned into a dance hall. The Communists call Moslems to sign a paper on which was written: "No God, no religion; nothing but Communism, nothing but Stalin." All who refused to sign vanished forever. The Communists have started a new campaign of "no prayers, no Koran, no feasts."

● Stamps designed to be used like Christmas seals but with the purpose of promoting church attendance have made their appearance in Hartford, Conn. Test sales are now being made by Methodist churches of Hartford. If the results are promising, the sale of the Go-to-Church stamps may become an annual nation-wide event. They originated with Howard R. Brockett, a safety engineer at one of Hartford's large insurance companies who is also president of Church Institute, Inc., a non-profit, non-denominational organization founded here a year and a half ago. The church depicted on the stamp in blue, yellow and black is a composite of several rural churches in this region. It was drawn by Harry R. Hick of Rocky Hill, a commercial artist for the same insurance company. — Religious News Service.

● A detailed plan for Protestant union that calls for the merger of seven major denominations into one church will be presented for approval to Protestant leaders at a meeting on Jan. 23 and 24, 1951 in Cincinnati, Ohio, as announced recently by Bishop Ivan Leo Holt of St. Louis, Mo., of the Methodist Church. Dr. Holt, who is chairman of the Commission on Protestant Union, said the plan compiled at a meeting of the commission in New York City, proposes the establishment of a United Church of Christ in America. It would merge into one Protestant body these denominations: the Presbyterian, U. S. A.; Presbyterian, U. S.; Disciples of Christ; Congregational-Christian; Evangelical Reformed; Federation of Community Churches; and the Methodist.

● Dr. Irwin A. Moon, director of the Moody Institute of Science, presented the premiere showing of "To Every Creature" to 3500 people at Moody Memorial Church of Chicago, Ill., on Oct. 16. The film, taken mostly in Peru, pictured the training and work of Missionary Technicians who enable the spreading of the Gospel to primitive peoples. Mr. Don Parson, director of the film department, said: "Within the next six months we expect to reach one million people by the film." After spending six weeks in Peru, Dr. Moon returned last December to spend six months in the completion of the film here. In the shooting of the film, his plane once landed in the Andes at 17,000 feet where, he said, "The air is so rarified that I couldn't put a lug wrench on a lug to change a flat tire." "Some films take two years to make," stated Dr. Moon. A staff of 15 men work on several projects concurrently. The next Moody film will be a science film, "Hidden Treasures" scheduled for Spring, 1951.

● Dr. Robert A. Cook of Chicago, president of Youth for Christ International, has called for an international day of prayer and re-consecration on Jan. 1, 1951, for the task of evangelizing the world in this generation through a global spiritual awakening which seems to be ready to break out around the world. The call for prayer was initiated by 500 delegates from 30 countries at the third World Congress on Evangelism at Brussels, Belgium, from July 30 to August 6, 1950 "We are asking God's people everywhere to join with us in prayer at some time of the day on New Year's Day, 1951, that true revival floods might engulf the nations of this world before a major catastrophe occurs or our Lord returns," Dr. Cook said in issuing the call. "We are asking God to raise us up 100 Billy Grahams to reap the spiritual harvest which is ripe in all parts of the globe. As the mid-century draws to its close, we are pleading with God truly to revive his work in the midst of the years."

FRONT COVER

The front cover shows a dramatized version of the first Christmas by Christian natives of the Cameroons of Africa. Behind the manger are Mary and Joseph. On the left are the three Wise Men, whose gifts have been placed in front of the manger. At the right are several shepherd boys, one of whom has only his right arm showing. The African natives love to dramatize Bible stories and accounts.

1951 DIRECTORY

This valuable vest pocket size directory and diary is now ready for shipment. It contains names and addresses of our pastors and missionaries. Names and addresses of churches and church clerks. The boards of the denomination and much other valuable information. The cost of producing this directory and diary is very high, primarily because of the limited volume of production. This in addition to increasing production costs, make it necessary to increase the price to 75 cents. Considering the great amount of information and the usefulness of this little booklet, it is still a bargain. Order now!

A LIFE OF JESUS

by EDGAR J. GOODSPEED.

Here is a life of Jesus as only Dr. Goodspeed could write it. New Testament scholar of our day, Dr. Goodspeed is also a writer with a gift for making profundities and great ideas plain to the average reader. This Life of Jesus is no ordinary life, no mere story leaning on fiction for its color, its incident, or its dialogue. Here the familiar words and events in the life of Jesus take on new reality. Here is the book that has been long awaited. It is a rarely inspiring book — one that is religiously satisfying. To all — clergyman and layman, student and casual reader — who read it with open mind and heart, it will be warmly appealing.

Price \$3.00.

Roger Williams Press

3734 Payne Ave., Cleveland 14, Ohio

Editorial

What Do You Expect for Christmas?

EVERYONE has definite expectations for Christmas. The excitement of this season is heightened by the things which we desire most for Christmas. They range from toys to practical gifts to spiritual blessings. But our preparation for the Christmas holidays awakens within our hearts definite expectations about those things for us under the Christmas tree.

There is something quite personal, which can even be selfish, in these Christmas expectations of ours. They can become strong desires that can drive us unmercifully into believing that we cannot get along in life without these things. They can easily supplant the spiritual joys and blessings of the Christmas season, as we think of Christmas only in terms of things to be given and received among ourselves as gifts. All of this can be followed by a terrible letdown if those expectations are not fulfilled.

But there are some things which we as Christians should definitely expect for Christmas. The shepherds experienced this on the Judean hills, and their journey to the Bethlehem manger was brightened wonderfully because of these expectations in their hearts. Such is the meaning of the words of the shepherds as recorded in Luke 2:15 — "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." They believed the Lord's announcement. They were eager to see these things about which they had heard.

This spiritual expectancy is largely missing from our Christmas observance. We hardly expect the glory of the Lord to shine round about us, as it did for the shepherds in Judea. And yet that is what every Christmas should mean for us, that God's Presence in Christ becomes very real to us; that God's blessings are like a shining light about us; that the angels' song fills our hearts with divine peace and good will.

But this miracle happens only to those who have faith; and faith is the expectancy that God will bring this to pass. "Let us see this thing which the Lord hath made known unto us." O, that Christmas might open our eyes to the glory of God's revelation to us in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the many manifestations of his Presence and power with us.

The shepherds also expected to learn more about the coming of the Messiah and the fulfillment of prophecy in going to Bethlehem to the manger. Our Christmas expectations ought to include a desire for a clearer understanding of God's truths. In these experiences with their heightened emotional feeling and with their uplifting inspirations, we ought to be able to understand more clearly "what the Lord hath made known to us." During the singing of some of the beautiful carols, or while taking some Christmas gift to a shut-in or the poor, or while meditating quietly before the open fireplace and the bedecked tree, we can suddenly become aware of God's voice speaking to us with the message of his truths and the revelation of his will for us.

What do you expect God to do for you this Christmas? Our greatest wish for you is that these spiritual expectations of Christmas might be realized and the glory of the Lord might shine round about you!

HERALD CONTENTS...

Vol. 28

No. 26

December 21, 1950

Cover ... "The Christmas Story in Africa"	Photo by Laura E. Reddig
"In the Course of Human Events"	2
Editorial, "What Do You Expect for Christmas?"	3
"Whose Birthday Today?"	4
Dr. Ralph E. Powell	4
"An Ordinary Day at the Children's Home"	6
Rev. August F. Runtz	6
"Rejoicing Over God's Victories"	7
Miss Eleanor Weisenburger	7
"Called to Be Saints of God"	8
Mrs. Lois Ahrens	8
"Whom God Hath Joined Together"	9
Mrs. June Goodman	9
"Rev. H. G. Dymmel Resigns"	10
Denominational Reminders	10
Family Page	11
What's Happening	12
C.B.Y. and S.S. Herald News	13
"And There Were Shepherds"	14
Grace Livingston Hill	14
"We, the Women"	17
Mrs. Florence E. Schoeffel	17
Reports from the Field	18
Obituaries	23
Baptist Life Association	24
Advertisement	24

Bi-weekly Publication of the
ROGER WILLIAMS PRESS
3734 Payne Ave., Cleveland 14, Ohio
Martin L. Leuschner, D.D., Editor
Rev. E. J. Baumgartner, Business Manager

THE BAPTIST HERALD is a publication of the North American Baptist General Conference with headquarters at 7308 Madison St., Forest Park, Ill. It also maintains an active membership in the Associated Church Press.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$2.50 a year to any address in the United States or Canada — \$2.00 a year for churches under the Club Plan — \$3.00 a year to foreign countries. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Three weeks notice required for change of address. When ordering a change, please furnish an address stencil impression from a recent issue if you can.

ADVERTISING RATES: \$2.00 per inch, single column, 2 1/4 inches wide. ALL EDITORIAL correspondence is to be addressed to the Rev. Martin L. Leuschner, 7308 Madison St., Forest Park, Illinois. ALL BUSINESS correspondence is to be addressed to the Roger Williams Press, 3734 Payne Avenue, Cleveland 14, Ohio.

Entered as second-class matter January 9, 1923, at the post office at Cleveland, Ohio, under the act of March 3, 1879.

(Printed in U. S. A.)

Whose Birthday Today?

We get ready for a holiday; the Wise Men got ready for a holy day. We get ready for Christmas; God got ready for Christ. Too often we lose sight of the fact that Christmas is the Savior's birthday!

By DR. RALPH E. POWELL, Professor of Theology
at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

were intricately arranged to come into conjunction just at the right time to lead the Magi to the place where the Christ-child was. The Holy Spirit was active, overshadowing Mary and moving upon men to prepare them for the Savior. By order of Caesar Augustus a special enrollment caused the movement of thousands of Jewish citizens to the cities of their birth in direct fulfillment of the prophecy that Jesus would be born, not in Nazareth where Joseph lived, but in Bethlehem of Judea.

God made all these preparations and untold others before he sent his well-beloved Son out of the ivory palaces into a world of woe. Religiously, philosophically, politically, and culturally the world was prepared for the coming of Christ in the fulness of time. God had been getting ready for this day of days since the beginning of the ages!

THE WISE MEN PREPARED

The Wise Men, skilled in Oriental science and ardent students of astrology, believed that any unusual phenomena in the heavens were signs of some remarkable event on earth. Through their science, such as it was, they were providentially led to the Lord Jesus. Possibly they had been expecting his coming, for there were the prophecy of Balaam, Daniel's vision of seventy weeks of years, the voices of Isaiah, Micah and others.

Roman historians bear witness to an expectation prevalent in the East that out of Judea should arise a sovereign of the world. Whatever their source of knowledge, their God-given wisdom led them to Jesus. Doubtless, these royal strangers expected all Palestine to be full of the joy of its new-born King, and that the time, place and circumstances of his birth would be familiar to everyone. Little did they think that Jerusalem would receive the first announcement of his birth from themselves.

Not only did nobody in Jerusalem know anything about their King, though that was strange enough, but no one wanted him. Herod was troubled and angry with the news of his birth. The scribes, acquainted with

the sacred records, were blind to their spiritual truths, or else indifferent. They were quite sure where and when the Messiah was to be born, but they did not care to go and see or worship him.

Verily, these Magi were wise men, wise with a wisdom not of this world, wise to recognize that the hope of the future lay, not in a monarch called "the Great," as was Herod, surrounded by earthly pomp and luxury, but in the fresh young life of the holy, heaven-born Christ. Learned as they were, they had simple hearts. They had a glimpse of the great truths that it is not learning the world needs so much as life — new life from above! So these men were prepared and came seeking Jesus. "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" They came not merely to observe him, but to worship and to present costly, consecrated gifts. An old mediaeval interpretation represents their gift of gold as signifying a recognition of his kingship, the frankincense of his deity, and the myrrh of his suffering and death. Whether this is a valid interpretation or not, we certainly see in the gifts of the Magi the abiding principle that the true recognition of Christ will ever be attended by the spontaneous surrender to him of our best. They gave the best they had in worship of the holy Child. Thus did the Wise Men celebrate the birthday of the Savior-King; thus did they prepare for Christmas.

WE TOO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

Not alone did God prepare for Christmas Day, and were the wise men prepared for it, but we also prepare for its festive day. It is a great day, and our elaborate preparations are an old custom. What would Christmas be without all the holiday plans, excitement, music, decorations and shopping? Perhaps, then it would really be Christmas.

In the midst of it all we must stop to think: Whose birthday is this? One would really think it were our birthdays! God celebrated the birth of his only begotten Son, the Savior of the world, and so did the Wise Men. Whose birthday do we celebrate?

Somehow, there is an unbridgeable gap between gifts checked off on a painfully compiled shopping list and the gifts which the Magi brought to Jesus. We get ready for a holiday; they got ready for a holy day. We get ready for Christmas; God got ready for Christ. Our emphasis is on the mechanical details — lights, ornaments, gifts — on festivity, the external, the accompaniments, the non-essentials. God puts the emphasis on the spiritual and the eternal.

Too often it has been lost sight of that this is the Savior's birthday. Instead of leading us to Jesus in adoration and sacrifice, bowing in reverent worship at his feet, Christmas has frequently degenerated into a pagan celebration that leads men away from the Lord's Anointed and obscures the spiritual meaning of one of the most sacred days in our calendar.

The world today is much like the world of Jerusalem and Palestine in Christ's day. Great hordes of people know little of the Savior born and give no time or place for him on his birthday. Hearts are like the inn at Bethlehem — so full of the tinsel and glitter of the world that there is no room for Jesus.

Two ladies were having a gay social time at a very elaborate luncheon in a downtown hotel. When a third lady joined them, one woman said, "We're celebrating my baby's birthday." "Baby's birthday?" replied the newcomer with amazement as she looked about and saw no child present. Realizing her apprehension, the mother responded, "Oh, you don't think I'd bring him here, do you? Why, he doesn't know anything about this." Neither does Jesus Christ know anything about much of the Christmas activities of some people today. The world celebrates the Christ-child's birthday, and forgets to invite him!

CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Christians must carefully guard against the world's manner of celebrating Christmas. In the rush of shopping, planning, the giving and receiving of gifts, eating and gaiety, let us stop to meditate upon the Savior whom God gave for the salvation of mankind, and let us make HIM the center of it all. Let us make him known to the pagan world about us as they celebrate this season in ignorance of the redemption which Christ came to bring.

In all of our preparations for this glad season, we should exercise every consideration to focus attention on him whose birthday we are remembering. It is not the multitude of externals which make for a real Christmas; it is our Lord Jesus who in humiliation became an infant for the reconciliation of the world of sinful men. Today let us put the emphasis



—Photo by Eva Luoma
All the happiness of Christmas Day is seen reflected in this boy's face as he faces the Christmas surprises around him!

on Emmanuel, God with us, without whom there never would have been any Christmas or any joy over sins forgiven. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Let's put Christ into Christmas. And as the Wise Men looked with yearning for his coming, so may we be looking for his coming again.

May none be like the ancient innkeeper who had no room for Jesus in the inn, the inn that might have been chief among them all, the birthplace of the Messiah.

"Alas, alas! To miss a chance like that!"

Your heart might be the throne of the Savior; He might be born anew in your soul today."

Born in your heart today — what a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas! There are no gifts like the Wise Men's to present to Jesus until his gift is first received. The salvation from sin which he offers awaits only your open heart, and finding room in your life for him is the best gift he desires at this time of his birth. Then we may treasure in our hearts the Prince of peace and the Lord of glory, who desires to have the pre-eminence and to have all men honor him. Whose birthday today? This is HIS birthday!



"And when the wise men had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11).

—Eva Luoma Photo
Today let us put the emphasis on Emmanuel, "God with us," without whom there never would have been any Christmas or any joy over sins forgiven!

(CRACKLING HEARTHS, cheerful decorations and happy voices blended in sweet carols, all these make Christmas a joyful time of festivity. There is the mingling of laughter and goodwill, scenes of children playing around Yule trees, the giving and receiving of presents, plenty to eat and much to do. All the colorful features of Christmas combine to make it a season merry and bright. We take considerable time getting ready for Christmas to make it a festive occasion. Plans and provisions have always been made for Christmas.

GOD PREPARED FOR CHRISTMAS

The Almighty and Ancient of days planned and prepared for that first Christmas Day when he sent his Son into the world to save his people from their sins. For thousands of years the patriarchs and prophets foretold the coming to earth and prepared the minds and hearts of men for the advent of the King. During long centuries God had worked marvelously upon the empires of the world to prepare the scene for the coming of our Lord.

Angels were busy at the time of his appearance. They had messages for Zacharias, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Even the stars in heaven



At the Baptist Children's Home in St. Joseph, Michigan, some of the children leave early in the morning for school (left) and in the afternoon rake up the leaves and keep the grounds in tidy appearance (right).

An Ordinary Day at the Children's Home

When the Christmas offering is received for our Children's Home at St. Joseph, Mich., this article will help you in an extraordinary way to visualize the activities of the Home on an ordinary day

By the REV. AUGUST F. RUNTZ, Superintendent

THROUGH the pages of the "Baptist Herald" and the "Annual" we have been telling you about some of the special days at the Children's Home in St. Joseph, Michigan. So we thought you might like to know something about an ordinary day. After all, there are only a very few special days during the year, but there are over three hundred ordinary days. We are not speaking of the Sundays, for they too are a bit different than the other days. How would you like to look in on us at the Home during a regular school day?

THE MORNING

R-I-N-G — R-I-N-G goes the old rising bell at 6:15 in the morning. (We are on Eastern standard time; and the extreme west end of it; one hour earlier than Chicago.) The cook has already been working in the kitchen, and the superintendent has been up and around. But that bell hardly ever means a thing to the children, for as soon as it stops ringing we must visit all the rooms and awaken all the youngsters out of their deep sleep.

There then follows a hustle and a bustle to get washed and dressed and hair combed ready for breakfast. A colored maid helps get the small youngsters up and ready. At 7 o'clock the breakfast bell rings and the children line up at the dining room door where we stand to greet them with a "Good Morning."

They march in and stand behind their chairs in their places at the table. We then say grace together. At present we are using the following:

"Father, we thank thee for the night,
And for the pleasant morning light,
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the world so fair.
Amen."

All the meals are served cafeteria style, and so the children go to the counter for their plates. Breakfast consists of rolled oats, cream of wheat, cocoa wheat, or dry breakfast food, toast and milk. From time to time fruit is served. Quite a few children also have an egg for breakfast. The first helping is served at the counter, but they may go back for a second helping, and even a third, if they wish. We believe in serving plenty of good nourishing food, and the children show it. (Those eggs for breakfast come from you friends in the churches!)

MORNING DEVOTIONS

"What is your cure for latecomers?" someone may ask. We try not to be too strict, but we must also have discipline. So if younger children (not the real young ones) are late, they must go to bed an hour earlier that night. But the older ones usually get a dish-washing job. And how they do like to do dishes!!

At about 7:15 we have our morning devotions around the tables. We use "The Secret Place" for that. First, we read the Scripture passage and the small article for the day. Then one of the older children, usually a church member, leads in prayer. They take turns at this. With this they are dismissed.

Most of them have some small chore to do and then they get ready

for school. Those who attend Junior High and High School must be there by eight o'clock; those who attend grade school by 8:30 A.M. It is only a ten-minute walk to the schools; so in good weather they all walk. But when the weather is bad, we drive them with our Plymouth. Sometimes that car is really packed full of squirming youngsters. We have had as many as 17 in the car at one time. Lots of tramping on toes then! In the forenoon four children are at home; two being pre-school, and two others attending Kindergarten in the afternoon.

DINNER TIME

The next in order is dinner at noon. About 11:45 the children begin to come home. At 12:10 the dinner bell rings and they come into the dining room and stand behind their chairs. We then say grace in unison. We have been using the following: "The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their food in due season. Thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desire of every thing. Amen."

When we first came here, seven years ago, we could hardly believe our eyes when we saw how the food disappeared. Some of the children just seem to have bottomless stomachs. Dinner is soon over, and we are dismissed with a Bible verse repeated in unison. Then off to the bathrooms to get washed and ready for school again!

All the grade children are required to check out to make sure that hands and faces are clean, and that there are no "high-water marks," and also to see

December 21, 1950

that they are properly dressed. Away they go, running down the driveway, and off to school!

AFTER SCHOOL

About 3:15 P.M. they begin trickling back from school. "School clothes" are then changed for "home clothes." About that time there is quite a chorus of "I'm hungry." An apple, or some cookies, or a sandwich must suffice for the time being. This is play time for the grade school youngsters. The others are expected to do an hour's work of some kind. Possibly it is ironing or darning or putting clothes away, or giving their bedrooms an extra cleaning. In the Fall the boys rake leaves. Sometimes this is more play than work. However, we believe that it is a good thing for a child to assume some responsibility even quite early in life.

At 5:15 P.M. the first bell rings for an important event. That means, come in and get washed for supper. At 5:30 P.M. the second, or supper bell rings. Again all stand behind their chairs until grace is said. In the evening we follow a different pattern than in the morning and at noon. Now all take turns at prayer, from the oldest to the youngest. Two little boys who know German always say: "Abba, lieber Vater, Amen." Other small children may say: "Thank you, Jesus, for the food, Amen." Older children often make up their own prayers.

Supper over, our dismissal is diversified. Sometimes we quote a Psalm, or some other passage of Scripture. As a general rule, however, we read portions of some book. We have read "The Children's Bible" from cover to cover. At present, we are reading a Bible story book which bears the title, "A Promise to Keep."

AFTER SUPPER

After supper the interests are as varied as the ages of the children. The older ones may have school work to do. The younger ones play around at various games. Then comes "Television time." "Kukla, Fran and Ollie," and "Adventures of Uncle Mistletoe" are favorites on the television program. "The Voice of Firestone" and "Mama" are splendid for the older children.

But there are other things to think about before bedtime. As a rule I take a group of six boys, aged eight to eleven, into the living room and read some religious book. Currently we are reading the book, "Tell Me About God." We may have a little discussion followed by prayer in unison after which one of the boys offers a prayer. These then leave to get washed and ready for bed. Bedtime for the smaller children is eight o'clock. When they have gone, I take a group of boys and girls aged twelve

(Continued on Page 23)

Rejoicing Over God's Victories

A true missionary story from the Belo field in the heart of the Cameroons told by MISS ELEANOR WEISENBURGER, missionary

WE of the Cameroons, Africa, would join the Psalmist as he sings in Psalm 98: "O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory." In the past few months God has worked for us in a little village about one and a half hour's walk from Belo in a way that we neither sought nor expected.

In February of this year there were rumors of several new schools being opened by the Catholics only ten or fifteen minutes away from our established Baptist schools. One such school was to be opened at Aboh. Immediately we planned a trip to the "big man" of that quarter to see if the rumors were true. He was the man who supposedly had given a piece of land for the school.

he returned for the holidays in August, he was shocked to see a Catholic school in his own father's town. In spite of the many threats directed at him, he determined that the Catholics must leave. With triumph on his face he came one day saying: "They nearly killed me, but they have gone and most of the boys will be sent to our Baptist School at Anyajua."

Now after three weeks an even more unexpected victory has come to us. At bedtime two nights ago, our dispensary helper came saying that a woman had come from Aboh to deliver. I immediately sensed trouble and prepared for an all-night vigil. And I was not disappointed. After being in labor over two days, this young girl pleaded to be brought to Belo. All the women discouraged her,



Rev. Edwin Michelson surrounded by mission school children from Soppo in the Cameroons, Africa.

When we reached the man's compound I saw that here was a village in itself. There were several dozen houses and as I rode up with my horse there emerged from each house several women with children. I made the remark that "this man ought to have a school right in his own compound, and what a wonderful place this would be to have women's meetings."

When we talked to the "big man," he agreed that the Catholics had visited him, often pleading for ground for a school, but that he had refused to give it. He also promised to send several boys from his town to our Baptist School at Anyajua an hour away. Several weeks later our teachers came, reporting that a Catholic teacher had moved to the man's compound and had opened a school.

From this compound has come one boy who passed Standard Six here at Belo last year and is now attending the Bible School at Mbem. When

but she begged them to let her come here and die if need be.

So with fear in our hearts, we prayed that God would help us to save the life of this girl. With humility, we now thank and praise God, for the mother and her son are both with us and alive. This morning after the child was born, the old grandmother who was staying with the girl was very anxious to go back home and spread the news. She said she had always heard that people received help here at Belo, but now she had seen with her own eyes.

Today the mother asked what the child's name was to be. I told her "Ngeh" which means trouble in the native language. She did not seem satisfied; so unthinkingly I said "Joseph." As I thought about it later, I realized how fittingly the name is. Even as God used Joseph to save his brothers, so we pray that the coming of little Joseph may be a help in winning souls for Christ in this village.



In the British Cameroons majestic waterfalls show the creative handiwork of God (right) and newly baptized converts reflect the glory of the Gospel in their lives (left).

Called to Be Saints of God

Even the angels in heaven rejoice over such services held at Mbem in the grassland interior of the Cameroons as described by MRS. LOIS AHRENS, missionary

ONE MORNING we were awakened by the sound of early bustle on the mission compound at Mbem in the Cameroons. We were surprised until we remembered that there was to be a baptism on this day. This meant that church services would begin early.

Some time later the church began to fill. It was resplendent with hibiscus blossoms, mingled with the singing of the beloved African song, "Truly, we want to follow you, Jesus." As we sang with the natives our hearts echoed these words and added, "Thank you, Lord, for these new believers, and cause them to always love to follow thee."

As we watched them sitting in the front benches of the church, we were reminded of the "Christian meeting" held on the previous Wednesday, at which time these twenty-six new believers were examined by the church to see whether they were fit candidates for baptism and local church membership.

CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM

First, the girls had been called into that meeting, three at a time, because they were so frightened. They were properly shy, speaking with eyes lowered, as becomes all good African girls when speaking in public. One girl comes from a notoriously wicked home. Her father and brother have again and again propagated lies about the Christians, missionaries, our school and the mission. So intense has been their hatred for the things of God. Less than a year ago this girl was led by her brother into some shameful deeds.

The Christians in the church knew her family and all of her past, and so questioned her severely. One man rose to his feet and said, "You know, God wants us to have a clean church. When you join with the rest of us believers, we don't want to hear that you've done something to bring shame on Jesus' name and ours. What will you do if your family should now try to cause you to do evil?"

"Oh," she said, "I have already told them I believe in Jesus, and want nothing to do with their evil ways."

Another girl, one of the few who attend school, when asked, "Do you think you will go to heaven because of this water baptism?" replied so clearly, "Oh no, God said, 'He that hath the Son hath life' and I've already asked Jesus to come into my heart and clean me from sin. Now I want people to know that I believe in him." As we looked at this girl today we prayed for special guidance in her life. So often the few who are privileged even to a small amount of education consider themselves far superior to the illiterate.

NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST

Now the male candidates were brought into the meeting, one by one, and asked about their faith in Christ as Savior. Most of them were lads from our Baptist mission school here at Mbem. One boy was so small that many of the older members said, "This boy must wait; he cannot know what he is doing. He's far too small." Although he is small, he has been in our school for five years already, hearing the Gospel daily. When he heard the pronouncement of the older Christians, his face was contorted

with disappointment.

Then, however, another Christian stood and said simply: "Jesus said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' If Jesus can take him, why shouldn't we!" The boy was baptized on this day, and his face shone with gladness, even though some laughed at him when he entered the water. He was sitting on the first bench in prayer meeting tonight, and was the only one of the new converts present.

Now as we observed these new creatures in Christ, we saw each one looking expectantly at the one who was to deliver the morning message. What a wonderful message it was — full of heart-searching for both believers and sinners, and thoroughly Christ-exalting! Some of the native illustrations brought a smile to missionary faces, but they were most apt. Although the church was so full that a few had to stand outside, listening through the open windows, there was a reverent hush as the Holy Spirit applied the Word to individual hearts. Of course, some had come out of nothing more than curiosity, "whose ears were stopped." These sat quietly, looking from face to face, to see what was written there.

THE BAPTISMAL SERVICE

After the message from Matthew 3:13-17, the congregation marched singing, down the rain-swollen stream where the baptism was held. They were led by the school band, incongruous as it may seem to you at home. (I've yet to hear a school band that doesn't make an American inwardly wince!) These happy children

December 21, 1950

were playing an off-key version of "Mine, mine, mine, mine, Jesus is mine!"

The crowd gathered at the banks of the stream and listened to another brief message by the evangelist, Philip Ngong Nshing. He addressed the strangers and unbelievers, telling them that baptism was not a "juju" or charm which would assure one of entrance into "the God-country" but that such life is found by coming to the Redeemer, God's Son, who paid the price for our sin.

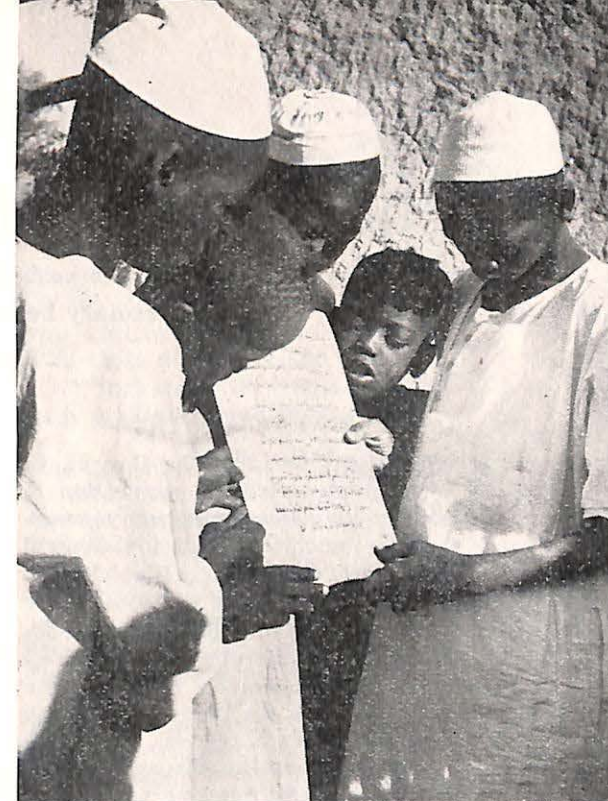
One by one, the twenty-six young people publicly confessed Christ in baptism, their faces showing their gladness. The crowd was more quiet than at any previous African baptism we had witnessed . . . that is, until our baby embarrassed us by calling, "Ba," loudly when he saw a boy of that name step into the water. A titter of amusement (indulgent, I hope) rippled through the crowd. This boy, Ba, takes Billy (our son) for a ride in the wagon every afternoon, and Billy dearly loves him. The boy taught Billy patiently to say his name, and now whenever he spies him in church or elsewhere he feels compelled gleefully to shout his name. However, baptismal quiet soon

reigned again.

Now came a triumphant march back to the church. The people cut big banana leaves, palm fronds, hibiscus, and various other foliage to wave rhythmically overhead in their joy. Seated in the church again, the new believers were given the hand of fellowship and a Scripture verse to each for spiritual guidance, after which there was close fellowship around the Lord's table.

At home the story would finish here. Not so in Africa! The Christians had prepared a "feast," which turned out to be more like African pot-luck. While the food was being prepared, the people shuffled around in a circle, singing songs of praise and waving their foliage. Nor did the feast end the day of fellowship, for the Christians here in Africa feel it their duty to lead each new Christian home singing as they go. It was almost dark when they had led the last newly-baptized person home in the rain, but no one seemed to be tired.

We covet for each of these young people and others like them a life of spiritual growth and godly usefulness for the Savior. "Blessed are all they that put their trust in HIM!"



—Photo by UNATIONS
These Mohammedan boys in the British Cameroons reading excerpts from the Koran inscribed on a tablet have probably never heard the true story of Jesus Christ as Savior.

"Whom God Hath Joined Together"

The story of the wedding of Missionary Myrtle Hein and Engineer Jack Funnell at Soppo, Africa, reported by MRS. JUNE GOODMAN of Ndu, the Cameroons

AUGUST 30th was a beautiful day in which to be glad out here in the Cameroons of Africa. The sunshine twinkled through the rain at varying degrees. The two missionary homes with their many guests at Soppo arose early for there was much to do, and there was to be much joy in store for all later in the day.

By three o'clock in the afternoon everything was ready for the wedding. The Bender Memorial Church was ready and from its windows one could hear the strains of music as it poured forth from a portable organ under the able touch of Verna Michelson. The guests, both black and white, began to fill the church pews and view the simple but beautiful decorations so ably laid out by Missionary George Henderson in his last few busy days, before he and his wife, Alma, sailed for home on furlough.

Among the palms and candles a large, white, satin double heart edged with a small red ruffle and pierced by a silver arrow, signifying true love, was banked by palm leaves on the center of the slightly raised half circle platform. A white, ruffled kneeling pillow rested gently on an improvised white carpet which served

as a walk way for the bride and groom.

With the candles all glowing, an eager group of fellow-missionaries and British friends (forty in number) besides our dearly loved black brethren waited. As the familiar strains of "Because" poured forth from the tiny organ, Esther Schultz, the bridesmaid, beautifully dressed in pink and carrying a bouquet of roses, made her way gracefully to the front. Next came sweet little Judy Michelson as flower girl sprinkling her rose petals and preparing the way for the lovely bride, Miss Myrtle Hein. Myrtle's wedding dress was of white sheer material, beautifully adorned with a white finger tip veil. Her dark hair was caught up with white roses and she carried a white Bible.

As the wedding music came to a sweet hush, Missionary Kenneth Goodman in the presence of God and those assembled joined together in marriage Myrtle Hein and Jack Salter Funnell by a double ring service. Missionary Edwin Michelson, father of the flower girl, and close friend of both bride and groom acted as best man.

Immediately after the ceremony a reception was held in the home of

the Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Michelson. A lovely, white, two-tier wedding cake served as the centerpiece for the bride's table. The other tables were attractively decorated with roses and candles. Many beautiful wedding gifts were displayed, including one from the Home Office. During the reception telegrams of congratulations from England, America, and the Cameroons were read by the best man and host, Edwin Michelson.

As dusk gathered, the guests made their way to their homes and the bride and groom made their way to "Flamboyant Cottage" for a short honeymoon before returning to their home at Bambui Farms near Bamenda.

Mr. Funnell is employed as a government engineer and his present assignment calls for the building of a large Agricultural School at Bambui Farms. However, when he arrived back in the Cameroons three months ago his first duty consisted of re-decorating and modernizing an old house into a lovely cottage for his bride, Myrtle. This he has done in his apt way, even as to curtains, flowers, dressing table, and all those little touches which are so dear to

(Continued on Page 10)

Rev. H. G. Dymmel Resigns

The announcement of the resignation of the general missionary secretary because of illness

AN EXPLANATION

On November 20th the Rev. H. G. Dymmel presented his resignation in writing as general missionary secretary to the members of the General Missionary Committee. His letter to the committee giving the reasons for his decision follow. The General Missionary Committee met at the Forest Park headquarters on December 6th and accepted his resignation with deep and sincere regrets. The committee also acted on the appointment of a new general missionary secretary, about which more will be reported in a later issue.

Mr. Dymmel served as home mission secretary from 1944 to 1946. At the General Conference in 1946, held in Tacoma, Wash., he was elected general missionary secretary, succeeding Dr. William Kuhn. During the winter of 1949-1950, Mr. Dymmel and the Rev. Fred Ferris of Lorraine, Kansas, made a tour of the Cameroons mission fields in Africa. His physical condition resulting in a nervous breakdown first showed signs of a serious illness in the summer of 1950. All of us will want to remember him and his family in our prayers. Letters and greetings can be sent to him at 7651 Monroe St., Forest Park, Ill.

EDITOR.

WHOM GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER

(Continued from Page 9)

the heart of a woman.

As an official member of the Cameroons Baptist Mission we have lost Myrtle Hein, but as Mrs. Jack Funnell, her witness has not changed. We still consider her one of us together with her husband. If there was ever a crying need in the Cameroons, it is for an evangelistic effort among the white government people. Less than one percent of them attend church and even a smaller percent "think on the things of Christ."

So we as a missionary staff feel and know assuredly that as Myrtle and Jack live a Christian life before their fellow-workers, they can and will speak for Christ. "May the Lord bless and keep them (Myrtle and Jack) and make his face to shine upon them and give them peace" in their new life together.

THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION

To the General Missionary Committee, North American Baptists, Inc., Forest Park, Ill.

Dear Brethren:

I am grateful to God that it has been my privilege during these past years to serve the missionary cause of our beloved denomination as General Missionary Secretary.

God has blessed me in many ways in this ministry and I have always felt that I had the understanding and support of the General Missionary Committee.

I regret deeply that my health was such last summer that it became necessary for me to take a leave of absence.

Although my doctors assure me that my health is improving, their advice is that the responsibilities of my position as General Missionary Secretary would be too heavy for me at the present time.

On the advice of my doctors, I am, therefore, tendering my resignation as General Missionary Secretary effective as of December 31, 1950.

Again thanking you for all of the consideration and cooperation which you have entrusted to me and praying that God may bless the missionary work, I am

Faithfully yours,
(signed) H. G. DYMMEL.

THE 1951 ANNUAL is now available!

A beautiful picture album!

An informative denominational guide!

A thrilling missionary review!

A spiritual feast for every member of the family!

Get your copy NOW from your publication society agent or pastor or order directly from the Roger Williams Press.

PRICE — 75 CENTS

THE BAPTIST HERALD

LEAFLETS

Bible Reading Leaflet, 1951 — This four page illustrated leaflet presents daily Bible readings, prayer requests, and inspirational reading material. Secure copies from your pastor or write to headquarters for them.

Indian Mission Field — Revised copies of this four-page leaflet about our Indian Mission in Alberta, Canada, are now available. Write to Box 6, Forest Park, Ill., for them.

Seminary Dedication, Jubilee and Convocation Program brochure with a tabulation of all church gifts and pledges to the Seminary Building Fund. Individual copies will be sent upon request by writing to Headquarters, Box 6, Forest Park, Ill.

Presenting the North American Baptist General Conference — Revised edition of this 8 page leaflet with a complete denominational calendar for 1951. Any number of these leaflets will be sent upon request. Write to Box 6, Forest Park, Ill.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Rev. E. Bibelheimer
Rt. 7, Box 596
Tacoma, Wash.

Rev. Phil. Daum
Prince George
British Columbia, Canada

Rev. George A. Dunger
100 State Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Mr. Harold W. Gieseke
1118 N. Carroll Ave.
Dallas 4, Texas

Rev. Robert S. Hess
894 S. 14th Street
Newark 8, N. J.

Rev. J. C. Kraenzler
Fredonia, North Dakota

Rev. James T. McNair
General Delivery
Cranbrook, B. C., Canada

Rev. A. Milner
105 Arlington St.
Winnipeg, Man., Canada

Miss Ruby Salzman
1054 S. 6th St.
Kankakee, Ill.

Rev. B. C. Schreiber
428 E. Union Blvd.
Bethlehem, Pa.

Rev. Carl Swyter
Buffalo Center, Iowa

December 21, 1950



HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

By MISS IDA GLEWWE
of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Some folks travel from north to south,
It's not a matter of clime or weather;
For the work of one's life may decide where we live,
But the heart strings draw where old friends gather.
And so it is true the whole world around,
We'll meet many a friend — from world's end to end —
And pleasures and joys we'll be sharing.

A CHRISTMAS WISH

Down the ages hoary
Peals the Song of Glory,
Peace, and God's good will.
Other echoes die away;
But the song of Christmas Day
Echoes from the Judean hill,
Ever clear and louder still.
Oh, may its holy, heavenly chime
Make all thy life a Christmas time!
—Unknown.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE BLESSING

Bless the four corners of this house
And the lintel bless;
And bless the hearth and bless the board,
And bless each place of rest;
And bless the door that opens wide
To stranger, as to kin.
And bless each crystal window-pane
That lets the starlight in;
And bless the roof-tree overhead,
And every sturdy wall.
The peace of God . . . the peace of man . . .
The peace of love . . . on all.
—Arthur Guiterman.

CHRISTMASTIDE

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.
—Christina G. Rossetti.

Page 11

CHRISTMAS DEEDS

By REV. HERBERT L. KOCH
of Florence, Colorado

(Formerly pastor of the East Side Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois).

This Christmas let us share our faith
With those who doubt and fear,
"I am with thee," the Christ still saith,
As a word of blessed cheer.

This Christmas let us give new hope,
To the suffering and despairing,
And do this on a world-wide scope,
With sacrifice and sharing.

This Christmas let us give our love,
To a world of greed and hate,
And show men, they can rise above
The power of sin and fate.

This Christmas let us share the peace
Which Christ alone can give,
With those who seek from guilt release,
And want for Christ to live.

This Christmas let us truly pray,
"O Lord, Thy Kingdom come,
May soon Thy coronation day,
In regal splendor come."

This Christmas let us lift our heads,
With expectancy and yearning,
Free from disturbing doubts and dreads,
Prepared for Christ's returning.



It takes almost a city manager and a full railroad crew to run the elaborate electric train setup shown in the picture above. Built by Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Teichert of St. Joseph, Mo., for their young son, the miniature railroad has two complete towns, two engines and a multitude of rolling stock.

Mounted on a table eight feet square, it takes practically a trained engineer to operate the intricate layout which includes highways, trees and shrubs as well as automatic train equipment. Every detail is complete in the Teichert setup. The homes, built painstakingly by Mrs. Teichert, have tiny curtains at the windows, and one even has a tiny cat perched serenely on the roof.

Two engines, one a powerful passenger type locomotive, and the other a chunky little switch engine, haul long strings of cars around the intricate track layouts. They stop and start and reverse at the touch of a switch, and the cars of the train can be coupled and uncoupled automatically. In many homes the mechanical trains will again be the center of attraction at this Christmas season.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

● On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 2, the Rev. Fred Trautner of Beulah, N. Dak., had the joy of baptizing nine converts in a joint baptismal service held at Hebron, N. Dak., with the Hebron Baptist Church. These converts were the fruits of a revival conducted at the Beulah Baptist Church with the Rev. O. W. Dierks, evangelist. The Rev. C. Rempel of Hebron baptized three converts at this same service.

● The Rev. Paul Hintze has resigned as pastor of the Hager Memorial Baptist Church of Prince George, British Columbia, after a ministry of two years during which the membership of the church increased from 40 to 89. Since Dec. 1st he has been visiting with friends in Dallas, Texas. He hopes to retire from the active ministry and to reside in Petrolia, Texas. The Rev. Phil. Daum is now serving as the pastor of the Prince George Church.

● On Sunday, Nov. 12, the Rev. Frank Veninga, pastor of the State Park Baptist Church of Peoria, Ill., brought a provocative sermon on "A Preacher and His Congregation." Miss Ruby Salzman, Cameroons missionary, was the guest speaker at the services on Sunday, Dec. 3, with the Woman's Missionary Society in charge of the evening service. The Christmas cantata, "Glory to God" by Charles F. Gounod, was presented by the church choir on Sunday morning, Dec. 17.

● The Clinton Hill Baptist Church of Newark, New Jersey, has extended a call to the Rev. Robert S. Hess of Bethlehem, Pa., to become its pastor, to which a favorable response has been given. Mr. Hess will begin his pastorate in Newark on Jan. 1, 1951. This church of more than 800 members is one of the largest and most influential churches in the area. Mr. Hess has been pastor of the Calvary Church of Bethlehem since 1948. We wish both for the Clinton Hill Church and for Brother Hess a great ministry for Christ in the years to come!

● Mr. Earl Abel, the son of the Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Abel of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and a former student at the North American Baptist Seminary, is serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Camillus, New York. He was ordained into the Gospel ministry on Sunday, Nov. 5th. This was also the 28th anniversary of the ordina-

tion of his father who presented his son with a Bible in behalf of the family. The Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Abel attended their son's ordination service. The ordination sermon was preached by Dr. Willbour E. Saunders, president of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

● On Sunday evening, Oct. 15, the Rev. Richard K. Mercer, Jr., pastor of the Walnut Street Church, Newark, N. J., baptized five converts on confession of their faith in Christ. These persons from the immediate neighborhood were not attending any church a year ago. On Monday evening, Oct. 16, a house to house visitation was carried out by members of the church board and Sunday School and other volunteers. The Woman's Guild held a dinner on Wednesday evening, Oct. 25, following which the film, "Out of the Dust," was shown.

● Recently the Rev. L. P. Albus of Trenton, Ill., gave an address on "Present Trends in Education" to the Trenton Women's Club. The theme for the year's program is "Our Community Studies." The club is composed of 84 women from all denominations in the community of Trenton. Miss Martha Ahrens of the Baptist Church is the club's president; Miss Florence Ranz is vice-president; and Mrs. Edna W. Gieseke was leader of the November program on "Our Community Gives." All of these women are prominent members of the Trenton Baptist Church.

● The Berlin Baptist Church of Fredonia, N. Dak., with stations at Berlin and Fredonia, has extended a call to the Rev. J. C. Kraenzler of Missoula, Mont., to which a favorable reply has been given. Mr. Kraenzler began his ministry at the Berlin Church on Dec. 1st, succeeding the Rev. Paul Hunsicker, now of the Shell Creek Church of Nebraska. During Mr. Kraenzler's pastorate of almost four years at the Bethel Church of Missoula, a total of 61 members were added to the membership with 34 of these coming into the fellowship by baptism.

● The Rev. H. Renkema, who has been traveling in the interest of the Roger Williams Press during the past two years, has resigned and on Nov. 1st brought his ministry to a close. He plans to rest for a while on his farm near Baileyville, Ill., before seeking further work in the pastoral

field. Mr. Renkema has completed two seasons of sacrificial labor in portage work, promoting the interests of the Publication Society. Many of our churches in the Eastern, Dakota, Southwestern, Southern and Northwestern Conferences were visited, and a much better understanding of the work done by the Society was brought to our people.

● The Rev. George A. Dunger, former missionary in the Cameroons, Africa, is serving on the teaching staff of the Providence Bible Institute, Providence, Rhode Island, and also assisting in the dean's office. The school has a student body of 500 students with a faculty of 35 instructors. The campus comprises two city blocks and consists of about 35 buildings, including a FM radio station. Recently the Institute acquired the campus of the former Edgewood Junior College, together with all the equipment, including 7000 volumes in the library and a fully equipped laboratory. This new second campus is located about 20 minutes' drive from the Capitol Hill property.

● The Immanuel Baptist Church of Kyle, Texas, observed Sunday School week in September with special recognition to all teachers and officers. On Thursday night the entire Sunday School with friends met in the church basement for a very delicious banquet. The Rev. H. John Vanderbeck, pastor, presented the new Sunday School Standard which was adopted at this meeting. On November 4th a feature length, natural color film of the life and teachings of Jesus, "The Pilgrimage Play," was shown in the Kyle High School gymnasium. This was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful photography and received a spiritual blessing.

● Early in December Miss Margaret Lang returned to Nigeria, Africa, for another term of missionary service under the Sudan Interior Mission. She is a sister of Dr. George A. Lang, Seminary president. She had been in this country for her furlough since April 1950. She will be stationed at Oro Agor, Ilorin, Nigeria, where she will be in charge of the mission station. This will be her sixth term in Africa and the completion of 24 years as God's servant in Africa. She spoke briefly at the midweek service of the Forest Park Baptist Church on

Wednesday evening, Nov. 8, following messages by Miss Ruby Salzman and the Rev. S. Donald Ganstrom of the Cameroons Mission Field.

● Following an illness of 18 months, the Rev. William A. Zeckser, aged 69, of Ripon, Wis., died at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, Wis., on Nov. 12. He received his training at the Rochester Baptist Seminary and had held the following pastorates: Edenwold, Sask., 1915-1917; Greeley, Colo., 1917-1919; Gilcrest, Colo., 1919-1923; Pound, Wis., 1923-1925; and Gillett, Wis., several years. Surviving are his widow; a son, Theodore of Ripon, Wis.; three daughters, Margaret Louise of Milwaukee, Wis.; Mrs. Harvey Rosenau of Manawa, Wis., and Mrs. Earl Berndt of Ripon, Wis. The Rev. Theodore Jordan, assisted by the Rev. Warren Thompson of Pound, Wis., conducted the service.

● A luncheon and program were arranged on Friday, Oct. 13, by the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Vancouver, British Columbia, in honor of the Rev. R. Kern, pastor, and his family on their fourth anniversary with the church. All branches of the church took part in the program and presented the family with a liberal monetary gift. On Nov. 5th during the Sunday School session 48 scholars were presented with Scripture memory pins. Mrs. Erna Daum is the sponsor. At the quarterly business session the church voted to purchase five oak chairs for the communion table, two upholstered pulpit chairs and a \$2800 Heintzman grand piano. Six adult members were received into the fellowship of the church on Sunday morning, Nov. 5. The Woman's Mission Circle presented its annual program on Sunday evening, Nov. 12.

● On Tuesday, Oct. 17, the ministerial association of the Atlantic Conference for New York and vicinity met in the Baptist Church of Jamesburg, N. J., for its quarterly business meeting. In the afternoon ten of the brethren and their wives attended the business session. Annual election of officers was held with the following results: president, Rev. V. J. Hammond, First Baptist Church, Jamesburg, N. J.; secretary-treasurer, Rev. H. Freeman of Ebenezer Church, West New York, N. J. At 6:30 P.M. a turkey supper was served by the ladies of the church. This also was the occasion for the use of the newly renovated kitchen, including new steel cabinets and a new Norge gas range presented to the church by the former B.Y.P.U. and Christian Endeavor Societies. After supper the association and fellowship adjourned to the church auditorium for the evening prayer service. The message was brought by Rev. Walter Damrau of the Pilgrim Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

C.B.Y. and S.S.U.

HERALD NEWS

YOUTH COMPASS TOPICS

December 31 — "Watchnight Worship Service" by Miss Lanie Schmidt, Rochester, N. Y.

January 7 — "Bible Men of Prayer" by the Rev. G. K. Zimmerman, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

To all the faithful readers of our column; to every one of the 7000 CBYers and the 37,000 Sunday School teachers and scholars in our churches; to pastors and friends from coast to coast and from Canada to the Gulf; and to our consecrated missionaries at home and in Africa — our heartiest greetings and best wishes on this birthday of our King! We will think of you about your Christmas trees at home and at church and pray that this blessed season may help you realize anew the tender mercy of our God, whereby the Dayspring from on high — our Lord and Savior, has visited us. May he give each of you light for darkness and guide your feet into the way of peace, and may the glow of this Christmastide illumine all the days of the new year, 1951!

Your friends in Him,

The Executive Committee of the North American Baptist Commissioned Youth and Sunday School Union.

READ THE BIBLE WITH US!

This week or next, be sure to secure your copy of the new 1951 North American Baptist Bible Reading Program from your pastor or superintendent, so you will be ready to start on January 1st. To read the Word together will be great for our fellowship, and, best of all, our souls will be fed. Will you not resolve now to read the Bible every day in 1951?

MAYBE YOU COULD DO IT?

The Durham, Kansas, Sunday School introduced the new Sunday School Standard at a banquet of their teachers and officers. Placards showing the ten points of our Standard were part of the table decorations. There was an inspirational address and then a round-table discussion of Sunday School plans and aims, led by Pastor Henry Baerg.

Our Glencullen church in Oregon got down to business this Fall with a Homecoming Week, which began with Rally Day and included an "old fashioned prayer meeting" on Wednesday, and a pot-luck supper on Friday. The theme of the final Sunday evening was "Kick Off," and every society in the church participated in getting the Fall program off to a good start. Special speaker was Mr. Howard Roth of Immanuel Church, Portland.

* * *

Why not work on a really serious "radio" program of special music by your choir or youth group and a devotional by your pastor? Record it by means of one of the modern recording devices; then take it out to your church shut-ins and play it for them. When you get proficient (not before!), try to get a 15-minute spot on one of your local or near-by radio stations.

RAISE OUR STANDARD HIGH

(Last in a series of pointed paragraphs on our new SUNDAY SCHOOL STANDARD.)

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL IS TO BE A PLANNED, LEADER-TRAINED SCHOOL

Have you ever wondered how teachers can go on working year after year, maintaining their own enthusiasm and spiritual glow? It is only possible if they have an adequate spiritual diet, along with a good spiritual "work-out." Accordingly, your Conference Union suggests one good training class each year, with 75 percent of your teachers and officers enrolled, and at least eight enthusiastic teachers and officers meetings during the year, in which you discuss very frankly the problems and aims of your school. At one of these have one of your best teachers prepare and teach a "model" lesson. Then, in a spirit of friendly criticism, suggest the weak spots in the presentation. Even teachers must be taught! By getting together, your corps of teachers will gain a new sense of unity and loyalty and even the smallest pupil in the beginners class will note the difference on Sunday morning!

In eight paragraphs we have covered the ten points of our new Standard. But standards, like church covenants, are only good if they are lived out. How many North American Baptist Sunday Schools will meet these standards in 1951? We hope and pray that yours will!

And There Were Shepherds

One of America's most beloved writers is author of this tender story of "the youngest shepherd" who, one Holy Night, found his dream come true. This beautiful story is reprinted from "The Christmas War Cry"

By GRACE LIVINGSTON HILL

DARA and Azrael stood upon a housetop in Jerusalem, talking. They were looking at the wide, high sky — so clear and luminous and spiked with stars — and off toward the distant hills.

Over by the front wall, looking down into the street, their mothers talked of how hard it was to keep the house clean in a city, especially now that their children were growing up.

Azrael was a shepherd, home just now on a brief visit, and he and his mother had come in from next door to talk a little while. They had been neighbors for years, and Azrael and Dara had grown up together from childhood. Azrael, as he stood there in the starlight, was looking at the sweet face of the girl and thinking how she had grown since he had been away.

Suddenly she spoke. "People are talking much about the coming of

Messiah, the Promised One," she said softly. "How I wish that he would come while we are living!"

"Yes, that would be wonderful," said Azrael absently, thinking how lovely she was with the starlight making soft glints of light in her luminous eyes.

"You know," she said, her face all alight now as she looked up to him, "He might be born anywhere, in any household. I know women who are praying that he might be born in their home. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be related to a king? And, you know, Azrael, he may be even now upon the earth!"

"Oh, no," said Azrael quickly, "that could not be! He would belong to royalty. And there are signs. People would know him. The wise ones would know."

"Would they?" she questioned thoughtfully, that faraway look in her eyes. "I wonder."

He did not know exactly how to

answer her. She was so lovely he did not like to spoil her dreams.

"I would like him to come while we are alive," she said with her wistful smile. "I would like you to know him well. It seems to me it would make a great difference in all our lives. I often pray to God about it, and ask him to please send him quickly."

It was a very tender talk they had as they stood together in the starlight. All too soon the mothers called to them that they must go down. It was too cold to stay up there any longer. The night was crisp, the mothers reminded them, and Dara would be chilled.

They went down reluctantly, but Azrael reached out to catch Dara's hand and help her down the stair, and then they stood outside again at the foot of the wall and talked a little longer before Azrael's mother was ready to go.

There was no further opportunity for Azrael and Dara to be alone again during Azrael's visit home, but both the boy and the girl hid deep in their hearts the words that had been spoken on the housetop that evening, and as Azrael took his way back to the green pastures where his duty lay he carried with him a vision of Dara and the look in her eyes as she had said good-bye.

Dusk was just purpling into darkness on the Judean hills as the group of shepherds gathered around the camp-fire and dropped down upon the grass, or stood about to talk together over the happenings of the day, before they slept.

The sheep were huddled comfortably about, not far from them, and the dogs crouched near, noses upon their paws. Softly the darkness settled about them.

The night was cold, and rime of frost fringed the grass here and there in unsheltered places. The youngest shepherd, just back from his trip to Jerusalem, shivered as he went about gathering up wood and flinging it on the fire. He was half listening to the others' talk, stepping softly that he should lose nothing of what they were saying, looking keenly now and then toward the oldest shepherd who had

drawn his shepherd's cloak about him and was hovering near the blaze.

They were talking about the tax that Caesar Augustus had levied on everybody; saying how unfair it was that one must travel to his native town to register, whether or not he was able to leave his work for so long. Two of the shepherds talked angrily of the ruling powers, and a third cursed the times that had invaded their quiet hills with systems and commands they dared not disobey.

"It is our land!" said an arrogant one called Kedar. "What right have the Romans to say what we shall do, and where we shall pay?"

"Let us sleep!" said a tired shepherd dropping down near the fire with his cloak wrapped close about him.

"We have tonight. Let us forget the tax, and rest!"

Two others flung themselves beside him on the smooth grass. "Yes," they said, yawning and stretching out, "let us rest!"

The youngest shepherd came and went with his armfuls of wood. At last he too paused beside the fire.

"Well, what did you hear in Jerusalem, lad?" asked Remaliah, the oldest shepherd, in a kindly tone. "What is new in the city?"

Azrael stood thoughtfully watching the fire for a full minute before he answered. "I heard," he said deliberately, looking up into the older man's face — "I heard a strange thing! I had to wait near the temple for a funeral train to pass, and I heard two men talking. They were dressed like scribes and they spoke earnestly together. I was just behind them. They did not know I was there, and I could not get by for a time. They were talking about the coming of the Promised One, the Messiah. It seems there is talk abroad that he may be coming soon."

"You don't say!" said the oldest shepherd alertly. "What makes them think that the time is nearer than it has been for thousands of years? Sit down, lad, and tell me more."

They dropped down on the opposite side of the fire from the sleepers and talked at first in lowered tones.

"I could not hear all they said," said Azrael, "for the street was narrow and the crowds at times were dense. But I gathered that astronomers have been studying the sacred books, and comparing their records with the stars, and that there are great portents. It seems that a new star, one which has not shone since the pyramids were built, is about to appear once more. They said that the Books of the Prophets say something about a star."

"I know," said old Remaliah. "I learned that before I was taken sick and had to stop school and get out on the hills. I was to have been a priest, you know." He spoke sadly, and the



"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12)

lad looked up with sudden compassion in his face.

"Oh, I did not know," he said sympathetically.

The oldest shepherd sighed with an upward look. "It is as God wills," he said quietly.

Azrael waited a moment and then asked eagerly: "But what was it you learned that made you say, 'I know' in that tone?"

His eyes studied the other earnestly. "The words are these," said the oldest shepherd thoughtfully, "I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel. My father taught me those words and bade me watch for his coming all my life. He thought that Messiah might come during his own lifetime."

Kedar, the arrogant shepherd, who had come to stand near them now, turned bright, unbelieving eyes on the oldest shepherd and said with a sneer: "Bah! You don't mean to say that you believe all those old fables—now, after all these years? Ridiculous! Why, since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

The oldest shepherd turned rebuking eyes upon the other man. "Certainly, I believe! It is in the Holy Word. Did you not know that the Prophet intimates a long time of waiting?" His keen old eyes gleamed in the firelight. "He says, 'I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him but not nigh.' It is a testing of our faith as a nation, don't you see?"

The arrogant one laughed. "Why, nobody believes that folly any more," he jeered.

"I do," said the oldest shepherd, gravely.

The youngest shepherd lifted up a firm chin and threw back a confident head. "And I!" he said solemnly. "I believe every word of Holy Writ."

"Ha, ha!" jeered the arrogant one. "Of course that settles it! All wisdom dies with you!"

"How else would you have your sins forgiven if you do not believe?" asked the lad earnestly.

"Why bother?" called a sleepy shepherd across the fire, "I'm going to sleep!"

A silence fell upon the group. Some of them were thinking about that last question the youngest shepherd had asked.

The stars came out, one by one, but they seemed shy and exceedingly far away.

Most of the weary shepherds slept, but the oldest shepherd stood resting against his crook. The youngest shepherd stood not far from him with folded arms, gazing into the fire.

At last, when even the arrogant shepherd seemed to be asleep, the lad Azrael looked up to Remaliah. "Do you remember where the Books say he is to be born?" he asked in a low tone.

"Yes," murmured the old man, "Listen! This is what is written: 'And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall



"And the shepherds came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (Luke 2:16).

come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel!"

"Bethlehem!" said the lad. "Bethlehem is not far away. But Bethlehem is only a little town! There are no palaces in there!"

"Yes, I have been thinking of that!" said the old shepherd. "The ways of God are past finding out, but that is what the Holy Book says."

The lad continued to stare thoughtfully off toward the east, and by and by the old man sat down on the sloping hillside and rested his head forward on his knees as if he were praying.

The sky was clearer now, the stars more fixed and certain in their places. It seemed as if that hillside where the shepherds slept was the front seat of the whole wide world that night. The youngest shepherd could not sleep. He paced slowly back and forth. His thoughts were of the great possibilities that the future might hold, perhaps within the circle of his own lifetime. What did it all mean? Was the Holy Word true, or was the arrogant one right when he said all things had been as they were since the foundation of the world?

It was just then that he noticed the brightness in the sky. It was spreading out before him, almost as if a window in heaven were open. Suddenly it was above and all around him. With quick steps he was over by the fire and touching the oldest shepherd on the shoulder. "Look!" he whispered.

The oldest shepherd glanced up and then sprang to his feet. Suddenly the light grew brighter. The flocks stirred. The dogs whined and crept to their masters' feet.

The great star grew above them, and Azrael and Remaliah fell upon their knees before it. Then out of it there suddenly appeared an angel with glory-blinding garments and with lovely face and bright wings. Those who saw were trembling as they watched falling on their faces before him.

The angel spoke, and his voice was like the sound of music. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

For a moment Azrael thought it might be a dream. But no, there was old Remaliah upon his knees, and there was the doubter and the arrogant one, looking straight at the angel and trembling with fear! No, it must be real!

And the angel went on speaking. What was this he was saying? "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Azrael's heart leaped up in great joy. Messiah had come!

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in

swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Now, right before their eyes the scene was changing. A multitude of bright angels suddenly burst from the glory points of the light above, and swarmed down the bright terrace. A great chorus burst forth; it was like no music ever heard on earth before. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," they sang.

Breathlessly they listened — Azrael and Remaliah, the doubting one and the arrogant one, and two or three who had awakened, sleepy-eyed and trembling still with fear, not sure if they were awake.

Back up the golden stair the angels winged their way, and the shaken, ecstatic little audience of shepherds knelt and watched them disappear.

"Come!" cried Azrael when the last angel had withdrawn and the door of the heavens was closed, "Let us go now, even unto Bethlehem . . ."

The innkeeper lifted his eyebrows and laughed. "Over there in the stable they say a child is born," he said carelessly, "but it is only a poor babe wrapped in swaddling clothes."

The shepherds looked wonderingly at one another.

"But that was to be the sign," said Azrael eagerly. "Come!"

They trooped past the wondering innkeeper and the gatekeeper, hurrying down the straggling path indicated. Arrived at the stable, Azrael and Remaliah and two others went in shyly and knelt in adoration before that quiet manger-throne of the little Messiah; the others lingered outside, apparently disappointed at the humble scene.

Out across the desert the light of a great star was guiding a few wise men in their eager search for Him, but the shepherds knew nothing of them as they reluctantly left that manger-throne and went slowly back to their sheep.

"I shall serve him all my days!" said Azrael joyfully to Remaliah, as they neared their camp again.

"Yes," said the oldest shepherd. "We can never forget now that we have seen his face, really seen it. I have been believing in him for long years, but it is different to see his face!"

Azrael walked silently a while, and both were quiet, looking up to the sky which had now softened to its normal deep midnight blue, with faraway stars sprinkling over it like visitors who had called upon them, but now had gone on their appointed ways.

"And now, what next?" gabbled one of the shepherds in an attempt at facetiousness. "Do we quit shepherding and report at the palace? Perhaps we should have asked while we were in Bethlehem!"

The oldest shepherd looked at him reprovingly. "We shall stay by our

sheep until he has need of us," he said quietly. "It may be his will that we should be just shepherds all our days. But we shall be witnessing shepherds, shepherds who have looked into the face of the Christ, and know him for our Savior. Perhaps that is all he will ever want of us."

"Oh, I shouldn't be satisfied with just that," said a restless one, "not after I took all that long walk to Bethlehem in the middle of the night!"

"But if that's what he wants, nothing else could bring joy!" said Azrael.

"Oh, yes?" cried Nathan teasingly, "that's what you say now, when you've just seen him. But wait! You're young. You will marry some day soon. I know the girl you are promised to. Dara. And when you are married your mind will be upon your household. You will want a better job than just shepherding."

"It will not be what I want," said Azrael firmly and with spirit, "but what he wants."

"That's all very well for you to say," said Nathan sleepily, "but just wait till you talk with Dara about it. Then you'll sing a different song. Girls have an eye to getting on in this world."

"Not Dara," said Azrael softly.

The next morning Azrael went quietly about, still with that glow upon his face.

"You look as if you'd found a fortune!" said the envious Nathan.

"I have," said Azrael radiantly. "I've found my King, whom I shall serve all the days of my life!"

Nathan gave him a wondering look and passed on, but Remaliah watched him whenever he came that way, and toward evening he said as they were sitting quietly after their evening meal: "Azrael, where does the little girl live, the girl Dara whom you love?"

Azrael gave his old friend a glowing smile. "Over a little beyond Bethlehem," he said softly, with a quick glance toward the other shepherds who were laughing and talking nearby.

"So near!" said the old shepherd. Then, after a pause: "You would like to go and tell Dara about the star and the angels and the little Messiah who is born, would you not?"

A bright look of longing went over Azrael's face like the quick flash of a sunbeam, but there was no sound of sighing in his voice as he answered: "Oh, yes! But it will be sometime before I should leave my sheep again." There was wistfulness in his eyes.

It was not until most of the shepherds were at last asleep that Remaliah spoke again. "I have been thinking," he said. "I need to send a message to my wife about some business matters. I wonder if you would feel like taking it for me? My home

December 21, 1950

you know is over just south of Bethlehem. It would not be far for you to stop off and see your Dara for a few hours. I could care for your sheep, too, if you would like to go."

"Would I!" exclaimed Azrael.

With his bit of bread in his wallet, and Remaliah's message wrapped in a piece of sheep's skin and stowed safely, Azrael slipped away into the shadows of the dawning before the others were stirring. But he kept before his memory the angel story and the smile of the little Messiah, that he might more vividly tell it all to Dara.

That time upon the hillside was one neither of them would forget. Dara's eyes grew wide with wonder as he told her in awed tones the wondrous story. Over and over again he had to tell it, for it seemed that Dara could never have her fill of it.

"Of course," she had said with that look of utter trust upon her face, "we will serve him wherever he wants us to be. Out in the fields with the sheep if he wills, or in the palace if he should call — it matters not where. And because you have seen him yourself, he will always be alive and real to me!"

Then the days settled down to the old routine again — wandering over green pastures, and beside still waters, and lying down at night beneath the stars.

Now and again the other shepherds would go away for a day or a few hours, and come back with news of the world; but there seemed none that interested Azrael. He wanted only to hear of news of his King.

But one night Nathan came back with a sneer on his face. "Well, your Messiah isn't turning out so well," he said to Azrael, speaking so that all the others could hear.

Azrael gave him a clear, steady look, but said nothing.

"Men aren't accepting him as Messiah. Did you know that?" persisted Nathan. "And, what is worse, Herod is opposed to him. Some strangers from afar came to inquire as to the place of his birth. As you can imagine, that made Herod angry. He has ordered all babes two years old and under to be slaughtered. I ask you, what could we poor shepherds do?"

"We can believe," said Azrael quietly. "I shall always be comforted by remembering I have seen him."

"Well, you can't see him any more," said Nathan witheringly. "I have it from the keeper of the inn that the babe and his mother have hurried away into Egypt. It doesn't look much as if they thought he was really the Messiah, if they give up so easily and run out of the land at the first sign of danger, does it?"

"I shall go on believing," said Azrael. "I shall be getting ready to serve

(Continued on Page 23)

Page 17

We, the Women

News and Views of the National Woman's Missionary Union

By MRS. FLORENCE E. SCHOEFFEL, President

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL!

From the officers of the
NATIONAL WOMAN'S
MISSIONARY UNION

May the glow of the Christmas spirit remain in your hearts throughout the year!

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

"My, but I'm tired," sighed Martha Brown, sinking into an easy chair after depositing an armful of bundles on the table. "These Christmas shopping trips certainly wear one out."

The doorbell sounded. It was her friend, Mary Thompson, who had dropped in for an afternoon chat. Over a cup of coffee Martha continued her former line of thought: "You know, even though it is only a few days before Christmas, I can't get into the spirit of it this year. I'll be glad when the holidays are over!"

"The spirit of Christmas," mused Mary. "We use that expression so much. I wonder what we mean by it. When you say, 'I can't get into the spirit of Christmas,' exactly what do you mean?"

"Well, I never stopped to analyze it before. Let's see — when I was a child, Christmas was the high point of the year. I suppose it was the spirit of anticipation, the excitement of wondering what was in each package, and how the tree would look on Christmas morning. But presents hold little wonder or excitement for me now — and of course, the tree I have to trim myself."

"Yes, no doubt some of the thrill of anticipation is lost as we grow older," rejoined Mary. "But I find myself getting into quite a dither of pleasurable excitement as I wonder how Judy will look when she opens

the box with the new doll I bought for her; or how grandma will feel when she sees the sweater I knitted for her."

"You are always thinking of others, Mary. But tell me, while we are on the subject, what else do you think would be included in the 'Spirit of Christmas'?"

"Good will toward all men, even strangers —"

"Toward all men! That's a laugh! After pushing through those crowds of shoppers, and being rudely shoved around myself, I find precious little good will in my heart for any of them! Nor did I see anyone else show 'good will.'"

"I noticed a shabbily dressed woman stop to drop her last half dollar into the kettle of a Salvation Army Santa Claus," remarked Mary quietly. "But wouldn't you say that the center and heart of the Christmas Spirit is giving?"

"Giving, giving! What a headache that has become. My Christmas list gets longer every year. Some half-forgotten relatives of mine suddenly decided to send me a present last year — so, of course, I have to send them one now. It's so hard to know what to choose for everybody. I bought a scarf for Cousin Jane, but I'm afraid she'll have something more expensive for me — and that would be so embarrassing —"

"I wonder, Martha," interrupted Mary, "whether we are not forgetting one essential fact in our discussion."

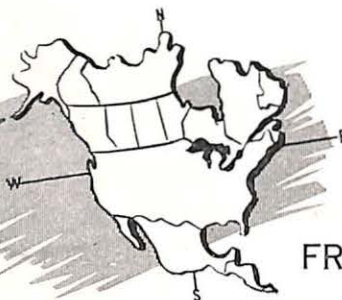
"And what is that?"

"I mean that unless the true spirit of Christmas is in the heart, the outward observance of Christmas can become a burden, an over-commercialized holiday, over which people wear themselves out in elaborate preparation. Take 'giving,' for instance, which we said was the center of the Christmas spirit. Why do we give, anyway? Is it not because God gave the greatest gift, his Son, out of love toward us? Gratitude for that Gift is shown in our love toward God, expressed in love towards our fellow-men. Let's not forget that it is not the monetary value of the gift, but the love which accompanies it that makes it truly valuable."

"In the last analysis," Mary went on, "I don't believe we can 'get into' the Spirit of Christmas; but rather, the Spirit of Christmas IS love, gratitude, good will in our hearts and souls, expressed at this season of the

(Continued on Page 23)

Reports



FROM THE FIELD

Southern Conference

Young People's Anniversary and Presentation of "The Lost Church" at Kyle, Texas

The Commissioned Baptist Youth of the Immanuel Church of Kyle, Texas, observed its anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 26th. The Rev. H. John Vanderbeck, pastor, had charge of the installation service of the new officers. "The Lost Church" by Dorothy Clarke Wilson, a pageant play, was given by twelve members of the C.B.Y.

On Wednesday evening, November 1st, the members of the church met with the First Methodist Church in Kyle, at which time the play, "The Lost Church," was given to a large audience. Then on November 9th the members of the cast were invited to the Westover Baptist Church in San Marcos, Texas, to give the same play. Everywhere the play was enjoyed by the listeners.

Mrs. Kent Lengefeld, Reporter.

Dedication of the New Building for the Elm Creek Church of Texas

Sunday, Oct. 8th, marked one of the most important days in the history of the Elm Creek Baptist Church of La Vernia, Texas. On that date a splendid building for the purpose of the worship of God was dedicated. Our new house of worship is a substantial frame structure and is completely white throughout, except for the doors.

Approximately 300 people gathered in the afternoon to witness the dedication service. There were visitors from several of our conference churches: Cottonwood Church, Central Church of Waco, Immanuel Church of Kyle, Greenvine Church, and the Canaan Church of Crawford. Also many of the members of nearby churches were present along with friends and many former members.

The Rev. Roy Williams of Coy City, Texas, opened the program with the invocation, followed by the Rev. Walter G. Gummelt who gave a brief history of the church. After the singing of the dedication hymn, the Rev. John Vanderbeck of Kyle read the dedication Scripture followed by the Rev. J. O. Zillen of Lorena, who led in the prayer of dedication.

Our special music for the afternoon was furnished by Miss Betty Lou Gossen of Waco, Texas, who sang "Bless This House," accompanied by

Mrs. Roy Seibel. We were also privileged to hear a number from the Cottonwood Church choir. Miss Doris Engelbrecht of Crawford was the pianist for the service. The Rev. Joe McNamee of San Antonio, a former supply pastor of the church, led in the dedication offering. Everyone participated wonderfully and a little over \$500 was given to help erase the debt on the new building. A very challenging message was brought by the Rev. Roy Seibel of Waco, Texas. He spoke on the danger of the opportunity before us and how we could change that danger into a blessing.

We thank the Lord for his guidance, and we are looking forward to greater things in the future.

Walter G. Gummelt, Pastor.

Atlantic Conference

Sessions of the New England Association at the King's Highway Church, Bridgeport

The New England Association of the North American Baptist General Conference held its 53rd annual meeting at the King's Highway Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Conn., on October 22. The warm reception afforded visiting delegates by the home church helped to make this conference a time of fellowship so characteristic of the Christian Church, for St. Paul refers to the church as "the fellowship of believers."

The addition of three aggressive young ministers to the association during the past year is an indication of the blessings of God. The new men are: Rev. Charles Lee, New Britain, Conn.; Rev. John O. Strickland, New Haven, Conn.; and Rev. William Kershaw, Boston, Mass.

The afternoon speaker was Dr. Jesse Wilson of the American Baptist Missionary Society. Taking a text from Romans, Dr. Wilson challenged all with the fact that Jesus Christ is for the whole world regardless of race, creed or color. All Christians must be missionary Christians to be what Christ intended.

The business reports indicated that over \$5,000 had been given to missions during the past year. Our moderator, Mr. John Luebeck of New Britain, urged that next year we strive to double our missionary giving to help get the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ out to those who do not know our magnificent Savior.

A scholarship fund was initiated by the Woman's Missionary Union. It is to be used in lending financial as-

sistance to any of our association in training for Christian service. During the past year one of our best known and best loved members, Mrs. Julia Berger of Bridgeport, went on to be with the Lord at the age of 79 years.

The Rev. Alfred Bernadt, familiar to us through his work in the "Baptist Herald," brought a truly wonderful message on "God the Creator" at the closing evening session.

Robert M. Atwater, Sec.-Treas.

Southwestern Conference

The Oklahoma Association at Bessie Considers Theme, "The New Life in Christ"

On a windy October day, past green wheat growing in red soil and cotton going to market, we arrived at Bessie, Okla., to attend the Oklahoma Association of North American Baptist Churches from Oct. 26 to 29. In the days to follow, the welcome expressed by the pastor, Rev. Geo. W. Neubert, became definitely realized in the hospitality and generosity of our hosts.

The spiritual theme of the association, "The New Life in Christ," based on Romans 8 was well carried out in the messages of Dr. Ralph Powell. Our spiritual experiences were enriched by such expressions as — "Salvation depends upon the facts of God's promises, not feelings;" "We do not get rid of the old nature when we become new in Christ; we receive a new nature with tendencies toward Christ. It depends on which we cultivate;" "The thing that matters most will determine your life;" "Not only a clean life but also clear talking is necessary for the Lord;" "We need to practice the presence of God. The presence of certain people makes a difference."

Other addresses included the Rev. John Fischer from Colony who brought out that Christians are behind in many things such as talents, wealth, etc., but of spiritual blessings of the heart there is no comparative equal (Acts 6:10). Rev. O. K. Ringering of Shattuck revealed that the saint's prayers are as sweet incense before God (Ps. 141:2). Rev. Paul Leasure of Gotebo explained that Christian experience is expressed in love, discernment, sincerity, and fruit (Phil. 1:1-11). Rev. Fred Ferris of Lorraine, Kansas, showed pictures of his trip with Mr. Dymmel to Africa.

Letters of the churches revealed an enthusiasm coming from God's blessings in growing interest in all departments of the churches. Several churches declared stirring revivals. There are two new church buildings. All churches have pastors. The new congregation at Corn is seemingly making a phenomenal growth. Rev. John Herr was the able moderator of the business sessions.

The Saturday evening young people's rally featured the film, "That Kid Buck." The music specials were enhanced by Dr. Powell's cornet.

Rev. Oliver K. Ringering, Reporter.

Homecoming Program for the Awoik Class of Baptist Church, La Salle, Colo.

Members of the Awoik Class of the First Baptist Church of La Salle, Colo., were hostesses at an Awoik Homecoming for all girls who were former members on Monday evening, Oct. 31, at the church.

Miss Frances Meyer, president, opened the meeting with the group singing the Awoik theme song, "Living for Jesus," and repeating the 121st Psalm. Mrs. David Zimmerman, the Awoik sponsor, led the group in prayer. Miss Meyer then welcomed our guests.

Mrs. Marjorie McNeil gave a most appreciative response in behalf of former members. Former members present were Mrs. McNeil, Mrs. Grace Moser, Mrs. Eleanor Rinke and Miss Margaret Sandau.

Mrs. Virginia Jepsen presented the following program: reading, "Seein' Things," by Irene Croissant; vocal duet, "Who Will Our Pilot Be?," by Betty Rinke and Ruth Zimmerman; reading, "Little Orphan Annie," by Mildred Schmidt; accordion solo, "Sweet Violets," by Norma Lesser. A "ghost" story told by the group and a spelling bee concluded our evening's entertainment.

Norma Lesser, Reporter.

Sessions of the Kansas Association at the Bethany Baptist Church Near Vesper

The Bethany Baptist Church near Vesper, Kansas, entertained the Kansas Association from Oct. 23 to 25. The meetings were well attended.

All of us were blessed through the ministry of Dr. George A. Lang of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., our guest speaker. Dr. Lang brought us five messages from the book of 1 John, giving that book a new meaning. The work in the Cameroons was vividly portrayed as the Rev. F. G. Ferris of Lorraine, Kansas, showed the pictures taken on his trip to the field and brought us a message concerning Africa's need. Our responsibility to our local work was brought to us in discussions of "How to co-ordinate the work of the Church" and "The Recreational Needs of Young People." Our hearts were encouraged as Mrs. Herman Janzen and Mrs. Wm. Wirth gave Scripture Memory reports.

Newly-elected officers are: moderator, Rev. A. A. Stackhouse; vice-moderator, Rev. Loyal Funk; secretary, Rev. Wm. Trow; treasurer, Robert Wirth; members of Scripture Memory Committee, Rev. Harold Fischer, Rev. Herbert Schauer; member of Mission Committee, Rev. John Kroeker; members of Prudential Committee, Rev. Theo. Dons, Rev. Henry Baerg.

Delegates and visitors who attended the meetings are already looking forward to another time of blessing next year when the association will meet at the Strassburg Church near Marion, Kansas.

Mrs. J. R. Kruegel, Reporter.



The Northside Baptist Church of Hutchinson, Minn., showing the new steeple as a part of the church's recent renovation program.

Northwestern Conference

Church Improvements, Birthday Supper and Missionary Sunday at Northside Church, Hutchinson

The Northside Baptist Church of Hutchinson, Minn., recently completed an extensive program of redecoration of the entire church building. With the help of many members and friends, it was possible to complete the work with but little cost.

On Monday evening, Oct. 16th, members and friends filled the church basement for a Fellowship Supper to wish their pastor "a happy birthday." Special musical numbers and messages by George McClellan and Reuben Fratzke made it a memorable occasion. The pastor, Rev. W. G. Gerthe, was presented with a gift of money.

A missionary conference was held in the Northside Church on Oct. 29th, having as our guests the Rev. and Mrs. Donald Ganstrom and family. The morning message by Mr. Ganstrom stirred our hearts and presented to us the need of a greater missionary effort in our Cameroons mission fields. The afternoon meeting was in charge of the Ladies' Missionary Society with Mrs. Ganstrom as our speaker. We were also privileged to have "The King's Stewards," quartet from our

Seminary at Sioux Falls, give their testimony in song. During the C.B.Y. hour, Mr. Ganstrom showed pictures and spoke to the young people. Another inspiring mission message was brought in the evening Gospel hour, after which Mr. Ganstrom showed slides of the Cameroons. At the closing meeting an offering was taken.

Mrs. Karl Krueger, Reporter.

Promotion Sunday and Rally Day Held by Baptist Sunday School, Elgin, Iowa

September 29th was Promotion Sunday in the Baptist Sunday School of Elgin, Iowa. Also on that Sunday we held graduation exercises for a class from the Primary to the Junior departments. These graduates wore grey caps and gowns and received diplomas and a Bible as a gift from the Sunday School. They held a brief ceremony at which they repeated the books of the Bible, the 23rd Psalm, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the 100th Psalm from memory.

On Sunday, October 1st, we held our Rally Day program. Each class participated with special numbers. We had 170 in the Sunday School on Rally Day. October was designated as Rally Month and our attendance averaged 150. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless the efforts put forth by our teachers and officers.

Mrs. Abe Habeger, Reporter.



Primary pupils of the Baptist Sunday School at Elgin, Iowa, who were promoted into the Junior Department at recent Rally Day services.

Harvest and Mission Festival Fellowship Supper at Baptist Church, Watertown, Wis.

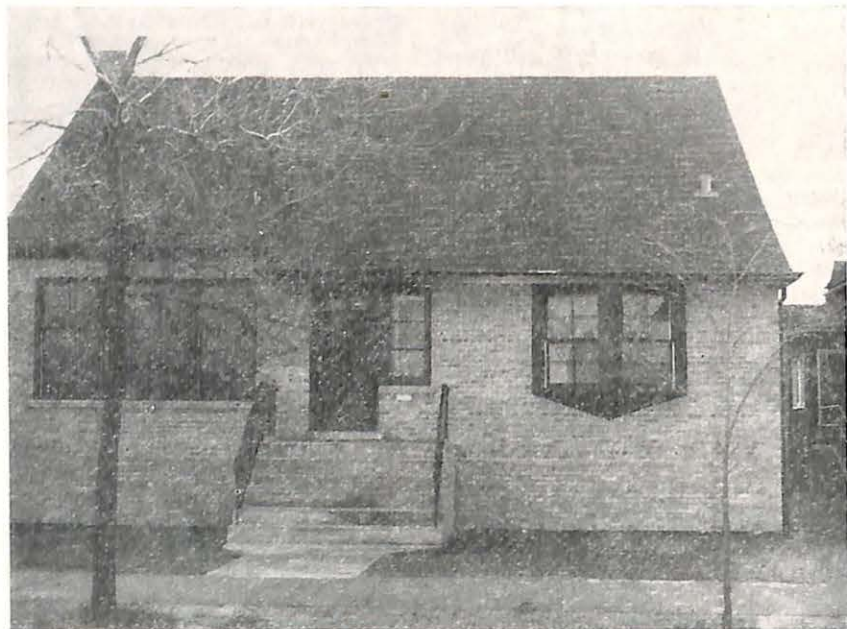
On Sunday, Oct. 29, the First Baptist Church of Watertown, Wis., held its Harvest and Mission Festival. As we entered the sanctuary on Sunday morning and viewed the artistic display of autumn leaves, vegetables and fruits, we were again reminded of the bountiful blessings that God had bestowed upon us during the past year.

Our pastor, the Rev. Jothan G. Eenke, brought us a timely message on "Sacrificial Giving," and the choir rendered two beautiful numbers. Our mission offering which amounted to \$167.67 will go to the Immigration Fund to help bring those less fortunate refugees living in Germany to America so that they can enjoy some of the blessings, both material and spiritual which we enjoy.

Our midweek services of prayer and Bible study have been a blessing to all those attending. Our studies have centered around Baptist doctrines. On the last Wednesday evening of the month, the various organized groups of the church have been taking charge of the entire service.

On Thursday evening, Nov. 2, the church had its annual Fellowship Supper with 106 members and friends in attendance. The program consisted of each Sunday School class rendering a special number, after which colored pictures were shown.

Mrs. Edgar Goetsch, Reporter.



The parsonage of the East Side Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois, which was recently dedicated, and is now being occupied by the Rev. and Mrs. H. R. Schroeder.

Central Conference

Dedication of New Parsonage for the East Side Church, Chicago, Illinois

"Bless This House" for "Thine Is the Glory!" These were the songs which were sung at the dedication service of the new parsonage of the

East Side Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill., on Sunday, Oct. 29. Our pastor, the Rev. Henry R. Schroeder, spoke words of welcome and the Rev. Frank H. Woyke, executive secretary, brought an inspiring and challenging message concerning our homes of today, which many of us will long remember.

Our beloved friend, Dr. William Kuhn, offered the prayer of dedication in the new home. The parsonage is a brick bungalow, consisting of study, living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom and bath, and attached garage. Two rooms are to be finished upstairs at a later date. The living room and study face the front and either one can be entered from the front hall.

The old parsonage held many wonderful memories for older members, and as Dr. Kuhn said, "We pray that the new building in years to come may be a blessing to the church and the community for the honor and glory of God and his beloved Son, Jesus Christ."

Mrs. Ralph Schauer, Reporter.

Dakota Conference

Anniversary Program of the Baptist Woman's Missionary Society at Parkston, S. Dak.

On Monday evening, Nov. 6, the Ladies' Missionary Circle of the Baptist Church of Parkston, S. Dak., held

clearer insight as to the work that is being carried on.

The program was in charge of the following committee: Mrs. Albert Radel, Mrs. Adolph Decker and Mrs. Helmuth Mehlhoff. An offering amounting to \$48.00 was received for mission needs.

During the year White Cross work was done, clothing was sent to Germany and money and gifts were sent to our denominational institutions. We are endeavoring to carry out all the goals set up by the National Woman's Missionary Union. May the Lord continue to bless our society.

Mrs. Fred Huether, Secretary.

Annual Program and Activities of the Woman's Missionary Society, Tripp, S. Dak.

The Woman's Missionary Society of Tripp, S. Dak., meets every second Tuesday evening of the month at the different homes of the members. Since our society has only eight members, we all take part in our meeting and enjoy it very much.

Since the Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Weisser have been with us as pastor and wife, they have helped us in every way. We have enjoyed the many blessings that we could share together.

In May we held a meeting together with the Parkston Society and observed our annual birthday anniversary and Mother's Day program. Our society has decided to do one deed each month. We have contributed \$30.00 to the Seminary in Sioux Falls and \$15.00 to the Bango Hospital in the Cameroons. Our total income for the year was \$177.89.

Our officers are as follows: president, Miss Lenora Litz; vice-president, Mrs. Harold Lippert; secretary, Mrs. Ray W. Lippert; treasurer, Mrs. Amelia Peppmueller.

We held our annual program on Sunday evening, Nov. 5. Dr. M. L. Leuschner was guest speaker and he also showed a Seminary film.

Mrs. Ray W. Lippert, Secretary.

Farewell Reception for the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Stein of Ashley, N. Dak.

On Sunday evening, Oct. 29, a farewell service was held by the Ashley Baptist Church of Ashley, N. Dak., for our pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Walter Stein, and son Murray who have gone to Tyndall, S. Dak., after having given us untiring and faithful service for almost five years.

The program was in charge of the deacon, Jacob Hoffman. Words of appreciation were spoken by representatives of the various organizations from all three stations of Ashley, Johannestal and Jewell, including the Sunday School, Ladies' Aids, C.B.Y.'s and Sunshine Club. Each organization also presented the Steins with special gifts. A free will offering of cash was presented as a token of love and appreciation from the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Stein expressed their joy in working with the church and thanked the members for their cooperation. We deeply regret that they

have left us but we feel that Ashley's loss has become Tyndall's gain. We are prayerfully anticipating the arrival of another pastor. May the Lord lead in such a way that our prayers may be answered before long.

On the previous Thursday evening, the Woman's Mission Societies of Ashley, Johannestal and Jewell held a joint meeting at the Ashley Baptist Church in honor of their faithful, retiring president, Mrs. Walter Stein. A fine program was given by the women, followed by a social hour with refreshments in the church parlors.

Mrs. Carl Fischer, Reporter.

Progress on the New Edifice for the Bismarck Baptist Church of North Dakota

The construction of a church, as someone aptly put it, is much like riding on a highway. Much of the way is smooth but occasionally there are "bumpy" places.

Members and friends of the Bismarck Baptist Church, N. Dak., have just come over a rough spot in the building of their new church — a trying period of two months of enforced idleness in the progress of the work, watching the beautiful North Dakota Fall days go by, waiting for "the beginning of next week" to come when our shingles were scheduled to arrive.

However, our downcast spirits were lifted tremendously on October 18 when we sold our old church building to Mr. and Mrs. Virbil Woodin, owners of the Boelter Funeral Home next door. Nineteen years ago, when the future of the church looked very dark, one-half of the lot, on which the old church now stands, was sold to Mrs. Woodin.

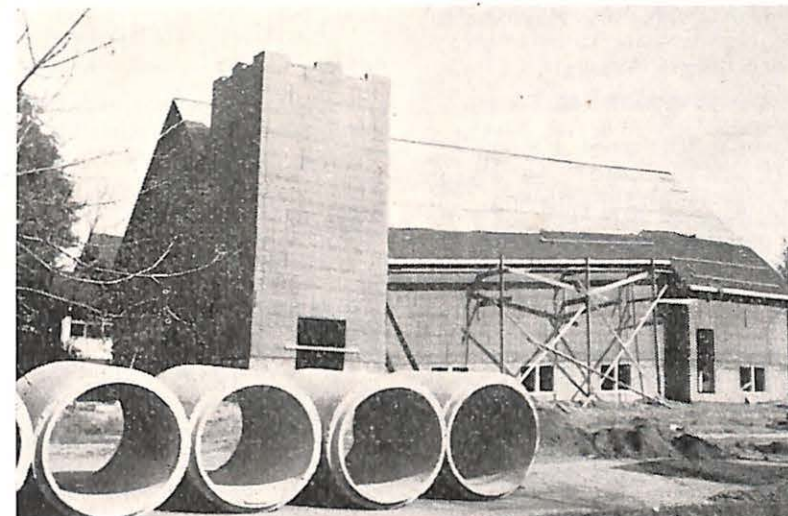
Our new church building is located on the corner of Eleventh Street and Avenue B, five blocks south of the Baptist Home for the Aged. It is 74 feet by 34 feet and will seat approximately 325 people. It will have a stucco exterior.

Our plans at present are to move into the basement as soon as that is completed, about January 1, 1951. If the work progresses favorably, we should like to dedicate the completed church in the Spring of 1951.

Mrs. Edward Kary, Reporter.

Inspirational Sessions of the South Dakota Association at the Emery Baptist Church

We are very happy to report about the spiritual blessings that were ours during the South Dakota Association sessions held at the Emery Baptist Church from Oct. 8 to 11. The first service was held on Sunday evening with Rev. and Mrs. James Schubring of Unityville as program guests. Mr. Schubring brought the message of the evening and Mrs. Schubring favored us with several cornet solos. The second service was held on Monday evening with Rev. Herbert Hiller of Madison bringing the message. A vocal solo by Mrs. Hiller was also much appreciated.



The Bismarck Baptist Church of Bismarck, North Dakota, under construction in October with large sewage pipes ready to be laid in the street in front of the church building.

On Tuesday morning, after taking care of some of the normal matters of business, many more blessings were ours as different pastors of our association brought messages on phases of our conference theme: "Now Is the Accepted Time," and in the Spirit of our conference motto: "Redeem the Time for the Days Are Evil." During the Tuesday morning and afternoon sessions the following topics were discussed: "Now Is the Time to Repent," Rev. H. Bronstad; "Now Is the Time to Read Your Bible," Rev. B. F. Taylor; "Now Is the Time to Pray," Rev. L. Hoeffner; "Now Is the Time to Live," Rev. D. S. Wipf; "Now Is the Time to Give," Rev. G. W. Rutsch; and "Now Is the Time to Dare," Rev. E. Gutsche.

After the afternoon session the ministers enjoyed a short period of fellowship with Prof. A. Bretschneider, who in a fatherly way shared some of his experiences with us and challenged each of us to greater service.

The Tuesday evening program with its C.B.Y. and S.S. Workers' emphasis, was attended by a capacity crowd. The message by Prof. Bretschneider proved a real help and inspiration. The highlight of the evening was an offering for our Cameroons Crusade of \$496.83.

On Wednesday morning, after devotions and some matters of business, the last group of topics were taken up as follows: "Now Is the Time to Be Saved," Rev. Albert Ittermann; "Now Is the Time to Love," Rev. Peter Geissler; "Now Is the Time to Work," Rev. Alfred Weisser; and "Now Is the Time to be Still," Rev. O. W. Brenner.

The HIGHLIGHT and CLIMAX of our association meetings was the Missionary Rally on Wednesday evening. It was our pleasure to have Dr. George Lang, president of our Seminary with us, who had charge of the installation of the newly elected officers. After a very challenging and heart searching message by our guest speaker, Missionary Donald Gansstrom, another offering was received for the "Comeroons Crusade" amounting to \$1525.11. The total of all offer-

ings received during the association amounted to \$2155.79.

The newly elected officers for the coming year are as follows: Rev. Alfred Weisser of Parkston, moderator; Rev. B. F. Taylor of Sioux Falls, vice-moderator; Rev. H. Bronstad of Chancellor, secretary; Mr. Ed. Wobig of Madison, treasurer

D. S. Wipf, Reporter.

Young People's Anniversary Program and Choir Concert at Fifteenth St. Church, Los Angeles

Sunday afternoon, Oct. 29, was a festive occasion at the Fifteenth St. Baptist Church of Los Angeles, Calif. The Commissioned Baptist Youth presented a fine anniversary program combined with an inspiring choir concert. It warmed our hearts actually to see our auditorium filled to capacity for this service.

Walter Heiman, our faithful president for many years, opened the program with a word of welcome to our many friends. The choir, which numbers approximately 36 voices, rendered five beautiful anthems. These were directed by our pastor, the Rev. E. Mittelstedt. Mrs. Ruth Wetzler is our capable organist, not only for the choir, but also for our regular church services as well. An excellent report was given by the C.B.Y. secretary, Lydia Wiebe, telling of the accomplishments and progress made during the past year.

It was a joy to have Miss Hilda Tobert as our guest speaker for both the morning worship and the afternoon meeting. She has had a busy and fruitful ministry as missionary nurse at the Bango Hospital in the Cameroons.

After the program, we gathered in the church parlor to enjoy light refreshments and a time of Christian fellowship together. Helen Wetzler was in charge. The offering of \$200 was designated for the denominational Immigration Fund.

Mrs. Esther Johnston, Reporter.

Young People's Sessions at the Pacific Northwest Association Held at Startup, Wash.

The annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest C.B.Y. and S.S. Workers' Union was held in Startup, Wash., on Oct. 21, after an outing to nearby Camp Houston in the afternoon. A delicious banquet was served in the church auditorium and then the enthusiastic singing of choruses led by Henry Schmunk preceded the business.

Due to the absence of the president and first vice-president, Barbara Schauwecker, the second vice-president, presided. Even though we fell short of our project goal, God's richest blessing was evident when a total of \$2525 was reported. Our new project of \$2000 will be divided between the Cameroons Bible School and the Christian Training Institute of Ed-

Northern Conference

The Saskatchewan Conference on Evangelism at the Baptist Church, Nokomis, Sask.

A time of spiritual blessing and inspiration was in store for everyone who attended the Conference on Evangelism at the Baptist Church of Nokomis, Sask., from Oct. 19 to 20. Even though road conditions were very poor, a fine group of delegates and pastors, representing the majority of our Saskatchewan churches, came out to attend and take part in the meetings.

After the opening devotions led by the Rev. E. Thiessen, Mr. Alex Richter spoke words of welcome on behalf of the church. The Rev. R. Kanwischer as chairman then spoke about the purpose of the conference and especially stressed its importance.



Students in the Seminary Chorus which led the academic procession into the Sioux Falls College Chapel on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 5th, for the festive service at which the Rev. Frank H. Woyke was honored with the degree of Divinity.

monton, thereby giving us a foreign and home mission project.

Newly elected officers of the association are: Ruth Miller, first vice-president; secretary, Violet Edinger; and Rev. R. Kern as the advisor. Our guest speaker, the Rev. J. C. Gunst, brought us a challenging message to follow Christ in concentration, dedication and separation.

Sunday afternoon's meeting convened in the Startup School gymnasium. After several choruses and the Scripture readings roll call was taken with each group represented giving a special number. The Tacoma group, with 58 members present, had the largest attendance.

The installation of the new officers was led by Rev. R. Klingbeil of Colfax, Wash. An offering of \$75 was taken to be used for our new project. We were again privileged to have Mr. Gunst as our speaker urging us to use our talents for Christ.

We are looking forward to our meeting in Missoula, Mont., next year, after being so richly blessed by God in Startup.

Barbara Schauwecker, Reporter.

We were privileged to have the Rev. H. Peifer of Edmonton, Alta., as our guest speaker and his inspiring lectures on "Evangelism, Its Power and Program," "Preparing the Church for Evangelism," and "Visitation Evangelism and Personal Soul Winning" will long be remembered. Other speakers and their subjects were as follows: Rev. Martin De Boer on, "Where Are the People?"; Rev. H. Schumacher on "The Technique of Evangelism;" and Rev. E. Nikkel on "Evangelistic Program in the Organized Departments of the Church." Rev. John Engel led the morning devotional period.

Before the noon hour of the second day was reached, everyone felt that the time of the conference was too short and so it was decided that we continue also in the afternoon and have another evangelistic service in the evening. In the afternoon Mr. Pfeifer spoke on the subject, "The Work of the Holy Spirit in Evangelism" and "After Conversion, What?" At the conclusion of these inspiring meetings we felt that the impact of this conference on our lives will bear its fruit in time to come.

R. Kanwischer, Reporter.

God's Glorious Blessings for Central Church, Edmonton, Alta., and the Lauderdale Mission

Since the rousing and royal reception given to us when we began our ministry in June 1950 at the Central Baptist Church of Edmonton, Alta., we have experienced glorious blessings at the hand of a loving and gracious God. With 21 new converts we stepped into the baptismal waters on Sunday, June 25, and extended to them and to eight others the hand of fellowship on Sunday evening, July 2. At both occasions, the church was filled to capacity, and both the male and mixed choirs sang spiritual selections to the delight of all.

Further victory and triumph have come to us by the working of God's Holy Spirit. Delighted by the splendid response of the church and all its organizations to the appeals and challenge for a greater spirituality and faithfulness to God, we found the windows of heaven open to us. On Sunday evening, Sept. 17, we were again privileged to step into baptismal waters with 13 new "babes" in Christ. Before an overflowing church they testified of their personal faith in the Savior. On Sunday morning, Oct. 1st, the hand of fellowship was extended to them and to 24 others who came to us by letter or confession of faith. Among them are many happy and grateful hearts of those who came recently from Germany.

Hardly a Sunday passes without newcomers in our services. Our Sunday morning worship is in German while our Sunday evening services are in English, and in both services the working of God's Holy Spirit is experienced. Another phase of our extensive mission field is the splendid development at our Mission Station at Lauderdale, a few miles north of our city. The Sunday School under the leadership of Willie Schubert is progressing steadily. It was a great day there on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 24, when the Harvest Mission Festival was observed.

The church was decorated very beautifully and the occasion was significant in two ways. It was the end of our Sunday afternoon services and Sunday School and the triumphant conclusion of this phase of our work. On Sunday morning, Oct. 1st, Sunday School began for the first time at the morning hour of 9:45 A.M. and was followed by the German worship service. In the evening, the English service opened two weeks of revival meetings. Night after night the church was filled with hungry hearts and God gave more than anticipated. Serving myself as evangelist, I was assisted by the Rev. August Kraemer, and the Lord gave us 31 converts.

During the week from Oct. 22 to 29 we were privileged to conduct a Christian Training Study course. We were delighted to have the Rev. J. C. Gunst as the teacher and guest speaker. The response to this course, "How To Win to Christ," was overwhelming and each night more than 60 Sunday School teachers and young people gathered to learn this art.

Henry Pfeifer, Pastor.

December 21, 1950

AND THERE WERE SHEPHERDS

(Continued from Page 17)

him, whenever he shall call."

"After all," said another, "what do we know about the Messiah? How do we know he will not be just like other kings? Have we any real promise that he will put out the Romans, and save us from taxes, and make things better for us?"

Then up spoke old Remaliah. His voice was sternly beautiful: "We have his own words of promise in the book of the Holy Prophets. Isaiah wrote: 'Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God.' And then he goes on to say: 'He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom.' Surely shepherds can understand that! You think that could be said of him and he not care?"

They had never heard the oldest shepherd talk in this way before. He had always been so quiet and set apart that they had been half afraid to talk with him. They listened now in silence as the solemn voice went on, speaking in language so foreign to their selfish ways of thought that it frightened them.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

"Sins?" spoke up another. "Who said sins? What makes you think we have sinned, Remaliah?"

"The Word of God says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. But listen!" said the old shepherd, "heard you ever words like this? 'I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions and sins.'"

The shepherds suddenly became silent again while each reflected upon this, thinking of the sin for which he most needed forgiveness.

"And it is all to come through this Messiah, this little King who was promised! Oh, we dare not disbelieve in him!"

The old shepherd's voice died away into a wide silence of awe. It was almost as if the voice of God himself had been speaking to them all.

Then, softly, Azrael spoke. It was as a prayer uttered, a vow registered: "I believe!" he said. "I wait!"

The sky was very still and starry and far away, the angelic glory a bright memory. There was only the soft sound of the sheep breathing as they slept, waiting for the time when they should be no longer needed for sacrifice. To the shepherds it almost seemed as though their sheep knew instinctively what they themselves had been so slow to believe — namely, that the other great Sacrifice for the sins of men was indeed come.

WE, THE WOMEN

(Continued from Page 17)

year in a special way, but present at all times."

"You make me feel ashamed, Mary," Martha said soberly, "Of course, you are right. I have let myself become so caught up in the rush of preparations that I have almost lost the true meaning of the day. I am so glad that we had this chat, for it has helped me to see the true values, to get the right perspective again."

"I am glad, too, Martha, and I am sure that you will experience the real thrill of anticipation, of good will, of giving, as you go about your preparations in the spirit of him who gave the best Gift of all. — But I really must go now. Judy will be coming home from school in a few minutes, and will wonder where 'mommy' is. Goodbye, and thank you for a pleasant afternoon."

"Goodbye, Mary — thank you so much for coming."

AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

(Continued from Page 7)

and thirteen for a short period. We have been reading, "Why I Know There Is a God." A short discussion may follow and one of the group leads in prayer.

In the meantime Mrs. Runtz is back with the little folks, reading some simple Bible storybook to them, and hearing their prayers, first with the boys and then with the girls. Of course, there are interruptions to this program, and we are not able to carry it out always. But we do the best we can.

There is at least one evening during the week when there is a young people's program at the church, which all of the older children attend. Most of this group also attend the high school football and basketball games.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

In this way we try to minister to the children, body, mind and spirit. We are not unmindful of the fact that the Father in heaven must give his blessing to our every effort. Neither do we forget that the entire work is made possible by the generous giving of our people. We need not tell you that the living costs have increased tremendously during the past few years.

This year, when the Christmas offering is received for the Children's Home, kindly try to visualize our work here. Jesus Christ was born in a stable, and we cannot help that, but we can help provide a good home for some other children. May the spirit of Christmas dominate your giving!

Obituary

(A charge of five cents a line is made for all obituaries, except for those of our pastors and their wives. If possible, limit the obituary notices to 250 words. Send them to the Editor, Box 6, Forest Park, Illinois.)

MRS. PAULINE HICKMAN of Camrose, Alta., Canada.

Mrs. Pauline Hickman, nee Wiesner, of Camrose, Alberta, began her earthly pilgrimage on June 11, 1877, in the district of Rovno, Poland. In 1893 she was married to Ferdinand Hickman, who silently left her side for the life immortal during the bitter experiences of 1945. The union was blessed with eight children, all of them living in Germany and Canada.

In 1946 Mrs. Hickman felt the regenerating power of God in her life, was baptized and joined the Baptist Church of Platendorf, Germany. One year later she came to Canada to spend the sunset hours of her life with her children, and also away from the horrors of war stricken Europe. Although she was appreciative for all the blessings this land could offer her, she could never feel at home, for her spirit was desirous to depart and be with the Lord.

On October 24 she retired for the night with a heavy heart. News from Germany and her three children had greatly disturbed her. More than ever her spirit yearned for the Home not prepared by hands of men. It was during that night that another messenger came to her and brought her the news, "Welcome home." Gladly did our departed sister obey! A total of 73 years, 4 months and 13 days was the period of her sojourn here in her earthly tabernacle.

Left behind to mourn her passing are her eight children: Julius and Richard of Camrose; William, Agata (Mrs. Pohl) and Lydia of Edmonton; Helen, Emile and Helmut, all in Germany; and 17 grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted on Oct. 28, 1950 in the Bethany Baptist Church of Camrose. The undersigned directed the mourners' thoughts to the words of the Apostle John in Rev. 2:10.

Bethany Baptist Church,
Camrose, Alta., Canada

JOE SONNENBERG, Pastor.

MISS GLADYS HOFF

of Venturia, North Dakota.

Miss Gladys Hoff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hoff of Venturia, North Dakota, was born in Venturia on August 13, 1929. She lived all her life in Venturia. After a brief illness and having undergone surgery at the Eureka Hospital, she passed away to be with her Lord on Nov. 3, 1950. She had reached the age of 21 years, 2 months, and 3 weeks.

In 1941 she gave her heart to the Lord, was baptized by the Rev. A. Guenther, and joined the church the same year. She was a faithful member of the Venturia Baptist Church, where she was an ardent worker for her Lord. She was an active church worker, taught in the Sunday school, was a faithful member of the young people's group, as well as of the Felicity Society. She was always willing to do her part for her Lord.

She had entered her vocation as a public school teacher two years ago, and was known by many and loved by all who knew her. At the time of her death, she was teaching school near Venturia.

She leaves to mourn her passing her loving and deeply saddened parents; six sisters: Mrs. Melvin Hoffmann of Eber, Sask., Canada; Mrs. Jacob Geggemann of Haldy, N. Dak.; Thelma, now studying at the Northwestern Bible School in Minneapolis; Vivian, training at the Bismarck Hospital; Delores, at high school in Wishek; and Loretta at home; her grief-stricken fiancé; one grandmother and a host of relatives and friends. The Rev. A. Krombein of Eureka, S. Dak., spoke words of comfort in the German language on Phil. 1:21, and the pastor spoke on Luke 8:52 in English. May God comfort the bereaved.

Venturia, North Dakota
RAYMOND DICKAU, Pastor.



SYMBOL of our earthbound quest for immortality,
the Star of Bethlehem still shines for all who believe
in the Brotherhood of Man.

BAPTIST LIFE ASSOCIATION
A Fraternal Insurance Society
ESTABLISHED 1883
860 Walden Avenue :: :: BUFFALO 11, Y. N.