

# Baptist Herald

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE



*The Christmas Story Hour With Marilyn Heine*

*December 16, 1954*

**A Merry Christmas To All!**

Christmas Stories from Our Mission Fields  
Around the World



## They Who Serve the Lord!

Memorable Events for a Layman and Minister

### Okeene, Oklahoma, Celebrates Mr. O. G. Graalman's 50 years of Business in the City

The many "Baptist Herald" readers and friends of Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Graalman of Okeene, Okla., will be happy to share in the honor which has recently come to Brother Graalman. "O. G. Graalman Day" was observed on October 4th by the State Guaranty Bank in recognition of Mr. Graalman's fifty years of banking in the town of Okeene, Oklahoma.

A full page of two and three column display adds, in addition to a brief life history, appeared in the local paper from many of the local business firms expressing the sentiment of the community through their statements of commendation and congratulations: "To a Fine Gentleman," "We Salute a Successful Business Man and a Fine Community Leader Throughout the Years," "On the Fine Examples of Leadership You Have Set All Through Your Fifty Years in the Banking Business," "Your Leadership in Church and Civic Organizations Have Been Fine Contributions Toward the Growth of Okeene," and others.

Expressions from citizens of the community and from prominent business men from all over the state and adjoining states were received all day as evidenced by the many visitors, gifts and lovely bouquets coming into the bank.

On Thursday, October 21, the local Kiwanis Club gave a surprise banquet in his honor which was preceded by 45 minutes of reminiscing in the fashion and under the title of "This Is Your Life."

Interesting highlights of Mr. Graalman's life were related from behind a screen by local business men, close friends and members of his family including Mrs. Graalman, Robert (the son) and his family, two brothers: Chester of Wichita, Kansas, and Theodore of Watonga, Oklahoma; a brother-in-law, Walter Scholz of Kenosha, Wisconsin; and the other members of a church male quartet which until recently sang together for many years including D. E. Weigand, Wm. Fox and Harry H. Geis. The whole program was heartwarming!

Brother Graalman has served faithfully in many capacities in the Zion Baptist Church of Okeene. In addition to having been church treasurer and clerk, he is now on the Board of Deacons and serves regularly as a teacher in our Sunday School.

Through wise counsel and sincere Christian interest, he has also served God through our denomination as evidenced by many years of service on various committees and boards such as the General Council, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees of Roger Williams Press, Mission Committee of Southwestern Conference and as treasurer of the Southwestern Conference and representative of the Council of the youth organization in its earlier years. Leland Friesen, Pastor.



Mr. O. G. Graalman, Okeene, Okla., who celebrated 50 years of banking in Okeene on October 4, 1954

## Merry Christmas!

The lovely Christmas picture on the front cover of this issue shows Miss Marilyn Heine, a member of the Forest Park Baptist Church, Forest Park, Illinois, reading the Christmas story to excited, bright-eyed youngsters at the Oak Park-River Forest Day Nursery, where Miss Heine serves as a teacher.

This Christmas number of the "Baptist Herald" has been in preparation for many months, securing the Christmas stories and articles from our mission fields in the Cameroons of Africa, Japan, the Indian field in Alberta, Canada, and the Spanish-American field in Colorado. Don't miss the original Christmas story by the Rev. John F. Crouthamel beginning on page 14.

Above everything else, we as business manager and editor of the "Baptist Herald" want to wish all our readers:

"A BLESSED AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!"

### Ordination of Rev. Richard Lawrenz at the Baptist Church, North Freedom, Wis.

On Nov. 2nd the North Freedom Baptist Church of North Freedom, Wisconsin, called a council of 19 delegates representing 9 Wisconsin Baptist churches for the purpose of setting its pastor, Mr. Richard Lawrenz, apart for the Gospel ministry. The Baptist churches represented were Bethany and Temple of Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Watertown, Baraboo, Rock Springs, Sheboygan and North Freedom. Rev. Jothan Benke was elected chairman of the council and Mr. Myron Dudek as clerk.

The candidate was examined concerning his conversion to Christ, his call to the ministry, and his doctrinal beliefs. While in the service of our country, he felt the call of the Lord to enter the full-time ministry. It wasn't until his love for God overcame his love for sports, that Richard left his job and enrolled at Wheaton College. He continued his studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, where he received his M.A. degree. With clarity and sincerity, the candidate presented his views.

In the evening an impressive service was held in the church with Rev. G. K. Zimmerman presiding. After the singing of several hymns and the reading of 1 Cor. 13, Mrs. Richard Lawrenz and her sister, Miss Lucille Wagner, rendered a very beautiful duet. The ordination sermon entitled, "God's Standards for a Faithful Ambassador of Jesus Christ," was given by Rev. Wendell P. Loveless on II Cor. 4:1-7.

As the candidate knelt, and there followed the laying on of hands and the ordination prayer by Rev. D. Raymond Parry of Racine, the nearness of God was felt as another servant entered the Gospel ministry. Rev. Wilmer Quiring of Bethany Church of Milwaukee extended the right hand of fellowship into the ministry to Rev. Richard Lawrenz and presented him with the ordination certificate. The charge to the candidate was brought by Rev. Anton Trillet of Baraboo, and Rev. Jothan Benke of Watertown brought the charge to the church. The Rev. Richard Lawrenz pronounced the benediction at the close of a truly inspiring service.

Myron H. Dudek, Clerk.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- Rev. Leon Bill  
Cherokee, Oklahoma
- Rev. Carl Fuellbrandt  
73—18th Street  
Toronto 14, Ont., Canada
- Rev. Richard Grabke  
3130—13th Street  
Regina, Sask., Canada
- Rev. Waldemar Laser  
850 Home Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- Rev. Leland H. Schantz  
1204 S. 23rd Place  
Lawton, Oklahoma

# Editorial

## What Do You Want For Christmas?

IN THESE DAYS we are greatly preoccupied with the things we want for Christmas. The desires are intensified as we gaze fondly at the fairyland of toys and gifts in the brightly lighted show windows of the stores. We think and dream about all the wonderful things we would like to have for Christmas, until disappointment comes over us sadly at the Christmas festival because our hopes have not all been realized. Everybody—tiny tot and aging adult—wants something for Christmas! But what do you want?

That discerning question reveals how Christian your Christmas will be. Those who wish merely for things will have their desires gratified with a commercialized Christmas of tinsel and mirth and satisfaction that last for a few days. They will eat, drink and be merry and call it Christmas. But without Christ! Then there will be some whose highest longing and strongest desires will be for gifts which only the Christ-child as Savior can bestow. Theirs will be the best and brightest Christmas of all.

Have you thought of asking for Christmas "a right spirit within"? Most of our troubles in life are basically wrong attitudes and relationships. We are not right with God and we don't know how to get along with other people because something is lacking in our own souls. If we want this gift enough and are willing to pay the price for it—a contrite spirit—then God will restore unto you the joy of his salvation. This is God's supreme gift in response to every humble prayer: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).

Again have you put down "a zest for living" at the top of your list of Christmas wishes? Too many Christians are wilting in their enthusiasm and devotion to Christ. They go through the motions of Christian activity and programs without any spiritual dynamic or contagion about them. They need to ask God for those gifts that are the heritage of all his saints until they taste and see the goodness of the Lord. They need to receive these blessings from above until they can say with the Psalmist: "In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11). That kind of living on tiptoe with a zest for life and the good things of God is priceless.

There is something else that you ought not to forget among the things you want for Christmas. Don't you want eyes that are open to God's beauty and glory? The shepherds on the Judean hills had their eyes and ears open to the angelic chorus before they went to the Bethlehem manger. The wisemen saw the star which guided them to the Christ-child as they beheld the fulfillment of God's prophecies in the lowly manger. There is the wonderful gift of spiritual sight—the discernment of God's ways—that enables you to behold his glory in your own life and in the things about you. "Thou wilt show me the path of life" (Psalm 16:11).

These are some of the best things that you could want for Christmas that will bring the Christ-child gloriously into your heart!

# HERALD

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## At Long Last - - A Son!

Christmas Sermon by the  
REV. WILMER QUIRING of the  
Bethany Church, Milwaukee, Wis.

"God hath in these days spoken to us by  
his Son."  
What a difference this Christ-child makes!

THE STORY IS TOLD of a family who one day found a little baby at their doorstep. Not knowing whose it was, they decided to keep him and rear him as their own. The household was totally unprepared for a little one. The needed essentials had to be quickly acquired.

That little baby completely transformed the thinking and the habits of that family. Life took on a different meaning with the baby becoming the center of attention. A new happiness took possession of the home. What a difference this little baby made!

You recall the first baby in your home. When you saw him, he seemed so frail and helpless. Your heart was thrilled, and with great tenderness you sought to care for him. You had prepared for his coming, but you soon discovered that more was needed. You hardly realized that such a change would come over your home. The family habits were altered to meet the schedule of the little infant. It was a joyous experience. What a difference that little baby made!

### GOD'S REVELATION

It was just a babe that was born at Bethlehem, but what a change was wrought in the world by his coming. Christmas tells us that God has placed a child at the doorstep of the world. God takes the common experiences of life to speak his truths to our hearts. He takes our daily bread and makes it a symbol of the body of Christ. He speaks of the water and tells us how we might have life. The birds of the air tell of God's providence in our own lives.

Just so it is that a baby born in humble circumstances speaks to us at Christmas time. The longing of the heart for knowledge of God is satisfied

through the familiar longing for a child in the home. The writer of Hebrews tells us, "God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." What a difference this child makes!

Some have written books on what would be the condition of our world if Christ had never come. We have Jean Paul's dream of the children, coming into the church and sobbing out their sorrow because there is no Christ, and no Christmas, and that all alike are orphans.

Henry Rogers wrote a book called "The Eclipse of Faith" in which he imagines that some powerful hand has wiped the influence of Christ out of civilization, as some hand wipes the chalk writing from the blackboard. He discovers that every vestige of Christ's life and words has completely disappeared. He finds this in the law books, in the art galleries, in literature. The schools, hospitals, missions have all disappeared. The lawyer cries out that he would not want to live at all in a world where Christ has never been.

But we need not contemplate a world without Christ. He has come and we can sing—

"Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinner reconciled."

The Christ child has made this change.

### GREAT EVENTS

God has spoken through other babies that have been born. In the Scriptures we see how babies have made a difference in the various events of the world. It was the daughter of Pharaoh who found a crying Hebrew baby in the bulrushes and took him home with her. The crying child was symbolic of the heart's cry of God's people hoping for

an escape from their bondage. This child became God's deliverer.

Hannah longed for a child and prayed that God would grant her this petition. In answer to prayer, a child was born and true to her promise she brought him to the temple and said, "As long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord." He was Samuel, the great intercessor for his people.

In the late years of the marriage of Zacharias and Elizabeth, there came an only son. Of him the angel of the Lord predicted, "And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord their God." This child became the great fore-runner of Christ turning people to repentance and God. What a difference these babies made!

Christ made a difference in his day. He made a difference to Bethlehem. "And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda . . . out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." We love to sing, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," at this season of the year.

### CHRIST'S WONDERS

Christ's birth made a difference to men. The shepherds rejoiced and marveled over what they had seen. The wise men traveled many miles to see what had come to pass and then worshipped him. Herod pretended interest and was greatly perturbed by what he heard. So Christ spoke to the simple, the wise and the sordid.

Christ's coming made a difference to men while he lived. John the Baptist was in prison and wondered if Jesus was really the Messiah. Jesus told him, "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised

up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whoever shall not be offended in me."

A leper came to Jesus and said, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Jesus answered and said, "I will, be thou clean," and immediately he was healed. Blind Bartimaeus met Jesus on the road and begged that he might see. Jesus restored his sight. A rich thief confessed his sins and restored ill-gotten gain. Zachaeus found salvation that day when Christ entered his home. When Jesus touched men, they were never the same again.

The child that comes into our home and heart makes a difference in our lives. When I speak of the difference, I do not mean all that goes with the making of formulas, the early hour feedings, the walking of the floor—perfectly natural events with a baby—but I mean those spiritual concepts and added ideals that come to us with a baby. Things happen in our lives as a result of the child coming into our home.

### LIFE'S NEW MEANINGS

One of them is a deeper sense of responsibility. This grows from the time you first see the helpless infant to the time when his small dimpled hand takes hold of your finger and gives a gentle tug. It is a tug at the heart. Here is flesh of your flesh. Other babies have interested you but not like this one. He is yours and you are responsible for his growth and care.

I recall a father who was seriously hurt in an accident at work. Something went wrong with the freight elevator and he was terribly crushed. For a number of days he hovered between life and death. Finally the body began to mend in answer to much prayer. He told his pastor one day, "The pain became so unbearable at times that I often wished myself dead. But when I think of my two babies at home, I must hang on for their sake." And so he did. The babies made the difference.

There is also a greater spirit of unselfishness. Parents begin to do without things in order that they might have something for their child. They do without things that before they never could have thought possible. That winter coat can last another season. With a little polish the old shoes will be as good as new. So the parent rationalizes with the child in mind all the time.

Time takes on a new meaning. A new schedule is followed. Someone else must now be taken into consideration when decisions are to be made. It is no longer just "I" but "we." Time now has a new focal point.

We discover also, sooner or later, that we must watch our step by setting a good example. No longer can you say it makes no difference what you do. There are little eyes watching and little ears listening. Those little feet

are only too willing to follow in your footsteps. So often the children will delight in trying daddy's or mother's shoes and go clippity clop around the house or down the sidewalk. What father has not scolded his son for a misdeed only to hear him say, "But daddy, you do it!" Humiliating but true! They follow our example in life.

### MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

Now let us direct our thoughts from our home to the message that Christmas has for our home and the world. If on an earthly level babies make such a difference, it is no wonder that God is seeking to reach us through the Christ-child. How much more should the very Son of God affect the lives of the people of world!

At Christmas time the Babe in the manger takes, or ought to take, central place. If Christ had come full grown, there would be no Christmas. There would be no angel chorus. But God sought to touch the heart of the world when he revealed himself as a lowly babe born in a humble stable. The world would have done it differently, but God knows our hearts.

What change has this birth brought to the world? We could list the outstanding things of our world that have come about through the Christ, but that isn't our thought at the moment. These things were accomplished by lives touched and won by the Lord Jesus Christ. Continue to use what we have said concerning the effects of a baby in our home, and let us now see how the Christ-child in a greater measure has changed the lives of men.

A sense of responsibility falls upon those who acknowledge him as the Son of God and the Savior of men. They feel keenly the responsibility of supporting the cause of Christ, of sending forth messengers of the Gospel, of even going themselves as witnesses for Christ. The weight of this responsibility has caused men like John Knox to say, "Give me Scotland or I die."

Our own missionaries cannot wait until they return to their beloved field because of the feeling of this responsibility to God. The marching orders of our Christ must be followed. As we bend low over the manger and see the Christ-child this Christmas, let us feel this sense of responsibility.

The Christ-child brings a concern for others. There is a looking to the things of others and not just to ourselves. This has resulted in the building of hospitals, orphanages, schools, old people's homes, and the establishment of mission fields across the world. It is the cry of Christ in the heart, setting men on the trail of service.

### BABE OF BETHLEHEM

Time takes on a new meaning. We compute time from the birth of Jesus. Even so a Christian begins a new schedule when Christ is born anew in his



heart. Time becomes a stewardship to be carefully used. "Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." The Babe born in the manger makes the difference.

Jesus said to those whom he called, "Follow me," and they left all and followed him. We are to be examples of Christ in the world. We may be the best Christian that somebody knows.

The Babe of Bethlehem made a world of difference, but what does he mean to our lives? He came for the world but he came especially for you. Jesus must be born anew in your heart so that you can say with Paul, "I live, yet not I, but Christ who liveth in me."

At long last, a son! God is speaking to us at Christmas time and all the time through his Son. What a difference this Christ-child will make for you!



# "New Hope's" Second Christmas

By MISS LAURA E. REDDIG,  
Cameroons Missionary

ONLY VERY FEW of the fifty-eight patients would not be able to make it home for Christmas. How much stronger they all felt! The old ulcers were healed or greatly improved! They would go home feeling like "people" again.

Just before the great "exodus," examinations were given to those who attended the Literacy Classes. Paul Mbingham was discouraged because his marks were not as high as those of little Vioff who would be promoted to the second class.

## CHRISTMAS ANTICIPATIONS

Sam Chuh had already written his family (he learned to write in these classes) that he was coming. Semi Jam and Joshua Akumbo had recently received their Basic English Bibles as awards for Scripture Memory work, and they were eager to show these Bibles to their folks.

The patients, who had learned basketry, had carefully tied one or two of their nicest baskets in banana leaves to take home. Merry shouts were heard all over. Some expressed regrets at not being able to spend Christmas two places at once, at home and at "New Hope."



Samuel Semi, "hero" of the first New Hope Settlement film that has been seen by thousands of our people (left), smiles his brightest on a Sunday morning, and (right) Daniel Doh, an ex-leper, now serving as laboratory technician at New Hope Settlement

Only fifteen patients were to spend Christmas at Mbingo, so we tried to keep them occupied and happy. Of those who went home, some hadn't seen their families for one year, two years or even three years. How would their families receive them? Would they see any changes? Would they be welcomed? They just had to go home and face these questions themselves. Some went hesitatingly, others eagerly.

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The special December-Christmas event at Mbingo was the Annual Missionary Conference which met here from Dec. 15 to 22. Never had so many been at a conference! Thirty out of our 34 missionaries were there, and 15 children added their merriment and joy to the busy days. We all bade "good-bye" and "Walka good" to Ernie Hildebrand who had been with us so long, and we prayed that he might be spending Christmas with his family in Kansas. Mr. Lawrence, father of Ben Lawrence, spoke to us all the Sunday before Christmas, and reminded many of us of our own folks from whom we were absent because Christ called us to bring his Light to Africa.



Christmas finds the lepers at the Mbingo Settlement in the Cameroons, Africa, praising God for answered prayers, joyously entering into the Christmas festivities, and returning to loved ones at home for a brief visit with evident signs of cleansing on their bodies

The children touched off the Christmas festivities with a lovely portrayal of the Christmas story. They had their own readers, singers, angels, shepherds, kings and all. How proudly they took their parts, and how nice they looked! The grown-ups enjoyed a dress-up dinner followed by a talent program and Christmas carols.

Then everyone left Mbingo to hasten back to Warwar, Mbem, Ndu, Bango, Belo, Bamenda, Kumba, Soppo and Victoria to spend Christmas with the Christians of those stations. Everyone had last minute plans and tasks to complete before Christmas.

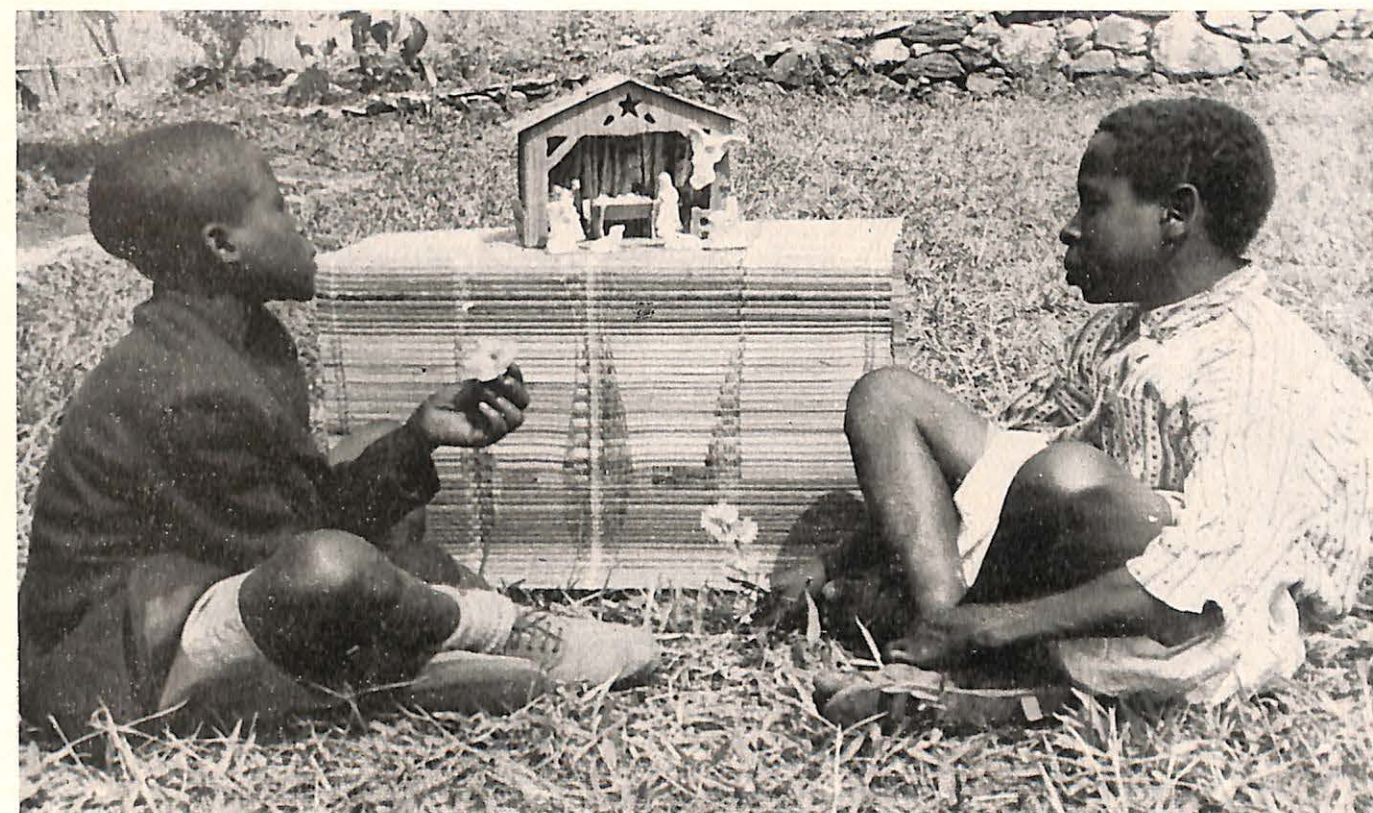
Our hearts were filled with gratitude for another year of God's guidance and help, for the joys of seeing the Light of Christ shine anew in many hearts. This would be a happy season for many Africans who during this past year had come to a saving knowledge of Christ the Lord!

There was a little Christmas party for the wives of our carpenters and masons who stay at Mbingo, and who miss their families and folks. Our own boys and helpers enjoyed their little Christmas "dashes" and especially the bags of popcorn! With each service, the old, old story, but the ever new story was read or told again. How wonderful is God's love to us!

## GREEN CATHEDRAL SERVICE

Christmas morning found our 15 remaining patients worshipping together with the missionaries in our out-of-door green cathedral. Palm branches and wild flowers "dressed" the yard and houses. The singing was joyous, even if the volume was down because of the absent patients. After the offering and the singing of more native songs, those who couldn't go home were given little gifts. Empty coffee or syrup or lard tins were filled with salt. They also enjoyed the picture of the Settlement family, the spoons and matches.

Elizabeth Bubiya spent a tearful Christmas thinking of her four other children who were "motherless" this Christmas. Katrina was almost too sick to get up on Christmas, but her "Happy Christmas" greetings to everyone showed she still had faith that God would see her into better days. Foghwi and Funjong, the only boys who couldn't go home, greatly enjoyed the little Creche at the missionary's house.



Foghwi and Funjong, the only leper boys at the New Hope Settlement in the Cameroons who couldn't go home for Christmas, were fascinated by the Christmas creche at the missionary's house of Laura E. Reddig

"Take our picture with that little barn and the baby Jesus," they requested.

The Mbingo missionaries packed up some eats and went over the hills to eat with the Roths, our nearest neighbors, at Belo. There was a lovely tree which delighted Evan and Linda Schneider and David Roth, and of course, the adults as well. Under the tree were presents from the grandmas, the grandpas, the aunties and the uncles. Again we stopped to rejoice in the great Gift which God had sent to this world for each of us, his Son.

That evening, back at the Settlement, another "thank you" service closed the happy day. Testimonies were given by the patients and others who were there. The prayers which followed included two main parts: the thanksgiving for Jesus, our Savior, and "Please, God, send us the doctor we need."

## LEPERS WHO WENT HOME

But what about those patients who went home? Joshua Akumbo says he went to church with his mother, and she was so glad to see him better, that she cooked him a great big meal and invited many of his friends.

Matthew Shengwu had to travel the farthest of all—five trek days each way. But it was "worthwhile" and his family rejoiced at his improvement.

Daniel Tanyi attended morning mass with his parents in the Roman Catholic Church, and then went to the services in the Baptist Church at Manteh, his home. His mother gave him all the peanuts he could eat!

Matthew Fomukom brought back the news that his wife had presented him with a new son at Christmas time.

Daniel Munjo, one of our oldsters, was so happy to be with his family again. His wife died two months later, so he will always remember the last Christmas he had with her.

God Love Goh was delighted when his sister had her first "woman pekin" (baby girl) while he was home and named her after the missionary nurse. "What is she called?" "We will call her 'Ma'," he said.

Bah Okum, our smallest patient, came back all decked out in a new black jacket. It was lots too big, but "nice and warm."

Everyone came back with a basket of food, a new shirt or cap or trousers. Everyone had had a nice Christmas and some story to tell to the other patients. They were thankful that their families had received them so gladly,

and that everyone rejoices with them over their progress. "Will I be here next Christmas?" they ask. The patients at the old camp near Bamenda were remembered with a visit, and two bags of salt to add "sweetness" to their holidays.

## CLEANSE THE LEPERS

Christmas time also brought two lepers, asking for admittance. They were given the same answer which over 200 others had received: "Go home and pray while you wait." A special prayer session during the missionary conference made us all mindful of the fact that our ministry to the lepers cannot continue without a doctor. Surely, he who said, "Cleanse the lepers," would not lead us on so far in this work, and then withhold the doctor who is needed here.

No, we all knew that his promises are still true and that his own choice would come for this work in his own time. At this 1954 Christmas we will praise God anew for answered prayers! Our doctor and his family should be here then!

More Bah Okum's Akumbo's, Shengwu's, Semi's, etc., who are still in spiritual darkness and physical needs will find that because Jesus came "that they might have life, and have it more abundantly," they too would be served and helped through his servants.

Our hearts rejoice in the help and prayers you have given for this work among the lepers of Bamenda Province. All is seen and recorded by the loving Father who bids us to help one another for Jesus' sake.

## NEWS FROM "NEW HOPE"

The New Hope Settlement buildings were dedicated early in December with the Rev. R. Schilke, general missionary secretary, present for the festivities and with Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jones, the new doctor and his wife, beginning their ministry among the leprosy patients.

Miss Laura E. Reddig will sail for the United States early in January for her long overdue furlough. The pictures on these pages and those on page 24 of this issue were taken by her.

EDITOR.





Spanish children of Monte Vista, Colorado, who attend the Sunday services, Vacation Bible School and activities of our Baptist Mission with Cecilia Madril (described by Miss Eisele in her article) at the extreme right

## Christmas Acrostic in Spanish

By MISS FLORENCE EISELE,  
Spanish-American Missionary

**Christmas comes to the Spanish children of the San Luis Valley of Colorado bringing exciting thrills to them and opening their souls to the story of Christ's love for them**

**C**ECILIA MADRIL of Monte Vista, Colorado, is the very plump young lady of twelve years, who has been a Christian ever since the Youngs first came to the Valley. She reads her Bible faithfully, regularly attends all the Mission activities, and is a real helper with the maintaining of order at all times there. Although the family is fairly large, Papa Madril always has work and Mama keeps an adobe house spotlessly clean, and her children always nicely clothed. Cecilia is learning to embroider at the club now, and does well with it. She has a comical streak in her which makes her a real clown at any gathering, and the Christmas party was merrily enlivened by her blindfolded attempts at trying to find the cord of bells hanging from the ceiling, and later trying to pin an ornament onto a painted tree, after a dizzy six yard walk in the dark. She was considerably impressed with our large balloon-ornamented Christmas tree, and no doubt will try and copy it some years hence!

**E**LEN TRUJILLO of Monte Vista, Colorado, is the ten year old, oldest sister in a family of eight children. She's deceptively small and pretty, but her long, soft hair hides an alert little mind which has a real interest in Scrip-

ture memorization. She's a regular pupil at both Sunday School and midweek club, and learns everything and anything very readily. Her mother is a frequent visitor here at the parsonage, looking for clothing for her large family. The background is Roman Catholic, but the family has turned against that faith because, since the death of the grandmother just before last Christmas, the priest has made himself objectionable to them in some way. The interesting Protestant Christmas services were a special blessing to them all, and Helen appreciated the warm mittens and story book very much, since they spoke to her of the love of Christ in the hearts of his missionaries.

**R**OSAMARIA GARCIA of Center, Colorado, is the small, soft-spoken, seven year old of the huge Garcia family; eleven young children! Mama Garcia is famous in the Spanish section for her "Stanley" parties, and apparently helps Papa Garcia keep the family fed and clothed in that way. They are very Catholic, but Rosamaria and her two brothers regularly attend our Sunday School and club meetings, and enter into the parties and programs with all their hearts. Rosie appreciated the Christmas gift of warm mittens and crayons and color book, and the broth-

ers still say thanks for the new trousers and story books. We hope that the tracts which were placed in the Christmas program bags, especially the one containing the testimony of faith in Christ by an ex-priest, will bear fruit to the glory of God in Rosamaria's home.

**I**SABELA RENNER of Del Norte, Colorado, is the eight year old curly head. She bears the name of one of Spain's famous queens, as do many Spanish and Mexican children. But there the identity ends. This Isabela lives in one of the poorer homes with several brothers and sisters and a new baby brother, although the run-away daddy has been gone for years. The neighbors whisper awful things about the sweet baby, but he is dearly beloved in Isabela's home. Although her mother works in the fields whenever she can, the monthly welfare check is a necessity, and without the friendly interest of the Spanish Baptist missionaries in the homes and families of the Sunday School pupils, Isabela's Christmas would have been a sorry affair. She dearly loved the prettily dressed doll, so like baby brother, and the sweets in the paper sacks which were given out after the program. But the most wonderful present of all came

December 16, 1954

after Christmas, when the mother actually accepted Jesus to be her own Savior.

**S**HIRLEY GALLEGOS of Del Norte, Colorado, is one of a lovely family of youngsters who run in and out of the home alongside of the grocery store which their father owns in the Spanish section. All of them are always neatly dressed, and one can see that they have had good training. Her sewing at the club is neatly done, and she memorizes all the required work easily and quickly, and is always eager for the next lesson or story. Christmas at her home was a fine affair complete with tree and many gifts. So you see, Shirley was not in need of mittens or socks, but we were glad for the Christian story books which came, so that this youngster could have an opportunity to read about other Christian boys and girls, and how they met their very real problems.

**T**OBY MEDINA of Del Norte, Colorado, is the stocky, dependable ten year old brother of Modesto and Freda and numerous others, all living in that tumbledown house on the corner. The windows are all covered on the outside with corrugated cardboard, which is supposed to keep the inside of the house warm during these cold Valley winters. But even though they sleep four in a bed, it is still cold. The cardboard keeps out the light, too, and even at night it isn't too cheery with only one kerosene lamp. Everything is too expensive these days, but Papa Medina spends most of his time sitting behind the wood burning cook stove in a drunken stupor. Christmas here would have been only another bleak, cheerless day, except that, two months before, Toby and two others of the family began attending the Spanish Baptist Mission. They found Christ as their personal Savior there, and later Mama Medina did, too, and they found him able to provide light and laughter in Christmas program preparations, and candy, fruit, nuts, new clothing and toys after the beautiful message in picture and song.

**M**AX de HERRERA of Center, Colorado, is the nice, round faced teenager from one of those lovely, humble Spanish families. He's a responsible sort of youngster, with a good singing voice, and an admirable trait of liking the members of his own family, small brothers and sisters included. It was a joy to visit Max's home just after Christmas and to see his joy in the small, beautifully decorated tree and the simple gifts. His gift from the Mission of his own Bible and some small extra things truly gladdened his heart. The object of my post-Christmas visit was to bring them their share

**THE 1955 ANNUAL**  
is now ready for your reading enjoyment!

**LET'S VISIT  
THE VALLEY**

The first account published for our readers about the history of the San Luis Valley and the background of our Spanish Mission in Colorado by Miss Eisele. You'll be amazed by this informative story!

**ENGRAVED INTO THE  
SEMINARY STORY**

The first publication of pictures and names of contributors to the new Seminary buildings as seen in the bronze plaques in the Seminary halls, library, offices, dormitory and dining room. You'll look for familiar names!

These are a few of the "Ten Star Specials" in this 10th Anniversary Edition

Price—\$1.00 Postpaid

of the box of cookies and candies sent by our Kansas churches, and their excited cries over the sizes and shapes and colors of the contents were really funny to hear. I believe that that box really rounded out Christmas for them, because they were still "yumming" about it weeks later!

his stride! Minus any bells, beard, red suit or black boots, he joyously helped distribute the gifts after the program, darting between the milling youngsters, and seemingly knowing just where everyone was at the moment. He LOVED Christmas!

**A**LBERT ABEYTA of Center, Colorado, is the twelve year old who is everybody's favorite. He has the grin and mannerisms of a beautifully spoiled family pet, but astonishingly enough he's a well adjusted youngster; the third son in a family of four sons. But out of them all he sings the sweetest, catches onto new tunes the quickest, and remembers the most hymns, calling them all his "favorites." Naturally he was the leader of the children's chorus at the Mission program, and his most personal contribution was a third part of the thrilling "We Three Kings" song. He had a bit of trouble with the word "myrrh" at first, but when everything had been explained, he took it all in

**S**IMI SUAZO of Center, Colorado, is the comical, drooling, little love-sick, ten year old, who is always losing her mittens, as her chapped, reddened hands show. So the logical gift for her was a pair of pretty, soft, red wool ones, which she certainly was thrilled to receive. She is proud of the pretty petticoat, too, and the crayons and color book. She had learned quite a long Scripture portion in Spanish for her part in the Mission program, and though she is usually most empty-headed and scatter-brained, she recited her part very well in a clear voice to the pride and joy of her Mama and Papa. That program really spelled Christmas for her, for she hasn't stopped mentioning it yet!



The rented quarters (at the left) in the Jasper Abeyta Grocery Store in Center, Colorado, which serve as the Baptist Mission Chapel where Christmas programs are now bringing "great joy" to the Spanish people of the community





A marvelous portrait of the Indian children, Esther, Larry and Harvey Crane, in their home on the Bull Reserve with some of the Christmas toys that our churches sent to the Mission

## Christmas on the Reserve

A deeply moving story of an Indian boy's Christmas who, in spite of a lot of trouble, can wish everybody a "Merry Christmas and God's blessing to everyone!"

By the REV. R. NEUMAN, Indian Missionary

**T**HIS STORY IS about Larry Crane from the Indian Bull Reserve at Hobema, Alberta, Canada. Larry is six years old. His hair is pitch black but not in braids as some other boys wear. He has something that all other boys have. It's those black eyes that shine like diamonds. Since Larry does not speak English, he tells his story in Cree which his Christian mother interprets.

My name is Larry Crane. I am the boy who wrote a little story in the Christian paper called, "The Light." In it I told how my mother and I went to the doctor to get some of my teeth fixed. The doctor gave me some money and told me to go to town and buy some "muskeekees" (candy). But I told my mother that I would take it along to Sunday School and give it there.

### DADDY IN THE HOSPITAL

Now, if you people will listen to a little Indian boy, I will tell you something about our family and Christmas on the Reserve.

Last year was the first time my mother, Harvey, my little brother, and Esther, the baby, spent Christmas without daddy. You see, my father had something wrong inside and had to go to the hospital to get fixed up. The doctor says that they can help him so that he will live longer. Daddy went far away to a big city called Ed-

monton. Where daddy is now, lots of people go to get better. He is not alone.

First, my daddy didn't want to go and we didn't want him to go either, but grandma and grandpa thought it would be better for him to go because they don't want him to die early. It was very sad when daddy left. We all cried very hard. Many tears came into our eyes, and it was very lonesome in our hearts.

You know, we have no house of our own. My father didn't have time to build one before he went to the hospital and now he can't. Maybe he will be well and strong when he gets back, and then we can help him build the best house on the Reserve. We are living with my grandparents, the Pete Crane's. The house is two miles away from the missionaries' house.

### THE MISSIONARY COMES

Soon after my daddy was gone away from our house, Mr. Neuman came to see us. We were all very lonesome for our daddy and we were glad to see our missionary. We all sat very quiet and listened while Mr. Neuman talked to us. First, he spoke to my grandma and grandpa, then to my mother and last to all us children. When he was finished we all felt very good inside.

God spoke to us too when the missionary read from the Holy Bible and those were such nice words from John

14:1-6. After we had finished singing and praying, our hearts were very glad and light and not so much trouble there. Before we learned the right WAY to follow, we all were going in our ways of sin but now my mother and daddy and my grandparents are Christians and follow Jesus.

But soon Christmas came and my daddy was far away. We asked Mr. Neuman to try and get father home for Christmas. He tried very hard with some of the Indian counsellors but the doctors would not let him go. Now we know that daddy would not be home for Christmas. But I was told that some boys and girls have no mother and father and so I am very happy to have my mummy and grandparents with me for Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS AT CHURCH

I could tell that Christmas was coming very near, because the boys and girls were learning something to say in the church. Also my mother was talking about it very much after she came home from Edmonton from seeing my daddy. She told me they were talking about what they were going to buy us children. I was very happy when I heard this.

On Christmas night in the church there were many people. The church was full and some had to stand. Many presents were under the tree. There were two Christmas trees with many lights and other things on them. In the windows burning candles made everything look so nice. I could see everybody was very happy.

All the boys and girls were sitting near the front waiting for the meeting to start. The people were dressed so nice and smiling. When Mr. Neuman came in, the church was full. Everything looked so very pretty and all the people were smiling and happy. We started to sing some Christmas songs. Then one Indian man read God's Word about the baby Jesus in Cree. After that another Indian prayed and then Mr. Neuman.

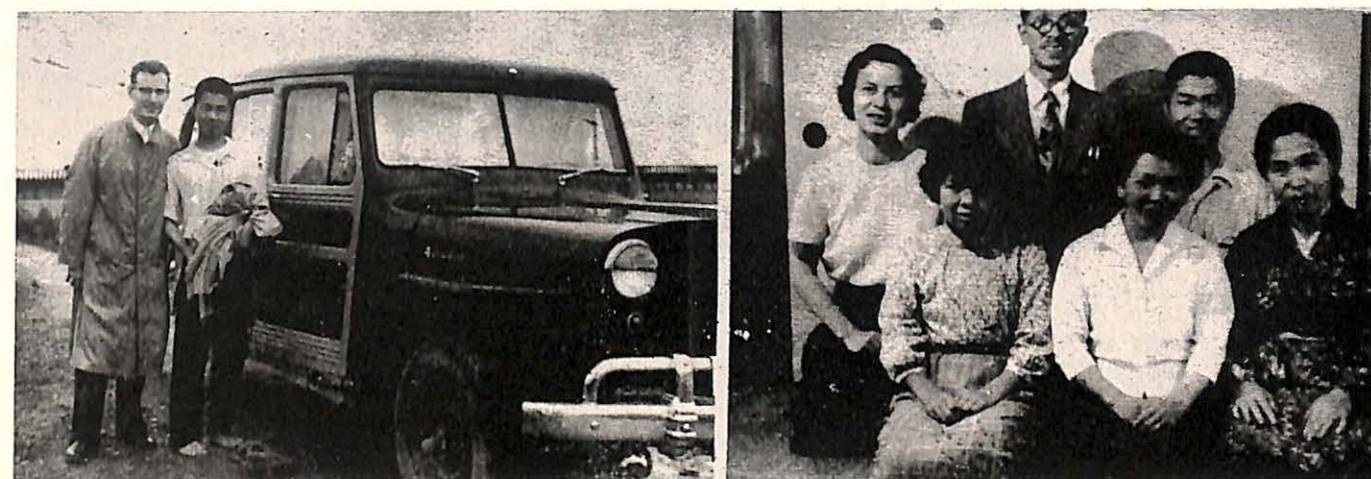
The Indian boys and girls recited some verses and sang some songs. Some of them had Christmas things on with candles in their hands and marched around like soldiers. After they were finished, our Chief Mr. Bull spoke to all the people and then my grandpa said something about my daddy not being here but asked all the Christians to pray for him.

He also said, "God gave us a good day and a good Christmas. We see many people here and all know that God loves us. He gave Jesus to save us from our sins and tonight we should be happy."

### JESUS LOVES THE INDIANS

It was time for Mr. Neuman to speak. He told us from God's Word how much God loved us, so much that he sent Jesus, his only begotten Son, to earth to save us. God did something that we could not do. All God wants

(Continued on Page 16)



Missionary John Rhoads and Takashi San (left) at the first baptismal service of our Mission on Pentecost Sunday, June 6, 1954, and the baptismal candidates with Takashi San (right, back row), Missionary Florence Miller (left, rear row) and Japanese pastor (center, row) inside the church awaiting the communion service

## A Belated Christmas Gift in Japan

By MISS FLORENCE MILLER,  
Missionary in Japan

This is the story of the Japanese lad, Takashi San, who last Christmas and New Year's Eve came first to the Light of the Gospel in Christ and then was baptized on Pentecost Sunday, June 6, 1954

**M**OST MISSIONARIES are accustomed to receiving Christmas cards and gifts late, but the fact that they are late does not in any way diminish our appreciation of them. I want to tell you of a belated Christmas gift which came to me.

It was the Sunday before Christmas at Ujiyamada, Japan. The Sunday School program was over and 70 of the younger children had boarded the bus taking them to their homes. About 60 of the older children formed a double line and, with song sheets in their hands, they and the teachers began the 45 minute walk to the mission house singing carols as they went. Too hoarse to sing any more, panting and sighing, they climbed the hill leading to our house full of curiosity, for some had not yet seen the inside of a western style house.

Once inside, the girls sat quietly on the floor because we did not have enough chairs for all. The boys, less reserved and somewhat boisterous, rushed for the few chairs there were. Not having such pieces of furniture in their homes, it was a treat to sit on a chair, especially a soft one. After enjoying slides of America and light refreshments, at our suggestion they reluctantly left. We wanted to spend a little time with the young people and adults who were present also.

After the children had left, in a few moments the tables were set up and all 14 of us gathered around for refreshments and informal fellowship. At first, conversation was difficult but gradually the ice was broken and those

present began to speak about their Christian faith or their present state of doubt.

Takashi San, a young man of 17 years, was speaking. "I cannot yet say that I am saved. I read in a book by John Bunyan that he who, having once believed, casts away his faith has no more hope of salvation. I know that when I decide to become a Christian, it must be for life."

I was listening with intense interest, eager for every clue as to what this serious minded student was thinking. When he first came to our church he said he would like to study the Bible for he wanted to compare the various religions. After the Bible lesson he said, "I have found a good thing but if I accept it, I must suffer."

The next time he came, he told us that his father was a Buddhist priest and then we understood. He himself was the eldest son and of course it was expected that he follow in his father's steps. Accordingly he had spent a year in training for the priesthood but disliked it very much and asked to return home.

He never missed a meeting at our mission after that. He bought his own Bible and studied it at home. His mother knew about it and said that it was all right. His father was in Osaka most of the time, returning only twice a month for a few days each time, so he did not know how faithfully his son was attending a Christian church.

New Year's Eve came! At the last minute we planned to have a Watch Night service because we learned

that most of the people of Yamada would be going to the Shrine at midnight. We decided that a meeting at the church might help to keep a few at least away from the Shrine and positively help some to enter the new year with promises from God's Word.

We were surprised that so many turned out. We gave to each one present a little card on which was written a Bible verse which we suggested they take as a verse for the New Year. We read them aloud and after a few moments, Takashi San, who was sitting near me said, "I don't understand my verse."

It was John 3:3. "Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven." I explained it to him as best I could in Japanese by comparing it with other Scriptures.

The following Sunday I spoke on "The New Birth and the New Nature." The next Wednesday night he said, "I understand now what it is to be born again, but what must I do?" I explained that if he believed in Jesus as his Savior, all that was left for him to do was to ask for forgiveness.

He hesitated and then said, "But I cannot tell my father. If I do he will not help me go to college. I believed some time ago, but I dare not tell my father about it." As I sensed the terrific struggle going on within him, I hardly knew how to answer him. Would he turn away unsaved if I insisted that he tell his father?

(Continued on Page 13)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

● The Rev. Alfred R. Bernadt of the Central Baptist Church, New Haven, Conn., baptized 5 converts on Sunday morning, Nov. 7. He spoke on the theme, "When the Unknown Soldier Speaks," at the Armistice Sunday service on November 14. The church held its Every Member Sunday on that day with the rededication of lives and sessions to the Lord.

● The Ashley German Baptist Church, Ashley, N. Dak., held its Harvest Festival on Sunday, Oct. 5. The Rev. E. Broeckel of Bismarck, N. Dak., served as guest speaker. The offerings of the day amounted to \$2680.51. From Nov. 21 to 23 evangelistic meetings were held at the Ashley Church with Dr. Thorwald W. Bender of Chicago, Ill., serving as the evangelist. The Rev. A. W. Bibelheimer is the pastor.

● The young people of the Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, Calif., presented the play, "The Autobiography of a Church Pew," on Sunday evening, Oct. 31st. Music by the young people's choir was directed by Joan Stabbert. The Rev. Berthold Jacksteit took the part of "the minister" in the play. On Sunday morning, Nov. 14, the Rev. and Mrs. George W. Henderson, Camerons missionaries, were the guest speakers at the church.

● The Rev. Leland H. Schantz is employed as an electronics technician in Lawton, Okla., and is preaching on a part time basis. He is a 1950 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and former pastor of the Zion Baptist Church, Vida, Montana. He and his wife have announced the birth of a daughter to them on Oct. 26 who has been named Shirlee Iris. Their new address is listed elsewhere in this issue.

● The Bethel Baptist Church of Ingersoll, Oklahoma, has called the Rev. Leon Bill of Stafford, Kansas, as its pastor to which he has responded favorably. Mr. Bill, a member of the Calvary Baptist Church of Stafford, is a valedictorian of the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary of Chicago, Ill., and of Fort Hayes College in Kansas. His wife is a daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. B. Thole of Stafford, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Bill are already on the field at Ingersoll, Oklahoma.

● Evangelistic meetings were conducted in the New Leipzig Baptist Church, New Leipzig, N. Dak., from

Oct. 18 to 29 with the Rev. LeRoy Schauer, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mott, N. Dak., as speaker. Mr. Schauer's sermons were evangelistic, clear and effectively delivered. The services were well attended throughout the two weeks, and the messages highly appreciated, as reported by the Rev. Emil Becker, pastor.

● From Nov. 3rd to Dec. 1st the First Baptist Church of Lorraine, Kansas, went on "A Tour of Our Camerons Mission Field" at their weekly prayer meetings. The competent "guide" and speaker was Mrs. H. W. Gieseke, wife of the pastor of the church, who spent 4½ years as a missionary-nurse on the field. A great deal of interest was shown in this missionary presentation. Mr. Gieseke brought a sermon, "Here We Stand," on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 31st.

● On Sunday evening, Nov. 21, the Portland Symphonic Choir presented a sacred concert in the Trinity Church of Portland, Oregon. The choir consists of 100 voices. The Rev. John Wobig spoke to the large audience on "The Ministry of Music." Evangelistic meetings were recently conducted in the church by Evangelist Victor Ernest of Lebanon, Oregon, with eight converts recorded. The Bible School of the Trinity Church has had an attendance of about 500 every Sunday this fall.

● The Rev. Benjamin Schlupf of Fort Dodge, Iowa, has been serving as supply pastor of the Eagle Grove Baptist Church, located 30 miles from Fort Dodge, for the past six months. Mr. Schlupf wrote: "The congregation is very appreciative of my services and I have much joy in serving the Lord and his people in this way every Sunday morning." Mr. Schlupf is one of our former influential pastors who is now living in retirement with his wife in Fort Dodge, but who is still very active in the Lord's service!

● The Grace Baptist Church of Hettinger, N. Dak., held evangelistic meetings from Oct. 4 to 15 with the Rev. Herbert Vetter of Isabel, N. Dak., as the evangelist. The meetings were well attended with two decisions being made for Christ. During the services the Emil Schneider family of the church was involved in a car accident. Mrs. Schneider has been confined in the Bismarck Hospital since that time. The church is conducting an ap-

preciated radio ministry under the leadership of its pastor, the Rev. Edward Oster.

● The recognition service for the newly organized Faith Baptist Church of Camrose, Alberta, was held on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 31. Members and friends of 12 surrounding churches had been invited. The inspirational program included messages by the Rev. Henry George A. Lang of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and Dr. Pfeifer of Edmonton, Alta., and Dr. George A. Lang of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and musical numbers by the Central Baptist Church of Edmonton and the band of the Wieselthal Baptist Church. The report of the council meeting that voted favorably on the recognition of this church appeared in the last issue of the "Baptist Herald." Mr. Bernard Schalm is serving as the pastor.

● On Sept. 24, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Siemens of Leduc, Alberta, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, which was also the wedding day for their son, Waldo. Previous to this, on Sept. 22, Mr. and Mrs. Siemens were honored at a surprise celebration by the Temple Baptist Church of Leduc. A program under the direction of John Brown included musical numbers by three sisters-in-law of Mrs. Siemens, a duet by Mr. and Mrs. Kern, and a choir selection. A humorous poem was read by Mrs. R. Ohlmann. Congratulations were expressed by members of the Temple Church, of which Mr. and Mrs. Siemens are members.

● Recently the First Baptist Church of Goodrich, N. Dak., raised the salary of its pastor, the Rev. Irvin H. Schmu-land, by \$600. A Men's Brotherhood was organized in the church in November. During the visit at Goodrich of the Church Extension representative, the Rev. Bernard Fritze, 14 families joined the \$100 Club by giving \$100 or more besides the other generous offerings by the people. The average giving of the Goodrich church toward the Church Extension program was almost \$13 per member. The report of a baptismal service, at which 27 candidates were baptized, appears elsewhere in this issue.

● The Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta, held a Teachers Training Study Course from Oct. 24 to 31 with Dr. George A. Lang of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., as instructor. He also spoke at the McKernan Church and Lauderdale Church of Edmonton, at chapel services of the Christian Training Institute, and served as guest

speaker at a dedication service for all Sunday School teachers and workers at the Central Church on Oct. 31st. The German Youth Choir of Central Church rendered a musical program at Onoway, Alberta, on Sunday, Nov. 7, and on Nov. 15 presented a sacred concert at Edmonton's Salvation Army Citadel.

● On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 14, the Bethel Baptist Church of Windsor, Ontario, held its Harvest and Mission Festival in the Walkerville Baptist Church. The Rev. E. Goetze of Kitchener, Ontario, who was conducting evangelistic services in the nearby Conner Church of Detroit, Mich., served as guest speaker. The choir of the Conner Church as well as the Bethel Church choir and orchestra rendered several selections. Most of the offering of \$135 was designated for the North American Baptist missionary work. The Rev. O. Patzia of Detroit, Mich., was present and took part in the service. The Rev. G. P. Schroeder is serving as the pastor for the present.

● On Sunday, Nov. 14, the First Baptist Church, Dighton, Kansas, held a dual dedication service with the Rev. O. Ringering of Shattuck, Okla., a member of the Southwestern Conference Mission Committee, as guest speaker. Their former meeting place has been converted into a parsonage, and a school building has been purchased and placed on the adjacent lot to serve as their place of worship. The Dighton Church was accepted as a member of the Kansas Association in 1952. However, they have never properly applied for membership in the Southwestern Conference. The background of some of their members as well as that of their pastor, Mr. Bill Berger, is in the North American Baptist General Conference.

## A BELATED GIFT

(Continued from Page 11)

Whether wrongly or rightly, I did not know, but I answered, "Don't let anything stand in the way of your making this decision tonight. Don't even worry about telling your father. First, accept Jesus and we shall pray that God will make your father's heart tender and when your faith is somewhat stronger you can tell him."

He prayed the prayer of a soul genuinely seeking forgiveness and eternal life. I asked him to tell the few who were still at the church of his decision and everyone rejoiced that the Shepherd had found his sheep that had been lost. I am sure that Takashi San found joy that night and I know the bells of heaven were set ringing, but the greatest joy, it seemed to me, was in my heart.

It arrived a little late for Christmas, this gift without wrappings, but that didn't matter; a missionary gets used to that.

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

## HERALD NEWS



## CHRISTMAS TIME

ONCE AGAIN it is Christmas time. The air is full of Christmas carols. Sweet music and songs keep reminding us: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

Without that simple truth — "on earth peace"—Christmas has no real meaning. The outward adornments, beautiful as they may be, tinsel and bells, singing and shopping, gifts and tree decorations and programs can all end up in mere formality. Christ in Christmas is the important matter. Room for Jesus in the heart and daily living is what gives "peace on earth and good will to men."

Those of us who have a share in the program to make Christmas meaningful must guard against formality or the emphasis of commercialization. The Spirit of Christ, good will, an attitude of peace to all men, love with the gift should be the atmosphere of Christmas.

Bishop Ralph Cushman expressed the true spirit of Christmas in his lovely poem, "My Christmas Prayer," when he wrote:

"Let not our hearts be busy inns  
That have no room for thee,  
But cradles for the living Christ  
And his nativity.

Here are the rich and busy ones,  
With things that must be sold;  
No room for helpless hands within  
This hostelry of gold.

Oh, lest we starve, and lest we die  
In our stupidity,  
Come, Holy Child, within and share  
Our hospitality.

Let not our hearts be busy inns  
That have no room for thee,  
But cradles for the living Christ  
And his nativity."

We often hear it said, "Christmas is for children. They must have a Christmas tree in the home under which are gifts for exchange or from Santa to make them happy." The only conception American children will have about Christmas is that which the parents, the church leaders and teachers, and the school and community leaders will convey or impress upon receptive little minds.

Decorations and gifts help create an atmosphere which can prepare the mind and heart to experience the real spirit of Christmas. It behooves Christian workers and leaders, in all phases of our church work and especially in the Sunday Schools and youth groups, to make plain to every child the genuine message of the birth of Christ. The significance of that birth is the message of God's love to us and the coming of "Peace on earth, good will to men."

God had real joy in his Gift to the world when he gave Jesus as Savior of the world (John 3:16). Genuine Christmas joy can be ours if we can share with others, in service and testimony, the spirit of love, peace and good will he brought into the world. The Christian world today calls his name Jesus, but his name was also Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

We can hardly close the year 1954 without saying to all our faithful Christian workers and readers of this column a very "Merry Christmas." By "merry" we mean a Christmas filled with peace, joy and spiritual contentment which only Christ can give to all who have served him so faithfully. The year 1954 was a year of great achievements for our Conference Union, as well as for all branches of our General Conference. Let us be grateful to God for work done in his Name. May we resolve to continue to do even greater things for him and his Church.

## 1955 ANNUAL

Important articles by Rev. J. C. Gunst, Rev. Lawrence Bienert and Miss Ruth Bathauer about their work in the CBY and SS Union appear with illustrations in the 1955 ANNUAL.

Price—Only \$1.00

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# The Search for Christmas

## A Christmas Story

By

REV. JOHN F. CROUTHAMEL, JR.,  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Somerville, New Jersey, Formerly Pastor, Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

PERHAPS IT WAS THE vile Jersey mist. Perhaps I was just tired. Perhaps I was looking for trouble. But the fact is, I was in an ugly mood!

I had gone out to see Main Street in its Christmas livery. But more than garlands of laurel, sprigs of holly, rosy candles, rotund Santas, angels with golden haloes, I wanted to see the folks of Main Street against their Christmas setting.

I was looking for new hope in people's eyes, for new smiles on their lips, for a new spring of confidence in their gait. I was looking for the Star of Bethlehem: that mystic light of faith that rises at Christmas and draws both men of hope and men of wistful longing Godward. I was looking for that "Star of wonder, star of light, star with heavenly beauty bright."

But I could not find it. There was no star on Main Street. Instead there was an irritating array of cute tricks calculated to make fine killings for merchants. There were fat Santas, miles of tinsel, yards of ribbon, both real and phony holly, garish globs of tasteless color recklessly splashed about in the name of the Christmas spirit. I found price tags, promotional blurbs, alluring slogans, infinite possibilities for infinite bills. But I did not find the Star of Bethlehem. There was no expectancy of a holy miracle on Main Street.

So I plodded homeward with satire boiling in my veins. In a fit of self-righteous pique I collapsed into the study chair. Bah! What a farce to prepare Christmas sermons against such odds. How could my poor words compete with the glitter of Main Street?

Once more I would mount the pulpit and tell of angels, and Wise Men,

shepherds and kings, the Virgin and a Holy Babe; of God speaking a redeeming Word that the simplest soul could understand. But in the pew they would be thinking of sugar plums, presents, parties and bills! They could not hear me if they wanted to, for the siren song of Main Street would be stronger than my poor call to faith.

It was in this state of unholy frustration that I took my pen to compose the annual Christmas sermon, fearing all the while that at Christmas the world was simply too much with men; and that was the end of it! There was no Star!

But a better instinct bent my head in prayer before the pen began to scratch. And as I prayed, as I begged God to break through upon my sullen spirit with his truth and love, I heard a tinkling of camel bells, and felt a presence, real yet unreal, in my room.

### CASPAR SPEAKS

And as I looked up, a far corner glowed with a gentle light, and from the center of a soft shaft of iridescence stepped the figure of a man clothed in the white Kandys of ancient Persia. In his hands was a simple chalice, perhaps cast in the dawn of recorded history by the bronze workers of Azer Bai, far in the grassy valleys of the

province of Luristan. And in the cup of the chalice I saw the light of gold!

Before he spoke a word, I knew him. He was one of the Magi who had travelled from the East to visit the Christ-child. And because I too had sought the Star, but failed, he had slipped through the walls of time to guide my blundering quest.

He spoke. "I am Caspar, once a priest of Zoroaster, but now a servant of the most High God. I left the hills, the steppes and deserts of Samarkand, and came to Jerusalem because a strange star had arisen in the Zodiac of the Fish.

"I had always wandered far from the beaten tracks of men. From youth I had been dissatisfied with the legends of my people. My homage to the gods of my faith was but lip service, for there burned in my brain the conviction that once all Persians worshipped one God; a time now lost to memory, but indicated by every tendency of our ritual.

"One day there came to the town of Samarkand a Jew, wandering through the earth. This Isaac of Damascus told me of the God whose name is Jehovah, the God who desires of men the sacrifices of a broken and a contrite heart.

December 16, 1954

"But," said I, "How can I know this God? For too long I have worshipped phantoms and ideas. I need a God I can see and touch. I need a God who is touched by my weaknesses and understands my brittle clay."

"Then Isaac told me of a promised Messiah who would be called 'God-With-Us.' He spoke of a day when Jehovah was to step out of his heaven and walk as a man with the sons of men.

"He shared with me the treasures of the Hebrew prophets. I learned by heart the promises of Isaiah and Micah. And so it was that, when one day a wondrous light appeared in the Jewish Zodiac, I resolved to leave my home and my altar, and to journey to the land of the Jew, to see if perchance Messiah had been born.

"I struck south through Seleucia, followed the Euphrates through Mesopotamia, pushed west through Syria to Damascus, and came at last to Jerusalem. I wrestled with the Shamal, the dust-laden wind from the north that chokes and strangles. I battled the southwest monsoon, was drenched by many a rain, blistered by hellish suns, but still I followed, followed after the Star.

"At last I came to Bethlehem, and threw my tired old body before the holiest revelation of God that any man could see—a baby, sweet and innocent, lying in a manger. Before him I poured the gold in my chalice, and to him I gave my life, for a man can do no less when at last he finds the God who loves enough to wear human flesh!"

He paused. His eyes that had been misty with recollection became brassy and burned with the fire of faith.

"Hear, O callow youth! You who so easily abandoned the search of the Star! You cannot find it in your own strength. You must have the guidance of God. It was God who gave me the sign in the East, who led me to Jerusalem, who spoke to me from the Scripture, who directed me to Bethlehem, who brought me home again in safety.

"Where hearts are eager to find the King, there will always be provided signs which lead at last to his presence chamber. God's method may be full of mystery, but his results are sure."

His last words had scarcely rumbled into my mind when, as gently as he had come, Caspar of Samarkand melted into the study wall and was gone.

Again I prayed. How wrong I had been! I had gone forth cocky and confident that I knew enough about Christmas to discover the Star for myself, only to fail. I thought that all of Christmas had to fit in my little mold! I needed God's guidance. I needed greater faith to believe that where men are eager to discover the truth concerning Christ, God will grant them providences in his way that will at last produce the joy of discovery.

### THE SECOND WISE MAN

But as I prayed I felt another presence. Again there was the eery tinkle of camel bells and lo! in the other corner stood the second Wise Man.

In his hands was a magnificent situla, and from it there poured the pungent odor of myrrh.

"I am Melchior of Aparnea. I lived by the Caspian gates, the son of a royal house, and a fanatical devotee of the hardest cult of Zoroaster. Word came to my father's house that a renegade priest, Caspar of Samarkand, had accepted a wild bit of Jewish dogma and was preaching that there was only one true God who would one day become a man.

"I swore to silence this Caspar's tongue with my own knife. Under an oath I left the great oak forests where the tiger has his lair and the red and fallow deer run, and made haste to Samarkand. But there I found that Caspar had gone west to Jerusalem in search of a new Jewish king.

"To avenge his insult on our noble religion, I hounded him to the very court of Herod where indeed I found him one night enquiring of this petty monarch where the Christ was to be born.

"I laughed with glee! Caspar was as good as dead! In fact I ordered a servant to purchase some myrrh in the bazaar so that we might embalm the Magi's corpse and make justice poetic, indeed.

"But as I listened within the shadows of the colonnades, I heard things that quenched my fiendish fury. This Herod was an abject wreck of human frailty. An old man, without love or loyalty, he was trapped by fears born of past sins. And he trembled for his throne when he heard the story of Caspar.

"Suddenly I saw myself, thirty years hence, in Herod. My hand fell from my scimitar as God closed in upon my conscience. I saw myself mirrored in the bloated eyes of Herod the Great. In this cringing, calculating, crafty monarch I perceived the end product of an evil conscience, full of fears and shrinking even from the news of a baby's birth.

"The sin of Herod had made a day of light for him a day of darkness and sent him cowering into a corner of destruction to escape the searching eyes of God.

"In a flash I saw the sin of pride; the impossibility of gaining security by force. With a shudder I abandoned my plan for murder and joined Caspar as he journeyed to Bethlehem to find the child that Herod feared.

"And when I found him my sin fell from me. I felt as though I had swallowed sunshine! For the first time in years I felt clean and pure. And the myrrh, which I bought to embalm the corpse of Caspar, I left as a gift for the infant King."

And then he too was gone. But his message was evident. Men may come to Christ for many reasons. Melchior went to Jerusalem bent on murder, but contact with Christ, the purity of God's love, so transformed him that he returned home as Caspar's friend. The miracle of love never requires ideal





conditions. It can happen anywhere. Even on a modern tinsely Main Street. Once more I prayed. But this time there were no camel bells. This time there was a tap on my shoulder, and I looked up into the face of the third Wise Man.

#### A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

He was about my own age. A smile of good will rippled about his lips although he had the tired look of one who has tried too much of life too soon. In his hands he held an ancient painted jar, worth a king's ransom. And the sweetness that filled the room told me that it contained frankincense.

"I am Balthasar of Gur. The gods gave me money, intellect, and a ready wit. The one brought me women. The other gave me money. The third kept me out of prison.

"I respected neither God nor man. My whim was my will. Of all human flesh I loved only Caspar of Samarkand who had been my boyhood tutor.

"But in time women became dull sport and sensual pleasures jaded. I turned to books. But neither the philosophy of the Shah-nama, the satire of Firdousi, nor the morals of Sadi brought satisfaction. In desperation I set out to find Caspar in Samarkand, only to learn that he had gone to Jerusalem to find a new-born king.

"I hastened after him and at last found him in the city of Jerusalem, at the court of a little monster named Herod. Then Caspar told me the thrilling story: a baby had been born who was to reveal the true God! All the wisdom of all the ages was to come to fruition and meaning as men were at last to see God expressing himself in flesh and blood. No more would men be left in the loneliness of speculation. God had spoken a human Word that all could understand!

"I was thrilled beyond all telling. But the people of Jerusalem were not excited. No one on the streets knew about this new King. Neither did they want him.

"The apathy of the scholars was the worst of all. And in their carelessness I saw the hollowness of mere knowledge. They were clever at splitting hairs to predict where and how he would be born. But they did not care enough to see if he had been born. Divine things had become commonplace to these men who had read the Scriptures until they had become wearisome. The truth had made them creatures of dull habit instead of free sons of God."

Then he smiled: the smile of a man who has tried all of life and sold everything to possess a pearl of great price.

"I surrendered my foppishness and even laid my frankincense at his cradle that day. But I have come to warn you, and listen well, for I am the last spirit who can help you find the Star.

"Many on Main Street cannot find the Star because they know the outward facts of Christmas so well that they are immuned against the inner reality. Their's is the deadness of familiarity. Help them find the Star, not by ruthless criticism of self-righteous superiority but by making the Christmas Christ sweet and fresh and vital through your own life. Live Christ with the folks of Main Street and then you will find the Star!"

#### THE CHRISTMAS DISCOVERY

And he was gone. But I was kneeling in prayer. I was asking God for forgiveness and more strength and more light. Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar had taught their lessons well. No one can find the Star unless he depends on God to lead him. No one can find the

Star in stuffy traditions, not even the letter of Scripture. Christmas must become life and fact before men can ever believe and adore.

Of course, I had failed. I had paraded down Main Street to carp and berate a "secular" Christmas. But Main Street did not need a sermon. It needed a Star. And how could the Star ever rise unless I took it with me? The trouble was not with money-loving Main Street. The trouble was with me. There was too much self, too much sin, too much familiarity with sacred things.

And the discovery of my own shallowness brought up the star into the heaven of my dark, surly soul. Again I had a light of hope and forgiveness to share with bewildered men. Christ had a new foothold in me, and there was a new hope for Main Street.

I knew how Saul Kane felt when Masfield let him shout in "The Everlasting Mercy":

"O glory of the lighted mind.

How dead I'd been, how dumb, how blind.

The station brook to my new eyes Was babbling out of Paradise, The waters rushing from the rain Were singing Christ is born again."

And he was! For I had rediscovered Christmas. And my Wise Men have a message for you too!

#### CHRISTMAS ON THE RESERVE

(Continued from Page 10)

us to do is to give our hearts to him and follow him. God gave his Son to die for us that we might give ourselves to him and live for him.

Mr. Neuman also told us, and he pointed his finger to the presents and nuts and candy, that those things you see under the tree come from people who are Christians. They give because God brought them a precious gift in Jesus Christ, and through faith in Jesus they have salvation. These Christians in the Baptist churches love us Indians; that is why they gave. We heard nice words from God's Book. My grandpa reads God's Book, too.

I got many things for Christmas and so did my brother and little sister, but I guess I didn't give very much. Maybe I am too small. But I will give my heart to Jesus like my mother and daddy and be a Christian when I get older and then I can give as other Christian people do.

At the end of my story I want to say "thank you" to Jesus for this wonderful Christmas. Jesus makes everything so nice. I say "thank you" to Jesus for my Christian mummy and daddy and ask Jesus to bring my daddy home soon.

"Jesus, thank you for this church and the Bible, for our missionaries and the Christian people who gave us so many good things and help us all the time. God bless all the boys and girls on this Christmas and everybody!"

## We, the Women

News and Views of the National Woman's Missionary Union

By MRS. WALTER W. GROSSER, President

THE WIVES OF General Conference officials have been introduced from time to time. Persons have become associated with names so familiar to those who follow with interest the missionary work carried on by the General Conference. A number of these women have attended conferences and visited North American Baptist churches.

Mrs. Frederick A. Grosser, wife of the General Conference treasurer, is one of those women who is no stranger to the readers of this column. In spite of it, the question has been repeatedly asked, "How are Walter and you related to the Fred Grossers?" The answer is simply, "They are our Uncle and Aunt." It's pleasant too to claim this relationship. Additional questioning reveals Aunt Lillian Grosser's maiden name as Schroeder. Both Lillian's and Irma's fathers were North American Baptist ministers in neighboring churches in Nebraska. Just how confusing can this introduction become?

Uncle Fred and Aunt Lillian have been members of the Forest Park Baptist Church all the 45 years of their happy, married life. For 28 years (1821-1949) Mrs. Grosser was the beloved Sunday School teacher of the Fidelis Class. This entailed more than teaching on Sundays. She carried on an extensive program of visitation and Christian Friendliness so necessary to the life of the church.

In the work of the Woman's Missionary Union Mrs. Grosser served as vice-president (1944-45), and president (1946-47) of the Central Conference.

Mr. and Mrs. Grosser have two children and six grandchildren. Dorothy (Mrs. Hollis W. Barber) has two sons, Hollis W. Jr., and Frederick, of Oak Park, Ill. Dr. Frederick Grosser, their son, has two daughters and two sons. He and his family reside in North Plainfield, New Jersey.

It takes a good mother and grandmother to share the intimate experiences combining so beautifully the themes, "Christian Memories" and "Christ in the Center of Christmas."

#### CHRISTMAS

By Mrs. Frederick A. Grosser

Our Woman's Union president suggested that I write something on either "Christmas Memories" or "Christ in the Center of Christmas." These two themes seem to blend together in my mind.

Being born into a deeply religious home, in fact, in the parsonage, we children were never left in doubt as

to the true meaning of Christmas. That was the day when we observed the birth of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. He was God's greatest Gift to men. It seems to me that I never even heard of Santa Claus until after I started going to school, and then I was amazed at the stories the other children told about him. I asked my mother if there really were such a person. She assured me that there was not. So that was that.

Then one day, with my very own eyes, I saw Santa Claus himself in a sleigh driving right past our own home! I was stunned! My mother's word was infallible for she had never once told us an untruth, but—wasn't seeing believing? I ran to her in my great perplexity.

#### A CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

My husband too, is blessed with a Christian heritage. He was the youngest in a family of seven children who lost their mother when he was so young that he does not even remember her. (Incidentally, our moderator's father was the oldest of these seven.) So well did the father rear these children in the Christian faith that they all grew into strong, stalwart Christians, and all seven became members of our Forest Park Baptist Church where they all held responsible positions in later years.

It was a closely knit family, rather remarkable when you remember that it

was motherless. Even after marriage the old home was the gathering place. Every Christmas Eve all the children and grandchildren congregated at the old homestead to celebrate Christmas and to exchange gifts. What a time of happiness and excitement!

But before the doors were opened to the front room, where the tree resplendent with candles stood surrounded by all the gifts, the head of the family took the smallest grandchild upon his knee and read the Christmas story from the Bible. So in this family, too, Christ was made the center of Christmas.

In our own family our children never saw their tree until Christmas morning, so after coming home late on Christmas Eve and putting the children to bed, my husband and I set up the tree, trimmed it, put out all the presents and filled the stockings hung up by the fireplace, sometimes getting to bed not much before the children woke up, which of course was early! But what a happy time it was!

#### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Until two years ago the Christmas program of the Forest Park Sunday School was always presented on Christmas Day. So after a big Christmas dinner and after the children's short nap, off to church we went. When you stop to think of all the excitement which the children had had up to that point, it is remarkable that the program always went off as well as it did. We mothers sometimes thought that it was almost too much to have all in one day.

On the other hand, perhaps it was a good thing after the children's minds were so filled with all the presents received, that they were realistically reminded of the reason for observing Christmas. It was Jesus' birthday, and we were celebrating it on his day. So here, too, Christ was made the center of Christmas.

Now that our daughter and son have grown up and in turn have become parents themselves, they too, follow our family tradition of a Christmas morning celebration. One year our grandsons, waking earlier than their weary father and mother and impatient to see the wonders downstairs, stood just outside their parents' door and softly but clearly sang, "Silent Night." That quickly had the desired effect and parents and sons were soon descending the stairs together to begin the festive day. We are happy to note that in our children's homes, too, the emphasis is being placed upon the true meaning of Christmas. Carols are sung, the Christmas story is told and read, and God is thanked for the great Gift of his Son.

When we realize how Christmas has become commercialized in late years, should not we as Christians do all that we can to help put Christ back into the center of Christmas!



Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Grosser of River Forest, Ill., and their two grandsons, Hollis W. Jr., and Frederick Barber

#### OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS—NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

##### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ALL PURPOSES

Conferences	Oct., 1954	Oct., 1953	Oct., 1952
Atlantic .....	\$ 2,728.17	\$ 5,283.31	\$ 2,423.60
Central .....	10,389.49	11,386.65	10,192.93
Dakota .....	19,489.54	10,951.81	15,215.43
Eastern .....	2,824.97	2,608.23	2,473.56
Northern .....	9,018.89	8,462.55	4,202.04
Northwestern .....	8,579.69	10,414.81	3,247.08
Pacific .....	19,361.55	8,364.23	7,440.66
Southern .....	1,315.80	1,643.61	1,591.12
Southwestern .....	11,018.41	5,719.91	6,243.95

Total Contributions .....\$84,727.51      \$64,835.41      \$53,030.37

#### CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

	Budget Contributions	Other Purposes	Total Contributions
For the month of October, 1954 .....	\$47,074.31	\$37,653.20	\$84,727.51
For the month of October, 1953 .....	63,200.14	1,635.27	64,835.41
For the month of October, 1952 .....	47,381.94	5,648.43	53,030.37

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

April 1, 1954 to October 31, 1954 .....	\$258,158.17	\$69,330.79	\$327,488.96
April 1, 1953 to October 31, 1953 .....	284,504.35	14,218.49	298,722.84
April 1, 1952 to October 31, 1952 .....	224,197.21	43,840.66	268,037.87

#### CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE TRIENNium

April 1, 1952 to October 31, 1954 .....	\$1,267,938.91	\$180,015.05	\$1,447,953.96
April 1, 1951 to October 31, 1953 .....	1,192,013.93	198,564.95	1,390,578.88
April 1, 1950 to October 31, 1952 .....	1,026,574.61	249,232.06	1,275,806.67





## FROM THE FIELD

## Northern Conference

## CBY Annual Program at the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Morris, Manitoba

On Sunday, Oct. 10, the CBY of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, Manitoba, held its annual program. Our president, Irma Bergstresser, was in charge. The brass band led by the Rev. R. Kanwischer played several selections before the service. Lynda Rempel led in a rousing song service, after which Melvin Bergstresser read the Scripture passage and led in prayer.

Irma Bergstresser welcomed the large audience of members and friends of the church. The offering of \$60 went towards the purchase of a piano for use in our CBY business meetings. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were given by Violet Rapske and Beatrice Edel, respectively. Our CBY choir, directed by Lynda Rempel, sang four numbers during the course of the evening.

The play, "The Lost Church," was presented. This play portrays the typical "man of the world" who is indifferent to the church and its activities. In a dream he is brought face to face with the need of spiritual things in the community, his family and his own life. In the last scene he tells his family of his decision to support the church and they rejoice with him. After the play the officers of our CBY gathered on the platform and Mr. Kanwischer offered a prayer of dedication.

Members of the choir and the cast of the play motored to Whitemouth on Oct. 17 and presented the program there.

Violet Rapske, Reporter.

## Inspirational Sessions of the Saskatchewan Association at the Southey Baptist Church

The annual session of the Saskatchewan Association was held in the Baptist Church of Southey, Sask., from Oct. 25 to 27. The inspirational program had as its theme, "Christ's Plan of Salvation," taken from Matt. 28:16-20. The opening session was in charge of the moderator, Rev. Fred Ohlmann, and the Rev. R. Grabke spoke on the theme, "Reasons for Personal Soul Winning."

The messages of the day sessions were as follows: "The Appointment with Christ," Rev. Walter Hoffman; "The Consecration to Christ," Rev. O. Fritzke; "The Authority of Christ," Rev. W. Ertis; "The Command of

Christ," Interim Missionary W. Kraemer; "The Plan of Christ," Rev. M. De Boer; "The Response of Christ," Rev. Eldon Janzen. We were privileged to have the Rev. C. Rempel of Missoula, Mont., as our guest speaker.

The special music was rendered by the following: solo, Rev. George Breitzkreuz; duet, Rev. and Mrs. Walter Hoffman; trio, Edenwold Baptist Church; duet, Isobell Bresch and Mrs. Eldon Jansen; ministerial quartet, Rev. George Breitzkreuz, Rev. Eldon Janzen, Rev. R. Grabke and Rev. Walter Hoffman; solo, Mrs. Walter Hoffman.

Election of Association officers was as follows: moderator, Rev. F. Ohlmann; vice-moderator, Rev. Walter Hoffman; secretary, Rev. R. Grabke; treasurer, Rubin Ziolkowski; members on the Mission Committee: Rev. E. L. Thiessen, Rev. R. Jaster, Rev. O. Fritzke. Other items of business were reports from the various churches as to their progress during the past Association year. The Association adopted the budget of \$2,500 for the Indian work of our own province. Plans are being made to build a chapel on the Muscowpetung Reservation where a wonderful mission work is being carried on. Other points of business were the adoption of a constitution and the acceptance of the Faith Baptist Church of Regina into the Association.

Walter Hoffman, Reporter.

## Inspiring Song Festival by the Southern Alberta Baptist Churches at Calgary, Alberta

On Sunday, Oct. 17, the Baptist Churches of Southern Alberta, Canada, gathered for their annual Song Festival at the Bridgeland Baptist Church, Calgary, Alta. The church was filled to capacity, and because the weather was so favorable, a loudspeaker was set up outside the church for the convenience of those unable to find seating space inside.

At the morning worship service the message was brought in German by the Rev. Willy R. Muller of Carbon, Alta. The Calgary Choir rendered two fine numbers. At noon a delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the Bridgeland Church, and at 2:00 P.M. we all gathered in the main auditorium for the Song Festival.

The Rev. Ervin J. Faul of the Calgary Church presided as chairman. Following music by the orchestra of the Calgary Church, the song service was led by Mr. Robert Neske of Camrose. It was under his capable leadership that the mass choir rendered its first number, "O Worship the King."

It consisted of the choirs of the churches of Calgary, Olds, Trochu, Carbon and Zion.

Scripture reading and prayer were by Rev. R. Rapske. Many musical numbers were then presented by the Trochu Choir, the Carbon Junior Choir under the leadership of Mrs. Willy R. Muller, the Carbon Senior Choir, the Calgary Choir, and the Calgary male quartet. The Rev. David Berg of Trochu was the afternoon speaker. After the message two selections were rendered by the Olds Choir.

An offering was received amounting to \$293 designated for the Alberta Tri-Union Fund. The Tri Union has pledged \$1000 for Indian Missions in Northern Alberta and \$500 for mission work in Japan.

After the offering the Zion Choir rendered two selections, and also a special number by a male duet from the Zion Church. The final number was by the mass choir entitled, "King All Glorious."

We understand the Song Festival is to be held in Trochu next year.

David Gieck, Reporter.

## Northwestern Conference

## Annual Family Night Held by the Missionary Circle at Jeffers, Minnesota

The Jeffers Baptist Missionary Circle entertained the church on October 8 at our annual "Family Night." Mrs. Elton Bleeker read the Scripture passage from Romans 10. Mrs. Mervin Carlblom gave a report about the work of the Missionary Circle. Mrs. Albert De Vries followed the report with prayer.

Our president, Mrs. Ted De Vries, introduced our guest speaker, Rev. S. De Witt, who is a representative of the Christian Servicemen's Centers in Rantoul, Illinois, and San Antonio, Texas. He and Mrs. De Witt favored us with a number of musical selections on the cornet, accordion and vibraharp. Mr. De Witt told us about the servicemen's centers, about the people who work there, and experiences with the servicemen. He played a recording of some of the testimonies of the servicemen who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior at the Center. He also showed us slides of the Center.

Mrs. William Junker and Mrs. Fred Crumlett served as ushers. The offering was given to the Servicemen's Centers. Afterwards we enjoyed a time of fellowship in the dining room. The Food Serving Committee had decorated the room with fall flowers, fruits and vegetables. We certainly enjoyed having the musical De Witts with us.

On November 3 the Missionary Circle held its annual election of officers with the following results: president, Mrs. Carrol Barklow; vice-president, Mrs. Elton Bleeker; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Louis Lohmeyer; assistant secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Mervin Carlblom. Our prayer is that we shall be backed up with prayer as we serve our Lord and Savior.

Mrs. Mervin Carlblom, Reporter.

## Sunday School Victory Party at the First Baptist Church, Elgin, Iowa

A Sunday School Victory Party was held on Thursday, Nov. 4, at the First Baptist church, Elgin, Iowa, celebrating the completion of the October rally contest.

The planned goal of 160 average attendance was exceeded, the five Sunday average being 167. A rally day program on Oct. 7 was the opening feature and special numbers were given during the closing exercises each succeeding Sunday. Classes from the Primary Department through the "Christ-teens" competed for perfect attendance prizes and 71 received awards.

A committee, consisting of Mrs. Leon Jacob, chairman; Mrs. George Durscher, Mrs. Milton Miller, Mr. Ross James, and Mr. Kenton Krueger, was in charge of contest preparations and planned the social evening as a climax of the month's activities.

Mrs. Fred Schaer, Reporter.

## Outstanding Programs and Erection of Roadside Church Signs at Sumner, Iowa

The First Baptist Church of Sumner, Iowa, sponsored the showing of two Billy Graham films: "Oiltown, U.S.A." and "Mr. Texas." A successful revival campaign was held in September with Rev. W. G. Gerthe of Buffalo Center, Iowa, as evangelist. Recent highlights were the ordination of Willis Potratz into the ministry, and the addition of 10 members—7 upon their confession of faith and baptism and 3 by church letter. The purchase of a parsonage across the street from the church makes life much more cheerful for our minister and family, and the erection of four roadside church signs, (which were made by the Rev. F. W. Mashner) on the four arterial roads leading into Sumner tell of some of the progress made.

Our membership has increased from a beginning of 27 members to 70, and we count this a blessing from God in a community with six other churches. May we ever give him all glory and praise for his blessings and progress.

Mrs. W. O. Potratz, Reporter.

## Southern Conference

## Central Church, Waco, Texas, Helps Mr. F. A. Schweisinger Celebrate His 90th Birthday

On October 27th after the Wednesday evening prayer and praise service, members of the Central Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, enjoyed a fellowship hour when they helped to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mr. Frederick August Schweisinger. He is not only the oldest member of the church but also the last surviving member of the group which organized the church.

Mr. Schweisinger has always loved children and young people, and in his younger years he spent much of his time with the boys and young men of the church, not only as their spiritual



Rev. F. W. Mashner of Sumner, Iowa, in front of one of the four roadside church signs which he made for the Baptist Church of which he is the pastor

advisor but also as a pal who entered into their sports, such as baseball and swimming. Therefore, it was a joy for him to share his birthday celebration with one of the children of our church, Victoria Johnson, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Louis R. Johnson, who was observing her third birthday. YOUTH, with a forward look and AGE in retrospect spanned the years and met on common ground when we sang their birthday song.

Mr. and Mrs. Schweisinger invited the church family, neighbors and friends to call at their home on Sunday afternoon when their own children, grandchildren and great grandchildren could be with them.

Mr. Schweisinger was born in East Prussia on October 28, 1864. At the age of 24 he emigrated to the United States, coming directly to Waco where he has since made his home. He was actively engaged in the tailoring business until he was 80, which is in itself remarkable, but even then he did not retire to a life of inactivity. The time he formerly devoted to his customers

is now devoted to his hobby of raising fine turkeys and fryers and growing vegetables and flowers. His summer is not complete until he has had his visit with his daughter, Miss Lucille Schweisinger of Kansas City, Mo., and other relatives. This year he returned from a 6,000 mile auto trip to take up his spade and prepare the soil for his fall garden.

Besides the daughter above mentioned, there is another daughter, Mrs. Clara Graves of Liberty, Mo., and a son, Fred of Waco. The accompanying photograph shows Mr. Schweisinger as he is today. We join Mr. Schweisinger in his wish to celebrate his 100th birthday, the Lord willing, and we trust the years yet granted to him will be filled with the sunshine of God's love and marvelous grace.

Mrs. Ernest Steindam, Reporter.

## Pacific Conference

## Impressive Recent Events for the Baptist Church of Odessa, Wash.

On Sunday evening, September 12th, the Rev. O. H. Meth, pastor of the Odessa Baptist Church, Odessa, Wash., baptized two converts on confession of their faith in Christ. This was followed by a communion service at which time they received the hand of fellowship into the church. It was a very impressive service for all who attended.

On September 22nd the Rev. W. W. Knauf of Elk Grove, Calif., spoke to us on behalf of the Church Extension Program of our denomination. The sum of \$611.40 was given to this cause.

It was our privilege to have as our guest speaker, the Rev. J. C. Gunst of Forest Park, Ill., at our Harvest and Mission Festival which was observed on Sunday morning and evening, October 3rd. The mission offering taken amounted to \$1,270.51.

Mr. Gunst also conducted a series of very interesting lectures and showed film strips on the following two nights on Christian leadership and different phases of the Sunday School work which was very helpful to all who attended.

Mrs. James Goetz, Reporter.



Mr. F. A. Schweisinger of Waco, Texas, the only living charter member of the Central Baptist Church of Waco, who celebrated his 90th birthday on October 27th





Some of the special guests at the 60th anniversary of the Baptist Church, Startup, Washington. Left to right: Rev. E. Bibelheimer and Rev. A. Foll, visiting pastors; Mrs. G. A. Schirman, charter member; Rev. C. E. Schoenleber, former pastor; Rev. R. G. Kaiser, present pastor; Rev. J. C. Gunst, guest speaker

### Sessions of the Pacific Northwest Association at the Baptist Church, Colfax, Washington

The Pacific Northwest Association met with the First Baptist Church in Colfax, Washington, from Oct. 20-24, with all seven churches represented.

The topic for our consideration was "Prayer in the Bible." The various speakers were assigned the following sub-topics: The prayer life of Christ; Prayer's open windows, Daniel; The intercessor's prayer, Moses; Prevailing prayer, Jacob; The sin of prayerlessness, Samuel; The prayer of the early church; The backslider's prayer, Jonah; Persistent prayer, Abraham; The prayer life of Paul; The penitent's prayer, David; and Prayer in a crisis, Elijah. These messages proved inspirational to all. Dr. M. L. Leuschner of Forest Park, Ill., was the guest speaker and he thrilled the audiences with his messages.

On Friday afternoon the Woman's Missionary Society had its business meeting and in the evening its program.

The young people held their business meeting and banquet on Saturday evening. On Sunday afternoon the program was given. The speaker for this occasion was the Rev. Gordon John-

son of Spokane, Washington. It was decided to raise \$1000 for our Spanish Mission field in Colorado. Dr. Leuschner showed us pictures of this field on Saturday evening. It was also decided to raise \$200 for our camp.

A gift was presented Dr. Leuschner for his very fine services of 20 years (the beginning of January 1955) as editor of the "Baptist Herald" and denominational worker. This gift was presented by Mr. Henry Schmunk. The Association came to a fitting close on Sunday evening. All felt that God had been very near to us.

John Broeder, Reporter.

### Sixtieth Anniversary Is Observed by the Baptist Church of Startup, Wash.

Sunday, Oct. 17, was a day of rejoicing for the members and friends of the Startup Baptist Church, Startup, Wash., as they observed the 60th anniversary of the church. Yes, there were flowers and other decorations but the center of attraction seemed to be the beautiful birthday cake on the communion table before the pulpit. It represented the "Open Book" with the figure "60" on it and the words, "God Is Love" and "Preach Thy Word," in pretty frostings.

The Sunday School under the able leadership of its superintendent, Jacob Keck, opened the day's program. Guest speakers were a former pastor, Rev. C. E. Schoenleber, Rev. E. Bibelheimer and Rev. R. Luchs. Mrs. G. A. Schirman, only remaining charter member, was appropriately honored and presented with a pretty corsage.

The Rev. R. Kaiser, pastor, presided at the morning service. In a brief memorial service the pastor spoke fitting words in memory of those members who had gone to be with the Lord. The Rev. J. C. Gunst was the honored guest speaker, ably representing our denomination. He brought a stirring message based on Leviticus 26:11-12.

Rev. R. M. Klingbeil and Rev. R. H. Zepik, former pastors who could not be present in person, were well represented by letters. Even a Sunday School Workers' Conference was sandwiched into the afternoon festivities conducted by Mr. Gunst.

The evening service was a fitting climax for the day. A brief history of the Startup Church, read by Mrs. Ed. Rappuhn, revealed some interesting facts. Organized Nov. 7, 1894, this was the First German Baptist Church in the state of Washington. Six members (three married couples) composed its membership at the time. Gottlieb Schirman, father of the only present living charter member, started the Startup Church and served as lay preacher (without pay, as it seems) for 9 years.

Rev. A. Guenther became the first salaried pastor (1903-1906) at \$250 a year plus traveling expenses. He also served a station in Everett, some 30 miles away. Seven other pastors followed with the Rev. R. G. Kaiser serving at present. Like many other churches in small communities, the Startup Baptist Church has never been strong in numbers, but it has often strengthened other churches with able workers, particularly along the Pacific Coast. Two of these are the Rev. Fred W. Bartel, well known throughout our denomination, and Leander Keck, who is preparing for the Christian teaching ministry.

The closing message by our honored guest speaker, Rev. J. C. Gunst, was a call to "Christian Watchfulness."

E. Bibelheimer, Reporter.

### Building Fund, Birthday Party and Mission Festival at Bethel Church, Missoula, Mont.

A building fund has been started by the Bethel Baptist Church of Missoula, Montana. We plan to build a larger church for our growing church population. The plan was initiated in April and has been growing steadily. We take a special offering for this purpose once each month.

We had an annual Birthday Party which was sponsored by the Sunday School. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, and a very good program. Our tables were very beautifully decorated to represent the twelve months of the year. The people at each table gave a song, reading or poem as part of the program. The offering was taken by each person contributing a penny for each year of his age.

Our Harvest Mission Festival was very successful. We had a lovely display of fruit and vegetables flowing from a large horn of plenty, a symbol of God's love and care for those who love him. The choir sang special numbers and Rev. C. T. Remple gave us an inspiring message on "Jesus and the Poor Widow." Our mission offering was more than \$1,000.

Thirty-one of our members attended the Pacific Northwest Conference at Colfax, Washington, with our pastor delivering two sermons. Mr. Remple then went to Southey, Saskatchewan, Canada to conduct revival meetings.

Geraldine Noland, Reporter.

### Harvest Program and Rally Day at First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, Calif.

On Sunday evening, Sept. 26, a Harvest and Mission Program was rendered by the Junior Department of our Sunday School in the Baptist Church of Elk Grove, Calif., with Naomi Neher, our Junior Department superintendent, in charge. Edwin Schuh, superintendent of our Senior Department, read Scripture and welcomed all those present. Our hearts were blessed as we listened to the recitations and musical numbers by the children.

Since this was also Promotion Sunday, one of the special features of the evening was the presentation of promotion certificates to those being promoted to another class. In the absence of our pastor, the Rev. W. W. Knauf, Mrs. Knauf brought a fine sermonette on "The Harvest of Souls." The offering taken was designated for our own missionary, Miss Esther Schultz.

On Sunday, Oct. 3, our Sunday School observed Rally Day. The attendance reached a high of 245, which thrilled the hearts of all those present. The Men's Brotherhood of our church sponsored a musical program recently by "The Musical Betts."

Our church was privileged to have the Rev. B. Jacksteit of Anaheim, Calif., at our church one night in behalf of the Church Extension Program. Our pastor, Rev. W. W. Knauf, carried out Church Extension work in Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Lillian Graf, Reporter.

### Southwestern Conference

### Union Evangelistic Meetings in Bessie, Okla., with 121 Decisions and Thrilling Results

The little town of Bessie, Oklahoma, was a place of attraction for four full weeks from Aug. 22 to Sept. 19, when people all over the community and surrounding area gathered to hear the Word of God presented to them in all simplicity and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Bessie only has a population of about 150 people, but the surrounding area and its centrality with good roads leading to it made it an ideal place to set up a three-poled tent and hold meetings in the interest of saving souls.

There were six churches included in these union efforts. Two of our own churches, First Baptist Church of Bessie, Rev. J. Ehman, pastor; and Calvary Church of Corn, Rev. J. K. Warkentin, pastor. Corn is eleven miles to the east of Bessie. Then there were two Mennonite Brethren churches and two

The pastors of these churches and others gathered during the day for special prayer sessions which sometimes lasted all morning. Prayer chains were formed for 24 hours of continued prayer, and every evening before the services people who came early gathered for prayer. These meetings were a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. There was nothing sensational or outstanding that attracted the crowds, but the simple messages on salvation and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Truly we must say "God can do what no other power can do."

We trust that this report will encourage others to join forces with the brethren of other denominational groups who are willing to unite under the banner of the Cross and who are interested to see what God can do in their community. The Lord blesses where Christians are united. It was said of the Bessie meetings, "How wonderful! You can't even notice who belongs to which group the way everyone works together." One is reminded of what was said of the early Christians, "Behold, how they love each other."

Jacob Ehman, Campaign Chairman.



Great crowds attended the union evangelistic meetings at Bessie, Okla., held in a large tent. They ranged from 600 to 1300 every evening with the Sunday evening attendance averaging 1200. The Rev. Jacob Ehman of the Baptist Church served as chairman of the Campaign Committee.

of the General Conference Mennonite churches.

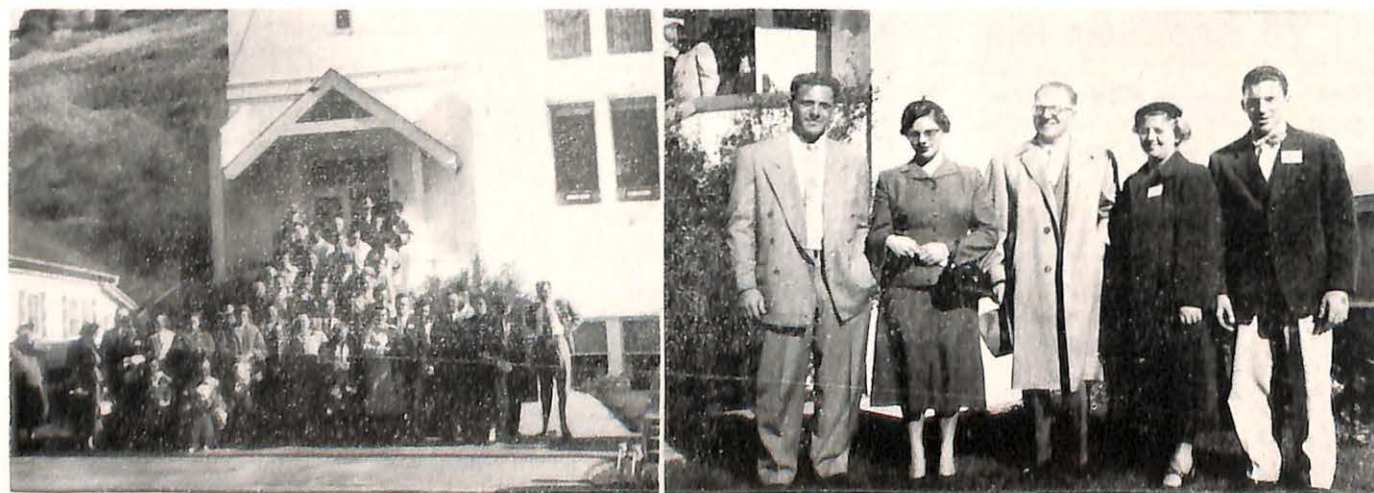
Dr. Clifford Lewis of Loveland, Colo., was the evangelist, bringing messages that reached the hearts of the people. Rev. Lyell Smith, "Youth for Christ" director of Oklahoma City, was our music and song director, doing a very good job with the choir and solo work, which added to the interest of the services. During the meetings 121 decisions were made which were recorded. Some came to dedicate their lives to the service of the Lord, some came back from their backsliding ways, and 76 were conversions. On the closing night there were about 150 who came forward for full time service for the Lord, awaiting his direction.

We feel that we have seen a revival in our community. Every church has gained more than can be expressed in words. Prayer meetings have taken on new life, lives were changed, the churches increased, and we have felt a new spiritual awakening in our hearts as we have seen the power of the Holy Spirit working in our midst.

### Sessions of the Nebraska-Colorado Baptist Association at the Creston Baptist Church

The Nebraska-Colorado Association consisting of the Creston, Shell Creek and Beatrice Churches of Nebraska and the La Salle Church of Colorado held their annual association at the Creston Church from the evening of Sept. 30 through Oct. 3. We were very pleased to have Dr. John Leyboldt and Dr. George A. Lang as our guest speakers.

The opening message, "The Indwelling Christ," brought to us by Dr. Leyboldt presented to us the association theme, "Sanctification." The other messages of Dr. Leyboldt on "The Holy God," "The Human Side of Sanctification," "The Divine Side of Sanctification," "Living Saints" and "The Ideal Church" and Dr. Lang's messages, "What We Have In Christ," "Youth's Foundation in Christ" and "Hearts Aflame" made the purpose



Some of the people at the Pacific Northwest Conference at Colfax, Washington (left), following the Sunday morning service; and (right) Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmunk of Tacoma, Wash., and their family, Charles, Jo Ann, James, who were at the conference. Mr. Henry Schmunk is well known as the official announcer at recent General Conferences



J. J. LIPPERT, Correspondent





Some of the leprosy patients at the New Hope Settlement (left) gather for picture just after a church service held in the hospital building, and (right) Rev. and Mrs. Gilbert Schneider and their family, missionaries at the Settlement, in their latest picture taken in September 1954

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