

Baptist Herald

● ● ● NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE



July
14
1955

Cameroon's Missionaries at the General Conference Exhibit

**Stir Us Anew!
We, Too, Were There!
Our Greatest General Conference**

General Conference Cameos

By DR. MARTIN L. LEUSCHNER, Editor

● Let's begin this issue by looking at some of the General Conference cameos—gems of news and data that shine with bright luster following the memorable sessions held in Waco, Texas, from June 6 to 12, 1955. This ought to be a thrilling introduction to the pages of the "Baptist Herald" that follow!

● The paid registration at the 31st General Conference reached a high of 1160. This virtually ties the Waco Conference with the second highest registration total of any General Conference in our history. In 1946 at Tacoma, Washington, the registrations totaled 1164. The record for highest registrations was in 1949 at Sioux Falls, S. Dak., with a total of 1575.

● There were more than 700 General Conference visitors and delegates housed in the dormitories on Baylor University campus. The University cafeteria was used by so many visitors that the hours for meals in the large, air-conditioned dining hall with all of our people seated around the tables reminded one of old-time sessions with their grand fellowship.

● On Sunday morning and evening, June 12, thirty-one North American Baptist ministers spoke in pulpits of Waco's Southern Baptist Churches, including four Negro churches. The church page of the "Waco Times-Herald" on Saturday looked like a North American Baptist ministers' roster. The response of the Southern

Baptist Churches was thrilling as reports were received of conversions and church additions after the messages by our pastors.

● This was the greatest General Conference ever held for newspaper coverage and city-wide publicity. The "Waco Times-Herald," "Waco News-Tribune" and the Sunday paper, "Waco Tribune-Herald," featured news articles about the Conference in every issue with a total of 461 inches of space which is the equivalent of almost three full pages of newspaper space. Seven General Conference pictures were also published with two of them appearing on the front pages of the newspapers.

● A total of 88 children were taken care of during the General Conference sessions, making this the first Family Conference with such adequate provision for "the little ones." In the nursery at the Seventh and James Church there were 22 infants and little children. Twelve children from four to seven years of age were entertained at the Home Economics Building. A total of 54 children from seven to twelve years enjoyed the recreational program arranged for them at the Central Baptist Church of Waco with a bus transportation.

● For the first time in General Conference history, pictures of our sessions and leaders were presented as spot news on Waco's television station KWTX-TV (Channel 10) and on four consecutive days various Gen-



The "Welcome Wagon" in the vestibule of Waco Hall with two belles of Waco, Texas, welcoming all visitors to the 31st General Conference.

eral Conference groups appeared on the television program, "Better Living" (KWTX-TV), with Miss Brooke Loring interviewing the guests. Various musical groups, including the Gospelaire of the Seminary and the Choristers of the Christian Training Institute, provided the music for these television programs.

● Dr. H. Theodore Sorg has served the North American Baptist General Conference for 43 years as its legal counsel. His appointment by the General Council was confirmed by an overwhelming majority by the Conference. Both Rev. W. S. Argow of Erie, Pa., and Rev. Julius Kaaz of Philadelphia, Pa., have attended every General Conference since 1901 which was held in Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario. This was the 18th consecutive Conference at which each of these veterans of the faith was able to be present.

● By overwhelming vote the General Conference voted to accept the recommendation of the Time and Place Committee to hold its 1958 General Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 2600 miles from Waco, Texas. This is the home of our Christian Training Institute and of four North American Baptist Churches. It is also close to the majestic Jasper National Park, colorful Banff and enchanting Lake Louise, and the towering Canadian Rockies. If auditorium and hotel facilities (which are now being built) in Edmonton should prove to be inadequate, then the General Council is authorized to change the General Conference sessions to Minneapolis, Minnesota, using the facilities of the First Baptist Church of that city, with our churches in the Twin Cities serving as hosts.



The registration desk in Waco Hall on Monday afternoon, June 6, with some of the 1160 registered visitors to the 31st General Conference receiving their Conference packets.

Editorial

The Spirit Guided Conference

THE 31st GENERAL CONFERENCE at Waco, Texas, was bathed in the glory of God. No Conference theme in several decades was such a guiding star throughout the sessions as at Waco where we listened constantly to "What the Spirit Saith to the Churches." God answered prayers for good weather, for the right decisions, for harmonious action, especially when everything seemed to be going in the opposite direction. This was a Spirit-guided conference, firmly in the controlling grip of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Messages are inspiring, not because they have had profound and prodigious preparation, but because they are spoken at the right moment of need to an attentive audience that is attuned to the Holy Spirit. Then God's blessings can be showered through heaven's open windows upon receptive hearts.

That was the secret of the inspirational program of the Waco Conference with every message in word and song lifting the great audiences to the holy altar of God. The program, headed by the committee's chairman, Rev. Paul F. Zoschke, was studded with great messages, wonderful musical selections, colorful missionary presentations and profound Scriptural expositions. The voice of the Holy Spirit was clearly discernible at Waco, and those who heard went away greatly blessed!

Critical decisions had to be made at the Waco Conference. Important new positions had to be filled. Further missionary advance was contemplated. A projected reorganization of our denomination required prayerful consideration. In all of these crucial matters (as we now look back upon the days in Waco), we were led to take action and to make decisions only as "it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." Because of this moving of the Spirit upon the Conference, eight new missionaries were commissioned and another (Miss Margaret Kittlitz) re-appointed; the new denominational positions were filled with capable, consecrated men; and a commission was appointed for a study of the denomination's objectives and organization. In every step of advance, there was an unmistakable harmony of purposes and action that can only be described as having been "Spirit guided."

Christian fellowship is wonderfully heart-warming when it is "like to that above," with ties that are bound by the Holy Spirit in united service for Christ. We had a boundless measure of that kind of fellowship in Waco, Texas. The local Committee on Arrangements of the Central Baptist Church with its pastor, Rev. L. R. Johnson, blazed the trail for this fellowship with its splendid, selfless preparations. The Southland with its deeply spiritual atmosphere provided the setting for this fellowship. The facilities of Baylor Campus, the greatest Baptist University in the world, and the warm welcome of its genial president, Dr. W. R. White, and of those associated with him on the faculty as well as the use of the new auditorium of the Seventh and James Baptist Church at the invitation of its pastor, Dr. Charles Wellborn, kept our Conference together and knitted us into one grand family for the week. Our people were filled with the Spirit as they entered into the week's activities until the joys of Christian fellowship overflowed from hearts everywhere.

This was a General Conference long to be remembered, as we give all glory to the marvelous guidance of the Holy Spirit during those memorable, sacred days!

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Keynote Address

Stir Us Anew!



By MR. WALTER W. GROSSER

of Oak Park, Illinois,

Moderator of the General Conference from
1952 to 1958



Mr. Walter W. Grosser of Oak Park, Ill., delivering his address as General Conference moderator on "Stir Us Anew!"

THE INSPIRATION to use the designation, "Stir Us Anew," came from a prayer written by Ralph Spaulding Cushman. It was printed in the program of the 30th General Conference of North American Baptists. The words are:

"Set us afire, Lord,
Stir us, we pray.
While the world perishes,
We go our way,
Purposeless, passionless,
Day after day.
Set us afire, Lord,
Stir us, we pray."

According to Baptist distinctives, this gathering in Waco is comprised of many local churches, each performing its calling as it believes God directs, and responsible only to him and to its members.

The General Conference of North American Baptists is a voluntary union of such local churches. We have certain common purposes and needs, more readily attained through cooperation and joint effort. We are in Waco, Texas, for conference concerning these cooperative objectives. Expectantly we wait upon God (who knows our needs, our weaknesses and our accomplishments) to speak to the churches during this week through his Spirit.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

The general theme of our meeting is "What the Spirit Saith to the Churches." It is solemnly repeated in the book of Revelation, following a message to each of seven churches. The seven churches are historical. They were located in cities of Asia Minor, all connected by a main highway which was one of the crossroads of the

then civilized world. The whole of the Revelation was the message directed to each church. The Spirit, however, had a special word for each church.

We expect during this week that able ministers will share with us what the Spirit has revealed to them concerning the mysteries of the Revelation. It is our desire to use what follows now to create within us an atmosphere of receptiveness.

John was in exile on the Isle of Patmos for his loyalty to God's Word and because of his testimony of Jesus Christ. He had witnessed for his faith through the first two of ten imperial persecutions. He lived into the third. In Nero's persecution in 64 A.D., he saw vast multitudes crucified, thrown to wild beasts, and burned at the stake. It was during the Domitian persecution that he was exiled.

Forty thousand Christians were martyred. This took place about 95 A.D. It was during this first one hundred years of Christianity that the church was accused of **promoting a world revolution**. These men, they said, have set the world upside-down.

The entire message of the Apocalypse describes a great conflict between the forces of God and of Satan. It is significant that, even while we are gathered here, the world is once more torn and bleeding in the midst of world revolution. Communism, an atheistic religious nationalism, is capitalizing upon the present world of unrest. It is a missionary minded religion. Even though the Church of Jesus Christ has promoted and supported foreign missions for over one hundred years, our efforts to evangelize great areas of the world's exploited and underprivileged

people have been weak, by contrast, with the effort being made by Communism.

We have sent the few missionaries who were willing to go. We only sent out as many as we felt able to support, and we were always sure, first of all, to have all of our own material wants provided. We figured that the millions of backward people of Africa and Asia would always be there. Suddenly we learn with dismay that Communism has moved into these areas with enough trained missionaries to be able to convert 100,000,000 of them each year.

TODAY'S GREAT CHALLENGE

We are being told in our churches that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only effectual block to the spread of Communism, and this is true! Is it a layman's lack of faith then that raises the question, "But how?" How, at this late hour, can we make Jesus Christ a live option for Communism? The answer to this question has a vital effect upon our missionary program. Evangelizing the world is one of those great cooperative responsibilities of the church.

It is pertinent, therefore, that we weigh the answer to this question as a North American Baptist Conference. If God has allowed the church to face this crisis, may he not hereby be offering us, as we fight it, a great potential for unity of action? All Christians must face this challenge together. Does the Spirit have an answer in what he says to the churches?

Jesus urged that we observe the "signs of the times." Examining the climate of our times reveals to us our shortcomings, but also our opportuni-

ties; and we can see how our arch enemy, Satan, is taking full advantage of both.

A fine hymn entitled, "O Master of the Waking World," will appear in our new denominational hymnal. The first stanza says:

"O Master of the waking world,
Who hast the nations in thy heart,
The heart that bled and broke to send
God's love to earth's remotest part;
Show us anew in Calvary
The wondrous power that makes men free."

A WAKING, RESTLESS WORLD

Is this not the message of the Spirit to the churches? In the Revelation we are introduced to such a waking, restless, resurgent world. In the midst of this world were those who were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. They lived in an environment of paradoxes. There were those who were rich and needed nothing, and knew not that they were wretched and miserable and poor and obvious. The church was there that had but little remaining strength, as was the lukewarm, complacent and comfortable church. They beheld a struggle unto death.

On the one side was the Lamb that was slain, worthy to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory; and on the other side, the Beast, who demanded that all who dwell upon the earth should worship him. The by-products of this struggle were plagues, tribulation, and terrible judgment. The Lamb ultimately prevailed, and the King of kings triumphed!

The Triumphant King of the Apocalypse is "The Master" of our hymn. He was aware of a waking world. His heart bled and was broken in order to redeem the world from sin and death. "Show us anew in Calvary the wondrous power that makes men free," is what the Spirit is now pleading with the churches to pray. We know the power of the atom, but we need to know the power of the Cross.

AN AWAKENING WORLD

What are some of the evidences to indicate an awakening world?

1. Scientific discoveries have made it impossible for one part of the world to be isolated from any other part. What we do or say today is known tomorrow in the remotest corners of the globe.

2. Underprivileged millions of people, suppressed by selfish colonialism for decades, have witnessed global wars and have learned the power and use of scientific as well as military inventions. They have been taught how to use these instruments of war and industry. They have seen, emerging out of World War II, two powerful nations, each representing a way of life. They see that these two are in mortal conflict.

Both are competing for the loyalty of the people of the world.

3. These millions of revolting people see in this conflict an opportunity to gain for themselves some of the things which we have enjoyed for years. Their loyalty seems to be available to the highest bidder.

4. As a nation, we have engaged in a program of buying friendship with lavish spending, backed up by a boasted military power. We have, to a degree, even resorted to principles taught by Jesus, but without a vital acknowledgment of his power. Because we have been known as a Christian nation, everything we do now determines world opinion of our Christianity.

BATTLE FOR MEN'S SOULS

It is in the midst of this strange, confused battle for the souls of men, that the writer of the hymn so appropriately appeals to the church of the living God:

"The changes that are sure to come I do not fear to see."

The writer remarks that there are only two things wrong. Most of the congregation do not expect any changes will be coming, except perhaps summer changing into fall, but certainly no change in *their way of life*. And they would face with trembling fear any change of life that had done pretty well by them. Here is Mr. M. J. Pierpont Jones who has just finished taking up the offering. No fear of changes? If A T and T dropped 19 points, he would go into a purple apoplexy.

AGGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY NEEDED

Comfortable and complacent self-sufficiency is killing the spirit of aggressive Christianity all over America, and it has not by-passed our fellowship. The Spirit says to the



Missionary-appointees, Rev. George W. Lang (left to right), Mrs. Edwin Kern and Rev. Edwin Kern, look over some Japanese shoes at the Missionary Exhibit of the General Conference in Waco, Texas.

"O Church of God! Awake! Awake!
The waking world is calling thee.
Lift up thine eyes! Hear thou once more
The challenge of humanity."

A few Christians out of a dedicated heart may answer:

"O Christ, we come, our all we bring,
To serve our world and thee, our King."

Many church people will sing hymns of dedication, but seldom is the commitment carried out.

In the March 9, 1955 issue of "The Christian Century," Simeon Stylite describes a company of fine church members, well-fed, well-dressed, well-heeled, and well-propelled in shining 1955 models. They sing:

churches, "I know thy works and I have somewhat against thee." Will we have the spiritual insight, when we behold these social revolutions of our day, to be disturbed and aroused to change our way of life to one of unselfish devotion to the proclamation of the Gospel?

In a Sunday School class, a discussion developed over the practice of the early church—of sharing possessions, having all things in common. Most of the members agreed such an attitude would be unworkable today. The teacher suggested that if an H-Bomb were unexpectedly dropped upon one of our major cities, in a moment—for those who survived—there would be imposed an immediate

(Continued on Page 13)

"WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH TO THE CHURCHES" REV. 2:7



The General Conference choir directed by Mrs. Louis R. Johnson, the beautiful decorations on the platform, and the speakers on the opening night, June 6th, of the General Conference sessions in Waco Hall.

Our Greatest General Conference

The Story of the 31st General Conference of North American Baptists Held at Waco, Texas, from June 6 to 12, 1955 as Reported by DR. M. L. LEUSCHNER, Editor of the "Baptist Herald"

EVEN North American Baptists learned to talk like Texans in trying to describe the wonderful blessings of the 31st General Conference from June 6 to 12 at Waco, Texas. It was undoubtedly one of our greatest conferences! Visitors to Waco were not embarrassed to use "Texanic" words such as "the best ever," "the grandest," "the finest," "really thrilling and uplifting" to describe their experiences in the Southland and at the Conference.

TEXANIC ADJECTIVES

Let's look at the record and see that this is not mere exaggeration in the Texas style. With 1160 registrations, it tied with the General Conference in Tacoma, Wash., as the second largest. It is impossible for this editor to remember over 30 years when we had more favorable, cool weather for our General Conference, especially after the Canadian cold wave hit Waco on Wednesday afternoon. It presented one of the finest and most deeply spiritual programs in many years, with the General Conference theme always before us in a bold display and in every message. It was one of the smoothest running conferences, with all preparations having been made superbly in advance. The conference was characterized by the finest spirit of harmony and general agreement.

No General Conference ever had such amazing and spectacular newspaper coverage. (See page 2 of this issue). For the first time our Conference leaders and musical groups appeared repeatedly on television over Waco's station WKTU-TV. The meals at the Baylor University cafeteria were so cheap that we were reminded

of the prevalent prices in the depression days. We have never before enjoyed such ideal facilities as those afforded us on the spacious wonderful campus of Baylor University. The visits of 31 of our pastors to Southern Baptist churches of Waco, virtually filling every important Baptist pulpit in the city on Sunday, June 12, was something quite new in our history. The Sunday evening crowd on June 12 was the largest we have ever had to stay "right to the end" of the Conference Week.

This was the setting for the General Conference deep in the heart of



Dr. W. R. White, president of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, bringing one of his fine devotional messages to the 31st General Conference.

Texas at Waco. With boldness we gave our witness for Christ in the brightly focused light of the Holy Spirit upon our Conference, and then deep in Southern Baptist territory we made the name and ministry of the North American Baptist General Conference known and beloved in the Southland far beyond any human expectations that we had prior to those days.

GOD WAS IN CHARGE!

It can be said with confidence that God took hold of this 31st General Conference in Waco, showed us that HE was in charge, and then handled things as he deemed best. That was felt in the opening moments of the Conference on Monday evening, June 6, when 1100 of our people for the first time in their lives sang Hymn No. 1 in English in the new "North American Hymnal" (also Hymn No. 1 in the Glaubensharfe) "Mighty God, We Worship Thee!" That was an electrifying experience to feel that tremendous surging of joyous music and praise as it filled the spacious auditorium of Waco Hall. This is one of many hymns in the new hymnal translated by Rev. Paul Wengel.

For the first few days of the Conference it was quite hot and uncomfortable. We hoped and prayed for cooler breezes, but we never expected God to take hold so miraculously. On Wednesday an 80-mile-an-hour wind brought a storm, rain clouds and a cold wave to the Southland which for four days virtually broke all weather bureau records for low temperatures in June. Then on Monday, June 13, after the close of the Conference, the temperatures in Waco soared to 94 degrees, the highest since the summer days of 1954! Our God is the Master

of the winds and the weather as well as of our lives!

God in the directives of his will and purposes also brought about a harmonious spirit in all the Conference sessions that was reflected in the joys and blessings experienced in the hearts of the visitors and also reflected in the decisions reached by the delegates. At this conference many human aspirations and tensions in the hearts of men were pulled apart "to let the face of God shine through."

EXCELLENT PREPARATION

Superb and detailed preparations had been made by the local arrangements committees for this General Conference. About 50 leaders of the Central Baptist Church of Waco and several Southern Conference churches in ten important committees, headed by the general chairman, Mr. Raymond E. Engelbrecht, and inspired by their pastor, Rev. L. R. Johnson, had left no stone unturned to prepare the way for our coming. (More news about the work of these committees will appear in the next issue.)

Everything went smoothly. The results were beautifully pleasing to the eye. We sat back and enjoyed what was offered to us in such generous manner by our Southern hosts. The registration desk took care of all arrivals and expedited them quickly to their rooms for the week. The decorations on the platform and the Conference theme were simply magnificent. The exhibit displays with prominent signs and important information, pictures and curios filled the halls around the auditorium. The Cameroons Baptist Chapel in the front vestibule was the main center of attraction. The ushers moved about in the performance of their duties with precision. All luncheons, breakfasts, special programs, tea and banquet were handled with skill and graciousness.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The program had many spiritual highlights. It went from one inspiration to another. It afforded much food for thought. It brought us back again and again to "What the Spirit Saith to the Churches." The Conference moderator, Mr. Walter W. Grosser, gave the keynote for the days in his provocative address on "Stir Us Anew!" (It appears in full in this issue.) The evangelistic note was sounded on Tuesday evening, June 7, by Rev. H. Palfenier on "Witnessing in the Power of the Spirit."

Our Church Extension Program was reviewed at length and with deep earnestness by Mr. Edwin H. Marklein, chairman of that committee, on Wednesday evening, June 8, followed by the heart-warming message by Rev. John Wobig of Portland, Oregon, on "Building in the Power of the Spirit."



The luncheon and business program of the Woman's Missionary Union in the luxurious surroundings of the Drawing Room of the Student Union Building on Baylor's Campus.

The Conference found us "In Meditation and Bible Study" every morning for the closing half hour with blessed results. Dr. W. R. White, president of Baylor University, stirred all hearts and enriched our lives by his messages on "Spiritual Truth," "The Righteousness that Ex-cels" and "The Will of God." Dr. C. Emanuel Carlson of Washington, D. C., secretary of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, brought the devotional message on Friday morning, reported at length about the work of this important Baptist Committee, and graced our Conference by his delightful, humble fellowship with our people.

MISSIONARY EMPHASIS

There were many missionary highlights in the Conference program. On Thursday evening, June 9, four of our Cameroons missionaries gave their testimonies as to what it means to "go in the power of the Spirit." They were Mrs. George Henderson, Mrs. Fred Holzimmer, Rev. Donald Gantstrom and Miss Margaret Kittlitz.

FRONT COVER

The front cover picture shows Laura E. Reddig (left to right), Delores Henne, and Geraldine Glasenapp looking at one of the African curios in front of the Cameroons Baptist Chapel, which was the feature attraction of the General Conference exhibit at Waco, Texas, June 6 to 12. Miss Reddig has been a missionary to the Cameroons for 17 years. The other two girls will sail for the Cameroons as missionaries for the first time this fall. This photograph appeared in the "Waco Times-Herald" during the Conference week.

Mrs. G. Ben Lawrence brought a touching selection in song. The missionary messages by Rev. Fred Holzimmer and Rev. George Henderson, both of the Cameroons of Africa, climaxed this program. Other missionaries also participated. In response to the invitation eleven young people came forward to dedicate their lives to full-time service for Christ.

On Sunday evening, June 12, following the installation service for the new Conference officers, a colorful and stirring presentation of all of our mission fields was given. The work and facts of these fields was narrated by Rev. R. Schilke, secretary, with representatives of the home mission churches, Indian missions, Spanish-American fields, Austria, Japan and the Cameroons of Africa telling their story briefly. This was appropriately followed by the impressive commissioning of eight new missionaries and by the mass choir singing, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," to bring the General Conference sessions to a magnificent close.

"Baptist Men" were in charge of the Friday evening program on June 10, with Mr. Harry H. Geis of Okeene, Oklahoma, in charge. The male chorus of 20 voices of the Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, Kansas, rendered several inspiring numbers with all of the strength and fervor of Christian men. Mr. Raymond R. Lindsey of Little Rock, Arkansas, president of The Gideons International, spoke pointedly, fervently and with practical emphasis on "God Expects You to be a Soul Winner."

YOUTH WAS PROMINENT

Young people were prominent at the General Conference by their attendance and participation in the program. (Their sponsored services are described more in detail on page 15 of this issue.) At the sunrise serv-

ice (6:30 A.M.) on Thursday morning, held in picturesque Cameron Park, Rev. Raymond Yahn of Bridgeport, Conn., spoke with great enthusiasm to more than 350 young people. A festive crowd of 860 people attended the banquet on Saturday evening under the leadership of the CBY and SS Union. Rev. Joe Sonnenberg of Chicago, Ill., brought a captivating message for youth and youthfully-minded hearts on "Possibilities Unlimited!" The Sunday afternoon Youth Rally was well attended and effectively presented. Miss Dallas Bowen of Anaheim, California, and Mr. Joe Fritzeimer of Stafford, Kansas, brought brief testimonies and Rev. Harold W. Gieseke of Lorraine, Kansas, moved the hearts of his listeners in the power of the Spirit as he spoke on "The Irresistible Attraction of the Christian."

The women were equally prominent at the Conference with their gracious witness and beautiful presentations. The story of their business meeting, luncheon and missionary tea is reported at length on page 14 of this issue. The thrilling program on Friday afternoon, June 10, featured the missionary pageant, "The Macedonian Call" directed by Mrs. Albert E. Reddig, author, and Mrs. Walter Hill, program chairman, and the wonderful address by Missionary Laura E. Redding on "His Spirit Hath Sent Me!" Mrs. Walter W. Grosser, president of the Women's Missionary Union, the Union's officers and all those who assisted them can be commended for the impressive presentation of the women's work at this Conference.

The Sunday morning worship service was an hour of spiritual dignity and reflective thinking. It has been



Mr. Raymond R. Lindsey of Little Rock, Arkansas (right), president of The Gideons International, confers with Mr. Harry Geis, president of "Baptist Men," before his message to the General Conference on Friday evening, June 10.

many years since we have listened to such a profound Conference sermon as that brought by Professor Ralph E. Powell of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., on the Conference theme. With Scriptural exposition, with spiritual boldness and with spiritual earnestness, he brought us into the sacred presence of the Person of the Holy Spirit.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

Decisions were made at the Waco Conference that will be epoch-making in our denominational enterprise. The former CBY and SS Union has been dissolved and two new organizations have been created, "The Commissioned Baptist Youth Fellowship"

MY PRAYER LIST

The 10-page booklet described by Mr. Raymond R. Lindsey of Little Rock, Ark., in his address on Friday evening, June 10, at the General Conference is available free for the asking at our Headquarters Office, 7308 Madison Street, Forest Park, Illinois. It gives the "Roman Road to Eternal Life" on page 1 followed by two pages of "Prayer Requests of the Holy Spirit." The rest of the pages are for your "Prayer Requests." All requests should be limited to ten booklets or less, please. EDITOR.

and "The Sunday School Union." Each organization has its own elected general secretary and executive committee. Each will work out its own aggressive program for the spiritual blessing of its constituency. Rev. Lawrence Bienert is the elected secretary of the CBY Fellowship, and Rev. G. K. Zimmerman of the Sunday School Union. Rev. J. C. Gunst was elected to the important position of promotional secretary for the denomination.

Another important decision of the Conference concerned our Children's Home in St. Joseph, Mich. As reported by Dr. Frank H. Woyke, executive secretary: "With great reluctance and with sadness of heart the Conference approved the closing of the Home as soon as practicable. Through the years conditions have changed so that today such homes are needed primarily to care for children from broken homes and problem children. A denominational commission, however, will study the possibility and advisability of carrying on a children's work elsewhere."

Eight new missionaries were commissioned at the Sunday evening service following the approval of their appointment by the General Council. They are Rev. and Mrs. George W. Lang (Cameroons of Africa), Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Kern (Japan), Dr. and Mrs. Gene Stockdale (New Hope Settlement of Cameroons, Africa), Miss Geraldine Glasenapp (nurse for Cameroons, Africa), and Miss Delores Henne (Cameroons, Africa).

DENOMINATIONAL REPORTS

All the cooperating societies delivered their reports and gave triennial accounts of their stewardship most effectively. In addition, the Publication Society honored its business manager, Rev. E. J. Baumgartner, and the editor of the "Baptist Herald," Dr. M. L. Leuschner, on their terms of service of ten and twenty years, respectively, by presenting them with scrolls of tribute. Mr. Harold Johns and Dr. Frank H. Woyke

made these presentations. The CBY and SS Union brought its informative report in a pictorial and dramatic presentation on Wednesday afternoon, June 8.

Thursday afternoon was reserved for various luncheons. The Ministers' Fellowship (180 pastors present) met at the Raleigh Hotel. Dr. Perry F. Webb of San Antonio, Texas, gave the preachers a thrilling hour with his oratorical, humorous and deeply spiritual message. The Baptist Men (145 laymen present) held their luncheon at the Roosevelt Hotel, with Mr. J. O. Johnson, chairman of the "Baptist Men" Board presiding. The Women's Luncheon at the Student Union Lounge (375 women present) was addressed by Missionaries Margaret Kittlitz and Verna Ganstrom.

HEAVENLY MUSIC

The General Conference music was another outstanding attraction of our experiences in Waco. The mass choir of about 80 voices composed of singers from our Waco, Cottonwood, Crawford, Gatesville and Dallas churches and directed by Mrs. Louis R. Johnson was "superbly wonderful." It rendered medleys of Gospel songs, anthems and Negro spirituals with unique arrangements, spirited presentation and Southern fervor. Thank you, Conference Choir, for a musical ministry that was WELL DONE!

Miss Carol Schmidt of Lorraine, Kansas, served as the Conference organist. She was always on the job, but, best of all, she made every prelude, offertory, postlude and accompaniment a "musical event" in our lives. Since Friday of the Conference week was her birthday, she was presented with an orchid corsage as an expression of heartfelt gratitude by the Conference audience.

The 22-voice chorus known as the Choristers of the Christian Training Institute of Edmonton, Alberta, directed by Rev. Edward B. Link, and its several quartet groups, as well as the Male Chorus of the Strassburg Baptist Church near Marion, Kansas, rendered musical numbers long to be remembered. The Ministers' Chorus directed by Rev. E. Mittelstedt of Los Angeles, Calif., sang on Wednesday evening with great blessing. Many talented soloists and instrumentalists from our churches also beautified the services.

A large crowd was present for the unique 45-minute musical presentation by the Toliver's Chapel Baptist Church (Negro) Choir on Sunday evening, June 12. How our people were thrilled by the exciting Negro spirituals and special numbers sung by this group until they burst spontaneously into enthusiastic applause. It was enough to make your heart jump, your feet beat rhythmically, and your soul rejoice to hear such heavenly music!



The Choristers of the Christian Training Institute of Edmonton, Alberta, directed by Rev. Edward Link (right), singing at one of the General Conference sessions in Waco, Texas.

There is so much to say in reporting a great Conference like this one in Waco, Texas. The General Conference Exhibit was also "the best ever." Dr. and Mrs. Paul Gebauer of Africa had sent some of the material as well as instructions for a Cameroons Chapel which was then built in Waco Hall by Mr. Erich F. H. Arnold of Waco. This brought Africa right into the Exhibit Hall. (This Cameroons Chapel will also be exhibited at the Baptist World Congress in London, England.)

CONFERENCE EXHIBIT

The General Council told the amazing story of our denominational building program in constructing churches, parsonages and institutions totaling \$11,492,000 in recent years. Approximately 200 enlarged pictures were on exhibit with this complete story. In addition, the missionary display, the work of our various cooperating societies, the White Cross work of the women, the Roger Williams Book section and the fascinating little things from our mission fields (under glass) informed our people about the greatness of our North American Baptist Conference!

Mr. Herman Siemund served as official General Conference photographer. Almost 100 pictures were taken by him—and each one turned out perfectly! Conference visitors and

MORE TO FOLLOW!

The next issue (July 28) of the "Baptist Herald" will present more colorful material about and pictures of the General Conference in Waco, Texas. The 1956 ANNUAL will also feature an illustrated story about the abiding blessings of the Conference for our churches!

delegates will be able to secure many of these pictures for themselves. Other pictures by Mr. Siemund will appear in the next issues of the HERALD and in the 1956 ANNUAL.

INSPIRED LEADERSHIP

It was also a Conference of effective human leadership under the controlling hand of the Holy Spirit. Mr. Walter W. Grosser was the capable and tactful moderator. Dr. Frank H. Woyke as executive secretary and also the recording and statistical secretary for the General Conference contributed greatly to the Conference's success. Rev. L. R. Johnson as pastor of the host church in Waco is to be commended for his fine leadership behind the scenes. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Engelbrecht of Waco and the entire local Committees performed a Herculean task in preparing for the Conference. Dr. T. Theodore Sorg as legal counsel led the Conference through important business matters with a minimum of time consumed. Mr. Edwin H. Marklein and Mr. Arthur Schwerin as consecrated laymen provided important leadership for the Conference days.

Yes, it was one of our greatest Conferences! Some of the unique features of this Conference in Waco will probably never be repeated. We as North American Baptists have come into our spiritual maturity with new strength, boldness of witness and firmness of step as we continue to go forward. The seal of the Holy Spirit is upon our work. Of that we are assured. If we continue to serve our Christ humbly and sacrificially, and if we receive the Spirit into our hearts to be led by HIM, then the road ahead ought to be bright and triumphant with "the best things still to be."



Dr. Frank H. Woyke (right), executive secretary, presents a scroll of appreciation to Dr. M. L. Leuschner, editor of English literature, upon completion of 20 years of denominational service.



Waco Hall on Baylor University campus during the General Conference week in Waco, Texas, showing the fine Conference sign prepared by Mr. Erich H. F. Arnold and his Exhibit Committee.

We, Too, Were There in Texas!

Testimonies About the 31st General Conference Held from June 6 to 12, 1955 at Waco, Texas

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

By Mrs. H. J. Waltereit of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Minister's Wife at the McDermot Ave. Baptist Church

This Conference, "deep in the heart of Texas," through the kind hospitality and warm Christian friendliness, has reached deep into our hearts and has given us a lasting impression of the graciousness of the South.

A mountain-top experience has been mine as I have listened to personal testimonies, devotionals, the messages and the inspiring music. A new determination is mine to let my life radiate the power of the spirit of Christ to those about me.

I admired the Southern gift that was portrayed in the beautifying of Waco Hall and the student lounge where our Women's Luncheon and Missionary Tea were held.

The women's program on Friday afternoon was well planned and presented. My heart was touched through our missionary speaker, Miss Laura Reddig, and the pageant, "The Macedonian Call," as the challenge and need of the mission field were put before us. We as women have gone back to our respective missionary societies with the zeal to work harder, to give and to pray more.

I thank and praise God for the blessings and inspiration received. I am sure none of us who were privileged to attend the Waco Conference will want to miss the next one.

OUR ONENESS IN CHRIST

By Mr. Herbert Stabbert of Anaheim, California

My impressions of the General Conference can be summarized in these words: "It was good to have been there."

While listening to the soul-inspiring mass singing, I was impressed by a oneness—a oneness in Christ.



Missionary R. Neuman serving among the Cree Indians on the Bull Reserve of Alberta, Canada, as he appeared on the front page of the "Waco Times-Herald."

This unity was demonstrated in the untiring efforts of our denominational leaders to lead our Conference and overall to work in a business-like but still inspiring manner. The devotion and sincerity of many laymen was outstanding in their willingness to give of time and talent to the Lord's work.

The message of Christ and his redeeming love was reflected by the corps of our faithful pastors in their messages. Then, too, one could not help but feel our common bond and kinship while rubbing elbows with delegates and visitors. Yes, we are one, whether we be leader, worker or listener—one in Christ and one as North American Baptists. A united people can move mountains!

These were days of inspiration and blessing. We can be grateful to our heavenly Father for his faithfulness. Let us be faithful to him.

One more impression—the splendid people in Waco, both city and church, will not soon be forgotten for their warmth and hospitality.

GLORIOUS FELLOWSHIP OF GOD'S PEOPLE

By Rev. Daniel Fuchs of Oak Park, Illinois, Denominational Evangelist

The fellowship of kindred minds is heavenly, indeed! Such was the experience of nearly 1500 delegates and visitors at the General Conference at Waco, Texas, from June 6 to 12. The number one highlight of this great Conference was the glorious fellow-

ship of God's people. God has literally moved heaven and earth to make Christian fellowship possible. The General Conference Arrangements Committee and all who were responsible left no stone unturned to make this wonderful fellowship a thrilling experience for all who attended the Conference.

Among the many contributing factors, there were a few things which especially helped to lift this fellowship to such glorious heights. The singing was superb! By their beautifully rendered musical presentations the several choirs as well as other special musical artists again and again focused the spirit of the Conference to the burning point of consecrated spiritual fellowship. The stirring congregational singing also contributed notably in this direction.

Unusually favorable were the wonderful facilities of Baylor University. Since the large majority of the delegates and guests needed not to scatter, but rather secured their lodging as well as their meals on the university campus, more time and opportunity were available for fellowship.

The weather was most ideal. All of the many conference arrangements were handled with inconspicuous smoothness. A spirit of wholesome Christian friendliness surrounded every effort. Evangelistic and missionary warmth thoroughly permeated the entire Conference program. All of these things made this Conference a great one, long to be remembered as a glorious mountain-top of wonderful Christian fellowship.

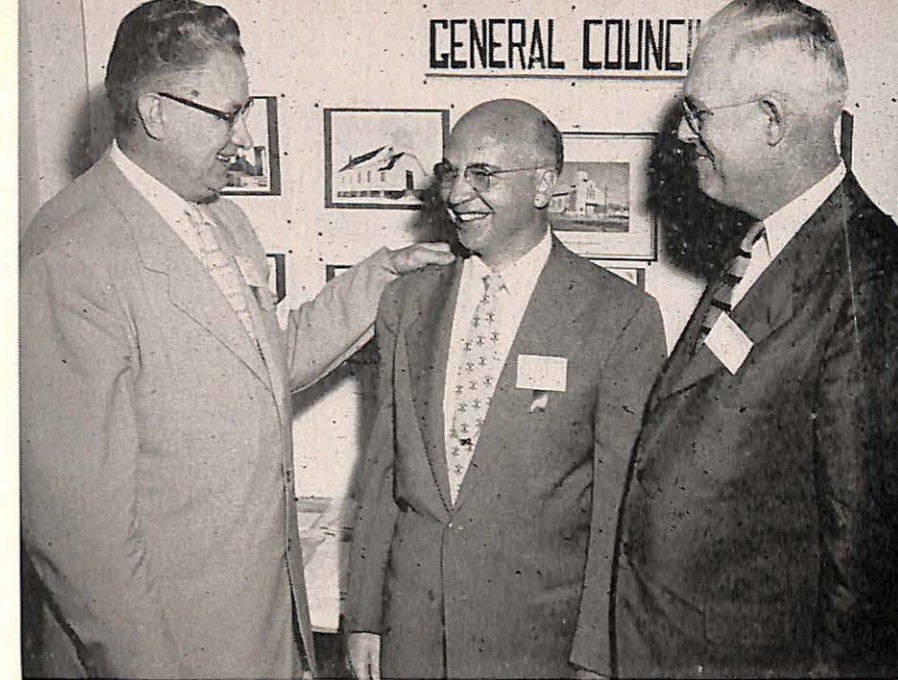
GENERAL CONFERENCE IMPRESSIONS

By Rev. Leland H. Friesen, Pastor of the Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, Oklahoma

"Spontaneous Christian warmth" most adequately expresses the dominant characteristic of our 31st General Conference at Waco, Texas.

We have always enjoyed good fellowship—especially this time. A spirit of real Christian friendliness prevailed. Whatever our weaknesses as a Conference may be, the attitude of our people in "preferring one another" and the obvious love for each other demonstrated once again the uniqueness of our fellowship. A few warm days, the coming to grips with conflicting opinions, the annoyances of minor frustrations, did not seem to alter the deep concern of one for the other.

The campus facilities made available to us, making it possible for us to live together, eat together and walk together, contributed no small amount to the friendliness of the Conference. The very fine spirit of our Conference leaders, the presentation by the participants on the program, and the generous graciousness of our people of Waco, of Texas and



Dr. Frank H. Woyke (left to right), Mr. Edwin H. Marklein and Dr. Martin L. Leuschner make plans for their appearance on television over Waco's station KWTX-TV while standing in front of the General Council's Exhibit.

of the Southern Conference as a whole, were certainly an instrument in God's hand in establishing and maintaining the spontaneous Christian warmth experienced throughout the Conference week.

Then, too, the thoughtful person will also return home with a keen sense of humility knowing we have not accomplished as much as we ought to have done during the past triennium and with a sincere desire to press on to greater achievements for the Lord abroad, but particularly at home by preparing ourselves through the further development of our talents, so that when opportunities for greater service arise, we will be ready to provide the necessary means and leadership.

It was extremely pleasant and profitable to get together, to renew friendships, to make new friends, to be reawakened to the need of our day and to be refreshed in soul.

AN INSPIRING GENERAL CONFERENCE

By Rev. Richard Lawrenz of North Freedom, Wisconsin
(Attending his first Conference sessions)

In thinking about writing of my impressions of the 31st General Conference. I find that it is not an easy job, simply because there were so many good things.

However, let us enumerate the things which stood out in my mind. Perhaps the highlight of the Conference for me was the message given by Dr. Perry Webb of the First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, at the Ministers' Fellowship Luncheon. His manner of delivery and oratorical style were electrifying as he spoke of the lessons he had learned through his experiences in his ministry.

The response of the brethren, E. J. Baumgartner, M. L. Leuschner and Carl Fuellbrandt to special recognition accorded to each of them for services rendered was also a highlight. It seems that each man's response was characterized with deep Christlike humility. The messages given by Rev. H. Palfenier, Mr. Raymond R. Lindsey and Rev. Harold W. Gieseke were stimulating. Devotional periods led by Dr. W. R. White, the president of Baylor University, were well received. As a whole, all the devotional periods were fine, with the one led by Rev. Raymond Parry in which testimonies were given, as unusually inspirational.

It was also gratifying to see five young people respond to an invitation to dedicate themselves to do the will of God and perhaps to serve on the foreign field. The Hendersons especially presented a real missionary challenge. The commissioning of new missionaries and the presentation of the mission fields was very impressive.

The singing of the mass choir under the direction of Mrs. Louis Johnson was splendid. Music on the whole rendered by all was fine and inspiring. Perhaps the big musical treat was saved to the end when the Negro Chorus thrilled our hearts to no end.

The host church did a splendid job of entertaining the Conference and taking care of multitudinous details. Perhaps the fine facilities which were available at Baylor University may never again be duplicated.

There were also some disappointments. First and foremost was that our Church Extension Program is presently at a standstill because of lack of funds. In his fine message, "Building in the Power of the Spirit,"

(Continued on Page 22)

General Conference Officers and Committees

Elected and Appointed at the 31st General Conference (June 6-12, 1955) at Waco, Texas

MODERATOR
Mr. Walter W. Grosser, Oak Park, Illinois

VICE-MODERATOR
Rev. John Wobig, Portland, Ore.

GENERAL TREASURER AND GENERAL MISSIONARY TREASURER
Mr. Fred A. Grosser, River Forest, Illinois

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Dr. Frank H. Woyke, Forest Park, Illinois

EDITOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
Dr. Martin L. Leuschner, Forest Park, Illinois

PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY
Rev. J. C. Gunst, Forest Park, Ill.

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Legal Counsel
Chairman of Investment Committee
Chairman of Finance Committee
Chairman of Pension Fund
Chairman of Church and Parsonage Fund

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GENERAL MISSIONARY SECRETARY
Rev. Richard Schilke, Forest Park, Illinois

Sunday School Union
PRESIDENT
Mr. Ralph Kletke, Philadelphia, Pa.

VICE-PRESIDENT
Mr. James Billeter, Portland, Ore.
GENERAL SECRETARY
Rev. G. K. Zimmerman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

CBY Fellowship
PRESIDENT
Mr. Herman Balka, Dallas, Texas
VICE-PRESIDENT
Miss Betty Meister, Chicago, Ill.
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Miss Sena Plucker, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Mr. Russell Middleton, Philadelphia, Pa.

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EDITOR OF GERMAN PUBLICATIONS
Rev. W. J. Luebeck, Cleveland, Ohio

EDITOR OF BAPTIST HERALD
Dr. Martin L. Leuschner, Forest Park, Illinois

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Mr. Harold Johns, Oak Park, Illinois
Mr. Walter Kohrs, Peoria, Ill.
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Rev. Reinhold Kanwischer, Morris, Manitoba
Rev. Robert Schreiber, Lodi, California
Rev. Alfred Weisser, Parkston, South Dakota
Rev. H. J. Wilcke, Stafford, Kansas

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Rev. A. Dale Ihrie, Detroit, Michigan
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Rev. Walter Schmidt, Arnprior, Ontario
Rev. Frank Veninga, Aplington, Iowa

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Mr. H. Geis, Okeene, Oklahoma
Mr. J. O. Johnson, Portland, Oregon
Mr. Edwin Marklein, Brooklyn, New York
Mr. Wilbert Neuffer, Rochester, New York

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Mr. Raymond Engelbrecht, Waco, Texas
Mr. Rubin Glewwe, St. Paul, Minnesota
Mr. Walter Pankratz, Chicago, Illinois
Mr. Herbert Stabbert, Anaheim, California

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Miss Martha Leyboldt, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Mrs. Emma B. Meier, Portland, Oregon

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VICE-PRESIDENT
Mrs. Albert Reddig, Cathay, North Dakota

SECRETARY
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TREASURER
Mrs. Edward Kary, Cleveland, O.
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Rev. Raymond R. Dickau, Venturia, North Dakota
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Herbert Stabbert, Anaheim, California
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Central Conference—Ed Meister
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Eastern Conference—David Baer
Northern Conference—Charles Biffert
Northwestern Conference—Harry Luiken
Pacific Conference—Harry Fox
Southern Conference—Raymond Engelbrecht
Southwestern Conference—Harvey Kruse

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Mrs. Freda Reddig
Chairman of Missionary Committee
Mr. Raymond Engelbrecht
Mr. Herman Bleeker
Mrs. Emma B. Meier
Mr. C. L. Sommerfeld
Rev. John E. Grygo
Mr. Herman Balka
Mr. Ralph E. Kletke
Rev. Ronald MacCormack
Rev. H. J. Waltereit

1958 Nominating Committee
Rev. Peter Pfeiffer, Erie, Pa., Chairman
Vice-Chairman of General Missionary Committee
Mr. James Billeter, Portland, Oregon
Rev. Raymond R. Dickau, Venturia, North Dakota
Mrs. Meta Glanz, Grosse Pointe, Michigan
Rev. Edward Kary, Cleveland, O.
(Continued on Page 24)



Miss Carol Schmidt of Lorraine, Kansas, who served as General Conference organist and whose skillful use of the great Waco Hall Organ brought melodious blessing to the Conference audiences.

STIR US ANEW!
(Continued from Page 5)
equality of forced losing of all possessions. There would be a common sharing of anything that could be salvaged, and certainly there would be a sharing of misery, such as not even the early Christians had experienced. In a day when this could be the experience of any of us, is it unreasonable to consider voluntarily what changes in our way of life will enable us to pray?—
"O Master of the waking world,
Thou who hast the nations in thy heart,
Show us anew in Calvary
The wondrous power that sets men free."

Recently I was thrilled by a young man, born and reared in a wealthy home, who told me that, after getting a degree in engineering, he had an earnest conversation with his minister about the need of men in this troubled age. He was persuaded within himself to dedicate his life to the Gospel ministry. He spent another three years in a seminary. Today he has a small Protestant church in one of the worst slum areas of a large American city.

BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS
About 60 North American Baptists are attending the Jubilee Congress of the Baptist World Alliance in London, England, from July 16 to 22, 1955. Among them are Dr. Frank H. Woyke, Dr. M. L. Leuschner, Dr. George A. Lang and Rev. J. C. Gunst. A report and pictures of the Congress will be featured in the Sept. 22nd issue of the "Baptist Herald" and several numbers thereafter. The 1956 ANNUAL will also publish several featured stories about the memorable Baptist Congress. **EDITOR.**

We have in our churches such serious-minded young people. They are by education and experience well equipped to cope with the issues before us. Many of them see the shallowness of what so many people consider the successful life. Are we prepared to encourage our children to choose the higher calling—the higher calling that elevates man beyond his material concepts? Do our lives exemplify the advice we give?

DEDICATED ACTIVITY
Is our enthusiasm for evangelism something interpreted by youth as mere lip service, or a specialized activity of our church? Can we show by dedicated activity that to evangelize characterizes the whole purpose of the church? True evangelism can bring hope to a world suffering under the rule of sin and death. The Spirit expressed this hope in his message to the churches: "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it."

This hopeful, encouraging statement may be relied upon by the churches of the North American Baptist Conference. The open door provides missionary opportunity only if we take advantage of it. We cannot take this opportunity unless we first understand and live the Christian way of life.
"O Church of God! Awake! Awake! The waking world is calling thee, Lift up thine eyes, hear thou once more
The challenge of humanity."

Only a sincere commitment to the full Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will meet this challenge. God grant us wisdom and grant us courage that we fail not man nor thee!

Women's Meetings at Waco, Texas

Report by MRS. G. K. ZIMMERMAN of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

How wonderful it would be if all of our women who labor so unselfishly and unceasingly through the years could attend our General Conference Woman's Missionary Union activities! It is difficult to describe the joys and inspirations one receives at these gatherings. Truly, the Spirit of God spoke to our women at Waco, Texas.

The Woman's Missionary Union luncheon was held at the beautiful Students' Union lounge on Thursday afternoon. We enjoyed the excellent Southern cooking in a lovely setting. Red roses decorated our tables, and our favors of sweet little African babies "adorned" with tiny bandages on their bodies reminded us of our White Cross activities. With Mrs. Walter W. Grosser presiding, we continued with our devotions, which were led by Miss Margaret Kittlitz, one of our missionaries. She chose as

Mrs. Grosser then introduced Mrs. Carl Fuellbrandt of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, to us, whose husband for many years was our director of missions in Austria. Mrs. Fuellbrandt responded with words of greetings from the Austrian women. Miss Gretchen Remmler of our Forest Park office was also honored for her many years of service. Then followed the adoption of our new chart, which will be mailed in the near future to our societies.

The expression of gratitude so sincerely given by Mrs. O. G. Graalman of Okeene, Oklahoma, to our beloved president, Mrs. W. W. Grosser, for her many hours of service in the interest of our Woman's Union work was an echo of the feeling of all of us. Truly, we are much indebted to Mrs. Grosser for her outstanding leadership.

Frank Veninga of Aplington, Iowa, was elected to serve in this capacity. We felt deeply grateful to our outgoing officers for their past efforts, and we pray God's blessing and guidance upon those who will continue in this important work.

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES

Following the adoption of our revised constitution, the report on "Women's Work in the Camerons" was given by Mrs. S. Donald Gansstrom of St. Paul, Minn. Mrs. Gansstrom brought greetings and words of gratitude from the African women for the work our Conference is doing there. She reported that the women are being trained by our missionaries to conduct their own meetings and programs. Since the African women have a limited knowledge of the English language, simplified material from our own program packet has been sent to them for use in their meetings. Even our most remote station, Warwar, has a Woman's Mission Union and it was challenging to hear of the African woman's willingness to take part in women's work.

The Woman's Missionary Union program on Friday afternoon, June 10, was a highlight of the Conference. Greetings were brought by our president, Mrs. Grosser, who also presided; by Mrs. J. J. Lippert, president of the Southern Conference Woman's Missionary Union; and by Miss Eula Mae Henderson, executive secretary of the Texas W.M.U. (Southern Baptists). Music was provided by the Southern Conference Women's Chorus. Dr. Frank H. Woyke conducted the installation of the new officers.

With Mrs. H. O. Kohrs of Burlington, Iowa, providing the background music at the organ, Mrs. Peter Pfeiffer of Erie, Pa., led us in an impressive memorial service for those who have gone to their heavenly Father during the past triennium.

The missionary pageant, "The Macedonian Call," written by Mrs. Albert Reddig of Cathay, N. Dak., was a very colorful and inspiring presentation. Appearing in the costumes of the mission field they represented, twelve women, two for each mission field, gave the call for us to strive more diligently to help them in their various needs.

We were thrilled as our beloved Laura Reddig spoke to us on the theme, "His Spirit Hath Sent Me." She told how we, through our New Hope leper settlement, are bringing the good tidings of relief and cure

(Continued on Page 24)



Leaders in the Woman's Missionary Union program held at the Seventh and James Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, on Friday afternoon, June 10.

Left to right: Mrs. Albert E. Reddig, Mrs. Emanuel Wolff, Mrs. Henry O. Kohrs, Mrs. Walter W. Grosser, Mrs. Walter Hill, and Mrs. Thomas Lutz, the new president of the Woman's Missionary Union.

her Scripture passage, Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

REPORTS AND ELECTIONS

The report of our secretary, Mrs. Emanuel Wolff, was encouraging to us as we heard of the progress and activities of our 351 societies, who, according to the latest figures, have contributed over \$130,000 to our entire denominational program during the last triennium.

In the election that followed, Mrs. Thomas Lutz of Aberdeen, South Dakota, our former treasurer, was named president. Mrs. Albert Reddig, of Cathay, N. Dak., who did such a remarkable work in editing our program packets for the past triennium, was elected vice-president. Mrs. Peter Pfeiffer of Erie, Pennsylvania, is our new secretary, and Mrs. Edward Kary of Cleveland, Ohio, treasurer. We feel that the Woman's Union has made an important step forward in that we have representation on our General Council. Mrs.



Rev. Raymond Yahn of Bridgeport, Conn. (right), bringing the message at the Sunrise Service held in Cameron Park of Waco during the General Conference week and (left) the line-up of young people for the delicious breakfast served them after the service.

CBY and SS Union Programs at Waco

Report About General Conference Youth Activities by MISS RUTH BATHAUER of Forest Park, Ill.

THE BEAUTIFUL SETTING of the south and the warm hospitality extended by the Texas people contributed much to the fine success of the 31st General Conference in Waco, Texas. There were many rich spiritual blessings which the delegates and friends enjoyed at the General Conference. A number of the activities were sponsored by the Commissioned Youth and Sunday School Union.

Wednesday noon, June 8, over 300 workers and delegates gathered in the beautiful dining room in the mezzanine of the Roosevelt Hotel for the Christian Workers' Luncheon. Mr. Waldemar Rempel, Sunday School superintendent of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, Man., Canada, gave the invocation before the meal.

WORKERS' LUNCHEON

The toastmaster at the luncheon was the congenial Herman Balka, newly elected president of the CBY Fellowship, who gave all in attendance a warm Texas welcome. Immediately after a fine time of fellowship around the tables, there was a vocal solo by Miss Dorothy Yahn, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Various phases of Sunday School work was the topic under discussion at the luncheon. Miss Audrey Miller, Christian Education Director at Pilgrim Church, Philadelphia, Pa., emphasized the importance of visitation in her topic, "Visitation with a Smile." Miss Miller stated that the day is long and past when men and women, boys and girls flock into the Sunday School. It therefore becomes vitally important that the Sunday School carry on an effective visitation program to establish contacts and invite people into the Sunday School.

Mr. James Billeter, Sunday School superintendent of the Trinity Church, Portland, Ore., shared some of his actual experiences in the work of a proposed program of work for the Sunday School in his topic, "The Thrill of Being a Sunday School Superin-

tendent." Mr. Billeter is also the newly elected vice-president of the Sunday School Union.

"Teaching Can Be Fun" was the theme of the talk presented by Miss Ruth Bathauer, Children's Worker. The term "teaching" was defined and a challenge was presented to all teachers. The importance of bringing some of the Christian principles down to the level of the child was emphasized. As a teacher is able to observe Christian growth and development in the children, teaching can be fun.

In addition to the three speakers at the luncheon, there was a beautiful violin and piano duet by Clara and Carsten Seecamp, Hebron, N. Dak., and a musical number by the Christian Training Institute Girls' Quartet, Edmonton, Alberta.

PICTORIAL REVIEW PROGRAM

Another highlight of the Commissioned Baptist Youth and Sunday School Union activities was the Pictorial Review presented on Wednesday afternoon, June 8. By means of slides and an opaque projector, the achievement and advancement of the CBY and SS Union department was presented. There were four narrators for the review: Mr. Ralph Kletke, Rev. J. C. Gunst, Rev. Lawrence Biebert, and Miss Ruth Bathauer, with the assistance of the Christian Training Choristers and the Gospelsaires quartet of the North American Baptist Seminary.

The General Conference delegates voted for a division of the CBY and SS Union, making two separate departments. Just prior to the pictorial review, Mr. Ralph Kletke, newly elected president of the Sunday School Union, gave a brief report explaining the purpose of the division. Opportunity was given to delegates and friends to ask questions regarding the division. Rev. J. C. Gunst gave a resume of a proposed program of work for the Sunday School advance. The large

attendance in spite of the warm weather was most gratifying.

Very early Thursday morning, June 9, over 350 young people and friends went out to beautiful Cameron Park for an impressive sunrise service. In the stillness of the morning the group joined in song as Robert Schmeltekopf, Kyle, Texas, led the song service. The Christian Training Institute Choristers, under the leadership of Rev. Ed Link, added much to the spirit of worship through their songs blended with Bible verses of praise. Miss Ellen Lehr, St. Paul, Minn., read the Scripture passage followed by a prayer by Harold Lang.

Rev. Raymond Yahn, Bridgeport, Conn., challenged the young people with his inspiring message on the Holy Spirit. He emphasized the importance for young people to allow the Holy Spirit to be their guide in their work, in the choice of friends and in their lives. At the close of the service, the smell of hot coffee reminded us of our physical needs as the group enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the great out-of-doors.

CONFERENCE BANQUET

The General Conference Banquet, under the auspices of the Commissioned Baptist Youth and Sunday School Union, was another outstanding event of the General Conference. Approximately 860 delegates and friends assembled at the Karem Temple for the banquet. The theme of the banquet was "Christ, Our Guiding Star." Mr. E. Ralph Kletke was the toastmaster and Rev. Harold Weiss, pastor of the Northside Church, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., was the song leader. The newly elected officers of both the CBY Fellowship and the Sunday School Union were presented. Special recognition was given to Rev. J. C. Gunst for his ten and one-half years of service and a small token of appreciation was presented to him.

(Continued on Page 24)



Sunday School Lessons

A LESSON PLAN

Date: July 24, 1955

Theme: GOD'S JUDGMENTS ON NATIONS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 24:20b-25:12.

PURPOSE: To show how the judgments of God fall on nations.

GETTING STARTED: We need to remind ourselves that the purpose of today's lesson—as of all the lessons in this quarter—is lost if we do not apply it to the needs and problems of our own day. There's little value in studying Old Testament history simply for its own sake. That history attains real value only as we learn its lessons and apply them to the time and place in which we live. To know what happened to ancient Israel may be interesting information; but that information is worthless unless we let God speak through it to our own generation and situation. That God judges nations only a fool can doubt. But let us take note and turn from our own evil ways, lest the same fate overtake us and our nation.

1. THE CONDITIONS THAT BRING GOD'S JUDGMENTS ON NATIONS.

The history of Israel shows these to be the sins that bring God's judgments on nations:

1. Spiritual bankruptcy—brought on
 - a) By a progressive religious decline where 1) vital faith gives way to empty religious formalism; 2) religious observances take the place of obeying God and keeping his commandments; 3) men dissipate their spiritual energies in following after every kind of "ism" and worshipping false and popular gods;
 - b) By a growing spirit of materialism wherein 1) men value money and things above every other consideration and 2) are willing to sell even their souls for the almighty dollar.
2. Moral decadence — expressing itself.
 - a) In a decline of personal and private morals wherein the ideal of personal integrity is lost and men give themselves to practice every kind of vice and immorality;
 - b) In a decline of public morals wherein politics become hopelessly corrupt, social righteousness is forgotten, the needs of men are disregarded, justice is sold to the highest bidder, and

oppression, greed, exploitation flourish.

II. THE NATURE OF GOD'S JUDGMENT ON NATIONS.

1. The nation is cursed with weak and ineffective leadership that is
 - a) incapable of sound judgment (2 Kings 24:20b); b) at the mercy of pressure groups (Jer. 38:4-5); c) lacking in courage (Jer. 38:19; 2 Kings 25:4); d) heedless of its solemn promises and covenants (2 Kings 24:20b); e) concerned about trifles and unable to deal with the important issues (Jer. 38:19).
2. It is torn by inner strife and tension (Jer. 39:24-27).
3. It is stricken with economic collapse (2 Kings 25:3).
4. It becomes involved in wars that impoverish the land and destroy the flower of its manhood, leaving the nation weakened beyond all hope of recovery (Jer. 39:6-9; 2 Kings 25:5-12).
5. Complete disaster finally overtakes it (2 Kings 25:8-12).

A LESSON PLAN

Date: July 31, 1955

Theme: BROKEN VOWS

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 41:1b, 5-7, 10, 19; 43:2, 4, 7; 44:15-18, 23.

PURPOSE: To show that vows are sacred and must be faithfully kept.

GETTING STARTED: Today's lesson runs true to form. Whenever we're up against it, we're ready to make almost any kind of promise to God. But all too often when the pressure is off and life gets back to normal again, we forget all about our promises and go our own merry way. Nor is God the only one who suffers from our inconsistency and failure to keep our promises. Time was when men prided themselves on the honor of their word. That virtue is rapidly disappearing. Men make promises only to break them whenever it suits their advantage or convenience. The halls of government are littered with the shreds of broken promises. The battlefields of the world are drenched with blood because nations make solemn promises but will not abide by them. All along the line we make promises and break them

The editor of these Sunday School Lessons is Rev. Berthold Jacksteit, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, California.

with impunity. We think we get away with it; but we don't. God holds us responsible for our pledged words, and every broken promise exacts its price of divine retribution.

Developing the Theme:

I. SOLEMN VOWS MUST NOT BE MADE NOR TAKEN LIGHTLY.

1. Like the people of Judah we are given to making promises when we're up against it or want something very much. Like them, we look upon such promises as—
 - a) A means of getting ourselves out of a bad situation or getting what we want (42:1-6);
 - b) A lever or bribe to get God to do our bidding and approve our plans (43:2-4).
2. Then when things turn out otherwise than we had feared or wanted, we feel free to go back on our promises and do what we please (44:16-17).
3. But the fate of Judah teaches us that we cannot make and take our vows so lightly and get away with it (44:23).

II. GOD EXPECTS US TO KEEP OUR VOWS.

1. He takes us at our word and holds us to it (42:7-9).
2. Our pledged word, whether to God or man, is sacred and carries with it the obligation that we carry it out faithfully, and no excuse can speak us free of that obligation (42:2-3).
3. When we seek God's help and promise to obey him, we must leave the answer with him and do whatever he commands (42:6).

III. VOWS FAITHFULLY KEPT CARRY WITH THEM THE PROMISE OF BLESSING.

1. The way of obedience is always the way of blessing (42:10).
2. To follow God's leading, no matter how contrary it may seem to our own thoughts and desires, is always the right and best way (42:10-12).

IV. VOWS THOUGHTLESSLY OR WILFULLY BROKEN ALWAYS BRING TROUBLE AND LOSS.

1. To break our vows is to open the door to misfortune and tragedy; to disobey God is to court disaster (42:13-18).
2. In the end, the faithless cannot escape the judgments of God (44:23).

Applying the Lesson:

What happens to Christians who break their vows—taken at the time of their conversion—faithfully to follow and serve their Lord?

What's Happening

● The Board of Trustees of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., has extended a call to Rev. Roy Seibel of Emery, S. Dak., to become part-time teacher and director of promotional work and allied responsibilities at the Seminary in Sioux Falls in September 1955.

● On Sunday morning, May 22, Rev. Richard Lawrenz, pastor of the Baptist Church, North Freedom, Wis., baptized 17 converts on confession of their faith in Christ, and received these and three others at the candlelight communion service on that same evening. The converts were the results of evangelistic services held some weeks ago by the Rev. Eddie Wagner.

● Rev. G. Schalm recently resigned as pastor of the Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, British Columbia. His resignation was accepted by the church, but he will continue to serve as supply pastor until a new minister can be called to the field. Mr. Schalm has served this church as its pastor since its organization in 1951. It is a church largely composed of recent immigrants from Germany and other parts of Central Europe.

● The Church Extension Committee of the denomination has announced the appointment of Rev. G. P. Schroeder of Lodi, Calif., as the Church Extension pastor for three months at West Fargo, North Dakota. This is a new field with good prospects which was recently surveyed by Dr. W. J. Appel, Church Extension Worker. Mr. Schroeder began his ministry at West Fargo on June 15. A report about this work will appear in September in the "Baptist Herald."

● The Calvary Baptist Church of Billings, Mont., has extended a call to Mr. Wesley A. Gerber, a 1955 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He has accepted the call and announced that he will begin his ministry in the Billings church in July, succeeding the Rev. R. Sigmund, who has become the superintendent of the Central Baptist Home for the Aged, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Gerber's home church is the Bethany Church of Camrose, Alta., Canada.

● The General Conference convening at Waco, Texas, from June 6 to 12 elected Rev. G. K. Zimmerman of Milwaukee, Wis., as the new general secretary of the denominational Sunday School Union. On Sunday, June 19, he resigned as pastor of the Temple

Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wis., which he has served since 1951, and announced that he had accepted the new position tendered him. He will begin his ministry as the denominational Sunday School Union Secretary on September 1st.

● On Sunday afternoon, May 1, the Sunshine Club and Ladies' Aid of the Herreid Baptist Church, Herreid, S. Dak., held a Mother and Daughter tea in the basement of the church. The Artas Woman's Missionary Society also participated in the program as invited guests. Songs and choruses opened the program, as reported by Lauretta Naasz. The oldest mother present led in prayer. There were readings and musical selections by the Sunshine Club and Ladies' Aid of Herreid. Rev. E. S. Fenske is pastor of the church.

● The Woman's Missionary Society of the Pin Oak Creek Baptist Church, Mt. Sterling, Mo., held its annual birthday program on Friday evening, April 29, with the vice-president, Mrs. Olland F. Cole, in charge. A brief program by the society followed. Then Miss Margaret Kittlitz, Cameroons missionary, now home on furlough, spoke and showed pictures of the missionary work in Africa. After the program refreshments were served in the church basement, as reported by Mrs. Harvey Lipskoch. Rev. Olland F. Cole is pastor of the church.

● It has been announced that Mr. Harold F. Lang of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., has been appointed as exchange student to the Baptist Seminary at Hamburg, Germany, beginning this fall. He is a son of Dr. and Mrs. George A. Lang of Sioux Falls. He has been a first year student at the North American Baptist Seminary during the past year. The Baptist Seminary of Hamburg, Germany, has also announced through Dr. Hans Luckey, president, that one of its students will study for the next school year at our Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

● The denominational Church Extension Committee has appointed Rev. Fred A. David of East Detroit, Mich., a 1955 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, as Church Extension pastor for the new field at Santa Ana Heights, California. This is an outgrowth of the Zenith Avenue Sunday School of Santa Ana, Calif., which was described in the June 6, 1955 issue of the "Baptist Herald" (page 9). The Church Extension Committee has also appointed Mr. Clarence

H. Walth of Hebron, N. Dak., as the pastor for the new Church Extension field at the Willow Rancho area of Sacramento, California.

● The Chicago Tract Society, Chicago, Ill., is distributing a four-page printed tract, "A Response to Love" by Rev. Lorimer D. Potratz, pastor of the Martin Baptist Church, Martin, North Dakota. It was a prize-winning tract in the 66th anniversary contest for students conducted by the Chicago Tract Society. When the tract was written, Mr. Potratz was a student at the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. This tract is available at 250 tracts for \$1.00 postpaid at the Chicago Tract Society, 2561 N. Clark St., Chicago 14, Illinois. Single copies of the tract can be received free by writing to the editor of the "Baptist Herald."

● Mrs. Fred L. Paul of the Dayton's Bluff Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minn., will be a delegate from the fourth congressional district of Minnesota to President Eisenhower's White House Conference on Education to be held in Washington, D. C., from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1st of this year. This will be the first White House Conference of this nature. Mrs. Paul is vice-president of the St. Paul Board of Education and chairman of the State Citizens Committee on Public Education. She will report about the conference in Washington, D. C., for "Baptist Herald" readers.

● Rev. R. Schilke, general missionary secretary, announced at the closing service of the General Conference in Waco, Texas, that the General Missionary Committee had reappointed Miss Margaret Kittlitz of Waco, Texas, for the Cameroons Mission field in Africa. This news was greeted with vigorous applause by the large audience. Miss Kittlitz will probably sail for Africa this fall with Rev. and Mrs. George W. Lang, missionary appointees. Mr. Schilke has also announced for the Missionary Committee that Rev. and Mrs. Jay Hirth of Wheaton, Ill., will not be able to return to the mission field in Japan, due to reasons of health.

● Miss Virginia Becker Chapman, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Emil Becker of New Leipzig, N. Dak., and her husband, Rev. Orville Chapman, were two of 26 new Baptist missionaries who were commissioned for service at the American Baptist Convention held in Atlantic City, N. J., from May 18 to 24. They will leave for the Belgian Congo, Africa, sailing in August 1956, after they have completed language studies and African culture at Hartford, Conn., and further studies at the University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium. Both Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are graduates of the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, Berkeley, California. The former Virginia Becker is well known to many of our churches.

Our Denomination in ACTION

Dakota Conference

Baptist Life Scholarship Presentation to Seminary Student, Eugene Stroh, at Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

On Sunday, May 15, at the Seminary Commencement Exercises at the First Baptist Church at Sioux Falls, S. Dak., the Baptist Life Association presented a \$250 scholarship to Eugene Stroh, a seminary student. The scholarship was presented to Dr. George A. Lang by Don Lindaman, the Baptist Life representative from Aplington, Iowa, and Dr. Lang then made the presentation to Mr. Stroh.

The recipient of this scholarship was chosen by the Seminary board on the basis of academic standing and financial need. This scholarship is one of four to be presented to students at various seminaries throughout the United States. Through this new channel of benevolent activity Baptist Life is endeavoring to be of greater service to its constituency.

David Baer, Reporter.

Reception for Rev. and Mrs. Lorimer Potratz and Family at Martin, North Dakota

Sunday, May 29, marked the beginning of the pastorate of Rev. Lorimer Potratz at the Baptist Church of Martin, North Dakota. He and his family had arrived the previous week in time to see the finishing touches being made to the newly remodeled kitchen and utility room in the parsonage.

His opening message on Sunday morning was based on 1 Corinthians 2. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated with flowers donated by the Weinholz family in memory of their parents.

The Harvey, Anamoose, and Rosenfeld Baptist Churches joined with us for the evening service officially to welcome our new pastor and his family. Words of welcome were brought by representatives from the church, Sunday School, CBY, Baptist Men, and Mission Circle who presented Mrs. Potratz with a corsage. Music for the program was provided by the choir and male chorus. The guest speaker for the evening was Rev. Arthur Voigt of the Rosenfeld Church. After hearing from both Mr. and Mrs. Potratz, the eventful day was closed with a fellowship lunch.

Betty Kessler, Reporter.

Building Improvements and "God's Acres" Projects at Baptist Church, Selfridge, North Dakota

Steps of progress at the First Baptist Church of Selfridge, N. Dak., include the addition of maroon curtains in the church auditorium provided by

the Sunday School and used to divide the young people's class on the platform from other classes in the church. A matching choir rail was provided by the Senior CBY. Also a project called, "God's Acres," was inaugurated this spring when the men of the church planted 55 acres of flax in one day with four tractors, plows, and pony drills. The pastor, Rev. Bernard Edinger, assisted by working with one of the church deacons clearing the field of rocks.

A project of the Fort Yates Community Church has been a Bible Class conducted each Monday night with the pastor and a local Baptist nurse from the reservation hospital, Miss Vivian Rowe, teaching a group of High School students in one of the dormitories. The class consisted of a period of singing, and about 40 minutes of Bible study. Twenty-eight Indian young people were enrolled in the class. Although the class was held with voluntary attendance, the average attendance was very high.

Bernard Edinger, Pastor.

Sessions of the Central Dakota Woman's Missionary Union at Linton, North Dakota

The Central Dakota Woman's Missionary Union opened its program with a luncheon served by the host society in the church parlors of the Linton Baptist Church, Linton, N. Dak., on May 13. Mrs. E. S. Fenske, acting chairman, called on Mrs. A. Krombein to give thanks after the doxology was sung. We then assembled in the church for the business meeting. Song service was conducted by Mrs. LeRoy Schauer of Mott, North Dakota.



Dr. George A. Lang, president of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., presenting the Baptist Life Association scholarship to Eugene Stroh of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

"BAPTIST HERALD" ISSUES

July 28—More about the General Conference in Waco, Texas.
August 11—Abbreviated number with 16 pages.
Sept. 8—Special "Sunday School Week" Issue.
Sept. 22—Baptist World Congress in London, England, and our Church Extension program.

Twenty-eight societies responded with 77 delegates present. The newly organized Tabitha Society of the First German Baptist Church of Ashley was given the hand of fellowship. The treasurer's report was given by Mrs. E. Oster of Hettinger. A hearty welcome was extended to the new ministers' wives: Mrs. C. H. Seecamp of Hebron, Mrs. John E. Grygo of Bismarck, Mrs. G. W. Breikreuz of Lehr. A report about the Home for the Aged in Bismarck was given by Rev. B. Krentz. A trio from the Wishek Society rendered an inspiring number. The secretary of the Union, Mrs. Magdalena Fuchs, brought the annual report. Thirty-seven societies with 682 members showed a gain of 66 new members. The offering of the evening was equally divided between the Crystal Springs Youth Camp, Old People's Home and Foreign Missions. The election of officers was as follows: president, Mrs. E. S. Fenske, Herreid; vice-president, Mrs. B. Krentz, Bismarck; secretary, Mrs. M. Wolff, Gackle; and treasurer, Mrs. H. Lang, Napoleon. A well planned program, under the leadership of our president, Mrs. E. S. Fenske, was given on the evening of the same day. Mrs. G. Breikreuz led the fine singing with Mrs. J. Grygo at the piano. Mrs. E. Oster read Luke 5:1-7 and Mrs. C. H. Seecamp led in prayer. The Women's Choir, ably led by Mrs. Grygo, rendered two selections. A double duet from the Ventura Society also brought a fine musical number. The new officers were installed by Mrs. A. Krombein who spoke fitting words of challenge. Four members of our union were called to their eternal reward for whom Mrs. W. Prendinger conducted a solemn memorial service, which included a solo by Mrs. M. Wolff.

A missionary dialog entitled, "To Thine Own Self," was given by the Linton Society. The guest speaker was our evangelist, Rev. D. Fuchs. He gave a challenging message based on Luke 5:4, "Launch out into the Deep." The offering for the evening amounted to \$28.00.

Mrs. A. W. Bibelheimer, Reporter.

Baptismal Service, Reception of New Members and Choir's Ministry at Bismarck, N. Dak.

The Lord has been most gracious to us at the Bismarck Baptist Church of Bismarck, North Dakota. In the past six months we have had the joy of welcoming 29 new members into our fellowship. A wonderful spirit of cooperation prevails among our people. The services are very well attended.



The Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, N. Dak. (left), of which Rev. John E. Grygo is pastor; and the Bismarck Baptist Church Choir (right) with the director, Rev. B. W. Krentz, at the left in the picture.

We also have two German services each month. These services are held on Sunday afternoon. Our older people seem to prefer this to early in the morning.

We are constantly inspired to greater services by the clear and enthusiastic manner in which our pastor, Rev. John E. Grygo brings the Word of God to us. We are truly grateful for the ministry of our pastor and his dear wife in our midst.

On Easter Sunday Mr. Grygo baptized four young people and on the following Sunday extended the hand of fellowship to them. On the evening of April 17 the young people of the New Leipzig Baptist Church gave a very fine program in our church. The choir of the Turtle Lake Baptist Church gave a concert here recently. We were thrilled by the fine singing of this group.

Our church choir, under the leadership of Rev. B. W. Krentz, does much to enrich the services every Sunday. We are happy that so many of our young people are using the talents the Lord has given to them.

The church demonstrated its appreciation for the blessings received by voting, at the last business meeting, to designate the building fund for the erection of a new parsonage. We hope that this will become a reality in the near future.

Walter Aman, Clerk.

Northwestern Conference

Northwestern Conference Woman's Missionary Union Sessions at Baptist Church, Aplington, Iowa

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Northwestern Conference met for its annual breakfast and business meeting on Monday, May 30, with our president, Mrs. Frank Veninga, presiding. It was our joy to have as our guests Miss Laura Reddig, missionary-nurse to the Cameroons, and Mrs. Donald Ganstrom, former missionary, now residing in St. Paul, Minn., and serving in the Riverview Church.

Our speaker, Mrs. Ganstrom, chose as her topic, "Our Outlook for 1955 and 1956 as a Woman's Missionary Union." She spoke of the women's work in the Cameroons and reminded us that we should not only take a backward look at our work but develop a forward and upward look

daily. Mrs. Fred Mashner sang a solo. Gifts were presented to Miss Reddig, Mrs. Ganstrom and also to Mrs. Frank Veninga, retiring president. Three new ministers' wives, Mrs. Ganstrom, Mrs. E. W. Blackburn, and Mrs. Vernon Link were introduced and welcomed into our Union.

The following officers were elected for the coming year; president, Mrs. Henry Fluth, Minneapolis, Minn.; vice-president, Mrs. J. Benke, Watertown, Wis.; secretary, Mrs. Alvin Wetter, Victor, Iowa; and treasurer, Mrs. Harm Sherman of Aplington, Iowa. Our missionary offering of \$279.21 was given to the Leper Work in the Cameroons.

On Monday afternoon we presented our program with Mrs. Veninga in charge. The Women's Chorus, under the direction of Miss Dryer sang, "O Lord Most Merciful." The dedication service for the newly elected officers was in charge of Rev. Emanuel Wolff. An impressive memorial service was led by Mrs. Emanuel Wolff, of Burlington, Iowa. Our guest speaker, Miss Laura Reddig, brought a very inspiring talk on "Ambassadors for Christ," using as her Scripture lesson 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. She told of the almost unbelievable advances that have been made in our mission fields in the Cameroons during the past 17 years. A big "Thank You" was expressed to all the women for their faithful service in keeping our missionaries supplied with White Cross material.

Mrs. Louis Schulze, Reporter.

GENERAL CONFERENCE HYMNAL

The General Conference Hymnal with 80 songs and hymns taken as sample pages from the new "North American Hymnal" now being printed was exceedingly popular at the sessions in Waco, Texas. It contains several final translations of old-time German hymns and chorals.

Several hundred copies are available for youth assemblies and churches at our Roger Williams Press, 3734 Payne Ave., Cleveland 14, Ohio. As long as they last, they can be purchased at 25 cents a copy. Place your orders immediately.

Northwestern Conference CBY and SS Union at Aplington, Iowa, Holds Banquet and Rally

Once again this year the CBY and SS Union played a very important part in the annual program of the Northwestern Conference which was held at Aplington, Iowa, from May 27 to 30.

On Saturday evening the CBY and SS Union sponsored the annual conference banquet for all delegates and friends of the Northwestern Conference. The banquet was held at Black's Tea Room in Waterloo, Iowa, just a short distance from Aplington. Approximately 200 guests attended. After a most delicious dinner the group was welcomed by the Aplington CBY president, Louise Chenette. Following a singspiration led by the president of the Northwestern Conference CBY and SS Union, David Nasgowitz, two of the young people from the host church read the Scripture passage and offered prayer. Miss Irene Tipner, Milwaukee, Wis., favored the group with two vocal selections.

The message for the evening was given by the Rev. Roy Seibel, Emery, S. Dak., who spoke on the subject, "Youth in the Christian Home."

On Sunday afternoon the annual business meeting was held. It was decided that money over and above the running expenses be given to the work of the Church Extension. Election of officers was held and results were as follows: president, Donald Richter, St. Paul, Minn.; vice-president, Myron Dudek, Racine, Wis.; secretary, Louise Chenette, Aplington, Iowa; treasurer, Doris Glewwe, St. Paul, Minn.; advisor, Rev. G. W. Blackburn, Pound, Wisconsin.

On Sunday evening a CBY Rally was held. The song service was again led by David Nasgowitz. Scripture and prayer were taken by Evelyn Rymer and Doris Glewwe, respectively. A trio consisting of Mr. and Mrs. David Nasgowitz and Irene Tipner, Milwaukee, and the choir from Steamboat Rock, Iowa, directed by Harry Luiken, provided the special music. The message for the rally was brought by Rev. Lawrence Bienert on the subject "For Jesus' Sake."

As the conference was brought to a close, everyone looked forward to the next one and we cannot praise our Lord enough for the wonderful weekend of blessings which he bestowed upon his children.

Donna Mae Rabenhorst, Secretary.

60th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Thoms of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On Memorial Day, May 30th, at the Temple Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wis., a public celebration for the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Thoms was arranged by the family. They have been loyal and active members of the church for more than 60 years. A fitting program was carried out under the direction of the pastor, Rev. G. K. Zimmerman. After the singing of a hymn, the pastor read the great chapter on love, 1 Corinthians 13.



Mr. and Mrs. Emil Thoms of the Temple Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wis., who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 30th.

Two fine vocal selections were rendered by Miss Irene Tippner entitled, "The Lord's Prayer" and "My God and I!" Prayer was offered by Rev. George Hensel, a friend of the family for many years. One of the grandchildren, Sigrid Johnson, gave an interesting reading, "To My Grandpa." Some reminiscing was done by Mr. Hensel and the guest of honor, Brother Thoms. After this service about 150 guests were invited to a bounteous wedding supper arranged and provided for by the family. The church presented to the couple of honor an everblooming rose bush and a chaise-lounge.

The following items of biography will be of interest. Brother Thoms was one of a family of orphans. He became the foster son of Rev. Carl Ohlgart who also united him and his wife in marriage. Mr. Thoms and his wife were both converted at the age of 12 years. Mr. Thoms was baptized by Rev. Coffman at Minonk Ill., in 1884. He became a member of the North Ave. Baptist Church, Milwaukee, now the Temple Baptist Church in 1895. Mrs. Thoms was baptized by Rev. H. L. Dietz in 1885 and joined the First Baptist Church, now Immanuel Baptist Church, and two years later joined the Temple Baptist. Six children were born to them, two sons of whom died some years ago.

The four living children and their families were present at the service: Mrs. Mildred Busacker, Mrs. Ida Johnson, a widow, and sons Ray and Carl. Mr. Thom's one brother, Robert F. Jansen, was a very active and loyal member of the Immanuel Baptist Church of Kankakee, Illinois. He died in 1941. Brother Thoms served our church as trustee, also as deacon for 35 years, being deacon emeritus now. He also served as Sunday School librarian. He sang in the mixed and male choirs and also served as custodian. Mrs. Thoms served as Sunday School teacher and was active in the Missionary Society, and still is, doing much

White Cross work. Both Mr. and Mrs. Thoms have made missionary interest and support a vital factor in their church life. They still attend Sunday School and worship services regularly. May God bless and keep them for many days to come!

George Hensel, Reporter.

Vacation Bible School at Elgin, Iowa, Has Average Attendance of 85 Children

"Sailing With Christ" was the theme of the Vacation Bible School at the First Baptist Church, Elgin, Iowa, which was held from May 21 to 28. The closing program was on Sunday afternoon, May 29. Because the dates of the Northwestern and General Conferences came so early, the school was shortened to seven instead of the usual ten days.

The average attendance was 85 and of these, 66 children received awards for perfect attendance. The ten who brought new pupils were made "Admirals for the Day" and were given special recognition in the program.

Teachers and helpers were as follows: Mrs. Guy Probert, Beverly Muehlethaler, Beverly Trautman, Beginners; Mrs. Alfred Baechler, Marjorie Johnson, Mrs. Kenton Krueger, Primary; Mrs. John Schaer, Mrs. Hugo Hackmann, Juniors; Rev. and Mrs. H.

John Vanderbeck, Mrs. Harry Johnson, Intermediates; Mrs. Edward Krueger, music instructor; Mrs. Arbie Schroeder, accompanist; Mrs. Harold Orth, Mrs. Abe Habeger, recreation leaders; and Colleen Boleyn, secretary.

The total offering was \$55.04 and was designated for the Leper Work at the New Hope Settlement, Cameroons, Africa.

Mrs. Fred Schaer, Reporter.

Pacific Conference

Grandma Heyden of Bethel Church, Salem, Oregon, Celebrates Ninety-sixth Birthday

On May 29 the women of the Bethel Baptist Church of Salem, Ore., had the privilege of helping to celebrate Grandma Heyden's 96th birthday. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon. She was greatly pleased when the group sang familiar German hymns. Several ladies also gave readings.

Grandma Heyden has been a faithful member of the church for 63 years. Unfortunately she fell and broke her leg two years ago. Before that time she was always present at every church service, which was a wonderful example and great inspiration for all the younger members. Today she can rejoice in the fact that all her children are members of the church.

The following verse seems very appropriate: "And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made and I will bear, even I will carry, and will deliver you."

Margaret Peters, Reporter.

Fourth Anniversary of Rev. B. Jacksteit's Ministry at Bethel Church, Anaheim, Calif.

It was four years ago that the Rev. Berthold Jacksteit came to Anaheim, Calif., to serve as pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church. The years have been packed with activity, not only for him as leader of his flock but also in the services rendered to his community. On May 24, at a brief commemorating service, expressions of appreciation were tendered him.

Among the blessings of the past year has been a membership increase—19 by baptism, 20 by letter, and six by confession of faith, making a total of 47. At the annual election consecrated members were willing to fill all posts. All branches of the church are now enthusiastically at work.

The Woman's Missionary Society celebrated its 44th anniversary recently. Its active membership of 124 is divided into nine circles, which meet monthly. All circles shared in the White Cross work for the Bansa Hospital in the Cameroons, clothing for overseas, relief and the Colorado mission fields. The birthday party, mite boxes and the anniversary program offerings are designated for our missionary enterprises.

A total of 215 persons were present at the Mother-Daughter banquet, for which the tables were beautifully decorated with colorful "May Poles." A

song service, toast to mothers and daughters, prizes for those qualifying were part of the program which concluded with a showing of colored slides of points of interest in Spain, accompanied by the most interesting comments by Mrs. Jane Jacksteit, who recently toured that country. Mrs. Leola Bowen, the new president of the Woman's Missionary Society, was in charge of the event.

Olga Pieper, Reporter.

Mother and Daughter Banquet of the Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon

On Friday evening, May 6, about 275 women of the Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, Ore., gathered around the tables to honor our mothers in Christian fellowship. The three women's groups of the church combined to make it a memorable occasion. The Women's Missionary Society had charge of the dinner, the Dorcas Guild supplied tickets and table decorations, and the Deborah Circle made favors and programs. Our men served us and cleaned up the kitchen.

Our toastmistress was Alice Pohl, and the honored speaker was Mrs. Earl Kalland, wife of the president of the Western Baptist Seminary of Portland. We were honored with the presence of two four-generation groups and four mothers over 80. It was a privilege, too, to hear briefly from our returned missionary, Margie Lawrence, who is now at home in Portland with her parents.

The accompanying picture shows the banquet hall and the personnel at the head table. From the left, they are June Hawks, president of Deborah; Mrs. J. A. Jennings and Mrs. Fred Bauman, sister and mother of Margie Lawrence; Margie Lawrence, our missionary; Mrs. Charles Cook of Boston, Mass., sister of our speaker; our speaker, Mrs. Earl Kalland; Alice Pohl, president of Dorcas; Bertha Losli, vice-president of the Women's Missionary Society; Marguerite and Susan Blake, her daughter and granddaughter; and Mrs. John Wobig, our pastor's wife.

Mrs. Melvin Becker, Reporter.

Central Conference

"Top Teen Talent" Program by Junior Guild Girls of Forest Park, Illinois

The Junior Guild girls of the Forest Park Baptist Church, Forest Park, Ill., presented a program of "Top Teen Talent" on Saturday evening, April 30, in the church auditorium.

The musical numbers on the program included two vocal solos, a violin solo, a sextet number, and a piano duet. The president of the Junior Guild gave the welcome and read a poem.

The climax of the program was a play called, "A Missionary Clinic," by Ethel Fleming. It showed the way



Some of the 275 women at the Mother and Daughter Banquet of the Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, Ore., with the Speakers' table in the background.

people need to do God's work to forget their own ailments. Refreshments were served after the program by the mothers of the Guild girls.

The officers of the Junior Guild are Lois Dobson, president; Sara Lou Gunst, vice-president; Janet Schmitzer, secretary; and Charmaine Rehbein, treasurer. Other Guild girls are Louanne Fuchs, Doris Schuster, Barbara Salvatori, Eleanor Schreiber, Arleen Rappuhn, Elaine Grundke, Lorraine Schreiber, Mildred Johnston, and Mary Jane Cochrane.

The girls are under the able leadership of Miss Mary Leyoldt and meet once a month in the members' homes. Arleen Rappuhn, Reporter.

Central Conference Sessions With the Theme, "Charging the Church," at Forest Park, Illinois

"With a conference here and a conference there, here a conference, there a conference, everywhere a conference—which shall I attend?" Many of the members of our churches in the Central Conference area decided on the General Conference in Waco, Texas, or the Baptist World Alliance meeting in London, England. Although

the attendance at the Central Conference in Forest Park, Ill., was small for this reason, the sessions from May 19 to 22 were rich in heart-warming fellowship. Inspirational and challenging messages were delivered. Reports of the status of the various churches as well as of the denomination as a whole were given. A few items of business were transacted.

The theme of the conference was "Charging the Church." In the keynote address on "Charging the Church to a Stronger Fellowship," Rev. L. H. Broeker of St. Joseph, Mich., stressed four "stakes" which needed to be strengthened (using the text from Isaiah 54): Christian experience, Christian expression, Christian example, Church expansion.

Another thought-provoking address was the "Charge to a More Thorough Teaching and Training Program," presented by Rev. G. Beers of Northern Seminary. The need for improved educational standards for pupils, higher qualifications for teachers and development of better attitudes toward church educational work was stressed.

The missionary emphasis was brought by our beloved missionary-nurse, Miss Laura Reddig. "Have faith



Junior Guild girls of the Forest Park Baptist Church, Forest Park, Ill., at their "Top Teen Talent" program.

WOMEN'S MEETINGS

(Continued from Page 14)

from the dread disease of leprosy. Constantly while under treatment at the settlement, they are told of the saving power of Christ.

It was interesting to note that the date of our meeting, June 10, was the 3rd anniversary of the use of sulphone for the treatment of leprosy. Due to this medicine it is possible for leprosy to be wiped out in 25 years. What a reason to be grateful to God! "Don't ever get tired of rolling bandages" our women were told, and how can we but respond to this heart-felt request!

Our mission offering for the afternoon amounted to nearly \$700. After singing the Woman's Missionary Union theme song, "Christ for the Whole Wide World," we were invited to the Student Union Lounge for a missionary reception and tea. The women who took part in the pageant presided at the six tables which were beautifully decorated in keeping with the mission fields they had portrayed in the pageant.

In addition to these activities, our Women's Missionary Union sponsored two prayer and meditation periods which were held in the Foyer of Meditation of the beautiful and awe-inspiring Armstrong - Browning Memorial Chapel. The Women's Bible Class, led by Mrs. Grosser and taught by Mrs. Frank Veninga, was held on Sunday morning.

Those of us who attended these sessions were inspired and strengthened spiritually.

CBY and SS UNION PROGRAMS AT WACO

(Continued from Page 15)

The Gospelaires, North American Baptist Seminary quartet, and the Christian Training Institute girls quartet rendered several numbers in song. Other musical numbers were a vocal duet by Dorothy Yahn who sang "Psalm Ninety-One" and a duet by Rev. and Mrs. Ed Link. The banquet speaker was Rev. Joe Sonnenberg, pastor of the Foster Avenue Church, Chicago, Ill., who spoke on "Possibilities Unlimited."

The Sunday afternoon Youth Rally was another program filled with good things. Rev. Lawrence Bienert introduced the new theme, "Strive to Win," for the CBY Fellowship for the coming year. Mr. Joe Fritzsche of Stafford, Kans., and Miss Dallas Bowen, student of Baylor University, gave brief testimonies sharing some of the joys which are theirs as Christians. Hearts were thrilled with the musical renditions by the C.T.I. Choristers and the Mass Choir of the Southern Conference churches.

Just before the afternoon message by Rev. Harold Gieseke, Lorraine, Kans., there was a vocal duet by Rev. and Mrs. Donald Patet, Randolph, Minnesota. Mr. Gieseke based his inspiring message on Acts 4:13, using the example of Peter in pointing out the change of character which may take place through Christ. His challenge to the young people was to live such a life that others would be surprised at the change in their life through Jesus Christ.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

(Continued from Page 12)

Miss Betty Meister, Chicago, Ill.
Mr. Herbert Stabbert, Anaheim, California
Rev. Henry Pfeifer, Edmonton, Alberta
Rev. Emanuel Wolff, Burlington, Iowa
Rev. Paul F. Zoschke, Brooklyn, New York

Commission on Denominational Objectives and Organization

(Alphabetically Arranged)

Mr. Herman Bleeker, Alexandria, South Dakota
Rev. Isador Faszer, Minitonas, Manitoba
Rev. G. E. Friedenbergh, Buffalo, New York
Mrs. Walter W. Grosser, Oak Park, Illinois
Rev. Leonard B. Hinz, Marion, Kansas
Dr. A. Dale Ihrie, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan
Mr. Harold Johns, Oak Park, Ill.
Rev. Louis R. Johnson, Waco, Texas
Mr. Edwin H. Marklein, Brooklyn, New York
Mr. Arthur Schwerin, Burlington, Iowa
Mr. Edmund Streuber, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Rev. Frank Veninga, Aplington, Iowa
Rev. John Wobig, Portland, Oregon
Ex-officio
Dr. Frank H. Woyke and Mr. Walter W. Grosser

Inspirational Books

WALKING IN THE LIGHT by MARJORIE WILKINSON

Men throughout the ages—both saints and very ordinary people—have tried to describe how they were guided by the light of the presence of God, the illumination granted men to enable them to know and obey the Father. This book contains a heartening host of their testimonies—shows with what power the light shines for those who walk in it—discusses different aspects of the coming of this light into our lives. 60 pages. Price, \$1.00.

WHEN THE HEART IS HUNGRY by CHARLES L. ALLEN

Just as the parables deal with the common experiences of men, so they are presented here as scholarly expositions or gems of Biblical exegesis, but rather as spiritual food for the hungry hearts of a common suffering humanity. The author highlights the outstanding and most helpful truths of twenty-two parables and clarifies innumerable difficult passages, thus pointing out new directions for the spiritually lost. 159 pages. Price, \$2.00.

GOD BEING MY HELPER by RALPH A. HERRING

To first-century Christians, the presence of the Holy Spirit was life's supreme reality. Today many have lost this reality, and are sincerely confused by a vague, inadequate impression of the Holy Spirit's role. The purpose of this book is to give a clear explanation of the Spirit's place in your life, and to lead you into a growing knowledge of the divine Helper who dwells in and governs the life of every true Christian. 139 pages. Price, \$2.00.

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