

Baptist Herald

● ● ● NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE



**December
13
1956**

"Christ the Lord to Us Is Born, Hallelujah!"

**Christmas Symphonies
The Festival of Life
God's Hand of Blessing**

March of Events

● The vast research assembled for Cecil Be DeMille's production of "The Ten Commandments" has been published in book form by the University of Southern California Press under the title "Moses and Egypt." It is available in limited edition in hard back and paper back covers. The editor is Henry S. Noerdlinger, chief research consultant for the film.

● Forty-nine of the 250 presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. have returned affirmative votes on the proposal to adopt a Plan of Union with the United Presbyterian Church. Voting on the plan will continue in both churches until the respective General Assemblies meet next spring. Denominational officials said no negative votes have been recorded. If union is approved the new church body would be known as the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. It would have 3,000,000 members in 9,200 churches.

● King Solomon's Mines, located about 20 miles north of Eilat, Israel, at Timan, and once an important factor in the success of the kingdom of Israel, are about to become again a vital asset to this country. The famed mines are now the scene of extensive preparations for the exploitation of Israel's copper resources. Some three hundred workers, guards, geologists, and engineers are already at work in the area. Although known from the Bible, King Solomon's Mines were not rediscovered until about 20 years ago. They will play an important part in Israel's economy in the future.

● The possibility that a third major denomination may join in the pro-

posed merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church, was recently indicated. Delegates of the two uniting bodies meeting in session in Cleveland, Ohio, "received with great rejoicing" an overture from the International Convention of Disciples of Christ expressing interest in joining with the merged body. They immediately adopted a resolution asking the Disciples to send a fraternal delegate to the uniting convention scheduled next June in Cleveland. If the 1,900,000 member Disciples denomination joins the merger, the new church, which will be known as the United Church of Christ, would have a membership of more than 4,000,000 and

rank fourth among Protestant communions.

● A new World Methodist Council collection of historical Methodist memorabilia was dedicated recently at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The dedication ceremony took place during the ninth World Methodist Conference, attended by 2,000 delegates. The 300-member council links 40 Methodist bodies in 70 countries. The \$100,000 one-story limestone building was turned over debt-free to the council as a gift from bishops and other friends of world Methodism. The collection of Wesley mementoes, also valued at \$100,000, includes more than 100 busts of Wesley, first editions of his works, letters, manuscripts, small statues and medallions. Among these items are a glazed pottery bust of Wesley executed by Enoch Wood; a miniature bust made from the backbone of a horse and a portrait done by Frank Salisbury of London.

Baptist Briefs

● The French Cameroun is the country where the European Baptist Missionary Society is undertaking pioneer work. Nine Baptist Unions are joining in this venture. The president of the Society, Rev. Henri Vincent, Paris, France, recently said: "The people of Cameroun have not been able to understand that European missionaries from different countries have succeeded each other: first Englishmen, then Germans, and later Frenchmen. But now we come as a European Missionary Society and bear witness to our unity, the unity that Christ creates." The field of the new society lies in a previously unevangelized area in

the interior of Cameroun. Missionary Alfred Saker of the B.M.S. (Britain) began work near the coast as far back as 1845.

● Theodore F. Adams, president of the Baptist World Alliance, warned that Christianity faces an increasing threat from Buddhism and Mohammedanism as well as from "creeping, insidious materialism." He addressed nearly 2,000 persons at Miami, Fla., during the fourth annual Festival of Faith, sponsored by the Greater Miami Council of Churches to commemorate the Protestant Reformation. Referring to his recent world tour, the Baptist leader said he found that Communists are missionary-minded. Not only that, but Mohammedanism is aroused, and "an awakened Buddhism is trying to win converts even among Christians."

● Mission fields in Asia will be visited by a group of American Baptist lay leaders, pastors, and denominational workers in January and February of 1957. India, Bengal-Orissa, Assam, Burma, and Thailand will be visited on a 45-day trip. They will travel by air. The tour is sponsored by the Baptist Foreign Mission Boards and the Council on Missionary Cooperation. Dr. August M. Hintz, Chicago, Ill., pastor of North Shore Baptist Church and president of the Foreign Mission Societies, will lead the tour. Dr. Hintz has visited the mission fields in India and Burma and was a member of the survey team that went to Thailand before American Baptists re-entered that country.

Editorial

Christmas For Christ!

IT SEEMS STRANGE, even tragic, that for many people the celebration of Christmas has nothing whatsoever to do with Christ. For Christmas has become a season, a shopping spree, a pagan's paradise. You will find evidences of this in many of the greeting cards, the hectic and mad rush in downtown stores, the advertisements of magazines trying to sell wines, liquors, and tobacco by capitalizing on the celebration. These people are worse than pagans, for the word, Christmas, is often on their lips but their hearts are far from its reality.

We must remind the world that Christmas is Christ's birthday, the Christmas season a time for honoring Christ. What is Christmas without him? There is no Christmas where there is no Christian. This is the only true glory of Christmas, the light that "hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). We need to get back to "first things" that Christmas is for Christ!

You will soon know where you stand in the long procession of Christmas celebrants by facing up to three important questions. What is the meaning of Christmas to you? This should be more than an answer in words. It should be an experience that lights a warm glow in your souls. At Christmas we see that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself." The Christ-child is the glorious revelation that "God is with us" (Immanuel). His birth at Bethlehem was only the beginning of a matchless life, divinely begun, and gloriously consummated in his finished work on the Cross for the redemption of the world. Christmas should mean all this—and more—to "usward who believe!"

If Christmas is Christ's birthday, then we should resolve to honor him by glorifying Christ and offering him the gifts that rightfully belong to him. The second pointed question is this: How do you prepare for Christmas? Are you only concerned selfishly for yourself and the circle of your family and friends? Is Christ ever on your gift list? Are you, too, caught in the mad scramble and hectic round of activities that we call Christmas? Are you like the woman who, dreading the gift-wrapping, card-sending, cleaning, baking, and entertaining, sighed heavily: "I'll be glad when it's over"? Our preparation for Christmas should find us, like Mary, sitting at the feet of Jesus, refreshed spiritually by the carols and greetings and messages of the celebration, remembering the gifts that, first of all, should be brought to Christ.

A third question is still waiting to be answered: How do you celebrate Christmas? If Christmas is for Christ, then he ought to be honored, he should have an opportunity to talk to you, and his Spirit should glow radiantly in your soul. You ought to be a better Christian, a more winsome witness, a more faithful disciple because at Christmas he has visited you again and has revealed more of his glory to you.

Let Christmas be for Christ—more than ever this year! It may surprise you what joys and blessings can be yours if Christ really comes to you and is with you at your Christmas celebration this year!

BAPTIST HERALD CONTENTS

Volume 34 No. 25
December 13, 1956

Cover	Winston Pote
"Christ the Lord to Us Is Born, Hallelujah!"	
March of Events	2
Baptist Briefs	2
Editorial	
"Christmas for Christ"	3
"The Festival of Power and Life"	
By Dr. F. Townley Lord	4
"Christmas Symphonies of Praise"	
Reverends Norman H. Klann, Emanuel Wolff, Edgar B. Wesner, Herbert Schauer, and H. John Vanderbeck	6
"Let the Children Come"	
Miss Ruby Salzman	8
"Japanese Youth Facing Life"	
Mrs. Clemence Auch	9
"God's Hand of Blessing"	
Miss Eleanor E. Schuler	10
"The Work of Your Seminary"	
Dr. George A. Lang	10
"God's People Who Care"	
Rev. E. P. Wahl	11
"It's Here Once More"	
Mr. Clayton E. Luxton	12
Christmas Poetry	13
"We, the Women"	
Mrs. Thomas Lutz	14
"CBY Fellowship"	
Rev. L. Bienert	15
"Sunday School Lessons"	
Rev. Bruno Schreiber	16
What's Happening	17
Our Denomination in Action	18
October Contributions	22
General Conference Budget	22
Obituaries	23
The 1957 ANNUAL (Announcement)	24

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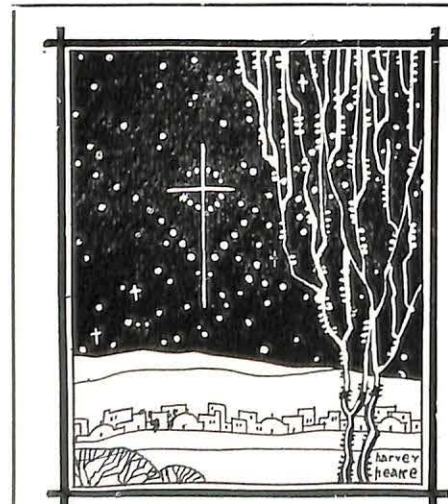
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A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Our wish for you from the

Publication Society Personnel,
Board and Editors.

May the God of peace watch over you, and the Prince of peace usher in a year of blessing and victory for you!

"Joy to the world!
The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her king."



This is the season of infectious friendliness that gathers all mankind within the circle of brotherhood.

The Festival of Power and Life

As we bend before the manger cradle, we know that God has come into a world of despair, bringing life and immortality to light, opening the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

A Christmas Meditation by
DR. F. TOWNLEY LORD

WHATEVER ELSE Christmas may have done, it has set the Church to singing. It supplies the three factors which Bernard Manning found in the great hymns of Charles Wesley: "the solid structure of historic dogma, the passionate thrill of present experience, the glory of a mystic sunlight coming directly from another world."

THE GLOW OF CHRISTMAS

I doubt if there is any Christmas hymn more widely known than that of Nahum Tate and Nicholas Brady, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night." It has been described as a word-picture of great beauty. Nahum Tate was once a poet-laureate; he died in a debtor's prison. Nicholas Brady was once a royal chaplain; he ended his days in poverty. Yet these two, bequeathing nothing else, left us a legacy which, coming into royal home and humble cottage, has spread its warm glow across 256 winters.

There is no doubt about the glow. Let the icy blasts do what they will, yet as soon as the Christmas festival comes around, there steals across the heart a gentle breeze as of summer. Wrote Sir Walter Scott:

"The wind is chill
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas
merry still."

Stony hearts are softened. The selfish people of this world warm to unwonted generosity. We feel, as at no other season, that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This is the season of infectious friendliness that gathers all mankind within the circle of brotherhood. Listening once again to the bells of Bethlehem, we feel within us a stirring of power like that of which Sir Winston Churchill has lately written in his eulogy of Alfred the Great: "a power

to rise above the whole force of circumstances, to remain unbiased by the extremes of victory or defeat, to persevere in the teeth of disaster, to greet returning fortune with a cool eye, to have faith in men after repeated betrayals."

This is the yearly miracle repeated amid the winter snows. We may well ask why the Christmas message has such power. Why, asked an editorial writer in "The London Times," does Christmas survive the shocks of time and circumstances, and pass unscathed through changes that uproot so much that is familiar in the heritage of the past?

JESUS WAS BORN!

Let another famous journal supply the answer. Commenting on the words from Matthew, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise," the late H. Wilson Harris writing editorially in "The Spectator" gave his view that the essential fact is the birth of Christ, not that the birth of Christ was on this wise or that wise. We may marvel at the angels' song, the shepherds' awe and wonder, the incomparable poetry

DR. F. TOWNLEY LORD

The author, Dr. F. Townley Lord, for the past 27 years has been the minister of the well-known Bloomsbury Baptist Church in London, England. For about 15 years he was also editor of "The Baptist Times," one of the leading church papers in Great Britain. For the customary five-year term, 1950-1955, he served as president of the Baptist World Alliance and officiated at the Jubilee Congress held in London in July 1955.

of the Magnificat, the tender picture of Mary of whom Chesterton wrote:

"The Christ-child stood on Mary's knee,

His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at him
And all the stars looked down."

But deeper than the romantic, pictorial setting of the great event is the fact itself. Once, long ago, Jesus was born. For a long time now we have nourished our strongest hopes on that fact.

Even the unorthodox can pay tribute to this. H. G. Wells concluded his "Short History of the World" with a chronological table. He gave us a list of dates, beginning with far-famed Egypt, Rome, Assyria, Persia; he recalled the stalwarts of the ancient days, Cyrus, Philip of Macedon, Pompey, Caesar Augustus. Then came another date. "Birth of Jesus of Nazareth: Christian Era begins." Wells preferred, as he said, to keep history and theology apart. But you cannot keep history apart from anything . . . politics, economics, culture, literature, religion.

How impossible it is to keep the Christmas date in the calendar apart from theology! The inspired author of the Fourth Gospel felt this so strongly that he chose to include in his opening chapter this tremendous assertion "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us; and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Christmas is thus inseparable from God. Dwell, if you like, on Mary, as the world's artists have done, depicting in Italian, Flemish, German, Spanish genius the mother holding her child before the world; or on the shepherds whom Milton described as

"simply chatting in a rustic row"; or on the wise men bringing their gold, frankincense and myrrh, their bejewelled robes in colorful contrast to the dull tones of the manger. Dwell on all these . . . yet your attention is inevitably drawn to the central figure. In gratitude you learn that the rude manger contains God's greatest gift to the world, himself.

This is the meaning of the incarnation. An empire which already knew a Jupiter sitting high on Olympus and hurling thunderbolts now comes to know a Savior whose only gifts are grace, forgiveness, peace. Men are to know from now on that the greatest fact about our world is that God is in it: God with his offer of power and life.

A visitor to the Holy Land might be forgiven if he wondered whether even the Church has always remembered this. Over the traditional spot where the birth of Christ took place, stands the Church of the Holy Nativity. It is approached, says Daniel-Rops, "as if it were a fortress." It has become the battleground of warring sects: one-third administered by the Armenian Church, another by the Greek Church, and the remaining third by Franciscan friars on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church. Little wonder that Jerome, who chose to live in a cell near-by, remarked: "It was not among gold and silver that our Savior came into the world."

If we would understand and appreciate what the first Christmas meant we are more likely to do it keeping company with the shepherds than touring sacred sites in the Holy Land.

STARTLING CONTRASTS FOR US

And if the birth of Jesus was challenging to the empire which the Romans had built up with such skill, it is even more challenging to our modern world. We may still travel the roads in Europe which Roman engineers laid down with such skill, but if today we lift up our eyes to the blue skies we behold something Roman legionaries never dreamed of . . . winged messengers of death. Early Christian writers often contrasted an empire based on military power with a Kingdom based on God's offer of grace, mercy, and peace.

For us the contrast is even more startling. We are required to contrast the blessed reign of God in human hearts with a future based on atomic destruction. Is it surprising that some hear nothing but mockery in the sound of the bells of Bethlehem? Vain sound, they think, remembering how the nations now experiment with devastating bombs. They feel like Longfellow when he wrote:

And in despair I bowed my head.
"There is no peace on earth," I said:
For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.



Dr. F. Townley Lord of London, England

Moods like this are bound to assail us as we reflect on the sad plight of the modern world. The young people in our churches have never known any other situation than world tension. All they know is that hostility and suspicion prevail across the continents. A considerable part of their incomes goes to the construction of death-dealing devices which are so frightening in their menace to human happiness. Can it be wondered at that a note of cynicism creeps into their outlook?

THE CHRISTMAS FAITH

This mood is understandable enough; but it is a mood in which we dare not linger. So we do well to recall that Longfellow's sad verse, already quoted, was followed by another. He wrote:

They pealed the bells more loud and deep.
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

That, if you like, is a faith; but it is a faith by which men can live.

In a classic passage in his epistle to the Romans, Paul brought together two ideas which, in our experience, are rarely found together. "To be carnally minded is death," he wrote, "but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." It is this last conjunction of ideas that is so challenging. "Life and peace." Those two words stand for realities not often found in partnership. Unhappily we know more about life and struggle, life and anxiety, life and frustration, life and fear.

Were the apostle writing in the twentieth instead of in the first century, he would surely find additional arguments for the contrast he made between the carnal and the spiritual mind. Few would deny that our age

is materially minded, economically minded, mechanical minded. Some would go further and declare with Paul Tillich that for multitudes death has obliterated the meaning and power of life. He writes: "Death has become powerful—that is to say that the End, the finite, and the limitations and decay of our being have become visible."

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

Into these gloomy thoughts steals again the music from Bethlehem, to remind us that God's will is life, his own life entering into ours. This is the greatest gift mankind ever received, so great indeed that Paul could only describe it as "unspeakable." These are the thoughts which flood our minds with light and hope as we bend before the manger cradle; that God has come into a world of weariness and despair, bringing life and immortality to light, opening the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers. In the words of an old Methodist preacher Jesus has "spanned Sinai with a rainbow," proclaiming the infinite love of God to a world of sinners.

Like most ministers I have on the shelves of my library an array of books in which the theologians of the centuries have tried to come to terms with the meaning of the incarnation. The latest addition to those volumes leads us, if we have patience, into involved discussions of what Kierkegaard called the "Divine Invader," and the mysteries of existentialism, and Bultmann's "demythologisation" of the New Testament "Proclamation." We may not undervalue the work of these modern writers, but I find myself reflecting that the shepherds of whom we read in the Gospels would have been hopelessly bewildered by such language.

Not least among the attractions of the Gospel record is the simplicity of its language. The profoundest of all truths was declared in the simplest of settings and in terms which the way-faring man can understand. The Christmas story bids us leave behind the complex, the elaborate, and dwell for a moment with a mother whose heart leaps with joy as she hears a baby cry; and with shepherds into whose fear and awe came the assuring words, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

There can be nothing better for any of us—industrialists, statesmen, economic planners, ordinary folk going about our undistinguished tasks—than to say to one another what the shepherds said long ago: "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." We shall find ourselves singing with heartfelt fervor the lines with which Tate and Brady concluded their hymn:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven
to men
Begin and never cease."

Christmas Symphonies of Praise

* * *

*"For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord"
(Luke 2:11)*

The Beatitude of Elizabeth

By REV. NORMAN H. KLANN, Union City, New Jersey

THERE IS a unique joy that comes to the heart of a child of God when the Holy Spirit enlightens the eyes of his understanding concerning some great truth of God's revelation. It's a joy that causes the heart to overflow with praise and adoration. The Beatitude of Elisabeth in our text is the expression resulting from such an experience.

As we examine our text, we notice first the sequence of events. When Elisabeth was greeted by Mary, John the Baptist leaped for joy, and Elisabeth was "filled with the Holy Spirit." It was after the filling of the Holy Spirit that Elisabeth uttered her beatitude. True joy and praise can come only from those who have experienced the filling and power of the Holy Spirit. Any joy or praise which is not born of the Holy Spirit is not genuine.

There are two words used in the Greek which are both translated, "blessed," in our text. In Luke 1:42 both words translated, "blessed," are from the same Greek verb which means here, "favored of God."

The Magnificat of Mary

By REV. HERBERT SCHAUER, Turtle Lake, North Dakota

SOME of the most beautiful songs of praise to God found in the Bible were written by women. Mary, the mother of Jesus, expressed these magnificent words after meeting her cousin Elisabeth and the two rejoiced together at what God was going to do through them.

"My soul doth magnify the Lord." We generally think of hymns as being joyful. Songs of praise are multifold. When an individual praises God in his deepest being, it begins in the soul.

"My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior." Following praise of God, comes acknowledgement and appreci-

In verse 45 the word translated, "blessed," is not the same as in verse 42. Here it is from another word which means, "happy." It is of utmost importance to note the source of this happiness.

"Blessed is she that believed that there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." (Marginal reading.) This happiness springs from an implicit faith in the promises of God. God has also given to us great and precious promises through his inspired Word. He has promised the forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ. He has promised guidance by the Holy Spirit.

He has promised to supply our every need. He has promised strength for our every task. He has promised us heaven and eternal life. He has promised that we shall be with him and behold his glory.

May our happiness and the beatitude of our hearts and lips this Christmas season spring from the filling of the Holy Spirit, and an unwavering faith in the promises of God.

ation of salvation. To think of one's child and one's Savior as the same being is an experience which only Mary could have. To rejoice in "God, my Savior" is an experience the redeemed can have daily!

"He hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden—to think that God would select someone as lowly as I to be the channel of salvation to all mankind is almost unbelievable!" To think that God would pick people as unworthy as you and I for salvation is equally remarkable!

"He hath done great things." He that is mighty and holy can do great



—Sketch by Harmon

THE LITTLE CHILD

Just a wooden manger,
Common, rough and bare,
But all the world shall worship
The Baby sleeping there.

Just a wooden working bench,
Chippings, tools, and dust,
But the Greatheart working there,
The world has learned to trust.

Just two heavy wooden beams
That made his cross of pain,
But weary souls that seek him there,
Find God and heaven again.

—Author Unknown.

things. He alone is mighty enough to save; holy enough to sanctify.

"His mercy." His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting—especially resting upon those who fear him for generations.

"Strength and scattering." This mighty God is not only mighty to save but powerful to destroy—to scatter and conquer all forces of evil and all the "proud" who fail to submit to him.

God, the great equalizer, "hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree." Let the rich and powerful take warning; let the poor and oppressed take hope. "He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away," so that the hungry may not be fettered by the pangs of poverty and the rich not be hindered by the weight of wealth and over-abundance.

"He hath helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy." In conclusion Mary remembers her people and God's people of her day and every day. She not only rejoices in her honored position, but in the mercy that would be extended to all of God's people in all days. Thus closes this movement of the swelling symphony of Christmas praise as the most moving and majestic of all hymns that shall be ringing about us in this Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS SYMPHONIES OF PRAISE

The Beatitude of Elizabeth—
Luke 1:41-45.
The Magnificat of Mary—Luke
1:46-55.
The Benedictus of Zacharias—
Luke 1:67-79.
The Gloria in Excelsis—Luke
2:10-14.
The Prophetic Song of Simeon
—Luke 2:29-32.

The Benedictus of Zacharias

By Rev. Edgar B. Wesner
of Peoria, Illinois

AMONG THE GREAT symphonies, recorded by Luke, was that of a godly priest, Zacharias. He had been speechless for some months because he had dared to question the glad tidings announced to him and his wife, Elizabeth, concerning the birth of a son. Now, at the arrival of his son, the silence is broken, and he breaks forth with this hymn of praise known as the "Benedictus."

The symphony of praise which flowed from the lips of Zacharias was a song of adoration. In it he celebrated the birth of two individuals, God's Son and his own son; one a Savior and the other a servant. It was a hymn of salvation and service.

First, Zacharias blessed God for the coming of a Savior, who would deliver from the hand of the enemy (vv. 71, 74). This deliverance was to be a gift to all; a deliverance brought about through his work of redemption (v. 68) and referred to as salvation (v. 69). This was a deliverance to encompass all of man's known enemies.

He sings on to declare that this deliverance would lead to a life of service (v. 74). Through the coming of this Savior, men can now serve God without fear (v. 74), in holiness and righteousness (v. 75). We are saved to serve, and serve we must if the world is to be won for Christ.

Zacharias, then, continues to sing as he refers to his own son, named John, called the prophet of the highest, recognized as one sent to serve. His service was to be one of preparation. He was to prepare the way of the Savior by going before him in the power of Elijah and proclaiming the knowledge of salvation. Thus, he was to bring light to those who sat in spiritual darkness, and lead them into the way of peace (v. 79). The herald was to point people to the One about to follow: the Light of the World, the Prince of peace, and the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Let us also join Zacharias in celebration. We, too, can serve our Savior this Christmas by making known his great salvation to those in spiritual darkness.

The Gloria in Excelsis

By REV. E. WOLFF, Burlington, Iowa

"In the little village of Bethlehem,
There lay a Child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy
light,
O'er the place where Jesus lay.

"Alleluia! O how the angels sang,
Alleluia! how it rang;
And the sky was bright with a holy
light,
'Twas the birthday of a King."

William Harold Neidlinger.

THE SONG of the Angels has haunted the mind of man down through the Christian centuries. How we wish that a recording had been made, so that its heavenly music might lift and thrill our souls today! But its melody died out all too soon over the Judean hills, nor will any composer ever be able to restore it for us.

The words of the heavenly symphony have, however, been retained for us, and the depth and the splendor of their meaning have increased with the passing generations. "Glory to God in the highest!" Why this outburst of heavenly worship and adoration? Because "unto you is born . . . a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

The Prophetic Song of Simeon

By REV. H. JOHN VANDERBECK, Elgin, Iowa

SIMEON, a devout man of good report, inspired and overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, had revealed unto him the blessed promise of his God "that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Now the blessed proclamation was to be fulfilled and chosen Simeon was directed to rejoice in its accomplishment.

Into the temple he went to see the One appointed to come in the fulness of time, the anointed One, the Savior, which is Christ the Lord. His eyes rested on Jesus, babe in arms, and the Spirit within cried out in sweet reve-

Jesus had come, not only to reveal the infinite love of God to man, but to prepare the way of deliverance and redemption. Only as we recognize Jesus for what he is, and as we become conscious of the needs of our own soul and that of our fellow-man, will we understand the angels' song. The words will then become for us, not only an expression of the angels' adoration, but a prayer that all of God's creatures, the blessed spirits, of whom the angels were but a small company, and all the redeemed, give "glory to God in the highest!"

"Peace on earth." The whole life of Jesus was a fulfillment of the angels' song. His constant aim was to glorify his Father's Name. That included preparing the way by which peace could be established between heaven and earth. Jesus had come to tell man that through repentance and submission he could find a firm and lasting peace with God. He had come to reveal God's "good will" to men.

The heavenly anthem must be more than "The Song of the Angels." It must become an expression of our lives, the sum total of our prayers, our praise and adoration to God, our motive for daily living.

lation, "This is he—the One, the only One!"

He took the baby Jesus in his arms and blessed God. What a gracious privilege! But ours need not be any less. Simeon's revelation is no more precious than the promise of our Christ to us, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

Thus it was that Simeon rejoiced in full assurance of truth. He was now ready to meet God "in peace" for his eyes had seen Jesus who was to become God's way of "salvation" and "a light."

Today the glorious evangel is still the same. It has never changed. There is still only one way to meet God in peace. That "way" leads along a dusty road to the hill of Golgotha where stands a Cross on which the Prince of Glory died. At this Cross on the crossroads, our eyes see Jesus who has become God's way of salvation. There is no other! He still cries out to tired and sinful humanity, "look unto me and live . . . I will be your light."

Like Simeon in Jerusalem's temple, take this Jesus! Hold him close. Fold him into your heart and praise God. He will be your light. He will bring real meaning and joy into this Christmas season. God has revealed him to us! Let us reveal him to others!

CHRISTMAS EVE

By Hazel M. Kerr

The sky is stormy and no stars
Are visible tonight,
And yet we walk encompassed by
One Star's immortal light.

No voices are upraised in song,
Yet how the wind and rain
Seem vocal with the echoes of
A heavenly refrain!

What does it matter that no stars
Are seen, no songs are heard?
Ours is the Advent mystery—
The Star, the Song, the Word.

—Watchman-Examiner.



Great crowds of African children attend some of our Baptist Mission Schools in the Cameroons, West Africa.

Let the Children Come

★
A missionary message for the
Christmas offering

★
By MISS RUBY SALZMAN,
Cameroons Missionary

"SUFFER the little children to come unto me and forbid them not." As Jesus gave this invitation when he walked on this earth, so it continues to be our God-given task in any land to call the children unto him. It is our privilege in the Cameroons of Africa to hold open various doors of opportunity for children to find their way to Jesus.

The most recent statistics from the field tell of additional Sunday Schools and higher enrollment bringing the totals now to 205 schools with 12,465 men, women, and children attending. We praise God for these advancements and thank him for the opportunity of spreading the Good News through these Sunday Schools. However, we know these short periods of instruction in the Christian walk cannot fulfill the needs of our boys and girls, so we continue in our work of the Christian Day School program.

WORK OF EVANGELISM

Our primary aim in operating these schools is to further the work of evangelism. Illiterate Christians are unable to feed privately on God's Word. They cannot always comprehend the message given by the church teacher and are unable to search out truth for themselves. The same argument for weekday Religious Instruction in America holds true on the mission field. Even though our children would attend the churches on Sunday, the limited time spent in church is not sufficient to train children who come from pagan homes. "Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." For a nation to advance, its young people need to grow as Jesus grew.

An excerpt from a Standard VI (8th grade) composition will show you what the children themselves think of Mission Schools and what they hope to gain from the school.

"When I was at home I had no knowledge of what is called education, neither did I know anything about reading or writing. As I continued to grow, I came to know about reading

and writing by means of a friend who took me to a church near the door. As I sat down I was surprised to see the man was reading and preaching to the people from a book. I did not know the purpose of the people gathering there. Very soon afterwards, a school was built near that village and I determined to go to that school.

"I wanted to come to school to learn how to read and write. Apart from that, I came to school to know more about Jesus Christ who loved me and gave himself for me. I came to school to learn to obey, to learn to be humble and to gain more experience."

There is in our schools a definite Christian emphasis. Every morning as the children gather for school they pause at the opening hour for a period of devotions. The term often used for this service is "Morning Prayers." Scheduled during the course of the morning every day of the week is the Bible study class better known to the children as "Education in Christian Living."

In the lower grades the teachers encourage the pupils to ask questions. Often some boy will present a problem or a question put to him at the village story hour the night before, or some accusation which an important village man has made concerning the Christian's way of life. "What am I to tell him, for I promised I would ask for an answer in school today?" Then is the opportunity for the teacher to guide the thinking of that boy and through him to influence the lives in the boy's village.

PERSONAL WORK

In our schools there are many opportunities for personal work with the children. The teacher's own example in word and deed is one of the most important aspects. Just as a teacher can make or break a school by his actions, so he can make or mar the lives of his individual pupils. A striking example of the respect and love which a teacher can win from his pupils was shown a few years ago in our Ndu School. The teacher of one

of the upper classes was being transferred to another school. He was a man of outstanding Christian character and stability and had grown much in his Christian life.

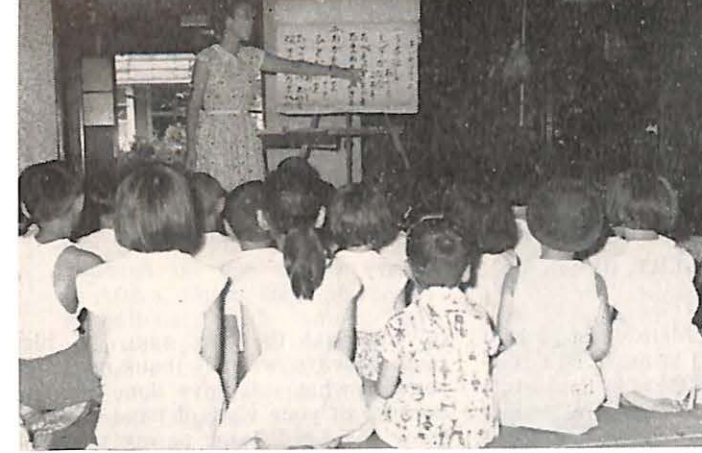
At the farewell program given by the Ndu School, the children were asked to give him a "clapping salute" as a token of appreciation for his services during the previous three years. Ordinarily the children would have immediately clapped their hands in unison three times. But at this request silence reigned—until finally one boy voiced the feelings of the whole group when in a faltering, high pitched voice he said, "We don't want him to go!" Never before had I seen such real love expressed by a student body. We hope and pray that through consistent Christian training and encouragement all of our teachers will deserve such respect.

MEETING SCHOOL EXPENSES

As part of our indigenous church program (self-support, self-government and self-propagation) we have sought ways and means of putting our schools on a partially self-supporting basis. One of our first official steps was the formulation of Village School Committees. This committee consists of the village chief, progressive elders and church deacons, village quarter heads, the school teachers, the church teacher and the evangelist of the area. In this committee meeting the following problems are discussed: school attendance, payment of fees, repair and upkeep of buildings, finances of the school and community improvements in relation to the school.

Any privilege obtained free is never so much appreciated as one which costs. Therefore, to help defray operating expenses of the schools, the children are required to pay school fees. This payment of fees often works a hardship on some of the children, especially those who have no father and those whose fathers oppose their going to school. Many children earn their own way through school by sell-

(Continued on Page 23)



A Vacation Bible School scene at the Baptist Chapel, Ise, Japan (left), and Miss Florence Miller, missionary, and young people of the Ise Baptist Chapel on an outing (right).

Japanese Youth Facing Life

By Mrs. Clemence Auch of Ise, Japan

THE YOUNG PEOPLE of Japan have many commendable traits, and yet at the same time there are some heart-breaking aspects of the young life in Japan. I should like to share some of my personal observations regarding them with you. First impressions, of course, are those of dress and general appearance. I was immediately attracted by the fresh, natural, wholesome look of the young girls. They did not appear to me to be the grown-up-too-soon, sophisticated young people that one finds in America.

High school girls do not have permanents nor do they wear make-up. Their naturally lovely complexions give them a pure girlish look. College girls and working girls nearly all have permanents, and make-up varies according to individual taste. It is not unusual, however, to see young women without any make-up.

Students in Japan nearly always wear a uniform. The girl's uniform is usually a pleated navy blue skirt and some style of middie blouse in navy or white. The boys usually wear black trousers and matching black coat with brass buttons and high collar. Young men are much more conservative in their dress than in America. They do not like flashy sport shirts or ties. Usually you see the young men in their school uniforms or in a dress suit and tie. Most girls learn to make their own clothes (Western) since ready-made clothes are expensive.

SERIOUS MINDED STUDENTS

Students in Japan are generally serious-minded and extremely diligent. The competition for getting into upper schools is so intense that it demands that the student put forth all his effort. Students must pass entrance exams for middle school, high school, and college. Only a certain percentage are allowed to enter, so you must be in the upper bracket to get in.

In the United States' school system your school record for the past years determines whether you get in or not. But here in Japan it depends almost

entirely upon the examination. This puts a terrific burden on the students and they feel that they do not have time for anything but study, for if they fail the exam they will be a disgrace to the family. This makes it extremely difficult to invite them to church services and to call upon them to serve in the capacities that youth in America serve in the church. They feel we are unsympathetic and are expecting too much from them. Some feel that it is impossible to attend church at all until they have entered college.

The young people of Japan are deeply concerned about the future of their country for with the limited area and resources and with an ever increasing population, there is no hope of a bright era ahead. There is a feeling of frustration because they wish to improve their country, but economically their hands are tied. You can't stretch the map of Japan to make it accommodate more people. There are more students studying economics than any other subject which gives a clue as to what is on their minds.

The freedom of democracy appeals to them, but from an economic viewpoint socialism seems to hold greater promise of relief from poverty. Communist ideas are strong among the university students, although I would find it difficult to say what percentage of the students think favorably toward communism.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DATES

Dating is not generally practiced among the families of good reputation. Young people do things together in groups or with their families, but it is not considered good for a couple to go out together, especially at night. If two young people become interested in each other, they will ask some friend to act as "go-between" to speak to the other person's parents. If a person reaches the age of marriage and has not found anyone to his liking, his parents will usually ask several friends to look for someone thought suitable and he will then be introduced. They

have a meeting together and, if they are attracted to each other, they will see each other again. If not, that is the end.

In some cases, especially where you have a family of wealth and social position, it is difficult to say you are not interested in the other person and out of a sense of obligation a marriage may be contracted. The eldest son and his bride almost always live with his parents to carry on the family line, care for the parents, and inherit the family homestead. This often raises problems in the home between the bride and her parents-in-law.

The young people of Japan could not be called religious minded. They have given up the religions of Japan as superstitious or as fit for funerals and old people. This does not mean that they do not participate in the forms of worship from time to time as duty seems to demand. This they do almost in the sense of etiquette, the proper thing to do at the proper time, rather than as a heart belief. However, Christianity does have an appeal to the seeking ones. It is generally recognized to be a higher religion among intellectuals.

A STAND FOR CHRIST

Last week an old man came to our home asking us to come to his village two hours away by car to teach him and the people of that village about Christ. He said that the youth of today are without religion except at funerals and weddings. But he believes they will listen to Christianity. He has offered us the use of his home. Do pray for this new opening in this rural area. He seems to be a man of influence in the community which is always a great asset to a new work.

In our church at Ise, Japan, we have a youth group which numbers about fifteen. Only about five of them are Christians. The rest are merely interested and do not attend the regular church services. The present officers have done most of the planning for

(Continued on Page 22)

God's Hand of Blessing

The story of a missionary's furlough year and of her eagerness to return to Africa

By MISS ELEANOR E. SCHULERT, Cameroons' Missionary

"THIS I RECALL to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him" (Lamentations 3:21-25).

TREASURED MEMORIES

While New York traffic bustles and buzzes below my hotel window on this last day of furlough, my heart truly is filled with praise to the Lord for all his works and wonders, particularly, for what he has done for me this past year. God has answered with "Yes" the prayers of many friends at home and abroad who prayed for my recovery from serious illness. Therefore I can now look forward to returning to the land and people I love to serve.

Thanks be to God, also, for the pleasure of meeting so many friends who opened their hearts and homes during the months of visitation in summer camps and churches, both in the United States and Canada. Mere words seem so inadequate to express the appreciation of my heart for all the kindnesses showered upon me, but I surely do treasure the memories.

It was good to see God's hand of blessing upon our churches throughout the land and to see some young people make decisions for a closer walk with the Lord while others were awakened to a vision of the joy that comes to the heart fully dedicated to his service.

In these last few hours before sailing, I find myself asking, "What changes will I find in Cameroons when I return from furlough? What effects have the extreme nationalism of most of West Africa, the Communism which has been seeping in from the French Cameroons and Iboland of southern Nigeria, the renewed paganism rampant in the land, and the false doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses had upon the thinking of our Cameroonian within this past year?" No doubt, the evil effects of all these ideologies have intensified, but that just makes us realize how important it is that all our efforts also must be intensified to present the claims of Christ.

TROPHIES OF GRACE

Rejoice with me, however, to see how the cause of Christ has triumphed in at least one major instance recently in Soppo. Earlier this year, my former house boys had written about the natives of Soppo having bought from the

Banyangi people of Mamfe area a juju which was supposed to make sick people well and the childless to have children. Even some of the church members, I was told, had fallen into that delusion of Satan.

Then the indigenous church went to work; it denied the fellowship of the church to any who had participated in the pleasures and practices of the non-Christians. As a result of this dis-

ceived. Said the one man, "I just couldn't leave without thanking all of you for what you have done for me. Because of your visits, I have come to know the Lord Jesus as my personal Savior. Now, when I return to my home, I'll not go alone; for he goes with me." A trophy of grace!

As the song-writer put it,
"Just to see a saved man smile
Makes the effort well worth-while."



The 1955 Teacher Training Group at Soppo in the Cameroons, West Africa

Miss Eleanor Schulert, teacher, is seventh from left in front row; Miss Esther Schultz, principal, is tenth from left; Mr. D. N. Williams at extreme right (standing) and Mr. S. I. Ekeme at extreme left (standing).

cipline, several publicly came in repentance and confession and were restored to the fellowship and privileges of the church.

Another incident I recall at this time which makes the heart glad. One afternoon, two men recently released from Buea prison came (like the leper of old) to express their gratitude to our teacher-training students for the Gospel witness and spiritual help re-

ceived. Said the one man, "I just couldn't leave without thanking all of you for what you have done for me. Because of your visits, I have come to know the Lord Jesus as my personal Savior. Now, when I return to my home, I'll not go alone; for he goes with me." A trophy of grace!

That is why I am eager to return to the Cameroons.
"I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people" (Psalm 77:11-14).

The Work of Your Seminary

By DR. GEORGE A. LANG, President of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

"UNTO YOU IS BORN this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." "I am come that they might have life." "I and the Father are one." "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." "Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest." "I lay down my life for the sheep." "And if I go, I will come again." "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, etc."

What a wonderful Gospel we have! It means salvation, peace, victory, and eternal life to everyone who accepts it and lives by it. Christ is the center, the life, the goal, the power of it. This fact makes Christmas so important in our lives and in the world.

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Jesus also said: "Go and tell . . . make disciples . . . baptize . . . and teach all things which I have commanded you." "I send you forth as lambs among wolves." "As the Father

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The 1956 Christmas Offering will be designated for the work of Christ among the many children on our mission fields in Africa, Japan, etc., and for the educational work among our young people at the Seminary in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and the Christian Training Institute, Edmonton, Alberta.

sent me, so send I you." "Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I have commanded you."

As those who have been privileged to enjoy the blessings of the Gospel, we have also the responsibility of sharing the Gospel. This takes experience, knowledge, understanding, and skill in organization and communication. Jesus began this with his disciples when he chose twelve, instructed them in the truth and his way of life, and sent them forth. This is carried still further in the epistles as Paul and others started churches with committed Christians, instructed them and sent them forth as witnesses.

This, dear friends, is the work and program of our Seminary, your Seminary! Committed and called Christians are taught by consecrated, devoted and well trained Christian teachers. The Gospel is the message. The love of Christ is the motivating force. The Holy Spirit is the guide. Within this framework Christ's way of life is experienced in the Seminary family. Skills in organizing God's people as witnessing units in a community are developed. A fervent evangelical and evangelistic sharing of the Gospel is a present reality as the student learns in the classroom and witnesses in churches, Sunday Schools and youth groups.

CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

Our graduates are doing an effective work all over the world. They are witnessing in our churches in the United States and Canada, in Africa, in Japan, in many other foreign lands. They are evangelists, pastors, teachers, administrators, pioneers for Christ.

It takes money to carry on this effective training program. Your contributions at Christmas time will greatly help in doing God's work here. As you give, you are sharing in making the Gospel known throughout the world. Give your money give your interest, so that by this means Christ's eternal Gospel can be given to the world!

HUNGARIAN RELIEF

Used clothing and food parcels for Hungarian Relief can now be sent to our Forest Park headquarters. Watch for further announcements or write for information.



"Behold, Wise-men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east, and are come to worship Him."

God's People Who Care

By REV. E. P. WAHL, President of the Christian Training Institute, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

WHERE SIN IS, men do not care. The Christian cares. Where Christ is, men do care.

Say not, "It matters not to me; My brother's weal is his behoof" . . . Woven together are the threads, And you and he are in one loom; Your lives must share one common doom.

God's people have changed that and made everyone share a common glory, not a common doom. It is wonderful to belong to God's family—a family that cares. Paul writes to the Corinthians: "But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you." This fact explains missions. Christ cared, and those who follow him care. And the closer they follow him, the more they care. This is the crux of our entire enterprise as a denomination. The Spirit of caring has been given to us by the Lord.

The Christian Training Institute of Edmonton, Alta., enjoys belonging to "the people who care." The streams of blessings that have flown freely from the school throughout its years have been fed from the rivers of "living waters" bubbling forth from our churches. It was they that sent us the fine Christian young people to train and consecrate themselves more fully for God and his Kingdom. It was they that prayed unceasingly for God to keep watch over the school and bless its ministry. It was they that sacrificed and brought their offerings so willingly for this cause.

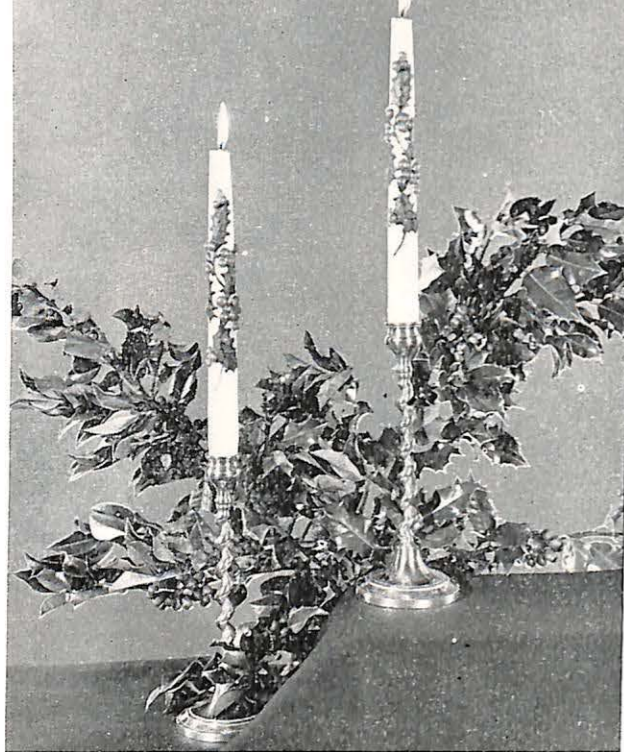
Eternity alone will reveal and reward fully the many who have been and are now interested in the ministry of our Bible School. It was in the month of October soon after another school year had started, when one day a dear brother drove up in front of the school with his large truck loaded

with six tons of vegetables from our people in the area where he lives. Although about 200 miles from Edmonton, they would not let distance dampen their hearts of care for C.T.I.

With the beginning of every new year we wonder just how it will be possible to carry on. We talk to our heavenly Father about the matter. He has many in our churches in whom dwell that Spirit to be found through all the Book of Acts. The believers cared for everybody, everywhere, and at all times. Never can it be computed in dollars and cents just how great was the concern of our denominational family for this its child, the Christian Training Institute. Neither can anyone fully calculate how richly God has blessed the gifts, great and small.

Only the other day a mother, whose 18-year-old daughter had been taking her grade 12 work with us and then was killed in an automobile accident, said to me: "I can never thank you (the C.T.I.) enough for what you did for Noreen, our daughter. You restored her faith in God." Noreen was a Roman Catholic; her parents are strict Roman Catholics. Noreen was the first Roman Catholic ever to attend our school. Often she mentioned to students, her family and friends how much the few weeks of study at the Christian Training Institute had meant to her.

Yes, great and marvelous things are being wrought by the household of God: uniting it, strengthening it, and then sharing with one another of the material possessions which the Lord has so graciously entrusted to us. It is our desire to be found faithful servants and honest stewards of our God. As you care for us, we pray that we may be found as a good member of the North American Baptist family. To that end may God help us!



—Photograph by Harold M. Lambert

We must throw open the doors of our hearts so that we can respond to the message, "Christ was born on Christmas Day!"

It's Here Once More!



What does Christmas mean to you — a hectic shopping spree, or the revelation of God reaching into the world and saying, "Only Believe"?

By Mr. CLAYTON E. LUXTON

CHRISTMAS 1956! What will this day mean to you? Can you face this holiday with an open heart? Or are you trying to forget the real meaning of the day—creating so much fuss and confusion that you lose its real significance.

All stories have a beginning and an end. However, here is a story with a sub-beginning and a sub-ending.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

This, of course, is a start that could bring to the reader an idea of the perfect opening. However complete this may seem, time has shown that people throughout the world have disregarded the perfection of these words. With the passing of time a need of something more than what the Old Testament could offer became evident.

THE COMING OF CHRIST

Man was finding that his own mind could create objects to worship. Through the years man began to worship everything but God. The Love of God had within its scope the power to give the people of earth a second chance.

With renewed hope, God planned a new way of life for every person who would only believe the teachings that were to be explained by the coming of Jesus Christ.

"And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

This is it! This is the message that time has not changed. Here is a be-

ginning that no man could tear from the history of time. Man with his power as a guide could not fight this fact and come out the winner. God was still on top. God again could reach into the world and say "Only Believe."

Let us take note that this act of God was so great and powerful that it created fear instead of joy in the hearts of all who first heard about this birth.

The Angel had to reassure the shepherds that the news was of good report. God made his plan so complete that it included "all people."

The Angel said, "For unto you is born this day." This is just as true today as it was then. Again, in 1956 people have forgotten the story of good news. This verse from God's Word makes it a personal question. Either you accept this Christ or you do not.

This however, is just the beginning, rather the sub-beginning of my story.

CHRISTMAS TINSEL

Let us forget for a few minutes all that I have written up to this point. Let's look at Christmas 1956. The only angel that we can see is made of

THE AUTHOR

The author is a young Christian of 24 years who has been a member of the Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa., since 1946. He has served as vice-president and treasurer in the youth group and as a member of the church choir. At the Du Pont plant in Philadelphia, Pa., he is employed as a Trade Analysis Clerk. His home address is 1454 W. Sparks St., Philadelphia 41, Pennsylvania.

paper and can be found displayed in some store windows. All we have in the line of shepherds can be seen in the same display and can be purchased for the price of \$1.98. It is now November 21st, but already signs of Christmas can be seen not to remind you about the birthday of the King, but rather to remind you that only 28 shopping days remain until Christmas.

To every child this day means toys and games and presents from anyone who will give something to them.

Their real hero is Santa Claus—not Christ.

Have you ever tried to give an answer to the child who asks, "Is there a Santa Claus?"—Then really be able to have them believe your answer?

Try this one next time.

Let the child know that the first gifts were given to a King on his birthday. Tell them that Wise Men, not Santa Claus presented gold, and myrrh. Explain to little Joe or Jean that Christmas was the start of something new in an old, old world.

MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

If the person whom we call Jesus had no purpose for his life on this earth, then December 25th would be just another day, and life would drag on without meaning or cause, until finally, life itself would pass from our being. Death would fall upon us, and its meaning, too, would be of little value.

Although this completes the story as to the beginning of Christmas, it leaves unanswered the question of the meaning of this day. How was the birth of this Person to change this history and thinking of the world?

We cannot limit the meaning of this day to the giving of gifts or the sending of greeting cards. We must throw

open the doors of our hearts and minds so that we can respond to the message that "Christ was born on Christmas Day." We cannot even limit the story to the first two chapters of St. Matthew or St. Luke.

We must complete the meaning of Christmas by looking at St. Matthew, chapter 27, starting at verse 34:

"They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall and when he had tasted thereof he would not drink.

"And they crucified him and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, they parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. And sitting down they watched him there;

"And set up over his head his accusation written 'This is Jesus The King of the Jews'."

CHRISTMAS CONTINUED!

But, our story must go on, for even these words leave in our thinking a gap that we can only find meaning to, when the following words are shown to us:

"In the end of the Sabbath as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.

"And behold, there was a great earthquake for the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

"His countenance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and become as dead men.

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified.

"He is not here—he is risen as he said. Come and see the place where the Lord lay."

These words are found in Chapter 28 of the gospel of St. Matthew.

ONLY BELIEVE

This is the sub-ending to my story. And, as the final words that I write flow into line, I can only tell you that the real beginning and ending must be completed by you in your own thinking.

Only your own life can show if you believe what I have written. If you seek a deeper meaning of Christmas, maybe this is it; or you could overlook what I have written in order to substitute your own ideas.

I have told you about a life that was lived here on earth. To some it was the life of their Lord and Savior—to others it was the life of a great Prophet and Teacher. I guess to some of you it was a life that you would question was ever lived at all.

The real meaning of Christmas Day can only be brought to its full scope of belief through the telling of the purpose of the life of Jesus whose birthday we celebrate on that day.

Christmas Poetry

Selection of Inspirational Poems

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

By Edgar A. Guest

Dear Savior, in a stable born,
Once more about the world we stay
To greet with joy the Christmas morn;
With love for all to spend the day.

Again we turn to follow thee,
And as thou taught us try to live;
Gentler with frailties to be;
To ask forgiveness and forgive.

We've placed a stable near the tree
With watchful shepherds standing by
Who went the Prince of Peace to see
With Bethlehem's shining star on high.

How please thee best on Christmas
Day?

What gift most precious now would be?
Dear Savior, do we hear thee say:
"Come, children, give your hearts
to Me!"

NATIVITY

By A. M. Quick

Throughout the night all frosty white
The snow lies on the sleeping fields,
While high and far one silver star
To earth its shining beauty yields.

In mansion tall and cabin small
Both rich and poor have shelter found,
Till far and near, or faint or clear,
The sweet-toned bells of Christmas
sound.

"Now praise his name," the bells
proclaim,
"For there is born, oh happy word,
An Infant small in humble stall,
A Savior which is Christ the Lord!"

On southern strand or northern land,
Wherever men would worship him,
There Christ is born this Christmas
morn,
And in our hearts is Bethlehem.

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS

By Major Lillian Hansen

Will Christmas mean the same in years
to come?

What does the future hold? Wars?
Peace?

One World? Advancement? Utter
devastation?

What if unrest, uneasiness increase?
Can carols soothe the heart that's torn
with fear?

Can feasts, trees, gifts, make up for
loved ones lost

Because of war's most final separation?
Who knows the price the world must
pay—the cost

Of careless, greedy, Godless living?
The Christ Child holds the answer for
each nation:

He is the same—unchanged—God's
gift of love —

In him alone mankind may find
salvation!

A CHILD'S BEST GIFT

By Grace Noll Crowell

I wish I had lived in Bethlehem
The night when Christ came down
To begin his life upon the earth
There in that little town.

I think I would have seen his star
Above the darkened street,
And though a child, I would have gone
To him on flying feet.

And I would long to bring a gift
That I had made or bought,
Something as rich and beautiful
As the wealthy Wise Men brought.

Although I have no shining gold,
No gem that I can bring
O dear Christ Child, here is my heart—
This is my offering.

THE CHRIST

By Helen Crawford

When the Holy Child
In Bethlehem lay,
There were doubters
E'en as they kneeled to pray —
That Jesus was the Christ!

When he died for us
And for us arose,
Disciples were there
And doubt among those —
That Jesus was the Christ!

Today, on this Christmas
We claim his birth.
Still many the doubters
Throughout the earth —
That Jesus is the Christ!

Yet Faith, not doubt,
Is God's gift to relieve
The World's stress and strain
For those who believe —
That Jesus is the Christ!



This is Christmas Day!

We...the Women

By MRS. THOMAS D. LUTZ of Aberdeen, South Dakota, President

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On October 23 and 24, 1956 the Executive Committee of the Woman's Missionary Union met at the headquarters' office, Forest Park, Ill., to discuss the work of our women everywhere. We rejoice that every member of the committee was able to be present. You will find their names listed in the "Merry Christmas" greeting on this page.

The opening devotion was from Phil. 2:1-16. We would mention verse 13. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." We thank him for working in us, not only in giving us joy in his service, but also in giving us an assurance that we can work in such a way as to glorify him.

As president I do want to thank all of you women everywhere for making it possible for the Woman's Missionary Union work to be done. Your prayers, your gifts of talents and money in dues and offerings, your loyalty at home and abroad have made us co-workers with God. The work is going forward. Your contributions have helped to make possible the issuing of the Broadcasts, the Packets, Prayer Day materials, each of these in German and English, the White Cross work, "We, the Women" page of the "Baptist Herald" and the "Frauen-Ecke" of "Der Sendbote." Many of you have done sacrificial and loving work that only you and God know about. You have not received your reward from us as human beings, but we commit you to our God who knows all things and will reward you.

Dr. M. L. Leuschner, Rev. R. Schilke, and Rev. J. C. Gunst each gave us a portion of their time during these days to discuss important work that

they do for us and with us. Miss Mary Leypoldt gave us our financial report on our project. This was published on the last page of the November-December English edition of the "Broadcast." Do refer to it and if your conference Woman's Missionary Union giving is low, do something about it. If good, keep it up. Miss G. Remmler gave us our White Cross mailing report. She gives much of her time to this and has an unusual talent for packing these things. She also served us for our "coffee break." To each of these we wish to express words of appreciation.

We will give you a brief sketch of some of the outline of our work these days. We could not begin to give you the reports or minutes. You will find more in the January-February issue of the "Broadcast" and from time to time as our work progresses.

OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY. Our beloved Woman's Missionary Union will observe its 50th anniversary in May 1957. Suggested programs will be available probably by April 1st. The 1957 ANNUAL gives us a start with an illustrated article by Mrs. Peter Pfeiffer. Order it now. We are asking each society to have a special celebration. It may be a tea, a luncheon, or a Mother's Day service. **OUR GOAL—\$5,000!** This is to be applied on our Woman's Missionary Union project. We have over 9694 members. We can do it!

Let us honor those who have worked before us, encourage those who are working today, and challenge the younger ones to carry on after us, Mark your offering, "Anniversary Offering," and send it to headquarters. Should you desire to make it a memorial offering in memory of a mother or a grandmother who has worked in your Woman's Missionary Society, you may make a note of that when it

is sent in. A memorial list will then be published.

COORDINATION. We want to coordinate all things as much as possible. By this we mean to begin the year as of April 1st to May 31st with dues, White Cross, etc. Please use the blank that will be in the January issue of the "Broadcast" to send your dues to our treasurer. This makes it so much easier for her. White Cross chairman will note this date also and send out our next quota. This is a short notice and all we ask is that we work toward this aim. Remember we are doing this to help meet our missionaries' needs. Responses to the quota have been wonderful. We have learned that our women like something definite toward which to work. Many have reached their quota already. Have you?

SCHOLARSHIP GIRL. "Oh! Oh!" someone cried. "Our seminary announced our scholarship girl, Joyce Ringering, before we did." Alas, we are happy when others note the work we are doing. May God be glorified!

"BAPTIST HERALD." You have noted that the "Baptist Herald" is to be different starting 1957. "We, the Women" will have a full column in each edition. Let's show our joy and appreciation of this by reading what it has to offer each time.

"BROADCAST." We maintain that every local president, program chairman and pastor's wife should receive a copy of the "Broadcast." Therefore, each of you will receive three copies for each society. Use the "Broadcast." This is our Woman's Missionary Union publication available to every society for the asking.

PACKET. Our Packet chairman wants you to know that she had asked for each evaluation sheet in the Packet to be returned to her by September. Since then she has received so much help from those who have already returned these evaluation sheets, that she wants you to know she will appreciate their return anytime. It will help her for the 1957 and 1958 Packets. If you haven't gotten yours, order now. It may be too late. There were only a few left.

The closing day of our session opened with a devotion from Esther 4. We would mention verse 14b, "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this." It seemed that God was speaking to each of us, and we hope that you may receive the same challenge. God is calling us to his work in such a time as this. Today is our day of opportunity in his vineyard. Tomorrow may be too late. It was hard to close these sessions. There was such a joy in fellowship and in sharing our responsibilities. As the benediction was pronounced by Dr. Frank H. Woyke we could say together, "To the Work" for "We Want the Whole Wide World to Know Our Jesus." We are sure that each of you join us in this, too. Let us go forward and look upward!

C.B.Y. Fellowship

By REV. LAWRENCE BIENERT, General Secretary

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Executive Committee of the Commissioned Baptist Youth Fellowship extends special Christmas greetings to all of our young people and youth leaders. Our prayer is that this festive season will be one of joy and gratefulness as we are reminded of God's unspeakable gift to the world. Let us resolve to be more faithful in our witness and service to our Savior.

YOUTH WEEK ACTIVITIES for 1957

Now is the time for all good CBY Fellowships to join with the churches of our North American Baptist General Conference in a nation-wide observance of Youth Week. This special week provides for Christian young people the social and spiritual activities which they need and must have. It also provides them with special opportunities to invite their unchurched friends, thus providing a means of bringing other young people to Christ.

Suggested materials have been mailed out to all CBY Fellowship presidents. If you have not received your copy you may write directly to our office for these suggestions. This material has been prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Rich, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rich of our Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The following is a synopsis of our Youth Week activities.

Theme: KNOW CHRIST TO SERVE HIM

Date: January 27-February 3, 1957.

Sunday Morning: Worship service with the pastor introducing the theme.

Afternoon: Visit the older people and shut-ins.

Evening: Program as suggested in September 1956 issue of Youth Compass.

Monday, January 28: VISITATION. The purpose of this evening is to visit

delinquent CBY Fellowship members as well as new prospects.

Tuesday, January 29: FAMILY FUN. Plan an evening of games and fellowship in the church basement, inviting the members of your families.

Wednesday, January 30: MISSIONS and PRAYER. Get to know our missionaries better by presenting the needs of our various mission fields. Remember the needs of our missionaries during prayer time.

Thursday, January 31: FAMILY NIGHT. Help your families to make this a meaningful and memorable evening, and one often to be repeated. Make use of the tract, "The Reasons for a Family Altar."

Friday, February 1: FELLOWSHIP. Plan a banquet for the youth and those who have been contacted during the week, climaxing the evening with a special speaker or a good film.

Saturday, February 2: BIBLE STUDY. This evening is reserved for studying your Sunday School lesson and pray for the Sunday service.

Sunday, February 3: Sunday School and Worship service with young people taking an active part. Stress personal dedication to the work of the Lord.

Evening: Present a play with an evangelistic emphasis. Climax the Youth Week activities with a sing-spiration at some home or church.

YOUTH COMPASS RENEWALS

Here is the answer to your needs if you are looking for good program material for your youth group. The February 1957 issue of YOUTH COMPASS will soon be ready for mailing. Be sure to order at least three copies for your youth group. The subscription price is \$1.00 per year. Renewal notices have been mailed out to those whose subscriptions have now expired.

BETHLEHEM AND CALVARY

By E. Margaret Clarkson

There was no room in Bethlehem
For him who left his throne,
To seek the lost at countless cost
And make their griefs his own;
But there was room at Calvary
Upon the cross of shame,
For him to die, uplifted high,
To bear the sinner's blame.

There was no room in Bethlehem;
And in the world today
Men will not give him room to live,
And bid him turn away;
But there is room at Calvary
And there he stands to give
A home to all who heed his call,
And look to him and live.

There was no room in Bethlehem
For Christ, the King of kings.
From throne and crown, to earth come
down,
"With healing in his wings;"
But there is room at Calvary
For sinners to abide,
And all who come may find a home
In Jesus crucified!

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- Dr. W. J. Appel
Haupt-Postamt 1, Nr. 175
Salzburg, Austria
- Rev. Aaron Buhler
2701 Pattengill Avenue
Lansing 10, Michigan
- Dr. A. S. Felberg
725 E. 53rd Avenue
Vancouver 15, B. C., Canada
- Rev. Lawrence W. George
607 Iowa Street
Indianapolis, Indiana
- Rev. Bert Hulsing
115—11th St., West
Douphin, Manitoba, Canada
- Rev. Edgar W. Klatt
4417—67th Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin
- Rev. LeRoy Schauer
Shattuck, Oklahoma
- Rev. Fred Schimke
Stettler, Alta., Canada
- Rev. A. G. Schlesinger
1415 Turner Ave., N.W.
Grand Rapids 4, Michigan
- Rev. O. R. Schmidt
10736—67th Street
Edmonton, Alta., Canada
- Dr. M. Vanderbeck
7901 W. Lawrence Avenue
Chicago 34, Illinois
- Rev. John Wahl
160 Parkview Drive
Hamilton, Ont., Canada

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The members of the Executive Committee of the Woman's Missionary Union want to wish each one of you a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May the Christ of Christmas mean more to you than ever before. We pray that he may find an open door to hearts that have never accepted him as their Savior and a joyous response from us who know him and love him.

Mr. T. D. Lutz
Mrs. A. Reddig
Mrs. P. Pfeiffer
Mrs. E. Kary
Mrs. F. Veninga

Mrs. H. Sherman
Mrs. J. Kraenzler
Mrs. H. Schmunck
Miss Martha Remus (Ex Officio)
Dr. Frank Woyke (Ex Officio)



Sunday School Lessons

A LESSON GUIDE

Date: December 23, 1956

Theme: THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Scripture: John 1:1-18.

THE CENTRAL THOUGHT: At this season of the year the all encompassing thought and the source of all our activity are the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION. One of the most difficult tasks in presenting a biography of a famous person is the art of writing an appropriate introduction. Even in presenting a great person to an audience, one is often humbled and at a loss for words. The one who is giving the introduction will simply, yet reverently, say, "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States," or "Her Majesty, the Queen of England." Many of us at one time or another have read Dr. Peter Marshall's famous sermon, "Mr. Jones, Meet the Master."

When we begin to read the Gospel according to John, we become aware of the fact that we are reading a great and awe-inspiring introduction—an introduction to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is interesting to note how each of the Gospel writers introduces Jesus in a different way. Mark goes back only to the baptism when Jesus is already thirty years of age. Matthew, who has a Jewish point of view, traces Jesus back to Abraham. Luke, the historian, takes all the way back to Adam. John, who is more mystical in nature, takes us all the way back to the beginning—to God himself.

For discussion: What truth did each writer of the Gospels want to emphasize in his introduction?

I. THE WORD AND GOD. John 1:1-3.

Actually, this is a difficult passage for the ordinary reader of the Bible. It is almost impossible for us, who live in time and space and all the other limitations of the physical world, to grasp the fulness, the eternity and the perfection of God. What John is referring to here is not a spoken word; but the thought, reason, mind, will, and intelligence of God.

II. THE WORD AND LIFE. John 1:4-9.

Notice how closely life is linked with light. We cannot have one without the other. In the creation story in Genesis, God created light before he created life. In the salvation story we have the same sequence—the light of

Jesus Christ brought life into the soul of man.

III. THE WORD AND HIS REJECTION. John 1:10-11.

What would you think of a man who continually complains about the darkness but refuses to turn on the light? Such a person cannot be helped. A Chinese proverb says, "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

IV. THE WORD AND HIS ACCEPTANCE. John 1:12-13.

"But as many as received him . . ." What a difference these few words make in the lives of those who long for the light. How the church grew when it was said, "They that gladly received his word . . ." (Acts 2:41.)

V. THE WORD BECAME FLESH. John 1:14-18.

How wonderful it was that God could come to us in the form of a little child and to reveal himself through his Son, Jesus Christ. Now the disciples could truly say, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and our hands have handled, of the Word of life" (1 John 1:1).

A LESSON GUIDE

Date: December 30, 1956

Theme: A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-8, 22-27.

THE CENTRAL THOUGHT: While the Christian is living in the present world he may, at the same time, think, hope, pray, and plan for his eternal home.

INTRODUCTION: This has been a favorite passage of Scripture for many, particularly in times of tribulation, suffering, persecution, and death. It has given the saints a vision of a glorious future in times of a hopeless present. It has been the Christian's eternal insurance policy when everything seemed to be in a state of bankruptcy. It has been "the city which hath foundations," no matter how many civilizations have crumbled into dust. It has been the bulwark of faith in God's plan, no matter how chaotic the condition of the world may seem. Of one thing the Christians are always sure—God is going to come out on top!

God admonished Moses concerning the tabernacle and its furnishings, "Look that thou make them after their

pattern, which was shown thee in the mount" (Ex. 25:40). If the tabernacle in the wilderness was so important that it had to be made strictly according to the pattern, how much more is God concerned that we be made after the pattern of Jesus Christ and that earth be patterned after heaven! God is not interested in a mere remodeling job. Nothing less than a new man, a new heaven and a new earth will satisfy him.

I. A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.

(a) It is God's plan (Rev. 21:1-2) "coming down out of heaven from God." One of our political candidates often used the phrase, "A new America." But simple phrases will not change a basic need. The United Nations have had hopes of establishing a new world, but somehow the plans, no matter how carefully laid, are always inadequate. We will have to accept the plans of the heavenly Architect if we are to have a new world.

(b) God's relationship in the plan (Rev. 21:3), "He shall dwell with them—and shall be with them." No nation on earth has a large enough police force to maintain order and decency. When everybody has to watch everybody else, they lose faith in each other. Relationships become strained and are finally broken. Only the loving presence of God can bring a loving relationship among men.

1. God's presence will bring God's comfort (vs. 4).
2. God's presence will make all things new (vs. 5).
3. God's presence will quench the spiritually thirsty (vs. 6).
4. God's presence will bring a father-son relationship (vs. 7).
5. God's presence will eradicate the presence of evil (vs. 8).
6. God's presence will bring light (vs. 23).
7. God's presence will challenge the kings of the earth (vs. 24).
8. God's presence will do away with all barriers (vs. 25).
9. God's presence will be a guarantee against any future evil (vs. 27).

Questions for discussion: Are Christians often more interested in the things of heaven than in the Lord of heaven? While we dream of the future what is our responsibility for the present? In the parable of the pounds (Lk. 19:13) Jesus commanded the servants to "occupy till I come." Do Christians occupy positions of responsibility in the world or do they tend to evacuate?

What's Happening

● Rev. Bert Hulsing has announced his resignation as pastor of the Baptist Church of Moosehorn, Man., Canada, effective immediately. He does not have any prospect of an active pastorate at present. He served the Moosehorn Church since 1955. His present address in Doughton, Man., is given elsewhere in this issue.

● The Trinity Baptist Church of Portland, Ore., has extended a call to Rev. George W. Breitzkreuz of Lehr, N. Dak., to become the director of Christian Education of the church. His favorable answer has been given on Jan. 1st. Mr. Breitzkreuz joins the staff of the Trinity Church, of which Dr. John Wobig is the pastor. Mr. Breitzkreuz has served the Ebenezer Church of Lehr, N. Dak., since 1954.

● On Sunday evening, October 29, 1956, Rev. Leland Friesen of the Baptist Church at Emery, South Dakota, baptized nine boys and girls. Some of these young people were converted at Bible School this summer and some came to know the Lord Jesus in their own homes as their parents showed them the way of salvation. Mrs. Herman Bleeker, reporter, wrote: "We rejoice that these boys and girls found the Lord in the days of their youth and have a lifetime to serve him."

● Rev. Ronald Stabbert of Tacoma, Wash., has been serving as assistant pastor to Dr. Robert L. Powell of the Temple Baptist Church of Tacoma since September 1956. He was formerly a pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church of Vesper, Kans., and is widely known in the Southwestern Conference area. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stabert of Tacoma's Calvary Baptist Church, report that their son is "very happy in this new position" at this large, influential church in Tacoma.

● From Nov. 18 to 25 the Rev. Harold Sanders, pastor of the Baptist Church, Baileyville, Ill., conducted a Bible Conference with expository preaching and Bible teaching. The 10th anniversary of the "Baileyville Broadcaster," the monthly church paper, appeared in November. On Sunday, Oct. 7, the attendance at the Rally and Promotion Day service reached 157. Letters from the church's missionaries in Africa, Burness Kampen and Rev. and Mrs. Asaph Tobert, appeared in the November issue of the "Broadcaster."

● On Sunday, October 28, Dr. Eugene Stockdale, medical missionary in the

Cameroons, Africa, and his family were the honored guests of the Temple Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. and Mrs. Stockdale brought brief talks at the vesper service. The church has voted to support them to the extent of \$1,000 annually. A short wave radio was given to them as a farewell gift. At this service Rev. Frank Veninga, pastor of the church, baptized four candidates and welcomed them and three others at the communion service on Sunday, November 3.

● The Immanuel Baptist Church of New York, N. Y., has announced the appointment of Mr. George Maston as its new Sunday School and Youth Worker of the church beginning with October 7. He is a student at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He and his wife are the parents of two children. Rev. A. Husmann is the pastor of the Immanuel Church. The Sunday School is experiencing a wonderful growth at the beginning of the 1956 fall season.

● A spirit of interest and enthusiasm prevailed in the two weeks of Community Friendship meetings held recently in the Baptist Church of Martin, North Dakota, with Rev. John Vanderbeck of Elgin, Iowa, as speaker. Blessings were abundant as "Pastor John" presented his inspiring messages to the congregation, as reported by Mrs. Betty Kessler. The average attendance numbered over 100 for each evening with 15 individuals making decisions to re-consecrate their lives to Him. Previous to the special services, cottage prayer meetings were held with the pastor, Rev. L. D. Potratz leading each group.

● The First Baptist Church of Lorraine, Kans., held revival meetings from Oct. 31 to Nov. 9 with Rev. Edwin W. Miller of Parma Heights, Ohio, serving as evangelist. Nine adults registered some decision, of whom two came to receive Christ as Savior for the first time, three for a recommitment of their lives to Christ, two for reconsecration, and two to unite with the church on confession of faith. Total attendance for the ten meetings was 1,342. Rev. Harold W. Gieseke, pastor, stated that "the people are praying for the revival fires to burn throughout the coming months."

● On Sunday, Nov. 4, the Sunday School attendance at the Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing, Mich., was at an all time high of 386. Junior Church had 90 in attendance.

A record number of people participated in the communion service. Rev. and Mrs. Aaron Buhler have moved into their new home, ten blocks from the church. "Open House" will be held on New Year's Day. The Sunday School bus, number two, has received a new coat of paint. The church's softball team received the "Men's Medal" from the Lansing YMCA for having finished first in their division of the league.

● The first issue of a monthly news sheet by the Pilgrim Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa., appeared on October 27th. It is called "Pilgrim's Progress" with apologies to the "immortal John Bunyan, a fellow-Baptist, from whose inspiring classic, THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, the name for the monthly publication was taken." It contains a calendar of activities, news and announcements and gems of wisdom and inspiration. It is edited by the pastor, Rev. W. C. Damrau. The text for the first issue was taken from 2 Peter 3:1b "to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance."

● The Grace Baptist Sunday School of Gackle, N. Dak., held a Sunday School contest for 13 weeks ending in December. Mr. Norman Martin is the superintendent. The Alpha group was in charge of Mr. Conrad Rivinius and the Omega group was led by Mr. Jalmor Anderson. From Nov. 4 to 9 a Leadership Training Course was held for the Gackle and Alfred Churches with an attendance of about forty each evening. Fifteen persons took the course on "Baptist Beliefs" for credit. Dr. M. L. Leuschner of Forest Park, Ill., taught the course. At the union Thanksgiving service on Nov. 27 in Gackle Rev. M. Wolff, pastor of the Baptist Church, brought the message.

● A Christian Workers' Conference was held by the Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, Iowa, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 21. The two-class sessions that evening were conducted by Miss Ruth Bathauer of Forest Park, Ill., on "Teaching Makes a Difference" and by Miss Martha Leypoldt of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., on "Together We Grow." The Sunday School's Harvest and Mission Program was given on Sunday morning, Nov. 11, at the church's worship service with Mr. Elmer Wittkamp, superintendent, in charge. The Missionary Service Guild of the church held a bazaar on Nov. 29 with good results. Rev. E. Wolff is pastor of the church.

● The young people of the First Baptist Church of Steamboat Rock, Iowa, have organized a Prayer Band which meets every Wednesday evening for Bible study and prayer in the different homes. They have recently completed a course in "Soul Winning" conducted by Rev. K. W. Marquardt. After the

(Continued on Page 22)

Our Denomination in ACTION

Dakota Conference

Mission Festival and Revival Meetings at Baptist Church, Napoleon, North Dakota

Many have been the activities and blessings in the Napoleon Baptist Church, Napoleon, S. Dak., in recent weeks. On Sept. 30th we held our annual Mission Festival. Rev. Gideon Zimmerman from Forest Park, Ill., was the guest speaker and truly his messages were a challenge to all. The offerings for the day were \$1,025.62. On Oct. 3 our church was able to attend the Christian Workers' Conference at Venturia which was an inspiration.

On Oct. 2nd we started our revival meetings with the Dalzell brothers of Thief River Falls, Minnesota. And truly a revival it was, as they brought their messages in word and song! These services have awakened us to the need for a more consecrated life and a greater burden for the lost round about us. Six persons were saved and Christians challenged to be more like the Master.

Henry Lang, Pastor.

Southwestern Conference

Rally Day at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Near Junction City, Kansas

Rally Day was observed on Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Junction City, Kans., with a special service in the morning and a fellowship dinner in the church basement.

Following the Sunday School hour, under the able direction of our superintendent, Mrs. Noton Martiniz, the program began with a song by the Junior Department. A dedicatory prayer was given by our pastor, Rev. J. R. Kruegel, for the teachers and officers who were gathered in a semi-circle before the church altar. After the promotion exercises, a mixed quartet composed of members of the Brenner family sang for us. This included Mrs. Will Schroeder of Marion, Kans., Mrs. C. A. Zoschke, Alvin Brenner, and Albert Brenner.

Mrs. Martiniz introduced as our speaker her Sunday School superintendent of years gone by, Mr. Alvin Brenner. Mr. Brenner told of the beginning of the Mt. Zion Sunday School, of the ten charter members of the church, of the services which were held in a log cabin beside the creek. He gave dates and even recalled the texts of sermons preached at funerals. His talk was most interesting and we were privileged to see the encourage-

ments and discouragements of a new school.

Plans for the future consist of a quarterly message to be given by Mr. Charlie Zoschke on the topic, "Why I Am A Baptist." A leadership course given weekly for the next eight weeks will be a study on "The People Called Baptists."

Betty Zoschke, Reporter.

Sessions of the Oklahoma Association at the Immanuel Baptist Church Near Loyal

The theme for the three-day session of the Oklahoma Association held at the Immanuel Baptist Church near Loyal, Okla., October 25-27, was, "Go ye therefore, and teach." The purpose of the theme was to challenge Christians to the need of "going." The theme was carried out in four messages: "Go in Love," Rev. Jack Block; "Go in Prayer," Rev. Leon Sandau; "Go in Giving," Rev. Leon Bill; "Go in Person," Rev. David C. Keiry.

The theme of teaching was also emphasized by our missionary teacher, Miss Ruby Salzman. As always our hearts were challenged as we heard of the work being accomplished by the Lord through our missionaries. Through pictures, both verbal and visual, we saw the fruit of years of laboring and reaping.

Youth Night proved to be a real success with every available seat occupied. Special seats were reserved and filled by the young people. Miss Mary Vilhauer, state president, was in charge of the service with the other state officers taking part. The highlight of the evening was a film, "That They May Hear."

The final session of the Association was a Woman's Missionary Union Rally Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Leon Bill, state president, presided at the service. Missionary Ruby Salzman brought the closing message emphasizing the work being carried on among the women of the Cameroons. The Woman's Missionary Union state officers for the coming year are: president, Mrs. Leon Bill; vice-president, Mrs. Jack Block; secretary, Mrs. Werner Schanz; treasurer, Mrs. Adolf Kosanke."

Mrs. Leon Bill, Reporter.

Central Conference

New Church Building in Auburn for Beaver Baptist Church of Midland, Michigan

The Beaver Baptist Church near Midland, Mich., with Rev. H. Hirsch, as pastor, will soon become the First Baptist Church of Auburn, Michigan. Our new church is under construction. Services for the cornerstone laying exercises were held on Sunday, Nov. 4th. Work has progressed since last

May when the construction of the church began. The roof is already on, and windows were recently installed.

Rev. and Mrs. Laurence R. Prast have been in our midst since returning from Indianapolis, Indiana. Both have been active in testimony and Sunday School work and Mr. Prast has served the church on a recent Sunday. They are making their home at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Our "Welcome Home" to Miss Esther Schultz, Cameroons missionary, was on Sunday evening, Sept. 9th. All departments of the church presented gifts to Esther. You can be sure this was a happy occasion since the Beaver Church has always been enthusiastic about Miss Schultz, one of its own members. On Oct. 7th the church celebrated its yearly Harvest Festival. Recitations and readings were given by the children. The church was decorated for the occasion.

On Oct. 21st the choir of the Ebenezer Church of Detroit, Mich., were guests in our church serving us in the morning service and giving us a full concert by 40 voices in the afternoon. The choir was ably conducted by Don Witt. Miss Esther Schultz spoke in the morning on the text, "Behold I stand at the door."

Mrs. Florence Braun, Reporter.

Farewell Reception for Rev. and Mrs. A. Fadenrecht at Round Lake Church, Gladwin, Michigan

On Sunday morning, Oct. 28, the members and friends of the Round Lake Baptist Church, Gladwin, Mich., heard Rev. A. Fadenrecht deliver his last message on "The Burden of Preaching." At the communion service six new members were added to the church's fellowship.

In the evening we gathered at the church for a farewell program in honor of Rev. and Mrs. A. Fadenrecht and Daryl. Prior to the program, Mr. Fadenrecht presented to the church a beautiful sign to be erected one mile south of the building to direct strangers to our church. The sign was made and given to the church by two of our members, Mr. E. Allen and Mr. H. Palmer.

The farewell program was led by our deacon, Mr. George Rau. Another deacon, Mr. Sam Landenberger, spoke in behalf of our church. Mrs. Herman Doede represented the Woman's Mission Society. Mr. Adolph Wolfe spoke for the Sunday School; Mr. Harold Friesen for the Junior Department; Miss Dorothy Schultz as president of the Young People's Society; and Rev. L. Niswonger spoke for the work being done by the American S.S. Union.

The following musical numbers were rendered: an instrumental duet by Janet and Kenneth Palmer; an organ solo by Marilyn Will; and the girls trio of Helga Rossel, Eleanor Wolfe, and Dolores Ford. The church gave Mr. Fadenrecht a substantial gift.

During the two years of Rev. A. Fadenrecht's ministry our Sunday School was departmentalized and a new addition was added to our church. The new part is in use, although it is not completely finished.

Dolores Ford, Reporter.

Pacific Conference

Harvest Festival and Farewell for Students at Victoria Avenue Church, Chilliwack, B. C.,

On Sunday, Oct. 7th, members and friends crowded the auditorium of the Victoria Ave. Baptist Church of Chilliwack, B. C., Canada, for their Harvest and Mission Festival. Under the supervision of Mrs. Edward Schinkel, the sanctuary had been beautifully decorated with flowers, autumn leaves, and a horn of plenty prepared with donated fruits of the gardens.

A challenging message on "The Open Door to Missions" was brought by the pastor, Rev. R. Beutler. The choir, directed by Mr. Helmut Blessin, rendered the anthems, "O Lord, How Manifold Are Thy Works" and "Wir loben Dich, O Vater." Fellowship around the tables was enjoyed by all as a chicken dinner was served by the women and young people of the church. In the afternoon the Sunday School children presented a fine program, under the leadership of the vice-superintendent, Mr. Milton Falkenberg. Special music was provided by the newly organized Junior Choir with Miss Agnes Rinas as director, as well as by the orchestra. Mr. Beutler gave a detailed outline of activities on our own mission fields, urging loyal support. The total missionary offerings for the day amounted to \$659.96.

Several of our young people have left to prepare themselves for more effective Christian service, and others are looking for opportunities of Bible School training. A farewell service was held on Aug. 26th for the Misses Hildegard Lau and Anita Beutler, and Messrs. Herbert Joujan and Bernard Schulz. The pastor and representatives of the various church organizations wished them "Good speed" on their way. All are attending C.T.I. at Edmonton, Alta., except Anita Beutler, who is studying nursing at Jamestown College in Jamestown, North Dakota.

Mrs. G. Beutler, Reporter.

Glencullen Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon, Dedicates Dark Maroon Robes for Choir

Another milestone was realized in the history of the Glencullen Baptist Church of Portland, Ore., on Sunday evening, Sept. 30, when a special service of dedication was presented for new choir robes. The choir, under the direction of Rev. Eldon E. Seibold, brought an hour-long program of sacred music. The program included three groups of anthem numbers as well as special numbers and instrumental selections.

The Lord has truly blessed the Glencullen Church through this medium of music, and already two new members have joined the choir. The robes, dark maroon with white collars, blend beautifully with the sanctuary draperies, adding dignity and added inspiration to the worship services.

On Sunday evening, Nov. 11, the choir rendered its second concert at



Pastor and students of the Victoria Avenue Baptist Church, Chilliwack, British Columbia. Left to right: Rev. E. Beutler, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Joujan and children, Miss Hildegard Lau, Miss Anita Beutler and Mr. Bernard Schulz.

the Villa Ridge Baptist Church. It is indeed a joy to fellowship with our neighboring churches.

Mrs. Russell H. Jones, Reporter.

Reception for Rev. and Mrs. E. Barker at Bethel Baptist Church, Salem, Oregon

Sunday, October 21, was truly a day of rejoicing for the members of the Bethel Baptist Church of Salem, Oregon. On this Sunday evening we had the joy of welcoming our new pastor and his family, Rev. and Mrs. Everett Barker and little Bonnie.

Our interim pastor, Rev. Albert Wardin, officiated at this service with Rev. Robert Hess of Tacoma, Wash., as our special guest of the evening. Mr. Hess gave a brief message on our responsibility to our pastor as a church and the responsibility of the pastor to the church.

Words of welcome were given by our sister church of the Salt Creek area, and the various organizations of the church. Refreshments were served to a large group of members and friends who welcomed our guests of honor. We as a church thank God for sending Rev. E. Barker and his family to us, and our prayer is that God will richly bless this union of church and minister.

Mrs. Roy A. Rocks, Reporter.

Session of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Pacific Northwest Association

It is customary for the Woman's Missionary Union of the Pacific Northwest Association to have charge of the Friday evening service. This year was no exception. Representatives from most of the societies participated in the full program, held on Oct. 19, which was climaxed with a message by Dr. F. H. Woyke, our executive secretary.

After the opening song service led by Mrs. Ben Schmidt of Spokane, Mrs. Hatcher, president of the local society, graciously greeted everyone present. Following a response by our president, Mrs. C. T. Remple of Missoula, Scripture was read by Mrs. Kramer of Missoula, and Mrs. E. Kopf of Odessa led in prayer.

At the afternoon business meeting, Mrs. C. T. Remple and Mrs. W. Dingfield were reelected as president and secretary-treasurer, respectively. Mrs. E. Kopf was introduced as the new minister's wife and led the devotions. Our regular business meeting then followed. The evening offering, amounting to \$74.70 plus our dues of \$53.75 making a total of \$128.45, was designated for the Church Extension Fund.

Mrs. W. Dingfield, Secretary.



The choir of the Glencullen Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, with Mrs. Eva Paul, accompanist, at the extreme left, and Rev. Eldon E. Seibold, director, at the right.

Youth Programs of the Pacific Northwest Association at Spokane, Washington

The Pacific Northwest Association held at Spokane, Wash., from Oct. 17 to 21 was truly an inspiration time for all. Among the interesting events enjoyed by all was the CBY and Sunday School Workers' banquet held Saturday evening, Oct. 20, in the Spokane Valley Baptist Church, which was decorated in a yellow and green color scheme, with yellow chrysanthemums and green ivy floral arrangements, using as a theme the 50th anniversary of the Arthur Street Baptist Church, now incorporated under the name of Terrace Heights Baptist Church.

After the roll call response, at which varied responses were presented by the churches in attendance, our guest speaker, Rev. D. Antisdale spoke to us about Christian holiness.

The Sunday afternoon service was also presented by the CBY and Sunday School Workers at which meeting Dr. Frank H. Woyke was the speaker talking on the topic, "Walking in the Spirit of Christ." We sincerely and gratefully acknowledge the many wonderful lessons learned as Dr. Woyke spoke to us both in the Sunday morning worship service and in this youth service. He awakened in us a desire to move forward in all phases of our local and denominational efforts, so that the Gospel might be preached in the power of the Holy Spirit to the saving of precious souls for Christ.

Bonnie Pazer, Reporter.

Northern Conference

Annual Program by the Edenwold and Davin Missionary Society of Saskatchewan

We, the Edenwold and Davin Woman's Missionary Society found much joy in preparing our annual program, which was presented in the Edenwold Baptist Church on Sunday, October 14, under the fine leadership of our vice-president, Mrs. E. Rumpel.

The program consisted of words of welcome by the vice-president, two choir songs by the ladies, reports by the secretary and treasurer, numbers by a ladies' trio and quartet, a heart-warming play entitled, "The Key to the Handcuffs," and a challenging message to obey the call to mission fields by Missionary R. Neuman of the Muscowpetung Indian Reserve. The offering of the evening amounted to \$144.90 which is to be used to buy necessities for the missionaries' residence at the Muscowpetung Reserve, north of Edenwold.

The present enrollment of our society is 29. During this past term 366 sick calls have been made besides sending cards of cheer and flowers to the sick. We sent financial support to various causes such as the Banso Hospital in the Cameroons as well as gowns, bandages and layettes wherever needed.

Mrs. B. Dusterbeck, Secretary.

Evangelistic Meetings at Winnipeg's McDermot Avenue Church With Rev. W. Stein as Evangelist

The coming of autumn usually means conducting evangelistic meetings in the German language at the McDermot Avenue Church, Winnipeg, Man., and to once again we, with our pastor, Rev. H. J. Waltereit, had the opportunity to witness what God can do when his people sincerely seek his face.

From October 8 to 19 Rev. W. Stein of Grand Forks, N. Dak., served us in the capacity of evangelist, and during this time the attendance was very good. Special music was provided every evening and our hearts thrilled at the response given to the call of the Holy Spirit through the comprehensive and forceful messages of his minister. The story told every night made a great impact on the boys and girls, as well as the older members of the audience, and certainly here many decisions had their beginning.

God has been gracious to bless the efforts of his servants. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to manifest himself in our midst so that the good seed sown will bear fruit for eternity.

Miss E. Redlich, Reporter.

Vacation Bible School and Baptismal Service at Fellowship Church, Camrose, Alberta

The Fellowship Baptist Church of Camrose, Alta., Canada, held its Vacation Bible School from August 27 to 31, with a very good enrollment, which increased from 28 to 50 pupils with a daily average of 38.

The teachers were as follows: Mrs. Walter Roth, Beginners; Mrs. Allen Link, Primary; Mrs. Richard Hickman, Juniors; and Miss Delores Neske, Intermediates. Rev. Arnold Rapske was in charge, but due to his wife's serious illness he was unable to be present for all the sessions. The children's offering at the close of school was \$12.37 which was designated for our Indian mission field in Alberta. There were 17 decisions for the Lord of which three were from our own Sunday School pupils.

On Sunday, September 9, we had a very impressive baptismal service held in the First Baptist Church with two candidates. We were thrilled to witness this ordinance, since one of the young ladies had been converted from the Roman Catholic faith and had an outstanding testimony as to the working of God's grace in her heart.

This was Rev. Arnold Rapske's first baptismal service. He used as his text Romans 6:2-11 and spoke very effectively to a large audience as he dealt with Baptist distinctives. In closing Mr. Robert Neske sang a solo, "His Sacrifice." (See next page for picture.)

Mrs. R. G. Soderstrom, Reporter.

Sessions of the Saskatchewan Association at the Ebenezer Baptist Church

With the all-embracing theme, "THE CHRIST OF CHRISTIANITY," the Saskatchewan Association was in-

spired and blessed, and hearts were stirred to greater interest in the Association held at Ebenezer, Sask., from October 22 to 24.

The sessions opened in the warm atmosphere of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, on Monday evening, Oct. 22, as Rev. E. L. Thiessen, the moderator, led the service. Delegates and guests were extended a cordial welcome by the host church. We were privileged in having Rev. J. C. Gunst and Rev. D. Fuchs with us, both of whom brought challenging messages and presented the work of our denomination in its various phases. Mr. Gunst spoke on "Christ, the Key to Life," and "Christian Fruitbearing." Mr. Fuchs brought the messages, "Christ, the Secret of Abiding Fruitfulness" and "What Shall I Do With Jesus?" He also presented the work of "God's Volunteers." We were especially happy to have this group of consecrated young people introduced at the Association. They served in five of our churches in visitation evangelism during the three weeks immediately following the Association. These young people served with song and testimony in our closing Association meeting.

The sessions were ably conducted by Rev. E. L. Thiessen. Messages, centered about the theme, were ably and inspiringly presented as follows: "Christ, the Food of the Hungry Soul," Rev. B. E. Milner; "Christ, the Secret of Christian Radiance," Rev. H. Schatz; "Christ, the Doorway to Abundant Life," Rev. R. Grabke; "The Gentleness of Christ's Leadership," Rev. O. Fritze; "Christ, the Beginning of Life Everlasting," Rev. P. Galambos; "The Christ of Christian Experience," Rev. A. Jaster. These messages were based on passages from the Gospel of John. The devotional periods were led by Mr. C. Wirth, Rev. P. Galambos, and Rev. W. Hoffman. The praise and prayer periods were led by Messrs. R. Bohn and H. Dohms. The choirs of the Springside and Yorkton churches and the Men's Chorus of Ebenezer brought us closer to our Lord with their fine singing.

We report with joy that we have experienced advances within the past year as another church has been welcomed into our Association, the German Baptist Church of Saskatoon. The chapel of the Muscowpetung Reserve is under construction, after we had lost the previous one through fire last fall. Rev. R. Neuman and his family are serving on the field as the new missionaries. We have set ourselves a goal of \$3,000 for the coming year. We also rejoice at the good beginning made evangelistically as souls decided for Christ at the final Association meeting as Rev. D. Fuchs gave the message. May this be only the prelude to great blessings in the coming year as we obediently serve the "Christ of Christianity" as our living God.

The newly elected officers are: moderator, Rev. E. L. Thiessen; vice-moderator, Mr. C. Wirth; secretary, Rev. E. L. Janzen; treasurer, Mr. R. Ziolkowski; and Mission Committee, Rev. P. Galambos (two years) and Rev. B. Milner (three years).

Berthold E. Milner, Reporter.

Eastern Conference

Woman's Missionary Society of First Baptist Church, Arnprior, Ont., Holds Anniversary Program

On Thursday, October 4, the Woman's Missionary Society for the First Baptist Church, Arnprior, Ont., held its special anniversary program. It was in the form of a pot luck supper in which everyone brought contributions for the meal which turned out to be more like a banquet. All members took part in the program, rendering special music, poems, readings, and thoughts for the day.

Our president, Mrs. Robert Milne, had the honor of presenting a corsage and bouquet to three members who have served the society for over 50 years. Mrs. Bertha Woernke was the only one of the three able to be present. Mrs. Herman Scheel and Mrs. Wm. Runtz were unable to attend.

The Woman's Missionary Society has 57 members on its roll, with an average of 44 present at each meeting. It is truly a blessing and a great joy as we work together with one another to serve our Master.

Mrs. Gerald Kuehl, Reporter.

Northwestern Conference

Sessions of the Iowa Woman's Missionary Union at Buffalo Center, Iowa

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Iowa Association of North American Baptists was held at Buffalo Center on October 10, 1956. A breakfast was held in the church basement after which the devotions were held as follows: Scripture reading, Mrs. Darrel Cordes; prayer and solo, Mrs. Donald Patet; introduction of new ministers' wives; report on White Cross work by Mrs. Harm Sherman. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Harvey Schmidt of George, president; Miss Alma Schrick of George, vice-president; Mrs. Earl Kipler, secretary-treasurer.

In the afternoon a woman's meeting was held with many visitors present. The program was as follows: prelude, Mrs. Robert Bronlewee; welcome and remarks, Mrs. Harvey Schmidt; Scripture reading, Miss Alma Schrick; prayer, Mrs. Harm Sherman; trio by Buffalo Center group; welcome by the president of the local society and response by Mrs. Sanders.

A missionary message was given by our missionary, Miss E. Ardice Ziolkowski. She spoke on the work that is being done at the Banso Hospital in the Cameroons. She commended the Iowa churches for the splendid work they are doing with regard to the White Cross work. The offering for the afternoon was \$200 and was divided among the work of the missionary, Miss Ziolkowski, the Hebrew-Christian Missions and the Bamenda New Hope Settlement leper work.

Mrs. R. H. Mulder, Reporter.



Teachers and children of the Fellowship Baptist Vacation Bible School of Camrose, Alberta, Canada

Reception for Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Stockdale, Cameroons Missionaries, at Aplington, Iowa

The Aplington Baptist Church, Aplington, Iowa, honored Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Stockdale in special services on Sunday, October 14. They, with their two children, David and Diane, left the first of November to serve as missionaries in the Cameroons. Mr. and Mrs. Stockdale spoken during the Sunday School hour at which time a special offering was taken amounting to \$140. The morning worship service was conducted by the Rev. Donald Patet, who chose as his topic, "Jesus Christ Is the Light of the World."

The Stockdales gave their personal testimonies at the evening service and slides of the leprosy patients among whom Dr. Stockdale will work, were shown. The robed Junior and Intermediate choirs sang, and an hour of fellowship was held in the basement later in the evening. A gift of money was presented the couple from the church. A number of useful gifts had been given to them during the year from the various church groups. Our prayers go with the Stockdales as they leave to labor for the Lord.

Mrs. Wea Groeneveld, the oldest member of our church and commu-

nity, celebrated her 96th birthday on Saturday, Oct. 20. She was the recipient of many congratulatory cards, and friends and relatives called on her during the weekend. Mrs. Groeneveld had always been a faithful attendant at the worship services until several years ago when she sustained a broken hip. This, as well as her advanced age, have confined her to her home. May God's richest blessings be upon her throughout the coming years.

Thirty-three from the Aplington church attended the Iowa Association at Buffalo Center from Oct. 15 to 17. Delegates from here included Arend Dreyer, Ben Popkes, Mrs. C. L. Huisinga, Mrs. Harm Sherman and Mrs. Grace Lindaman.

Mrs. Paul Voogd, Reporter.

Farewell by Calvary Church, Parkersburg, Iowa, for Rev. R. C. MacCormack and Family

A farewell reception was held at the Calvary Baptist Church in Parkersburg, Iowa, on Friday evening, October 26, with a capacity crowd in attendance.

Rev. R. C. MacCormack closed a very successful ministry in Parkersburg and during the three years and ten months of his work accomplished



Mrs. Robert Milne (left), president of the Woman's Missionary Society, Arnprior, Ontario, presents Mrs. Bertha Woernke with a corsage in honor of service to the society for more than 50 years.

many fine things for the church. During his stay he inaugurated the weekly Sunday bulletin; dedicated the parsonage, debt free; the parsonage was reconditioned and the kitchen enlarged; the church decided to install a new heating system at a cost of about \$4,000 which was started at the time the pastor left; a new Hammond organ was purchased; three additional deacons were elected; two choirs were organized and robed; the floor of the church was tiled and the whole church was redecorated; monthly meetings of the deacons, trustees, and Sunday School teachers were held; 56 new members were added to the church; over \$22,000 was raised for missions; the pastor conducted two teachers' training courses; the church was re-incorporated since the old charter was terminated and the church was given the name of "Calvary Baptist Church"; the constitution and by-laws were revised; one of the members, Andrew Hagen, was ordained into full-time Christian ministry.

At the farewell program, the Baptist churches of Elgin, Steamboat Rock, Sheffield, and Aplington, Iowa, were represented by their pastors and participated in the farewell ceremonies. Rev. D. J. Sessler of the Presbyterian Church of Aplington spoke in behalf of the Butler County Ministerial Association and the fine work and co-operation of Mr. MacCormack during his ministry in Parkersburg. All departments of the church took part and expressed their regret for the leaving of the MacCormacks and also expressed appreciation for their services rendered. They were showered with many gifts along with several United States Savings Bonds from the church and Sunday School.

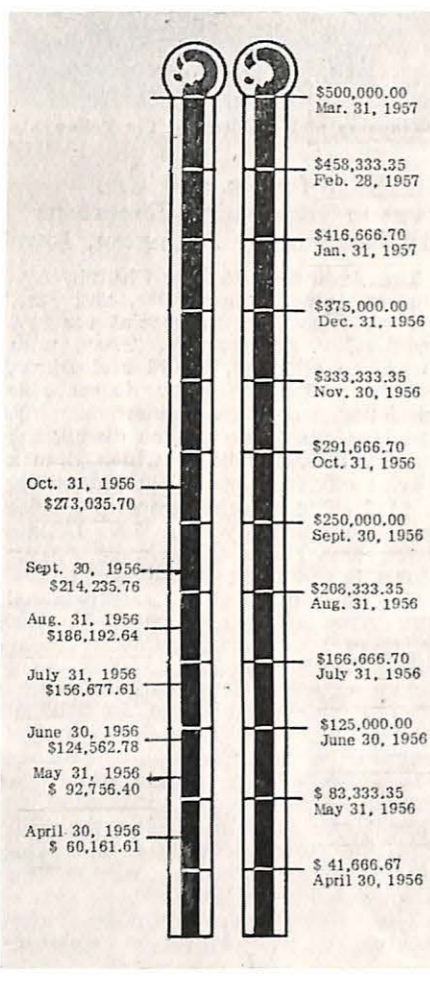
Rev. R. C. MacCormack preached his farewell sermons on Sunday, October 28, with capacity crowds in attendance. The new church which the pastor accepted is the West End Baptist Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

R. H. Mulder, Clerk.

General Conference Missions Budget

October 31, 1956

Amount Contributed for Budget Amount Required by Budget



JAPANESE YOUTH

(Continued from Page 9)

their meetings with occasional suggestions from us. Our programs are primarily recreational with a time of devotions at the close. One of their service projects this past summer was the making of hymn books for the young people at the juvenile home and presenting a play for them. They worked hard and enjoyed doing it very much.

It is hard for young people to take a stand for Christ when their parents are strong Buddhists or Shintoists. It seems to the Japanese that being disobedient or disloyal to parents and ancestors is the worst sin one can commit and to forsake the faith of one's fathers is unforgivable in some cases. Remember to pray for the youth of Japan. They will determine Japan's future. May Jesus Christ be honored through them!

May the Lord bless you all in your labors for the Savior in your church and community, and may you be faithful to the task of witnessing, even to the ends of the earth.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 17)

Bible Study at the Thursday evening prayer meeting, the congregation of the church is divided between the young people and adults, each having its separate prayer time. This has proved very successful and profitable in teaching young people to pray, as reported by Mrs. Kathleen Hemmen. On the first Sunday of each month, the young people conduct a brief worship service at the County Home. The third Sunday is spent in visiting shut-ins and elderly people who are unable to attend the services.

Both morning services on Laymen's Sunday, Oct. 28, at the Shroyer Road Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio, were entirely in the hands of the laymen. The sermons, "Your Other Vocation," were given by Richard Loudon and Ross Taylor. The Children's Sermons were brought by William Smith and William Bausman. The call to worship was given by Marion Jacobs, the Brotherhood president. The Scripture was read by Ralph Tapper and Robert Spriggs. The morning prayers were offered by Richard Reinicke and Willis Judd, and the offertory prayers by Fred Monschke and Harold Schultz. The choir composed of 15 laymen was directed by W. E. Martin and the offertory solo sung by Bill Clingman. Dr. H. von Berge, a member of the church, wrote that "the program was enthusiastically received. The preaching by the laymen at both services was a real inspiration." Rev. Helmut H. Riemer is the pastor.

REPORTS

All reports from churches hereafter must be limited to 175 words. Please follow these instructions carefully. Editor.

LET THE CHILDREN COME

(Continued from Page 8)

ing wood, carrying water and serving as houseboys in teachers' homes and other simple occupations.

In our Junior Schools the fees provide only a minor part of the costs. If the school enrollment is sufficiently large and a trained teacher is in charge, the school funds appropriated by government provide the major share of the cost. If the school is small, or has not reached the necessary standards, other funds must be procured. In the past years the mission bore the greater share of school expenses, but at present we are attempting several methods of meeting the budget.

During these past several years the missions and government officials have encouraged the native administrations to assess a school tax upon all male tax payers. This procedure eliminated the school fees in some of these areas. Some of the villagers in a few of our areas saw the advantages of such a program in that many more children were sent to school. If the father had to pay a tax, he would send not only one son but several to get his money's worth.

The administration of this project brought many difficulties and the latest rumor is that the tax will be discontinued in some areas in 1957. If this comes to pass, the mission will need to go back to the unofficial Village Aid plan of voluntary contributions. We know that this will work a hardship on our already overtaxed mission school financial program and budget. The villagers know if the district officer has not given the orders, the tax payer cannot be forced to pay and thus the financial aid we have received in some areas will be discontinued. A return to increased school fees will force many children to drop out of school.

During the Christmas season as we concentrate our efforts on bringing joy to the hearts of boys and girls in our family circles and in our church groups, let us remember those boys and girls in the Cameroons who like our own children join their voices with you to sing: "Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King." May we continue to pray, give and go that these little ones also may be blessed with all spiritual blessings, remembering as we do so Christ's words: "Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" (Matt. 18:4). Your gift to the Christ-child may be the means of saving "one of these little ones."

OBITUARY

(A charge of five cents a line is made for all obituaries, except for those of our pastors and their wives. Please limit the obituary notices to 150 words. Send them to the Editor, Box 6, Forest Park, Illinois.)

MRS. EMMA FALKENBERG of Edmonton, Alberta.

Mrs. Emma Falkenberg, nee Zielke, of Edmonton, Alta., was born on September 3, 1904 in the district of Leduc, Alberta. After three long years of untold suffering, she passed away in the Royal Alexandra Hospital of Edmonton, Alta., on October 20, 1956, at the age of 52 years, 1 month and 12 days. On April 2, 1924 she was united in marriage to Edward Falkenberg. This union was blessed with four children (two sons and two daughters). Besides her husband and the four children, a large circle of other relatives and friends mourn her passing.

As a young girl our departed sister found her Lord and Savior and followed him in baptism, joining the First Baptist Church of Leduc, Alta., of which she was a member at the time of her going home to be with the Lord. In the absence of her pastor, Rev. J. C. Kraenzler, the undersigned conducted the funeral service with Rev. R. McBeth, who had been visiting the home during the last months of Mrs. Falkenberg's illness, assisting.

First Baptist Church,
Leduc, Alberta

E. P. WAHL, Officiating Minister.

MR. GOTTLIEB WEBER of Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Gottlieb Weber of Portland, Ore., was born on July 12, 1879 at Worms, Russia, and died at his home in Portland on Oct. 12, 1956 at the age of 77 years and 3 months. In the year 1886 he came to America and settled in the Dakotas where he lived until 1910 when he moved to Spokane, Washington. In 1925 he came to Portland where he lived until his death, with the exception of a short time that he resided in Michigan.

Our brother was converted and baptized under the ministry of Rev. F. Dobrovolsky, becoming a member of the Herreid Baptist Church in South Dakota. He also held membership in the Arthur Street Baptist Church of Spokane, Wash., Hinson Memorial and Immanuel Baptist churches in Portland, and during his latter years at Trinity Baptist Church of which he remained a faithful member until his death. On July 24, 1948 he was united in marriage to Pauline Petke who now mourns his departure. Others who sorrow over his going are two children by a former marriage: Alvin Weber and Mrs. Willard Bergren; one grandchild; two step-children; five sisters, and other relatives and friends. May the bereaved ones be comforted by the God of all comfort and with the hope of eternal life!

Trinity Baptist Church,
Portland, Oregon

JOHN WOBIG, Pastor.

MRS. LYDIA MESSERSCHMIDT of Odessa, Washington.

Mrs. Lydia Messerschmidt, nee Goetz, of Odessa, Wash., was born in Kulm, South Russia, on March 14, 1875, the daughter of John and Justina Goetz. She emigrated to South Dakota in 1881. She was united in marriage with Herman Messerschmidt in 1896 in Oregon. Her husband preceded her in death in 1953.

She accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized in Portland, Ore., in 1888. She later moved to the Odessa vicinity and became a member of the Odessa North Baptist Church which later united with the Odessa Baptist Church. She was a member of this church until the time of her death. Mrs. Messerschmidt died on October 10, 1956, at Post Falls, Idaho, having reached the age of 81 years, 6 months and 27 days.

She leaves to mourn her death one daughter of Bakersfield, Calif., and one son of Post Falls, Idaho; four brothers and four

sisters, all residing in Washington. The funeral service was held in the Odessa Baptist Church with the pastor officiating.

Odessa Baptist Church,
Odessa, Washington

EDWARD KOPF, Pastor.

MRS. EDWARD LIPPERT of Tripp, South Dakota.

Mrs. Christina Geraldine Lippert, nee Mudder, of Tripp, S. Dak., was born June 30, 1905 at Tyndall, S. Dak., and died Sept. 11, 1956 at the age of 51 years, 2 months and 11 days.

Mrs. Lippert spent her childhood days in the area of Wittenberg near Olivet, South Dakota. On Dec. 16, 1924 she was joined in holy matrimony to Edward Lippert. To this union were born seven children, all surviving their mother. They are: Marcella, Mrs. Newton Voigt, Tyndall; Leola, Mrs. Cornilius Lukkes, Avon; Darlene, Mrs. Lewis Baumiller, Parkston; Elroy (married and living near Parkston); Elwood, Danelda; and Eldean, at home.

After taking the Lord as her Savior, she was baptized by Rev. John F. Olthoff April 12, 1922. In May of that year she was taken into fellowship of the First Baptist Church at Avon, S. Dak., where she remained a loyal member until her death. At the time of her passing she was a Sunday School teacher of a children's class.

Mrs. Lippert had been sickly for some time. On Aug. 21 she was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital at Yankton, South Dakota. On Sept. 4 she returned home where she remained until the afternoon of Sept. 10 when she was taken to the hospital at Parkston. She passed away the following morning. Cause of death was dropsy.

Among the bereaved are her beloved husband, seven children, nine grandchildren, two sisters, eight brothers, and many other relatives and friends. Her passing will be greatly felt by her family, her church, and her many friends. Student Pastor Harry Haas officiated with Rev. Willis Potratz of Plum Creek assisting. Burial was in the Baptist cemetery.

Avon, South Dakota

HARRY HAAS, Student Pastor.

MR. ALBERT B. POTRATZ of Sumner, Iowa.

Mr. Albert B. Potratz of Sumner, Iowa, was the second child born to William and Mathilda (nee Gersonde) Potratz. He was born on March 24, 1888, and passed away after a lingering illness on November 4, 1956, reaching the age of 68 years, 6 months, and 10 days. He resided in Banks Township near Sumner during his entire lifetime.

In 1905 he was baptized by Rev. C. F. Stoeckmann in a little stream one half mile south of Lind School House Banks No. 4 and joined the First Baptist Church of Elgin, Iowa. By transfer of church membership, he became a charter member of the First Baptist Church of Sumner, Iowa, when it was organized in 1944. During these years the welfare of the church was close to his heart, and in the Sumner congregation he served chiefly as trustee and Sunday School teacher of the German Class.

On February 15, 1923, he was united in marriage to Josephine Fossen of Elma, Iowa. To this union four children were born: Willis, presently pastor of the Plum Creek Baptist Church near Emery, S. Dak.; Burnita (now Mrs. Milton Menke) of Columbus, Neb.; Marva (now Mrs. John Lalk) of Hawkeye, Iowa; and Orval of Sumner, Iowa.

He is survived by his wife and four children; one sister, Monica; three brothers, Martin, Adam, and Wilfred, all of Sumner; also seven grandchildren. His parents and two brothers, Emil and Reinhardt, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held in the First Baptist Church of Sumner. Rev. Fred Mashner officiated, bringing words of encouragement from Matt. 5:4. Mrs. John Menke sang two solos: "Beyond the Sunset" and "My God and I." Interment followed in the Wilson Grove cemetery of Sumner.

Sumner, Iowa

F. W. MASHNER, Officiating Minister.

OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS—NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ALL PURPOSES

Conference	Oct., 1956	Oct., 1955	Oct., 1954
Atlantic	\$ 2,529.83	\$ 2,445.49	\$ 2,728.17
Central	7,734.25	5,753.40	10,389.49
Dakota	14,464.31	14,723.50	19,489.54
Eastern	3,628.52	1,603.27	2,824.97
Northern	11,516.65	9,410.44	9,018.89
Northwestern	5,210.76	5,230.76	8,579.69
Pacific	8,122.66	13,388.51	19,362.55
Southern	760.65	1,115.52	1,315.80
Southwestern	8,463.67	7,079.49	11,018.41
Total Contributions	\$62,431.30	\$60,750.38	\$84,727.51

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

	Budget Contributions	Other Purposes	Total Contributions
For the month of October, 1956	\$58,799.94	\$ 3,631.36	\$62,431.30
For the month of October, 1955	48,370.07	12,380.31	60,750.38
For the month of October, 1954	47,074.31	37,653.20	84,727.51

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

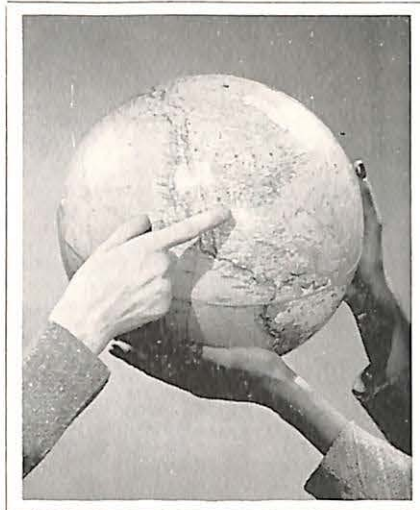
	Budget Contributions	Other Purposes	Total Contributions
April 1, 1956 to October 21, 1956	\$273,035.70	\$26,066.00	\$299,101.70
April 1, 1955 to October 31, 1955	247,414.79	35,658.82	283,073.61
April 1, 1954 to October 31, 1954	258,158.17	69,330.79	327,488.96

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